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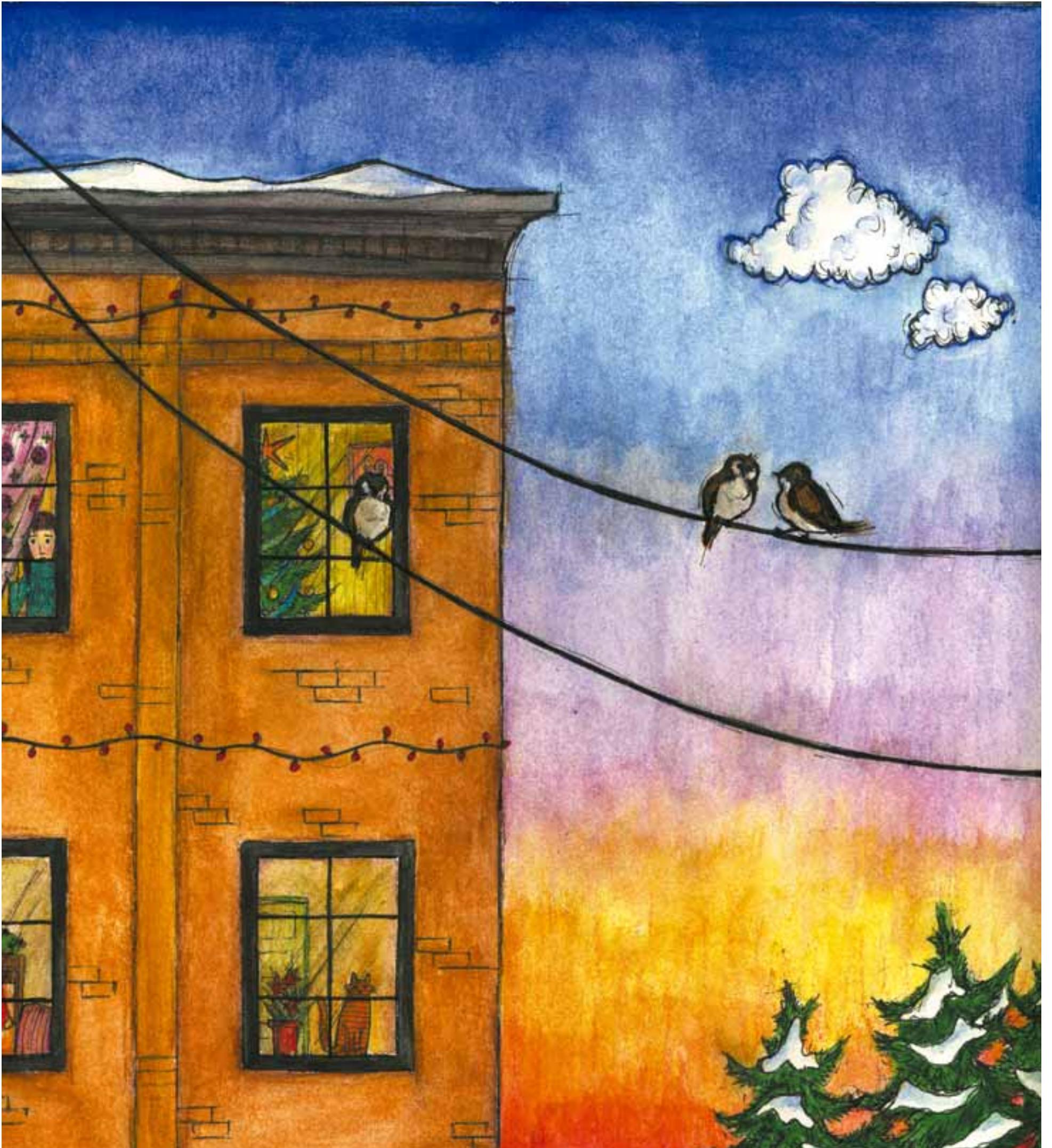
GAUNTLET

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INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER »

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Most pictures are worth a thousand words. James's pictures are worth a thousand hi-fives.

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

Letter Policy

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

The Cover

Illustration by Dawn Muenchrath

Rogers NHL deal won't score with fans

For over 60 years, hockey fans across the country have tuned in to CBC Saturday evenings to watch Hockey Night in Canada.

Despite the proliferation of regional broadcasts that make it possible for fans to watch all of their favourite team's games, Saturday night games on CBC are still eagerly anticipated as a chance for the hometown team to shine in the national spotlight and bask in the glow of Hockey Night in Canada's production quality. From the pre-game music montages to the post-game sit downs with freshly-showered players, Hockey Night in Canada on CBC treats hockey with reverence. Hockey Night in Canada has set the benchmark for sports broadcasting in Canada for decades and remains miles ahead of Sportsnet's lacklustre local broadcasts — it's reputation as the premier National Hockey League broadcast has only recently been eclipsed by TSN's national programming.

On Nov. 26, the NHL signed a colossal 12-year, \$5.2 billion broadcasting deal with Sportsnet owner Rogers Communications, tolling a death knell for this weekend tradition. While Sportsnet will allow the CBC to broadcast Hockey Night in Canada for four more years, CBC will cede all editorial control and advertising revenue to Rogers.

What the future holds for the program beyond those four years is unclear. Perhaps Rogers will continue to throw CBC a bone and keep the tradition alive — although Rogers's track record sug-



gests that Hockey Night in Canada could eventually be reduced to a shell of its former self.

Sportsnet productions are not held in particularly high esteem by hockey fans. Look no further than their local presentation of Calgary Flames hockey for reasons why. Post-whistle scrums and instant replay opportunities are routinely missed to cram in extra advertisements, which are also distractingly placed digitally on the glass behind the nets. Audio mishaps and other various technical glitches are common.

Perhaps most frustrating are Sportsnet's personnel selections, an area in which they will have full control over Hockey Night in Canada. Despite their best efforts, play-by-play announcer Rob Kerr and colour commentator Charlie Simmer combine for one of the most awkward broadcast pairings

around. Analysts Nick Kypreos and Doug McLean frequently yell at each other instead of offering insight. A decision to replace or reduce airtime from honed CBC talents such as Ron MacLean and Elliot Friedman with Sportsnet commentators would be a mistake. But the shuffle has already begun — Kypreos made his Hockey Night in Canada debut this past weekend.

Consumers will pay for this new broadcasting arrangement not only with their eyes and ears but with their wallets as well. While Rogers will provide hockey coverage on Saturday night on up to nine channels, these channels have to be paid for by cable providers. The cost would be passed on to the consumer if Rogers decided to demand more for their monopoly on national hockey broadcasts. Rogers has

gained a chokehold over our national sport.

Those who would opt to ditch cable and go online like moviegoers have done with Netflix won't find luck there either — the Rogers deal includes control over the NHL's Internet streaming service. Making this online service an affordable option to hockey fans is unlikely as Rogers prioritizes protecting its cable and wireless empire by keeping hockey fans glued to their TV sets.

Nevertheless, the Gauntlet is not suggesting that the CBC should have ponied-up taxpayer money to keep the hands of telecommunications corporations away from Canada's game. The CBC's exit from an arena so coveted by the private sector is necessary and has been a long time coming. CBC's production quality is in fact being surpassed by Bell's TSN, which will be scrambling for a new sport to cover while its employees scramble for jobs at Sportsnet. It's a shame Bell was outbid by Rogers — TSN's production is the pinnacle of sports broadcasting.

NHL programming in Canada is finally being kicked out of its parents' house and into the real world of private sector broadcasting. The kid is going to go through some hard times and fans are going to witness them on live TV. Let's hope Rogers flaps its wings sooner rather than later, otherwise hockey fans will have to watch their beloved sport be dragged down into 12 years of mediocre broadcasting.

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Administration defends research deals

Debate on role of corporate donors sparked after release of damning report

Chris Adams

News Assistant

The University of Calgary has come out in defence of deals made with corporate donors in response to a report released by the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

The report shows the U of C finalized two secret corporate research deals — called the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for In-Situ Energy and the Consortium for Heavy Oil Research by University Scientists — that allow corporate donors to dictate how research dollars are spent and to withdraw funding if research is not favourable to their interests.

But U of C vice-provost research Edward McCaulley downplayed these claims.

“Whenever we enter an agreement with an industrial sponsor for a research project, we do our best to ensure we protect the academic freedom and integrity of our students while at the same time helping understand what the needs are of industry,” McCaulley said. “We have, throughout the university, extensive policies on academic freedom. Those are never compromised.”

CAUT president Jim Turk defended his organization’s report.

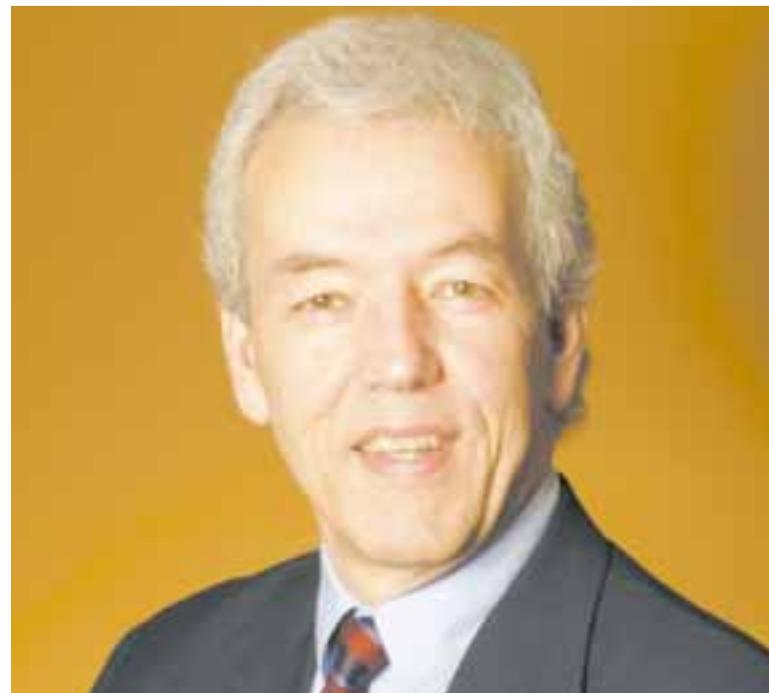
“Everything in there is based on the actual agreements. It’s not a survey. It’s not somebody’s report,” Turk said. “It’s actually pouring over the literal text that was negotiated between the university and the partners.”

According to the report, “There is no provision for the protection of academic freedom in any of the agreements with industry or government donors.”

AICISE is governed by a “Management Advisory Board” with the



courtesy Dave Brown/UofC



courtesy Jim Turk

U of C vice-provost research Edward McCaulley (left) and CAUT president Jim Turk (right) are at odds over these deals.

7 corporations are included under the deals with the University of Calgary, including Nexen, ConocoPhillips, Husky Energy, Royal Dutch Shell, Petrovera Resources, Total E & P and Repsol YPF.

\$1.5 million is given by each AICISE corporate sponsor every year

7:4 Ratio of external members to university members on the governing body of AICISE, the Management Advisory Board.

majority of members external to the university. The board decides the budgets and research done under the deals.

Turk questioned why the university did not include protections for academic integrity within the deals.

