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February 6, 2014

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Connor Sadler



"This newspaper is most radically right, bro."

This week's Golden Spatula is awarded to the totally tubular Connor Sadler. He lurks in the *Gauntlet* offices, folding pizza boxes, copy editing at our most desperate hours, and gracing our slightly smelly couches with his wit and charm. The constant use of 90s surfer slang reminds us all how radically right it is to write at the *Gauntlet*. His totally gnarly writing style means that he is one of the raddest members of our team. Thank you, Connor.

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 a whiskey based ink. We urge you to recycle/make spitballs out of 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

Design by Michael Grondin
Photos by Louie Villanueva and Michael Grondin

Do not press X for sex

With Sex and Gender Wellness Week on top of us, we should re-examine ourselves as sexual beings. If you are single or if your partner has a case of the flu that has been going around, don't rule yourself out as a participant of sex week. Sexuality should not be restricted to copulation between two or more people. Masturbation and its seedy cousin, pornographic consumption, still count.

Why do we think of pornography as seedy, besides the pun? When conjuring a mental image of how sex should appear, we likely picture an attractive couple entwined, devouring a bounty of oysters, dark chocolate and Barry White records. We probably do not imagine a naked man hunched over his laptop next to a bottle of Mountain Dew and a mound of krusty Kleenex, jerking off to *Sorority Secrets*. Going solo in this fashion bears an element of unwarranted shame, partly because our culture views getting laid as a form of social validation.

There are problems with pornography, although these problems have been magnified by moral panic. As most porn is tailored for men, many women report feeling unattractive when their partners ignore them in favour of the fast-food pleasure pornography offers. In conventional porn, the girls are clean-shaven, thin and submissive. The men behave barbarically, thrusting away at their squirming partners for stretches that would exhaust anyone not cooked up on amphetamines and then marking the girls with their semen the way a wolf would mark a tree. Both sexes are often held up to physically het-



eronormative standards, which can create expectations that many of us are unable or unwilling to meet.

A certain line of mainstream thought describes pornography as unrealistic. This is partially true. After all, porn is manufactured entertainment. But I take issue with the notion that pornography, both depicted and consumed for pleasure, defies some natural, as-intended, realistic form of sex. This is the same train of logic that was used to condemn homosexuality and unconventional sexual positions for centuries. Pornography has shaped this generation's sexual reality. For college-age adults, an overwhelming majority of men plus a third of women view it regularly. Porn taught many of us how to comfortably position our bodies during sex, unlike the vague lectures on STIs and unwanted pregnancy in high school.

Watching porn to excess has the power to hurt relationships and peo-

ple. But I suspect much of this pain is due to the expectation that everyone participate in monogamous romantic relationships. We pursue what is pleasurable to us. Porn would not be so rampant if it didn't offer advantages over conventional relationships — we can be as selfish as we want and detach ourselves emotionally. Convenience, variety and attraction are other factors, as few of us are desirable enough to sleep with whoever we please, whenever we please. Porn will never palliate spiritual loneliness the same way a loving partner can, but it is undeniably gratifying in the physical sense.

Puritans view porn as a threat to the traditional relationship between two people that the nuclear familial unit is founded on. Neuroscience has pointed towards addictive properties, yes, but the same goes for regular sex. What people find so terrifying about the production of and the addiction to pornography is

the possibility that people don't need interpersonal relationships to find sexual fulfilment, or that we are capable of separating sexual acts from emotion. Some research argues that heterosexual women find this particularly threatening, as they tend to attach more importance to intimacy during sex. However, without delving too far into the can of worms of shifting gender roles, I would suggest that men's increasing use of pornography comes from a sense of confusion over the current status of masculinity in the face of social changes. Pornographic consumption is as much a symptom as a cause of why straight men and women seem to be drifting apart.

Porn use is portrayed as slimy or unseemly. We demean those who rely on pornography as pathetic. "Why don't you just get a girlfriend?" I absentmindedly asked my friend the other day. While some people should get off their asses and look for the relationships they want, others have no desire to do so or are incapable. Some people have aspirations that take up all their time. Some people dislike everyone and are only looking for physical release. Some people are physically or socially disfigured to the point that the opposite sex consistently finds them unattractive, truisms about inner beauty aside. While we should encourage our friends and family to pursue relationships when they want them, we should not humiliate those who choose otherwise or due to circumstances that have caused them to seek an alternative form of sexuality.

Tobias Ma,
Gauntlet Opinions Editor

campus comment

Do you think pornography is harmful? Why or why not?



"It depends on the genre that you watch and the type of person you are."

– Grant Cheung,
fourth-year psychology



"It has the potential to. Everything in moderation, so excess is not good."

– Olivia Jack,
fourth-year engineering



"It can expose people to, and normalizes, abusive concepts."

– Lauren Cooper,
fourth-year engineering



"It can give you false perceptions and puts images in your head not based on reality."

– Elias Abraha,
third-year engineering

GAUNTLET

SEX SURVEY RESULTS



How many sexual partners have you had?

None: 10% / One: 19% / 2-10: 46%
11-20: 13% / Over 20: 12%

Have you ever gotten physical with someone from the same sex?

Yes: 30% / No: 52%
No, but I've thought about it: 18%

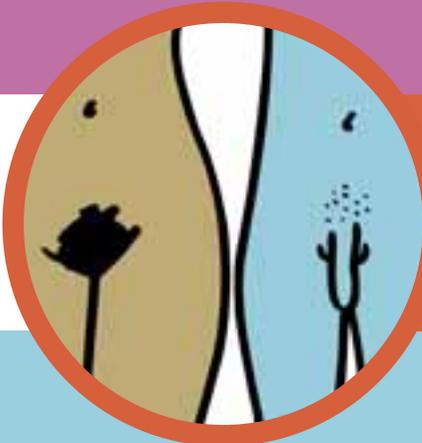


Favourite places to make out / have sex on campus (outside of residence)

Bathrooms / Upstairs couches in MacHall / Engineering homeroom
Old library / The Den / Elizabeth Cannon's staircase

Favourite kind of foreplay

Oral sex: 38% / Hand job/fingering: 18%
Touching or massage: 16%
Grinding or Rubbing: 13% / Other: 15%



Bush or no bush?

Bush: 15% / No bush: 37%
There's a happy medium: 48%

Favourite form of contraception

Condoms: 34% / IUD: 9%
The Pill: 38% / Withdrawal method: 8%
None: 11%



Preferred penis size (if penises are your thing)

Small: 6% / Medium: 53%
Large: 31% / XL: 10%

Favourite sex position

Missionary: 21% / Doggy-style: 37%
Cowgirl(boy): 22% / Standing up: 2%
Other responses (18%): Sideways / 69
Alone, two-handed / Lizard King



It's sex week!



Michael Grondin



Michael Grondin

Student ask clubs to show their stuff

Mark Fardy
Gauntlet News

Big Club president Jon Carpino is organizing a two-day Clubs Expo this March to give student groups the chance to show campus exactly what they do.

The expo will feature presentations in the MacHall courtyards from clubs who hope to recruit new members and create new connections on campus.

"There is not a lot of unity between clubs," Carpino said. "[The expo] would increase attention to what clubs do and give us an outlet to showcase all of our accomplishments over the year."

Students' Union vice-president student life Ben Cannon threw his support behind the idea.

"The SU wants to support [expos] like this whenever we can," Cannon said. "It's good to see an assortment of clubs wanting to collaborate on a bigger event."

Cannon suggested that each club be granted 15 minutes or so to showcase their skills and explain what they are all about.

He offered advice for clubs with interests difficult to show-off, like political and academic clubs.

"Appeal to the thing that got you interested in the club in the first place when you are presenting," Cannon said. "For, say, a political club, I would suggest presenting a piece of auditory or something that harkens back to your history."



Michael Grondin

Plans for record setting day of STI testing in the works at the U of C

Tendayi Moyo
News Assistant

The Students' Union Wellness Centre is looking to set the record for the most sexually transmitted infections tests done in one day.

During the event, the Wellness Centre hopes to test more than 500 students in less than six hours.

"It's still in the planning stages," SU vice-president student life Ben Cannon said. "The Wellness Centre just brought us into a meeting last week and gave a rough plan for the event."

The event would happen in the

MacEwan concert hall in early April.

Cannon hopes to send students a simple message.

"It's easy, free and will benefit you greatly," he said.

But the challenge is to get the word out.

"All we need is people," Cannon said. "I think that if we had the time to sit down with every student and rationally talk to them for five minutes, they would be on board with it."

According to Alberta Health Services, people age 15-24 have some of the highest STI rates of any age group.



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SU responds to criticism over coast-to-coast trip to promote conference

President says there is no conflict of interest with health and dental provider

Riley Hill
News Editor

Individuals who asked to remain anonymous recently approached the *Gauntlet* claiming Students' Union executives Eric Termuende and Raphael Jacob took a trip in late January to promote su health and dental care provider Gallivan & Associates. These sources claimed the trip represents a conflict of interest, but both executives say this is nothing more than a misunderstanding.

