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GAUNTLET

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In Rebuttal:

On Jan. 30, the Gauntlet ran an article titled “*The Joys of Approving Your Own Spending Request*”. The following are two letters to the editor that were received at the SU. Since the Gauntlet didn’t print these letters last week, we have decided to place them in our regular advertising space to correct the record.



The Joys Of Representing Students’ Interests

Shahir Mishriki



As an elected member of SLC and a Quality Money Committee member, I found the Gauntlet’s cover story to be misleading and uninformed.

Firstly, no Quality Money funds have been approved for the moving of the Conference and Events offices, so the claim the proposal has been or will be “rubber stamped” by the Quality Money Committee is misleading. While Quality Money conducts its

business in camera, every proposal is judged on its merits and evaluated against the three pillars and the guidelines for the fund.

The \$240,000 SLC approved to fund the project was from a separate pool of funds, the SU’s general revenues. So the conference offices will be moving and the Q Centre will be expanding regardless of the outcome Quality Money proposal. But it shouldn’t come as a surprise that the elected representatives on SLC unanimously supported a project that will help students.

Yes, MacEwan Conference and Events is expanding and requires more space, but let’s not forget about its primary role as a student service.

The majority of room bookings in the conference centre are student clubs and organizations, including The Gauntlet. When students aren’t using the space, the SU rents it out to generate thousands of dollars to pour back into student programs and services, all while keeping your SU fees low.

SLC members serving on the Quality Money Committee will continue to

determine which proposals are in the best interests of students; that’s their job as elected representatives. If the Gauntlet doesn’t like that, there’s still time for them to pick up nomination packages and run in the election.

Shahir Mishriki

Schulich School of Engineering
Faculty Representative,
Student Legislative Council

Quality Money Committee Member

A letter from representatives of the Q-Centre

**Katie LeBlanc
and Leah Schmidt**



Dear Gauntlet Editors,

An article called “The Joys of Approving Your Own Spending Request” was recently published as the cover story in your January 30th publication. As the two Q Centre (SU Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity) coordinators who were interviewed in this article, we were disturbed to see the inaccuracies that were reported.

The Gauntlet article essentially accuses the SU of approving Quality Money (QM) proposals that would benefit themselves, however the QM

committee has a long history of not approving SU-proposed projects. The proposal for the move of the MacEwan Conference & Event Centre (MCEC) offices so that the Q Centre can move and expand could not have been “rubber-stamped”, as the Gauntlet reported, because it has not even been voted on yet by the QM committee!

What the Students’ Legislative Council actually did, was vote on an “extra-budgetary motion”, which means that the renovations will be funded by existing SU money, but needed approval because it wasn’t planned for in last year’s budget. The actual QM proposal is in the lengthy approval process and the

results will not be known until March. The extra-budgetary motion was required so construction can begin now.

This Q Centre expansion is necessary to the ever-growing community that uses the space, and allows us to improve the services we provide to the student body. By focusing on the move of the MCEC offices and ignoring the Q Centre, the article provided painfully incomplete information to the students. During our interview, we told The Gauntlet reporter the details of the Q Centre’s involvement, but the interviewer chose to focus narrowly on sources of funding instead of the reasons

the expansion is necessary for our community and our campus.

We think this article was based upon false information, solely for the sake of creating controversy. We would hope that any publication, whether its reach is campus-wide or nationwide, would have the journalistic integrity to provide unbiased reporting and perform basic fact-checking before publishing any article.

Katie LeBlanc and Leah Schmidt
Co-Coordinator, Q Centre:
SU Centre for Gender and Sexual
Diversity

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

Watch the damned athletes

February 13, 2014

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Golden Spatula

Marta Ligocki



"Hi Marta"
"Sup"
"Nothing much"

This week's Golden Spatula goes out to Marta Ligocki. Ordinary here at the office, we call the Golden Spatula the "GS." But Marta is not an ordinary kind of awesome, so I will write several other acronyms out of the letters G and S that describe Marta. Graceful Spirit. Gifted Survivor. Gaelic Saint. Gothic Stem-cell. Goku Similar-person. Garfunkel and Simon. Goal Scorer. Gauntlet Supporter. Marta, you are all of these things and more. But most importantly, you are this week's "GS."

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 peppermint gumdrop-based ink. We urge you to recycle/derail 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

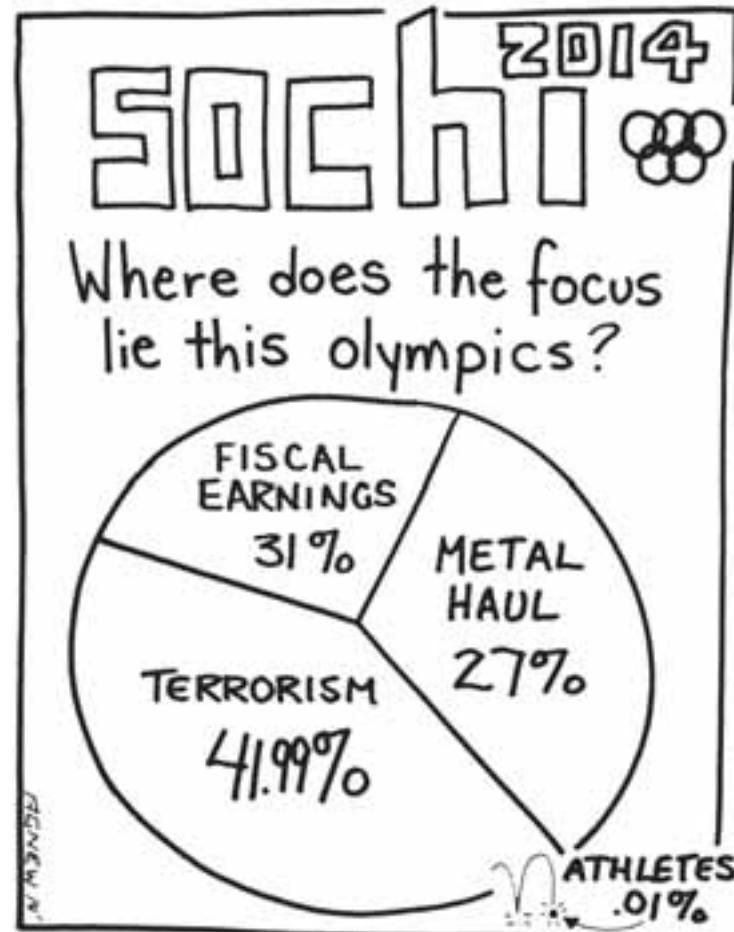
The International Olympic Charter states that "the practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practicing sport, without discrimination of any kind."

The Olympics is a time for community and competition that should be offered to everyone regardless of their nationality, race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. It is a time where athletes from around the world can come together to display their dedication to the sports they have worked so hard to be a part of. Divisive politics should not hinder this tradition.

The controversial circumstances surrounding the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games have given the media a lot to play with. Whether it's Russian President Vladimir Putin's new "anti-gay propaganda" law, the displacement and mistreatment of the residents of Sochi, the alleged corruption attached to Sochi's \$50 billion price tag or the airplane with a crazed "bomber" on board, the focus of the Olympics has been whittled at by blood-thirsty journalists and broadcasters.

What previous Olympics have taught us is that the media always goes into a frenzy, digging for the worst stories rather than showing us the positive aspects of the Games. Therefore, the focus of Sochi 2014 should be redirected to the athletes.

The individuals who are competing in the Olympics — who are representing their homes,



their countries and their people — who have worked so hard for mere moments of glory and defeat that disappear in the blink of an eye, in fractions of a second.

From the time these athletes put on their first pair of skis, skates or bindings — from the first time they tasted true competition — they have poured blood, sweat and tears into becoming the best of the best. And that is what the world needs to focus on right now.

The media's negative representation of the political actions

taken by the Russian government in the months prior to the Games have fueled debate and anger. This has clouded the true importance of the Games. And sadly, many people around the world have decided to boycott the Sochi Olympics in light of politics.

But for all of the athletes who dreamed of one day standing on an Olympic podium, ignoring them and their dreams just isn't fair, no matter where in the world those games are held. They deserve our attention and they deserve our respect.

There are 25 athletes who are students and alumni of the University of Calgary competing in the Sochi Games. The 224 athletes representing Canada, and the many others who are representing their home countries should be a beacon of inspiration and global community.

Since when has an individual's sexual orientation limited their ability to play sports? Since when has nationality, religion or cultural politics dictated their ability to compete? Never has and never will. So while the media pumps out stories of delirium-filled distraction, let's remember that the Olympics is a time where togetherness means the world.

This is not to disregard the issues surrounding these Games, many of which clearly violate human rights. These problems came before the Olympics, and they'll be there afterwards. Human rights violations existed and will exist regardless of the Beijing, Vancouver and London Olympics. What is disquieting is that the public only recognizes these on-going social issues during large-scale events like the Olympics, and ignores them once they are over.

Over the next week and a half, let's concentrate on what really matters and then attempt to make positive changes in the wake of what can be a time of global community and a shared love of sport.

Fuck the politics, let's give the athletes a chance to shine.

Michael Grondin
Gauntlet Photo Editor

campus comment

What are the biggest problems with post-secondary education?



"The costs are unpredictable and you never know which year they'll go up."

– Lexi Narowski,
second-year political science



"Transfer GPAs are really high."

– Aaron Berze,
third-year business



"Probably the rising costs."

– Refat Chowdhury,
third-year goescience



"We enter from a very general experience and are thrust into a broad, yet specific environment."

– Theresa Kenney,
third-year arts

Changes in visa program to benefit international students

Riley Hill
News Editor

Recent changes in Canada's Department of Citizenship and Immigration will allow international students to receive multi-entry visas easier than ever before.