“Why wouldn’t they put an affirmation of academic freedom in the agreement? They did it for Enbridge. Why wouldn’t they put in provisions that the sponsor can’t restrict the right to publish rather

than putting in a provision that allows the sponsors to restrict the right to publish?” Turk said. “Why wouldn’t they make decisions that ensure who gets research money and who doesn’t is determined by peer review. Those things are all just missing.”

McCaulley said including protections for academic freedom in individual deals is unnecessary, as university policies apply to all donorship deals.

“We know, from having looked at these agreements, that they have given away stuff. And if they haven’t given away stuff, why would they keep it a secret?”

– Jim Turk, president CAUT

“If you just look at a particular contract, there may not be the terms protecting academic freedom. And there’s actually not a need for it,” McCaulley said. “It doesn’t necessarily have to be within the contract in order to protect academic freedom.”

The report also raises concerns about intellectual property ownership. The report claims that under CHORUS, the university, rather than individual researchers, owns intellectual property developed under the agreements.

McCaulley said these findings are untrue.

“Once again, that’s inaccurate. We

have university policy that governs intellectual property for all academics at the university,” McCaulley said. “So, that is in place and it’s actually inventor owned.”

CAUT, however, is not convinced that the U of C is taking necessary steps to protect students and staff.

“We know, from having looked at these agreements, that they have given away stuff. And if they haven’t given away stuff, why would they keep it a secret?” Turk said. “Collaboration is a wonderful opportunity for a university to get additional resources and money. If they haven’t given anything inappropriate away, why would they not be open about it?”

campus quips

How will you celebrate the end of the semester?



“Sleeping.”

– Ilyas Gora,
third-year
business



“Trampoline jumping.”

– Sohaib Abbas, first-year
business



“Relax and take time off from everything.”

– Muqadas Baloach,
third-year science



“Go shopping and go out to eat.”

– Irm Bhatti,
second-year science

Wildrose On Campus sanctioned as club

U of C students hope to build youth support for the party

Riley Hill
News Editor

The Students' Union recently sanctioned Wildrose On Campus, a partisan club that hopes to mobilize students for a political party that has seen substantial growth in recent years.

The WROC is part of a province-wide push from the Wildrose Party to increase its support amongst youth in Alberta. At the moment, the Wildrose lacks the large youth wings held by the Progressive Conservatives and the Liberals in Alberta.

"There's definitely a lot of excitement and willingness to engage with young people, but the party is still too young to have effectively done that," WROC president Christopher Bell said.

Bell said he hopes to be in-

involved with the party, which he sees ending the PCs' long rule in the next provincial election.

"For the first time, I would say, in about 20 years, Alberta has a legitimate shot at seeing a change in government," Bell said. "By the 2016 election, the PCs will have held government for over 46 years. I think a shake up would be exciting."

WROC vice-president events Kean Bexte shared Bell's enthusiasm.

"We're really excited for 2016 when the next election comes," Bexte said. "We want a student base for the party and we want to build its youth wing here on campus."

But Bell said the club is about more than just winning an election. He sees it becoming a vital part of the university's political scene.

"I think, for a long time, the U

of C has lacked representation for this side of student opinion," Bell said. "I know a lot of students are interested in the party and what's going on in Alberta politics."

He added that he thinks students will warm to the party's love of referendums and stress on fiscal responsibility.

The club had the required 30 members needed to be sanctioned by the SU in October. After submitting their request, the club was sanctioned later in November.

Partisan clubs have struggled at the U of C in recent years. After briefly folding, the Campus Greens were re-sanctioned this year. The U of C NDP have folded indefinitely.

The WROC will hold their first general meeting in January.



Michael Grondin

WROC president Christopher Bell wants to build support for the Wildrose Party amongst university students.

Two U of C students receive Rhodes scholarship

Riley Hill
News Editor

Two University of Calgary students were recently chosen as Rhode Scholars, placing them in the ranks of former prime ministers, U.S. presidents and Nobel Prize winners.

The Rhodes scholarship gives graduate students the chance to study at Oxford University in England for two years, free of charge. Only 83 students are selected world wide every year. The scholarship is considered one of the highest academic accolades in the world.

One of the winners was U of C

medical student Yan Yu. Yu said he was surprised to win such a prestigious prize.

"I'm mostly still shocked," Yu said. "I'm still trying to process everything. I'm really humbled and thankful for this opportunity. I'll make the most of it, for sure."

Besides having near-perfect grades, Yu developed a website called the Calgary Guide to Understanding Disease. The website explains symptoms of medical disorders in a novel way.

Yu said in medical school, students are not always taught why certain symptoms present themselves with disorders.

"With say iron deficiency, you're given a list of the symptoms," Yu said, "but you're just given that: a list and you're told to memorize it."

Using simple charts, the Calgary Guide to Understanding Disease shows, step by step, the series of causes that lead to a symptom.

"We've been able to get [the website] used in over 100 countries," Yu said. "We want to connect with other people and expand this resource around the world so we can help as many people as possible."

Over 10,000 people have visited the site since it was created last year.

The other recipient was medical

student Aravind Ganesh.

Ganesh moved to Red Deer from India in Grade 10 and quickly built an impressive list of achievements.

While in high school, Ganesh began volunteering in his community. He went on to work with a group that advocated for, and passed, an anti-bullying bylaw in Red Deer.

After graduating as class president, Ganesh moved to Calgary. While attending the U of C, he founded an activist group called Citizens for Change.

"What we tried to do with Citizens for Change was identify key

social and political issues that students were passionate about," Ganesh said, "and try to post some evidence-based commentaries on these issues."

He went on to develop a mental health screening program used at the Calgary Drop In Centre and take part in heart and stroke research.

He did all of this while maintaining excellent grades.

"The U of C was good to me in that sense," Ganesh said.

Nine other Canadian students received the scholarship this year, with one other student from western Canada.

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Should students pay more for CJSW?

Gauntlet Q & A: CJSW station manager Myke Atkinson

Tendayi Moyo
News Assistant

The University of Calgary's radio station, CJSW, is pushing for a referendum next year to increase their student levy by \$1.00. We recently sat down with CJSW station manager Myke Atkinson to ask why they need the money.

The Gauntlet: CJSW broadcasts to all of Calgary, all day, everyday. That can't be cheap.

Myke Atkinson: No, it's not.

Operationally, for the broadcast side of it, it costs us around

\$120,000 just to be on the air and send out our signal to Calgary. That's kind of the summary cost. That's with no staff, no support or anything. That's just your wattage, your microphones, headphones, whatever repairs need to take place.

G: Explain the proposed \$1.00 levy increase. Why is it necessary?

MA: We have a funding drive every year. There's usually some sort of goal that we want to try to get out of it. This year, when we did our funding drive, the proposed growth we would take as a station is to podcast every show.

That requires a total rebuild of the CJSW website. We raised the money. We had the most successful funding drive that we've ever had. I think people really want podcasting.

There are going to be a lot of opportunities, but it's also going to require a lot more maintenance because we've just got so much more happening. There will be more ways for people to interact with the station. But that requires people power too. You can only automate so much. We'll need to have hands on deck so that we're making the best use of the radio content that we're creating. To do that we need a new position.

In terms of funding, we try to keep it basically 50/50. We want about 50 per cent of the funds to come from the community at large and 50 per cent from the students because we are based on campus. We've got a mandate to serve both the students of the University of Calgary and the community at large at the same time. The simplest way to do that is to keep it 50/50.

G: Students pay a lot of fees. Is the increase worth it?

MA: I guess they'll decide that, but I think it is. We wouldn't bring this forward if we didn't think that it was a worthwhile endeavour for the students.

There are two sides of it that will benefit students. One, the volunteers who walk through the door want to get their music, their ideas and their culture out into the world.

The other is that they will be able to listen to the radio station in the way that they want to listen to it. I'll bet you there's a bunch of students on campus who don't have cars and then don't have radios. It's just the truth of the current day. Radios are just not necessarily the way that people want to listen to music or to radio shows in general.

Whether a student is studying in the Taylor Family Digital Library, running on a treadmill in kinesiology or hanging out between classes, we want to make sure they can listen to the shows on CJSW that they want to listen to when they want to listen to them. Having the ability to listen to those shows outside of the



Michael Grondin

Myke Atkinson is hoping students will vote in favour of a \$1.00 increase to CJSW's student levy next March.

/// Realistically, the entire budget of CJSW is just over half a million dollars. Compared to the budgets of any commercial radio station, that is probably about the same as what they spend on bus ads in a year.

– Myke Atkinson, CJSW station manager

time that they're allotted within our weekly schedule is a great way for the university to collect on resources they're already paying into.

G: CJSW's recent fundraising drive pulled in over \$200,000. Did you blow it on jewelry and fancy cars?

MA: We're on a pretty tight budget. Realistically, the entire budget of CJSW is just over half a

million dollars. Compared to the budgets of any commercial radio station, that is probably about the same as what they spend on bus ads in a year. We operate on a dime compared to what most commercial entities are running on. At the same time the radio that we produce, the quality of it and sound of it, is on par. We do that by nickel and diming everything. So, no. No cars.

see CJSW, next page



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CJSW, continued from pg 6

G: Why is cjsw a good investment? How does it stack up against other community stations in Canada?

MA: We're the best. Simply put. The radio that cjsw creates and the environment we're able to offer people who want to volunteer and who want to make radio in Calgary is miles ahead of every other community radio station in Canada. That's not to say that they're not doing good things at those other stations. There are amazing things being done at all of those stations.

A way to maybe put it is, there is college radio, and I think a lot of people when they think of these kinds of stations they think of college radio. And [with] college radio, the idea is very much nonchalant. Come in, throw some records on, 'hey we're having a party in the booth.' That's not how we do things at cjsw. We love to have a good time on the radio — don't get me wrong. But we want to do it in a way that's polished, sounds good and doesn't just sound like someone happens to have a microphone in front of their face.

Maybe that's the same with other stations but one major difference is that we're very involved in our local community, whereas a lot of other campus stations across Canada operate as radio clubs. [Radio clubs are] a place you can come. You can sit in front of a microphone. You can learn about editing and sound, spinning records, but you're not really broadcasting to anyone. The listenership of those stations is quite small.

The listenership of cjsw within Calgary is large and is something that takes time to develop. We've been developing it over years and will continue to develop it. We do that by being very invested and very involved in the community outside of the university. I think that's important because when someone comes here they don't just get those skills, they actually get an audience. They get on that microphone for the very first time and there are already thousands of people on the other end waiting to hear what they have to say.

Young Liberals push thorium energy

How a student might change Canada's energy policy

Diltaj Atwal
Gauntlet News

At the next Liberal Party policy convention in February, a proposal that originated with University of Calgary students might lead Canada to develop thorium as a future energy source.

"The idea came from Alberta Young Liberals," said the group's president, Vincent St. Pierre. "We said, 'let's make a new resolution for the policy conference and let's try to engage Canada in a greater debate about our energy future.'"

Thorium is a slightly radioactive chemical element, which can breed fissile uranium-233. This material can then be used as fuel in a specially designed nuclear reactor.