In late January, Termuende traveled across Canada promoting the Leaders Hall (LH) conference, visiting over 25 schools, including the University of Victoria, Dalhousie University and the University of New Brunswick. Jacob joined him towards the end of the trip.

Sources who approached the *Gauntlet* claimed the trip and the conference were used to promote the health and dental provider Gallivan & Associates. Both ex-



Gauntlet file photo



Gauntlet file photo

SU executives Raphael Jacob and Eric Termuende.

ecutives denied this, saying Gallivan was not discussed at the conference or in conversations with members of other Canadian student unions.

"This has absolutely nothing to do with Gallivan," Termuende said. "Even at the conference, they have no logos up or anything. The conference is not about them."

LH is a professional development conference with participants from student unions across Canada.

The conference is funded and organized by student unions from the University of Calgary, SAIT, Mohawk College and the private insurer Gallivan.

The U of C su was one of the conference's founding members.

LH has seen a decline in the number of attendees in recent years.

Jacob said the mission of his and Termuende's trip was to encourage student unions to send attendees, thus keeping the conference afloat.

"Our general manager was a little hesitant to continue hosting [LH] when we started to see declining numbers," Jacob said. "The goal was to revive the conference and make it so our stake in it wasn't for nothing."

When asked why students should support any time or money spent by the su on the conference, Termuende said it helps train su executives at the beginning of their terms.

"The ability to represent the students who put you in office becomes that much greater after a

conference like this," Termuende said.

su executives do attend meetings with Gallivan every year to discuss their health and dental plan, though Jacob said this is separate from discussions about the conference.

Jacob acknowledged that su executives, including former su president Hardave Birk, have been offered jobs with Gallivan after completing their terms. He said these offers were based on merit, not a special relationship with the company.

Funding for the flights, a rental car and some of the meals for the trip came from a fund pooled by the four founding LH organizations. Each organization, including the U of C su, gave \$2,000.

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G VOLUNTEER AT THE GAUNTLET

Culture courses on the chopping block

Professor says changes to communications and culture ill advised

Sean Willett

Production Editor

The University of Calgary's department of communication and culture may be getting a little less cultured. As of next year, the department may be making many of the mandatory culture-focused courses in its undergraduate programs optional, leaving some students and professors upset with the change.

While communications and culture 301 will remain mandatory, 303, 501 and 503 may be made optional courses instead of degree requirements.

"This decision is based on the idea that these courses are no longer essential to the communications degree," said U of C professor Ronald Glasberg. "[The department] wants to make the degree more professional and they feel that these older courses don't contribute to that professionalism."

Glasberg, who has taught culture courses at the U of C for over 20

Some of this was supposed to have come from the dean, who doesn't believe these courses to be central to a communications degree.

— Ronald Glasberg, U of C professor

years, disagrees with the proposed change. He thinks students will not take the courses if they are not made mandatory, due to inadequate information being made available on the content of these classes.

"Most of my colleagues say that if it is a good course, students will take it of their own free will," Glasberg said. "But this presumes that the students have been educated on what the course is actually about. There is this fundamental lack of belief in the realities of student life — students simply do not know what it is they're rejecting, and they're under so much pressure that I can fully understand why they might not want to do it."

The interim head of the department of communications and culture, Barbara Schneider, would not confirm the changes. She insisted the existence of the culture courses is not in jeopardy.

"[The change] is not confirmed yet," Schneider said. "All of those courses will continue to be offered, so there will be no change in what our offerings will be, but I can't confirm any changes until it is confirmed by the university's bureaucracy. These things are not just up to the department."

On the contrary, Glasberg claimed the change came from within the department and that the decision has already been made.



Michael Grondin

Ronald Glasberg has taught culture at the U of C for over 20 years.

"Some of this was supposed to have come from the dean, who doesn't believe these courses to be central to a communications degree," Glasberg said, "but I spoke to him myself, and he believes this is a decision that should be made by the department and the department made it."

Glasberg's courses have long been favourites of the U of C community. Glasberg was voted "best professor"

in *Fast Forward's* 2013 Best of Calgary poll and has won a number of teaching awards on campus.

"It makes me really sad," said Jessica Roberts, a student enrolled in communications and culture 503. "I feel like this is a course everyone should take. Students shouldn't feel like they have to, but I think if more people knew about the course, then more people would take it."

Prof looks to curb use of antibiotics in animals

Connor Sadler

Gauntlet News

University of Calgary professor is warning that the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture has increased the level of drug resistant bacteria. However, he thinks he has a solution.

Every year, North American farmers use large amounts of antibiotics to treat disease in livestock and to encourage growth.

"Most antibiotic use is in fact for non-human purposes," said economics professor Aidan Hollis. "Bacteria are able to develop resistance against antibiotics when exposed to them."

Hollis believes the best solution to bacterial resistance is to reduce the amount of antibiotics used in livestock. He thinks this can be accomplished through a new tax.

"The idea is to set a user fee that would increase the cost of antibiot-



Michael Grondin

Hollis sees an economic solution to the problem.

ics in non-human uses. That would ultimately result in less use," Hollis said.

This user fee would be imposed by the federal or provincial government. Hollis said this type of government regulation is necessary.

"It's pretty obvious that some-

thing is going to happen. Either there's going to be more regulatory oversight or there will be a ban in effect," Hollis said. "[We need to ask] what are the proper policies to deal with the vast amounts of antibiotics being used when there is this clear negative effect on human health."

No halal? No kosher either!

Chris Adams

News Assistant

Observant Jewish students at the University of Calgary have only one kosher option available on campus.

For food to be considered kosher, it must be prepared under Jewish dietary guidelines. Starbucks is the only vendor on campus to offer a kosher option, as they serve kosher muffins.

Calgary Hillel director Kira Blumer said her organization hopes to join Muslim Students of Southern Alberta Initiating Change in expanding the U of C's food options for religious students.

"Now that [the U of C] is looking to bring more halal food to campus, we'd really like to partner with MOSAIC on that," Blumer said. "If something's kosher, the vast majority of Muslims will eat

it, whereas it doesn't work in the reverse. This is an opportunity for us to work together and make sure everyone can eat, which is really cool."

Blumer said that there are between 50–100 Jewish students at the U of C. Of these students, "about half of them would care to some degree if something were kosher," Blumer said.

According to Blumer, those practicing Judaism tend to move to cities more inclusive to a strict Jewish lifestyle than Calgary.

"They don't see [Calgary] as a place for Jewish life because kosher food isn't available and the university isn't always able to accommodate what we need," Blumer said. "A lot of thought has been put into this and if we had kosher facilities available, we could actually kind of develop a Jewish life that's more accommodating."

U of C professors researching effect of dance on Parkinson's disease

Sean Sullivan

Entertainment Editor • @WriterSeanS

A research program from the University of Calgary is exploring how dance can help people with Parkinson's disease.

Researchers are hoping that the combination of gross and fine motor skills involved in dance will help strengthen the connections between different parts of the brain so that healthy regions will take on the load from regions affected by Parkinson's.

The brain is not divided into distinct sections as people thought, lead researcher Afra Foroud says, a neuroscientist and adjunct assistant professor with the U of C dance department.

"One thing the field of neuroscience is starting to explore is this understanding that the brain is not necessarily functioning in a compartmentalized way," Foroud says.

While the brain can be divided up into general regions identified with memory, movement and vision, the brain is much more complex.

"The way that the brain works is that it incorporates many aspects of different regions to produce one behaviour," Foroud says.

With that in mind, dance and kinesiology professor Anne Flynn and Foroud have partnered with Decidedly Jazz Dance and Parkinson's Alberta as one of the case studies in



courtesy School of Creative and Performing Arts

a five-year, \$2.5-million national research project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada on Arts for Social Change, one of two case studies the U of C dance department runs.

The program teaches jazz dance twice a week to about 45 participants, both with and without Parkinson's, taught by professional dancers.

The six-month dance program began in October with a number of assessment tests that had participants performing a number of tasks that can be difficult when dealing with Parkinson's. Tasks include tying shoe laces, doing up buttons, pouring water into a glass from a jug and sitting down in a chair and standing up.

"These are things that seem quite mundane, right? We do them every

day. We don't even give them a second thought," Foroud says. But with Parkinson's these tasks become increasingly difficult.

The program will end in early April with the same series of tasks to determine if participants have improved along with a series of interviews to see how people feel after the program.

For Norma Male, 66, the dance class is the highlight of her week. She attends the class with her husband Bill Male.

"It's one hour where we can both forget that I shake," Norma says. The music, routines and camaraderie helps her and her husband forget for an hour about Parkinson's, she says.

Her husband says the challenge of using the motor skills and putting them to music has been good for Norma.

"I think that she's better off for it, absolutely," Bill says. "That's what the Parkinson's disease needs, you need to keep challenging the brain."

Flynn says she had the idea for the project after the university introduced a \$500,000 project that introduced four pilot projects in the East Village in 2005, when the university was still considering building the downtown campus in the East Village instead of its current location on 8 St. and 8 Ave.

One of the four projects was the dance department's Urban Dance Connect project which held dance classes for seniors in the YWCA. The program is still running at the Golden Age Club in partnership with the Alex Community Health Centre.

