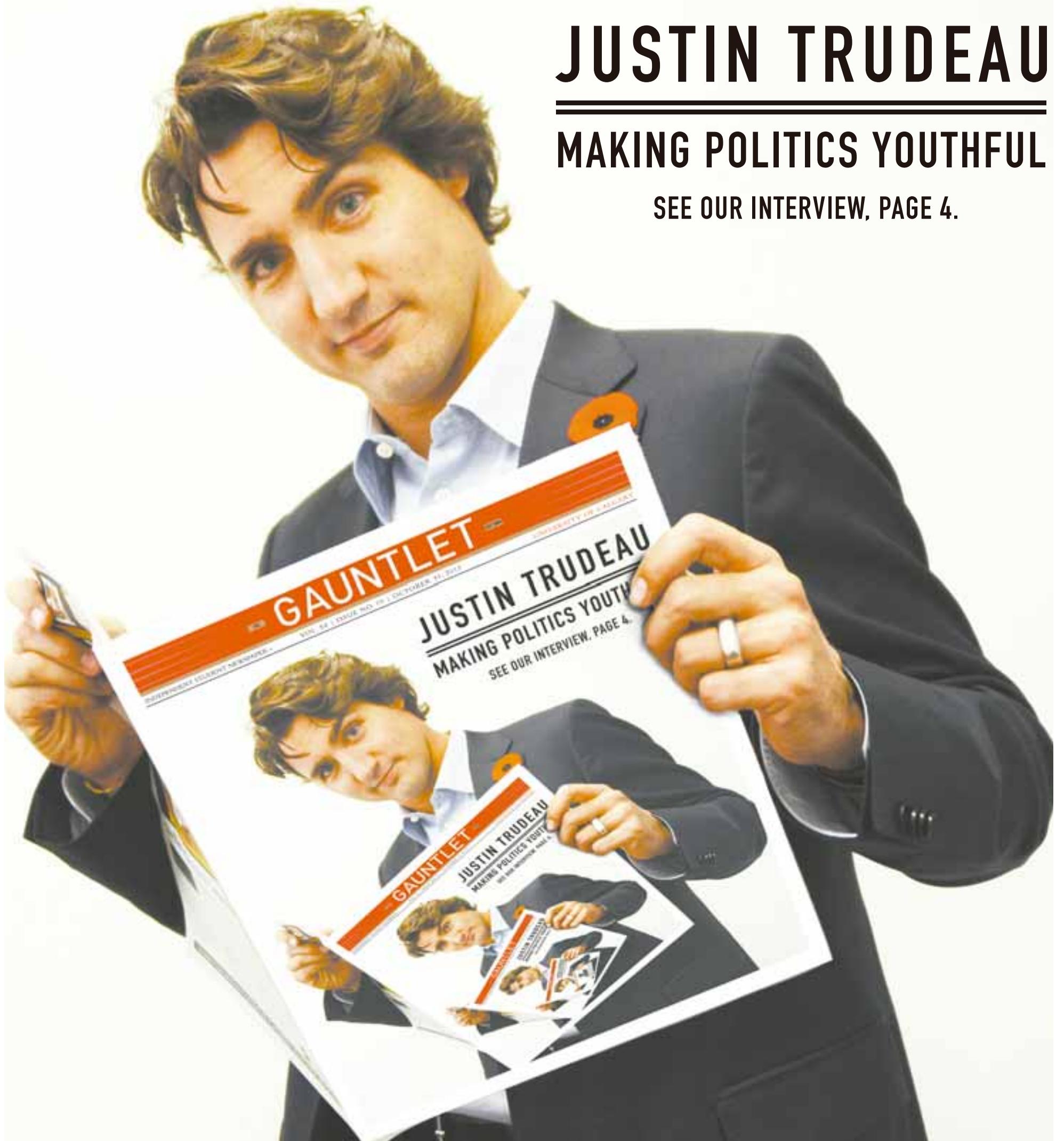


# JUSTIN TRUDEAU

## MAKING POLITICS YOUTHFUL

SEE OUR INTERVIEW, PAGE 4.





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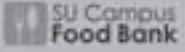
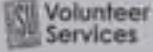


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 Robyn Thomas

#### Golden Spatula

Melanie Bethune



Putting the mel back in melow.

Melanie, an enigma to us all, is one of the first volunteers for whom we wrote two Golden Spatulas. The first we deemed unworthy and discarded for fear of angering her. After all, we know nothing about her, but given her puckish sense of humour it's quite likely that Melanie is some sort of forest nymph here to lull us into a false sense of security before making us pay for print media's destruction of B.C.'s rainforests. Well, if printing more paper means we keep getting articles as good as Melanie's, then we will keep chopping down all the trees.

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The *Gauntlet* is the official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute. Opinions contained herein are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire *Gauntlet* staff. Editorials are chosen by the majority of the editorial board. The *Gauntlet* is a forum open to all U of C students but may refuse any submission judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic, libelous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Grievances regarding the *Gauntlet* follow a three-step process which requires written decisions from the Editor, the GPS Board of Directors, and the Ombudsboard. The complete Grievance Policy is online at: thegauntlet.ca. The *Gauntlet* is printed on recycled paper and uses a human growth hormone-based ink. We urge you to recycle/actually read the *Gauntlet*.

#### Letter Policy

Letters must be typed, double-spaced and received by Monday at 4 p.m., and must include the author's name, student ID number, telephone number. Letters will not be printed if they include attacks of a strictly personal nature, statements that discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or sexual orientation, or libelous or defamatory material. All letters should be addressed to "Editor, the Gauntlet," and be no longer than 300 words. The Gauntlet retains the right to edit submissions. Letters can be delivered or mailed to the Gauntlet office, Room 319 MacEwan Students' Centre, or sent by email to editor@thegauntlet.ca.

#### The Cover

Photography and design by  
 Michael Grondin and Sean Sullivan

# Israeli treatment of asylum seekers racist

In the name of protecting their Jewish identity, the Israeli government and people are running a discriminatory campaign against African refugees. The state of Israel has built a detention camp for refugees that can hold over 10,000 people, as well as established new laws to arrest and detain people of African descent on site, whether or not they have been involved in criminal activity. The orthodox government, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has been pushing Israel's social policy towards the extreme right, promoting hatred and racism against non-Jewish people.

Fears and tensions have grown to extremes for the people and state of Israel. In the past several years, Israel has faced overpopulation, an economic downturn and the threat of conflict from bordering nations. The state has been stockpiling weapons and preparing for war. For the sake of preserving Israel as a Jewish state, the government and people are looking for threats in many of the wrong places.

Currently, there are roughly 60,000 refugees from Sudan and Eritrea finding asylum within Israel, fleeing mass genocide and poverty. A majority of these refugees entered Israel illegally. To them, Israel is a haven, a place to start fresh and find new opportunities. Many work for decreased pay, and are simply trying to find their place within society.

However, the Israelis see these refugees as infiltrators, as the en-



emy, who are working to bring the state of Israel down. The government has participated in scapegoating and blame, promoting ultra-nationalistic ideals and racism towards African asylum-seekers.

Anti-African protests have been held by Israeli civilians, and thousands have attended. Racist activity has been exploding in the country, as a majority of Israel's people want the expulsion of all Africans. The small minority of Israelis who are standing up for African people are met with criticism and violence.

Options are running thin as the hatred and scapegoating increases. African people, not just refugees, are subject to harassment and violence in the streets. Israelis have held several riots in African neighbourhoods, leaving many innocent people injured. Lies and exaggerations are being spread throughout Israel about refugees and their intentions — government officials have stated that African people are rapists and thieves — which is increasing the fear and uncertainty within the country.

The state has denied the abil-

ity for refugees to work legally, landlords have refused renting to African migrants and new laws stipulate that African people can be arrested and incarcerated for up to three years without trial and are held at the Saharonim Detention Facility, one of the largest prisons in the modern world.