Most international students in Canada have single-entry visas. This means that if they leave the country, they need a new visa to get back in.

Under the new system, all applicants will be automatically considered for a multi-entry visa, allowing them to enter and leave Canada as they need.

"For whatever reason, the government before was very hesitant to give out multi-entry visas," said Students' Union vice-president external Connor Brown. "For the most part, international students could only get single-entry visas."

The change was welcomed by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) — an organization that has long lobbied for this type of policy change.

"CASA has been calling on the government to provide multiple-entry visas to students and we're happy these changes are being made," CASA chair Amanda Nielson said in a press release. "Improving the clarity of visa applications will help government reach the goal of increasing Canada's international student population."

The changes will not affect students already in Canada on a single-entry visa.

International students coming to Canada still need to obtain a separate student permit.

Minister of advanced education mulls results of student survey

Student representatives share views with Dave Hancock

Chris Adams
News Assistant

Leading members of the student advocacy project Ignite Alberta discussed the findings of a recent student survey with deputy premier and minister of advanced education Dave Hancock last weekend.

The province-wide survey — titled "Ideas for Post-Secondary Education" (IPSE) — looks at students' views on post-secondary education in Alberta. Students from 23 post-secondary institutions participated through focus groups and an online questionnaire.

IPSE shows students care most about affordability and accessibility, with 92 per cent placing a "high importance" on affordability and 88 per cent saying finances should not be a barrier to post-secondary education.

"We always talk about fees and tuition. Those are important things, but other students would be like, 'I'm really worried about the cost of textbooks, the cost of rent,'" said Ignite Alberta steering committee chair and University of Alberta Students' Union president Petros Kusmu. "There are all these other things that students say pose a challenge when it comes to accessibility and affordability in post-secondary education."

The survey shows students are concerned about the difference in accessibility to education between urban and rural populations.

"A common example is the stigma that many rural and aboriginal students face when leaving their homes and their families to become 'over-educated' at a post-secondary institute," reads the report.

Twenty-three per cent of participants listed "inclusive" or "equal opportunity" to describe their vision for Alberta's post-secondary future.

Students were also concerned with transfer credits, transparency and the financial strain on schools after last year's provincial budget cuts.

Kusmu said that Hancock seemed to take the findings seriously during



Courtesy Legislative Assembly of Alberta



courtesy Elaine Yip/The Gateway

(Left) Deputy premier and minister of advanced education Dave Hancock. (Right) University of Alberta Students' Union president Petros Kusmu.

What the students said . . .

88%

Think accessibility to post-secondary education, regardless of their finances, is important

68%

Said post-secondary institutions need to manage their costs better

23%

Think post-secondary institutions should rely more than they currently do on private funding and donations

their meeting.

"I thought it went really well. [Hancock] continued to reiterate the importance for him to relearn a lot of things that are happening in the post-secondary file," Kusmu said. "He said this specifically, 'I need to unpack the 40-year-old notions I have of what it's like to be a student in Alberta.'"

Kusmu said that Ignite members pitched policy ideas to the minister to see where they had common ground.

"We have some concerns over mandatory non-instructional fees. I'm particularly frustrated that we have seen little to no action from the government in the past four years on this file," Kusmu said. "But the overall theme of our meeting this weekend was 'I'm listening and I need to

be caught up on these issues.'"

Hancock's press secretary, Craig Loewen, said Hancock attended the meeting to understand the concerns students and their representatives have with government policy.

"There are some key concerns in [IPSE] about accessibility, affordability and mandatory non-instructional fees. The concerns were the costs of the fees and the accountability of the fees," Loewen said. "We are in the midst of doing a full tuition review as well as a funding formula review for the universities. The MNIFs are going to be a part of that bigger conversation as well."

Loewen said the minister's office recognizes that students are not happy with everything, but he believes student opinion is positive overall.

"Our view here is that students are

quite happy with the system. There are certainly ongoing concerns — as there always have been — about the debt levels, accessibility, and so on," Loewen said. "I'd say there's generally a joint view that participation rates should be a bit better. Our view is that we'd like to have that participation rate up regardless of what kind of work you plan to do."

Kusmu said Ignite Alberta will not conduct a survey every year, but will look to re-engage with students once IPSE becomes out-of-date.

"I think we have a very relevant snapshot on what students are thinking about now for perhaps the next three or five years," Kusmu said. "But I think perhaps in the future, this needs to be reignited — no pun intended — to really update ourselves on what students are thinking"

Conservative club still holding strong after 10 years on campus

Riley Hill

News Editor

Now wrapping up their 10th year, the University of Calgary Campus Conservative Association (UCCCA) is inviting students to join Canada's governing party.

The UCCCA was formed in 2003 after the merger between the Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservatives. The club has since looked to educate and organize students interested in the Conservative Party of Canada.

Recently, their work included a hard-fought campaign for Conservative MP Joan Crockatt, who won last year's Calgary-Centre by-election by just over a thousand votes.

The club also hosts speeches with prominent Conservative Party members, including Calgary Centre-North MP Michelle Rempel last October.

Michael Smith, who is also the



Michael Smith

UCCCA president Michael Smith.

student representative on the U of C Board of Governors, became president of the UCCCA last May. He said a persistent club executive named Chris Philips first brought him to the club.

"I was a Liberal when I first came to campus," Smith said. "But in my first-year, I had a friend who lived on my floor in residence who was a conservative."

The two spent much of their time arguing about politics. Sensing

Smith could have a change of heart, Philips convinced him to meet some of the UCCCA's members.

"He said to me, 'just come to one Conservative club event. Just see if you like it. Meet a few people and see if you enjoy it,'" Smith said. "I went and I got hooked."

Now in his fourth year of study, Smith said he believes most students are conservative, whether they realize it or not.

"What conservatives generally believe is people should be responsible for taking care of their own lives. If you work hard and you are financially rewarded because of that, that should be yours to keep and enjoy the spoils of," Smith said.

"I think students understand that. They don't want to pay higher fees so more money can be shuffled around to do different things. They want to focus on the money they have and move forward into careers that will do them financially well."



Dawn Muenchrath

U of C jumps on the neknom train

Online drinking game worries resident services

Chris Adams

News Assistant

Neknomination videos have dominated Facebook feeds in recent weeks with the online drinking game going world-wide.

The game works like this. If "neknominated," you must perform a drinking feat on camera. After finishing your booze, you nominate two others to do the same then post the video online. Once challenged, you have 24 hours to post your own video.

The game originally involved nominees chugging a pint of beer before issuing nominations. But people began pushing the limits, drinking more

Two neknomination-related deaths have been reported in the U.K. One man drank a mixture of beer, vodka, whiskey and wine before collapsing. He died in hospital hours later.

Residence Services emailed students on Feb. 11 warning about the potential dangers of neknominations.

"Over the last while, neknominations have gained popularity. I want

to ask you: please do not nominate people to participate in this game," the email read. "We really don't want to see any students get injured or sick (we've just been lucky so far)."

Students' Union vice-president student life Ben Cannon said he does not necessarily see neknominations as a bad thing.

"Like anything, I don't believe neknominations themselves are inherently good or bad. I think it's the choices that people are making," Cannon said. "Some involve alcohol. Some involve great displays of generosity. I don't think anybody can argue that getting creative and doing some random acts of kindness is a bad thing."

Cannon's advice for students, "don't get too crazy with it."

Residence Services asked students to participate in RAK nominations instead. The pay-it-forward variation on neknomination encourages nominees to deliver food to the homeless or perform similar random acts of kindness.

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CALGARY HERALD

Fall reading week still not on the horizon

Survey to gauge interest in extended fall break

Tendayi Moyo
News Assistant

A fall reading week is still a long way off at the University of Calgary.

The idea of extending the November break to a full week has been tossed around by both Students' Union executives and candidates for several years.

"We need to find three days," said SU president Raphael Jacob. "We have reading days as it is. Three more days and we get nine days off in total — weekend to weekend."

The problem is that taking these extra days off would cut into instructional time that would need to be made up somehow.

"We need to be willing to give something up if we're going to get this fall reading week," Jacob said. "As an example, we cur-

rently have 10 days to write final exams in. Maybe it's only eight days, which means that schedules are going to be trickier."

The SU plans to ask students in their general survey this March whether they are willing to make any sacrifices in exchange for a fall reading week. Jacob said if an overwhelming majority of students do not support the idea, it will be put to rest.

He said that although making the change is still a long way off, it could be beneficial for students.

"We think there would be huge mental health benefits," Jacob said. "Especially if you're from out of town and you're here for the first time, those first few months can be stressful. While four days isn't much, nine days could justify a trip home."

The University of Alberta is in

the final stages of implementing a fall reading week set to begin in 2015.

U of A Students' Union president Petros Kusmu said they faced similar obstacles when trying to make the idea a reality.

"It has been a long four-year process," Kusmu said. "It began as a conversation surrounding mental health for students. Students needed an opportunity to get their heads above water before they are being submitted to the hectic-ness of the fall semester."

Kusmu added that he thought scheduling a fall reading week would be a good move for the U of C.

"It's really nice to see that the U of C SU is also working on this initiative," Kusmu said. "We're really glad that this is a conversation that they are having."



Gauntlet File Photo

SU president Raphael Jacob has his fingers crossed.



Michael Grondin

This boarded up urinal looks due for a repair.

Notoriously bad washrooms getting a facelift

Scott Strasser
Gauntlet News

University of Calgary students will be happy to learn that the run-down bathrooms located across the hall from the Den will be renovated later this spring.

The renovations will happen between May and August and are expected to be completed in time for next fall.