Dance classes for people with

Parkinson's is not new. Flynn says work with Parkinson's and dance has been developing over the last decade, including at Mark Morris Dance Group in New York. But Flynn was interested in beginning a project to research the benefit dance has on people with Parkinson's.

Last year between January and March, with Decidedly Jazz Dance and the help of U of C professor Dr. Bin Hu, Flynn began a pilot project with 27 people. Flynn says the project was a success.

"The music, the movement — it just takes over. There's no stopping it," Flynn says. "Everybody came back every week."

Between \$10,000 from the Rozsa Foundation, the aid from the \$2.5-million Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council project and seed funding from the U of C and from Parkinson Alberta, Flynn included a research component, brought in Foroud as a researcher this year and expanded the project to include two classes a week.

As a research project, classes are free for participants.



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Tier 2 Hiring deadline: Mar. 12, 5 p.m.

Tier 2 position announcement: Mar. 19

(Production, Graphics, Illustrations, Features, Entertainment, Photo, Sports, Opinions)

Film review: *The Lego Movie*

Matthew Parkinson

Gauntlet Entertainment • @martertweet

Surprisingly humorous and entertaining, *The Lego Movie* could have easily been a 100-minute advertisement for its title product. That's exactly what is expected with a movie like this. There are times when this is the case, but for the most part the beauty and comedy of the film overcomes this feeling. This is a strong and early contender for the best animated film of 2014 and it's only February. Kids will absolutely adore it — parents had better set aside some extra cash for Lego sets if they take their children to see it — while adults will also have a good time thanks to the more mature references and subversions.

The film's story is one you've seen before. An ordinary person — in this case a construction worker named Emmet (voiced by Chris Pratt) — finds himself as the chosen one in a prophecy which is supposed to put an end to the evil schemes of the villain, who in this film is called Lord Business (Will Ferrell). Alongside a team of Master Builders — those Lego characters who can create things without instruction booklets — including Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks), Vit-

ruvius (Morgan Freeman) and Batman (Will Arnett), he has to bring a magical MacGuffin to a specific location in order to ruin Lord Business's scheme to superglue everyone in place for all eternity. The difference is that everything in the film, save for a few real world items, are made of Lego blocks.

This allows for a unique animation style. The film often looks as if it was made using stop-motion animation, not with the use of computers. It is sometimes choppy and stiff, as you can't make movements as fluid as you normally would. It feels very much like a Lego movie, not just a random film that uses the property. Lego becomes not just a tool to tell the story but an integral part in the picture's creation. It wouldn't have the same charm without it.

We also wouldn't get some of the surprises that are hidden within *The Lego Movie*. There are a couple of genuine shockers here and while I won't ruin them I'll just put you on notice to look for them. There are a lot of Lego sets that have been licensed over the years and that provides ample opportunity for cameo appearances from known characters from these various sets. The only one who has a large role

is Batman, but you can bet the new creations will get their own sets and that the older ones will see a spike in sales. The movie is going to do big business both at the box office and in toy sales.

The Lego Movie is filled with action and set in interesting locales. There are scenes in the Wild West, "Middle Zealand," an imaginary land in the clouds, a very busy city and more. The action is of the spoof variety, with Lego creations either making the action more ridiculous or providing new ways of viewing it. The comedy is all over the place, as it has to be. Enough jokes have to be there for the young children who are the primary audience, but there are also plenty of laughs to be had from both adults and children.

Any way you slice it, *The Lego Movie* is a good time at the cinema. It has many creative, imaginative and colourful settings, action scenes which are fun both on their own and as send-ups of other movies, the humour is appealing to audience members of all ages and the animation is done in a style that you won't have seen before because it will only really work with a Lego movie. It rarely feels like an advertisement, it contains genuine surprises and it's a lot of fun.

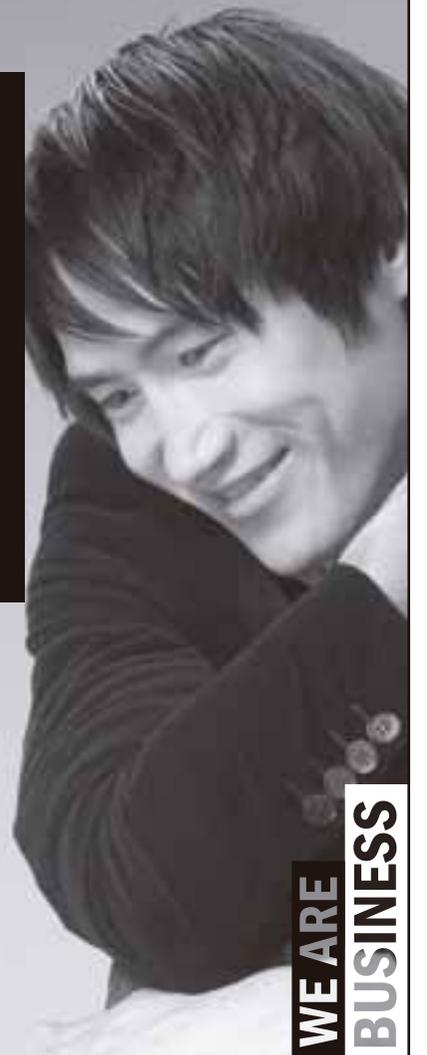


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Poutine reviews

Lacking patience, hungry *Gauntlet* reporters descended on the 18th avenue Smoke's Pouterie last week to find out how awesome it will be to have a pouterie on campus

Montreal Poutine

Typically, I'm somewhat of a poutine purist who sticks to the classic fries-curds-gravy combination. However, with so many combinations at Smoke's, you have to step outside your comfort-food comfort zone. And for such a deviation, the Montreal Poutine is a good choice. Topped with a crispy kosher dill, a pile of smoked meat and a reservoir of mustard, the Montreal combines two

Canadian classics on one plate. While I was surprised at how good the smoked meat was, I was a bit disappointed with the fries. While Smoke's isn't shy with the gravy (as it should be), the fries could stand to be a bit crispier to compensate because they were a bit mushy by the end. But with tasty gravy and proper cheese curds, *la poutine est bonne*.

Liv Ingram

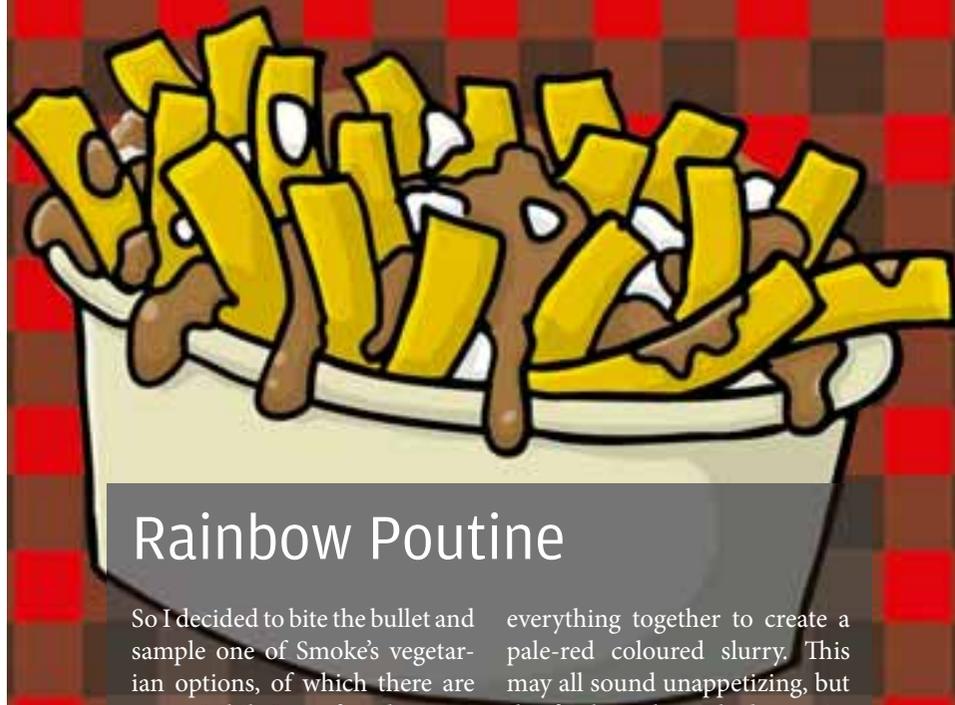


Steak Peppercorn Poutine

Sometimes you just need to change things up, even poutine. But let's not go crazy. No need to add anything weird: no guacamole, cheeseburger or fajita, thank you very much. If you want something fancier than your standard cheese curds and gravy, grab yourself a Steak Peppercorn Poutine. Nothing says fancy like peppercorns and steak

and they mix well with gravy and fries. With some mushrooms tossed in, the Steak Peppercorn Poutine actually reminds me of poutine I've eaten at some of the French bistros I've visited. Now, I am a fan of all poutine, but this one will likely become a staple of mine at the new Smoke's in MacHall.