Advocates for thorium say it is safer than uranium ones, difficult to weaponize and could be a substitute for fossil fuels. It is also ar-



Michael Grondin

Young Liberal president Vincent St. Pierre

gued that thorium reactors can be easily shut down, minimizing the threat of meltdowns.

Waste from thorium reactors has 400–500 years of radioactivity instead of thousands of years from uranium.

Before switching to plutonium, Canada invested in thorium research for decades.

If the policy is passed — and the Liberals form government next federal election — the Young Liberals hope the government will direct Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to study the utility of thorium-fuelled reactors and invest in building them.

St. Pierre described the long process to bring the proposal to

the convention.

"We had to pass it first [with] the Young Liberals at the U of C and Alberta. Then we had to pass it again at the Alberta convention," St. Pierre said. "Now that it's passed, it's going to Montreal where, if voted yes, it goes on the books for policy to be written into the platform for 2015."

But U of C physics professor Jason Donev said current thorium reactors are not yet commercially viable.

"There is often, especially on the Internet, talk about thorium reactors, which is a bit of a misnomer," Donev said.

He added that thorium reactors could potentially become a viable energy source that could help prevent climate change.

"The only way to produce vast amounts of electricity to meet the needs of society without producing carbon dioxide is by using nuclear fuels," Donev said. "Whether that's thorium, uranium or plutonium."



Michael Grondin



Michael Grondin



Michael Grondin

Stress Less Week at the U of C

The SU hosted Stress Less Week Dec.2–6 to end the fall semester. The week features puppy rooms, bubble wrap, free yoga, zumba and to end it all, a carnival with cotton candy and a bouncy castle. You can catch the carnival in the MacHall north and south courtyard on Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone should know SU vice-president student life Ben Cannon made this all happen. Praise Comrade Cannon: Our dear leader — a true man of the people.



courtesy Gemma LaMana

Colour us burgundy, the legend lives

Tendayi Moyo

News Assistant

Some feared the fabled news anchor Ron Burgundy and the legendary Channel 4 news team had descended into obscurity. Though in a display of remarkable resilience, the news team from the cult classic will once again grace the silver screen.

After thousands of minutes of anticipation, *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues* is set to hit theatres in Canada on Dec. 18. Making the move from local news in San Diego, the news team is moving to the Big Apple to establish a 24-hour news channel.

The original movie was released almost a decade ago and raked in over \$90 million in box office sales worldwide.

Set in 1970's San Diego, *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron*

Burgundy told the tale of renowned news anchor Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell) and his faithful news team. When the station looked to diversify by adding a female journalist to the team (Christina Applegate as Veronica Corningstone), hilarity ensues. Spoiler alert: Burgundy saves the day and gets the girl.

The question that necessarily comes to mind is whether the sequel will be able to surprise its loyal followers. Paul Rudd, who is back as Brian Fantana, says that most of the movie has been kept shrouded in mystery for this very reason.

"I want people to have questions going into this," Rudd says. "I want people to feel about this the way they feel about *Lost in Translation*, in a way. It's like, remember, when Scarlett Johansson whispered into his ear and no one knows what she said? I

want that level of frustration."

Those who may be concerned about the dreaded cast turnover associated with sequels need not fret. The original news team reassembled in its entirety for the filming of the sequel with Adam McKay back as director. The film is also rumoured to feature cameos from comedic greats like Tina Fey, Jim Carrey and Amy Poehler.

Steve Carell, playing celebrated dimwit Brick Tamland, spoke to how they were able to gather so much talent.

"I think people were sort of calling [McKay and Ferrell] to get into the movie. I don't think

there was much arm-bending to get people in," Carell says. "And I think it was the same on the first one. You know, all those cameos

// I want people to feel about this the way they feel about *Lost in Translation*, in a way. It's like, remember, when Scarlett Johansson whispered into his ear and no one knows what she said? I want that level of frustration.

— actor Paul Rudd

that we had and the big fight scene in the first one — people just wanted to be a part of the silliness. So I think the same holds true for this one."

With much of the main cast experiencing a ton of success since the original film's release in 2004, Rudd explained why he decided to revisit *Anchorman*.

"For me, mainly, it was working with these guys again who I love," Rudd says. "It was such

a blast doing the first one that I would jump at the chance to come back and beat a dead horse."

As the highly anticipated release approaches, *Anchorman* fans have likely watched every trailer and teaser that Paramount has released. With that in mind, Carell insisted the film has much more to offer.

"There's so much more. You know, you look at the trailer and you think, wow, they put everything in that they could and that's the entire movie. But there's so much more than is in the trailer. I'm kind of psyched about the whole thing," Carell says.

Not for the easily offended, *Anchorman 2* promises to tackle issues of race, gender, sexuality and barrel-aged scotch. If you're looking for an amusing holiday flick, *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues* should do the trick.

Singing about Christmas and family

Q&A with Canadian singer Susan Aglukark

Sean Sullivan
Entertainment Editor

Susan Aglukark is a three-time Juno award-winning singer who sings songs in English and Inuktitut. Aglukark released her ninth album and second holiday album on Nov. 5. When searching for rehearsal space for her and her band before a concert in Saskatoon earlier this month, Aglukark came across Gallery House Concerts in Calgary. The Gauntlet stopped by during her rehearsal to talk with her.

The Gauntlet: The new album, *Dreaming of Home*, is a Christmas album. You've included some songs from your first Christmas album, along with some new ones. You've got a couple songs that were translated from a language other than English or Inuktitut. What was the reason for choosing the songs that you did?

Susan Aglukark: I made the commitment to do another Christmas album about five years ago. What happened about five years ago was I realized that my singing has changed — I go back and listen to my old recordings, I'm sure every artist does, and think, oh my God, we actually sold those CDs? The Christmas album particularly was a weak one. The first two albums were very weak but I was an artist coming up from no experience, nothing to work with. About 5 years ago after a good 15 years of touring and writing and singing under my belt I went back and thought, you've got to redo a Christmas album.

I moved away from Nunavut for very personal reasons — not to pursue this career, it was for totally different reasons. Over the course of the career and all the other work I've done, that part has recovered, has healed enough that the longer I'm away

from home the more homesick I am. So when we started collecting songs I listened to songs like "Caledonia" and "I'm Dreaming of Home." My favourite right now is Shawn Colvin's Talking Heads song ["This Must Be The Place"]. That's been a favourite since I heard it. They're a combination of songs that bring me back home. And very rarely do we get back home for the holidays.

So, the decision was, for those reasons, I had to redo it because my singing had changed. I cringe when I hear that first album, my favourites are on there and I wanted it to be not just Christmas. There's a lot of people who aren't home for the holidays. Your heart is home but aren't. So it's not all Christmas.

G: So did it go from a Christmas album to a family album?

SA: A family album, yeah. A family, where ever it is. It is wherever you feel your family is. For me now it's my band and my crew.

G: Do you often get to go home and see your family?

SA: I do. I get home to Arviat, where my parents are — I was home in September. I'm home quite often actually.

G: One of the things about Canada is that many families

are scattered across the country and have to bring family members together for Christmas, especially very large families.

SA: And we are, we are a big family. I've got a sister who lives in Edmonton,

until a couple of months ago a brother who lived in Ottawa. My poor parents especially, they've got seven children. So where do we go this Christmas? It's always split up between two of the children and [they visit them] evenly over the years. And when they're 69 and 71 they can only

do that for so long. But that's always been the challenge for us. Where do the parents go? And who is going to follow them? Some of us will say, we're all going to Ottawa or we'll all go to Edmonton. But that's the beauty of Canada.

G: In a way, I guess the album is a bridge, bridging physical space or family or, because most of your music is in English and in Inuktitut, it's bridging language and culture as well.

SA: I think that's the beauty of being in my position throughout my music. I grew up in small-town Nunavut — a totally different mentality — and jumped into this shortly after moving to southern Canada and ever since the decision to pursue this career, when I crossed that, immediately it became about creating this cultural bridge through a song, "O Siem" for example. And the Christmas album is the same.

There was no Christmas to speak of for traditional Inuit people. There was no story of Jesus until missionaries came, so Christmas is a recent thing for Inuit people. Well, what is traditional Christmas? I mean feasts — everybody has a turkey dinner, everybody has the traditional stuff — but how do we create a traditional Inuit thing? Everything becomes an opportunity for people to see those connections and those bridges.

G: Do you translate the songs yourself?

SA: No. There's one that I did, the "Huron Carole." I did that myself. There's one that was already done by what I would consider to be an Inuit expert. I'm not. I'm conversational level. Leena Evic did "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." She did several and I took two of hers. She's at that professional Inuktitut translation level. But I did "Huron Carole," I did parts of one other song but not all of them.

G: When you translate from one language to another you find new nuances to music, to lyrics. You add new meaning. Was there any songs on this album where you looked at the song in



courtesy Aglukark Entertainment

a different way after having it in another language?

SA: I think to a degree the "Huron Carole" would be, because that one was done in 2007 and was by invitation from a children's author, David Bouchard — a Metis children's author. Two things were different about it compared to my culture and what I was brought up in which was strict Christian, both parents are ordained pentecostal ministers. I'm looking at the story back in 2007 and I'm listening to these words which are First Nations, Huron and totally different from what I was brought up in. And I'm listening to it and thinking I want to write this. So it means, again, bridges. It means that yes, there is two totally different cultures, Inuit culture and First Nations culture, but there are a lot of similarities between their experiences and our experiences. And then to take a song like this and there's such a deep spiritual meaning in the story and the song "Huron Carole" — not Christian, not Christian at all — their own interpretation of who Christ was at Christmas time, their own version of it. The

challenge for me was at the time knowing mentally, this is going to stir some of the stricter older Christians, including my parents. Why are you singing a song like that? Why not? Who said it was just one Christ and one person to celebrate over the holidays, one entity or deity to celebrate over the holidays? There's many. That was maybe, of all the songs, the one that was the most exciting for me to do for those reasons.

G: And again the main thing that comes out of this is a reason for families to come together, sit down, enjoy a meal and celebrate together.

SA: I find that it seems to be the time when there are no barriers. There are no cultural barriers. And that's what *Dreaming of Home* was all about. It was a performance for the military, again in 2007, and watching film for the song "I'm Dreaming of Home" about during the Second World War on Christmas day when both sides agreed, for the one day, no fighting. That's what Christmas seems to do for people, is to just stop. Let's just stop and be for one day — all equal.

Christmas events

A Christmas Carol

Max Bell Theatre
Nov. 28–Dec. 24

Theatre Calgary's holiday tradition is back and this year is the 20th anniversary of Stephen Hair playing Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. The University of Calgary is offering its annual alumni pricing for a performance on Dec. 12 that includes a reception before the show and a behind the scenes look at the production.

A Christmas in Song

Jubilee Auditorium
Dec. 14, 7:00 p.m.

This year, the Mount Royal University Conservatory's *A Christmas in Song* is offering a long line of singers and dancers, including the three MRU choirs (Arioso, Artio and Kantorei), the Calgary Boys' Choir, the Calgary Youth Orchestra, the Tryzub Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, the School of Alberta Ballet and Flamenco dancer Fiona Alena.

Chrimoose Carol

Loose Moose Theatre
Dec. 5–21

Every year Loose Moose Theatre performs their version of *A Christmas Carol* with some sort of twist. Of course, they aren't telling us what it'll be this year but you can guarantee that the performance — involving puppets, masks and rapid costume changes — will be as entertaining as ever. Also, the play is not recommended for children.



