



## Gauntlet

### Q & A: David Suzuki

**Tobias Ma**

Opinions Editor  
Interview done with Riley Hill

During a speaking event at last week's Conservative convention in downtown Calgary, the *Gauntlet* managed to spot David Suzuki waiting for a book signing. We took the opportunity for a brief but bizarre interview before his speech that ended somewhat heatedly as Suzuki apparently felt cut off throughout.

**David Suzuki:** Give me a [fist] bump.

**The Gauntlet:** Okay. Is this thing on? Is now a good time for you?

**DS:** Why not?

**G:** You'll probably be speaking soon, so what do you intend to talk about tonight?

**DS:** You want me to give my talk now? Huh? You're too lazy?

[Nervous laughter]

**G:** We just want an idea of what you're talking about so our questions don't . . .

**DS:** Well, I think the challenge is for people your age. What is or is not done in the next few years is going to determine your entire futures. So you've got a huge stake in what's going on.

see DAVID SUZUKI, page 6

## Students' Union to decide on referendum for new \$35 full-time student fee

**Riley Hill**

News Editor

Students' Union executives and faculty representatives will vote on Nov. 20 on whether to hold a referendum on a new student fee that would be used to fund the re-development of MacHall.

The proposed question will ask SU leaders whether students should vote on implementing a new fee that would cost full-time

students \$35 a year and part-time students \$17.50. According to SU president Raphael Jacob, undergrads showed they are willing to pay a building fee much higher than this in a recent MacHall re-development survey.

"Based on the consultation with students that we've had, I think this is something that is worth bringing to referendum," Jacob said. "Whether the question goes to vote or not, that will

be for [Student Legislative Council] to decide."

The MacHall re-development survey was done last year with 6,350 students participating. The survey showed that a majority of the students surveyed were willing to pay up to \$90 for the re-development.

Jacob said the SU is neither advocating for or against the new building fee, but added that he personally thinks paying the extra

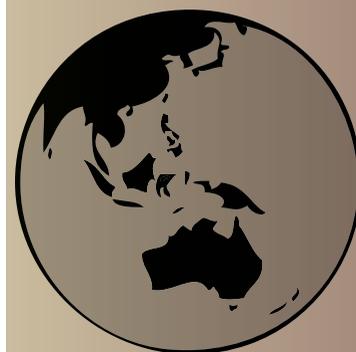
cash is worth it in the long run.

"It's ultimately up to students to decide. But it's certainly not something crazy we're asking," Jacob said. "Part of it will be students having to step back objectively and ask, 'is this a good thing and am I willing to pay for this?'"

But some students think the money should come from somewhere else.

see STUDENT FEE, page 3

### Faculty speaks out against international college, page 8



**STUDENTS' UNION**

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25th Annual

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#### Golden Spatula

Josh O'Brien



"Nobody knows what it means, but it's provocative. It gets the Dinos going."

#### Furor Arma Ministrat

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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 an extradiamentionally based ink. We urge you to recycle/make papier-mache figurines with the *Gauntlet*.

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#### The Cover

Design by Evangelos Lambrinoudis II

# MacHall, a future worth paying for

As the story on our cover explains, there will be a vote at next week's Student Legislative Council as to whether a referendum will be held in March on a new \$35 student fee that would be used to fund the re-development of MacHall. Students paying this fee will likely never personally benefit from a re-developed MacHall. Nevertheless, it is our view that if the new fee goes to a referendum, students should vote in favour of it, as the fee will help strengthen the Students' Union which — when all is said and done — is an organization worth defending.

As a recent su presentation points out, University of Calgary undergraduates paid building fees in the past for the construction and major renovations of MacHall. In 1953, the fee was \$6 for every full-time student. And in 1965, students paid \$17. With inflation, these numbers would be \$52 and \$124 today.

The su got more than their money's worth — MacHall is an unbelievable cash cow that produces revenues unrivaled by almost any student union in Canada. The money the su makes through tenant agreements with food vendors, businesses, conferences and concerts in MacHall's three venues is used to fund more student services than most Canadian students could ever dream of, and they accomplish this while collecting a student fee that has remained constant since the 1970s.

Ownership of the building is currently in contention. The su's lease



on MacHall will expire in December 2014, and the group's executives are currently in negotiation with administration over who will reap the building's future bounty. If the su loses control of MacHall, future U of C undergraduates will likely experience a combination of rising student fees with diminishing services, and the su will lose its already dull teeth when it comes to lobbying efforts.

If current undergraduates agree to pay even \$35 extra for the re-development of MacHall, su executives can approach future negotiations and confidently say that students are not greedy or apathetic and should maintain control of MacHall. As well, passing the referendum would further conversa-

tions about the role student consent should play in additional student fees.

In many ways, the su's credibility as a lobbying organization is at stake because they already use this argument on a number of issues. When student leaders try to tackle issues like the regulation of mandatory non-instructional fees, they are often confronted with skeptical MLAs or university administrators who think students will always pay as little as possible because they don't see the bigger picture. If students collectively decided to support an organization that advocates policy on their behalf, it would show their ability to recognize their interests and rationally pursue them — a perfect demonstration

that students can tackle policy issues with clear eyes and integrity.

In the grand scheme, putting up some of our money to improve MacHall is the decent thing for us to do. Whether we acknowledge it or not, we benefit today from a history of students who chose to fund improvements to post-secondary institutions for future students to enjoy. This is not a gift that we should take for granted — this is a legacy that we must protect and a spirit we must preserve.

The su might seem irrelevant, but it is our best and indeed our only means to deal with the university's problems as a group, taking our unique needs and interests into account. Only through organization and pooled resources can students build any position of strength and, despite what university administrators or government ministers might tell you, this is the only position that will command their respect.

The su is an ingrained part of the U of C's student culture more important than any Thursday night piss up, faculty loyalty or "Eyes High" goal. It's important that we worry su leaders with our opinions, stress them with our demands and pester them with our questions to keep them accountable. But we should support them and encourage them to effectively defend our interests, and a good place for us to start would be to pay for part of this re-development.

Gauntlet Editorial Board

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# Tough times under the Lucaszuk cuts

## How the post-secondary budget cuts devastated universities across Alberta

Chris Adams

News Assistant

Since the provincial government announced its budget in March, institutions across Alberta have struggled to solve budget crises following a significant funding shortfall. In total, \$147.3 million in funding was cut by the provincial government earlier this year, leaving post-secondary schools with 7.6 per cent less funding than expected.

Faculty associations and student unions across the province have lobbied against the cuts since they were first announced. Members of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations first sensed there would be a problem with the provincial government's budget in January of this year.

"It became clear that there was going to be a serious change in the government's attitude toward universities when Thomas Lukaszuk was appointed minister of advanced education," CAFA president Robert Sutherland said. "No one imagined the magnitude of the budget cuts would be 7.6 per cent. Within large institutions, a budget cut of five per cent is considered devastating. This government tried extremely hard to create a crisis in the system."

The University of Alberta is being forced to cut a total of \$86 million from its operating budget over the next two years. The U of A has responded by raising academic averages for entrance, retiring faculty and cutting enrolment to certain programs.

"We had to go through voluntary severance. A lot of students saw their favourite professors leave. We've had to cut enrolment spots and course availability has gone down," said U of A Students'



Courtesy Dave Cournoyer Flickr

(Left) Alberta advanced education minister Thomas Lukaszuk. (Right) MRU students protesting the budget cuts in April.



Gauntlet file photo

Union vice-president external Adam Woods. "It's incredibly frustrating when a student is trying to graduate and they can't find the course they're required to take and have to quite literally delay their degree by a whole semester or a whole year."

In response to the cuts, the U of A's faculty of science, consisting of 6,400 undergraduate students, will eliminate 300 enrolment spots per year until 2015–2016. This decrease will result in a 15 per cent decline in the faculty's total enrolment. Twenty-six faculty positions have also been cut and will not be replaced.

"The biggest thing for us wasn't so much that the cuts hurt. Because the cuts hurt. It's that we didn't know that they were coming. We couldn't prepare for them," Woods said.

But tuition at the U of A has not increased in response.

"I think the most important piece here is that temporarily, the

government has held tuition constant," Sutherland said. "So the immediate costs that students are seeing are reductions in course offerings and in the diversity of programs available to them both at the graduate and undergraduate level."

The University of Lethbridge had its budget reduced by \$11.8 million following the cuts. Along with suspending its German and management information systems programs, the U of L has 'retired' 34 faculty members. Mandatory non-instructional fees have risen from \$12.75 to \$37.5 per class, an increase of 300 per cent.

"The U of L was hit much harder by these cuts than most other institutions. We don't have near as much funding per capita as other [comprehensive research institutions] and our entire graduate program is sustained entirely through our operating budget," U of L Students' Union vice-president external Sean Glydon said.

"If next year's budget brings with it another deficit, it could result in massive program cuts that could knock the U of L back decades."

Non-research focused institutions have also been hit hard. In Edmonton, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology lost 45 of 1,100 faculty members and has increased class sizes as a result.

"We were able to handle it because we're a large institution," said NAIT academic staff association president Doug Short. "Smaller ones, like Lakeland College, only have about 100 faculty. So when they get a cut even of 10 — and I think their cuts were anywhere from 20–30 — that's pretty dramatic."

Some smaller schools have also had to cut distance education programs, which are typically more costly to operate.

The only institutions in the province that have not seen reduced funding are the four

private religious colleges.

On Nov. 2, Lukaszuk announced that Alberta's post-secondary institutions would receive \$50 million in additional funding. The money will be divided between the 20 post secondary institutions whose funding was cut, with the U of A receiving the greatest portion at \$14.4 million.

Despite the fact that this \$50 million only pays back a fraction of what was cut in March, Woods, who is also a representative for the Council of Alberta University Students, said he is optimistic about the potential for further funding increases.

"The new funding is a step in the right direction. It's still not mitigating all the damage that has been caused by the cuts but it is helping to soften the blow a little bit," Woods said. "We're optimistic that the government will continue investing in post secondary."

## campus quips

Would you be willing to pay for the re-development of MacHall?



"It depends on what they want to do."

– Kyra Still, fifth-year business



"If it benefits students, then yeah."

– Hman Bal, first-year education



"No. It won't affect the people already going here."

– Matt Huber, third-year psychology



"Maybe a little bit. Not too much."