Sean Sullivan



Rainbow Poutine

So I decided to bite the bullet and sample one of Smoke's vegetarian options, of which there are many. While I was first drawn to the Veggie Nacho Poutine, due to my fondness of all things covered in salsa, I instead opted for the Rainbow. This train-wreck of a sodium bomb was covered in sour cream, cheese sauce, sriracha and guacamole, creating a colourful tableau that lived up to its name.

This visual appeal disintegrated quickly as I frantically mixed

everything together to create a pale-red coloured slurry. This may all sound unappetizing, but the final result worked surprisingly well. It turns out that when you mix together all of those ingredients, you get a delicious, but indistinct flavour that leaves you both vaguely unsatisfied and immediately craving more. It's the same reason why I find Doritos so addicting, and will keep me coming back once Smoke's opens at the U of C.

Sean Willett

Country Style Poutine

There's something disconcerting about food labeled "country style." Usually used by chain restaurants to give that home-cooking feel to their probably not so home-cooked dishes, Smoke's Pouterie's Country Style Poutine does its best to beat that trope. With chicken, bacon, mushrooms, sautéed onions and peas atop a traditional poutine, Smoke's is going for that standard North American farmhouse feel and I dig it.

The first bite was delicious. I

scooped all the fixings onto the fork and enjoyed what felt like a better version of a KFC chicken bowl. Sweet from the vegetables, salty from everything else, it has that familiar contrast you probably love about your grandmother's cooking.

I didn't finish because I awkwardly asked to wow-size my poutine, which basically doubles your order for three dollars. But it was tasty and comforting and you should eat it when Smoke's opens.

Chris Adams



Gauntlet "authentic" photo contest winner



Colin Snyder

I took this photo in 2011 in New York City while riding along in a cab. The blur effect was partly on purpose because of how I panned the camera a bit and how my aperture and exposure were set, but it was also spontaneous because of the sudden acceleration of the cab. I feel this photo illustrates the hustle and bustle of New York City streets, something that the city is known for.

Colin Snyder



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Smoke's Poutinerie introducing breakfast poutines for U of C

Sean Sullivan

Entertainment Editor • @WriterSeanS

Franchise owner Jay Blackman says Smoke's Poutinerie is tossing around a number of ideas for serving breakfast poutine at the University of Calgary MacEwan Student Centre location.

Smoke's has not settled on any specific breakfast options yet but some of the possible recipes Blackman mentioned are a scrambled egg, maple syrup and bacon poutine; a scrambled egg, bacon, mushroom, diced onion and cheese poutine; a scrambled egg with waffle minis, bacon and syrup; and even a huevos rancheros poutine.

"We're going to do something more than we normally do, that's for sure," Blackman says.

He says the huevos rancheros poutine may begin as a limited time offer as it will be a substantial poutine with

a sunny-side fried egg, refried beans, guacamole and sour cream.

Most Smoke's Poutinerie locations open at 11:00 a.m. and close as late as 4:00 a.m. on weekends. Blackman says there is little demand for breakfast options.

However, the university is different.

"I think there's a big opportunity and a need to offer more breakfast items at the university," Blackman says. "And we're basically a meal in a box. You can have your potatoes and your eggs and bacon, all that, and be on your way."

Breakfast options have been offered on a limited-time basis at other locations — such as a maple bacon poutine — but not as regular menu options.

Blackman says they are on schedule to open in early March but an exact day will be pinned down closer to opening.

New Calgary film studio set to open in 2015

With the help of \$5 million in one-time funding from the Government of Alberta, Calgary will see its first permanent film studio open in summer 2015. The studio will be developed by Calgary Economic Development, in partnership with ComWeb Group and William F. White International.

The project, which will cost approximately \$22.8 million to complete, will feature two purpose-built sound stages of 20,000 square feet and 30,000 square feet, with 18,000 square feet of warehouse space.

"We're delivering on our promise to see a film studio built for southern Alberta here in Calgary," said minister of culture Heather

Klimchuk in a press release. "This move forward is good for the industry and good for Alberta — Alberta's film, television and digital media industry was responsible for over \$400 million in economic activity over the last five years."

As every dollar invested by the government through the Alberta Media Fund in the film, television and digital media industry yields six dollars revenue for the province, the studio development will ensure the success and viability of Alberta's screen-based industry.

While opening is slated for summer 2015, a location for the studio has not yet been announced.

Liv Ingram

U of C professor nominated for Juno award

Professor Allan Bell, director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts and music professor, has been nominated for a Juno award. Bell's composition "Field Notes" from the the Centrediscs album *Gravity and Grace* is up for Classical Composition of the Year. It's Bell's first Juno nomination.

Bell is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a member of the Order of Canada.

The album *Gravity and Grace* was commissioned by the Land's End Chamber Ensemble and its release commemorated Bell's 60th birthday.

Sean Sullivan

Comfortable with being uncomfortable



Kate Jacobson
Gauntlet Opinions
@beruramiryam



When I was first heard about Sex and Gender Wellness Week, I was extremely pleased. A week designed to make sure that people have accurate information about a myriad of issues — consent, gender fluidity, porn, safe sex, pleasurable sex, sexual health — is exactly the kind of event I would expect at a large, public university full of young students who are likely sexually active. But while I was happy to see this kind of information presented in a friendly and informative format, this entire week is going to make me deeply uncomfortable.

“Personal is political” has been a rallying cry of social justice activists for the past 50 years, but in this case, the personal couldn’t be farther from the political. A combination of religion, upbringing and cultural background means that many students will find the frank and occasionally explicit discussions of sex that take place on campus disconcerting, myself included. But we’re all adults here, and hopefully we can realize that our lived experience is not everyone else’s. Maybe talking about sex

makes you feel uncomfortable or you flat out hate it — yet it’s fundamentally necessary to grow up healthily.

Part of living and going to school on a diverse campus in a diverse city is being confronted by different opinions. Freedom of expression doesn’t mean that people are allowed to have controversial opinions so long as they keep them to themselves. These notions should be presented in the public sphere, and while the carnival game of “hit the clit” might make some students uncomfortable, it isn’t breaking any laws.

In the much-needed push towards a culture of sexual liberation and openness, particularly amongst women, a less desirable side effect has attached itself to certain parts of the movement. This is the idea that sex positivity is mandatory for liberation, and that’s just not true. You don’t have to be a sexual person and you don’t have to discuss sexuality if it makes you uncomfortable. On the flip side, if you want to discuss or enjoy sex on a regular basis, it shouldn’t come with any kind of value judgment. But if we don’t allow people to abstain shamelessly, we’re only allowing half of the picture.

There’s an unspoken expectation that everyone should act comfortable with their sexuality. Many

university students are in their late teens or 20s and there is a certain assumption that we’ll all be participating in some Hollywood-inspired hookup culture where

we’re all suddenly much more attractive and sex doesn’t come with any emotional or physical baggage, from apprehension to health concerns. This par-

ticular assumption might suggest an over-sexualisation of society, but that criticism often enters the territory of slut-shaming, when there’s nothing wrong with enjoying sex or candidly talking about it. Real issues only come up when we don’t allow vulnerability, discomfort and worries to be included in our discussions. Sometimes it feels like we’re told to express our sexuality in the same old specific ways, especially for women — too sexy, not sexy enough, too uptight, too loose. But the truth of the matter is that it’s OK to be uncomfortable with your sexuality. It’s OK for the topic to make you feel discomforted and anxious and it’s OK to not want to participate in discussions about it.

As far as Sex Week goes, I might spend most of it avoiding eye contact, happily learning new information about gender identities and cringing inwardly at the proposed ‘dildo ring toss,’ but I’m still glad it’s happening. The U of C has a lot of the information you would want about sex and sexuality in a frank conversation, and that’s important. Let’s not judge people for whether they want to participate in that conversation or not.

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Surveillance reform plans uninformative

Obama administration's promises empty and meaningless

Alex Procyk
Gauntlet Opinions



In both a topical speech on Jan. 17 as well as in last week's annual State of the Union address, U.S. President Barack Obama finally came forward with a response and supposed solution to the widespread data collection and surveillance controversies that have plagued his administration since last June. His new pledges, promising to end the widespread holding of phone metadata, as well as ensuring greater privacy safeguards for information collected, seem like steps in the right direction. These latest words are probably bunk,

like the word of the U.S. federal government usually is.

