

GAUNTLET



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# DRONES: AMERICA'S SILENT WAR MACHINE

PAGE 11



STUDENTS' UNION

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TO FOOD  
ACCESSIBILITY &  
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MARCH 17 – 21, 2014  
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March 13, 2014

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CJSW Yes Voters



“Community! Culture!  
Good radio!”

This week's Golden Spatula goes out to all y'all who voted "yes" for the CJSW referendum. Good on you for understanding that a campus is more than a degree mill, and voting to add a little bit of culture, community, and really good music to our daily lives on campus. Losing might suck, but that's democracy for ya, so we'll dig in our heels and try again next time. This Golden Spatula, though, is for those who emphatically voted in favour. We salute you.

**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 magic-mushroom caribou urine based ink. We urge you to recycle/wear 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 Evangelos Lambrinoudis II

# You win, you selfish bastards

During this year's Students' Union election, the student population voted down the MacHall redevelopment referendum and the CJSW levy increase. That's fine. Nobody is mad. But we should really take this opportunity to re-examine how funds are distributed throughout the school, and assess where to trim the fat from nonessential services.

Let's start with washrooms. I do not enjoy pooping at school. Especially during the winter, when I wear a coat and have nowhere to hang it because the coat hooks inside the washroom have been broken off by people having sex in the stalls. I have to put my coat on the floor despite knowing that guys pee on the floor and don't wipe it up. The men's room floor is always speckled with droplets of evaporating pee.

Men pay money to maintain the bathrooms but the stench of uric acid entering the final stages of chemical half-life always ruins the air. And if women really do go to the bathroom for things besides makeup, the demands of their biology would mean that they flush the toilets more. That is more fresh water being mixed with human excrement, which could be redirected to the slurpee machines or frozen into ice sculptures to adorn those bike racks that nobody uses, except poor people who should buy cars anyway. So we should make washrooms pay-per-use. One dollar for number one. Two dollars for number two. And with timed limits. If you take longer than five minutes, a chute opens beneath you and you get flushed out into the Bow River for proving yourself as mechanically inefficient as your digestive waste.

As for the bike racks, two dollars per use. Every year, pool the money



collected from the bike racks and use it to create a *Hunger Games* destruction derby between everyone who rides a bike to school. Everyone gets to bring a weapon of their choosing, the only caveat being that they must stay on their bike at all times. We will use part of the proceeds from admission to buy the winner a new truck and a sick rim job (for the truck).

I am not a person of aboriginal descent, so I do not see why I need to pay for a Native Centre. Or a Q-centre. What even is the "Q-centre," and why should I pay for it? There's a "Q" for you. However, as a progressive and tolerant-minded individual I believe that all cultures have a place in this world, so I suggest that we put the Native Centre outside, where visitors can enjoy the sort of authentic wilderness spirituality that this life of conspicuous consumption has stripped away from us. Also, that's one less room we will have to heat.

To those of us who do enjoy heat-

ing, I would like to remind you that in 2005 the SU realized a motion by referendum to improve the Fitness Centre facilities, at the cost of \$7 per student. Do you know what that means? The bro lifters managed to get their asses out and vote on something that mattered to them. They have discipline that we lack. But while exercise is a great way to learn discipline, climbing walls and attractive lifeguards have their price.

Everyone who enters the Fitness Centre must spend at least 20 minutes on a stationary bike designed to reroute kinetic energy into the underground generators heating the school. Not everyone wants to fund your lifestyle, athletes. Your clear skin, healthy heart rates and active sex drive do not benefit me at all, and I am tired of watching the swim club zip past me underwater when there is not even a hot tub to bitch in afterwards.

First-year mechanical engineers

can keep their special computer labs if they contribute more methods of supplying heat to the building. Their goddamned faculty gets too much money anyway. Why should the university spend money to improve the domicile of the engineers? Make them build it themselves. This will prove whether or not they are worthy.

As I said earlier, I am a tolerant-minded individual, but I think religions are stupid and people who follow them are sheep. The last time I prayed was before my last Spanish midterm, and prayer didn't save me, legally prescribed amphetamines did. Therefore we should convert the prayer rooms into the commercial, fee-saving opportunity they are, as the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard have long ago suggested. We could call it pay-to-pray. Five dollars for 20 minutes. And we would refuse to interrupt people praying, supposedly out of courtesy, but really in the hopes that they would lose track of time and rack up huge bills.

So much waste. So much potential for savings. If the students want to survive these tough times, during which we have been forced to downgrade our caramel macchiatos from venti to grande, austerity measures are necessary. If people are going to make out on those couches in MacHall upstairs, I want them to pay for it. One dollar to sit down. Two to kiss. Four if there is tongue involved because we will have to spray that shit down after. Non-essential services must take a backseat to our pocket-books and our students should decide what kind of junk goes in the back of that trunk.

Tobias Ma

*Gauntlet* Opinions Editor

## campus comment

Is there anything you would vote to increase funding for on campus?



“More study space or allergy friendly food.”

– Kim Vela,  
first-year economics



“The Fitness Centre.”

– Jackson Maris,  
third-year kinesiology



“Microwaves. The ONEcard accepted more places. More composting and recycling bins.”

– Michelle Le Roux,  
third-year biological science



“The *Gauntlet* and more writers for the *Gauntlet*.”

– Landon Fraser,  
second-year political science

Photos: Remi Watts Interviews: Connor Sadler

# Winners in SU election announced

## Election sees large voter turnout and both referendums turned down

Chris Adams

News Assistant

After two weeks of schmoozing, postering and campaigning, the winners of the 2014-15 University of Calgary Students' Union election have been announced.

Chief Returning Officer Chris Yan took the stage at the Den to reveal the results last Thursday. To a raucous crowd, Yan announced Jarett Henry as the 72nd SU president. Henry received 36 per cent of the vote.

Bombarded with hugs and high fives, Henry was overcome with excitement.

"Such an overwhelming rush of emotions right now. I'm speechless," said Henry, just after the results were announced.

Outgoing president Jacob offered his replacement some words of wisdom.

"Work closely with the Graduate Students' Association president, she's pretty good. Listen to your vice-presidents. Listen to staff," Jacob said before offering Henry the best of luck on the MacHall lease negotiations.

Hana Kadri will be the next vice-president academic. She received 55 per cent of the vote. In a close race 45 per cent of students voted for Lauren Voss, the only candidate opposing Kadri.

"I am so stoked," Kadri said. "I've been prepping for this for the past four years of my life, and now it's finally here."

Still in his dino-safari attire, Adam Swertz was announced as the new vice-president operations and finance. Swertz received 54 per cent of the vote, while Ilyas Gora and Ahmad Nasser split the rest with 25 and 21 per cent respectively.

"Jarett and I have spent a ton of time in clubs working together," Swertz said. "He's like my hetero-



Michael Grondin

Next year's Students' Union executive team.

**// I am so stoked. I've been prepping for this for the past four years of my life. And now it's finally here.**

— Hana Kadri, incoming vice-president academic

sexual life partner. It's the greatest partnership."

Levi Nilson was elected vice-president external with 41 per cent. Tsering Asha got 34 per cent of the vote, while Kyle Schole received 19. Dropout candidate Desmond Mitic oddly received 316 votes, a five per cent share.

"I'm pretty exhilarated. It's strange to be best friends with two people who are extremely fitted for what they want to do. It's a once in a lifetime thing," Nilson said. "I think we're going to work well together and we're going to do a lot of great things. If that's hubris, I don't care because it's going to happen."

Jonah Ardiel received 43 per cent of the vote to become vice-president student life. Ardiel defeated three other candidates to win the position. Mallory Lupick

received 35 per cent, Zainab Malik had 18 per cent and Amir Ahadzadeh had four per cent.

Outgoing faculty of arts representative Malik wished Ardiel well and offered a sliver of advice to incoming arts reps.

"There are four girls. Don't get in any catfights!" Malik said.

Michael Smith was re-elected as the student representative on the Board of Governors with 51 per cent of the vote, defeating Shubir Shaikh and Michael Geib. They received 32 and 18 per cent of the vote.

Outgoing vice-president academic Emily Macphail and Scott Vu defeated three other candidates and to be elected as student representatives on the Senate.

Macphail is excited to continue representing students after leaving the executive.



Michael Grondin



Michael Grondin

Incoming and outgoing executives got pretty loose.

"I am super excited to keep working at the SU. I'm sad to be leaving, but I have so much faith with the new executives," said Macphail.

Both referendums on the ballot were voted down. Fifty-seven per cent voted no for the CJSW referendum, which would increase their levy from five to six dollars. Sixty-one per cent voted no to creating a MacHall redevelopment fund, which would see students paying \$35 per semester.

Current vice-president student life Ben Cannon was unhappy that students did not see the benefit in voting yes for these referendums.

"I'm extremely disappointed. I am just so proud of CJSW for trying their best to convince students that they were worth one more dollar," Cannon said. "I'm very disappointed to see that students were not re-

ceptive to that."

Faculty of arts representatives will be Kirsty McGowan, Kalista Sherbaniuk, Sarah Amiry and Lexi Narowski. All elected arts representatives ran on slates, yet Amiry and Narowski were elected without their counterparts.

The kinesiology representative will be Stephan Guscott. The engineering representatives will be Brayden Kooistra and Parsa Samavati.

Kean Bexte, Amy Li and Taylor Woo were elected science reps.

Medicine will be Carsten Krueger and veterinary medicine will be Blythe Sola.

In total, 7,339 students cast a ballot, a 28.8 per cent voter turnout — an increase from last year's 27.8 per cent voter turnout.



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# Students don't always vote no . . .