At this time, there have been no known acts of terrorism, violence or crime committed by African migrants within Israel.

The irony in this situation is not only the persecution of people by a group that has experienced so much persecution, but also the fact that the people and government of Israel feel their actions are justified. Israel's increasingly fascist agenda and actions speak to the hypocrisy, indifference and hatred that is so difficult to eradicate in this world. Israel was established as a haven for the oppressed, the accused and the discriminated, and in turn, the people of Israel have become oppressors, accusers and discriminators.

What is also frightening is the lack of media attention in this situation. Only smaller media outlets and rogue journalists have been following the racist uprising in Israel, using hidden cameras to document the rallies, riots and violent behaviour against African migrants. This uprising is a supreme example of human injustice that needs more attention in the eyes of the world.

Gauntlet Editorial Board

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# Flash in the pan or the next Prime Minister?

## Gauntlet Q & A: Canada Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau

Riley Hill

News Editor

Interview done with Tobias Ma

Justin Trudeau is not looking to pay for his father's sins.

The eldest son of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Justin grew up in a family constantly under the scrutiny of the public eye. After dabbling in teaching, engineering, acting and advocacy work, young Trudeau decided to run for public office in 2008, leading to his first election win. Trudeau is now a Liberal MP, beginning a career that is quickly coming to resemble his late father's.

But Trudeau joined politics at a difficult time. While easily dominating federal elections during the late '90s, the Liberals lost power in 2006 for the first time in over a decade. And in the 2011 federal election — only Trudeau's second campaign — the Liberals lost an astounding 43 of their 77 seats. After some inter-party scrambling, Trudeau was chosen by an overwhelming majority in 2013 to become the party's new leader.

He's now traveling across Canada, trying to build the party back to its old strength. The *Gauntlet* recently sat down with Trudeau to ask him about some challenges the Liberals face.

**The Gauntlet:** How do you plan to improve the image of the Liberals in Alberta, which is traditionally conservative?

**Justin Trudeau:** One of the things that we're seeing is that people are no longer locked into voting patterns, particularly younger generations. They want to have actual choices and options and I think there's a sense that the Conservative Party has really taken Alberta for granted. A lot of people are frustrated that they elected good people from their communities to be their voice in Ottawa and instead



Louie Villanueva

Justin Trudeau visited students in the MacEwan Student Centre on Oct 30.

all they seem to get back is the Prime Minister's voice in their communities. That's just not good enough.

To get back to your question, I think we need to emphasize grassroots engagement and be open and transparent and accessible. This is a really important piece of restoring faith in democracy right across the country.

**G:** Are you at all worried about a split of the left vote between the NDP and the Liberals in the next federal election?

**JT:** I don't think it's as much of a concern as some people have said. The NDP surge was almost entirely in Quebec, and being a Quebec MP in that election, I certainly saw first hand what it was. It was, first and foremost, a frustration with Stephen Harper. Secondly, a sense that the Liberal Party had not yet learned its lessons of the past years and was still more focused on its own future than the future of Canadians. There was a level of fatigue with the Bloc

[Québécois] and on the other hand there was a friendly guy named Jack who came into Quebec and said, "Hey! You can vote for me and participate once again in the national conversation."

I've been very serious about getting the Liberal Party to realize, no, we do have to change. We do have to shift our approach and we have to re-engage with Canadians. And since I got my leadership of the party, we've seen an extraordinary response on the ground.

**G:** What do you think about the heat Harper and the Conservatives have been facing lately?

**JT:** Mr. Harper is in a situation where he very much has to focus on his own survival and on the survival of the political party that he represents, which means he's not caring for Canadians' interests. He's not focusing on the things he needs to be focusing on.

One of the reasons I came out to Calgary was to talk about the fact

that even on the things he's supposedly good at, like the economy and basic competence, he hasn't done so well. It's really important for me to highlight across the country that I intend to be a truly national leader that represents all corners of the country.

**G:** Many Conservatives accuse you of not being qualified to be Prime Minister. How do you respond to that?

**JT:** I respond by basically ignoring them. I don't get defined by what my opponents think of me. I very much focus on bringing forward the kind of focus and attention that people are expecting of their Prime Minister. I certainly am not going to pretend, like Mr. Harper, that I have the answer to every problem that's assailing us.

**G:** You don't think that you have a lack of experience though?

**JT:** I ran a national organization with Katimavik and Canada's Na-

tional Youth Service Program. I've taught all across the country. I've lived all across the country. And I've also concentrated on the type of leadership of bringing extraordinary people around me, whether it's General Andrew Leslie or Chrystia Freeland from Toronto-Centre.

I'm not going to sit down and proclaim how smart I am. I'll let people decide for themselves.

**G:** We know that the Liberals now support the legalization of marijuana. Do you think this is a civil liberties issue? And how will you convince social conservatives that legalization is the right policy?

**JT:** I think that it's partially a civil liberties issue — the nanny state imposition of a prohibition that doesn't work.

I think the public health aspect is a more important one. Even though marijuana has been shown to be not as bad as alcohol or cigarettes, when you look at the developing brain in young people and teenagers, it does have a negative impact. Therefore the public health issue is how do we keep marijuana out of the hands of our kids?

The current system has allowed [Canada] to have the highest rate of marijuana use, among developed countries, in the world. So, it's not working. Our kids have easier access to pot than they do to alcohol.

The third element has to do with criminality. Under the current approach, [marijuana] is financing gangs and organized crime to the tune of millions, if not billions, per year. This then allows [gangs] to underwrite their more serious criminal activity. To remove that out from under them, I think, is a really strong argument for legalization.

Listen to the full interview on CJSW, Nov. 9 at 8 p.m.

Describe Justin Trudeau in one word.



"Witty."

– Erika Mitshke,  
fourth-year  
communications



"Young."

– Daniel Duong,  
fourth-year  
engineering



"Funny."

– James Stringer,  
fourth-year finance



"Optimistic."

– Justin Trudeau,  
first-year Liberal  
leader

# Residence fees to be raised next September

## Proposed increase draws criticism from Residence Students' Association

**Chris Adams**  
News Assistant

Students living in residence during next year's fall semester can expect to pay more to live on campus.

Ancillary Services has proposed an increase in residence fees at the University of Calgary to take effect in September 2014. If approved, residence fees will increase by 2-4 per cent for Castle, Glacier and Olympus, while fees for Cascade, Yamnuska, Kannanaskis, Global Village and Rundle will rise by 5 per cent.

"All the rates related to all the different room styles will be increased," executive director of Ancillary Services Voula Cocolakis said. "The rates are increasing right across the board."

The proposal has been approved by multiple subsidiary committees and is now awaiting approval by the Board of Governors.

"All our fees have to be presented to

different committees and then they have to go to the Board of Governors for final approval," Cocolakis said. "They will go in front of the Board of Governors probably at the next meeting in December for review and final approval. At this point, these are all proposed increases."

Suggested fee increases are submitted yearly by Ancillary Services. Last year, fees were raised 3-5 per cent to cover debts incurred while building Yamnuska Hall.

Cocolakis said the fee increase is necessary to fund essential services.

"The residence operation is operated on a break even [basis]. There's no profit-making or revenue generation from a residence perspective," Cocolakis said. "In order for us to balance our budget and to cover all the increases we're going to be faced with — whether it's salary increases or operational increases — we have to raise our rates."

Along with operational expenses,



Gauntlet file photo

### Residence fees at Kananaskis Hall might soon rise by 5 per cent.

housing prices in Calgary also impact the cost of residence. Residence Students' Association president Dan Medland-Marchen said that Ancillary Services does not properly compare the cost of off-campus housing with the cost of residence.