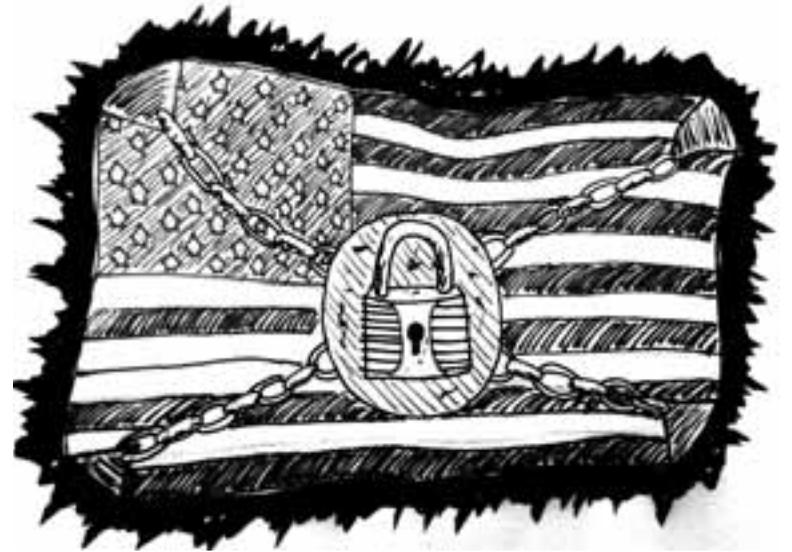
Eight months have passed since Edward Snowden first dropped a media bombshell on government surveillance. Following the recent whistleblowing over the past few years, such as the Wikileaks and Julian Assange debacle, the leaks from Snowden's government contractor employment may not have caused much of a stir. But the Snowden leaks thankfully took on a life of their own owing to the sheer magnitude and scope of the numerous documents and initiatives that have been brought to life.

The United States has recorded innumerable phone communications. They have secretly surveyed the highest-ranked individuals in

allied governments, such as Germany. This news has damaged the trust citizens of the Western world hold for the U.S. government.

The leaks were a tidal wave. No intelligence conspiracy has shocked America to such a degree since Daniel Ellsberg's Pentagon Papers leak of the Nixon-era 1970s. The fact that the government, usually close-mouthed on these matters, has come forward to discuss these leaks is a sign in itself as to how serious the situation is.

Snowden made a great sacrifice to expose this information to the public, walking away from a girlfriend, cushy employment at a government contractor and an overall comfortable life in Ha-



waii. Now he is trapped, holed up in Russia and no doubt monitoring potential threats on his life by agents of the U.S. government.

What Snowden has described since the leaks and subsequent fallout is a global security apparatus that extends beyond U.S. borders. Similar methods of intelligence collection are employed by other countries, through which global citizens' personal information is shared amongst the spying agencies of the world. The issue has become a dire worldwide problem that puts us all in this together.

To hope that Obama's pledges will stop these gross invasions of our privacy in their tracks is naive. The United States has yet to implore other countries to pursue surveillance reform. The programs of collection and surveillance practiced by countless other allies and foes of the United States are logging and sharing the very same disturbing information. As citizens we have no way to prevent the sharing of this data with the United States and whoever else is willing to pay for it.

Obama's promise to reform this spying infrastructure cannot be trusted. He says that government agencies will cease holding metadata. Even if they stop storing it, these promises do not mean that government agencies will stop collecting this data. Nor has the Obama administration explained how their plans for closure will begin. A White House advisory panel came forward with many suggestions for surveillance reform to be addressed by Obama,

such as going to phone companies with warrants for digital data. Unfortunately, the recommendations brought forward by this review panel were ignored, and likely won't be integrated or considered into the future.

I don't need Snowden to tell me to be worried about such revelations. It should be obvious to anyone that worrying is an appropriate emotion. This spying has acted beyond an elected government doing its duty to protect itself and its citizens from foreign and domestic threats. The lack of warrants, the totality and pin-pointed accuracy of the information the government collects is wrong. American political paranoia, hateful rhetoric, lack of accountability in addressing citizens' concerns and obsession with control has fueled the attacks on Edward Snowden and other whistleblowers. Spying and information retention feeds global administrations' thirst for power.

In his first interview with journalist Glenn Greenwald, Snowden's greatest fear when deciding to release his documents was that people would be apathetic and indifferent. Fortunately, the overall public reaction has been anything but apathetic. More must still be done. Let us remember Edward Snowden's sacrifices, so that we may be inspired to further pursue the cause of free information when the time comes.

Visit the *Gauntlet's* website at thegauntlet.ca to view this week's letters to the editor.

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Consider Virginit

Remi Watts

Consider, for the following moment, what it means to lose one's virginity. For some, considering virginity means recalling a pleasant moment, wherein a romantic interest blossomed out of an idyllic and simple time into the beginnings of one's sexual life. For others, the boundary of virginity has not yet been crossed, and anxiety and ambivalence can be the common sexual state of mind.

Virginity can be seen as a special thing to be maintained or perhaps sex is entirely unappealing even though outside forces are continually pressuring one to buy into the sexual game.

Yet for many others virginity conjures up memories of worry and fear, perhaps physical, emotional or mental pain and anguish.

Whether one's earliest sexual experiences were negative, positive, non-existent or somewhere else in the sphere, most of us are profoundly uncomfortable by openly discussing virginity.

I must admit that I too initially withdrew from this topic, knowing that opening such a door would put me and my sexuality in a vulnerable position. After all, a topic such as virginity touches upon very personal and often sensitive issues. For this reason, I insist upon taking a thorough and meaningful look into what we mean by virginity and its comings and goings.

Considering virginity provides us with an intimate gateway into the intricacies of sexuality. And now, more than ever, do we require such a gateway. Never before have people been so bombarded by images, ideas and ideals of sexuality. Never before have people faced such disorienting and possibly damaging sexual forces through the Internet or commercialism. Never before has sexuality been so thoroughly tied to politics, economics and our collective experience.

Considering virginity and how we relate to it forces us to be vulnerable. But, if we truly wish to grow, and see our passions and desires flow

free from the restraints of the media's shackles — overturning the unspoken traumas that lurk behind every door— then we must confront the issue at its heart. Let's go beyond the current understanding of virginity into new and exciting realms where sexuality exists in its heartiest and fullest form.

First, what is commonly meant by virginity? The traditional description of the loss of virginity is, to its credit, fairly straightforward: the first time that a penis finds itself in a vagina, or the first time a vagina finds itself with a penis in it.

While this description may seem simple and broad enough to constitute the boundaries of virginity, we would be doing all sexual peoples a massive disservice by accepting that description as fully encompassing and accurate.

The first and most lucid problem with the traditional description is its hetero-normativity. That is to say, the description is inherently biased towards a heterosexual picture of sexuality. A gay person who has never been with a partner of the opposite sex, but has been with someone of the same sex is considered, under the traditional description, still a virgin.

Transgender, gender ambiguous or hermaphroditic people are also left in a confused and difficult situation if our explanation of virginity is grounded entirely in traditional ideas of mere genitals. It should seem obvious that calling said alternative-sexual types to still be virgins is a painful and incorrect understanding.

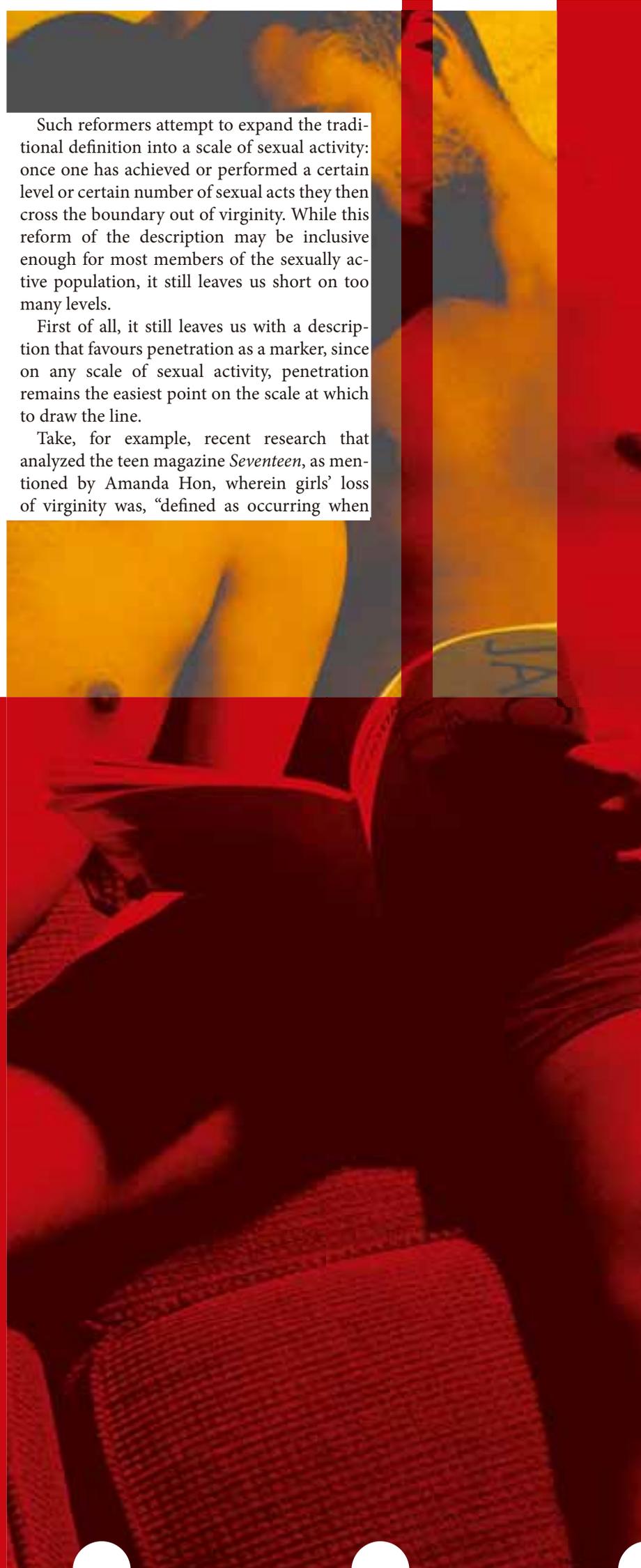
The hetero-normative aspects of the traditional description of virginity are made even more apparent when we consider the historical underpinnings of virginity in women. As psychoanalyst Amanda Hon pointed out, "Historically, the hymen has been widely regarded as the 'anatomical representative of virginity,' although its existence is conjectural. Virginity has been written about as a physical state long before the hymen was ever discussed in medical literature."