Almost every year, students vote to either raise or lower their fees. Sometimes, they choose to fund the staples of campus life, including the Dinos, the Fitness Centre, the UPass and our health and dental plans. Sometimes, they vote to abolish those dirty, nasty fees all together.

It turns out, students are usually pretty generous with their money. They'll usually even put it forward for services that they don't use.

But things seem to be changing. Here's how students voted on fees since 1977.

Riley Hill

Students have voted	They approved	There was a record	On the last
72	54	7,045	3
times on changing fees since 1977	referendums for fee increases	votes casted for the CJSW referendum	votes on fees, students said no

## CRO recounts vote in light of close election results

Science and Art rep positions come down to a single ballot

Riley Hill

News Editor

Following the Students' Union election, a recount has confirmed that two positions were won by a single vote.

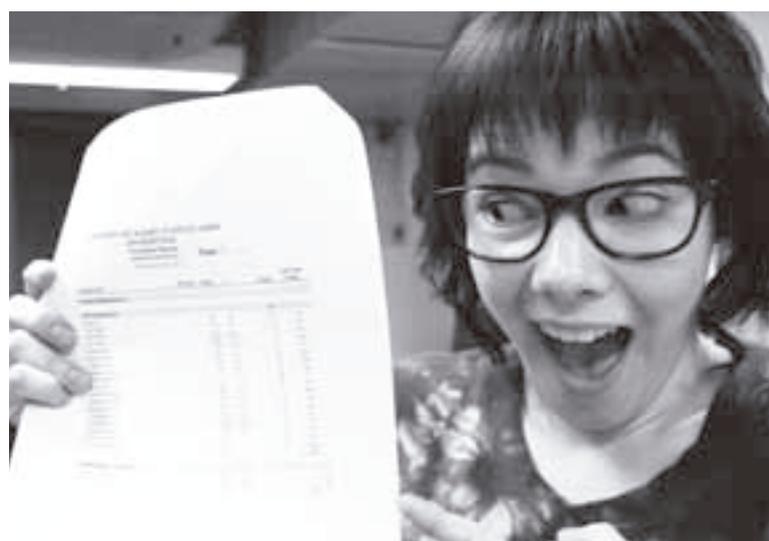
For the arts representative race, the fourth place candidate received 585 votes. The candidate in fifth got 584. For science rep, the third place candidate got 742 and fourth place got 741.

Chief returning officer Chris Yan said a student in the faculty of arts requested the recount, though they also double-checked the science representative race to be safe.

"Our election team was proactive and requested the faculty of science recount ourselves, since that race was also close," Yan said.

For the recount, Yan asked CanVote to confirm the electronic ballots. Yan went over the paper ones while supervised by SU staff.

Newly elected arts rep Lexi



Riley Hill

Lexi Narowski is still amazed by the results. Just look at her.

Narowski said the mood was light when she found out that she edged out her friend, Chris Bell, by a single vote.

"When he saw the numbers, he said, 'I lost by one fucking vote!' Everyone was laughing, including him," Narowski said.

Keean Bexte, who took the third and final science rep spot,

said the results haven't affected his view of the job.

"One vote is one vote. I think that is strong enough reason to show that students were ready for me to be elected," Bexte said. "It definitely worked out well."

Candidates normally have three days to ask for a recount after an election.

## SU looks for cash after referendum voted down

President says some construction will still happen

Ashton Chugh

Features Assistant

The Students' Union will look elsewhere for the \$155 million needed to re-develop MacHall after students voted no to paying for the project themselves.

During this year's student election, over 60 per cent of undergrads who voted said no to a new \$35 per semester fee for the re-development of MacHall.

"In terms of funding the building, I think that students are just weary of fees at this point," said SU president Raphael Jacob.

The SU is now looking at the University of Calgary's 50th anniversary fundraiser and the provincial government as possible sources of funding.

Regardless of where the money comes from, Jacob said the SU does not plan to cede control of MacHall.

"We will continue to operate the building regardless of how

the renovations play out," Jacob said.

When surveyed in 2012, four out of five U of C students said they were willing to pay some money for the project.

Because of this, the SU believed students would vote in favour of funding the re-development.

"It is far easier to say that you would be willing to pay for something, instead of actually having to and when the decisions come down to it, to actually follow through," Jacob said.

MacHall construction projects already confirmed, such as the relocation of the loading dock, will be unaffected by the no vote.

"The loading dock is on a separate funding envelope. The university will be paying for the loading dock itself," Jacob said.

First opened in 1967, MacHall is now 45 years old. It brings the SU \$11 million in revenue every year.

– conversations of

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Courtesy of the Graduate Students' Association

The GSA has had some bad luck with their elections.

# GSA struggles to find interest in their election

## Only two of four GSA executive positions filled

**Tendayi Moyo**  
 News Assistant

Did you know the Graduate Students' Association had an election planned for March? Don't worry if you didn't know. Graduate students didn't either.

The GSA election scheduled for March 10-11 didn't happen. Of the four executive positions, two were acclaimed. No one ran for the other two.

"This year was just pathetic," said GSA chief returning officer Jeremy Hexam. "It's becoming an issue with us. How do we get people involved?"

This is nothing new for the GSA. Last year, there was just one race — vice-president student life — with two candidates. In that election, out of over 6,000 graduate students, 258 voted.

Hexam said graduate students often have a difficult time getting involved with the union because of the demands of their degrees. He added that many graduate students might not know about the GSA.

"A lot of students don't get involved and don't really know

what we do," Hexam said. "One of the things we're going to be working on next year is raising awareness of the GSA to graduate students."

A by-election will be held during a general representative council (GRC) meeting on March 25 to fill the two vacant executive positions — vice-president academic and vice-president finances and services. Any graduate student, full- or part-time, can be nominated, though only GRC members can vote in the by-election.

This is pending, of course, that more than one candidate runs. Hexam is holding out hope for a better turnout in the by-election.

"Usually with by-elections more people do turn up," Hexam said.

The two acclaimed positions are presidential incumbent Sarah Akierman and vice-president student life Aamir Rafiq.

In the same way the Students' Union represents undergraduates, the GSA represents graduate students. They provide a number of services, lobby government and manage the Last Defence Lounge.

# Price of UPass may be on the rise

## Students might pay \$123 for the pass by 2015

Scott Strasser

Gauntlet News  
With files from Riley Hill

University of Calgary students might see the price of their UPass increase soon, according to Students' Union vice-president external Conner Brown.

"[A report] is before city council," Brown said. "Calgary Transit is proposing a 5 per cent increase on the \$117 we're currently paying per semester."

The 5 per cent increase would see the price of the UPass go up to \$123 per semester. The information is outlined in Calgary Transit's "Fare Strategy Review."

Calgary Transit said a price increase will be on the table at upcoming negotiations, but would not confirm if it was a part of their immediate plans.

"We will be negotiating with all post-secondary schools regarding continuing UPass agreements into 2015," said Calgary Transit communications co-or-

dinator Ron Collins.

The price of the UPass is determined by calculating Calgary Transit's estimated annual revenue from post-secondary students and having that total revenue shared evenly by all students at an institution. Surveys and ridership counts are done by Calgary Transit to see how many students use their services.

According to Calgary Transit, university students make up seven per cent of Calgary's total ridership and money from the UPass program accounts for eight per cent of Calgary Transit's total revenue.

"It makes absolutely no sense," Brown said. "Calgary Transit wants students to pay their fair share, and I would argue they are doing that, plus more already."

The cost of university transit programs has gone up across Canada in recent years. Transit passes for university students in Vancouver have increased from \$30 to \$35 per month since 2011, and will increase to \$38 per month in



Michael Grondin

UPass prices have been going up across the country.

May of 2015. Ottawa also saw a price increase, with their UPass going from \$145 per semester to \$180 per semester in 2011 — an increase of almost 25 per cent.

# Faculty unsatisfied by Alberta budget

Chris Adams

News Assistant

The University of Calgary Faculty Association (TUCFA) are not fans of the province's new budget. For TUCFA president Paul Rogers, the 2014-15 Alberta budget does little to fix the damage caused by \$147 million in cuts last year.

"I think it's a very disappointing budget for the vast majority of students in post-secondary education," Rogers said. "There remains very significant concerns as to the quality of student experience given this government's unwillingness to live up to its promises."

The new budget, announced on March 6, allocates \$2.1 billion to post-secondary in 2014-15, a 5.5

per cent increase from last year. Out of this money, \$234 million is set aside for scholarships and bursaries and \$408 million for student loans. There is also \$32.5 million in new operational funding.

The \$32.5 million will create 2,000 new enrolment spaces for students province-wide. Rogers said that while the new funds will improve access, current students will not reap the benefits.

"While it improves access to post-secondary education — and recognizing that Alberta has the lowest participation rate of any jurisdiction in Canada is good — it does nothing to impact the 160,000 or so full-time equivalent students who are currently in the system," Rogers said. "They were significantly damaged by the huge

cuts of last year. There's absolutely nothing in this budget to improve things for them."

The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund will receive an extra \$200 million. This money is for apprenticeship programs and financial aid for students enrolled in them.

Rogers said technical schools may receive most of the funding for new student spaces.

"Looking at the new money for scholarships that they created with those shifting endowments, all of that is for apprenticeships," Rogers said. "A worry is that how many of these 2,000 spaces might go to the polytechnics to mirror that."

The Alberta government has not said which schools will receive new spaces for students.



Michael Grondin

## Five days spent outside

University of Calgary students are spending a week living outside to raise money for charity as part of Five Days for the Homeless. This will be the second year U of C students have participated in this national event. Five students from the U of C are participating with hopes of raising \$10,000. All funds raised will be donated to Avenue 15, a Calgary non-profit that provides aid and shelter for homeless and runaway teens.