"The current bathroom is

significantly outdated," said Students' Union vice-president operations and finance Eric Termeunde. "The new bathroom will be a lot more water-efficient and sustainable."

The current conditions of these bathrooms leave a lot to be desired. The floor is stained with what one can only hope is dirt, the walls are caked with grime and there is the pervasive smell of urine.

"[The renovations] are long

overdue," Termeunde said. "It's definitely necessary for sanitary reasons and for sustainability reasons. It's something students can appreciate moving forward."

Third-year business student Connor Lotnick agrees.

"I think it's about time they renovated that bathroom," Lotnick said. "That place has been an eyesore since I've been at the U of C. It needs a makeover."

The renovations will cost an estimated \$120,000.

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Courtesy of Dinos

At Pack the Jack? Read this. . .

Some of the executives at the Resident Students' Association want to pull a little stunt for the game. Here's how you can participate.

1. When the roster for the University of Lethbridge is read out just after 8 p.m. hold a copy of the *Gauntlet* in front of your face.
2. Stay completely silent.
3. When the announcement is over, throw your copy of the paper in the air and get rowdy.

Feds give universities \$1.5 billion for research

The federal government announced on Feb. 11 that they have set aside \$1.5 billion in new funding for university research.

The money will be held in the Canada First Research Excellence Fund and will be distributed over the next 10 years. Money will start flowing next year with \$50 million up for grabs across Canada.

The money will be used to hire new researchers, fund partnerships between universities and encourage the commercialization of completed work.

University of Calgary president Elizabeth Cannon welcomed the announcement, saying it will aid the U of C's development strategy.

"I want to acknowledge and thank the federal government for making a significant financial investment in university research that aligns perfectly with our Eyes High strategy," Cannon said. "We're appreciative of this continued investment in research excellence even during difficult fiscal times."

Riley Hill

Retraction from the January 30 issue

After reviewing our story, "The joys of approving your own spending requests," we realized that we made a mistake and misinterpretation of the Students' Union's and the Quality Money committee's procedures. We have taken the story off our website. If you'd like further clarification, please come and talk to me or email eic@thegauntlet.ca. We apologize to our readers, the SU and the Q-Centre for this error. We got it wrong.

—Susan Anderson, Editor-in-Chief

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PUTTING THE PRO IN PROCRASTINATION

Tobias Ma
Opinions Editor
@mobias



Procrastination has ruined many lives. If tubular rock and roll band Guns and Roses hadn't taken 14 years to come up with their sixth studio album *Chinese Democracy*, maybe it wouldn't have been such an overproduced mess.

Maybe if Great Britain and France had spent less time being cowards at Munich, Hitler would have retired early to a remote Austrian log cabin, his vegetarianism reducing him to a diet of inflated German paper money and Eva Braun's urine.

Many more examples of the dangers of procrastination can be found on the historical battlefield. J. Robert Oppenheimer, designer of the atomic bomb, procrastinated on becoming "death, destroyer of worlds" and as a result we missed out on a few years of Godzilla remakes. This is why I suggest that we declare a collective war on procrastination. Start whatever you need to do as soon as you finish reading this article. Or take your time, get another coffee and check out the comics page.

Procrastination affects many students. For the sake of appearances, here are some meaningless statistics about procrastination to make you feel better about not being alone. According to the world of psychology, about 80 to 95 per cent of post-secondary students procrastinate, but psychology was invented to excuse irresponsible people by liberal communists.

The point is, almost everyone procrastinates, but almost everyone in university is also stressed out. Procrastination has a lot to do with this.

If you allow yourself to endure a constant game of catch up, the pressure will crack your mind, which, like a defunct car battery, will leak acid into the rest of you. Stress strangles the life out of young bodies. You won't sleep as well. You will get sick more often. Your skin will break out. If you are a guy, your erections won't last as long and girls will look at you with an expression of compounded pity and disappointment. This data was all collected from statistical sources, mind you. I try not to base my arguments on personal experience.

My personal experience with procrastination has been that of mingled perfectionism and hyperactivity. The reasons why people procrastinate are as complex as the ecological webs of deep-sea marine life, but attributing procrastination to laziness is an oversimplification. Procrastinators are often high achievers — my own department head confessed to struggling with tendencies to put off work she finds boring. A lot of people procrastinate because they have convinced themselves that failure is unforgivable. The weight of our self-expectations causes us to back off and pretend that if we do not make an effort, we can never say we weren't talented enough. For others like me, monotonous tasks are painful. Disorders like attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder often go undiagnosed, causing misery so intense that when its victims are forced to sit still and study they would rather clean their toilets. Or eat half a kilogram of salted nuts without any water in the Taylor Family Digital Library at 2 a.m.

Distant but menacing, the possibility of habitual procrastination in future life always lies at the back of our minds. And just like everything else we put off, the fight to break the habit of procrastination itself haunts

us with past failures and the feeling that we are never making progress, the feeling that there is no god-damned point because there are no jobs and we're just going to end up doing data entry / rig work / housewifery / baristaship anyway.

But there is always hope. Like any habit, procrastination can be wired out of us. This is a task that is particularly manageable for those of us in our early or mid twenties, when our prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain that controls personality, undergoes its final stages of development. The best strategies are to start small, as anyone who has success-

fully quit smoking knows. Do not try to drop your habits cold turkey, or restrict your own access to what you employ as diversions. Give yourself rewards, but monitor them. If you work for an hour, give yourself a 15-minute break. Fifteen minutes is enough to watch the "Wrecking Ball" music video three times in a row. Or masturbate. Maybe even masturbate to the "Wrecking Ball" music video, three times in a row. Take short, frequent breaks to pace your ability to concentrate. Everyone works differently, but setting goals for yourself such as a portion of an assignment or a word count will help you break

down your work into manageable chunks and also ensure that you don't feel overwhelmed by what seems like an unsinkable, looming assignment. Most importantly, learn to forgive yourself. Like any self-improvement effort, people slip up and fall back into their old ways every now and again. Do not mistake this for total failure. Get up, wave your torch around to scare away the bats, do push-ups and become Batman. Batman doesn't procrastinate.

That's all I have, folks. I wrote this article in order to avoid my Spanish homework. Lo siento, future Toby, lo siento.

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Just another day?

Valentine's Day pressures can leave couples and singles alike confused

Connor Sadler
Gauntlet Opinions



That time of year again. Men and women everywhere scramble for the perfect gift for that special someone, chocolates and flowers fly off the shelves. There are probably lonely single people cursing their luck. Valentine's Day. No matter where you go, people everywhere react to the holiday in one of two very predictable ways. If you talk to anyone happy with their relationship status they often find the holiday enjoyable, a reason to go out and do something special with their significant other and show affection.

However, if you talk to many others they find Valentine's Day unnecessary and often criticize

couples for celebrating it. This split reaction to the holiday is quite ridiculous.

The Valentine's Day culture of buying loved ones flowers and chocolate has been reinforced in us since childhood. But we have also been taught to find the holiday lame or pointless if we're single. And this pattern repeats year after year.

People in relationships feel pressured to surprise their partners, and those who are single are compelled to object. But we should see past these expectations. All this negativity and stress is just stirred up every year by media and candy companies looking to drive profits, so why should anyone care? These forced expectations of affection and love aren't good for anyone, they only create disdain for the holiday.

As much as Valentine's Day can

prove stressful to relationships, it serves as a good milestone, similar to bringing your paramour to meet your family or spending Christmas or Thanksgiving together. Being happy together on Valentine's Day can affirm your relationship, as a part of a romantic world that celebrates the bond you share with someone else. This ritual landmark date is important social glue and helps relationships thrive.

Part of what drives the Valentine's Day frenzy is the collective expectation that we should all be in a happy monogamous relationship, seemingly because everyone else is in one. The reality is that not everyone wants to be in a relationship and not everyone is ready for one, yet this expectation persists in a harmful way.

A counter Valentine's Day culture has emerged, bent on denouncing the holiday. Those against Valentine's Day claim the holiday is about consumerist spending. They are correct to some degree, but that doesn't mean that Valentine's Day should be treated

exclusively as an evil corporate construct.

Feb. 14 should be a day about love and appreciation, to show people that you care, not necessarily through gifts and dinners, but maybe through some quality time together or simply telling someone how you feel, whether they be a significant other, friend or family member.

Your expectations about Valentine's Day will probably define the experience. The important thing

is don't overthink it and let expectations ruin your day. If you have someone to spend it with, go have fun, be romantic and whatever. If you're single don't spoil anyone else's fun — I hear that *House of Cards* season two premieres on Feb. 14 on Netflix. Whether you want to gather with friends, watch television by yourself or spend time alone with your partner, let's just enjoy the day and not worry about what the world thinks we're supposed to be doing.



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Principia seductio

Remi Watts

Just let him be him



If you're out to spot a feminist or radical leftist the watchword is consent. The word traces the outlines of today's sexual and political discussion to the point that no discourse is complete without it.

Consent as a sexual and political category — as a tool of personal and social interaction and decision making — is the product of laborious and courageous efforts from feminists and radicals (and let's be serious, mostly through the efforts of female comrades). Its effectiveness in reducing harm to the disenfranchised and shaping sexual discourse cannot be denied. But consent has reached an

impasse. Consent cannot be our only tool for establishing sexual dignity and autonomy.

Consent is a mainstay of the privileged: access to requisite knowledge and the will required for consensual decision making is fundamentally in the hands of a select slice of society. While consent has enabled many disenfranchised individuals to have dignity and autonomy in their lives, full access to the empowerment of consent comes with the trump card of privilege.