That is to say, the physical loss of virginity was patriarchally decided upon first, then proved with the hymen's so-called discovery. And yet, even when the problems of the traditional description is laid out before us, rather than engaging their imaginations, many attempt to simply reform the traditional description, or add enough caveats for it to operate successfully.

Such reformers attempt to expand the traditional definition into a scale of sexual activity: once one has achieved or performed a certain level or certain number of sexual acts they then cross the boundary out of virginity. While this reform of the description may be inclusive enough for most members of the sexually active population, it still leaves us short on too many levels.

First of all, it still leaves us with a description that favours penetration as a marker, since on any scale of sexual activity, penetration remains the easiest point on the scale at which to draw the line.

Take, for example, recent research that analyzed the teen magazine *Seventeen*, as mentioned by Amanda Hon, wherein girls' loss of virginity was, "defined as occurring when



they have intercourse, while in boys there was some flexibility, allowing them to choose whether to base their virginity status on their achievement of orgasm rather than penile penetration of a vagina.”

This sexual double standard reconfirms a heterosexual, male and phallic bias that leaves all non-straight, non-male-identifying people with penetration as their only option for defining virginity.

It almost feels silly to point out that penetration is not the end-all-be-all of sexual activity, and yet such thinking all too often underpins sexual assumptions.

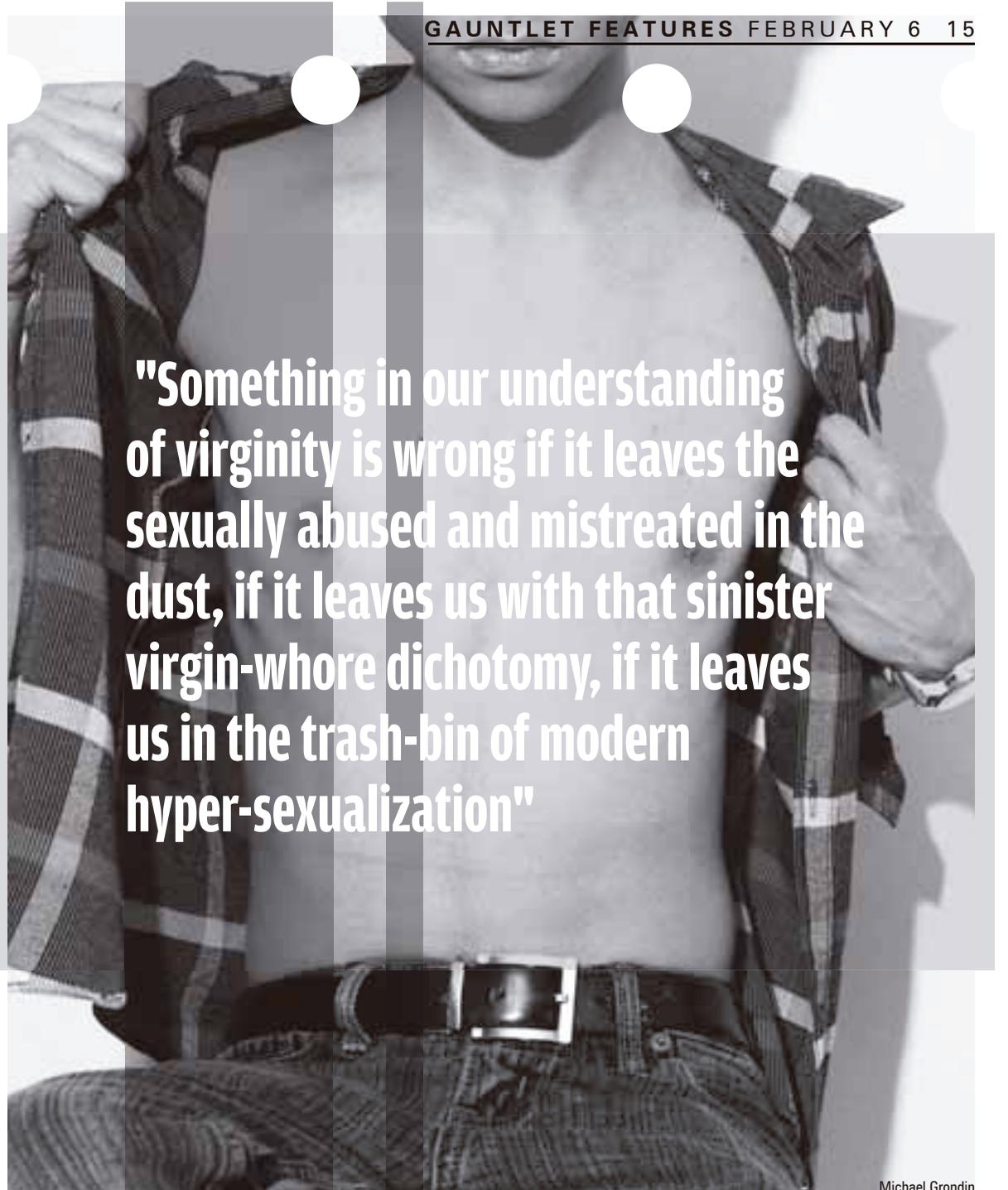
The take-home point, it must be stressed, is that all attempts to create a definition of virginity using carnal descriptors inevitably reveals itself to contain some element that ends up being discriminatory or limiting. This point is made all the more real when we consider situations of sexual abuse. If a person's first major sexual experience was

one of rape, do we still maintain that that person is no longer a virgin? After all, they've "gone all the way" at that point, even though it was not their choice to do so.

Yet, our intuitions should be telling us that something in our understanding of virginity is wrong if it leaves the sexually abused and mistreated in the dust, if it leaves us with that sinister virgin-whore dichotomy, if it leaves us in the trash-bin of modern hyper-sexualization. If we hope to maintain any understanding of virginity that cruxes on physical lines, we will be drawn back in to problematic and limiting understandings of virginity.

We need to re-envision virginity to move past these limitations. We must therefore turn to desire, to consent, to passion, to seduction and to dignity which will arouse in us a fuller awareness of virginity and sexuality.

Continued, page 12.



"Something in our understanding of virginity is wrong if it leaves the sexually abused and mistreated in the dust, if it leaves us with that sinister virgin-whore dichotomy, if it leaves us in the trash-bin of modern hyper-sexualization"

Michael Grondin

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First and foremost, we must drop the whole “losing” or “loss” part of the equation. Virginity is often something special — that cannot be doubted. But, for most of us, virginity has an endpoint that, if we are being sexually respectful of ourselves and others, occurs when it ought to occur, free from the pressures and hold-ups of the oversexualized consumerist game around us.

By calling it a loss we inadvertently buy into the fetishizing of virginity, and miss out on what can be gained on both sides of this supposed virgin/non-virgin divide.

Genuine virginity, then, ends where genuine sexuality begins: at the moment in our lives where, as contemporary philosopher Wolfi Landstreicher put it, we “truly allow the expansiveness of passionate intensity to flower and to pursue it where the twisting vine of desire takes it.” That is to say, virginity is ours to decide.

If my passions, abilities and desires dictate that a certain set of experiences is what constitutes the end of my virginity, then that is that. If my partner has chosen a different set of conditions then that is their choice.

What is more important is that we open up the field of discussion of what each of us expects from the other in sexual interactions. The meaning of virginity and sexuality is a personal decision, and an autonomous understanding of need and desire.

We must realize that, as Marxist philosopher Slavoj Žižek put it, “True freedom is not a freedom of choice made from a safe distance, like choosing between a strawberry cake or a chocolate cake; true freedom overlaps with necessity, one makes a truly free choice when one’s choice puts at stake one’s very existence — one does it because one simply ‘cannot do it otherwise.’”

That is to say, our choosing of meaning must not be treated like any average

choice one would make while shopping. It is a choice that matters deeply and must be treated as such. One must consider what virginity means to them, since if one does not then social forces and pressures make the decision for better or worse (with a likely tendency towards the latter).