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# Market modifiers up for discussion

## Students' Union executive says talks underway for unpopular policy

**Chris Adams**  
News Assistant

Market modifiers increase student fees in faculties with a perceived higher earning potential, like business and engineering. Like mandatory non-instructional fees, market modifiers have a bad reputation among students.

Fairness is an obvious concern. Hundreds of students protested in the council chambers when market modifiers were proposed for six University of Calgary faculties in 2010. Two were approved, and bachelor of commerce student fees rose by \$232 per course, while the masters of business administration saw a similar \$179 increase.

Of the six U of C proposals shot down in 2010, one was for the Schulich School of Engineering. Fees would have been raised by \$192 per course.

According to Students' Union



Michael Grondin

**Students' Union vice-president external Conner Brown.**

vice-president external Conner Brown, members of the U of C administration have promoted a new Schulich market modifier at tuition and fee consultation committee meetings since last fall. While there's no word on when a new proposal will emerge or how much fees will increase, the discussions are already happening.

We sat down with Brown to talk about the possibility of a new Schulich market modifier.

**The Gauntlet:** Why do market modifiers exist?

**Conner Brown:** Market modifiers are essentially based off of earning potential when someone graduates. Primarily focusing on Haskayne and Schulich, they are very likely to get a job when they graduate. Also, it takes into account other institutions that are comparable. When they argued for a market modifier in Haskayne, they used a lot of Ontario schools as the examples because their business schools cost more than ours.

**G:** Are we going to see a market modifier added to Schulich's fees?

**CB:** It's a discussion we've had in tuition and fees consultation committee. Basically, [provost Dru Marshall's] argument for

having one in engineering is because our engineering costs are lower than the University of Alberta and other universities in Ontario. It has a perceived lower value for obtaining that degree. My argument against that would be, if there's a perceived lower value, why was it harder to get into Schulich this year than it was to get into U of A and the University of British Columbia?

**G:** You'd think higher admission requirements hold more prestige than higher cost.

**CB:** Exactly. Here's another argument against that. If we're really hurting for dollars for engineering, show me a business case. Where are we short on money? Or, if we're not short on money and a market modifier is supposed to increase value for students, show me where students' money is going to increase value for obtaining that degree. In 2010, when the market

differential went into Haskayne, they promised thousands of dollars a year to go to up-front scholarships and need-based grants for students going into Haskayne. Where is that? That's never shown up. They haven't followed through with that promise since 2010 so why should we believe them for this market modifier going into engineering?

**G:** So what's the timeframe on this?

**CB:** We would have had to know about it by now if they were going to do it for September. If it was going to rear its head in a big way, it would be next fall. I doubt I would find out about it in my term. They wouldn't want to have overlap between us who are very comfortable and very confident going head to head with administration, to have an opportunity to state our case and have the next executives follow through.

### FUN FACTS ABOUT CJSW

Want a quick primer on CJSW? These facts should get you started:

- We receive over 3,500 records per year.
- Mayor Naheed Nenshi read the news on CJSW when he was a student at the U of C.
- Our series "Today in Canadian History" hit #1 on the iTunes podcast charts with over a half-million downloads to date.
- We host around 100 live band performances in our studio every year.
- Our annual charity hockey tournament "Slurpee Cup" has raised over \$20,000 for local charities.
- CJSW was the first station in Calgary to feature a female DJ.
- "Megawatt Mayhem," Saturdays 10:00 to 12:00 PM, is the longest running metal show in Canada.
- Over 100 awesome local businesses support the station every year by participating in a discount card for station donors.
- We support over 50 different festivals through the year including Sled Island, Calgary Folk Music Festival, Afrikadey!, Lilac Fest, Blues Fest, and the Calgary International Film Festival.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The station has over 300 volunteers from the university and community at large. Volunteers can receive industry-standard training in audio production, library archiving, and on-air broadcasting. Every DJ you hear on the radio is a volunteer who programs for the love of music and spreading the word to their communities.

Students from the University of Calgary can take advantage of spoken-word training from

our news department, access our 100,000-piece library, and make valuable connections in Calgary's arts and culture sector. If you host a show, you will have thousands of listeners ready to hear your message.

If you're interested in getting involved with Calgary's only campus and community radio station, email [office@cjsw.com](mailto:office@cjsw.com) or drop by the station located at Room 312 in MacEwan Hall, just around the corner from the Ballroom.



### WHAT IS CJSW?

CJSW is Calgary's campus and community radio station, broadcasting 24/7 throughout the city on 90.9 FM, and around the world at [cjsw.com](http://cjsw.com). The station is maintained and operated by a group of six staff members and over 300 amazing volunteers.

Our goal is to provide an alternative to commercial media by recognizing and promoting the diverse musical styles, points of view and cultures that exist within our city. CJSW strives to provide programming to a diverse audience by programmers that are varied in their ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical and mental ability. Our diverse programming includes music, arts, spoken word and multicultural programs.

With our ongoing commitment to providing a true radio alternative in the Calgary region, CJSW is listener-driven radio, with a very loyal audience. This loyalty is particularly evident during the station's annual week-long funding drive, during which the station raises approximately \$200,000 annually - the highest amount raised by any campus or community radio station in the nation!

A model for the rest of the community radio sector in Canada, the award-winning radio produced at CJSW shows the power, vitality and importance of volunteer-programmed radio.

# FINDING THE SUBSTANCE IN THE SCANDAL

**Gillian McKercher**  
Gauntlet Opinions  
@GMcKercher



Gossip feels good. At least, good in a way that virtue cannot compete with: it's immediate, dangerous and full of exciting contradictions. A story is delicious when it's distasteful and disgraceful. A forbidden secret tastes better than the biscotti it was shared over — so long as the secret is not about you.

From a critical perspective, gossip represents a scale model of any definable group's values. A rumour will quickly show public opinion unconstrained by political correctness or vague euphemisms. At first, a piece of gossip may seem like a petty scandal, but by observing the reactions of others we can question our own prejudices and norms.

Dylan Farrow's alleged molestation by Woody Allen reflected some telling public opinions on rape. The rumours surrounding Lauren Harper's homosexuality might stem from Stephen Harper's rigid personality. They might be a political smear tactic. Or they might be true.

Barack Obama has been accused of being a Muslim by American conservative pundits on numerous occasions, yet he has been elected to office twice. Maybe Americans are becoming more tolerant to other religions. Maybe he's just handsome.

Gossip is never spontaneous. If we are previously inclined to believe something to be true, all we need is a nudge from a little gossip. We know that gossip should be ingested with a healthy dose of salt, but gossip tends to flourish in the absence of clear truth and rumour fills in the blanks. Political smut shows this.

The backstage murmurs of Lauren Harper's lesbianism didn't spread because of scorned lovers declaring their heartache, but because her husband lacks sexual charisma. Despite our Prime Minister's attempts at displaying a personality (notably with public covers of Beatles songs), he still appears cold and dispassionate. To many, Stephen Harper's behaviour is alienating, which is further shown by his reputation of putting companies before people. Why would Lauren Harper, a popular, outgoing and attractive woman, possibly share a bed with this robot? She must be a lesbian.



By suggesting that Lauren Harper is homosexual, we begin to suspect the Prime Minister's most intimate relationship. The result is sterilizing and emasculating to his image.

If Harper's relationship with his wife is a hoax, how can he understand or care about the hearts of Canadians? How can he tell us the truth? The prevalence of this rumour reflects more than just titillation at a cuckolded husband, it reflects a national mistrust of Harper's status as an honest human being.

An examination of gossip can also measure the extent to which unconventional behaviour will be deemed reasonable. Gossip would not exist in a non-judgemental, liberated world. Gossip only exists at the discrete intersection that joins the unacceptable to the remotely plausible.

For example, a rumour that Barack Obama enjoys making love to Vladimir Putin while they both listen to Pussy Riot will never become popular because it lies beyond the boundary of believable truth.

Stories suggesting that Obama is a Muslim and faked his American citizenship, however, created so many headlines that he publicly denied the rumours. How did such a petty and irrational narrative gain American support? How could Donald Trump, a D-list celebrity with more hair than respect, feel confident in questioning the authenticity of the President of the United States's birth certificate? The Obama birth certificate debacle is one of the most visible modern examples of the persistent bigotry of America against visible and religious minorities. Sorry, Miley Cyrus, but

just because you have a mixed President doesn't mean that racism is on its way out. Would Americans have reacted with equal hysteria if a white candidate, like Hillary Clinton, was accused of being Muslim? No.

A common argument against the validity of gossip is its frivolity and pettiness. Gossip is an exercise in superficiality and sensationalism, but it is never trivial. Gossip does not exist without personal cost or benefit to its target, and it encourages the disregard of personal privacy. Furthermore, gossip has the power to impact a subject's reputation long after a story is stale.

Gossip must be taken seriously as a symptom of our immediate social climate. What do we consider embarrassingly deviant activity? Look to gossip. What sources of informa-

tion do people trust? Look to gossip. How accurately does political correctness reflect what we really think and feel? Look to gossip.

Gossip reveals that we may not have changed much at all. We still condemn sexually promiscuous women, from Kristen Stewart to Catherine the Great. We discourage open homosexuality — the same closet rumours about John Travolta were directed at Michaelangelo. We also hesitate to judge admired individuals, like Woody Allen and Oscar Wilde. Gossip is very much about us and displays an honest mirror of our judgements and what we don't like about our own personalities. So do not kid yourself — if gossip ever seems so bad that it feels good, it's probably just bad, and I dare you to stop from joining in.