"One thing that Ancillary Services does quite often is compare a four-bedroom in Cascade, to a four-bedroom in Calgary. These

are [off campus] kids who are living in maybe four or five bedroom houses and pay between \$350-\$500 per month," Medland-Marchen said. "I think it's really hard for Ancillary Services to justify a raise in residence fees based on the simple fact that most students that live off campus who live around the university actually live in houses, not apartments."

Medland-Marchen said that increasing residence fees will force students who rely on campus housing to look elsewhere.

"If things like this continue, regardless of what's happening in Calgary with housing or the cost of labour and those different things that go into the fee, I think that we could definitely see a big demographic change in terms of the people that are here," Medland-Marchen said. "I think that residence would be a place that can only benefit a very small minority of people who can afford to live here."

Students have also criticized the proposed fees.

"In this day and age, post-secondary education should ideally be available to everyone," said Marshall Loader, a third-year math student living in Global Village. "Public universities are making it even more difficult for the less advantaged person."

# U of C opium research sheds light on plant

**Reem Ghaleb**  
Gauntlet News

University of Calgary researchers recently made some new discoveries surrounding the genes of the opium poppy.

PhD student Scott Farrow and biology professor Peter Facchini have been researching the functions of opium genes to better understand their origins.

"[Farrow] started to look at those enzymes in detail and found out that [the enzymes] were not as we originally thought — that they are really specific to allow the plant to produce these opiate [compounds] — but in fact the enzymes have a much broader function in the plant so they're involved in many related compounds from different metabolic branches," Facchini said.

Opium poppies are the only plant found in nature that produces the necessary compounds for creating codeine, morphine and heroin. Understanding the biological pathways in these plants may allow us to manipulate these genes to produce more new compounds.

Results from the research also

gives insight into the evolutionary origins of these traits.

"What's the function of something like morphine, which is a narcotic analgesic and a cough suppressant? Plants don't get coughs. They don't feel pain. So why are they producing it?" Facchini said. "The value of Scott's work is to

discuss the value of evolution."

Discovering that these enzymes actually have multiple functions suggests that the production of the painkillers is a secondary consequence that resulted from other necessary biological activities.

"Maybe the function of these genes is actually being selected

because they do something else in the plant," Facchini said. "They're important, for example, in helping the plant to make a related alkaloid that's produced in the roots of opium poppies called sanguinarine."

Sanguinarine is an antimicrobial found in many plants that protects

roots from bacteria and fungi in soil.

These genes were first discovered in Facchini's lab in 2010 after former PhD student Jillian Hagel researched the genes responsible for producing morphine — a problem that has long eluded scientists.

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# Researchers look at the history of hazing

## Professors explore student initiation rituals from Western Canada's early years

**Zainab Takuma**  
Staff Writer

University of Calgary education professor Lisa Panayotidis recently teamed up with Paul Stortz from the department of history to research student initiation rituals in western Canada.

Panayotidis and Stortz studied the culture surrounding student hazing from 1880-1950 at the University of Alberta, University of British Columbia and University of Saskatchewan. Their findings painted a grim picture about how hazing has affected university life in the past.

"An initiation refers to the larger process of introducing a first-year student to the university," Panayotidis said. "It's supposed to build class belonging and an allegiance to the university, but a lot of things that transpired in the early half of the



Louie Villanueva

Lisa Panayotidis researched initiation rituals in Alberta.

century in western and eastern universities were forms of hazing that were sometimes out of control."

During her research, Panayotidis discovered a case at the U of A where a student had a mental break-

down after a hazing incident.

"This really infamous case in Alberta occurred in 1932 and went to court in 1933. It was called the Powlett and Powlett versus the University of Alberta," Panayotidis said. "In fact, the [U of

A] student union moved to end it after Powlett was so harassed that he actually needed a year in, what they called at that time, a mental institution to get over some of the stuff that happened."

According to Panayotidis, initiation crosses the line into hazing when it turns violent, becoming nothing more than student-on-student bullying.

"In the early half of the century, you were really vulnerable if you lived on campus. Everybody was picked on. Everybody was initiated in some form," she said.

The report discovered second-year students were usually responsible for running the initiation rituals.

"If you spoke back or said something contrary to what the initiator wanted, you would be singled out for extra punishment," Panayotidis said.

Aggressive initiation rituals also

affected members of the community. University students in Edmonton frequently went downtown to have "snake parades" in their underwear.

"What they did is they linked arm in arm, sometimes 200 to 300 students and went over the bridge downtown, screaming, yelling and beating pans," Panayotidis said. "So, the whole city was disrupted. A lot of people in the city didn't like it. They didn't think it was seemly. They didn't like the way students were down there in their underwear."

Panayotidis said the history of initiation is important today because it still goes on in Canadian universities.

"I think it's important that [we] realize that this is part of a long tradition and history. I'm not saying that [initiations are] good or bad. What I think should end is hazing, bullying, violence and defamatory language," she said.

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# Executive pay at U of C excessive

**Kate Jacobson**  
Gauntlet Opinions



It appears that University of Calgary President Elizabeth Cannon considers herself entitled to a salary higher than nearly any of her counterparts, even when the reputation and renown of the University of Calgary indicates that she does not deserve it.

Cannon earns more in base salary than the presidents of McGill University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto — universities that generally enjoy greater domestic and global prestige than the U of C. Our president not only enjoys a higher salary than her arguably more acclaimed counterparts, but she also has fewer students to manage than both UBC and the U of T.

The U of C insists that such a high compensation package is necessary to ensure competitiveness with other post-secondary institutions, but it's a difficult pill to swallow in the face of such sweeping cuts to the school's operating budget.

There is certainly an argument for high executive pay. The rhet-

oric that high pay leads to high performance is common, if tiresome, and Cannon's pay is comparable to what she could earn in the private sector.

But the fact remains that the U of C is a public institution, with a responsibility to serve and educate the public, not to reward its executives with exorbitant salary packages.

The U of C has announced a recent freeze in executive pay. But the university is already paying Cannon \$430,000 a year in base pay which includes a six week vacation. Besides, a freeze in executive pay is merely a freeze in base pay — a sum which accounts for little over half of Cannon's entire salary. This freeze was a paltry public relations attempt at damage control.

Cannon's benefits are also exorbitant. A car allowance of \$16,000 is included, along with various cash and non-cash benefits, placing her total salary easily over \$750,000.

Cannon is making more than her peers by a substantial margin, and the university's flimsy justification indicates a certain sense of entitlement to astronomical executive pay. The irony of Cannon declaring a commitment to financial responsibility in her announcement regarding

the freeze is laughable when you consider that she is the president of a university ranked no better than 200th in the world by Times Higher Education and earns more in base pay than Barack Obama, the President of the United States of America.

Unfortunately, Elizabeth Cannon's salary is only the most obvious example in a string of disproportionately high salaries. Dru Marshall, the provost and vice-president, is paid \$400,000 a

year in base pay — a salary higher than even the presidents of U of T and UBC.

The Board of Governors — who approve executive salaries — have been wary of breaching the terms of contract, and insist that the freeze is “essentially a reduction” because of continuing inflation. The freeze affects a whopping 55 senior executives, indicating that unnecessary spending has been the norm, not the exception, to a rule that is ap-

parently based on a sense of entitlement.

Executive pay often exceeds the \$100,000 mark — it will always be more than enough to make a living. Many professionals work for much less on the grounds that they are passionate about what they do. It is not too much to ask executives to do the same? A merit based system is hardly unreasonable — leadership roles require intelligence and should be rewarded for the value that they bring to any institution they serve. Fair pay is one thing, but the Board of Governors should avoid compensation that exceeds the value executives bring to our institution.

It's not as if Cannon doesn't deserve wealth for the hard work she puts into this university, and I don't think we should be arguing about the validity of her position. But it is imperative to question why our president makes more than her peers, our mayor and our prime minister. Whether or not you agree that paying someone over \$750,000 could ever be worth it to the school, Elizabeth Cannon hasn't earned it yet. We need to see some concrete results at this school before Cannon, Marshall and the rest of the university's executives reward themselves with such obscene salaries.