– Harry Kim, second-year open studies

# U of C Pyjama Day coming in December

## Day to kick off Stress-less Week

**Ashton Chugh**  
Sports Assistant

For those who tire of having to dress themselves every morning, relief is on the way with Wear Your Pyjamas To School Day at the University of Calgary — an event put on for Stress-less Week.

“We are seeing unprecedented levels of stress for students when they are faced with concerns of the 21st century [surrounding] the economic and political climate of post-secondary education,” said Students’ Union vice-president student life Ben Cannon, who helped organize Stress-less Week. “Students are

more stressed out than they have ever been.”

To help remedy this, Cannon decided to eliminate Nog Fest and replace it with Stress-less Week, which goes from Dec. 2–6. In addition to Pyjama Day, the week will feature a variety of events focused on reducing student stress.

“[The] puppy room is the marquee event of the week,” Cannon said.

Cannon is working on getting senior administration to wear their pyjamas to work on Dec. 4. So far, student services director Jennifer Quin and vice-provost student experience Susan Barker have agreed to sport their pyjamas for the day. Cannon is also hoping U of C president Elizabeth Cannon will partici-

pate in a Stress-less Week show of solidarity with students and come visit the puppy room, which will open in December.

“Having Elizabeth Cannon in the puppy room is kind of my fantasy. Schools around the country are stressed out, and in response to this we have our upper administration standing in solidarity with students over these de-stress initiatives,” Cannon said.

When it comes to what he will wear on Pyjama Day, Cannon is no slouch.

“I’ve been doing some shopping. Maybe the Hugh Hefner style with the overcoat or a gold onesie. Only time can tell,” he said.



Michael Grondin

SU leaders sport their evening wear in MacHall.

# TFDL extends its hours

**Rachelle Reed**  
Gauntlet News

The hours of the Taylor Family Digital Library Learning commons were extended from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. At this point, the extension will only apply to this year’s fall and winter semesters.

However, from Nov. 24 to Dec. 18, the Learning Commons — the first and second floors of the TFDL — will be open 24 hours every day of the week.

The regular hours of the upper floors of the library will remain the same, in that they close at 11 p.m. Monday through Sunday. On statutory holidays the library is open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Associate University Librarian Claudette Cloutier said it is important that the TFDL is accessible to students, but insisted the whole library could not be open 24 hours at day because of the library’s budget. She added that the 11 p.m. close also provides

more transit options and safer walks home.

The change was initiated in March when a group of students went to the Students’ Union to complain about the TFDL’s hours. Former SU vice-president academic Kenya-Jade Pinto took these complaints to library staff.

SU president Raphael Jacob said he considers the library extension a success and feels it will be beneficial to students, especially with finals right around the corner.



Gauntlet file photo

# New student fee, continued from cover

University of Calgary Senate student representative Dave Beninger said that as a point of principle, students should not have to pay any new fees and the Alberta government should foot the bill for university infrastructure projects.

“I think the re-development is important, but do I think students should be paying for it? No, I don’t,” Beninger said. “I’ve said it many times before: Alberta is the richest province in the country and Alberta students

pay some of the highest fees in the country. At this point, I don’t support any additional fees for students.”

Beninger said he thinks scarce post-secondary funding is forcing the SU to ask students to cover the costs of re-developing MacHall.

“It seems like the SU is in a tricky position because they obviously need to get funds [for this project] and the only place they can really go is to students,” he said. “But I think the

SU should push the government more to pay for this.”

SU vice-president student life Ben Cannon acknowledged that a new fee will be cumbersome for some students — especially when they likely won’t attend the U of C once the five year construction project is finished — but pointed out that students paid building fees for MacHall projects in the past, making the building what it is today.

“The way I think of it is that in the past when [MacHall] was be-

ing built, students were kicking-in for that. It was re-developed a couple of times, then students kicked in for that,” Cannon said. “If you’re a current U of C student, you’re already taking advantage of several re-developments that students paid for over the years. So I think of it as paying it forward.”

Past building fees cost U of C students \$6 in 1953 and \$17 in 1965. Adjusted for inflation, these fees would be worth \$52 and \$124 today. The SU has also

taken out loans in the past to pay for renovations.

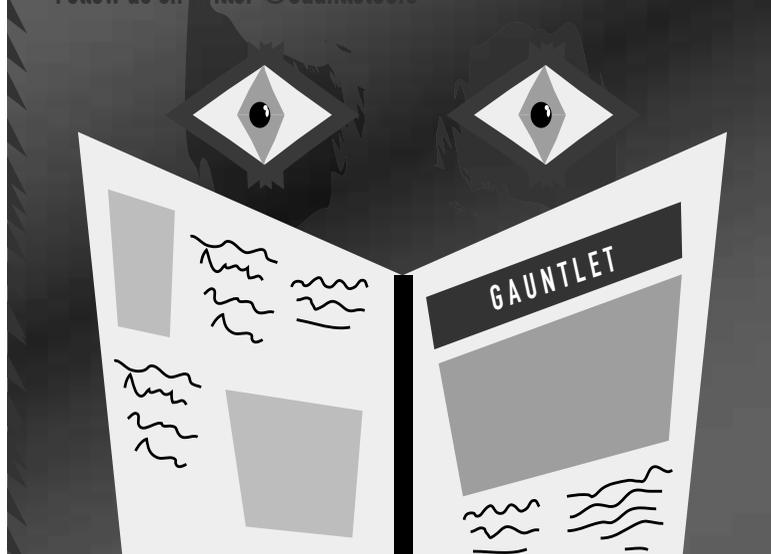
The SU pegs the total cost of the building at \$155 million. Changes to the building will be informed by information collected under last year’s MacHall student consultation — a survey on the MacHall re-development that was first approved by Student Legislative Council in 2012.

If passed, the referendum will coincide with the SU elections next March.

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# Gauntlet Q & A: David Suzuki, continued from cover

**David Suzuki:** What I'm suggesting is that elders, our group of people who have lived an entire lifetime but are now not encumbered by working for power or money or fame, they're free now to tell the truth. So if you can get elders to share what they have learned over a lifetime, and you know goddamned well it's not about money, then elders should be sharing what they've learned with young people to empower them.

Elders don't have a vested interest anymore in the status quo. They're retired. Youth have not invested in that status quo, you're still free to see . . . the trouble is that once you get a job and buy a house, you get very locked in and it's difficult to think about change.

**The Gauntlet:** So how would you suggest young people try to avoid this culture of consumption? What are some unusual ways you can think of for young people to reduce their footprint?

**DS:** There are lots of things like that, like getting outside for Christ's sake. The average child in Canada spends eight minutes a day outside and over six hours a day in front of a television, computer or iPhone screen. Get the hell outside! You're not going to fight to protect something if you don't love it. You've got to love nature. That's the biggest thing.

But I think that we have an economy that is based on consumption. After 9/11, George W. Bush's first speech he made to the American people was, "I want you to go out and shop." That wasn't a joke. Seventy per cent of the American economy depends on consumption.

So you ask, 'What do we do?' There are lots of ways you can reduce your footprint. But we're fundamentally caught up in a system that is built around destroying the planet. So we have to change that system.

**G:** The question that always comes up then is, of course you can't just create some utopian system from scratch, but what should we be doing then? What are the alternatives you see?

**DS:** I've got a lot of things to say about that, but I'm not an economist, right? I think that the creed of the cancer cell is growth forever and the result of that is death. Economists are the only group I know of that really think that humans can have a system that can grow forever. And it's the same creed. So, how can you



Louie Villanueva

### Suzuki speaks at the downtown public library.

have an economic system built on utilizing the finite resources of the biosphere, that thinks it can grow forever? That's crazy. It's suicidal.

So that's the first thing you've got to think of, but then the problem is that the things that really count, that matter most, like trees taking carbon from the atmosphere, putting oxygen back in, services that nature performs, called externalities, they're not in the economy. They're not in the equation. You've got a system based on human productivity and innovation that doesn't account for what nature does to keep the planet healthy and alive. So you ask what kids can do? Change this economic system. It's crazy.

**G:** Do you believe we're already over the cliff though?

**DS:** I don't think anyone can say that because we don't know enough. A lot of my colleagues are saying it's too late, but my response is that, first of all, I don't think there's any point in saying it's too late. You're going to fight to the end anyway, right? Whether it is or not, you're going to fight, right? I think no one knows enough to say it is too late. You have to have hope.

**G:** Do you think the government right now is too attached to the energy sector?

**DS:** The government has tried to demonize environmentalists. We have a government that I believe is guilty of willful blindness. They're not paying attention to scientists and climate change is going to affect Canada more than any other developed country.

We're a northern country. We're already feeling the impact. We have

the longest coastline of any country in the world. Think of the activities — agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism — that are climate dependent. We're going to be hammered by it.

**G:** I was just talking to Mr. [Ezra] Levant outside who is a big fan of yours, and he mentioned that the government is no longer able to receive donations from big corporations —

**DS:** The government is no longer able to . . . what?!

**G:** He said that corporate donations are no longer allowed. He used that as evidence to suggest that there is no influence from the energy sector upon government.

**DS:** What is he talking about?! We just took in \$16 billion from a Chinese oil company. Do you not think that affects government?

**G:** They'll make it back in taxes, then?

**DS:** We're going out and begging for money from other countries. What? Are we so poor that we can't invest in ourselves? Once you get a loan or a gift from another country, does he have any hope that we will be independent of the influence of that? Tell him to go take a jump! It's ridiculous.

**G:** I take it you're not a fan of the recent European Union free trade agreement?

**DS:** No, I'm not a fan of free trade. This is what John Maynard Keynes said years ago. There's a lot of things that should be kept international like sports, music, art, but for heaven's sake keep your economy domestic.

I've got a lineup of people.

# The international student experience

## A look at what it's like being a U of C international student

**Zainab Takuma**  
Staff Writer

The University of Calgary plans to increase the number of international students from just over five to 10 per cent of the undergraduate population by 2016. This raises the question of how the international student experience at the U of C differs from domestic students.

There are currently more than 2,600 international students at the U of C and they face a number of challenges upon enrolment. The cost of tuition is usually one of their biggest concerns, as it is significantly more expensive than what Canadian students pay, at almost \$20,000 a year for a full course load.