As the TerrorInc collective put it, consent has become a “tool for defending consensus reality.” Many feminists and radicals want to tell us that the language of consent hasn't made its way into the larger social discussion. But the problem is actually the complete inverse: the language of consent has been incor-

porated into larger discussions, and has thus been compromised by its ensuing compartmentalization — stripped of its liberatory core. Consent has been integrated in such a way that we will never be able to 'consent' our way out of sexist, racist and classist domination. The gentrification of consent should suggest to us that, instead of connecting us to a radical emancipatory kernel, ends up replicating oppressive conditions through our complicity.

We must reintroduce and reorganize a notion of seduction into our sexual discourse. Seduction as a sexual and mechanism still retains a radical emancipatory core.

Admittedly, the concept carries baggage. One's mind immediately jumps to ideas of deception and manipulation when a word like seduction comes to the table. After



all seduction was, as Jean Baudrillard reminds us, the “strategy of the devil, whether in the guise of witchcraft or love,” as well as the primary preoccupation of pre-industrial aristocracy. But this fear of seduction is profoundly misplaced. Yet if anything, the unsavory, risque heritage of traditional seduction would give it an edge should it re-enter social discourse, unlike our softer friend consent.

Seduction cannot be divorced from desire. The two are inextricably entwined. Desire is the slippery, irreducible element that introduces the ecstatic “yes!” into our sexual and political decisions. Of course consent and desire can go hand-in-hand. But the two are not serious bedfellows. Consent can be mundane. Consent can be tedious. If our goal is to create a society composed of autonomous people who live with dignity and make the most of their various capabilities, then that enthusiastic “yes!” is absolutely necessary for our discourse. It then follows that if desire is a necessary component in a better world, then the most effective route is to make the most of desire's coupling with seduction. Thus our task is, as mentioned above, to reintroduce and reorganize seduction.

Our reappropriated notion of seduction contains many of the structural features that any traditional notion of seduction contained. An act of seduction is still a risk — a one-off shot at convincing another person of the value of your proposed sexual and political sphere of desire. An act of seduction may still fail — rejected at the outset as undesirable with a stalwart “No.” But what's crucial to our reappropriation of seduction is that it bypasses the realm of the conventional forms of decision making. Additionally, our reappropriation refuses to see seducers as manipulators and those who are seduced as victims of manipulation. Instead, our robust notion of seduction sees seducers as people who are seeking to share a particular desire that is inaccessible given present boundaries. Our notion of seduc-

tion sees those who are seduced as people who have chosen to connect to a new and rewarding sphere of desire that had previously been beyond their boundaries of possibility.

Seduction gives us access to a realm of decision making that consent cannot. One may be seduced into a particular sexual or political decision which they may have never consented to at the outset, and discover a sphere of desire previously denied to them. In one's day-to-day life chances are that one may not feel the impulse to engage in a strange or new sexual activity or political experiment. But, critically, they can be seduced into it. If the right partner comes along in the right context, one may be seduced into trying sexual bondage, whereas your rational mind would never consent to it. And the same applies politically. Since consent limits our political discussion, we are unable to consent our way beyond the politics of domination. We must be seduced beyond.

Our friends in the TerrorInc collective give us the most parsimonious account of how seduction can work in the service of liberatory discourse:

“How does seduction work? We hypothesize that seduction unfolds via three processes: transformation, invitation, and contagion. We transform circumstances, creating space for new possibilities and thus new desires to flourish; we invite others to participate in these new situations, to experiment with different modes of action and desire; and we infect others with curiosity, an insatiable desire for freedom, and the means to experiment towards it.”

We must come to see seduction as way to consent ourselves into new spheres of experiences that have previously been off-limits but are, deep down, desirable. We must come to see seduction as a mechanism that enables our deepest dreams and passions to become livable experiments in radical sexual and political emancipation. And don't forget, if a seduction presents you with a set of desires that are truly beyond your limits, just say no!



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Josh O'Brien

Classic thrillers bring out record crowd

6,016 rock the Saddledome as Dinos women win, men lose to Mount Royal

Justin Seward

Gauntlet Sports • @Seaweed_tweets

The second installment of the Crowchild Classic at the Scotiabank Saddledome between the University of Calgary Dinos and Mount Royal Cougars women's hockey teams proved to be an exciting one. The Dinos took the game 4-1, securing a playoff spot in the process.

Fourth-year forward Janelle Parent was thrilled to be playing in the Saddledome in front of a large crowd — not a common occurrence for the team.

"Playing in front of this big crowd, it's kind of nice," said Parent, who finished the game with one goal and three assists. "We never get this many people out at the regular games. It's loud. It's energetic. You always have a little more energy going out on the ice. It definitely helps you out throughout the whole game."

Preparation for the big showcase game was not any different for Parent. "You got to prepare for every game the exact same. It doesn't matter who is watching," said Parent.

Both teams came out sluggish in the first period, generating few scoring chances. The goalies were the ones who had the most action in the opening frame, as Dinos goaltender Amanda Tapp made several key saves, stopping eight shots. The Dinos could only muster three shots on Cougars puck-stopper Jess Ross.

The second period was a different story as both teams started to open the game up and create chances. The Dinos capitalized early on as first-year Hungarian defender Kitti Trencsenyi took advantage of a turnover at the blueline and scored the first goal for the Dinos. Tapp continued to come up big, making key stops early on as Mount Royal continued to get shots on the net. Six minutes into the frame, the Cougars got one on the Dinos, as the game's third star Kacy Smith fired from the blueline to tie the game at one. The shots were 15-9 Dinos after the second period.

In the third period the Dinos had a textbook start, getting a fantastic individual effort from forward Parent as she gave the Dinos

their first lead of the game just 36 seconds in. Just five minutes later the Dinos capitalized again — Stephanie Zvonkovic wired the puck past Ross to make the score 3-1 Dinos. Forward Jenna Smith capped the scoring with an empty net goal.

For the Dinos, the Crowchild Classic was meaningful in terms of playoff implications, as the win solidified their post-season berth.

"We had a little bit of a slow start but in order to get the win we knew we needed to step up and really lay it all out on the line, and that's what we did tonight," said Parent. "It was good to get those two points."

The victory meant a lot to a young team who has battled in the trenches for most of the season and with their exceptional effort in the third period, it showed.

"We have a younger team this year, so the older players and the players that have played in the league this year have to take that responsibility," said Parent. "They have to set the tone out there and the first-year players and everyone else will follow. Everyone will lead in their own way."

Fabian Mayer

Sports Assistant • @FGMay

The Crowchild Classic lived up to its name as a record-setting crowd of 6,016 was on hand to take in a dramatic game between the University of Calgary Dinos and the Mount Royal University Cougars men's hockey teams.

"It was awesome," said first-year forward Chris Collins, who scored two third-period comeback goals in the 4-3 overtime loss. "The fans erupted and there was a lot of good vibes. It's just too bad we couldn't get the results."

Collins lead the Dinos on a rally from a 3-1 with only five minutes remaining in the third period, but the game ultimately ended in disappointment for the second-place Dinos, who have now lost three straight.

"It wasn't very good in all aspects. We didn't really deserve a point," said fourth-year forward Walter Wintoneak. "The last two minutes were the only time we actually played hard. They outplayed us most of the game and we paid for it in the end."

An entertaining first period ended with a flurry of goals. Cougars forward Matthew Brown opened the scoring when Devin Gannon found him unchecked in front of the net. The Dinos answered right back just 90 seconds later, with Wintoneak snapping a wrist shot past Cougars goalie Dalyn Flette to finish off a nifty passing play.

Dinos fans did not have long to celebrate however, as the Cougars scored two goals in a 40 second span just a minute after the Dinos equalized. A miscue by goaltender Kris Lazaruk behind the Dino goal led to the second goal. The third came on a Cougars power play after a redirected pass wound up on the stick of Cody Cartier with Lazaruk caught moving the other way.

Lazaruk will likely want to forget his Crowchild Classic experience. After he got caught out of position on the first Cougars goal and giving away the puck behind the net on the second, Jacob DeSerres — with whom Lazaruk has been splitting time with this year — started the second period.

To read the rest of Mayer's article, visit thegauntlet.ca

Q&A: Sailor Derek Hatfield

Katarina Atherholt
Gauntlet Sports

At 61, sailboat racing skipper Derek Hatfield has more than his fair share of stories — from being demasted while rounding South America in 12 metre seas, to losing both mast spreaders after having his boat flip over during another race. He has endured intense physical and mental challenges, all to be able to claim the titles of two-time circumnavigator and the first Canadian ever to represent this country in the Vendee Globe. The *Gauntlet* sat down with Hatfield at the Calgary Boat & Sportsmen's Show to shed some light on where he came from, where he's headed and what makes the life of a solo racer so intense, exciting and unpredictable.

The Gauntlet: How did you begin sailing and turn it into a career?

Derek Hatfield: I didn't start sailing until I was 24. A neighbour took me sailing for the first time on Lake Ontario. I was always very competitive so I started racing out of the local yacht club, then discovered single-handed

sailing through magazines, and I was really attracted to that. So I built my first boat, a Northern 25, and started racing that and doing things, but never biting off more than I could chew. If you bite off too much and you defeat yourself, you might quit or get knocked out of a race early on then chances are you won't come back to it.

G: Was it difficult to find support in Canada since competitive sailing is much more popular in Europe?

DH: Yes, sailing is perceived to be elitist in North America, and it probably is to a certain degree because yacht clubs and people keep it that way. In Europe there's a professional circuit for sailors and they're not rich — they're paid by sponsors. All the single-hand racers come through that professional circuit whereas in North America you have to work on that yourself.

G: What do you find is the most difficult part of sailing solo?