# Voter enthusiasm unenforceable

## Students' Union lucky that democracy is optional

**Kate Jacobson**  
Gauntlet Opinions  
@beruramiryam



A voter turnout of 28.8 per cent meant that the Students' Union saw its highest voter turnout in the past three years. While this is an obviously dismal proportion, even by apathetic Albertan standards, the situation is not as bad as you might think.

There is more than enough information to cast an informed ballot. Posters plaster the hallways. The *Gauntlet* runs an election supplement. Candidates answer questions during conveniently located forums. The su posts every single candidate's platform on their website. cjsw interviews everyone running. The candidates walk up and down the halls, talking to students and canvassing opinions. The Political Science Association puts up posters reminding students to vote.

By the time we actually start voting, the process is ridiculously

easy — sure, you can cast a ballot in one of the voting stations, but you can also vote on your student centre, where a giant button reminds you to vote.

There's no excuse for not casting an informed vote. If a student made it through elections week without knowing anything about the election or the candidates, it's likely they could not care less.

Dragging an apathetic student body to the polls doesn't translate into a well-selected government. You only have to look at the results of this year's election, where a candidate who had dropped out of the race still managed to net 316 votes — a five percent share. The su shouldn't be willing to court higher voter turnout if that means dealing with people who cast their ballot for a candidate who is no longer running. I shudder to think about the election results if the su had been able to vote for Super-cow, everyone's favourite joke candidate.

This isn't to say that we should discourage voting — but a student government elected based on fac-

tors like physical attractiveness, poster size, best puns or overall popularity is a recipe for disaster. Candidates running on increasing student engagement and communication are fighting an uphill battle. How disappointing that they still can't get 71.2 per cent of students to spend a few minutes to read their platforms and fill out a ballot.

Communication between elected bodies and the people they represent could always use improvement. But our Students' Union don't live in an ivory tower, only discussing ideas with students during photogenic moments. Students are encouraged to interact with both the executives and faculty representatives. We're given multiple opportunities to access the su, and when we do, our concerns are taken seriously.

So a 28.8 per cent voter turnout is certainly low — even the City of Calgary managed to get out a whopping 39 per cent turnout for the municipal election — but we shouldn't treat it like some grand failure of communication or democracy.



The average student will never be able to quote sections of the su's constitution nor attend every meeting of the Student Legislative Council, but it's not unreasonable to expect a bare minimum of community engagement from them.

However, we have a better chance of getting a competent

and well run su with a smaller group of voters who are informed about issues than we do with a sky-high voter turnout that elects executives with the best designed posters. Democracy might be a right at the university, but we should remember to treat it as a privilege.

**I**  

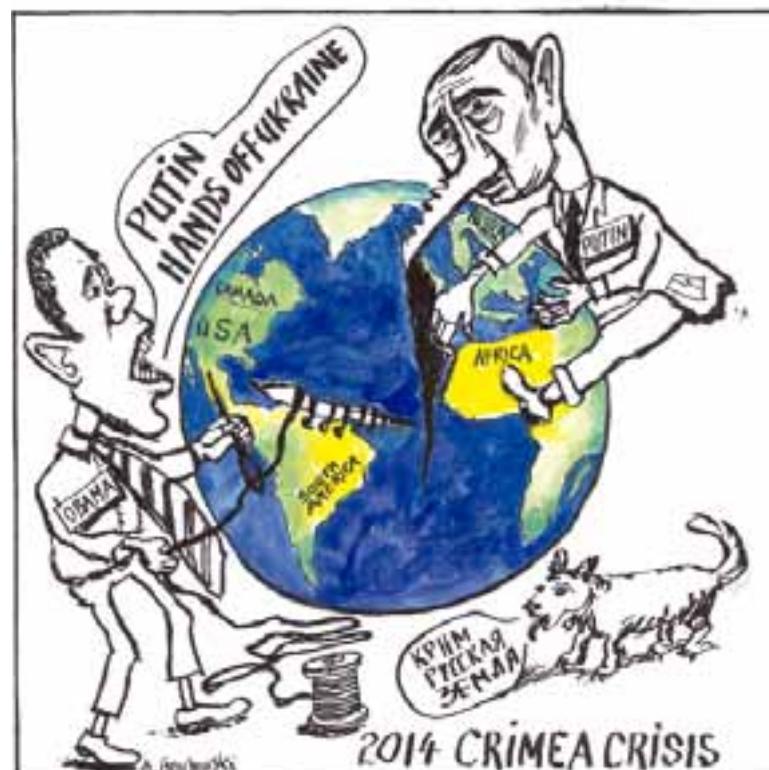
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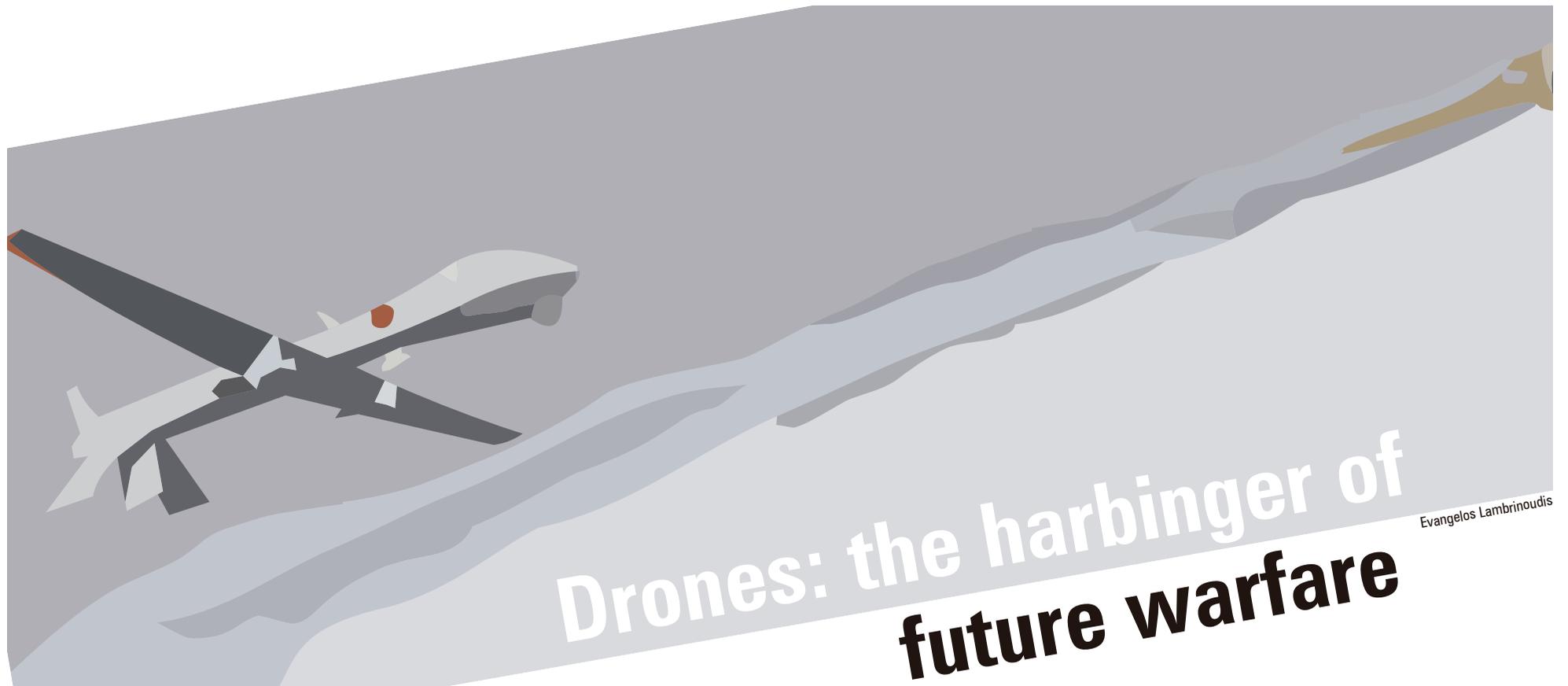
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## Tobias Ma

**S**adaullah Wazir must be 18 or 19 years old by now. He might have been starting his first or second year of university. “My life was very good,” he said in 2011. “I thought I would become a doctor.” His legs are gone, stripped by a U.S. drone strike when he was 15. The result was prosthetics, painful walking and constant headaches.

Like Wazir, many residents of the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan spend every day in the shadow of the valley of death, wondering if high-explosive damnation will come streaking out of the sky to claim them or a loved one. Some of these people might be classified as combatants by U.S. authorities, but they cannot see, hear or surrender to automated bombs fired from remote-controlled planes. The pilots of America’s newest war machine might not have a face. But they certainly have eyes and hands.

What is a drone? Since around 2001, many Western nations have employed remote-controlled aircraft, officially designated as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. These airplanes were mostly used for high-altitude reconnaissance, although the U.S. has been arming their craft since the Afghanistan campaigns in 2001.

The piloting team controls drones via satellite. A dish is mounted on the aircraft, which uploads a real-time video feed and radar to a satellite that bounces the information back down to squishy human pilots, safely tucked away in a bunker, surrounded by control boxes and monitors. The quality of U.S. communications hardware and the diaspora of U.S. military bases allow drones to be launched from

anywhere on the globe and controlled from opposite ends of the hemisphere.

The two primary drones employed by the U.S. are named the Predator and the Reaper. This factoid doesn’t tell us much about the technology except that the U.S. military name their toys like 12 year olds, but it should tell you what these machines are designed to do.