According to International Student Services manager Ricky Ramdhaney, they pay more because, unlike Canadian students, international students cover the full cost of their education.

"Canadian student education is subsidized by the Canadian government based on taxes that have been paid into the system," Ramdhaney said. "It's not that international students are paying more necessarily. Canadian students are actually paying less."

International students are eligible for merit-based scholarships but cannot get financial aid from the government. According to Ramdhaney, financial aid is difficult to secure for international students because of provincial

policies towards post-secondary education.

"The government of Canada requires that when international students apply for study permits, they have to provide evidence that for at least the first year they can support themselves," Ramdhaney said. "If you've just proven to the government that you have enough money to last you at least for the first year, then the justification for you needing additional funds is very low, because you're saying, 'I have the money.'"

Vice-provost international relations Janaka Ruwanpura, who was hired to pursue the U of C's international strategy, acknowledged that the university would benefit financially from recruiting international students because they pay substantially more than Canadian citizens, but said this will not impact prospective locals who want to be educated at the U of C.

"Financially, [having more international students will] help because people are saying they are going to bring in more [money] than local students. But we're not going to sacrifice a single local seat to get an international student because that's not our agenda," said Ruwanpura.

Biomedical Engineering PhD and international student Ashkan Rhamani said he supports the U of C's goal of increasing the number of international students on campus. However, he stressed that the university has some work to do first.



Michael Grondin

### U of C vice-provost international Janaka Ruwanpura.

"A very serious issue that I have with the U of C is the people who take care of the administrative jobs. I have never seen a system more inefficient than the U of C. When I got here, I didn't get paid in the first month because they gave me the wrong forms," said Rhamani. "I am paying \$13,000 a year and I demand some service. I've been in three universities so far and I've been in two different systems and this is the most inefficient system I've ever seen in my life."

Fourth-year international rela-

tions student Mayda Boberly also said the U of C needs to improve its international student advising.

"The majority of us are very lost since the academic program is completely different from our own countries," Boberly said. "I think that even though we pay triple the tuition of a Canadian student, the education and preparation I am getting from all the professors and instructors is good and it is incomparable to the education I would have gotten in Venezuela."

## U of C student wins prestigious paleontology prize

**Sean Willett**  
Production Editor

Kohei Tanaka, a University of Calgary PhD student, won the Colbert Student Poster Prize at this year's Society of Vertebrate Paleontology annual meeting.

The prize is awarded to a student at the meeting who presents important research clearly and effectively, and is one of the most prestigious awards available to students studying paleontology.

"Winning the Colbert Student Poster Prize was one of the goals of my career," Tanaka said, "so I felt very happy to get the award."

Tanaka's research looked at the relationship between features in the eggs of dinosaurs and crocodiles and types of nesting behaviours. By looking at data taken from over 120 species of birds and crocodiles, Tanaka found that the porosity of an animal's eggshell could be used to accurately predict whether it uses open nests or covered nests.

This method can be applied to dinosaur eggs, and can help paleontologists determine if the parents of a species brooded over their nest.

"Dinosaur eggshells are quite common, so there are many specimens available," said Tanaka. "This method could have a wide impact on dinosaur paleontology."

Tanaka has also received a Japan Student Services Organization scholarship, as well as an Honorary Killam scholarship. He plans to travel back to Japan to teach paleontology after completing his PhD.

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# Academic staff battles International College

## Faculty association argues college would be breach of collective agreement

Riley Hill

News Editor

On Nov. 13, University of Calgary provost and vice-president academic Dru Marshall defended administration's proposal to open a privately owned international college on campus under a barrage of criticism from the U of C Faculty Association and academic staff. In response to plans for the corporate-run college, UCFA president Paul Rogers said his organization has filed a complaint with the university, citing Article 24 of their collective bargaining agreement with the university, which states that grievances between the U of C and the UCFA must be dealt with in a timely fashion.

At a town hall meeting held in the MacHall ballroom, Rogers outlined some of the UCFA's grievances.

"Individuals hired to teach for this [proposed college] would not be academic staff. They would not have the rights and protections from our collective agreement, which includes things that should be important to everybody," Rogers said. "We think this would be in violation of the Post-Secondary Learning Act and our collective agreement."

Rogers went on to say he felt the UCFA choice to file the grievance was "lamentable," but that he hopes faculty staff will mobilize to stop plans for a privately run international college.

Marshall said she was disappointed that the UCFA would file



Michael Grondin



Michael Grondin

(Left) University of Calgary Faculty Association president Paul Rogers. (Right) U of C Provost Dru Marshall.

**Individuals hired to teach for this [proposed college] would not be academic staff. They would not have the rights and protections from our collective agreement, which includes things that should be important to everybody.**

— Paul Rogers, Faculty Association president

a grievance, but recognized their right to do so.

The proposed college would recruit international students to upgrade their academics at a privately owned school on the U of C campus. If their academics were up to snuff, these students would then go on to enrol at the U of C.

Administrators have stated they hope that this will "increase diver-

sity" on campus. As Marshall said, the college will provide a new, stable revenue stream and help the U of C reach its Eyes High goal of increasing the number of international students to 10 per cent of the total undergraduate population and 25 per cent of the graduate population on campus by 2016.

The UCFA has aggressively opposed the college since first learn-

ing of it in October, arguing that working with a private corporation will degrade academic freedom and damage the university's reputation.

After Marshall and Rogers gave their thoughts on the college, attendees of the town hall filed behind microphones to ask questions and give their thoughts.

Student Success Centre academic specialist Paul Papine said the plans seem misguided.

"This looks to me like a purely economic decision," Papine said. "In order to accept a plan like this, I would have to be convinced that the very economic survival of the university was at stake."

In response, Marshall said the college will have economic benefits, but this is not the reason administration is considering it.

"You will know from the first few presentations that I did on this [college] that I didn't talk about economics at all. I don't think that's the reason to do this," Marshall said. "There is an economic benefit, but that's not the reason to do it. The reason is to increase the diversity of our student body right now."

Later in the town hall, department of philosophy head Nicole Wyatt read a letter outlining her department's opposition to the college.

"The department of philosophy wishes to be on record to strongly endorse and affirm the principle that it is fundamental to the integrity of academic work that teaching for credit courses at the university be done by the staff of that university," read the letter.

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# Canadian literature and identity

## Q & A with Canadian writer Lawrence Hill

Tamara Cottle

Gauntlet Entertainment

Canadian writer Lawrence Hill, author of *The Book of Negroes* and *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada* was in Calgary last weekend for the Calgary Public Library's annual *One Book, One Calgary* event. The event is the library's city-wide reading initiative. His award-winning novel, *The Book of Negroes*, was chosen as this year's selected reading. *The Book of Negroes* won the 2007 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the 2008 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. Hill's latest book, *Blood: The Stuff of Life* was released Sept. 28, 2013

**The Gauntlet:** What makes a book a classic, in my opinion, is its ability to have an impact. The Calgary Public Library is talking about how *The Book of Negroes* is fast becoming a Canadian classic. How do you think *The Book of Negroes* can impact an individual, a city or even a nation?

**Lawrence Hill:** Somebody else, like a critic or an English prof or a fan or a reader, or somebody else is better equipped than the writer to say what their impact really is. Answering that question is like standing on a rooftop and beating your chest and saying I'm great. But let me try to find a way out of that question even though it makes me feel a bit uncomfortable.

We really don't know ourselves all that well in Canada. We like to think we're morally superior to those nasty Americans and the people of South Africa during the regime of apartheid and all those other places in the world where awful things have taken place.

Canada is a fabulous country but to deny our past and to not know who we truly are and how we treated each other over the centuries is really preventing us from obtaining major growth culturally and socially within our borders.

So I guess one impact of *The Book of Negroes* is through a woman's story, through an individual trajectory that's really quite dramatic and

introduced Canadians to what life might have looked like for at least one woman living as a black loyalist coming in and out of Nova Scotia and travelling around the world free, enslaved and free again later.

It kind of forces a reader to enter a world that is largely unknown in our common conversations in Canada and to open their eyes to this world. But the book is not just educating people, it's also inspiring through a story and that's where a novel really can do something a history book can't do — dramatize an event in human life to really wallop the reader and draw the reader into this beautiful, fictional bubble. The idea of a woman maintaining her spirit and refusing to lie down and be trampled emotionally, still wanting to live and love and give even with all the deprivation and insults she has endured, this to me is the transcendent quality of Aminata (the main character of *The Book of Negroes*).

**G:** Having been awarded the Canadian Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Ontario Library Association's Evergreen Award and the Bob Edwards Award from Alberta Theatre Projects, it seems like Canadians have really embraced your work. How much of your writing has been influenced by your Canadian heritage or by being Canadian?

**LH:** I write about Canada. I mean, my novels and non-fiction touch down on other countries and Canada's intersection with other countries,

especially when it has to do with the movement of people of the African diaspora.

I'm thoroughly Canadian. I was born and raised in Canada. I've lived in other countries but I've lived almost all of my life in Canada.

So I really don't know how to answer that question except to say every book I've written, with the exception of *The Deserter's Tale* — which is about a guy who deserts the war in Iraq — eight of my nine books and all of my short stories and essays have dealt with Canada and my connection to it.

I also write about things of global interest. I don't think that a Canadian writer has to write about Canada or being Canadian. I think that a Canadian writer should write whatever they damn well please. And it doesn't make you any less Canadian if you write about Sri Lanka or India but you happen to be living in Calgary.

If you're Canadian your work is Canadian even if you're dramatizing it and writing about other corners of the world and that's of course what Canada is. It's a land where we feel free as writers to intersect with other corners of the world.

**G:** In a day and age where Americans elect a black president, where black people occupy very high stations in all walks of life, do you think race is still an issue?

**LH:** Were the first words of your question "in the United States"?

**G:** Yes, but also in Canada we have a lot of well-to-do black people.

**LH:** Sure we do. We have lots of well-to-do black people in Canada and in the States. And Barack Obama occupies the White House for a second term.

But does the fact that some black people have succeeded phenomenally, and reached incredible stations of life politically, socially, economically in North America, does that mean we're living in a post-racial world? I find that term and the idea very troublesome. We're not living, in my opinion, in a post-racial world.

Ask an 18-year-old black kid who is driving his mother and father's car at two o'clock in the morning and is pulled over by a police officer if he's living in a post-racial world.