DH: The psychological part is most difficult because of the mental toughness required. When you're really tired and things break and you're depressed — those are

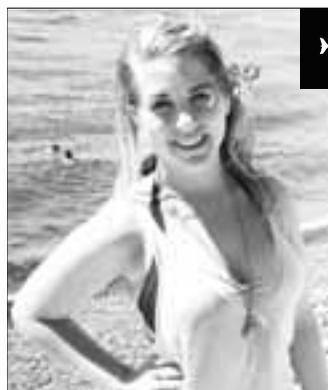
the most difficult times to get over and literally you cry yourself to sleep some nights in the bottom of the boat because you're just so tired and you just want to stop. Luckily you can't just stop and tie the boat up, or else you probably would. Then you have a catnap, and it's impossible to wake up from a catnap and be depressed. Your body just rejuvenates itself.

G: How is it that you've made a living from teaching people to sail offshore?

DH: It's all about the experience because if you're planning to go offshore yourself, or someone is planning to do that, they really need to experience the conditions many times before they start off on their own. I know people who don't have that experience and get on the boat and leave. They're always defeated because they don't realize what's going to happen. It is tough, no matter what you're doing, no matter whenever you go offshore. The lack of sleep, the tiredness and everything, it is debilitating. If you have no clue what's going to happen it will defeat you almost one hundred per cent of the time.

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DINOS

ROOKIES OF THE MONTH



JESSYKA HOLT
Dinos Hockey

In her first season as a Dino, Jessyka Holt has recorded 11 points on three goals and eight assists. In January, the Balshaw native picked up two assists in Calgary's win over Lethbridge and added a goal and an assist the Dinos win the following weekend in Winnipeg against the Manitoba Bisons.



TRISTAN COTE
Dinos Swimming

Freshman Tristan Cote had a great showing in his first Canada West Championships meet as a Dino. On Day 1, the Mississauga, Ont. native won a bronze in the 1500m free and the following day, the Arts student picked up a silver in the 400 IM. On the final day of competition, Cote doubled his winnings, earning a silver in the 400m free and a bronze in the 200 IM.

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Josh O'Brien

Crowchild Classic ignites rivalries, school spirit

Ashton Chugh

Features Assistant • @AshTag00

During an evening for the record books, 6,016 raucous fans attended the Crowchild Classic at the Scotiabank Saddledome. The night was full of school spirit and sporting debauchery, as students from both the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University had an experience like none other.

"I fucking love it," said second-year U of C communications major Jordie Ogilvie. "It has been

great. The school spirit is awesome. People have pride in the Dinos. Everyone loves them and wants to be there to cheer for them."

"It was much more substantial than last year," added third-year U of C environmental sciences major Michila Sugar. "It was really lacking on the MRU side last year because they were not as established."

In a show of school solidarity, Dinos and Cougars fans were segregated in the stands. Manager of operations for the Dinos men's basketball team Dean McCord offered his opinion as to why this was.

"It's kind of like the Flames and Oilers rivalry," said McCord. "We have got that same feeling towards MRU. Having the Dinos fans on one side and the Cougars fans on the other creates the blue and red zones, and we see who can be the loudest. Our side looks better because it's red, and we just look scarier with our Dinos."

For many fans, the prospect of consuming the Saddledome's supposedly high-alcohol-content 'heroin beers' sweetened the deal.

"Can't really go wrong, you know — the Saddledome, a couple beers

and friends," said fourth-year MRU journalism major Erica Pollack.

During the second-period intermission, a contest was held at centre ice that had students from both MRU and the U of C team together to compete to win one year of free tuition. Mario Jean, a third-year bachelor of sciences student from MRU, was ecstatic about his free money.

"I pay for school myself, so this to me is honestly the most amazing thing because I feel like I have worked so hard, and my hard work is finally paying off," said Jean. "I am thrilled to my soul."

On the Calgary side, first-year arts major Tristan Cote was already in the process of making plans with his new cash.

"Feels great. It can never hurt, so I'm pretty happy," said Cote. "I'm on the swim team. Two weeks from now we have Canadian Inter-

university Sport championships, and a couple years down the road we have Olympics."

Due to the nature of the hockey game itself, the prospect of fighting often remains in the back of the fans' minds. Many of the fans had differing perspectives as to whether there would be a fight amongst the fans themselves.

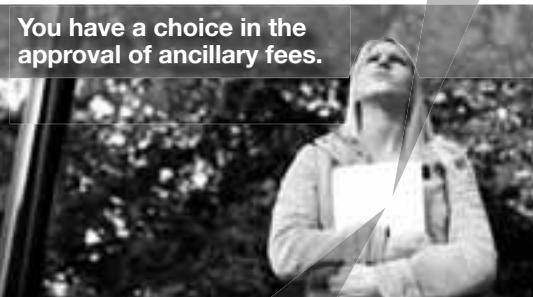
"The Cougars would be the instigators and the victors," said first-year MRU health sciences major Joel Peltonen. "It is because we are in the south end of the city. We do not mess around. We fight for fun and for sport."

Proceeds from the 50/50 lottery draw went to the kinesiology departments at the two universities. However, MRU student Pollack was not pleased about this.

"As if the U of C needs more money," said Pollack.

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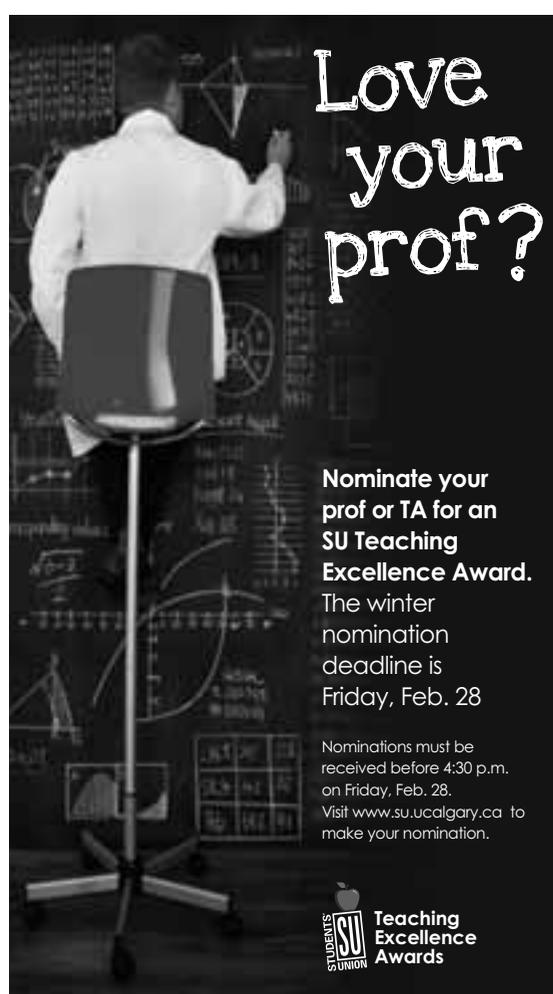
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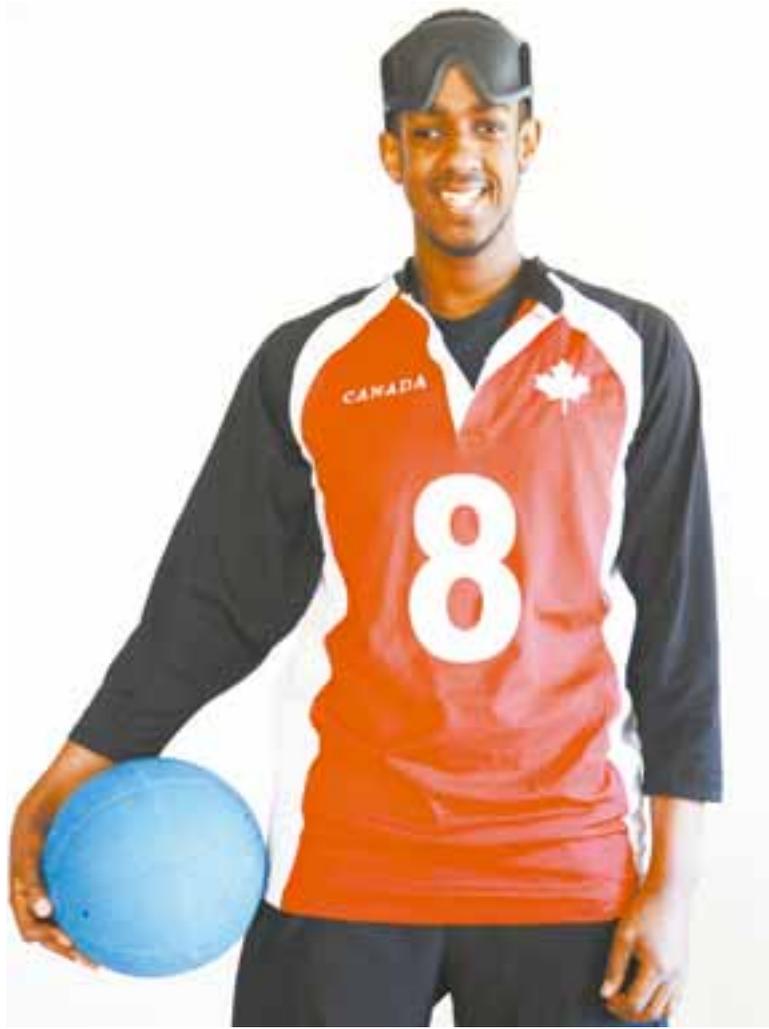
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Blind athletes chase Paralympic dreams



Aron Ghebreyohannes plays goalball for Canada.

Michael Grondin

Fabian Mayer

Sports Assistant • @FGMay

Imagine a 1.3 kilogram ball coming at you with a speed of over 50 kilometres per hour. You must defend a nine-metre wide net and can block the ball with any part of your body. And one more thing — you can't see anything. Welcome to the sport of goalball.