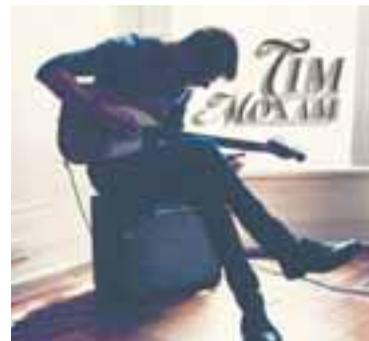
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spun ALBUM REVIEWS



Tim Moxam

Blue Son

October 29, 2013 (Nevado Records)

Toronto-based singer songwriter Tim Moxam is launching his solo career with the EP *Blue Son*. The title, *Blue Son*, reflects his personal style of music, which is smooth, somber and haunting, but hopeful. Each song on the EP avoids the folk-rock style of his previous band *Great Bloomers* in favour of a folk-Americana blend of sounds, relying heavily on acoustic guitar and even some upright bass to give a rich, deep sound.

Beginning with the first track and namesake of the EP "Blue Son," Moxam sets an atmosphere

for the whole album, one that gently encourages you to drop everything you're doing to simply sit, listen and be absorbed into the music. "Reborn Man," encapsulates the album's hopeful atmosphere, starting off quietly and gradually gaining more energy and voice as the guitar and piano chords pick up and become more noticeable. The EP finishes off with "Live In The Bedroom" which sums up the sound Moxam is looking for, something soft and personal that the listener can relate to and appreciate.

With the beginning of his solo career, Moxam has really found his personal sound. He covers the vocals for all four tracks, giving the music a smooth and intimate feeling. The instrumentals are all soft and tend to fade into the background of the music, centering your attention on the vocals and allowing you to listen to the story behind the lyrics. *Blue Son*, with its uplifting music, is both inspiring and a perfect album to sit back and relax with.

Connor Sadler



Magnolia

Magnolia

November 5, 2013

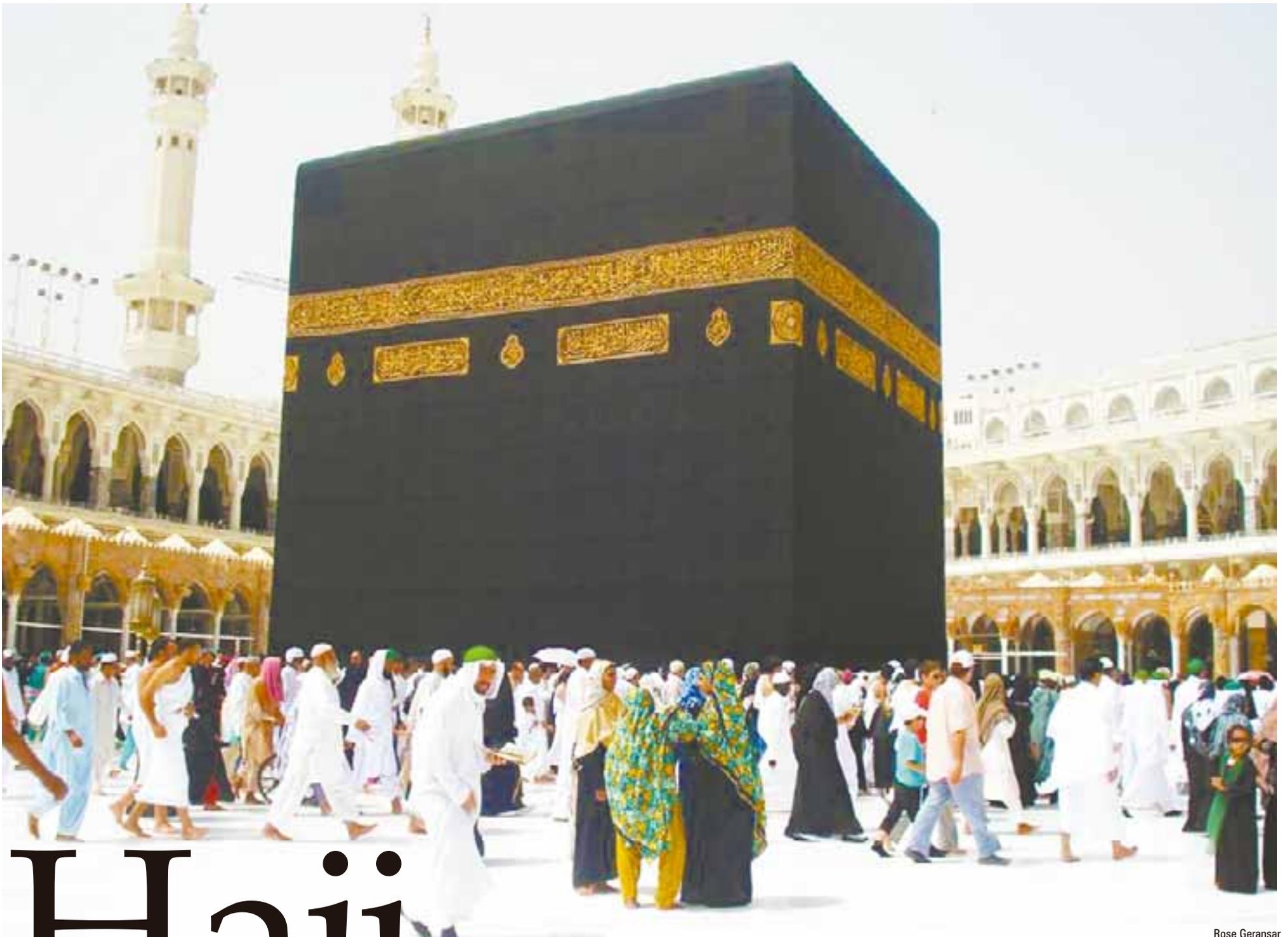
The band Magnolia — made up of Leanne Hoffman and Scott MacLean — made their musical debut on Nov. 5 with the release of their eponymous EP. The duo combines folk, jazz and blues music to a potent effect, creating an album that can be curiously erratic, but is nonetheless enjoyable to listen to. The band, hailing from Halifax, enlisted the help of acclaimed artists such as Clive MacNutt on bass, Ben Ross on drums and Erin Costello on keyboard, saxophone and background vocals, who has herself recently burst on the musical scene with her album *We Can Get Over*. The collaboration of these talented artists pays off in the charming EP, which, according to Scott MacLean, is focused on the thought of love and

its often exhausting effects.

The album opens with "Anyone's Neighbour," a slow-paced, lighthearted track that quickly showcases Leanne Hoffman's wide vocal range over the steady and solid rhythm provided by Scott MacLean. The EP continues with the eerie and somber "Wandering" before slowly picking up pace again through "Time Will Tell" and "Honey Please" in which the album reaches its climax as both MacLean and Hoffman provide an endearing back-and-forth duet. The cheery, up-beat duet is then quickly followed by the melodic lullaby of "The Thought of Love" in which the soft vocals and slow rhythm create an enchanting, mellow track. Closing the EP, "Cold Dry Hands" continues the smooth sound but with a more serious undertone, leaving the listener with a satisfying ending to an album full of highs and lows.

The EP, although short, has remarkable variation and manages to provoke a wide range of emotion, though sacrificing a certain degree of consistency to do so. The end result is a pleasant EP with steady, catchy rhythms and strong, diverse vocals that deliver a unique mix of dark tones and comforting melodies.

Felix Mayer



Rose Geransar

Hajj

A pilgrim's journey

By: Bushra Abdullah and Fatima Mahdi

Every year, millions of Muslims from all over the world gather in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for the world's largest gathering of people. They come in a show of humility and unity to perform the fifth pillar of Islam, a pilgrimage called Hajj.

The five pillars of Islam are five basic tenets of faith, and according to Sunni Muslim tradition, they are summarized in the Hadith of Gabriel. Muslims should perform Shahada, which is the declaration of one God; Salat, which is ritual prayer five times a day; Sawm, the fasting and self restraint during the month of Ramadan; Zakat, the giving of money to the poor; and lastly, Hajj. Muslims have per-

formed Hajj every year for the past 14 centuries and while the journey is a challenging one, it remains a dream of spiritual fulfillment for the devote believers.

In 1950, the number of pilgrims was less than 100,000. Today, due to the accessibility and ease of travel, it is more than 2.5 million. The Saudi government has spent nearly \$25 billion on expanding facilities for such pilgrims, and must deal with the yearly logistical challenges of controlling large crowds, providing food, sanitation facilities and emergency shelter for the diverse group of travellers.

In early times, pilgrims once travelled by foot or on horseback, sometimes taking months or even

years to trek through mountainous terrain and desert. Today, a vast majority come from abroad travelling by plane. Saudi Arabia has been able to accommodate the large migration of travellers through the implementation of strict controls. Travel plans must be made through the Saudi government and an approved travel agent in order to obtain entry, accommodation and transportation in Saudi Arabia during the Hajj season which occurs during the last month of the Islamic calendar every year. This year it was October 13–18.

Stricter penalties have recently been in place for pilgrims without a permit. For example, non-Saudis

who perform Hajj without a permit face immediate deportation and a 10-year ban from returning to Saudi Arabia. Non-Muslims are not allowed to travel to the holy cities of Mecca and Madina during this time and strict travel restrictions apply to all pilgrims. While this may seem extremely stringent, these measures are necessary to prevent incidents of mass stampedes and to control the number of pilgrims.

Rose Geransar was one of the millions of Muslims who undertook the journey this year. Geransar was able to plow through the challenges of obtaining a proper visa to travel from Calgary to Madina, and her experience was en-

lightening and fulfilling.

"Our trip started with five days in Madina, and what a stay it was. There will be no other night in my life that will compare to those spent in quiet prayer and contemplation in the empty courtyard of Masjid al-Nabi," says Geransar. The Masjid al-Nabi, meaning the Prophet's Mosque, is the historic mosque of the Prophet Muhammad and also the site of his burial. This mosque is surrounded by the Garden of Baqi which is the historic burial place of several of the Prophet's family members and closest companions. Despite the mosque's significance to Islamic history, it was destroyed by the

see HAJJ, page 12

Hajj, continued from page 11

Saudi regime in 1925. The Wahabi, under King Ibn Saud, desolated the garden cemetery despite protests by the international Muslim community.

From there, Geransar travelled south to Mecca, a bustling centre of trade and commerce, to begin the pilgrimage. Mecca is scattered with hundreds of shops glittered with gold, a huge intrusive shopping center filled with beautiful merchandise, and tons of hotel boutiques just steps away from the Holy Mosque.

“This is where you learn to keep your goal in mind, strive towards that goal despite materialistic distractions, and persevere until you achieve that goal — no matter what

others around you might be doing,” says Geransar of the distractions presented in Mecca.

Her real journey began at the Holy Kaaba in Mecca, and from there they travelled as a communion to Mount Arafat, then to the valley of Mozdalifa, to the camp of Mina, and back to the Kaaba.