Ask children who are growing up and being disrespected in the education system because they're black or more likely to be shot on the street because they're black, who may have trouble finding the job and the education that they desire or deserve because they're black or who gets looks walking into stores or walking into restaurants because people might be a bit afraid of them.

Ask your average high school student in a multiracial high school who is sitting in a segregated fashion because all the black kids sit over here and all the white kids sit over there and all the Asian kids sit over here. I see that over



courtesy House of Anansi

and over again in high schools.

Ask those people if they're living in a post-racial world. Well the answer is of course not. It's some fantasy we employ to make us feel good about each other. Many people are still held to account so to speak, because of how people perceive their skin colour or their race.

So no, I don't think that Barack Obama sitting in the White House really changes all that much on a day-to-day basis for ordinary African Canadians, and ordinary African Americans. It's a great achievement, and I wish him the best, and I wish he weren't so paralyzed by Congress. Is his presidency a symbol that we no longer have to think about racial injustice? Absolutely not.

**G:** Most of your work to date explores the element of race. Will your next book do the same?

**LH:** Yes. I mean, that's such a huge term, I don't think it really tells us much to say they explore elements of race. We could equally say they explore elements of identi-

ty and belonging and humanity and universal questions that we all face. If a white writer writes about white people and exploring issues of identity and belonging, we don't call that writing about race. They're just writing about people who happen to be white. But when a black writer writes about people who are black, suddenly they're writing about race. I do note the irony there.

But yes, I'm interested in the interactions of people of various racial backgrounds and I'm interested in dramatizing and documenting the experiences of people of African descent.

One of the major characters in the novel that I'm just finishing up is white. It's not that I'm only interested in writing about black people.

Writers who are white don't get asked that question. It's only if you're black that you're asked why you're writing about race. I hope, fundamentally, that I'm writing about universal human experiences and any reader with an open heart could possibly be moved by this.

## Art events on campus

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Oct. 18–Jan. 4

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Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall

Nov. 21, 8:00–10:00 p.m.

Tickets \$9 for students.

**Dance Montage**

University Theatre

Nov. 21–23

Tickets \$10 for students.

**Movies That Matter:  
Tough Bond Public**

TFDL Gallery Hall

Nov. 21–23

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A 30-minute discussion will follow the screening.



courtesy Marvel

## Movie review:

# Thor: The Dark World

Sean Sullivan  
Entertainment Editor

Much of Marvel's plans for its phase-two movies hinged on the success of *The Avengers* and whether audiences would accept the nearly magical technology and aliens that were brought into a cinematic universe which, for all intents and purposes, began with Tony Stark in a flying metal suit. Following the return of Tony Stark in *Iron Man 3* last May, *Thor: The Dark World* is the first Marvel film after *The Avengers* to continue the heavy use of alien science and technology. Watching *Thor: The Dark World*, the movie is the clear successor to *The Avengers* in a way that *Iron Man 3* was not.

*Thor: The Dark World* is a much better movie than its predecessor, *Thor*. It has accepted that, at its core, it is a science-fiction movie. The original movie, in 2011, was what could have been labeled high fantasy, with a mix of medieval fighting and a little magic (which is really just really advanced science — really). Even when Thor was banished to Earth, it never stopped being fantasy. It was out of place among the other movies Marvel had produced, which included *Iron Man 2* and *Captain America*. Many critics and viewers disliked how much time was spent in Asgard, with its surreal shiny towers and ancient lifestyle. It was a little hard to believe that the

Asgardians were a more advanced species in the same galaxy as the human race.

The sequel embraces the science fiction aspects of the story. Asgard has gun batteries and gun ships to defend itself and, while they don't carry firearms, the Asgardian soldiers are no longer swinging around ancient weaponry. It is a nice touch seeing a shield act as an energy barrier and the swords seem like they were actually designed for cutting material that human-made bullets bounced off of during *The Avengers*. It also adds a touch of humour as Jane Foster (Natalie Portman) begins figuring out how Asgardian technology works — a Norse soulforge is really just a quantum field generator.

The additional benefit of the science fiction approach is that the movie never gets bogged down with the typical romantic elements that are prominent throughout the fantasy genre. Instead, *Thor: The Dark World* goes to much darker places than the original, both figuratively and literally.

While the first movie revolved around some angst and immature sibling rivalry, the sequel is a much darker, more mature movie. There are real consequences to the events that are happening and the characters experience loss.

No one is who they were in the original movie, or who they were in *The Avengers*. Thor is colder and less trusting, while his ad-

opted brother, Loki, seems tired after the events of the previous two movies. Loki is as manipulative as ever, but he no longer resorts to the angry outbursts of the first movie. He's a calmer and more complex character who is clearly hurting after being rejected by his own family and yet who still displays a boyish glee at being able to spend time with his brother even when neither trusts the other anymore.

One of the biggest complaints with the original movie was the almost absurdly hilarious romance between Jane Foster and Thor, who had an inexplicable, instantaneous and overwhelming attraction to one another. Fortunately, the sequel does away with this all together. It is established early on that they are in love and then the movie rarely touches on the matter again until the end. And it is much better for it.

The main downside to the movie is that, following in the footsteps of massively successful *The Avengers*, *Thor: The Dark World* tries to do too much. What could have been an interesting and entertaining exploration of these characters gets overshadowed by the sheer scale of events. It is not a throne or an entire planet that is at risk, but the fabric of reality and all of existence throughout the galaxy. The conflict with the villain Malekith becomes less personal and less interesting as a result.

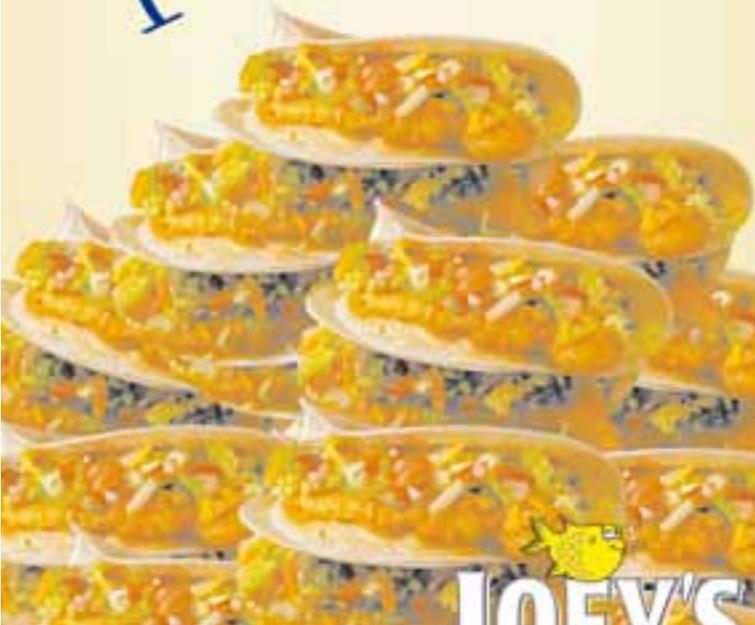
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ALBUM REVIEWS



## Greg MacPherson Band *Fireball*

October 29, 2013 (Disintegration Records)

As modern rock bands slowly edge further and further into the realm of mainstream music and the typical pop-esque radio fare over the course of their careers, the bands tend to adapt and develop more complex music with more instruments, synthesized sounds and orchestral backdrops. This isn't the case with Winnipeg singer and songwriter Greg MacPherson, whose ninth album *Fireball* was released last month. MacPherson seems to keep toning it back and streamlining his

style of rock 'n' roll down to the basics.

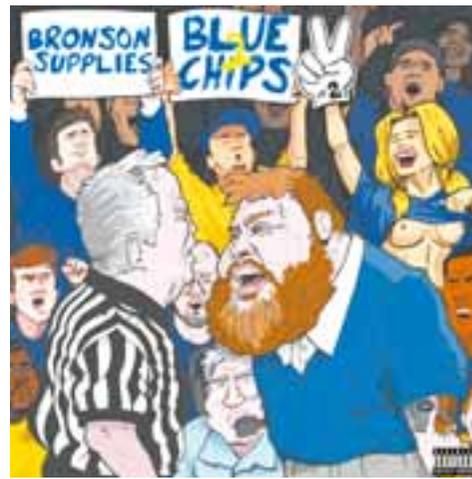
MacPherson's music is simple: usually just a set of drums, an electric guitar and MacPherson's vocals, which sound a little like Gordon Downie from Tragically Hip. His albums are a callback to the older years of rock 'n' roll with a heavy emphasis on just the drums and guitar.

Throughout his latest album the rock influences from the '70s, '80s and '90s are easy to pick up even though he does infuse his songs with a little modern indie rock, even sounding a little punk rock or country from time to time.

From the first track on the album, "1995," it sounds like *Fireball* is going to be a collection of hard-hitting rock songs from the '90s. It's a refreshing change from the folk-rock inspired music overplayed on the radio today. It is just too bad MacPherson doesn't keep it up throughout the rest of the album.

The album's title track doesn't hold the momentum and neither does the next song, "Motel Hotel." The tracks are more subdued and less interesting as a result. Throughout the remainder of the album, the music gets a little lost, caught up in a little post rock in "Sand Hand" and a little country in "Force Field." MacPherson's straight-forward rock is clear at the beginning and at the end, but it gets a little murky in the middle.

Sean Sullivan



## Action Bronson *Blue Chips 2*

November 1, 2013 (Party Supplies)

Action Bronson is a large, Albanian Jewish guy with a hipster-length beard, taste for Lincoln Town Cars and a honking New York voice — about the most unlikely rapper you can imagine. Hailing from Queens, the former chef broke from obscurity in 2012 with his *Blue Chips* mixtape, placing him among rap's underground elite and landing him a deal with Vice Records. After a few lackluster releases and a slew of collaborations, Bronson teamed up with producer Party Supplies for

the much-anticipated *Blue Chips 2*, offering an enjoyably bizarre and often funny trip into the strange mind of this New York long shot.

On the mixtape, Bronson's lyrics stick mostly to his over-the-top crime fantasies filled with theatrical violence and garish products (think silk shirts, speed boats and Jaguars). The scenes he paints are laughably stupid. But through clever wordplay and tongue-twisting rhymes, the pictures becomes vivid and it's all done with a skill and playfully mean attitude that makes it difficult to determine whether he is a kitsch rap savant or just some wise ass.