# EU free trade promises a mixed bag

**Devon Simpson**  
Gauntlet Opinions



Prime minister Stephen Harper has recently announced a preliminary agreement with the European Union, which could be one of the biggest free trade agreements Canada has ever signed.

The deal grants far reaching access to the 500 million consumers in the EU's \$17 trillion market. It is expected to increase trade across the Atlantic by 20 per cent, add \$12 billion to the Canadian GDP and create 80,000 new jobs.

Critics of the new deal such as the Council of Canadians and Canada's largest trade union CUPE warn that local markets and small businesses

could suffer damage as certain articles in the deal prevent municipal procurers from offering incentivized contracts to encourage a “buy local” policy. Of course, this works both ways, granting Canadian companies access to European procurement contracts.

The greater worry is the Investor-State Dispute Resolution clause which allows private companies the ability to launch legal action against federal and provincial governments if they pursue policies which detract from a company's financial bottom line. This provision is already part of the North American Free Trade Agreement and has caused at least 30 lawsuits to be launched against Canadian governments costing taxpayers over \$150 million.

Still, the main concern with this  
*see EU FREE TRADE, page 8*



# EU free trade, continued from page 7

agreement is that the Canadian government's democratic policy making is being undermined by the interests of multinational corporations. Government policies in areas such as the environment and health care could be challenged if they are damaging to corporate profits.

One of the biggest potential winners of this provision could be Alberta oilsands producers. The EU has engaged in a negative publicity campaign towards Alberta's "dirty

oil" and added additional taxes to petroleum from "unconventional sources" such as the oilsands. Investor-State rules could allow oilsands investors to seek legal action against this discriminatory pricing policy and seek financial compensation.

The real win for all Canadians in the new free trade deal is the diversification of trade away from the United States. A recent paper by University of Ottawa economics professor Serge Coulombe finds that Canada

is ailing from a Canada specific form of Dutch disease termed "Canadian Disease."

Dutch disease is an economic sickness in which a country's currency becomes tied with commodity prices — in our case oil — and increases when the price of the commodity increases. This has a detrimental effect on the manufacturing sector as the currency rises and manufacturers can no longer offer internationally competitive rates.

"Canadian Disease" takes a more specific form. A depreciation of the American dollar, which has happened over the last decade, causes a relative appreciation in the Canadian dollar. Because the U.S. purchases over 70 per cent of Canadian exports, a depreciation of the American dollar makes Canadian manufacturers uncompetitive in the U.S. market and drives them out of business.

By diversifying trade through a Canada-European Free Trade

Agreement we can tackle the symptoms of Canadian disease by linking the competitiveness of our manufacturers to the relative value of more than one currency, insulating us from the shock of other nations' currency depreciation. We do, however, need to be wary of the unwanted side effects of a large dose of free trade in the erosion of our democratic policy making process through Investor-State Dispute provisions.

## Letter to the editor: provincial government's arts cuts divisive

The Government of Alberta did not cut the arts budget, they cut everyone's budget. All post-secondary institutions had to make tough choices, and the engineering faculty had to bear their share of the government's operating grant cut. The \$142.5 million investment is an infrastructure investment — a clear priority to the government — regardless of their investment in post-secondary education. To be able to enrol an additional 400 students (a 10 per cent increase to the Schulich School of Engineering), the engineering faculty will need additional operating funds,

something the government has not agreed to, leaving engineering in the same boat as arts. The timing of the budget cuts and timing of this investment suggest that money is being funneled from arts into engineering but this is a misperception. Requests for funding for the engineering building started in 2007, and further delays to the project will cost taxpayers even more to complete.

Education in Canada is not private; industry should never have to fund it. Nonetheless, corporate Calgary does indeed support education, and to suggest otherwise is absurd. On Oc-

tober 18, 2013, the University of Calgary received its largest ever corporate donation of \$7 million to fund the engineering complex and this adds to the total \$54 million that the Engineering Leaders Campaign has brought through private and corporate donations.

While 6,000 high school students across the province weren't accepted into university last year due to lack of space, over 2,000 alone were rejected from the Schulich School of Engineering. This shows a undeniable demand for students wanting to enter engineering. While perhaps bud-

get cuts are limiting entry into low-enrolment programs within arts, the high-demand programs within engineering are hindered by both the budget cuts and

a severe need for a renovated building.

Two future engineers, and concerned Albertans,

Amy Zell and Shahir Mishriki

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# Screen Time:



## Driving the *S.H.I.E.L.D.* bus

Could the *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* trailer bring viewers back to *Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*?

**Sean Sullivan**  
Entertainment Editor

It was inevitable that *Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* would have to face an existential crisis: is it a Marvel movie in television form or a Joss Whedon show — a question I raised in a previous column. Five weeks in and comments around the Internet are predictably divided, between continued excitement and rising disappointment. A moderate consensus is that the show is still figuring itself out.

*S.H.I.E.L.D.* premiered in September with the largest television premiere in four years with 11.9 million viewers. Since then the ratings have steadily fallen until last week's episode. The premiere scored a 4.6 Nielsen rating for adults 18–49, which dropped to 3.3 for the second episode and then down to 2.9, 2.8 and finally to 2.6 last week. The fifth episode still raked in 7.1 million viewers so the show is not in danger yet. But something does need to change.

Five weeks is an unusually long time for a show to settle into its rhythm but it is understandable given the unusual niche *S.H.I.E.L.D.* falls into between the Marvel movies. The show has to introduce the audience to new characters within the Marvel Cinematic Universe while remaining as interesting as the movies, which are based around familiar characters, and the show has to balance aspects of all the other Marvel creative properties and not step on any toes. And the show will have to adapt and change based on events in upcoming movies, such as *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* and eventually *Avengers: Age of Ultron*.

The largest problem with *S.H.I.E.L.D.* is that it has never felt like it had much of a direction. From the first episode the show has been an episodic, superpower-of-the-week show that pits the team against the latest strange occurrence. They fly in to a situation, resolve it and

fly out, literally. The formula doesn't keep the show grounded — excuse the pun.

Since the fifth episode of *S.H.I.E.L.D.* aired on Oct. 22, the world has seen the release of the trailer for *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, which will be released in theatres April 4, 2014. Not only does that date come just before the last handful of *S.H.I.E.L.D.* episodes for the first season but the movie is ostensibly entirely *S.H.I.E.L.D.* agency focused.

The trailer appears to show a power struggle between different factions of the *S.H.I.E.L.D.* agency, which Captain America (Chris Evans) and the Falcon (Anthony Mackie) get caught up in. It is a very different *S.H.I.E.L.D.* from the one shown in the television show, a very different *S.H.I.E.L.D.* from *The Avengers*. After the battle of New York, *S.H.I.E.L.D.* has built an armada of helicarriers and is clearly becoming more aggressive and heavy handed in dealing with threats. It's a very far cry from the

team of agents flying around in an airplane every week dealing with weird phenomena and emerging superheroes or supervillains.

The trailer comes after two episodes that have felt like *S.H.I.E.L.D.* is beginning to discover what the show wants to be — which is something akin to Russell T. Davies's *Doctor Who* spinoff *Torchwood*, another small team battling the supernatural with the resources of a secret society behind it and also featuring dead men brought back to life. And *S.H.I.E.L.D.* already resembles Whedon's most beloved television show *Firefly* with its group of thieves and mercenaries struggling to survive on a lone spaceship amidst a universe controlled by a tyrannical government.

However, the first episode of *Firefly* brought the audience into a ready-formed group with their pre-existing relationships, with only a few new characters joining the ship's crew. *S.H.I.E.L.D.* is an entirely new team, slowly building those bonds between them.