Muslims believe the Kaaba was built by the Prophet Abraham and his son Ishmael. While the journey of Hajj is in some ways a re-enactment of Prophet Muhammad’s journey, some Hadiths say the journey dates back to Prophet Abraham and his wife Hagar. Different sites and the activities performed there symbolize the stages of spiritual purification. The purpose of Hajj lies

not in the physical movement of the body from one place to another, but rather the spiritual journey of the soul as it overcomes obstacle after obstacle to become closer to its Lord.

“The journey of Hajj is usually completed later in life. Being one of the three youngest adults in our group, I was asked by fellow travellers why I considered going for Hajj at such a young age,” Geransar says. In the end, she says, her age played to her benefit as she was physically, financially and emotionally capable for the journey, and felt that this was the opportune time for her to go.

Geransar found that responsibilities, daily chores and expectations were overwhelming to her in today’s society, and felt that she was forgetting the importance of remembering and connecting with God. Hajj provided the opportunity for her to do that, and it was a journey towards self-discovery through reflection and contemplation.

The word “haram” means “sanctuary,” and Masjid al-Haram, the mosque surrounding the Kaaba, is a sanctuary for the Muslim devotee. It dates from 1570 and takes the form of a quadrangle surrounded by stone walls. It is the holiest site in Islam and has a long history of expansion.

In Sunni Muslim tradition, its location was chosen by God before the creation of the earth, as it

is right beneath its equivalent place of worship in heaven, where a multitude of angels worship God every day.

“We entered Mecca after entering the state of Ihram, in which the women dress in long white clothing and the men wear two pieces of white towels,” she says. Ihram is the required cleansing ritual before the pilgrimage.

“In this state, a number of actions become prohibited for the pilgrim, such as looking in a mirror, using fragrance, complaining or cutting nails.” The significance of these rituals, she says, is to put material distractions aside.

“I can describe the peaceful hum of prayers of thousands of people as they circumnavigated the Kaaba,” she says of her initial visit to the Kaaba.

Labayk Allahuma Labayk Labayk. La shareeka laka Labayk. Innal hamda wannimata laka wal mulk. La shareeka Lak, which is translated as Here I am at your service, oh Lord. Here I am. Here I am. No partner do you have. Here I am. Truly, the praise and the favor are yours, and the dominion. No partner do you have.

These are the words chanted by the millions of people as they circle around the centre.

The next part of the journey was physically tiring. The first stop from Mecca is Mount Arafat, a granite hill to the east of the Mecca. Islamic

tradition documents that it was on Mount Arafat that Adam and Eve, separated for 200 years following their expulsion from the Garden of Eden, recognized each other and were reunited. On Arafat, Hajj pilgrims spend an entire afternoon in prayer and reflection.

“At sunset, we continued on to Muzdalifa, a valley between Mina and Mount Arafat. The men spent the night in the desert under the open sky, while the woman stopped only briefly, opting to spend the night in Mina instead,” she recounts.

During most Hajj rituals, the circling of the Kaaba for example, men and women are often together, as most travel with their family. In the Baitul Haram, like most mosques around the world, the men and women have separate sections. During travel, such as the journey to Muzdalifa, women can choose alternate paths separate from men if they wish. Women are also expected to dress modestly, which means covering from head to toe. However, men are also expected to dress modestly. Islam dictates that women and men are equal, and a notion of women’s subordination is something that the religion neither endorses nor teaches.

The most controversial part of the journey occurs at Jamarat, the symbolic stone pillars. Numerous pilgrims have died over the years due to overcrowding and the Saudi



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Rose Geransar

government's expenditure to expand the site have been focused on expanding access to this area. According to Islamic tradition, Satan presented himself to prophet Abraham at three different junctures and tried to dissuade him from sacrificing Ishmael, his son. The angel Gabriel came to the prophet and told him to throw seven pebbles at him, causing the devil to disappear. Pilgrims throw pebbles at three stone pillars in Mina. The pebbles can be found at Muzadlifah and carried to the area where the ritual takes place.

"The time at Mina is perhaps the most challenging part of the Hajj journey. Being in hot, crowded tents, with facilities that you are not accustomed to, with many other pilgrims, and the throwing stones directed at Satan is a bit of a challenge for many people," she says.

The symbolic performance of this part of the pilgrimage is a physical act against selfishness. She states that during this part of the journey a lot of questions and thought came into her mind, reflecting both on herself and the practices of throwing pebbles at the stone pillars.

"The truth is that struggling against your own self, which com-

mands you to be selfish and self-serving, is not an easy task. It takes determination and is usually an incredibly painful process. It takes great perseverance to be successful on the path to spiritual perfection. The symbolic throwing of stones at the devil is supposed to remind you that if you thought that doing the right thing was going to be easy, think again," she said

Throughout this journey, the pilgrim faces a list of challenges. A gathering this large — attracting people from all over the world — also brings health and sanitation issues. Saudi Arabia has enforced preventative measures by requiring certain vaccinations before entering the premise to provide the safest possible environment. Sanitation is also emphasized to each and every pilgrim. The servers and workers make efforts to maintain the state of washrooms, clean areas and sanitized facilities. But this is a challenge when you are dealing with millions of people travelling in a highly congested area.

With these challenges, Geransar feels she has learned many valuable lessons, formed life-long friendships and gained insight into her life.

"The friendships formed are

lasting not only due to shared happiness, but also to shared difficulties. By observing our group members I realized that patience, rather than youth, was the real source of resilience in the face of those difficulties," she says.

The purpose of going on Hajj goes beyond the physical aspect of the journey. For Geransar, it was a type of diagnostic test to see whether she had lost herself in the demands of the materialistic world.

"Going for Hajj with the right intention is a reminder to the individual that they are on this earth for a very short period of time and will soon return to their creator. The journey of Hajj therefore addresses the need for spiritual connection and an inner purification of the soul," she says.

"In the midst of good and bad times, always take a step back and look at the big picture in life. Do not allow the material aspects of life — whether good or bad — to divert you from doing the right thing. Remember that your youth, your wealth, family and friends will not be with you forever, but the impact of your beliefs and actions certainly will, and it will also form your legacy."



Rose Geransar

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Tobias Ma
Opinions Editor



Happily, no one was trampled or stabbed during last weekend's *Star Wars* auctions in the United Kingdom, possibly because the local crazies had been lured away by Black Friday deals. The popular science fiction franchise will expand with a new trilogy, the first of which will hit theaters in 2015. George Lucas will be involved but has sold the films' rights to Disney. Fans will watch these new *Star Wars* films with bated breath, particularly after the lukewarm response to the prequels.

What made the original trilogy so timeless? Why do we keep coming back to *Star Wars* in spite of modern sci-fi movies that surpass its visual effects and production value?

Star Wars struck a spiritual nerve and evoked a sense of a time both lost and yet to be found. For the most part, the original films evenly balanced tension, comedy and melancholy. To recreate the same ambience that sculpted the longevity of those films, Disney needs to incorporate those elements care-

fully into the new trilogy.

J.J. Abrams, who is billed to direct the next instalment, invigorated the *Star Trek* franchise by shifting its focus onto action and quickening the story's pacing. However, *Star Wars* fans have good reason to be apprehensive of Abrams injecting the same visual formula into his next big project. His *Star Trek* films have followed the trend in action films of upping the chaos ante. The *Star Wars* prequels are guilty of this as well. Battle scenes are frenetic and consist of shaky cuts meant to disorient the viewer. Explosions scatter the background, heroes and villains survive unbelievable punishment in fistfights. Huge chunks of debris soar past the main characters by a hair, who charge through the commotion with obviously scripted grace. Even the spaceships wobble and spin like toys in a tub. As entertaining as these effects may be, they break immersion and are often distracting.

A New Hope has one of the most memorable opening scenes in cinematic history because of the slow, methodical way it is shot, a technique the other films wisely adhered to. The film opens with a fleeing spaceship and then the underbelly of its pursuer, a Star Destroyer, which stretches across the screen like the belly of a whale. The scene is sparsely

cut enough for the viewer to focus on the Star Destroyer's size and get a sense of how overmatched Princess Leia's ship really is.

Some of the best moments in the films are successful because they hold back. Stretches of silence recreate a sense of forgotten space and isolation that makes the films' central motif — the disappearance of something powerful and mystical across civilization — more poignant. This elusiveness only enhances the catharsis (or terror, in Darth Vader's case) of the moments that we do see Luke connect to the Force.

Many people remember the scene in which Luke stands atop a rock and gazes into the distance, a confused portrait of adrenaline junkie angst and unexplored potential, John William's score dimming the desert planet's twin suns behind him. The films' yogic, ethereal depiction of the Force — and the difficulty in mastering it — is what balances the hyper-realism of the galaxy's technology advancement and transforms the plot into something more spiritual. When Luke dangles upside down in an ice cave, about to be eaten by a ravenous beast, he does not escape through superhuman reflexes. His ability to calm his mind saves his life.

Violence is the main method through which *Star Wars* plots ad-

vance but it often seems absurd in the prequels. Jar Jar Binks fighting droids. The ballerina-like twirling during the lightsaber duels. The terrible dialogue before every confrontation.

The original trilogy managed to screw up a bit as well, such as the Ewok log traps taking out the Imperial walking tanks. However, Han Solo shooting Greedo from under a table without a word of warning reveals far more to the viewer about his cynicism and the pervasiveness of evil in the setting's universe than a choreographed bar fight would have. The lightsaber duels, particularly the one from *The Empire Strikes Back*, are superior to the prequels' because they carry emotional weight. They are slower and less flashy, but this only underscores the dynamic between the characters. Luke is unprepared to face Vader and there are consequences. Far from pulling victory out of his hat, he loses his right hand and is dealt a psychological sucker punch. The sight of a spent Luke flailing at Vader and tripping on himself creates fear in the viewer not only for his personal safety, but also for his ability to resist the dark side, which promises to fast-track the weaknesses Yoda's training failed to fix. Few other films risk the viewer's approval by humiliating a pro-

tagonist so completely, but the payoff was a believably mature Luke in *Return of the Jedi*.

The Jedi mantra of self-restraint in a world of convenience is a necessary counterweight to the flashing lights of spaceships and Han Solo's mercenary philosophizing. The new films' pacing needs to reflect this or miss exploring the story's most interesting contradictions.

The understated atmosphere of the original *Star Wars* trilogy made these movies brilliant. Disney should elaborate on the original trilogy's tone and mood, which often does more with less. We do not have the Force in our world, so part of the series' appeal comes from watching characters tap into a well of spiritual energy and discover power through which they can reshape their fates.

For the purposes of entertainment such energy is often showcased in the physical abilities of the Jedi and Sith, but overemphasizing this will devalue its role as the story's emotional artery. We do not want the magic of this series to be taken for granted or stuffed down our throats. After all, the resonance of *Star Wars* derives from our identification with flawed human beings, struggling for control over a power within themselves that is intangible, mysterious and easy to misuse.



Deranged politicians, get your act together

Kate Jacobson
Gauntlet Opinions



Many people find perverse enjoyment in the ridiculousness and melodrama of reality television. These shows represent a welcome break from the daily grind of everyday life — their bizarre nature makes them so enjoyable. But sensational personalities, events and appearances should not represent the public's focal point in the political sphere. Back up the bus, we have a real issue on our hands.