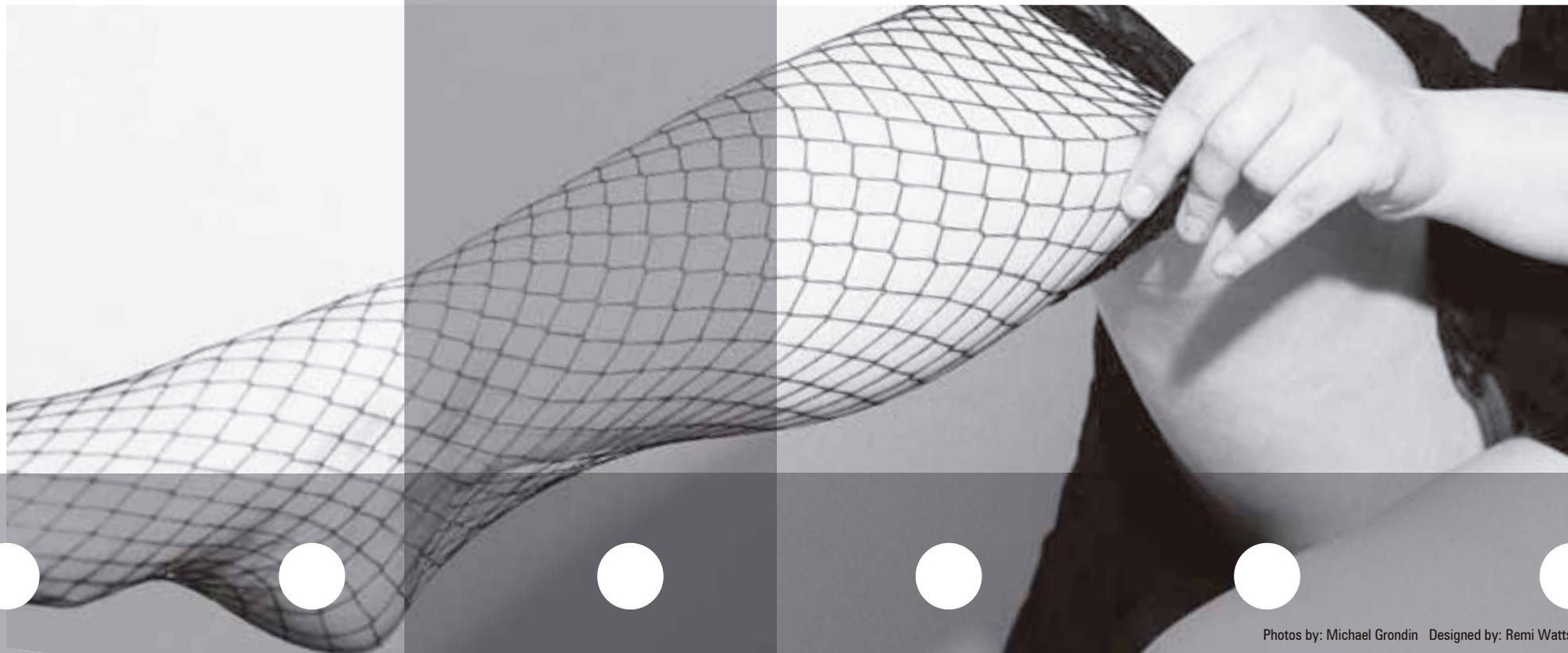
The definition of virginity must not be a closed ordeal. There is no other way to transcend the demands of hyper-sexual modernity, since the sexuality of our present day doesn’t respect our personal trajectories or passions, but instead dictates what it means to be sexual. And, as has been shown, that present-day sexuality is far too often damaging, non-inclusive, reductionist, consumerist, sexist and not in the interests of liberatory attitudes.

Virginity must remain fluid and interactive as to be able to respectfully include the many requests that each person’s sexuality asks of it. Rather than having our un-

derstanding of virginity ask us to conform to certain discriminatory and damaging norms, our understanding of virginity must ask of us, as Martha Nussbaum once asked, “What is each person able to do and to be?”

But it must be remembered that such an alternative vision of virginity can only come about if we decide to adopt the struggle for a radical, collective and authentic sexuality. We must decide to shed the sexual anxieties and frustrations that modern hyper-sexualization has burdened us with. We must decide what constitutes or constituted the end of our virginity and where, and how, and why our sexuality has its beginning. We must decide what is or is not meaningful within the many twists and turns of the erotic.

So I ask you again, to consider virginity. Consider what virginity is in the here and now. But most importantly, consider what virginity can be.



Photos by: Michael Grondin Designed by: Remi Watts

Prime professor or a terrific TA?



Emily Macphail
SU VP Academic



Some of you may remember one particular teacher who helped to spark your interest in the area that you’re now majoring in. Others may recall a passionate instructor who made even the driest topic riveting. Luckily, excellent teachers are by no means limited to pre-university studies, and in recognition of this, the SU Teaching Excellence Awards (TEA) were created as a way to honour

exceptional teachers at the university level.

Excellent teachers have an ability to effectively communicate subject matter in a number of ways, show enthusiasm for the topic at hand, cultivate thought and initiate discussion. They provide inspiration, evaluate work fairly and consistently, connect you to a wide array of resources that will accentuate your learning and also create a safe and welcoming environment for the diverse undergraduate population that exists here at U of C.

If you feel like your professor or TA is the one that deserves an A+, you have the chance to publicly thank them for their dedication and work. Nominations for winter semester professors and TAs are now open, and those in the top third percent of nominations will receive a classroom visit in which students are asked to provide more detailed feedback. At the end of winter semester the SU TEA committee will review all nomination packages before selecting the winners.

The nomination deadline for the Winter semester is Feb. 28, 2014.

Nomination forms are available electronically on the SU website or from the SU office in Mac Hall.

Students aren’t the only ones who look for motivation to exceed expectations. By nominating the professors, instructors, and TAs who make your educational career at the U of C a great one, you encourage excellence and high quality of teaching. Our educators continue to set their sights higher and the SU is proud to be able to showcase their dedication at our annual awards ceremony in April.

The Students’ Union advertisement is provided by the SU and published without Gauntlet editorial revision.

Flames TV Punjabi adds spice to Calgary hockey



Harnarayan Singh brings Punjabi speaking fans to ice level

Ashton Chugh
Features Assistant

The Calgary Flames recently implemented a new weekly web program that caters to the Punjabi community called Flames TV Punjabi. Flames TV Punjabi was the brainchild of Harnarayan Singh, who is also the commentator for CBC's Hockey Night in Canada in Punjabi.

"Based on the popularity of hockey within the community, the Calgary Flames organization realized that there was a certain appetite out there and it appealed to them to grow the fan base and the sport as well," said Singh.

Implementing this unique cultural experience into hockey programming was a concerted effort by Flames management to provide the best possible sports experience to their fans.

"Flames management was very familiar with the Punjabi community in terms of watching who attends the home games, and so they know that there is an existing population in the community that is already Flames fans," said Singh. "To tap into that and a grow it was a way to cater to a niche market."

Punjabi is now the third most spoken language in Canada after English and French. There are close to one million people in Canada who speak Punjabi.

"Calgary often gets a bad rap for not being as diverse," said Singh. "I think for the size of the city it's a welcoming place. When you walk around downtown, you can see a lot of diversity."

Singh is also really excited about the opportunity that Flames TV Punjabi has to spread awareness of the Punjabi community and its culture.

"On one hand it spreads awareness of hockey and the Flames organization amongst the Punjabi community," said Singh. "Some of the Flames players themselves have mentioned that they were not aware of how big the community is. Something like this is making them realize how vital it is for their future to do stuff like this. The team is really proud to be the first."

The inception of Flames TV Punjabi has been met with very positive reviews from fans.

"We showed some behind-the-scenes stuff like what the dressing room or press box looks like," said Singh. "My latest video has gone viral within the local Calgary community. We had a few Flames players try to say a few Punjabi words — so it's not the average thing that you could find in an article or by watching the game, and people loved that."

Calgary Flames management were eager to be the first NHL team to offer content in Punjabi.

"From the team perspective, they love that there is a lot of potentially new fans that are logging onto their site and potentially could become hardcore Flames fans," said Singh. "That is a good thing for the future of the team in a growing city like Calgary."

Regardless of the language they speak, sports commentators often use many sports clichés to add excitement and flavour to the television broadcast. Singh

likes to think outside the box and adds his own cultural style to the mix.

"We add a bit of the curry sauce to the commentating and it has more of the masala and spicy flavouring to it," said Singh. "For example, if the Flames are having a great second period after having a lackluster first period, I'll throw in that they had a great cup of chai in the intermission. We throw in a lot of cultural aspects and stuff like that."

Hockey in Canada has seen a lot of growth among the Punjabi community, which can be partially attributed to the success of the Indian national team's success in field hockey, which mirrors the rules and regulations of ice hockey.

"In India, field hockey was very popular in Punjab," said Singh. "When India won their gold medals in field hockey at the Olympics, at that time 85–90 per cent of the team were players from Punjab, and so the Punjabi people began to love the game. They began to learn how the game works, as there are overlapping similarities and rules."

The majority of people who have immigrated to Canada from India are from Punjab, the northwest part of India.

Singh was pleased that Flames TV Punjabi has been able to bring families closer together.

"One of the biggest pieces of feedback that we have received is that it is uniting families," said Singh. "Kids who are born here are automatically immersed in hockey culture — they love hockey. As far as their grandparents, they do not have as much in common and it is harder for them to relate. But hockey provides that common ground between the generations."