But what if Marvel pulled the same trick with Agent Coulson twice by creating a common enemy to unite a group? — we aren't counting the second episode. The *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* trailer seems to suggest there are different factions within *S.H.I.E.L.D.* What would happen if Coulson's new team fell on one side or the other of that struggle? The looming conflict within *S.H.I.E.L.D.* may give the show the driving force it needs to figure out where it finally wants to go. What if Coulson's team were on the run, hiding from a faction of their own organization? Or alternatively, what if they fell on the other side of the conflict and were tasked with missions whose ethical concerns made even them uncomfortable?

Now it only remains to be seen if the events raised in the trailer translate into increased viewers over the next couple weeks.

Sean Sullivan watches more TV than is good for him. To prove his time was well wasted, he writes a bi-weekly column looking at television and movies.

# Book review: The War on Science

Tamara Cottle

Gauntlet Entertainment

With the recent Senate scandal blowing up and revealing a sea of political corruption, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's integrity has come under attack. Calgary-based author Chris Turner intensifies this assault on the Conservatives and Harper in his latest book, *The War on Science: Muzzled Scientists and Wilful Blindness in Stephen Harper's Canada*.

Turner is no stranger to political contention after running as the Green Party candidate for Calgary Centre during the 2012 federal by-election and losing only by a margin to Conservative incumbent Joan Crockett.

*The War on Science* is a bold indictment against the Conservatives for eroding the legitimacy of evidence-based research to allow for unhampered resource extraction.

The book begins by detailing the July 10, 2012 demonstration and mock-funeral on Parliament Hill where approximately 2,000 scientists mourned the "death of evidence." The protest was in response to the passing of Bill C-38, which completely rewrote the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and amended the Fisheries Act and the Species At Risk Act, and Bill C-45, that amended the Navigable Waters Protection Act, to clear the way for corporations to exploit Canada's abundant natural resources. The bill also slashed funding to various environmental agencies, such as Parks Canada, and cut funding to data gathering and basic research programs and departments. In addition to these cuts, Turner explains, the bill also scrapped jobs in the Department of Fisheries monitoring stations and leveled hits against environmental assessments of proposed industrial projects in an effort to eschew the government's role in environmental stewardship.

The tone of *The War on Science* is one of absolute virulence towards the political and

corporate powers who are bent on destroying what Turner deems a Canadian tradition of leadership in environmental awareness.

In *The War on Science*, Turner describes a treacherous plot by the Conservative government to undermine reason and evidence-based policy creation in order to push through grand-scale projects like the Northern Gateway pipeline. But he fails to explain why this is important. In devoting so many words to vilifying Harper and ignoring the relevance of science in supporting environmental sustainability, Turner assumes that Canadians actually understand the connection between healthy ecosystems, our health and a robust economy. If there is one failing in the book it is that *The War on Science*, when compared to his last two books, *The Leap: How to Survive and Thrive in the Sustainable Economy* and *The Geography of Hope: A Tour of the World We Need*, appears almost cursory when examining this connection. After acknowledging the support given to the recent throne speech where bundled television channels were on the top of the list of issues for most Canadians, Turner ought to turn his gaze on the shameful levels of distraction among the citizens in this country.

On the other hand, Turner excels in unpacking the minutiae of the 40-page-long Bill C-38, as well as analyzing the ultimate implications of such a bill. While this is an essential task to take on, he does so in the contrived language of someone trying to leverage science as the saviour to all our environmental woes. The book would have been better titled *The War on the Environment* to better represent its main focus.

Even with its seemingly hurried execution and misappropriated contexts, *The War on Science* is a must read for every Canadian who believes we need to protect our environment and the jobs that help us better understand how to do that.

One of the strongest, though mostly implied, messages of the book — in light of the

"An urgent book that anyone who cares about Canada—the idea, the nation, the democracy—should read." JOHN VAILLANT

## The WAR on Science

Muzzled Scientists and Wilful Blindness  
in STEPHEN HARPER'S Canada

CHRIS TURNER

courtesy Greystone Books

current political climate of economic deregulation and aggressive industrial development — is that academia and reason are of little value to the Conservative government.

*The War on Science* may not be one of

Turner's best reads, but it packs with a political punch that could contribute to the further destabilization of the already shaky ground that Harper, and those like him, stand on.

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# spun

ALBUM REVIEWS

## DJ Rashad

*Double Cup*

October 22, 2013 (Hyperdub)

The footwork and juke genres have seen a surge in popularity within the underground dance music community in recent years. Created to promote a growing movement of Chicago dance crews and battlers in the early 2000s, the sound has since gone global with the help of some of the U.K.'s electronic music mainstays. Following a string of successful EPs and singles released under Kode9's London-based label Hyperdub, DJ Rashad has now produced footwork's seminal LP in *Double Cup*.

The LP begins with a string of trap inspired tracks. "Feelin," produced alongside fellow Teklife members Spinn and Taso, lends special care to reverberated vocal sampling and an un-hurried chord progression. Its drums are less disparate than what we've come to expect from the genre, making this and other tracks more accessible to dance floors outside of Chicago's juke scene. "Show U How" pairs jittery, syncopated hi-hats with a drum pattern that can carry a dance floor outside the scene.

The previously released track "I Don't Give a Fuck" (one of two without a collaborator) suspends you in its whirl of a bass line and its spacious atmosphere. The straight forward con-

struction of "Drank, Kush, Barz" will remind you how appealing bare-bones juke can be and is perhaps the most authentically footwork track on the album.

Trap isn't the only genre to inspire Rashad on *Double Cup*. Acid-house sounds colour the bass lines on the album's title track and the Addison Groove collaborations "Acid Bit" and "Leavin" take some of their stylistic cues from Chicago-born Deep House.

Footwork's soul hasn't been lost in Rashad's return to convention, because convention is a relative term in this case. Rashad manages to retain its character while helping transform it.

**Chris Adams**



## Arcade Fire

*Reflektor*

October 28, 2013 (Merge)

If you haven't listened to an Arcade Fire album since *Funeral*, the music on *Reflektor* will come as a bit of a surprise. Since their debut album, the Canadian band has moved away from traditional indie-rock and towards a more ephemeral and unconventional sound. This shift is most noticeable in their latest album, which almost completely ditches classic rock conventions in favour of alternative dance and disco.

While to some this may sound like heresy, the ever-changing nature of Arcade Fire's music is

part of what has kept the band so relevant and popular over the past decade.

*Reflektor* is split into two discs, the first of which is dominated by high-energy, disco-heavy songs. The highest points of the album are found here, including the pulsing title track "Reflektor" and the glam-rock inspired "Normal People." However, both are overshadowed by "Joan of Arc," which closes out the first disc with a triumphant yet bittersweet anthem backed up by a phenomenal bass line.

The second disc of *Reflektor* has a more grandiose sound, yet is ultimately weaker. Lush, expansive songs dominate this disc but — while there are exceptional moments — these can feel

too muted when compared to the album's frenetic first half. "Porno" stands out as one of the better tracks on this disc, with its melancholy, synthetic sound more than making up for the song's slightly underwhelming lyrics.

Indie-rock traditionalists won't find a lot to love with *Reflektor*, but that doesn't stop the album from being one of the most impressive and enjoyable of the year. While other indie-rock megabands are content to sit comfortably on their laurels, Arcade Fire continually challenges themselves to be something more. *Reflektor* is different from any of their other albums and, ultimately, more ambitious.

**Sean Willett**

## Yamantaka // Sonic Titan

*UKU*

October 29, 2013 (Paper Bag Records)

When Montreal-Toronto band Yamantaka // Sonic Titan's first album, *YI//ST*, was short-listed for the 2012 Polaris Prize, fans were left wondering if the group would be able to trump their critically appraised debut album. *UZU* is the answer to that question — it's a volcanic yes.