Hot on the apparently limitless trail of scandals from Toronto mayor Rob Ford, disgraced former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi crawled out of the woodwork to lead the newly revived right wing Forza Italia party but was thankfully thrown out of senate for tax fraud on Nov. 27. And while Berlusconi's scandals may seem less relevant to Canadians than the mayor of Toronto's substance abuse problems, they are no less vast. During his four tenures as Prime Minister, he was investigated on 40 different accounts, a

long list of legal cases ranging from embezzlement to child sexual abuse — a charge he was convicted of earlier this year, although he is expected to appeal. One could argue that Berlusconi deserves a lot more scorn than Ford. Smoking crack fries a few neurons, but at least Ford didn't rape an underage girl.

What the two figures have in common, however, is a well of public gaffes. On Nov. 18, Ford charged toward a spectator in a gallery and knocked one of his city councilmen to the ground like some kind of rampaging bull. He has admitted to drunk driving and marijuana possession, besides blatantly lying to the public on numerous other occasions. While Berlusconi's blunders took place on an international stage, and are admittedly darker in tone, they are still quite numerous. He insisted that the Spanish Government, composed of 50 per cent men and 50 per cent women, was "too pink," suggested that people left homeless after natural disasters should view their ordeal as a "camping trip," and announced during a Holocaust Remembrance Day rally earlier this year that he thought Benito Musso-



lini had done only "good things" for Italy.

Yes, these two men are amusing in a cynical way. But the patterns their behaviour reveals are disconcerting. Political coverage should focus on politicians' abilities to provide us with efficient and involved public service, not a circus. Ford is the mayor of Toronto, not America's next top model. Berlusconi is the former prime minister of Italy, not the star of *Survivor*. Their personalities detract from real political issues and their continued political surviv-

al represents an endemic of a world that holds white men to a lower standard of behaviour than anyone else. Female politicians who work at meaningful changes to our legal system are often ignored, such as Rosalie Abella, daughter of refugees and Supreme Court Justice, known for her work on employment equity. Such a dichotomy is only too common — women and other minority groups are often held to much higher standards than white men who are accustomed to positions of power.

Politics are serious. Berlusconi

owns the vast majority of Italy's media interests and this has made him extremely wealthy. Minute details of government policy are likely irrelevant to him. However, the results of his government policy and programs have real effects on the lives of ordinary Italians, who might enjoy a laugh at his behaviour but will have to deal with the consequences of his carelessness nonetheless. By treating politics like a silly game and the politicians who make important decisions like reality TV stars, we're ignoring how badly these people can actually screw up our lives.

Ford's oafish antics have damaged Toronto's reputation and left the city without a mayor. But greater harm lies deeper, in systematic dysfunction that lets him keep his job while forcing Canadian women and minorities to perform unreasonably well to succeed in politics. And likewise, the same is true for Berlusconi. It's hard to imagine a man of colour being allowed the same leeway with an issue like underage prostitution charges, yet Berlusconi is still in the spotlight. The public personalities of men like him and Ford do not belong in politics.

Letter to the editor: Merry Christmas!

No matter the time of the year, if Canadians celebrate Christmas, Ramadan, Hanukkah or other religious holidays, we should acknowledge it by saying "Merry Christmas" "Eid Mubarak" "Happy Hanukkah" rather than making oblique gestures like "happy holidays." We need to understand and appreciate people for what they are celebrating and say to them we are happy that you have something to celebrate and it doesn't diminish ours, rather it enhances it. These

holidays are reasons to rejoice in other people's happiness. Despite difference in messages between these holidays, there are more similarities, and this shows the world that Canadians do coexist and multiculturalism does work.

Imam Mohammad Jabara and Rabbi Reuvan Bulka stand together in defense of Christmas in Ottawa. "What we are saying is, each religion respects the other religions and wants the other religions to flourish on their own terms. The commonal-

ity shows you that there are so many things that religions share in spite of the differences, there is more in similarities which brings them together. I'm thrilled when people wish other people Merry Christmas and Eid Mubarak," said Rabbi Reuvan Bulka.

On a side note, commercialism and over consumerism intertwined with religious holidays is odious and de-values these holidays.

Shubir Zaman Shaikh

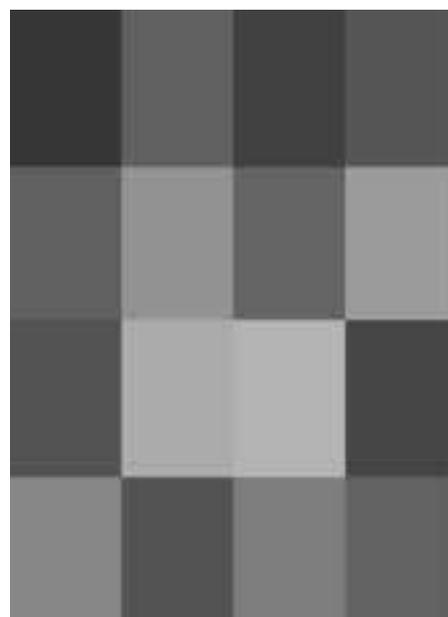
RE: International college

In regards to the international college, I would comment that Calgary and Alberta are already quite young and diverse demographically and the focus of the civic and provincial levels of government should be on improving high school graduation rates here to ensure our own students are getting into post-secondary, and contributing to the strength of the economy, thereby resolving to a great extent our current and future labour short-

ages, particularly when baby boomers retire.

The proposed version of diversity here is more like an apartheid; true diversity is integration. If the U of C cannot achieve a desired international reputation or recognition then perhaps necessary changes are found elsewhere in vision or structure.

Amanda Wilkie, U of C alumni and Albertan politician



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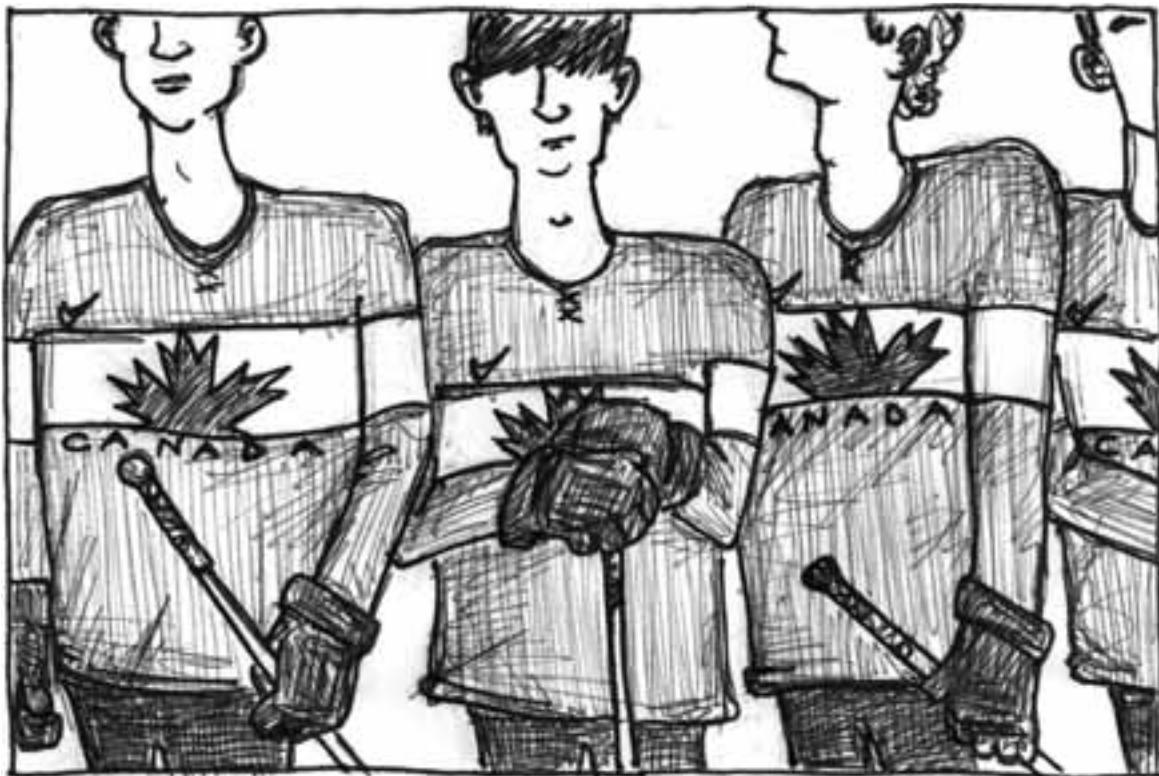
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Head-to-head: Canada's Olympic hockey roster

Suneil Sachdeva
David Song

Gauntlet Sports

When Team Canada general manager Steve Yzerman sits down to finalize his team's roster for the Winter Olympics in Sochi, he will be faced with an embarrassment of riches. While players like Sidney Crosby and Shea Weber lead a list of shoo-ins, there are some interesting decisions that must be made to fill out the roster. The *Gauntlet* asked two of our writers to fill out their complete Olympic roster selections and then grilled them regarding some discrepancies between the two lists. Cool trivia — both writers selected three different goaltenders.

Roberto Luongo, goalie
(Sachdeva's pick)

Suneil Sachdeva: Canada's goaltending situation is wide open in 2014, and Luongo is the only member of the prospective group who has proven himself internationally. While he hasn't been as spectacular this season, Luongo has still been solid between the pipes, and his history is strong enough to reserve him a seat at Canada's table. His place on the 2010 Canadian roster in Vancouver was questioned as well, until Luongo went undefeated

throughout the tournament to help Canada capture gold.

David Song: He backstopped Canada to gold in Vancouver and retains some potential, but Luongo's performance has taken some alarming dips since 2010. He failed the Canucks when they needed him most and was almost chased out of town by backup goalie Cory Schneider as a result. Luongo remains a serviceable No. 1 goalie in the National Hockey League, but his mental fragility places him a cut below Canada's many other options in net.

Carey Price, goalie
(Song's pick)

DS: With great size, top-notch positioning and exceptional vision, Price has proven himself to be a franchise goalie in Montreal and has gotten off to a hot start this season. He is a strong candidate for Canada's top tender because he combines technical skill with experience and athleticism. Price is calm and composed in the net, which can go a long way in settling down his team.

SS: Price's skill is undeniable, yet questions still surround his ability to perform under pressure, which could be the downfall of his Olympic hopes. Price's biggest problem in Montreal has been consistency, and coming off a year in which he posted brutal

numbers — tying career lows during the season and dropping even lower during the playoffs — Yzerman may be hesitant about gambling on which Price shows up to Sochi.

Josh Harding, goalie
(Sachdeva's pick)

SS: He was not on the radar at all this summer, yet Harding's incredible play this season has warranted a look from Canadian brass. He has been one of the most dominant goaltenders in the NHL thus far, ranking in the top two in goals-against average, shutouts and wins, alongside a top-five save percentage. Having an elite defensive talent suiting up on the blue line in front of him figures to only improve his already strong play.

DS: Harding's breakout season this year — achieved while battling multiple sclerosis — is an incredible story. Having said that, he's no Canadian Olympic goalie. Why? Because he has spent his entire NHL career heretofore as a backup. Harding has dominated the NHL for long enough to be considered a sure-fire starter. Backup goalies lack consistency, and Harding is no exception. He will not be able to hold his own against his more talented countrymen in net.

see OLYMPICS page 18

Going the distance: the art of the marathon

Mark Villani
Gauntlet Sports

Why do people run marathons? Running is not just a means of exercise. We run to get away from our thoughts, problems and emotions. Some run for the achievement, while others simply have a passion for it.