There are other benefits to the community with the implementation of multicultural programs such as Flames TV Punjabi. It can be easy to get lost in the multicultural sea of Canada, however, hockey has the ability to act as a cultural broker.

"I would say that it bridges the gap," says Singh. "That is what sports can be — it's so universal. It does not matter where you are from, or how you look, everyone can all cheer for the same team. You really see that sort of thing in the Olympics."

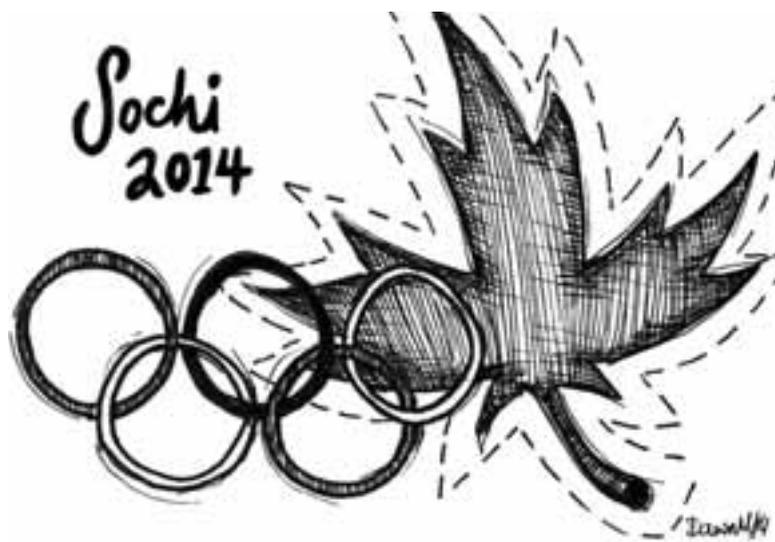
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Who wins in Sochi?

David Song
Gauntlet Sports



As the opening ceremonies ignite in Sochi this week, hockey fans across a dozen nations will find themselves biting their nails as their country battles to bring home the coveted Olympic gold medal. Each country has sent their best and even the weaker squads will fight bitterly for a chance to reach the podium. Nevertheless, there is clearly an established upper echelon among the national hockey teams, and within this elite club the competition promises to be incredibly stiff. Who has the best shot at gold?

Russia has assembled a powerful, high-octane roster that will be out for blood to avenge their quarterfinal loss to Canada in 2010 and win gold on home ice. Alexander Ovechkin leads the way on offence and is backed by the likes of Pavel Datsyuk, Ilya Kovalchuk and Evgeni Malkin. Vladimir Tarasenko and Alexander Semin headline a solid group of secondary scorers. Russia's team will undoubtedly be dangerous, but what they possess on offence, they lack on defence. There are not many A-list players among their rearguards, while the goaltending tandem of Sergei Bobrovsky and Semyon Varlamov is talented but young. If the Russians cannot overwhelm their opponents with a quick-strike attack, their defence is liable to break under pressure. As a result, Russia may only be a sleeper pick to get on the podium this time around.

Sweden is a perennial contender when it comes to international hockey and their Sochi squad is not to be underestimated. Their forward corps includes Henrik Zetterberg, Gabriel Landeskog, Nicklas Back-

strom and the infamous Sedin twins — all of them star players in the National Hockey League. Their blue-line will be patrolled by Erik Karlsson, Alexander Edler and Niklas Kronwall, also established NHLers. In goal, Henrik Lundqvist is among the best of his kind. Versatile in any situation, the Swedish roster should be a lock to win at least bronze and could very well do better.

The United States took silver in Vancouver 2010, and they are once again an undisputed threat. Patrick Kane, Zach Parise, Joe Pavelski and Phil Kessel provide boatloads of explosive offense, while David Backes, Dustin Brown, Ryan Kesler and James van Riemsdyk are just a few of many awesome secondary scorers. Defenders like Ryan McDonagh, Kevin Shattenkirk and Ryan Suter will be tough to contend with, and even if they are beaten, one still has to face some of the best netminders in the tournament. Jonathan Quick, Ryan Miller and Jimmy Howard are elite, each with the ability to take over entire games. The American roster is absolutely lethal, second perhaps only to one nation.

Canada. No country has a deeper, more expansive pool of hockey talent than Canada. As a result, head coach Mike Babcock is blessed with a platinum mine of options on both sides of the puck. Sidney Crosby, John Tavares, Steven Stamkos, Ryan Getzlaf and Jonathan Toews on offence. Duncan Keith, Shea Weber, Alex Pietrangolo, Drew Doughty, Jay Bouwmeester and P.K. Subban to defend the blue-line — and score from it too. Canadian goaltending may be a little weaker than its American counterpart, but with Carey Price, Robert Luongo and Mike Smith, weak is a relative term. The Canadian juggernaut is a force to be reckoned with, capable of adapting to any opponent. On paper, the gold medal is theirs to lose.

If figure skating were easy, it would be called hockey

Salimah Kassamali
Features Editor



Canada will be sending 17 figure skaters to the Sochi Olympics. The team includes world senior men's champion Patrick Chan and Olympic gold medalist dance pair skaters Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir. While these stars will shine bright in Sochi, they will also be outshined by Canada's hockey stars who continue to steal the spotlight as hockey remains Canada's most popular sport.

Hockey has always gained more national attention, intrigue and funding than figure skating. Such bias is unjustified. The cry from figure skating enthusiasts that figure skating is clearly the more challenging and strenuous sport is, however,

well justified. And it is time that this debate came to a close.

Figure skating requires physical endurance and strength, along with balance, precision, footwork and flexibility. Hockey requires speed and brute force. Figure skating requires intense training in dance and ballet and at least 30 hours a week of ice time for professional and competitive skaters. Hockey, while it teaches team building skills, does not require the same diligence and persistence as its more elegant sister sport.

"Figure skating takes a little more skating skill, yes," said Kristin Kuzel, skating programmer at the University of Calgary, when asked which was the harder sport. Kuzel has skated for over 25 years and has tried both sports.

Hockey is even more popular than figure skating at the University

of Calgary — the Dinos receive a lot more attention, while the Figure Skating Club is constantly looking for new enrolment.

"Now that girls can go into hockey, and now that ringette is getting more popular, there are just more options," said Kuzel. The Figure Skating Club at the Olympic Oval has been available since the early '90s, and they provide lessons to beginners and more advanced skaters.

"With our sports club, I feel that [registration] is going down," said Kuzel.

While it may not be possible to keep up with Chan, Virtue and Moir, figure skating offers a good opportunity to try something new. Training in figure skating can help train hockey and ringette players, and the latter two sports will seem a lot easier in comparison.

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Bridging the gap between science and the media

Woman pays repairman with credit

U of C student has enough money to pay her repairman without sexual favours

Elizabeth Scott

AP Editor • @elizabethjscott

Earlier this week, fourth-year political science major Lorraine Finch called a local repair company to fix a leaky faucet in her Brentwood home.

"I first noticed the dripping about two weeks ago," Finch said. "It was driving me absolutely nuts. When the problem didn't fix itself I decided to call a plumber."

Finch reports that she was very thoughtful in her plumber selection process.

"I never had a problem like this before," Finch said, "so I really had no idea who to call. I looked up plumbing companies in northwest Calgary and probably spent about 10 minutes looking at reviews of each."

In the end, Finch made the decision to call Five Star Plumbing.

"There was really no question,"

Finch said. "After doing my research, I found that Five Star Plumbing was the only company with consistently good reviews. And after seeing that bargain of a price, I was sold!"

Once Finch made the phone call, she reports that the plumber was at her doorstep in less than an hour.

"I couldn't believe how quick he was!" Finch said. "I was in the middle of making a flan when I called and before I had even inverted the ramekins I heard a knock at my door. Talk about speed!"

In addition to quick service, Finch reported that the repairman was charming and knowledgeable. She admitted that while at first she was hesitant to let a stranger into her home, the repairman immediately made her feel at ease.

"I don't want to let just anyone into my home," Finch said. "But the repairman was just so friendly and trustworthy. I had no problem

letting him in, which is definitely something you want in a home repair service!"

Finch said the repairman even showed her how to fix the faucet herself, should she encounter the problem again.

"I feel so much better knowing that I am equipped to handle the problem on my own in case something similar happens in the future," Finch said. "Having that knowledge really makes me feel independent and capable."

Finch reported that within 20 minutes, the repairman had fixed the problem and was on his way.

When she went to pay the repairman, Finch was delighted to discover that not only did she have enough money to pay for the repair without having to find an alternative method, but the company also accepted major credit cards.

"So many companies these days take only cash or debit because of



Courtesy CarbonNYC

Satisfied Five Star Plumbing customer Lorraine Finch.

the fees the card companies charge them," Finch said, "so I am always very pleased when I can use my credit card and earn reward points."

Finch said that from now on she will definitely call Five Star Plumbing for all of her plumbing needs.

"After seeing the finesse and professionalism with which the plumber did his job, I have no doubt that I made the right decision," Finch said. "I would absolutely recommend the company to anyone."

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