Yamantaka // Sonic Titan's style is a medley of each band member's individuality and history from a mix of Eastern and Western cultures. *UZU* is a celebration of the band-members' cultural heritages. It blends progressive

rock, rock opera, narrative storytelling, melodic piano sequences and heavy metal grunge and tracks that could easily hail from any Japanese role-playing game soundtrack. Disparate elements meld seamlessly from start to finish, with surprising bursts of flair and individuality. While the album is meant to be listened in one sitting, the tracks are rich as stand alones with full drums, synthesizers and the occasional organ.

Yamantaka // Sonic Titan excels in carving a style that is difficult to label. Rather than generating confusion, their songs grip and inspire an otherworldly experience of a darker, grittier variety.

The first track, "Atalanta," opens with a sombre piano, building to the entrance of Ruby Kato Attwood's haunting soprano. By the time the guitar kicks in for "Whalesong," the album finds the raw power that carries through the other eight tracks. *UZU* winds down in the last 45 seconds of "One Saturn's Return," leaving the listener with the lull of falling rain and the impression of a retreating tempest.

Everything from the cover album's depiction of a lone Kabuki figure standing in front of an assortment of sea monsters, to the track names, to the sheer oomph, makes *UZU* an album worth listening to.

**Stephanie Tang**



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# Head-to-head: NBA season preview

**Ashton Chugh**

Sports Assistant

**Suneil Sachdeva**

Gauntlet Sports

The National Basketball Association's 2013-14 season is underway. *Gauntlet* sports writers Ashton Chugh and Suneil Sachdeva have answered the most pressing questions about the next 1230 games.

**Will the Miami Heat capture their third consecutive championship? Would this put them on the same level as the last two teams to do so (Kobe Bryant's Lakers and Michael Jordan's Bulls)?**

Suneil Sachdeva: Miami could fall this season because of Derrick Rose's return and his potential to lead the Bulls back to championship glory. Yet it seems foolish to bet against them. Since the arrival of LeBron James, Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade, Miami has yet to miss the finals — and James continues to get better and better. Already a league MVP, finals MVP and scoring title winner, James still elevated his game, breaking multiple records throughout last season.

If they win their third title in three years, they will earn a seat at the table with the league's other storied dynasties. While some refuse to accept the Heat's reign as legitimate due to the unprecedented purchase of their all-star roster — assembled by the deep pockets of owner Micky Arison — a Miami three-peat would cement them as another iconic team.

Ashton Chugh: The Heat are still the favourites to win the title. This would put them in the conversation with Kobe and Shaquille O'Neal's Lakers, but nowhere near Jordan's Bulls, who won six championships. Kobe and Shaq were much more dominant than the Heat were in the playoffs during their run, such as when the Lakers went 16-1 in the playoffs to capture their second title. In contrast, the Heat have lost eight times in 18 games over their three appearances in the finals. Also, something to keep in mind is that the Lakers only had two all-stars during their three-peat, whereas the Heat have three.

**Who is your pick for MVP?**

SS: I can see Derrick Rose steal-



courtesy Keith Allison

**Will Kevin Durant beat out Derrick Rose and LeBron James for the MVP award?**

ing the MVP title back from LeBron James. The youngest player to ever receive the award, Rose has been sitting on the sidelines watching James capture back-to-back MVP's. However, Rose has the talent and drive to dethrone the King.

AC: Kevin Durant will take home the league's most prestigious individual award. Early on Durant will have a variety of new responsibilities due to Russell Westbrook's nagging injury. With the loss of Kevin Martin,

the Oklahoma City Thunder will need the extra offensive output from Durant. Durant will likely have to take on a facilitator's role, and because scoring buckets is second nature to the crafty forward, he will still be putting up the wonderful offensive numbers that we are used to seeing.

**Who will lead the league in scoring?**

SS: With Kobe Bryant coming off an Achilles injury and LeBron James sticking to a more balanced style of play, it's going to come

down to Kevin Durant and Carmelo Anthony once again. Durant has unmatched skill and vision, but a shift in his role for the Thunder may benefit Anthony for this season's scoring title. With the loss of James Harden, Durant will be taking on more of a playmaker role. While he could raise his assists while still remaining a top scorer, such a shift probably will take his scoring down just enough to lose out on the race. Anthony will remain the Knick's centerpiece, with the offence run-

ning solely through his hands. Durant will move in the direction of LeBron to become a more well-rounded force, while Anthony will move up to claim his second scoring title in two years.

AC: Carmelo Anthony has the particular circumstances that lead to voluminous scoring. Anthony is in the final year of his contract, and as the focal point on a team that loves to put up a ridiculous amount of three-point shots, he has ample motivation to prove his worth to potential suitors next summer. He will take home his second scoring title.

**Which addition will have the greatest impact on their team?**

SS: The Brooklyn Nets's blockbuster additions of Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett will make the biggest mark. The Nets not only added two perennial all-stars to their starting five, but also added a new heart and soul.

Pierce and Garnett have long been two of the Boston Celtics's most essential pieces, and the pair will bring unwavering tenacity and clutch play to Brooklyn. Fans from the New York area are sure to benefit, as Pierce and Garnett have already added to the burgeoning Knicks-Nets rivalry — they were reviled by Knicks fans when they played for Boston. Brooklyn is set to challenge for the Atlantic division crown, and take the Battle of the Burroughs to a new level.

AC: Dwight Howard will make the Houston Rockets a serious threat in the west, providing Howard isn't the centrepiece of more power struggles like last season with the Los Angeles Lakers. However, when the Brooklyn Nets traded for Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Jason Terry they got a renewed sense of vigour. These hard-nosed players are going to bring their signature grindhouse defence to the Nets, and with the direction of star point guard Deron Williams and newly minted coach Jason Kidd, the Brooklyn Nets are going to be a serious contender.

**Which player returning from injury will have the greatest impact on their team?**

SS: No player's return will have a more significant impact on their team than Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls. After sitting out the entire 2012-13 season to al-

low himself time to fully recover from a torn ACL, Rose will be hungry and ready to reclaim his status as one of the league's top talents. He'll lead the Bulls back to the top of the Eastern conference in an effort to take down LeBron James and the Miami Heat. Though criticized at the time, Rose's decision to keep himself off the court until he was not only healthy, but also back to his elite form, was the smartest career move the young point guard has made thus far.

AC: Derrick Rose will have an enormous impact on the Chicago Bulls. Their heart and soul was absent without him. Without Rose, the Bulls are a sub-par team in an Eastern conference that is increasingly competitive. With Rose in their lineup, the Bulls could dethrone the Miami Heat. Rose may be rusty to begin, but come mid-season he will be putting up those amazing plays that we know and love him for.

**Which young talent is set for a breakout season?**

SS: Cleveland's Kyrie Irving rises about the rest, although it seems almost unfair to classify Irving as a

player yet to break out. After being named NBA Rookie Of The Year in 2012 and making his first all-star appearance last year, Irving can be considered a bonafide star. After missing significant time in his first two seasons due to injury — he played only 51 games in his first year and 59 in his second — Irving will build on the success of his first two years. If he can stay healthy, look for Irving to move closer to being a top-five point guard in the league.

AC: The 2013-14 NBA season is going to be Kyrie Irving's big breakout in dramatic fashion. Irving has some new running partners in Andrew Bynum and Anthony Bennett, which should spread out the opposing team's defensive focus. Irving can create his own shot and be an effective playmaker. The Cavaliers are ready to get past their horrendous post-Lebron funk and it is Irving's job to get it done.