Like the first *Blue Chips*, Party Supplies offers his signature sample-heavy production. On the song "Pepe Lopez," the beat is a straightforward chopped up sample of The Champs's "Tequila." Production highlights come from the milieu of '80s samples (from the likes of Peter Gabriel, Phil Collins and John Mellencamp) on "Contemporary Man" — where the beat switches five times — and from the stoned groove on songs like "Twin Peugeot's."

Overall, *Blue Chips 2* is a collection of Bronson's weird, violent, misogynistic and often tacky fantasies. But he raps them well and the beats are a laugh. And it's free, so you can legally download it right now.

Riley Hill

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# The Gauntlet goes to the Taboo sex show

## A first-person account of our descent into the depths of debauchery



**Tobias Ma**  
Opinions Editor

It's Nov. 10 and here we are at the Taboo sex show, a yearly gathering of sexually-themed vendors and entertainment held at the BMO centre. I step past the coat check into a sea of flesh and earthly delights. The second I walk inside the amphetamines I popped earlier wear off and the dildos and butt plugs that suddenly appear in front of me seem like nothing more than the vulgar contraptions of bored monkeys. If I was ever interested in buying a butt plug, I'm not anymore.

Our team consists of four people. Curtis, the sports editor, with his black and red toque and day-trader's smirk, silently blends into the crowd. So does my friend Cole, lugging around a flask filled with yeasty vodka. News editor Riley is waiting inside, already hefting his camera like a bazooka, pointing it at passersby with voyeuristic glee.

Our mission is to grab ahold of renowned pornstar Tori Black. It's going to be tough to track down and steal a dance away from the belle of the ball, what with our wandering eyes and absent minds.

This is the 13th Taboo Naughty But Nice sex show. The website says we will enjoy "entertainment, provocative and educational seminars, unique shopping, fashion shows and live demonstrations." The show features celebrity meet-and-greets, titillating rituals and the means to appease all sorts of fetishes. So far I've only seen dildos.

Female vendors with pencilled-on eyebrows hawk their wares. More dildos, endless dildos, pink and purple tending to dominate. I walk past everything dazedly, good feelings draining out of my brain's basin. Screams of laughter and delight bounce around us.

Riley says, "Let's follow the noise." We end up in front of a crowd of people staring at a high-resolution illustration of a vagina. The preacher riling the crowd is Dr. Jess O'Reilly, a sexologist. She offers encouragement (everyone can do this!) followed by tips (lick the glans slowly). I ambush her during a lull and ask her about her life. In short, she flies around the world teaching people how to screw better.

"Do you feel that the sexual education in this country is inadequate?"

"Hey! Are you recording this?"

"Oh, sorry. I probably should have told you that," I mutter.

"Well, it's better here than the States. But the Ontario curriculum hasn't been updated since 1998, 1999 and so much has changed regarding treatment for STIs, like HIV." O'Reilly doesn't blame religion for frigidity — she says that people just aren't willing to talk about sex.

We head towards the next large crowd. Maybe this is the lounge. A mass of onlookers stare silently as a drag queen on a red curtain stage announces the pole dancing squad. One by one, girls parade in and mount the shining phallus planted in centre stage. Some are better than others, but the best dancer doesn't smile. She spins around the top of the 10-foot pole, twirled by her own inertia, a cold pout on her face and arms outstretched in easy defiance of gravity. Her name is Jenny Allan.

"I had two kids and I felt lost. Then my husband found a studio that offered a taster class, and I just got addicted [to pole dancing]."

"It looks like a workout."

"It's everything. It's absolutely everything. You find muscles you didn't even know you had."

"Do you need to cross train?"

"No. Most people who are on-stage go once a week for one hour. Pole dancing is for any size. Anybody can do it."

I click off the recorder and she flashes a smile. I discover that my team has vanished. Well, godspeed to them. I amble around, letting the mood lighting and pheromones cook me alive in my winter jacket.

I talk to a gaggle of drunk college girls about porn. They like to watch a lot of it, apparently. Their designated driver stares at me the way a farmer's wife stares at a wolf sitting outside her stead, wondering if shooting it is worth the buckshot. They haven't seen Black, so time to be on my way.

My amphetamine crash has died down and I take off in search of coffee. Turns out the shops aren't all dildo stands. There are specialty foods, marijuana paraphernalia, lingerie, escort services, romantic gifts. Some attractions seem inexplicably out of place, like a pool full of floating rubber balls. There are people inside the balls and they careen off each other. This doesn't look half as fun as it sounds, particularly when the balls



Riley Hill

open and foul, recycled air rushes out. Why is this here? I don't know.

I watch a waifish, pale girl manipulate a silver sphere, her wrists and hands slithering back and forth whilst keeping the globe suspended perfectly still in the air. She calls it contact juggling and says that it helps pay her bills. I tell her she's great and wonder how many bill-paying skills I could have acquired in the time I spent reading medieval poetry.

I expected a BMO centre packed with foul old men but there are a sizable number of young people wandering around in herds. A strange tension hangs in the air, a mixture of vital energy, insecure desire and haughty arrogance, inflamed by grins and winks exchanged with passersby.

Cole charges through the crowd up to me, having stripped off all but one of his four layers of clothing. He says, "Here," and passes me a cup filled with juice and ethanol.

I say, "I'm driving." I can't afford to get drunk before an interview with a pornstar. I might try to kiss her if I do, and I've drank so much coffee I don't know if my bladder will hold should her bodyguards taze me.

He says, "No, I just need you to keep it still," and pours vodka out of his floppy plastic flask into the cup within plain sight of everybody.

Ten minutes later in the bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism dungeon, I stare at my dead phone's screen while a girl in a tight corset electrifies Cole's nipples with a device that resembles a welding torch, called a violet wand. Riley appears and happily volunteers to go next. I remind him that he's holding an electronic

camera but she zaps him anyway.

The BDSM lair is a dark, grimly lit space filled with nice people. Everyone whose face isn't bound with black latex wears a smile. I talk to myself in the recorder and look like the craziest person there, even though somebody five feet away is being flogged while wearing a gimp suit. I was hoping for a *Passion of the Christ* style flogging with more screaming and hatred, but the whipping rituals seem playful. One girl says sorry to her partner after hitting her too hard. They both burst into giggles. Another gagged girl hangs partially upside down by her hands and feet, next to a half-clothed man holding a riding crop.

"She looks like a punching bag," Cole says. Right you are, Cole. Or a shot kangaroo. I hunt down the nearest person with a nametag, a gal named Elbruce and start firing off questions. She presents me before her husband, Mark, a grizzled bear of a man who is apparently the dungeon's patriarch.

"What are the biggest differences between the *Fifty Shades of Grey* books and reality?"

"Most of us aren't millionaires? This is my slave here [Elbruce] and she works full time. We have a life outside of BDSM. I have bills to pay. I have a stupid Rottweiler that needs to be walked. I'm a steel worker. She's a purchaser. There's a chef. You've got photographers, accountants, electricians, welders. BDSM is not for the seedy underbelly of the world — it's just something different."

"Is [BDSM] expensive?"

"No. Do you have a wooden spoon?"

"What is the psychological essence

of BDSM for you personally?"

"I like things done a certain way, and [Elbruce] likes to be told how to do things a certain way. It's not like, 'do it or else.' Think of it as a 1950s household, where the man was the king of the castle and the woman did everything."

"The aesthetics appeal to you?"

"My play space in my home is actually powder blue and really well lit, because I like to see what the hell I'm doing. Everything that's done up here is safe, sane and consensual."

Elbruce chimes in, "People see the floggers and the furniture and the clothing and they think it's expensive. You don't need any of that stuff. It's all up here." She taps her skull. Too true, Elbruce. Whatever the hell that name means.

The coffee flowing through my veins has metabolized into resolution, rocketing me towards the lounge, past strutting painted bodies and body parts jiggling in suspended cages. Tori Black smiles and poses with fans beneath the silhouette of photography umbrellas and carefully accentuated beams of light. A stressed-looking man tries to fend off a platoon of fans, mostly young men, who have lined up to have their picture taken with the Catwoman of *Batman XXX: A Porn Parody*. I claw my way to the front to request an interview with Black, trying not to think about the semi-erections rubbing against my thighs. The stressed-looking man's name is Sean Lebin. Turns out he is the vice-president of Canwest productions, which runs the entire Taboo show. I pop a mint.

*Did we get an interview or not? Find out in next week's Gauntlet.*

# Facing down death with dignity

**Liv Ingram**  
Gauntlet Opinions



On Oct. 10, 2013, the British Columbia Court of Appeal upheld Canada's ban on doctor-assisted suicide. The issue has been in legal limbo following a 2012 B.C. Supreme Court decision which ruled that forbidding doctor-assisted suicide violated the charter rights of terminally ill Canadians.

While B.C. Supreme Court Justice Lynn Smith declared the law prohibiting assisted suicide to be "discriminatory, disproportionate and overbroad," she suspended her ruling for one year to allow Parliament time to implement legislation regarding the issue. However, instead of supporting her decision, the B.C. Court of Appeal struck down the ruling in a 2-1 decision. The decision is expected to be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

While dying is inevitable, the ability to die with dignity is important. There are brave Canadians in terrible pain who need our support if they are to have any control over their final hours.

The case was launched by several plaintiffs, including ALS sufferer Gloria Taylor, and the children of Kay Carter, who traveled to Switzerland in 2010 to seek assisted suicide. Minutes after the decision, the plaintiff's lawyer Grace Pastine said, "We think the federal government has no place at the bedside of seriously and incurably ill Canadians who have made firm decisions about the amount of care they wish to receive at the end of life."

This is not the first time this issue has made its way to the Supreme Court of Canada. In 1993, Sue Rodriguez, who also suffered from ALS, appealed to the court for a doctor-assisted suicide. The Supreme Court denied her request. In an interview Rodriguez said, "If I cannot give consent to my own death, whose body is this? Who owns my life?" In 1994, Rodriguez took her life with the help of an anonymous physician.

Canada's current legislation raises important questions about how much autonomy and control an individual has over their

life. While there are numerous laws in place to ensure that Canadians enjoy the freedom to live their lives as they wish, those freedoms do not extend to their deathbeds. Although Quebec has recently proposed a bill that would permit assisted suicide, it remains illegal across Canada.