Legend says the marathon was born in 490 BC when the legendary soldier Pheidippides of Greece brought home great news of victory over the Persians. He ran 24 miles from the battlefield of Marathon to Athens to share the news. "Niki! Niki!" he yelled — meaning victory — collapsing and dying shortly after.

Over two thousand years went by before the legend of Pheidippides was revived in a 24.85 mile run from the bridge of Marathon to Athens in 1896. This run officially inaugurated the event of the marathon in the very first Olympic Games. Seventeen runners assem-

bled at the start line and only nine crossed the finish line. The race was won by Spiridon Louis, a Greek postal worker, who finished with a time of 2:58:50.

Distance running has become an extremely competitive and physically demanding sport in the past 100 years. The Americans quickly became a force to be reckoned with on the pavement. Through sponsorship incentives by the Boston Athletic Association, distance running training programs slowly began to originate, offering a competitive edge for North American runners. Thus began the tradition of the most famous running event in the world — the Boston Marathon.

The modern marathon is 26.2 miles long. Originally the marathon was only 24 miles until the 1908 Olympics in London, England, where the distance was lengthened to cover the ground between Windsor Castle and White City Stadium.

see MARATHON page 18



Mark Villani

Hold the phone! Contributor Mark Villani hits the finish line.

Women's basketball finishes semester near top

Dinos tied for second in women's Prairie division, men sitting at 5-5

Ashton Chugh
Sports Assistant

The Dinos basketball teams played their final games of the semester against the Brandon University Bobcats in back-to-back home games on Nov. 29-30. The women's team snuck out of the first game with a close 66-64 on a clutch buzzer-beating shot by fifth-year guard Tamara Jarrett. In game two, the Dinos sent the Bobcats home with their tails between their legs, winning 73-53.

"I'm really pleased with finishing 2013 with two wins at home," said head coach Damien Jennings.

Game one featured a shootout between Jarrett — who scored 31 points — and Bobcats guard Cassie Cooke, who finished with an astounding 39 points.

In game two, the Dinos came out with a scrappy defensive first quarter, exemplified by the play of Jarrett. Early on Jarrett ripped the ball away from a Bobcats player and drove through the open court

to get the ball to a wide open Kristie Sheils, who knocked down a wide open three-point shot. By the end of the first half the Dinos were up 39-25.

Third-year guard Ashley Hirons opened up the third quarter by hitting a three-point shot. Hirons led the way for the Dinos with 15 points in the game, which all came from the three-point range.

"I just have confidence to shoot the ball," said Hirons. "Damien gave me that confidence that if you're open in transition to just shoot it."

The fourth quarter saw the Bobcats go on a mini 8-0 run against the Dinos, forcing Jennings to call a time out. After regaining their composure, the Dinos went on to finish the game with a 20-point lead in what was an overall team win, with four Dinos scoring in the double digits.

"It was more of a team effort today," said Sheils.

After starting the season 0-2, the Dinos are confident going into the second half of the season on an im-

pressive eight-game winning streak.

"We were just thinking of winning over the crowd," said Sheils of her team's attitude coming into the season. "People will go away thinking that we have a great future because we're very young. So in 2014 we're going to come out even harder. If we come first you can't ask for any more than that, and it would be great if we get to host Canada West [playoffs] like we did last year."

The Dinos women's team are tied for first place in the Prairie division with a record of 8-2.

On the men's side, the Dinos got some great play from reigning Canadian Interuniversity Sport athlete of the week Jarred Ogungbemi-Jackson, who lit up the twine for 28 points. The Dinos shot 51 per cent from the field to win the game 89-77.

In game two, the Dinos saw their five-game winning streak come to an end after losing a tight game to the Bobcats 65-61.

The Dinos got off to a good start, going up 19-12, but weren't able to

hold on to the lead in the end.

"I thought early on we played well and we steadily built a good lead," said head coach Dan Vanhooren. "From there, we stopped doing the things that got us there, and it resulted in a loss."

Matt Letkeman led the way for the Dinos with some workhorse play, racking up a solid 17 points and 14 rebounds.

"The one thing you control is your work ethic, and I feel that's what God has given me, so I'm just going to go out there and do whatever I can for the team in that manner," said Letkeman.

The fourth quarter went down

to the wire. As both teams traded control of the lead, it was the late game free-throw shooting of the Bobcats that secured them their second win of the season.

Vanhooren felt the Dinos took too many outside shots, leading to their demise.

"We can't live and die by shooting jump shots," said Vanhooren. "We have won some games that way, but the guys got a lesson in real basketball today — just because we shot ourselves in the foot by shooting a lot of jump shots."

The Dinos men's team are currently in fifth in the Prairie division with a record of 5-5.



Michael Grondin

Lawrie Saunders takes the tip-off as Dinos head coach Damien Jennings looks on.

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DINOS

ROOKIES OF THE MONTH



Janna Ogle
Dinos Volleyball

In her first season as a Dino, Janna Ogle's presence in the starting lineup has been key for a young Dinos women's volleyball team. She comes in second on the team in kills with 67, as well as in kills per set, averaging 2.16 as Calgary's starting right side.



Brad Friesen
Dinos Football

Freshman Brad Friesen was a force to be reckoned with in the Dinos' playoff run to the Vanier Cup this season. In four playoff games, the linebacker accumulated 29 tackles including a season-high 12 against the Western Mustangs in the Mitchell Bowl when Calgary won to advance to the national finals.

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Marathon, continued from page 16

The addition of another 2.2 miles allowed for the race to finish in front of the royal family's viewing box, which is why when passing the 24 miles mark in a race runners often say 'God Save the Queen' for good luck before finishing. The standard distance was soon set at 26.2 miles.

For first-year kinesiology student Colton Quinn, running is almost second nature. "When I am out running, the less I think about the better. I just kind of zone out and let the miles roll by," said Quinn, who competes for the Dinos track and field team. "I get into a rhythm that is almost hypnotic. You spend a lot of time alone training for a marathon and that alone time really gets you mentally prepared."

Having run his first marathon before his Grade 12 graduation and qualifying this past October for the Boston Marathon, the 19-year-old adheres to an intense training program. "Typically I try to run six times a week," said Quinn. "Usually on Sunday I'll go out for a long run, which are for

me the most important runs. They can last anywhere from one and a half to two and a half hours."

Quinn is thrilled for the opportunity to run in next year's Boston Marathon. "It's really hard to explain to someone who does not run marathons," said Quinn. "Boston is such an exclusive race — it is the most prestigious of all marathons."

Each year, it is estimated that approximately half a million people across the world run a marathon. It is clear that running takes extreme physical preparation, but inevitably it is a mental battle to train and finish such a demanding task. A great amount of stress is put on the body during a long run. Some push through in a battle of mind over matter while others, as the saying goes, 'hit the wall' and can't go any further.

Runners continue to challenge the limits of the human body — striving to run a marathon for seven days straight, running 50 marathons in 50 states, running a marathon in every country or the legendary 7x7x7 — seven marathons in seven continents in seven

days. Some marathon enthusiasts have pushed themselves to unbelievable limits. Annette Fredskov, a Danish woman with multiple sclerosis, ran 366 marathons in 365 days. Another legendary story includes a young Indian boy, Budhia Singh who ran his first marathon at 3-years-old and completed 48 marathons by the age of four.

Just this year at the Berlin Marathon on Sept. 14, Wilson Kipsang of Kenya broke the world record for the fastest marathon by a male with a time of 2:03:23. On the women's front line is Paula Radcliffe of the United Kingdom, with a record of 2:15:25, a feat that hasn't been broken in over 10 years.

Marathon running is becoming a fitness addiction among athletes across the globe. All you have to do is pick up your feet and with each step comes another one that will continue to push you forward — so run. Run away from your fears, your worries, your relationships, from all of your disadvantages, your wants and your needs. Life is your marathon and the possibilities are endless.

Olympics, continued from page 16

Claude Giroux, forward (Sachdeva's pick)

SS: A poor start to the season has placed Giroux on the bubble, but as recently as this summer he was considered a lock to make Canada's top six. He is simply far too skilled a player to leave at home, and his elite creativity will be deadly alongside Canada's plethora of scorers. His versatility — which allows him to play centre or wing, penalty kill or power play — will be extremely valuable to Canada.

DS: Tough cuts will always be made in the formation of an Olympic squad, and Giroux could become one of the toughest cuts this time around. His puck-handling, hockey sense and versatility are irrefutable. Unfortunately, the same can be said for a number of other potential Canadian Olympians. A championship team needs to be skilled and multi-faceted, so Giroux could be passed over in favour of someone with a little more grit and power to their game.

Mike Richards, forward (Song's pick)

DS: He may not be the kind of

high-end offensive talent that most players on this roster are, but Richards plays an outstanding two-way game. Whatever he lacks in scoring ability, he makes up for with his versatility, grit and leadership. In 2010, Richards was an integral part of the Canadian checking line alongside Jonathan Toews and Rick Nash. His defensive acumen and experience can be a valuable part of the 2014 squad as well.

SS: Richards's solid play at the 2010 Olympics certainly bolsters his chances to make the 2014 team, but it seems to be the only thing that does. While Richards's grit and two-way play will be looked on favourably by Canada's management group, the emergence of other young, talented Canadian forwards over the last four years will push him off this team. His hard-nosed style of play may be missed, but it will be made up by other players who can bring other elements to the table as well, such as Giroux or Chris Kunitz.

Brent Seabrook, defenceman (Song's pick)

DS: Seabrook didn't do a

whole lot in 2010, but with Chris Pronger and Scott Niedermayer out of the mix, the time has come for him to shine. His existing chemistry with Duncan Keith is an asset, but he is a great two-way defender in his own right as well. Capable of skating smoothly, logging big minutes, making precise passes and launching artillery strikes from the point, Seabrook's well-rounded game is sure to serve him faithfully against the world's best.

SS: There's a good chance Seabrook will be on the plane to Sochi come February, but it seems time for Canada to move on with so many other more dynamic defenders waiting in the wings. Seabrook's chemistry with Keith — a lock to make the roster — will be his biggest advantage. The fact remains that Canada has a plethora of talented, experienced defencemen such as Alex Pietrangolo, Kris Letang and Marc Staal that are ready to take the next step. While Seabrook's international experience and chemistry would be useful, there are just too many other options who could do so much more.

New app limits family contact during holidays

Melanie Bethune

Probable Introvert

With the holidays and their barrage of family encounters fast approaching, many University of Calgary students are bracing themselves for the inevitable onslaught of questions from prying aunts, nostalgic older siblings and confused grandparents concerned with their well being. This winter, many students will find themselves exhausted with repeating the same generic answers.

One student may have found a solution to this problem.

Third-year computer science student Oliver Leeman has spent the past three years of his degree developing an app that will save students from trying to come up with satisfying answers to family inquiries this holiday season.