The Predator weighs about 2,200 pounds loaded and flies at a max cruising speed of 217 kilometers per hour. I know what you’re thinking: what a slow piece of crap. My Civic goes faster than that. Well, your job is probably delivering pizzas, or writing for a student newspaper in exchange for pizzas. The Predator’s job is to fly at heights far greater than any combat helicopter (over 25,000 feet in the sky) invisible to the naked eye and for 24-hour stretches that would fatigue a human pilot, like some kind of flying Jaws.

The Predator’s big brother, the Reaper, flies almost three times faster and carries 15 times more weapons, except its weight restricts a single flight to 14 hours. If the piloting team spots a target and Obama is having a bad day, they pulverize it with Hellfire missiles or a laser-guided bomb, and probably say badass stuff like, “kill confirmed.” Hellfire missiles were first designed as anti-armour weapons to be used against tanks and such. However, like most U.S. military technology, they were built with the paranoia of fighting a great and formidable foe, like Megatron from *Transformers*. When the U.S. realized that the aerial war in the Middle East was not going to consist of brilliant dogfights and strafing runs but surveillance and the occasional hail of death on peasant rebels armed with Kalashnikov rifles, the Air Force adapted the missiles for precision use with UAVs. Go figure.

Air force pilots train their bodies for a long

time before taking their birds through any sort of fancy *Top Gun* maneuver. This is not just to look good playing beach volleyball. If you or I rode in the cockpit of a fighter jet and did a barrel roll, we would puke all over ourselves and black out. Cardiovascular health, muscular strength and extended acclimatization are necessary for airmen to survive the rigors of G-force strain and fluctuating air pressure levels.

Obviously, you cannot afford to lose consciousness while piloting an airplane. Fatigue is a major issue for all pilots, as their lives and the lives of others depend on staying focused every second they remain airborne.

Some of you might recall the joke that goes, “My grandfather was an airline pilot. He passed away peacefully in his sleep yesterday. His passengers did not.”

Others might remember the horrible Tarnak Farm friendly fire incident in 2002 that sent home Canada’s first casualty from Afghanistan — a night-time bomb drop by an American fighter squadron who partly blamed fatigue (and the subsequent use of amphetamines) on their mistake.

Drones promise to fix all of that. By rotating pilots in and out with shifts, an alert and rested individual can operate a drone so long as it has fuel. Once armies discovered the utility of the airplane during the First and Second World Wars, military leaders have tirelessly looked for a way to make aircraft and pilots more efficient. For them, unmanned flight has been an unrealized fantasy until now. Nothing is a more effective force multiplier than control of battlefield airspace. To any state under attack, losing control of the air — even briefly — can mean permanently losing control of the ability to scramble fighters.

When Israel attacked Egypt in the Six-Day War of 1967, their first action was to

raid Egypt’s airfields. Egypt had one of the most well-developed Air Forces out of the Arab states, but after Israel flattened their planes to the ground they never regained air superiority. Afterwards, Israel took the liberty of endlessly raiding Egyptian supply lines and fuel depots as well as infantry and tank columns which devastated the Egyptian forces.

To any attacking state, loss of air control means leaving men and vehicles on the ground exposed to fire from fortified positions, often isolated from supplies or the possibility of retreat. When Syria, Egypt and their allies attacked Israel in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War, it was their inability to break the Israeli Air Force that cost them their initial offensive and eventually the war.

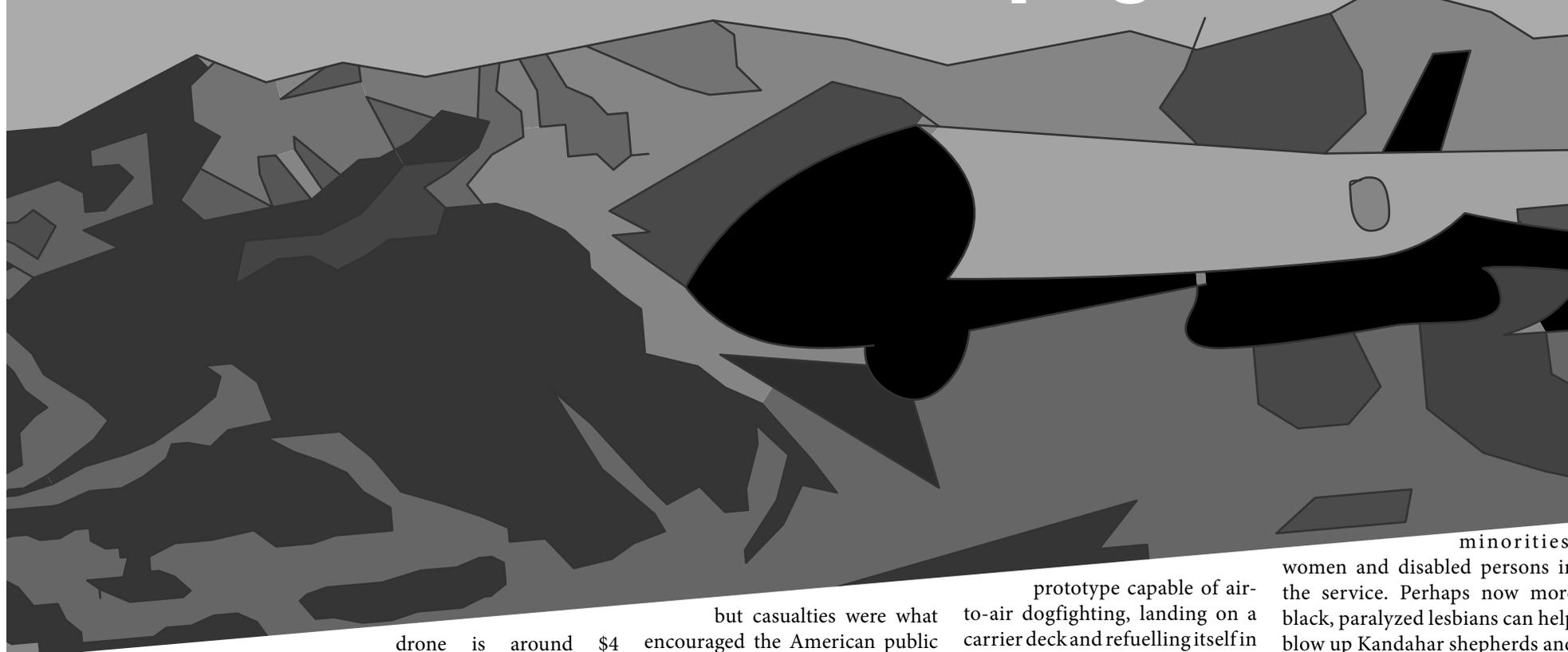
There are other well-known examples of the kind of havoc unchecked airplanes can wreak during war — the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for instance. However, the Yom Kippur War and the Six-Day War are the two best examples of modern, reasonably well-matched militaries going toe-to-toe. The outcomes of these wars illustrate the importance of air superiority in tipping both the physical and psychological scales of an armed conflict.

The closest I have ever felt to being bombed was having my friends pop a bag of Froot Loops by my head while I was trying to sleep, but all of my research suggests that the experience is absolutely terrifying. The difference between knowing that there are friendly faces in the sky, ready to swoop down and deliver you from evil versus wondering if thunderbolts from Zeus will fry you without warning greatly affects a soldier’s psychological resiliency.

During the Yom Kippur War, the Egyptian Air Force put up a vicious fight and destroyed many more airplanes than

see DRONES, page 12

# Drones, continued from page 11



the Israelis expected to lose. These losses terrified Israeli high command, partially because airplanes rank among the most expensive pieces of military equipment pound-for-pound, but more so because of the loss of experienced pilots, many of whom were veterans of the Six-Day War.

Pilots take a long time to train and represent a significant investment for militaries. They are placed in charge of critical machinery and often have access to intelligence reports that can jeopardize a great deal if captured. Successful pilots enjoy a great deal of social status in the military and can affect national morale when lost. One of the most famous captives of the Yom Kippur War was an Israeli pilot named Avraham Lanir who was tortured to death for vital information that, as far we know, he refused to divulge.

Drones are generally cheaper to produce than conventional aircraft. The cost of a Predator

drone is around \$4 million. A Reaper drone costs around \$17 million, but still compares favourably to last-generation aircraft such as the F/A-18 Hornet, which can cost anywhere between \$29–60 million depending on the model.

The U.S. does not have a drone to fulfil every air combat purpose, and the operating cost of an aircraft varies wildly (some stealth bombers run close to \$1 billion for a single unit). But the main reduction in cost is political thanks to the reduction of risk for the pilot. No more pilots in flag-draped caskets, pesky journalists swarming military spokespeople with questions. No more lawsuits from bitter family members. No more costly search-and-rescue, behind-enemy-lines missions for downed pilots who know that Dick Cheney wears Spider-Man pyjamas, or that George W. Bush made the nuclear launch codes “12345” and Obama didn’t bother to change them.

Subbing out men for automated weapons like drones has the potential to reduce U.S. casualties,

but casualties were what encouraged the American public to condemn war to begin with. I’m not saying that casualties are good. They’re awful. But when war is too convenient for one side it becomes too easy to keep going to war.

The irony of drone technology is that its ability to safeguard lives might threaten prospects for long-term peace. According to a 2009 statement from former U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, drones “are the only game in town” for disrupting insurgents.

While it is disturbing that Panetta compared drones to a game, considering how much drone piloting resembles a video game (and how badly the Air Force tries to recruit clueless young men based on this fact), this statement has only proven more accurate as time goes on. The U.S. is building more combat drones and performing research to expand roles drones can fill.