Days after the B.C. Court of Appeal decision, a survey released by the Environics Institute states 68 per cent of Canadians would support a law allowing doctor-assisted suicide in Canada. Currently, there are only a few places where assisted suicide is legal, such as Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, as well as three U.S. states. However, Switzerland is the only country that allows non-residents to access the procedure.

When an individual deems their own life to no longer have meaning because of a devastating medical condition, forcing them to stay alive is ludicrous. If a person wishes to end their life, they should be allowed to do so in the most comfortable and painless manner possible.

It's difficult to understand the logic in forcing people to suffer unnecessarily. When an animal suffers, it is humane to make a quick end, but unlike animals, we are actually capable of expressing the desire to die. People who seek medically assisted suicide, and the doctors who have the compassion to help them, should have governmental permission.

Since Canada grants citizens rights on a variety of other controversial issues — such as abortion and same-sex marriage — understanding why the government takes such a conservative stance towards assisted suicide is difficult.

In an emotional video shot eight days before he died of a brain tumour, renowned microbiologist Dr. Donald Low made a plea for Canada to legalize doctor-assisted suicide. "I wish they could live in my body for 24 hours and I think they would change that opinion," Low said. "I'm just frustrated not to be able to have control of my own life. Not being able to have the decision for myself when enough is enough."

The Swiss suicide organization, Dignitas, highlights the impor-



tance for individual autonomy on their website, "People who inhabit a country should never be degraded by being considered the property of the state. They are the bearers of human dignity, and this is characterized most strongly when a person decides his or her own fate. It is therefore unacceptable for a state or its individual authorities or courts to choose the fate of its citizens." Individuals deserve the freedom to make decisions around the

deeply personal issue of death.

One common objection to assisted suicide is that if permission to do so will snowball into pressure on the elderly to die. However, obtaining a doctor-assisted suicide is not as simple as dropping someone off at the hospital and requesting the procedure. The patient must undergo rigorous processes to ensure they understand their decision. In Switzerland, Dignitas states that "patients must be of sound

judgement and possess a minimum level of physical mobility (in order to self-administer the drug)." Furthermore, patients must have "a terminal illness, and/or unendurable incapacitating disability, and/or unbearable and uncontrollable pain." The patient must also submit a detailed letter outlining their decision for assisted suicide, a document outlining their personal and family circumstances, along with up-to-date medical records. The patient must meet with a doctor on two separate occasions to affirm their choice. Only if the patient satisfies all of these requirements will Dignitas approve the procedure. Dignitas has been operating legally since 1998 without major complaints from the Swiss government. With a legal framework based on this proven model, there is no reason that Canada could not also have a legally safe option for those who wish to seek assisted suicide.

There are inconsistencies being overlooked in the medical field. An unresponsive patient may be taken off life support to die of dehydration and malnutrition. But death by dehydration is prolonged and painful.

see ASSISTED SUICIDE, page 14

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# A visual sweetener to a sour abortion debate

**Taryn Mahoney**  
Gauntlet Opinions



It's that time of year again to pull one of two dusty abortion arguments off the proverbial shelf, if anyone can still muster the energy. Despite their controversial history with the University of Calgary since 2006, the Campus Pro-Life Club has once again erected the same grotesque, graphic display of aborted fetuses smack dab in the middle of campus, and their pro-choice opponents are once again offended for the same reasons as last year.

On Nov. 4-5 pro-life activists stood across from their pro-choice counterparts on either side of an abandoned pathway. Streams of weary students moved by, giving the area a wide berth so as not to become trapped in a futile dispute. A lone security vehicle sat in the periphery, and the general atmosphere was decidedly apathetic. Abortion at the U of C has become an obstinate, repetitive and arbitrary debate.



The pro-life demonstrations this year were different because of their apparent insignificance. The attempts of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform to display pro-life signs all over the city's major roadways have drawn little attention from media groups. One response on AM 770's broadcast to the Canadian Centre's efforts was a concern about the potential distraction to drivers, which was perhaps a sarcas-

tic attempt to derail the actual issue.

Pro-life activists have now effectively desensitized Calgary, as well as the majority of the students at U of C, to this annual display. The once shocking photos of aborted fetuses have dwindled into a trivial annoyance, and the term 'activist' seems inapplicable to the Campus Pro-Life loiterers who stand idly in front of their signs like road obstacles. Even their pro-choice opponents have

resorted to offering passersby hot chocolate in order to provoke interest.

The abortion debate will be contentious for a long time and is worthy of meaningful consideration. But perhaps the most discouraging aspect of this exhibition is the deviation from logical discussion, which has now been replaced by tired rhetoric and mass appeals to sentimentality. Thoughtful conversation and legitimate academic debate regarding one of the world's most controversial topics has deteriorated into a yawmfest as this yearly ritual enters the running for U of C's longest, most unpopular standing tradition.

This year's Calgary Film Festival revived the necessity of the debate by featuring a particularly poignant documentary. *After Tiller* follows the lives of the last four doctors willing and able to perform late term abortions in the United States after the murder of Dr. George Tiller in 2009 by an anti-abortion activist. The film is an admirable effort to thoughtfully and realistically represent the complexities of the abortion issue, elevat-

ing the dispute above the vulgarity of a few hyperbolic photographs of aborted fetuses. The viewer is given an uncomfortably intimate perspective as woman after woman enters the doctors' offices saddled with a difficult and complex dilemma. The film emphasizes the individuality of these women, each with their own story and reasons for entering the clinic, and follows the ensuing ethical considerations and debate that each case demands. The audience watches with a visceral confliction as the doctors navigate the implications of each decision and abortion they perform. Each doctor continually re-evaluates their decision to perform abortions and all point to the strain their work takes on them and their patients.

*After Tiller* accomplishes precisely what Campus Pro-Life refuses to do: open up a multifaceted, academic debate about an ethical issue. In the shadow of this brave film the yearly fiasco on campus looks pitiful, not because of Campus Pro-Life's offensive tactics, but because they aren't saying much at all anymore.

## Assisted suicide, continued from page 14

Doctor-assisted suicide is not so different from cutting life support. In both cases, the individual dies due to intervention from a medical professional. The only difference is that in assisted suicide the doctor actively helps the patient, rather than letting them die by lack of nutrition or water.

To suggest that these individuals simply commit suicide is callous. These individuals are fighting for the right to die with

dignity. Suicide can be a deeply traumatic experience for both the individual and the family, and it ultimately leaves the individual to die alone. To die with dignity is to die at the place and time of one's choosing, with loved ones nearby.

While assisted suicide will likely remain a contentious issue for some time, Canada's rising median age ensures that this issue will not remain a silent one

for long. Canada's elderly are steadily comprising more and more of the population. According to the 2011 census, 22.8 per cent of the population will be 65 and older by 2031. That number is projected to increase to one quarter — 25.5 per cent — by 2061. Hopefully we will soon be able to have an open and mature dialogue about this issue so that Canadians' right to choose will be respected, not restricted.

## Re: Israel and Sudan refugees

A little clarification, for your one-sided opinion regarding African refugees and Israel. Most of them came from Egypt, because they were being raped and murdered by the Egyptians, after the Muslim Brotherhood took over. Secondly they have come via the Sinai, where they are exploited by the Bedouin and some 200 have been killed. Finally, Sudan does not recognise Israel, and their media is full of the most vile anti-Semitism, so the Israelis are concerned that

some of these illegals may have another agenda.

Currently, the Israeli Supreme court is wrestling with the problem just as we here in Canada have been doing for the last 50 years. Your opinion is one sided and lacks any research, and comes to the conclusion that Israelis racist, which is a common tactic of those who want to deny the Jews their own country.

Noel Hershfield Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Calgary



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# Ring of fire

Local UFC fighter Nick Ring shares his philosophy on training the body to fight on the world stage

**Suneil Sachdeva**

Gauntlet Sports

As the only fighter in Ultimate Fighting Championship history to hail from Calgary, Nick “The Promise” Ring holds the crown as the city’s greatest mixed martial arts athlete. With an accomplished history that includes victories in both Bellator MMA and the UFC, Ring has proven to be one of the most dominant professional athletes Calgary has ever produced, compiling a 13–2 professional record in which he went undefeated for the first nine years of his career.

Sipping on a post-workout coffee and fresh off an hour-long cardio session at the University of Calgary, Ring’s face lights up as he launches into an explanation of the body’s ability to use its energy efficiently. Despite having trained and fought all over the world, Ring has embraced Calgary as his home base, not simply for the nostalgia attached to walking down his own streets, but for the tremendous resources the city — and the University of Calgary specifically — provides.

“A lot of people don’t realize this,” Ring said, “but here in Calgary, this is one of the premier high-performance gyms in all of Canada.”

The U of C’s facilities are some of the many Ring uses to hone his craft.

“I’ve found out how to get the best out of this city,” Ring continues. “I train at various gyms. I train with the University of Calgary Dinos wrestling team. I train at Bowmont Boxing. I’m at the Olympic Oval. I run around basically. I do three workouts a day,

and I go around and find the best partners I possibly can.”

As the most accomplished professional fighter in Calgary’s history, Ring couldn’t be happier with the support he receives from the city.

“It has been great. I couldn’t ask for anything more,” says Ring. “Had I been anywhere else, I don’t know that I’d get the kind of attention that I do.”

A fighter of his stature is not limited when it comes to opportunities however, and he relishes the chance to train with athletes like Georges St. Pierre — one of the world’s best — at TriStar gym in Montreal. Ring says that training in such an environment is not simply a luxury, but a necessity, as working with elite talent is essential in the pursuit of progress.

“This kind of sport is very honest,” Ring explains. “You’re either good or you’re not. If you’re weak in an area, that’s going to get exposed very quickly. It’s very crucial that you get out and train with some of these higher-level athletes and expose those weakness, and then go work on them.”

“For me, it’s very routine. It’s just putting in your time and getting your repetitions in,” Ring continues, whose philosophy towards training stems from an understanding of the body’s ability to take over when needed most.