“How many times over the break are we going to be asked how our classes went?” Leeman said. “Or if we’re eating well? Or exercising? This app takes away all of the stress of answering those questions. It’s encoded with fail safe and concise answers to almost any question you’ll encounter when reuniting with family this winter break. Just punch in the question you’ve been asked and our program will give you the ideal response. It diminishes unnecessary family contact and useless conversation by nearly 150 per cent.”

Leeman has encoded the app with over 250 commonly asked questions during the holidays, ranging from ‘How were your classes?’ to ‘Any grandchildren yet?’ to ‘What exactly was your major again?’ and even ‘You can actually get a degree in that these days?’. The answers it computes

are all politically accurate, socially acceptable and detailed enough to satisfy the most inquisitive distant relative.

“Think about when your great Aunt Ethel asks if you’ve been eating right,” Leeman elaborated. “An unequipped student might reply by simply saying ‘fine,’ and thus prompt further conversation, but with our app, you can give Aunt Ethel all of the minute details about your diet that her heart desires in one clear, concise and quick response with no further contact required. With a few keystrokes and the science behind our program, you can answer family members’ questions in the blink of an eye and save everyone from hours of drab conversation.”

Leeman hopes to have a fully operational download of the app for iPhone, Android and Windows available by the end of finals week.



Courtesy Jake Brewer

GAUNTLET TECHNOLOGY

Editor: Sean Willett • production@thegauntlet.ca • @GauntletUofC

Northern Sprites: What’s the deal with drones?

Sean Willett

Production Editor

When most people hear the word “drone,” they tend to think of a few very specific drones. Particular the ones currently being used by the United States to carry out extrajudicial killings. Or perhaps they think of any of the many drones in movies, video games and books that are depicted as terrifying murder-robots. Either way, the mental image conjured by the word is rarely a pleasant one, which may be why there has been such a vocal reaction to Amazon’s planned drone delivery service.

Though it will still be a few years until it is up and running, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has announced that the company is working on a service that uses unmanned octocopters (helicopters with eight rotors) to quickly deliver small packages. They will be able to travel up to 10 miles

from an Amazon warehouse, meaning that they will mainly be used in urban centres.

Sounds neat, right? However, a lot of people have reacted negatively to the idea, for a variety of valid and less-than-valid reasons. The less-intelligent detractors of the Amazon drones are the ones calling the service a harbinger of the robot apocalypse. Needless to say, the cat-sized flying barbecues Amazon is planning to use are almost certainly not going to be a threat to our species.

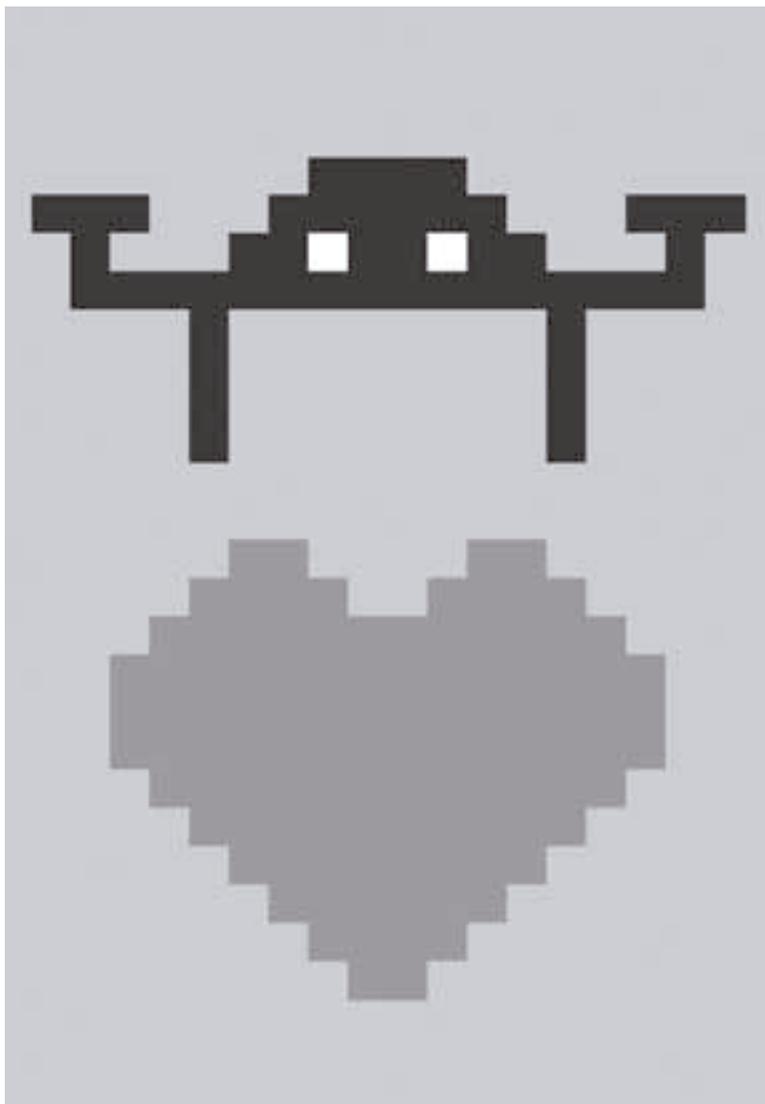
A more common reaction has been people claiming that the service won’t work because people will attempt to shoot the drones out of the sky, steal their packages after they drop them off or otherwise attempt to damage or disrupt the service. Perhaps these people live where mail theft and meaningless property destruction run rampant and folks are allowed to openly fire guns at flying objects, but in most

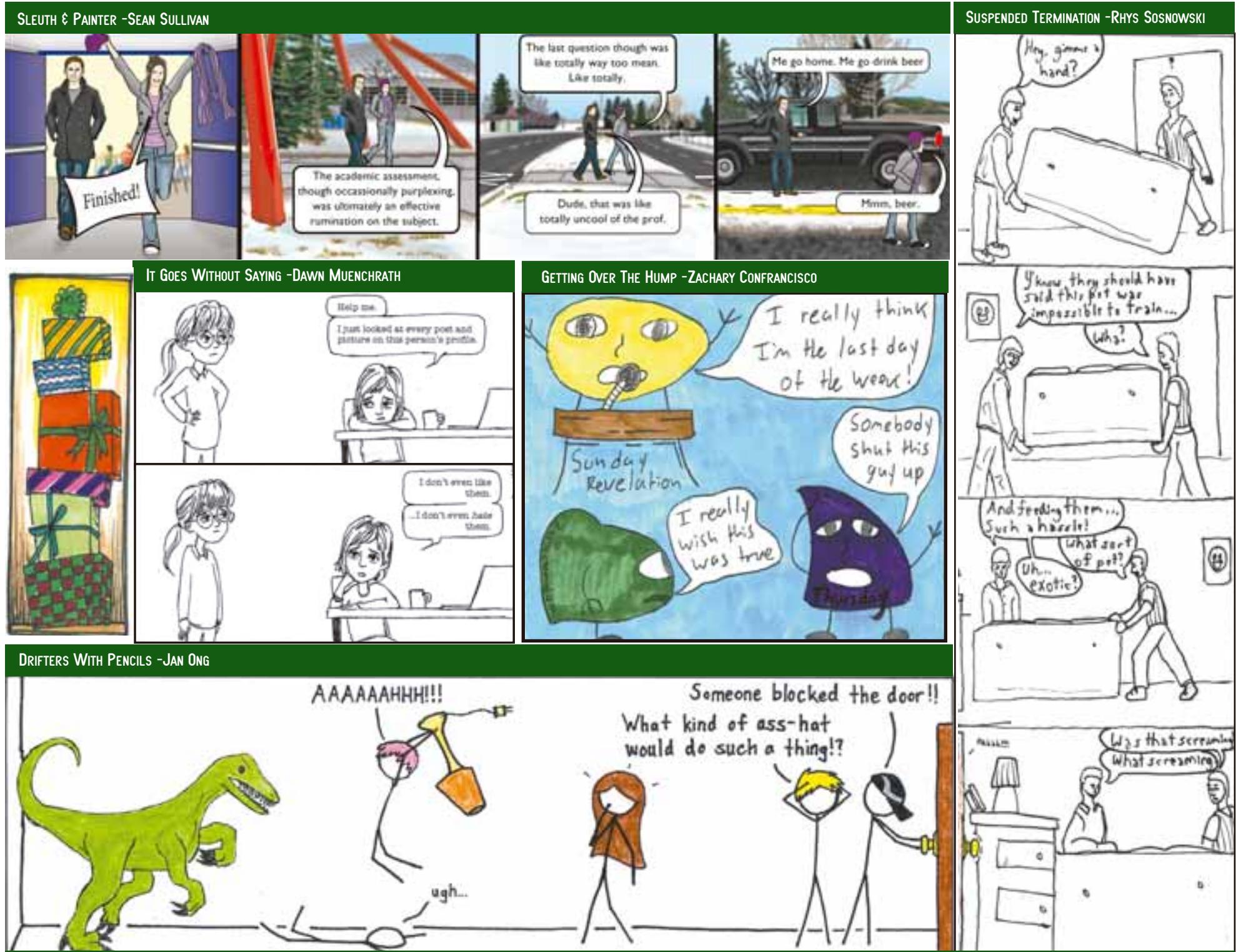
cities these acts would be considered serious crimes, with or without drones. And even if these things do happen, there are many simple ways to counter these crimes — things like GPS, sirens, cameras and more.

There have also been concerns about privacy in a world filled with drones, with members of the U.S. Congress bringing these issues to the forefront. While some of these concerns have been valid, claims that Amazon will attempt to spy on your backyard to see if you need patio furniture seem a little bit overblown. Drones are a tough enough concept for a company to sell even without the threat of espionage.

While “drone” is still a scary word to a lot of people, the idea of a flying robot delivery service shouldn’t be a scary one. Whether or not they actually work is a separate issue, but we may as well try.

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





SU 'de-stress packs' - just in time for exams

Ben Cannon
VP Student Life



Exams are here and after a long semester you can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. I wanted to let you guys know a few things that we're doing in the next few weeks to help you out while your study around campus.

We are committed to making sure that you know where to turn when you're in need of some extra help. Look out for your SU Executive and Faculty Reps while you're studying next week. We'll

be distributing de-stress packs full of goodies designed to keep you focused and healthy. There are tons of on and off campus resources to help you through the

next couple of weeks. We've put together a list of resources that we hope will help you maintain a healthy, balanced lifestyle, it will be available at the SU front desk and in the de-stress packs.

We know that study space is at a premium this time of year. Sometimes it seems like the only option is sit down in the middle of a hallway! Your SU understands this

and, in an attempt to help you out a little but, we're opening up That Empty Space throughout the exam period for students to study in. Located in the lower level of the MacEwan Student

Centre, That Empty Study Space will be open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., starting on Monday, Dec. 9. We heard your feedback last year and worked with the TFDL to get their hours extended throughout the semester. For a complete list of other study spaces on campus and when they are open, check out www.ucalgary.ca/currentstudents/studyspaces.

We know you have a crazy couple of weeks ahead of you but know that our offices are always open if you need to chat come find me!

“ Look out for your SU Executive and Faculty Reps while you're studying next week. We'll be distributing de-stress packs full of goodies designed to keep you focused and healthy. ”