Drone pilots can work in complete safety, without the distractions and fears of combat. The Navy has developed a drone

prototype capable of air-to-air dogfighting, landing on a carrier deck and refuelling itself in midair. The potential advantages of a superior air UAV are immense, given that dogfighting is often more dangerous and physically demanding for pilots than any other type of mission. From a sociological perspective, drones could prove useful to the U.S. military’s image, which has undergone something of a botched makeover in response to easing of American gender and racial barriers.

As much as everyone used to love the handsome hotshot pilot, that ideal has fallen off the wagon lately as more and more people have realized that the U.S. hasn’t had a serious military rival in decades. All their pilots do now is rain on the parades of weaker, poorer countries.

Thanks to the lack of glory associated with killing from behind a computer screen along with the more relaxed, almost office-like atmosphere the Air Force has come to adopt, the old boys’ club at the Pentagon shouldn’t feel too threatened by including a greater number of

minorities, women and disabled persons in the service. Perhaps now more black, paralyzed lesbians can help blow up Kandahar shepherds and goats all the way from sunny California. Huzzah?

Another dubious advantage that drones offer is the kind of anonymity that traumatized Delta Force snipers wish they had. The

U.S. has made hundreds of drone strikes in Yemen and Pakistan, yet we have no idea who the pilots are. This presents huge problems.

Anonymity makes killing easier and makes accountability more difficult. A former Lieutenant-Colonel Army Ranger and psychology professor by the name of Dave Grossman wrote a book titled *On Killing* that examines the various factors that militaries

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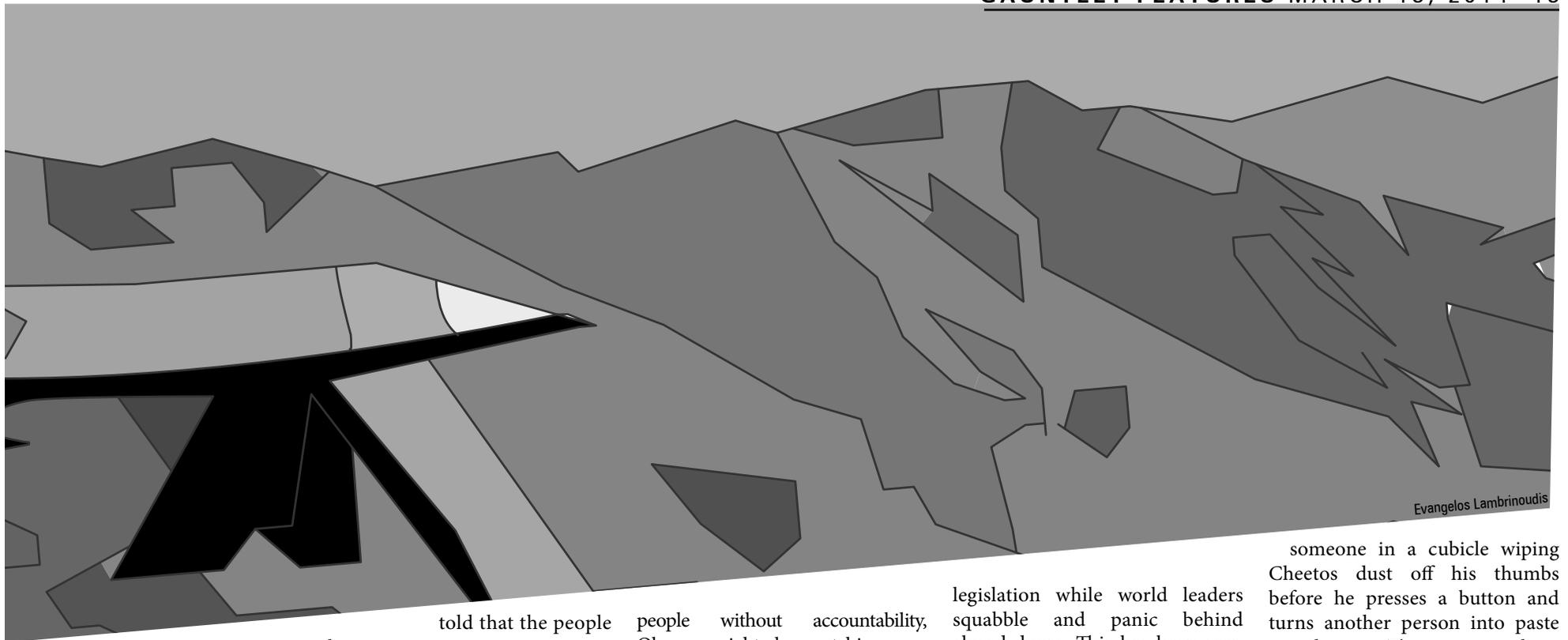
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employ to shape a normal, empathetic person into a remorseless killer. Switching to decaf is not one of them.

Anonymity, physical distance, group expectations, class distinction and perceived value in killing the target are all among the most important predictors of whether a soldier will follow their orders, and drones fulfil all of these. Anonymity I just mentioned. Physical distance should be an obvious factor, as drone pilots operate far from their vehicle. Group expectations are important as well because drone pilots fly as a team, often under direct orders from the president.

Drone strikes enable class distinction because the targeted insurgents are not exactly privileged folks. As for perceived value in a target, well, pilots are

told that the people they are targeting are important terrorist leaders.

In truth, drone operations are conducted with such secrecy that the public has no idea who is being killed at this point. But few people seem to care that civilians, such as family members or neighbours, are getting caught in the crossfire, perhaps because the lives of American soldiers are not at risk of retaliation during these operations, or maybe it's just difficult to empathize with a grainy satellite image of a smouldering building, even if the remains of a few kids are inside.

Disappointingly, the majority of Americans appear to approve the use of drones in overseas combat — their fears are centered around the possibility that their government might use drones to spy on them. Never mind that your government is blowing up

people without accountability, Obama might be watching you masturbate.

My issue with drones does not lie in the physical product, which is an engineering marvel and has many potential civilian applications. Miniaturized drone technology can save lives by performing surgeries inside internal organs. The possibility to improve commercial shipping is also enormous. Amazon has already begun developing a fleet of drones and maybe McDonald's will start delivering "McDrops." That is just wishful thinking on my part. But suggesting that we eradicate drone technology is an unrealistic solution. Drones are here to stay.

Other nations are already adopting drones faster than a computer can sing "Daisy Bell," and like any potent military technology the law will lag behind

legislation while world leaders squabble and panic behind closed doors. This has been seen throughout history, ranging from the crossbow to the type of firearms ammunition soldiers are allowed to carry to biological weapons like mustard and sarin gas to the atomic bomb.

The important task before Western governments right now is to pursue airtight methods of monitoring and regulating the use of drones in targeted killings.

As of January, around 2,500–4,000 people have been killed in Pakistan in around 300 drone strikes. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism estimates that 500–900 of those deaths were civilians and that 168–200 of those civilians were children. The U.S. government has denied killing a single civilian with drone attacks. I try not to harbour delusions — war must be hell and civilians will always suffer. But the thought of

someone in a cubicle wiping Cheetos dust off his thumbs before he presses a button and turns another person into paste is sickening. There is something particularly inhumane in diluting the cruelty of war with Orwellian gimmicks.

When I was researching tips on how to write a feature, I found a website that suggested that the most common type of features writing tells a story of a person overcoming insurmountable odds. Out of curiosity, I went back to Sadaullah Wazir, the boy at the beginning of this article who lost his legs in 2009 to see if he made it into medical school, got the girl and won the Millennium Falcon back from Lando. I couldn't find anything for a while. Then, a small mention of him in a *New York Times* article, dated about a week after my 23rd birthday in May, 2013. I was mad that week because my phone was broken. Presumably as a result of his injuries, Wazir had died.

## Dirt to Dishes: Barriers to Food Accessibility and Acceptability



**Ben Cannon**  
VP Student Life



Ever wonder why it's so much cheaper to eat salty noodles than to satisfy your belly with hearty fresh vegetables and proteins? SU Volunteer Services and Meal Exchange have teamed up to present Hunger Week, Dirt to Dishes: Barriers to Food Accessibility and Acceptability a week of fun and educational events about food security and socially conscious cuisine.

Join us on Monday between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. in the Kinesiology Atrium and check out Test Your Food IQ. Answer a question, get your picture taken, and enjoy a free snack pack.

On Tuesday at 2 p.m. in That Empty Space check out Hunger-Free, Calgary Interfaith Food Bank representatives will be exploring the impact of hunger, which can be found in every community of our city. In working with individuals and agencies throughout the city, we hope to tackle poverty and other root causes of food insecurity.

Wonder what you should be eating? Registered Dietician Richelle Tabelon is here to help. Come out to SMART Student Nutrition – Be your own Dietician on Thursday at 2pm in That Empty Space. You will be guided in assessing your own diet and hear practical tips on how to improve it. If you plan on attending, please fill out a 1 to 3 day food record to better your understanding in this workshop.

**Hunger Week runs March 17 - 21 in MacEwan Student Centre. Visit [www.su.ucalgary.ca/hungerweek](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/hungerweek) for these event details and more!**

### *The Students' Union is hiring!*

Work on campus and gain real world experience in a variety of positions with the Students' Union in 2014-15. We're looking for Event Coordinators, Research Assistants, Program Assistants, Volunteer Program Coordinators and a Chief Returning Officer. Applicants must be undergraduate students and the application deadline is April 5. For more information, visit [www.su.ucalgary.ca/employment](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/employment).



## One of U of C's most popular annual events has graduated

Sean Willett

Production Editor

The Coming Out Monologues YYC, formerly known as the University of Calgary's Coming Out Monologues, has moved locations and shifted focus. Inspired by the *Vagina Monologues*, the event showcases people sharing their experiences with coming out as different gender identities and sexual orientations.