“When you’re in a fight and you get hurt, you don’t have to think anymore. It’s just a part of your body. That’s what happens with these repetitions, doing these things day in and day out. Even when you’re practically unconscious on your feet, your body still knows what to do. I’ve had that actually happen, where essentially I



Michael Grondin

**“ Even when you’re practically unconscious on your feet, your body still knows what to do.**

– Nick “The Promise” Ring, UFC fighter

was knocked out but my body just keeps on fighting. Your body just knows what to do, even when you don’t know what to do, just because you’ve got that background of over and over and over — and you’ve developed this environment that can carry you through those tough spots when you’re in a match. It’s incredible.”

Training for a fight is a grueling exercise in determination and resilience, but one Ring would never back away from.

“When it comes to motivation, sometimes you’re on, sometimes you’re off, but you show up regardless,” said Ring. “If you’ve got a match coming up, it’s still going to happen.”

Despite his dedicated training regimen, Ring understands that

there is a level of unpredictability once the fight commences.

“Each fight that you have, they’re not all going to be equal,” said Ring. “Sometimes you train really hard and you do really badly, and sometimes you don’t have the best fight camp but things go really well in the ring. You don’t know what performance you’re going to give. It’s all about continuously working on these moves and figuring out what your style is — going with your strengths and then adding little pieces to the puzzle, little bit by little bit.”

Ring advises fighters to specialize in very few moves, but learn to execute them at a world-class level.

“There are thousands and thousands of martial arts moves, and you’ve got to figure out which five

are your best, and then you’ve got to be better than anyone else in the world at those five, maybe 10, moves. That’s it. If you find something that can kind of work for you, and you can manipulate that into being a part of your game, then you go for it. That’s where the motivation comes from. How are you putting together the best fight, using your energy economically and dominating that guy?”

At this point in his career, with over a decade of professional experience under his belt, Ring has embraced the chance to serve as a mentor to Calgary’s next class of great fighters.

“There are a few guys coming up under me that I think have tremendous potential,” said Ring. “I’m helping them as much as I can. It’s more about me drawing from my experience in how to get there. With the UFC, you get there, but you also have to stay there. So what it’s going to come down to is hard work, being persistent and being very diligent about your training sessions.”

see NICK RING page 18



Josh O'Brien



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# Best of the Canada West

Dinos win sixth-straight Hardy Cup, advance to Mitchell Bowl

Curtis Wolff

Sports Editor • @CBWolff

The Dinos football team defeated the University of Manitoba Bisons 43-28 on Saturday, Nov. 9 to capture their sixth straight Hardy Cup title. In doing so, they improved their 2013 record to 10-0 and laid to rest any remaining doubts that they were the best team in the Canada West conference this year.

The Dinos now advance to face the Western Mustangs in the Mitchell Bowl in a national semi-final game.

"It feels amazing," said rookie receiver Rashaun Simonise. "I think it's a pretty big achievement that we won the Canada West considering that there are so many great teams in the west."

The Dinos wasted little time defending their title, scoring on their opening drive as second-year running back and Canada West Most Valuable Player Mercer Timmis weaved his way through the Bisons defence on a 27-yard touchdown run that put the Dinos up 7-0 early in the first quarter.

The defence put up some points on their first showing against the Bisons as well, forcing them to take a knee in the endzone for the safety touch. After a series of unsuccessful drives by both teams, Bisons quarterback Jordan Yantz found running back Kienan LaFrance wide open in the middle of the endzone to cut the Dinos' lead down to 9-7.

The Dinos broke the game open

in the second quarter. Quarterback Andrew Buckley lead the charge, finding a hole down the middle for a big 17-yard gain, firing a couple passes to receiver Chris Dobko for two first downs and finally finding receiver Jake Harty in the endzone for a 16-7 lead.

The Bisons would bring the ball back to midfield on the ensuing kickoff, but their promising field position would be squandered as Dinos defensive lineman Tyler Langlais chased Yantz back 10 yards for the sack on second down.

"Coach really made sure that we were prepped and we had to come out firing on all cylinders every single time that we were on the field," said Langlais. "Any little mistake could give them momentum and it could really turn the game around for us."

Langlais's sack paid immediate dividends, as Buckley hit a slanting Simonise for a beautiful 57-yard touchdown pass on the Dinos's next possession. The Dinos lead 26-7 at halftime.

The Bisons would take advantage of a Simonise punt return fumble early in the third quarter, quickly converting the mistake into a touchdown. However, on the ensuing Dinos possession, Timmis would tear down the sideline for a 42-yard gain. With Timmis recovering from his dash, backup running back Cuong Thai Lieu would bolt down the middle for a touchdown on a 42-yard run of his own.

The Bisons would score two touchdowns in the fourth quarter,

but the Dinos would hold them off for a 15-point win. Timmis added a 33-yard touchdown run, a play in which he surpassed the school playoff record for rushing yards. He finished the game 279 rushing yards on 28 attempts.

The Dinos now turn their attention to Saturday, Nov. 16, when they will host the Western Mustangs in the Mitchell Bowl matchup. The Mustangs are the top-ranked team in Canada, and will be an enormous challenge, even for the undefeated Dinos.

"It's a huge test," said head coach Blake Nill. "This is the top team coming in. They're a veteran team, but the way I look at it is that we are going to prepare to the best of our ability. We're going to come out and play the game to the best of our ability."

Nill can't help but look into the future to see how a long playoff run will benefit his young squad.

"The experience that these kids are getting now is going to pay dividends in the future," Nill continued. "This is amazing that they're allowed to play this many games at this high end, this early in their careers."

Tickets for the Mitchell Bowl will be free for the first 250 students at McMahon Stadium at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14. These students will also receive a \$20 Roadhouse gift card and VIP pass. If no amount of Roadhouse VIP passes can convince you to brave the cold bleachers of McMahon in mid-November, the game will be broadcast on Sportsnet 360 to a national audience.

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Dinos guard Tamara Jarrett fends off a pair of Winnipeg Wesmen.

Louie Villaneuva

## Basketball returns to the Jack

### Women 2-2, struggling men still winless

**Ashton Chugh**  
Sports Assistant

The Dinos women's and men's basketball home openers took place on Nov. 8-9 against the University of Winnipeg Wesmen. The Dinos women's team came away with two victories while the men failed to grab their first win of the season.

The Dinos women's team narrowly beat the Wesmen 64-59 on Nov. 8 in a game that went down to the wire. Forward Lawrie Saunders led the Dinos in scoring with 13 points and also captured an important eight rebounds to help shore up the home opener.

"It's great to get a win on the home opening," said head coach Damien Jennings. "We've made some improvements from last weekend's disappointment."

The Dinos got off to a slow start, falling behind 10-0 in the first six minutes of the game. However, by the end of the first half the Dinos had cut the Wesmen's lead down to only two points.

In the second half, the Dinos played exceptionally fierce and led 51-43 after the third quarter. However, the Wesmen's aggressive defence made a game of it in the fourth quarter by forcing many Dinos turnovers. With just one minute left in the game, the Wesmen had cut the lead down to just two points. In the end, the clutch

free-throw shooting of point guard Kristie Shiels secured the win for the Dinos. The close game provided the young Dinos team with some much needed experience in pressure situations.

"We haven't been in these situations with this group," said Jennings. "We were playing really tight, and they were up on us. You have to go through those experiences with anxiety."

The Dinos have been emphasizing an up-tempo style of play early on in the season.

"We call it punch them first — we come out and keep the tempo up," said Shiels. "We believe that not a lot of teams in Canada West can keep up with us, so we keep pushing the ball and don't let them get set up in their zone. They'll get tired before us and that will pay off in the second half, where we push and get scores. So that's our aim."

In game two of the weekend series, the Dinos completed the sweep by winning 63-56, led by guard Tamara Jarrett, who scored 20 points. The Dinos came charging out in the second half and jumped out to a commanding 12-point lead by the end of the third quarter and never looked back.

In their opening series against the Wesmen, the Dinos men's team lost the first match 86-80, and the second 79-75.

Game one was a close affair

throughout, and the Dinos were lead by a team-high 20-point performance from guard Josh Turner. Coach Dan Vanhooren felt that the Dinos could have pulled off a win if they had been more careful with the ball.

"The result is disappointing," said Vanhooren. "Our shooting percentage is good and we finally out-rebounded a team this year. We lost guys in transition and then we turned the ball over too much. We turned it over where we couldn't defend. So it's going to be important for us to shore that up."

In game two, Philip Barndt, Jarred Ogungbemi-Jackson and Josh Turner combined to score 54 of the Dinos's 75 points, but their effort was not enough to hold off the Wesmen. The Dinos were up as much as 12 points early in the game, but the Wesmen took control and lead 42-39 by the end of the half.

The teams exchanged the lead throughout the third quarter, but it was the Wesmen who led by four points going into the fourth quarter. In the final stanza, the Dinos tied the game up at 73 but were unable to come out ahead.

Now four games into the season, the women are 2-2 overall while the men sit at 0-4. The Dinos's next games are on Nov. 15-16, when they will take on the University of Manitoba Bisons in Winnipeg.

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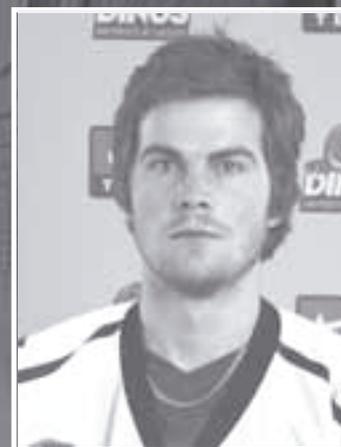
# DINOS

## ROOKIES OF THE MONTH



**DaLeaka Menin**  
Dinos Rugby

In her first season as a Dino, DaLeaka Menin impressed coaches within the conference, and throughout the country when she was named the Women's Rugby CIS Rookie of the Year. Her impact on the team helped lead the Dinos to the Canada West championship as well as a national ranking throughout the season.



**Chris Collins**  
Dinos Hockey

Freshman Chris Collins has made an outstanding impact on the men's hockey team throughout their first eight games of the season. Collins not only scored his first hat-trick as a Dino, he was also named CIS Athlete of the Week, as well as the WHL grad of the month.

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# Dinos dominate football awards

## Timmis honoured with Canada West MVP

Curtis Wolff

Sports Editor • @CBWolff

The Dinos football team continued to reap the rewards of an undefeated season on Thursday, Nov. 7, as four Dinos players and head coach Blake Nill were honoured with Canada West awards.