Going down stairs without the benefit of sight is challenging enough for most of us. Playing any sort of sport is almost unthinkable. Goalball is a sport specifically designed for people who are blind and visually impaired. It is a Paralympic event and one of the most popular sports for the blind around the world.

Goalball is played on a court with dimensions similar to a volleyball court. There are two teams of three players on the court at one time. Gameplay consists of teams rolling a ball, roughly the size of a basketball, from their third of the court and attempting to score on the other team's net.

The ball has bells on the inside, so the players rely on their hearing and positioning in order to make saves.

While watching a local team's practice in southwest Calgary, it was impressive to see the fast-paced nature of the game.

Players rolled the ball with speed and accuracy, picking corners with ease. Even more impressive was the fearlessness the players showed as they threw their bodies in front of the ball having little idea of where it would hit them.

Aron Ghebreyohannes plays with the Alberta team and is also on the national team. Ghebreyohannes's interest in the game was piqued in 2006 at a camp that aimed to get youth involved in the sport — he has been playing ever since.

Ghebreyohannes talked about the many benefits he has gotten out of the sport since he first picked up a ball. While things like improved fitness and enjoyment may be obvious, other benefits were unexpected.

"Personally, the sport has brought out characteristics in myself that I probably never would have been able to express without sport. It helped my confidence as well as my fitness level," said Ghebreyohannes.

The possibility of being a Para-

lympian lies just two years away for Ghebreyohannes — he is aiming for the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. His Alberta teammate, Blair Nesbitt is a bit further removed from making the Paralympic Games, yet he remains determined. Nesbitt identifies the goal of making it to the Games as a driving factor behind his training.

"I have dreams of being in the Paralympics. That would be pretty cool," said Nesbitt. "To be on the world stage where people can actually see your sport would be incredible."

Like any other competitive sport, the participants are tuned, high-performance athletes, something that Ghebreyohannes confirmed when he spoke of his training.

"We practice on court on the weekends and then we have fitness training, strength training and cardio throughout the week at the Oval," said Ghebreyohannes.

Goalball was invented in 1946 to help in the rehabilitation of veterans of the Second World War. Since then it has grown into a sport that is played in over 100 countries around the globe.

Sportspinion: every sport deserves respect

David Song
Gauntlet Sports



As far as sports are concerned, I am a hockey fan first and foremost. I maintain an abusive relationship with the Calgary Flames despite their perennial failure to make the playoffs. NHL 14 is one of my favourite video games. While I am not a naturally gifted athlete by any means, I am learning to skate so I can one day play hockey on ice. I love hockey, for a variety of reasons, but that doesn't mean I view hockey as the world's master sport, superior to every other form of athletic activity. Others, however, don't seem to respect all sports for what they are.

In the Feb. 6 issue of the *Gauntlet*, there was an article published called "If figure skating were easy, it would be called hockey."

This comically inflammatory title compelled me to verify that it did not, in fact, belong in the Academic

Probation section. However, the article in question was indeed a serious opinion piece. It is also a symptom of a less-than-respectful trend — the tendency of people who enjoy one sport to make fun of others.

As I mentioned, I am a passionate hockey fan. However, I think figure skating is extremely impressive as well. It's astounding to see men and women alike perform athletic jumps, axels and turns, manoeuvring not upon their feet, but upon a pair of knife edges. Figure skaters may look dainty and delicate, but that's because of how well they control their bodies.

The author of the article in question claimed that hockey "does not require the same diligence and persistence" as figure skating. I wonder if she has ever watched an actual professional hockey game. Does she believe it is easy to take body checks from men weighing over 200 pounds traveling at high speeds? Does reading the play and making a split-second decision to score or prevent a goal not require diligence? Doesn't having to skate



with not only grace, but speed and power, demand persistent practice? For that matter, how easy it is to flex a proper hockey stick, let alone shoot like a pro?

Defending hockey is natural for someone such as myself, but ultimately, personal appreciation is not a factor here. For example, it is not right for hockey fans to

make fun of soccer or basketball, just because those sports do not involve contact. So what? Soccer players require a tremendous amount of stamina and precision, and basketball players a high level of technical skill because they cannot simply hit people. Acquiring the kind of specialized skill set needed to effectively play any

sport, be it ice hockey, figure skating, rugby or golf, takes enormous dedication and more than a little bit of natural aptitude.

There is strength and talent in every single form of athletic activity. In the spirit of this Olympic season, remember: to belittle one sport in favour of another is never justified.

U of C grad's amazing designs

Designer for SCPA production has traveled the world to reach her dream

Sean Sullivan

Entertainment Editor • @WriterSeanS

Members of the School of Creative and Performing Arts are calling Jennifer Arsenault's designs amazing.

"We were lucky to get her," says Dawn McCaugherty, director of the upcoming production of William Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*. "She could have gone to any number of schools to do her degree."

Arsenault is a grad student at the University of Calgary who is doing her thesis project on the stage designs of *Measure for Measure*. She has been working with McCaugherty and the set and costume design teams in the School of Creative and Performing Arts to produce a futuristic noir-style design for the play.

The tables in her office in Craigie Hall are littered with drawings. There is a small model of the *Measure for Measure* stage design, which resembles the carbon-freezing chamber in *Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back*. It's a design that Arsenault has been working on for months and, along with the costumes, has been inspired by everything from *Blade Runner*, *Kill Bill* and the fashion of *Vogue Magazine* and haute couture.

"I found it easier to have the set figured out before the costumes," Arsenault says. "It is easier to create the world they live in and then see how they look in that world. It's just the way my mind works."

She began working on her designs last April, brainstorming with McCaugherty and planning the 33 different costumes for the production.

When asked about working with Arsenault, McCaugherty pointed out that she's an incredibly hard working and thorough researcher.

"[She] goes that extra mile in terms of everything that she does," McCaugherty says. "She's this wonderful combination of challenging to work with, because she sets the bar so high, and also really easy to work with, because she is a person who is open to all kinds of ideas."

Arsenault attributes the time spent on the designs simply to the demands of her thesis project.

For the production, Arsenault researched the original productions of *Measure for Measure* to try and break down how the characters interacted because of the



Louie Villanueva

Jennifer Arsenault next to two of the costumes she designed for the SCPA's production of *Measure for Measure*.

rigid class structures involved at the time. The position of different classes has a significant role in the production's designs with different characters wearing distinct costume designs, colours and fabrics to distinguish them at a glance from characters of a lower social rank, but all are adapted for a futuristic concept of the story.

Arsenault loves what she does. But there was a time when she never thought that she would dedicate herself to design.

Arsenault grew up in the Magdalen Islands, between Gaspé Peninsula and Prince Edward Island. She began drawing at an early age.

"I just remember that I really liked it," Arsenault says. "When we were in school and it was art class, I was the happiest girl ever."

But because of where she grew up, she says there weren't any art teachers around after her second year of high school. She says she forgot that she liked drawing and ended up moving to Montreal to pursue pure science in CEGEP — the post-secondary institutions in

Quebec in between high school and university. She was 16 at the time and living on her own while attending school and studying science. She says it was just too much. Recalling her love of drawing she visited the college's art department and enrolled the next fall.

"I had this weird moment where I totally forgot about art and how much I liked it," Arsenault says. "And as soon as that came back I never stopped."

In between studying visual arts and participating in the drama club, Arsenault talked with the set and costume designer. She wasn't sure what to study in university.

"She was explaining to me what she was doing and I was like, that's the perfect mix between visual arts and theatre," Arsenault says.

She loved the idea of watching her sketches come alive on stage and decided to audition for theatre schools in Montreal.

After graduating from the University of Quebec with a degree in drama and stage design, Arsenault decided to travel. She says she want-

ed to work in as many places as she could and learn as many different ways of working as she could.

After graduating with her undergrad in 2010, she came to Alberta to study costume design at the Banff Centre where she worked as an assistant costume designer with Jorge Sandoval. She followed that up with a three-month internship in Belgium working for a theatre company that worked with puppets. She ended up designing sets for a collection of 600 puppets.

"It was a lot of fun researching all those puppets because they were from all over the world," Arsenault says. "We had some African ones, some water puppets from Vietnam that I didn't even know existed, but they are so cool."

She travelled to Southeast Asia to look for more of the puppets, then returned to work in Belgium for two months and then came back to Montreal designing costumes for giant Christmas decorations for malls.

"I had to stitch together huge coats for eight-foot tall polar bears," she says.

Finally she met University of Calgary professor April Viczko at the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space who recruited her to do her master's at the U of C.

She has no doubts about what she wants to do with her life, but she does admit she's concerned about the possibility of working after her master's.

"I've had all these experiences, but I was also stuck on unemployment insurance for a while in Montreal because I couldn't find anything," Arsenault says. "It's not a field where we have that job security."

"I know as soon as I graduate that panic is going to come back," she says.

But McCaugherty disagrees. "She's a real talent," McCaugherty says, "and I think she is someone that we're going to see a lot of in the theatre community in the future."

The School of Creative and Performing Arts production of *Measure for Measure* is playing Feb. 18 to March 1 in the University Theatre.

A case for the Junos

Marta Ligocki

Gauntlet Entertainment • @pixelsbymarta

The 2014 Juno nominations were revealed on Feb. 4, highlighting some of the biggest names in Canadian music over the past year. The awards are often a source of eye rolling as the typical names like Celine Dion and Michael Bublé adorn the Album and Single of the Year categories. But dig a bit beneath the surface and you can uncover some amazing musical talent that our country has to offer.

Here's a rundown of some artists that truly deserve top accolades for the work they put out in 2013.