This year's performances will take place from March 19–21 at the John Dutton theatre downtown, abandoning the much smaller Boris Roubakine Recital Hall at the U of C.

"We're not going to be performing on campus this year, since we have outgrown the theatre," says Madeleine Hardy, one of the event's co-ordinators. "Last year we had to turn people away. It's always hard to tell people that we've sold out for the night and that they can't fit in the theatre."

The U of C performance of the *Vagina Monologues* had a similar problem this year, with tickets quickly selling out for the limited space.

"I realize that the U of C is focused on research, but I'd love for them to take some time to remember these community events, since they reinforce and build stronger

communities," Hardy says.

A larger venue isn't the only difference for the Coming Out Monologues, as the nature of the performance pieces have changed dramatically over the last two years.

"The performances were prescribed for the first three years of the Coming Out Monologues in Calgary, as we just found monologues that were already written and used those," Hardy says. "But last year and this year we have really moved towards having the performers write their own original pieces."

This shift towards emphasizing personal stories has also allowed

performers to try new and different ways of telling their stories.

"The performances come in all forms, with people doing dances, monologues and duologues," says Hardy. "We work with these performers — some of which have never been on stage before — to prepare them and get them stage ready with voice and body movement workshops."

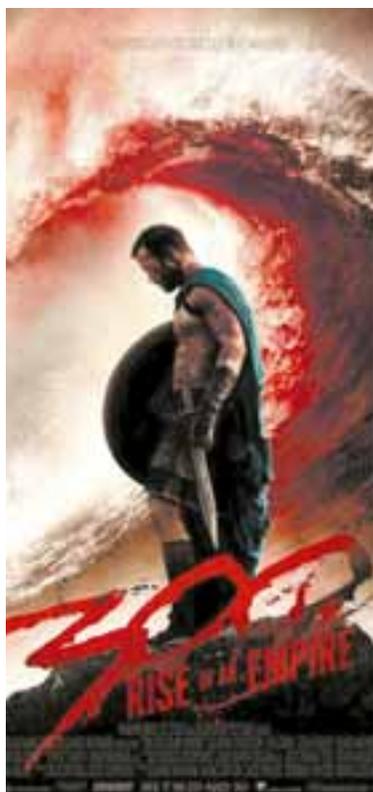
This preparation can be an emotional undertaking for the cast, who are channeling their personal experiences with coming out.

"The process that you undergo to help flesh out and develop your piece is incredibly deep and emotional," says Shiloh Mullins,

one of the performers. "I experienced feelings I didn't think I had, or I thought I had dealt with. Tears were shed. But it really helps you know you are doing the right thing."

Mullins hopes that by sharing her experience, other people can come to understand and appreciate the difficulties faced by many members of the LGBTQ community.

"I hope that people are able to wrap their heads around the emotional turmoil involved in the process of coming out," Mullins says. "I didn't just decide to wear a purple shirt one day. It was an incredibly difficult decision."



## Film review: *300: Rise of an Empire*

David Song

Gauntlet Entertainment

The first *300* movie was known for the line "This is Sparta" — which has now been immortalized in contemporary pop culture — and for its showers of cinematic blood. *300: Rise of an Empire* reuses that same line and delivers more over-the-top combat. But it also manages to add depth to a cinematic universe that has not been taken seriously.

*Rise of an Empire* is not merely a sequel that follows up on the events of the preceding movie: it is a prequel, a midquel and a sequel, fleshing out the plot and setting of the first *300*. No longer

does the film center around the hyper-masculine Spartan warriors staining the soil with Persian blood — Themistocles (Sullivan Stapleton) is an Athenian who can hold his own against any Spartan. It turns out that he and the rest of Greece weren't just standing around idly while King Leonidas and the other 299 Spartans fought for glory in the first film.

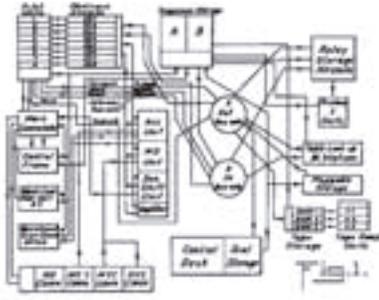
No longer are the Persians just nameless aggressors to be broken by Greek fortitude. *Rise of an Empire* shows their story as well, revealing that King Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro) wasn't always a bald, extremely tall, extremely strange-looking god-king. Most importantly, we are introduced

to Artemisia (Eva Green). In a world where men do most of the heavy lifting, Artemisia manages to be more intimidating than any male soldier and proves to be excellent foil for Themistocles. Green steals the show with a chilling and evocative performance that grabs you by the collar and refuses to let go until the credits roll.

Regardless of improvements in plot and character, the *300* series will always be a spectacle for the senses and in this department, *Rise of an Empire* goes bigger than its predecessor. Much of the action takes place on the sea where waves and lightning create a treacherous, visually

stunning battlefield. Slow motion is used liberally to enhance the effect of blood spewing from the bodies of the recently killed. Vessels shatter and flames engulf the vanquished. Each fight scene is creatively conceptualized and rendered, making for a rollercoaster ride from start to finish.

*300: Rise of an Empire* is not for the faint of heart, nor will it please lovers of historical accuracy. However, it manages to blend pulse-pounding action and gorgeous set pieces with memorable characters and a surprisingly ambitious plot. This latest adventure through a heavily romanticized ancient Greece is certainly worth the price of admission.



## spun

ALBUM REVIEWS

### Livingston

*Artificially Intelligent Folk Songs of Canada, Vol. 1*

March 11, 2014 (Label Fantastic)

I've seen enough sci-fi to be weary of artificial intelligence anything, but if the future sounds anything like Livingston's *Artificially Intelligent Folk Songs of Canada, Vol. 1* we needn't worry as much as I thought. I say this because Livingston is an artificially intelligent computer capable of accessing the whole of Canadian folk music history and generating "hyper-authentic" folk via his/her (the people behind Livingston have assigned the computer a possibly gendered identity, as opposed to being an "it") algorithmic agents and compression formats. Livingston doesn't make the music, but writes lyrics and harmonies to be performed by musicians. And for a computer, he/she does a damn good job.

The musicians performing the music Livingston produces, are Misha Bower (vocals), Marshall Bureau (drums), J.J. Ipsen (bass, piano, lead guitars and organ), Henry Adam Svec (guitar, vocals and harmonica) and several other musicians lending assistance on strings and keys.

Although the title of "I Am A Weary Immaterial Labourer In A Post-Industrial Wasteland" sounds like some kind of Marx-

ian battle cry, the opening track grows from a simple twangy guitar and vocals to include drums, organ and a foot-stomping chorus that makes you want to hear more. The album gains a feisty momentum with liberal sax and whisky-soaked lyrics in "S/He Is Like The Angry Birds" before slowing down again with "Takin' Off My Glasses Tonight." The slide guitar, violin and soulful harmonies make it one of the most memorable songs on the modest 24-minute album. While the album is comprised of originally generated music, Livingston somehow finds a place for a cover of the Eagles's "Take It Easy" — though it's listed as "Take It Easy But Take It To The Limit," which is surely a play on the other Eagles's hit "Take It To The Limit" — and is given a new life as a duet with Bower and Svec, rounded out with ample harmonica.

Overall, *Vol. 1* is a perfect balance between catchy, upbeat tunes and heartfelt folk ballads making it a surprisingly addictive album. Computers making folk music may just be the most radical thing to happen to folk music since Dylan went electric, but any artificial intelligence that likes Don Henley can't be all bad.

For more information on Livingston, check out folksingular-ity.com.

Liv Ingram



courtesy Theatre Encounter

## Theatre Encounter Presents *How to Win Friends and Influence People*

Katarina Atherholt

Gauntlet Entertainment

Calgary-based not-for-profit Theatre Encounter is introducing a multidisciplinary live-art production based on Dale Carnegie's best-selling book *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

The performance is a conceptual interpretation of the book.

"The designers have torn it apart to find the essence of what we believe is being presented through this book," says director Michael Fenton, "and presenting it in the angles and forms of what we think it is."

Carnegie's book, published in 1936, remains a popular self-help book for developing the skills to win over those around you in order to get further ahead in life. The concepts in the book have laid the foundation for many modern management techniques and continue to in-

fluence today's executive world.

What sets this performance apart from other theatrical adaptations of famous texts done by the company is the incorporation of multiple art forms within their exploration and interpretation of Carnegie's book. The show incorporates both operatic metal music and Butoh — a Japanese movement style.

Butoh is a traditional dance based on the use of expressionist movement techniques.

Assistant director Val Duncan brought Butoh to the production after spending time in Sapporo, Japan learning the movement style.

For music, the company integrated several operatic metal pieces composed by Duncan and one of the actresses, Emily McCourt. The idea came from Fenton, who considers it a great sound accompaniment to contemporary movement and it was embraced by the cast as a way to contrast the physical movement to give the audi-

ence a wider experience.

Though these various forms of artistic movement and music may seem difficult to learn, Duncan emphasized the relative ease with which the actors were able to pick up both the dance style and adopt the music choice.

Beyond this show, Theatre Encounter focuses on interpreting classic books, theater, literature, poetry and self-help books with an alternative point of view. They concentrate on capturing a perspective beyond the everyday reader's to make their productions enjoyably provocative. Duncan describes their methods as "an artistic response" more so than an analysis and says that in this case, what they've really done with the piece is react to it.

The show runs March 18–22 and 25–29 at 8:00 p.m. in the Art Box on 17E, with 2:00 p.m. matinees on March 22 and 29.