Leading the way for the Dinos, as he has all season, was second-year running back Mercer Timmis, who won the Frank Gnuip Memorial Trophy for the conference's Most Valuable Player. Timmis was absolutely dominant for the Dinos this year, racking up more rushing yards than any player in the country with 1,157, and also setting a new Canada West touchdown record as he found the endzone 19 times in 2013.

"It was something that was a goal of mine coming into the season, but obviously wasn't really too focused on it," said Timmis. "It just came with our team's success. We were 8-0 and I think with team success comes individual



Josh O'Brien

success, and that's why we have so many award winners today."

Timmis was quick to credit Nill for his work with the team.

"After how many players we lost last year, all of this is just a credit to coach Nill," said Timmis. "He recruited all of us here. He coaches all of us everyday. He puts so much time and effort into this program and this is just a re-

sult of the things he does."

After losing half of 2012's roster to graduation and professional leagues, most people expected 2013 to be a rebuilding year for the Dinos. Nill's expectations were no different.

"Initially, just coming out of camp, my goal was to just make the playoffs," said Nill.

To read about the rest of the award winners, visit [thegauntlet.ca](http://thegauntlet.ca)

# Nick Ring, continued

## from page 15

/// I've had a bad year, and I've been wanting to punch somebody for so long.

– Nick "The Promise" Ring, UFC fighter

"I love what I do, and if I can help any younger guys come up and give them the lessons, it's going to help them have longevity in their careers," said Ring. "I don't mind it at all. I like sharing my wisdom."

That wisdom and experience goes far beyond the cages of the octagon, as Ring's UFC experience has taken him on a wild ride, stretching as far as a military bunker in Afghanistan.

"The weirdest and most dangerous place I've ever been is Afghanistan," Ring recalls. "I went as a guest, me and a couple other UFC fighters, to go over and say hi to the troops. After six hours of being in Afghanistan, we got rocket attacked by Taliban. So scary. The alarms went off, we had to hit the deck and run to a bunker."

"We'd leave the bunker and everything, thinking the coast was clear, and then another rocket would get lobbed over and we'd hit the deck again and go back into the bunker. We did this five times. Every time we would leave, there would be another rocket. I thought I was going to die."

Ring made it back home safely and is now preparing to make his long awaited return to the octagon, taking on Caio Magalhaes on Dec. 7, 2013 at UFC Fight Night 33 in Brisbane, Australia.

"I feel great going into this fight," said Ring. "I have not fought since March. It's very boring for me to sit here on the sidelines. I've had a bad year, and I've been wanting to punch somebody for so long. I'm excited to finally get that release. If you're a fighter, you do have that element of an adrenaline junkie, and for you to be sitting out that long, it kind of stores up."

That being said, when he does finally step back into that cage, it will not be a matter of simply swinging his fists looking for release. Ring understands the importance of mastering his own mind, energy and body.

"This is where you can't be focusing on things that are happening in your life," said Ring. "You have to be very present and in the moment to secure that victory. I find that the guys that are champions, they've got that ability. They're able to tune everything out. They're able to be

just within their own reality."

The art of fighting, as Ring explains, is not only about acting but reacting. The fight is won not by simply overwhelming your opponent with a barrage of physical attacks, but by being very attentive to the mental back-and-forth taking place.

"It's about noticing — if you hit him in a certain way — did that hurt, or is he faking it?" said Ring. "Sometimes you'll hit a guy hard and he'll come back at you harder, and you know that that hurt because they're trying to pay you back. Sometimes you'll see the guy actually cower or wince. You've got to balance it out. Is it time to go in for the kill, or is it something he can bounce back from?"

"Then you've got to reserve your energy because sometimes you'll go in for the kill and it didn't kill him. Now you're out. You've exhausted your energy, and you've got to dance around and restore it again. You've got to be careful how you do this. This is where the game is dangerous. There is danger as far as timing. There is danger as far as wearing out, not using your energy efficiently and burning yourself out. There are all sorts of miscalculations that can happen."

Ring believes that a successful fighter must not only master his own mind, but his opponent's mind as well.

"You've got to be very aware of what's happening with this opponent, where he's at in the fight," said Ring. "You need to switch him from being the aggressor to being the guy who's defending himself. It's about taking action. It's about taking control of the tempo and the pace of the match. When you can get inside of his head, where you start seeing him second-guess himself, that's where you can start going in for the kill. It's beautiful."

Ring is truly dedicated to the cerebral nature of the sport. An open-hearted mentor and a diligent student of the art, Ring is a true fighter in all senses of the word — someone a city can rally behind. Calgary will do just that when Ring sets his sights on Magalhaes in Brisbane.

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# New cultural group emerges on campus

Melanie Bethune

Rambunctious Studier

The fifth and sixth floors of the Taylor Family Digital Library are notorious for their ideal studying environments, breathtaking views of the scenic brick wall of the McKimmie Library tower and comfortable yet stylish lounge chairs. Most notably, though, they are known for their utter and uncomfortable silence. This lack of noise has recently become the subject of a new study out of the department of anthropology, led by Sauroman Jones.

“What we have developing on these floors, particularly the sixth, is an entirely new culture,” claims Jones. “Students who spend prolonged periods of time on the sixth floor are slowly forming a distinct society with its own cultural practices and norms. They are beginning to communicate differently, act differently and partake in strange new customs.”

One such custom cited by Jones is the development of an entirely new system of language based off of ges-

tures and motions in place of verbal communication.

“If a student must leave their seat in order to relieve themselves, for example, a customary head nod to a nearby studier is sufficient to communicate the complex message of ‘please watch my stuff,’” Jones explained. “Such a message is communicated without speaking a sound. We can also observe the practices of students who are attempting to find a resting place on the floor. When two students simultaneously walk up adjoining aisles, they use some sort of telepathic communication to let each other know that there are no available seats on either side, thus aiding the other student by not making them walk down the opposite aisle. It’s quite fascinating.”

When asked about the new gestural language developing on the sixth floor, third-year engineering student Marleen Fitzsimmons verified Jones’s observations. “You just kind of know, you know?” she said in hushed tones, fearful of the societal backlash possible for speaking aloud. “I mean, we’re all here for the

same reason, so when you have to get up to — well, you know — all you have to do is give the guy across from you that look, and you just get this feeling that you can trust him to make sure no one snatches your Mac while you’re on the can.”

Jones has dubbed the so-called community of students on the sixth floor the Silent Studiers, and is arguing feverishly for them to gain the same level of recognition as other distinct cultural groups on campus.

“I mean, they have their own customs that are different than almost anywhere else on campus, and if you don’t follow the rules you are labeled an outsider of sorts,” Jones continued. “Take, for example, the ritual staking out of a table or lounge chair. By leaving one’s personal effects on a table or lounge chair, a Silent Studier is communicating to the rest of the community that they will be using that item at a later time. It is an unwritten rule to never remove a Silent Studier’s claim to their desk, no matter how long the item has been left there. I myself made that mistake early in my study of this group, and after the

social ostracization I experienced, I definitely won’t be making it again.”

Jones’s study is still ongoing, so if you happen to spot him crouched in a corner of the sixth floor, notepad and unnecessary tape recorder in hand, feel free to exchange the Silent Studier common courtesy of a brief head nod with him. However, Jones advises against alerting the Silent Studiers of his presence, as he wishes to observe the species unaltered in their natural habitat.

“If the Silent Studiers know they’re being watched, then this study will be void,” Jones said. “Their numbers have swollen exponentially in light of some sort of apparent stress, related perhaps to midterms, and we must seize this opportunity for scientific discovery while we can.”

Students wishing to make their own observations of the Silent Studier culture are welcome to visit the sixth floor of the TFDL, but Jones warns against total immersion.

“After spending six straight hours on the sixth floor, I found myself forgetting how to speak and developed a repulsion to the smell of hot food, as it is banned in Silent Studier

society. I even began to question if my studying would even be worth it when my midterms came around, and I’m not even writing midterms!”

Should you find yourself affected by one or more of these symptoms, Jones urges students to remove themselves from the noiseless environment immediately.

“The best cure if you feel yourself becoming too immersed in Silent Studier society is to take a walk in the real sunshine, not merely by the glass windows of the TFDL. Watch a movie to re-acclimatize yourself to the outside world or spend some time actually speaking with real people. There’s a saying going around that once you enter the sixth floor, you never leave. Don’t let that be you!” he said.

Jones’s warnings are all too true, but still the fascination remains with the society of Silent Studiers. Who are they really? Will they ever be done studying? Will we ever learn all of the mysteries of the sixth floor? The answers remain unclear, though Jones’s study is paving the way towards a new understanding of this strange culture.

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# Sustainability: Sorting it out



A message from your Students' Union

Using buzz words in a class or job interview make us sound intelligent and illustrates to our peers, teachers and managers that we're in touch with what's going on around us. Phrases like "leadership", "social impact" and "community engagement" are heard in almost every conversation, regardless of the topic. Today one of the most popular words floating around is "sustainability" – but how many people actually know what it means or try to incorporate it into their lives?

Behaving in a sustainable manner means as a society we aim to fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of the present, as well as future generations. It's often defined by the three "E's" – Equality (Social), Economics and the most popular aspect: Environment. Being "green" is usually simple and has a huge impact.

The Students' Union (SU) continues to be a sustainability leader on campus with initiatives like installing motion sensor lights in our offices, using environmentally-friendly cleaning products and finding ways to save paper like using the Loop television screens instead of poster paper to advertise. We

have one of the largest organics programs at U of C, with pre and post-consumer waste going into compost bins. As well, our beverage recycling program is run in partnership with the Disability Resource Centre, with all refunds covering the cost of labour for the program.

The SU is committed to sustainability, but with over 100,000 people passing through Mac Hall every week and over 800 Kilograms of waste collected every day, we need your help to sort it out all around the campus.

### Here's what you can do:

1. Sort your food waste, clamshells and compostable cutlery into the Organics

Bins. *That means your soggy fries or sandwich crusts can be composted!*

2. Bring a mug for coffee or reusable bottle for water. *Many buildings, including Mac Hall have water fountains with easy fill spouts for bottles!*
3. Sort refundable containers into the Recycling Bins. *Your futile attempts to stay awake with pop or energy drinks don't need to end up in the landfill!*

Sustainability is more than just today's buzz word. It's a concept, a state of mind, a strategy and a goal. Green really is the new black – and it looks great on all of us.

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