**Will Canada's only NBA team, the Toronto Raptors, make the playoffs this season?**

SS: An upgraded roster and a strong finish last season should give the Raptors their best op-

portunity in years to play past the regular season. Rudy Gay stepped up and posted big offensive numbers, averaging 19.5 points per game last year with Toronto. In his first full season with the Raptors, he will continue this performance with a strong young core, filled out by on-the-cusp star DeMar DeRozan, versatile big-man Jonas Valanciunas, the now-healthy playmaker Kyle Lowry and solid defensive piece Amir Johnson. Toronto's starting five are talented, and if they can take the next step, they could capture one of the East's last playoff spots.

AC: Raptors fans should expect a playoff birth this season or the boo-birds will come out in droves. Rudy Gay underwent laser eye surgery over the summer, so his shooting percentage should go up now that he can actually see the basket.

New addition D.J. Augustin will provide a more reliable alternative to Kyle Lowry, and will also bring a defensive presence to the point guard position. Another new addition, Steve Novak, is a quality knock-down three point shooter. With a full summer to gel as a cohesive unit, the Raptors should start out strong and upset a lot of teams.

**Who is your dark-horse team?**

SS: The Golden State Warriors are ready to take the next step. Putting up a decent season last year with a second place divisional finish and a conference semi-finals appearance, the Warriors are hoping this is the year they can step into the role of a serious contender. Following a breakout season from Stephen Curry, one that included a monster 54-point performance at Madison Square Garden, the Warriors are back on the radar. Their big-ticket off-season pickup, Andre Iguodala, could be the piece that helps them transition into one of the West's better squads.

AC: The New York Knicks are going to be a team that will defy popular expectations and finish strong. It is unusual to be calling a big-market team like the Knicks a dark-horse team, but all the bad press that they have received over the off-season has many analysts writing them off. Come April, many of those analysts will be dragged out into the streets in a show of I told you so's by the New York faithful, as the team will have secured home court advantage in the East through the first two rounds. Take that, Brooklyn.

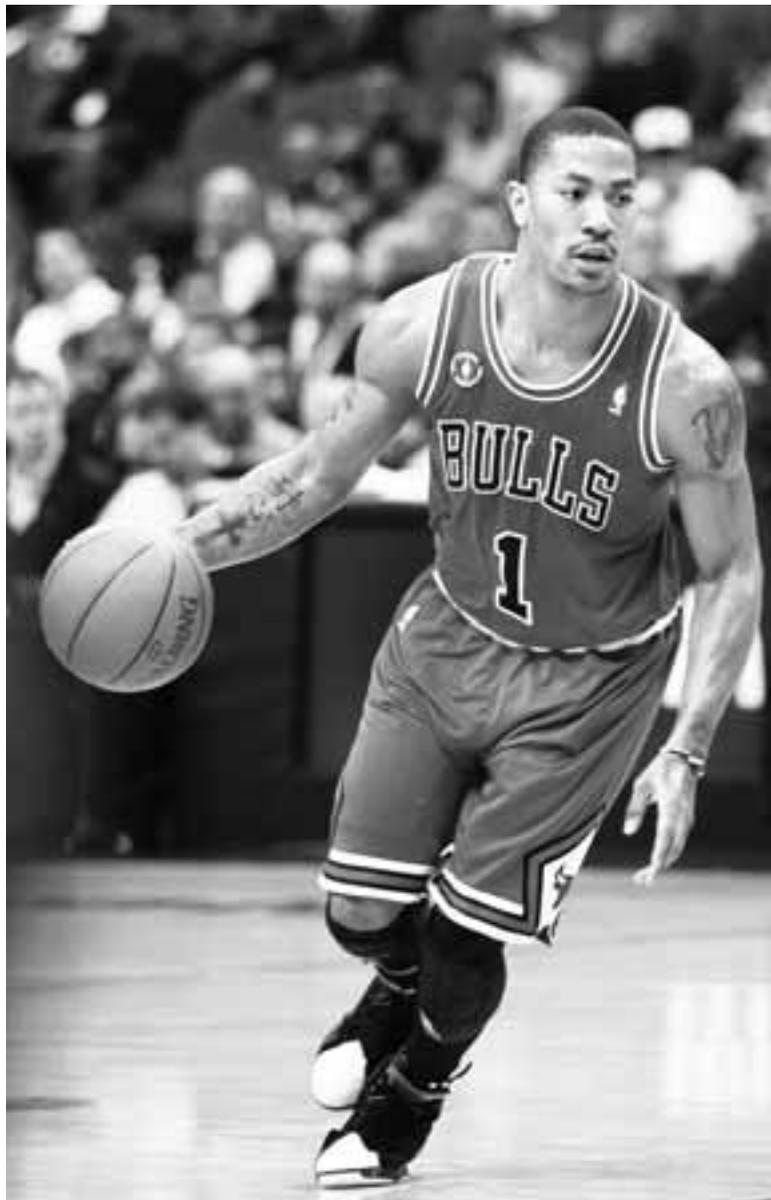
**How will Anthony Bennett,**

**the only Canadian first overall draft pick in history, fare in his first season with the Cleveland Cavaliers?**

SS: The preseason has not been kind to Bennett. The shoulder surgery that kept him away from the court all offseason has delayed his ability to show Cleveland his true abilities. His preseason offensive numbers haven't been great, although he looked much better late in the Cavaliers's second game — putting up a 14-point fourth quarter. He will

have to come off the bench until he can regain his game-shape and establish himself as the Cavalier's best power forward.

AC: Anthony Bennett's skill set is still quite raw. He has a big body, and in the guard-dominated NBA, players with less skill tend to mature a little slower. Still, if he keeps his head down and works hard, I can see him being a solid sixth man for the Cavaliers, and should average a respectable 12 points and seven rebounds a game.



courtesy Keith Allison

Derrick Rose is hoping to bounce back from injury.



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# Dinos finish regular season undefeated

Curtis Wolff

Sports Editor • @CBWolff

The Dinos football team completed their regular season with a 34-17 win against the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds on Friday, Oct. 25. With the victory, the Dinos finished without a single regular season loss for the first time in school history, going a perfect 8-0 on the year.

"It definitely feels good," said Dinos running back Mercer Timmis, who finished the season with an impressive 1,183 yards and a conference-record 19 touchdowns. "It's not something I was really thinking about before the season. To have that happen it's really just a tribute to Coach Nill and our defensive coordinator and our program."

The Dinos were in control for much of the night, making quick work of the Thunderbirds in the opening drive of the game. The Dinos gained 75 yards in seven plays as quarterback Andrew Buckley tossed a 10-yard touchdown pass to Mac Sarro to give the Dinos a 7-0 lead.

The pace of the game would slow from there, with the Thunderbirds managing to take a 11-8 lead in the second quarter. Buckley and Timmis would respond with a couple of big rushing plays each and Timmis would finish the drive with his 19th touchdown of the season to restore the Dinos's lead. The Dinos would finish the half with a 22-11 lead.

The Dinos defence shut down the Thunderbirds for the rest of the game, allowing only a punt single and a field goal. Backup quarterback



Louis Villaneuva

The Dinos finished the regular season with 1,858 rushing yards and 2,540 passing yards in eight games.

Jimmy Underdahl and backup running back Quentin Chow received a lot of reps in the second half of the game, as head coach Blake Nill stayed true to his promise to protect Timmis and Buckley from injuries going into the playoffs.

The Dinos will face the Thunderbirds for the second week in a row on Saturday, Nov. 2 in the opening round of the Canada West playoffs. Timmis said it was important to get

a good look at the Thunderbirds ahead of the most important game of the year so far.

"It was definitely helpful," said Timmis. "We saw the way they adjusted to a lot of our fronts and a lot of our offence, a lot of our formations. So it's going to be a big game for us next week. They are a good defence and a good team, so we just have to make the adjustments and come out to play."

Regardless of how they fare in the playoffs, the Dinos 8-0 season was one to remember. The Dinos had technically gone 8-0 once before in 2011, although they were awarded their last win of the season on a technicality — they lost their final game to the Thunderbirds, which UBC later had to forfeit due to the use of an ineligible player.