A Tribe Called Red
Nation II Nation

Nominated for Breakthrough Group of the Year and Electronic Album of the Year

The group consisting of Ian "DJ NDN" Campeau, Dan "DJ Shub" General and Bear Witness have solidified their mark in the electronic scene with their distinctive electric pow-wow style. Blending traditional First Nations songs with driving beats, *Nation II Nation* challenges the expectations of electronic music while putting First Nations songs in the mainstream. A Tribe Called Red deserves to be seen live — you can catch them at Hi-Fi on Feb. 20.

Basia Bulat
Tall Tall Shadow

Nominated for Adult Alternative Album of the Year

The third album from Basia Bulat showed maturity in both her songwriting and composition. Moving away from the sparse folk melodies of *Heart Of My Own*, Bulat traded her autoharp for layered, orchestral arrangements within her band. Her cross-country tour saw sold-out performances from coast-to-coast and she is now taking her album across Europe.

The Strumbellas
We Still Move On Dance Floors
Nominated for Roots and Traditional Album of the Year: Group

After their 2012 nomination in the same category, this Toronto-based seven-piece group has perfected their upbeat, toe-tapping tunes. From start to finish, they manage to create their

own special blend of bluegrass twang-inspired indie rock. From start to finish the Strumbellas will keep those toes tapping.

Yamantaka//Sonic Titan
Uzu
Nominated for Alternative Album of the Year

A welcome surprise, *Uzu* is an ethereal addition to the Juno nominations. Layered guitar over Ruby Kato Attwood's haunting vocals, *Uzu* is a strong second album from this Montreal band.

Yamantaka//Sonic Titan manages to balance between experimental rhythms while keeping their foot firmly planted in solid rock and roll riffs.

Royal Canoe
Today We're Believers
Nominated for Alternative Album of the Year

Of all the bands on this list, Royal Canoe fits neatly into the ideal of Canadian indie rock. Playful guitar instrumentation sits beside catchy lyrics for the first half of the album, slipping into darker bass-driven tracks. You can see them at the Republik on March 7.

Although the Junos showcase the usual suspects in Canadian music, other deserving acts have made an appearance on this year's nomination list. You can watch all the musical drama unfold on March 30.

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ALBUM REVIEWS

Alejandra Ribera

La Boca

February 4, 2014 (Phermone Recordings)

Canadian singer Alejandra Ribera is a remarkable musician. From her first song she begins a journey that spans 12 tracks — seven in English, four in Spanish and a single French-English duet. Much like Ribera herself, “La Boca” crosses continents and languages effortlessly. She brought a little piece of Argentina back with her in the title track, “La Boca,” which puts English and Spanish side by side. She creates an infectious chorus in her track “I Want” and ties the album together with quiet heartbreak in “Un Cygne La Nuit” alongside Arthur H. in a

song which beckons one to come home.

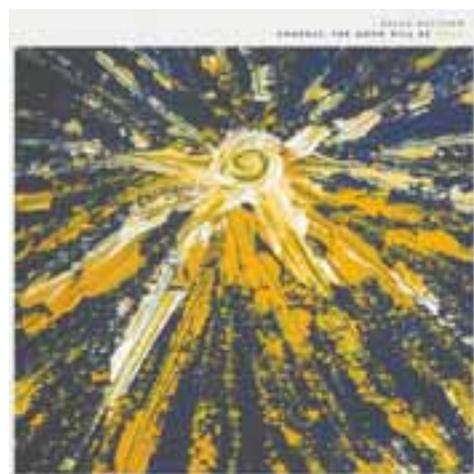
Underscoring Ribera’s rich and moody voice is an orchestral score that features a strong piano melody alongside acoustic guitar, smatterings of bagpipes and marimba, among other instruments to infuse a touch of uniqueness to each track. “La Boca” isn’t limited by its multilingual nature. Ribera’s haunting melodies have a distinct ability to transcend language barriers and dance across genres.

The must-listen-to tracks on the album are “La Boca,” “Goodnight Persephone,” “I Want,” and “Un Cygne La Nuit.” “La Boca” is a great introduction to the sound of the album, merging two languages into one cohesive track with

a strong build up and solid rhythm. “Goodnight Persephone” displays Ribera’s impressive range and includes an expert bagpipe solo. “I Want” is the most pop-inspired song on the album, fusing the acoustic track with a single synth beat and a chorus that will get stuck in your head. “Un Cygne La Nuit” is pure romantic magic — Ribera’s soft notes dovetail perfectly with Arthur’s smooth French accent.

La Boca is not a typical album, but that’s what makes it special. In an age of entertainment where so much music is derivative, Alejandra Ribera has created music that is okay with being itself.

Kathy Pham



Kalle Mattson

Someday, The Moon Will Be Gold

February 11, 2014 (Parliament of Trees)

This collection of upbeat and emotive folk-rock music has a huge variation of track backgrounds, ranging from hard and fast drum rhythms to soft piano sets to electronic background notes. It showcases Kalle Mattson’s eclectic musical style. The songs on the album continually flip between having a strong steady beat, with energetic hooks and solid determined vocals and softer tracks where Mattson’s lyrics take centre stage and the world seems to go

quiet while you listen to his story. Mattson’s music has a charming and enveloping quality to it, his lyrics absorb you into the music and the instrumentals keep you engaged and focused.

One of the opening tracks, “The Living and the Dead,” blends together a steady drum beat with a soft, barely noticeable guitar harmony, with Mattson’s vocals occupying the middle melodic ranges, bringing the song together into classic folk style. “Hurt People Hurt People” is a sharp divergence from the somber mood shared by most of the album with a punctuated percussion hook and snappy guitar riffs. Mattson wraps

up his album with the soft-spoken song “Amelie,” which begins with a smooth guitar melody, and slowly elevates from there as he puts more spirit into his vocals.

Someday, The Moon Will Be Gold is indie folk rock-esque music that’s a little more energetic than expected, and although the moon isn’t gold yet, this album shines brilliantly. Each track has its own distinct sound, yet the album comes together into a well refined package. Mattson blends his lyrics together seamlessly with the drums and guitar, accented by trumpet or soft piano into something that is captivating.

Connor Sadler

The Royal Oui

The Royal Oui

February 11, 2014 (File Under: Music)

Vancouver’s Ari Shine and Adrienne Pierce come together to form The Royal Oui. The pair’s self-titled album is a follow up to their *Forecast EP*. Shine and Pierce create a true-to-folk journey through love with a romantic and melodic feel. Both bring extensive musical experience to the table, which is more than evident in their songwriting and harmonizing throughout the album.

The album starts off with “Sirensong,” a song that is a little less folk than expected

with electric guitar riffs and an intriguing melody that introduces the harmonious blend of Shine and Pierce’s voices. “True,” which The Royal Oui recently released a music video for, is quiet and romantic. “Dirty Snow” puts a sound to what it’s like to spend a winter’s day inside with your love. Shine and Pierce, who married in 2008, give us a glimpse into their relationship with “I’ll Meet You” and “Give Up The Ghost.” Tambourine, guitar and vocals come together in “The Real Thing,” the most upbeat and energetic song in the album. The journey ends with “Montauk (This Is The End)” which must be one of the least angry and most

melodic breakup songs out there.

The Royal Oui gives us a great debut in this album, which showcases both their talent as individuals and a duo. The vibe of a true folk album and their pleasant vocals make this album an easy listen. If you’re looking to pick up a copy, it is available on Indiegogo. With your purchase you have the opportunity to pledge some cash to help The Royal Oui fund their North American tour. With each pledge, the band donates 10 per cent to the SPCA, so you can pick up a great album and feel good about it too.

Jocelyn Yet



Your Fees. Your Choice.

SU General Election and Referendum 2014

The SU General Election is fast approaching and it’s almost time to make your mark for the next academic year. This March, along with choosing your new faculty representatives and SU Executives, you’ll also have choices about ancillary fees.

So, what are ancillary fees? These are fees that are collected for a third party. All ancillary fees collected through the SU are based on past successful referendums when students decided to support a certain cause or specific service. They are not tuition fees and are not part of the SU General Fee.

The SU believes that students should have a choice when it comes to fees. Referendums let you choose what fees you pay and what programs, services and spaces are available now and for future students. Generally the

“The SU believes that students should have a choice when it comes to fees. Referendums let you choose what fees you pay and what programs, services and spaces are available now and for future students.”

questions are about revising a current fee, or adding a new one. Once in a while a referendum to revoke a fee takes place.

Your ancillary fees won’t increase without your permission. A referendum only passes if at least 50 percent of voters have marked “yes” on their ballot. In this case, each question

outlines how and when your fees will change. A referendum does not pass if less than 50 percent of voters mark “no” on their ballot. You will not see any change to your fees in this case.

In this year’s SU election there are two referendum questions. One is about the CJSW Fee and the other is about the MSC Redevelopment Fee. Based on referendum regulations, the questions have to include several pieces of information, including the purpose of the fee, how long it will be collected

and what will happen if the referendum is approved. If you read the questions ahead of time, it will give you a chance to make an informed decision before voting days. Find this year’s questions on the SU office door, or online: <http://su.ualgary.ca/elections/general-election-2014>

Take a few minutes to get informed about your fees. It doesn’t matter how you vote, but casting a ballot makes your voice heard and helps to set the tone for the future of our campus. All currently registered undergraduate students are eligible to vote on the referendum questions.

Put a reminder in your phone or calendar now! Vote March 4 to 6, online through your Student Centre and at polling stations around campus.

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

Screen Time: Lessons from *House of Cards*

The philosophical musings of Congressman F.U.

courtesy Netflix

Sean Sullivan
Entertainment Editor

With the second season of *House of Cards* released on Netflix on Feb. 14, it's worth taking a look back at the lessons we have learned from Congressman Francis Underwood in season one.

1. Accept Pain:

"There are two kinds of pain: the sort of pain that makes you strong or useless pain, the sort of pain that's only suffering. I have no patience for useless things."

No pain, no gain, as the exercise motto goes. That same physical pain is comparable to the psychological pain of a boring class or an unpleasant professor. Just make it through, you tell yourself. The semester is almost over.

You made the commitment to go to university and it's admirable that you wish to see it through. However, ask yourself: what do you hope to achieve? If you don't see a tangible reward in your near future, then it may be time for you to change programs. No sense suffering for nothing.

2. Your Words Matter:

"Words matter very much ... you should care more about them given your profession."

No matter what program you are in, your stock in trade is the written word. Even mathematicians and athletes need to put words on paper. Words are what allow others to understand your reasoning and to grasp your accomplishments. Choose them carefully and learn how to use them effectively.

Academia is rife with pretentious jargon. Don't fall prey to that particular temptation. What use is being smart if the greatest number of people cannot grasp your brilliance?

3. Keep Moving Forward:

"Forward: that is the battle cry. Leave ideology to the arm-chair generals. It does me no good."

Ideology is a fickle beast. It is im-

possible for any single school of thought to explain the sheer complexity that is life. So don't become trapped by your allegiance to one. Never allow ideology to direct your pursuits. Set your mind to something and then choose the ideologies that will help you get there.

4. Never assume:

"I don't want to assume. I want to know."

Never assume that you are right; know that you are. Always deal in concrete examples and verifiable evidence. Never bullshit your way through an assignment. Mistakes cost money, careers and lives. Honesty is the best response to uncertainty. Unless you are certain that you are right, don't risk being proven wrong.

5. Location, location, location:

"Power is a lot like real estate. It's all about location, location, location. The closer you are to the source, the higher your property value."

In a few short years you'll look back at your time in university and realize how short a time it was. Don't squander it. Future leaders walk these campus halls. Find them. Befriend them. Connect with your professors. Surround yourself with people who will help you succeed.

Go ahead and waste your scholarship at the campus bar, just make sure someone important is drinking across from you.

6. Power over money:

"Money is the McMansion in Sarasota that starts falling apart after 10 years. Power is the old stone building that stands for centuries. I cannot respect someone who doesn't see the difference."

Money is useful. It buys things, sometimes even happiness. But money is not the same as the power to influence people, to influence events. A lucky streak on the stock market is the same as a winning streak in Las Vegas. Luck can change. But with power and influence, money can always be found. It is power that makes things happen, power that separates

the great from the merely successful. Don't settle for financial success. Aim higher. What kind of legacy are you going to leave behind?

7. Don't swerve:

"You see, [he] believes that if a fridge falls off a minivan, you better swerve out of its way. I believe it's the fridge's job to swerve out of mine."

Shit happens. It's how you deal with it that makes all the difference. The key to success is to never deviate from your goal. Be tenacious and

never compromise for others. Don't move out of other people's way while they pursue their dreams. Hold fast to your own and be willing to step on a few toes along the way.

8. Poor grades:

"How quickly poor grades are forgotten in the shadow of power and wealth."

Class work and good grades aren't everything and a failed course isn't the end of the world. Even a semester or two on academic probation means

nothing if you succeed later.

Many skills required to succeed aren't learned in a classroom. Skills you develop in student clubs and at college parties have value. Every single profession in the world involves interacting with other people and learning to use the social and networking skills you develop along the way. You won't achieve greatness if you keep your nose in a textbook.

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

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Romantic movie surprisingly cliché

Dawn Muenchrath

Illustrations Editor • @Dawn_MariaM

Much to the surprise of moviegoers, Hollywood's newest romantic film, *The Secret Drawer*, is receiving a less than enthusiastic response from viewers and critics.

The movie, released just in time for Valentine's Day, is an adaptation of Nicholas Sparks's bestselling novel, *The Secret Drawer of Beautiful and Melancholy Love Letters*.

Despite the dismal quality of past film adaptations of Sparks's books, there was high hopes that Caroline Johnston's directorial debut of *The Secret Drawer* would be different. Unfortunately, critical reviews are calling Johnston's work generic and derivative at best.

The movie's remarkable mediocrity is surprising in part because it

was largely faithful to the details of Sparks's creative tale.

For those who have not seen the film's trailer (it plays on most cable stations three times an hour), *The Secret Drawer* begins during the Great Depression in Washington state. Here, we find the young and brilliant orphan, Howard Booner (Ryan Gosling).

After unexpectedly inheriting a fortune from his long-lost grandfather, 17-year-old Howard soars from rags to riches overnight. As fate would have it, Howard soon stumbles upon a secret drawer filled with beautiful and melancholy love letters in his late grandfather's study. The boy is instantly infatuated with the mysterious female author of these letters and is heartbroken to realize they are dated February 2014. And so Howard's quest to build a time machine to find his unlikely soul mate, Penelope Winkle

(Reese Witherspoon), begins.

Critics were baffled as to how this marvelous concept failed to translate into the greatest romantic film of the decade. Tepid reviews have been emerging across Canada and America alike. So, with the critics coming up short, the *Gauntlet* hit the streets to hear how audience members were weighing in.

"I was really hoping to be swept off my feet," one young woman admitted. "The trailer suggested that the movie would be epic and heart-wrenching. I mean, it even featured Coldplay's new hit single. That's why I can't understand why I ended up feeling so hollow."

A young man described the perplexing sense of déjà-vu he experienced when watching the film.

"In the back of my mind, I couldn't help but think, 'Man, this airport scene seems so familiar.'

And it was almost like I knew that Howard was going to catch Penelope right before she left to volunteer building outhouses in Africa. It was bizarre."

Although Hollywood's latest attempt to woo audiences was widely agreed to be pabulum, most viewers expressed optimism about the future of romantic movies. Perhaps they are wise to do so because, for all its blandness, *The Secret Drawer* is not without its merits.

For one thing, critics and audience members agreed that Gosling was hotter than ever in *The Secret Drawer*, particularly in his shirtless scene on the beach. At sunset. In the rain.

Similarly, the consensus is that Reese Witherspoon was airbrushed enough to still look pretty hot, despite her old age (by Hollywood standards).

What's more, critics have noted

that the movie successfully propagates all the fundamental stereotypes about gender roles, love and sex that are a hallmark of the genre.

Penelope, for example, is the perfect combination of beauty and feminine irrationality, while the outwardly masculine Howard turns out to be a sensitive and devoted lover beyond all logic.

Yes, for this point, Johnston should be commended because when you leave the theatre, with that close-up sunset kiss burned into your retinas and feeling dazed from the consumption of 2.5 hours of cinematic mush, you might just wonder if you were witness to something profound.

Like that pesky popcorn husk in your molars, you might just find that you cannot entirely rid yourself of the idea that true love, uncomplicated by real personalities and life problems, does exist.

Olympic medals to feature shirtless Vladimir Putin

Melanie Bethune

Gauntlet AP • @water_melan

Many media outlets have dubbed the Sochi Olympics the pride and joy of Russian President Vladimir Putin. This idea has been taken literally as it was recently announced that Russia will be "Putin on the ritz" — so to speak.

Rather than bearing the originally planned geometric designs, the awarded Olympic medals from this point onward will show a shirtless image of 61-year-old President Putin. The proposed medal design is described as "representing the timeless and true spirit of the Games — showcasing the president's noble and ageless silhouette surrounded by hundreds of armed guards, denied human rights, crumbling facilities and mysteriously spent funds."

"These Olympics are going to be successful, OK?" said a forceful Dmitri Lovshkov, Russian Olympic committee representative. "Putin has said they're going to be successful, and so they will be. From his KGB history to his countless re-elections that

were totally legitimate, Putin has defined Russia for his 14 years in various offices and will continue to do so for a long time. In fact, he is currently researching ways to clone himself so that his stern face will forever rule our land. I can't think of a better person to represent the kindred spirit of the Olympics."

Lovshkov hopes that the sudden announcement of the medal change will smooth over the outrage surrounding recent anti-homosexual propaganda laws as well as the various controversies surrounding the condition of Sochi that permeated the first week of the Games.

"Yes I know about all the controversy surrounding various aspects of these Games," said Lovshkov with a sigh. "And we recognize that they don't fall in line with what many people of the world see to be basic human rights. Let's be frank. They completely violate a whole host of fundamental rights. But let's forget about all the outrage surrounding our recent legislation, or the cost of the Games or any of these so-called problems and

instead focus on President Putin's wonder. That's what's most important right now — not fundamental rights."

It seems no one can contain their assigned enthusiasm.

"I'm excited," said Russian athlete Yuri Voletsky through bared teeth. "They've already spent over \$50 billion on these Games so it makes sense to spend more on something that's obviously important. Since we've already hired the maximum amount of security possible, we might as well redecorate the medals. It's the next logical step. The crumbling infrastructure and human rights issues can wait."

In response to worries over terrorist threats earlier this year, Putin was cited as claiming that these Games would be "the safest Olympics ever — except for anyone who gets in the way of them going exactly as planned."

When asked for further comment, Putin's associates claimed that he was wrestling bears in northern Siberia as means to defend the democracy. They then provided a 100-page photo album detailing Putin's heroics includ-



ing images of his judo competitions, paintings, hunting trips and concert events.

In addition to the new medals, it was announced that Putin will be arriving at the closing ceremonies atop a grizzly bear, that he is automatically permitted to com-

pete in any sport he deems fit and that all events will be catered by the canned food company named for him, PuTin, as well as Putinska Vodka.

Next up? A renaming of Sochi to Putingrad is currently in the works.