"I'm just going to remember the 8-0 first of all and just the great sea-

son overall for me," said Timmis, before jokingly adding a personal footnote. "Actually, I'm probably going to think of all the fumbles I had."

The Dinos play the Thunderbirds in the first round of the Canada West playoffs on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 3 p.m. at McMahon Stadium. Admission is free for students and the game will also be broadcast on Shaw TV.

## Deciding the future of MacHall



Raphael Jacob  
SU President



In 2011 the university created a detailed plan to completely redevelop the student centre. It included:

- New locations for many programs, businesses and services,
- An updated look to the interior and exterior of the facility,
- A three year shut down,
- A \$155 million price tag.

In response to the plan, the Students' Union (SU) ran a consultation during

last year's fall and winter semesters to get meaningful feedback from undergraduate students on their student centre. The SU believes that the plan for the future of the building must begin with a clear understanding of how the student centre is used. Both current and future student needs and expectations must be the foundation for any plan to redevelop the student centre.

And now the results are in!

More than 6,000 students spoke loud and clear about what they love, what they hate, what needs changing and what needs to stay the same in a redeveloped student centre.

After compiling the results from students, the SU made 19 recommendations for changes to the plan for MacHall, such as:

- #2: "Maintain or increase dining options and increase dining seating space."
- #4: "Increase study and social space."
- #8 "Increase SU commerce in a redeveloped MacHall to contribute to funding this initiative."
- #9 "Maintain food services and access to core student support services during the redevelopment process."

### So what now?

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recommendations and understand which decisions need to be made about the future of your student centre.

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# Faculty of arts teams up with choice retailer

**Melanie Bethune**

Polyester Blend Connoisseur

Arts programs have never been of the highest priority to Alberta's education system, particularly when it comes to funding and the distribution of grants.

With the recent announcement of the multi-million dollar expansion to the Schulich School of Engineering, as well as the new sponsorship from Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., the students and staff of the faculty of arts were left questioning the massive cutbacks to post-secondary programs last March. Corporate sponsorship may indeed be the answer.

The university has recently unveiled a new partnership between the anthropology department and Anthropologie, the choice retailer for women with a passion for seemingly hand-crafted clothing and more money than taste.

"Through this relationship," said

anthropology professor Richard Timberman, "students will now be able to obtain bachelor of arts degrees in the cultural applications of synthetic alpaca wool, riding bicycles in sundresses and over-priced and over-sized sweaters. Gone are the days of so-called useless arts degrees. We are dedicated to building a future of strong, independent leaders of tomorrow."

Students in all departments are getting excited about the prospect of corporate sponsorship.

"I think it's a great opportunity," said first-year English student Sarah McKellan, who is currently in the process of switching from her political science degree into Anthropologie. "And it's super trendy! Nothing says success like hand-embroidered socks!"

As for the real-world applications of these new degrees, Dave Jameson, vice-president operations of Anthropologie said, "The anthropology of old was exactly that: old. Instead of studying cultures of



courtesy Pjinomaha

the past and their variations, students are now earning degrees in what we see as the culture of the future: trendy women's fashion. We see this as a real world, professional degree akin to engineering, medicine or nursing. Our graduates will be able to survive in the big leagues. Besides, who doesn't love a good floral blazer?"

Students are hoping that with this new corporate sponsorship, the fac-

ulty of arts will be able to stand its ground in the job market.

"Arts degrees used to be useless," McKellan continued. "I mean, what was I going to do with political science? Government? Law school? In the long run, those aren't important at all. Why be an international diplomat when you can do something practical like study the difference between silk, satin and synthetic? Now Anthropologie, on the other

hand, will really give me an edge in the workforce."

With the obvious and imminent success of such a partnership, other departments are currently seeking their own forms of corporate sponsorship. While nothing official has been announced as of yet, students may be looking forward to the opportunity to obtain an Opa! bachelor of arts degree in Greek and Roman studies in the near future.

**GAUNTLET TECHNOLOGY**

Editor: Sean Willett • production@thegauntlet.ca

# Northern Sprites: Crack in the bell

**Sean Willett**

Production Editor

Bell, one of Canada's largest telecom companies, has recently announced that they are going to begin collecting more detailed data from their customers for the purpose of selling this information to advertisers and third parties.

This reveal will hardly come as a surprise to many Canadians. All three of Canada's biggest telecom companies — Telus, Rogers and Bell — have a history of unscrupulous business practises, with Bell

being the most ruthless of them all.

Bell was one of the biggest proponents of usage based billing, which charges Internet clients by the amount of data they use rather than sticking to a monthly plan. The company actively petitioned several federal commissions in an attempt to have this type of billing structure more widely accepted, but they were forced to back down in the face of public outcry.

This decision to begin collecting more in-depth information from their customers has triggered a similar backlash, despite Bell's attempts

to justify their decision. Bell claims that users will actually benefit from this increased data collection, because it will allow the company to target people with ads specific to their interests and their lifestyles.

However, targeted ads seem inadequate compensation when you consider the sheer amount of data Bell will have open access to. The company will be able to access locations, usage patterns, search histories, app purchases, call histories and virtually every other piece of information they can gain from monitoring their cus-

tomers' phones and computers.

Usage monitoring of this scale is unheard of in Canada, and may not even be completely legal. While Bell asserts that its new policy follows Canadian law, the Privacy Commissioner of Canada will be commencing an investigation to ensure this claim is true.

While customers do have the ability to opt-out of this program, they will be automatically opted-in with almost no forewarning. The opt-out page is also loaded with not-so-subtle hints that customers are better off with simply accept-

ing the targeted ads, since "people typically prefer to see ads that are as relevant to them as possible."

Despite their questionable business tactics, Bell still maintains a grip on the Canadian telecom sector because of their wide-spread coverage in rural areas. Hopefully, there will be enough of a public outrage as a result of this increased data collection to deter other companies from following in Bell's footsteps — or even convince Bell to backtrack on their decision.

Northern Sprites is a column about technology and video games. It is written by a nerd.

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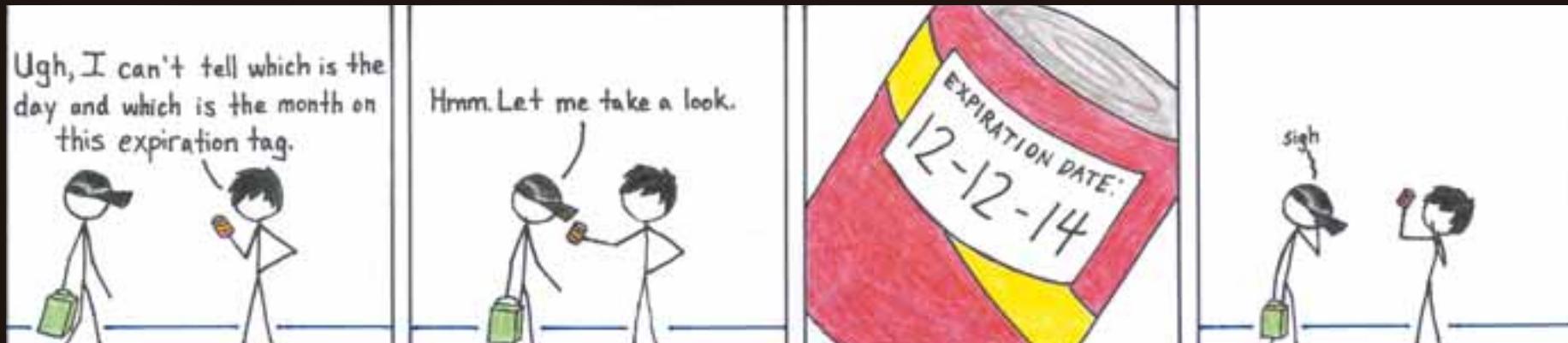
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