For more information visit  
theatreencounter.com.

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# Film review: *Enemy*

**Matthew Parkinson**  
Gauntlet Entertainment

*Enemy* is one of the most bizarre, confusing and frustrating movies I have ever had the privilege to watch. Ostensibly a thriller, this is an atmospheric slow burn that doesn't provide any easy answers — it might not provide any answers at all.

While watching, your brain is constantly searching for clues and solutions that may not exist. It's often said that a good thriller stays one step ahead of its audience; *Enemy* has already finished the race by the time you get to the starting line. Or perhaps it was never in the race and you imagined its participation. I felt like I might have hallucinated 80 per cent of the events in *Enemy*.

Loosely based on José Saramago's novel, *The Double*, the plot involves a history professor named Adam Bell (Jake Gyllenhaal) watching a movie and noticing an actor looks exactly like him. As it turns out, this actor lives in the same city, Toronto, which is captured by cinematographer Nicolas Bolduc as a misty and cold place.

The actor's name is Anthony St. Claire, and the two men look and sound identical — both are played by Gyllenhaal, who gives each of them distinct personalities.

Adam embarks on a quest to locate his doppelgänger. While Anthony initially wants nothing to do with him, eventually the two meet. There are only a couple of major events that happen after this point and the meeting occurs halfway through. As mentioned, this is an incredibly slow burn.

Not a lot happens in *Enemy*. This isn't a plot-driven film. It builds a heavy atmosphere which constantly has us questioning what's happening. Truth be told, what's happening is often very little. There are a few key events, but they're few and far between. Characters wander around with their thoughts or are looking for clues. It's interesting to see that there are two identical individuals. Something eventually does come of that but mostly the film backs off and gives us ample time to consider how exactly this happened, as well as ponder almost everything that's going on or has already occurred. We only see one mother, for exam-

ple. Blueberries are mentioned multiple times — one of them likes the fruit; the other doesn't. What does all this mean? Does it amount to anything? And what is with that penultimate shot?

Ultimately, the film ends at one of the least opportune moments possible. It feels like we've finally got a chance at finding out what we've been waiting to learn and then we see that this isn't what's going to happen. The final few seconds are haunting and add more ripples of confusion.

Is the film incomplete? Likely not. This was a calculated decision by *Prisoners* and *Incendies* director Denis Villeneuve, who has become one of Canada's best directors. But why? And can it be determined upon a single viewing? I believe it requires at least two — assuming this is a mystery which can be solved.

That's indicative of a good thriller. It leaves you guessing and wanting more. Perhaps it doesn't amount to much and it's all just confusion for confusion's sake. It still provides you with a feeling and experience you don't often get from the movies. For that, it comes recommended.



courtesy E1 Films

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# The desolation of Roberto Luongo

Vancouver botches the handling of their best goaltender in franchise history

Suneil Sachdeva  
Gauntlet Sports



Two Olympic gold medals, four National Hockey League all-star selections, one Hart trophy nomination for the league's most valuable player, three Vezina nominations for best goalie and one game seven loss away from a Stanley Cup. This is the resume of an elite goaltender, an asset any NHL general manager would surely never throw away.

Vancouver GM Mike Gillis would apparently beg to differ.

Roberto Luongo, longtime netminder for the Vancouver Canucks, was shipped out of town at this year's trade deadline. Judging by the return bagged by Vancouver's front office — a 24-year-old goaltending prospect who has yet to live up to expectations and a centre who has never put up more than 24 points in six NHL seasons — thrown away is the best term to describe the move.

The Canucks have fallen far from their Stanley Cup finals appearance in 2011. In those days, they reigned as one of the best defensive teams in the league. They finished atop the standings with a league-best 54 wins and a William M. Jennings trophy which identified Luongo and teammate Cory Schneider as the best goalie tandem in the NHL. Being in the running for championships and awards must not have sat well with the Canucks brass however. They wasted little time in upending their stability in net and turning their locker room into a three-ring circus, instead of locking down their strong goaltending and gearing up for another run at the Cup.

What has transpired in Vancouver over the past three seasons is genuinely absurd. After Luongo and the Canucks fell just short of the Stanley Cup in 2011, Schneider took over as starter for the 2012 playoffs and the following season. The Canucks seemed poised to trade Luongo. Instead, a managerial roller coaster ensued. Gillis traded Schneider to New Jersey this summer and re-established Luongo as the starter, before signing goalie prospect

Eddie Lack to a \$2.3 million deal — after only five NHL games — and eventually promoting him to start over Luongo for this month's outdoor spectacle, the Heritage Classic. All of this fluctuation culminated in a distraught Luongo being traded to the Florida Panthers on March 4.

While the Heritage Classic would have given Luongo his first chance to play in an outdoor game — a good opportunity for management to extend an olive branch to Luongo — the Canucks perceived Lack as their best chance to win due to a small hot streak. After Lack struggled en route to a shaky loss — failing to add to his whopping nine wins in 26 starts — Vancouver decided they had seen all they needed to, promptly putting Luongo on a plane to Florida and throwing Lack's name up in lights.

The Luongo debacle has single-handedly removed the Canucks from the echelon of Cup contenders where they once comfortably sat, and dropped them into the same bin as the New York Islanders — the pretenders who couldn't trade their way out of a paper bag.

This was not a case of a goalten-



**/// A real contender stays the course. They identify their core, move only to add and complement it and keep coming back until they succeed.**

der getting hot, leading a team far into the playoffs, but not having the resume to warrant full franchise commitment. No, Luongo had already set every significant goaltending record for the Canucks, had led the Canucks to their best regular season in franchise history and had just helped backstop Canada to an Olympic gold medal. In any other franchise, a player with such a tremendous track record would be cemented as the starter, no questions asked. The Canucks, however, refused to bend to the will of reason — or even a basic understanding of achievement and success.

Now, after the dust has finally settled, the Canucks have come out the other side worse off than before. Their once-unquestioned goaltending is now in the hands of two unproven rookies, while their core quietly leaves their prime.

It's difficult to pin down exactly which decision by Vancouver's front office was their worst. Was it signing Luongo to a contract until the age of 42, thus diminishing his trade value? Was it their incomprehensible pattern of demoting and promoting Luongo, while dangling him as trade bait during the summer? Waffling between telling your goaltender he is unfit to play the big games and then strong enough to lead the franchise is no way to inspire confidence.

The biggest error the Canucks made was simply losing faith in Luongo. Their trust in him slipped away in such a short period of time for seemingly no reason at all. The Canucks viewed losing the Stanley Cup finals as a failure on Luongo's part, despite the fact that he got them there. They look like a stubborn child who couldn't get one last tower

on top of their sand castle, and so decided to knock the whole thing down.

A real contender stays the course. They identify their core, move only to add and complement it and keep coming back until they succeed. Teams like Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston and Pittsburgh have played a part in the last six Stanley Cup finals, and figure to play a part in many more due to this strategy. The Canucks had a chance to remain in that exceptional club, but failed to identify their strengths. By making numerous decisions that destabilized their franchise, they've been sent away from the big boys' club.

The new era of Canucks goaltending has now begun. Eddie Lack allowed four goals on his first 10 shots as the new face of the team's netminding. He followed up this performance by setting a new franchise record — for most goals allowed in one period with seven, in a colossal third-period collapse against the Islanders.

The guy who holds many of their other franchise records posted a shutout in his Panthers debut.

# Parkour! Parkour! Parkour! Parkour!

## New gym provides safe space for Calgarians to learn high-flying sport

**Fabian Mayer**

Sports Assistant • @FGMay

**P**arkour is about getting from point A to B in the most efficient and graceful way possible, navigating any obstacles in your path. Parkour athletes can be seen running, jumping and vaulting through urban environments around the world.

The Calgary parkour scene is among the biggest in Canada and is getting a boost. Breathe Parkour, a company which started by publishing a magazine, recently opened up Calgary's only parkour gym.

Co-founder of Breathe Parkour

Matthew Talbot-Turner believes the time is right to provide a space for the Calgary parkour community.

"Right now it's listed as the fastest growing extreme sport in the world. I don't really think of it as extreme though because everybody does it to their own ability and it doesn't have to be extreme. I don't think anybody expected it to be what it is," said Talbot-Turner.

Talbot-Turner had tried a number of more-conventional sports before taking up parkour. He thinks the freedom parkour offers makes it appealing to people who may shy away from traditional sports.

"There are not a lot of rules to

follow. You come up with your own lines, your own movements and there's no referee. Everybody can learn at their own pace," said Talbot-Turner.

The new gym, located in the Calgary Northeast Sports Facility, boasts Calgary's largest foam pit, three levels of obstacles and a variety of classes.

Seventeen-year-old Joshua Dohy got into parkour three years ago and trains at the gym. He is a certified instructor, a sponsored athlete and one of the top parkour athletes in the city.

"It helps preserve my child-like qualities. I find myself to be a little bit childish and immature. With parkour I can still be playful and young and bounce around," said Dohy.

Beyond having fun, Dohy mentioned other positives that have come out of his parkour career.

"It has made me a lot more responsible and made me a lot more confident in what I do," said Dohy.

Dohy believes that parkour offers people an alternative to more structured sports and fitness activities.

"Some people do gymnastics but find it to be way too strict. Then they get into parkour and



courtesy Kayla Lissel

A seasoned parkour veteran shows the kids how it's done.

they find that all those boundaries are broken," said Dohy. "It feels more like alternative fitness — a lot of people just aren't motivated by weightlifting."

While running and jumping around concrete or wooden structures presents a variety of dangers, Talbot-Turner points out that there are risks to all sports.

"I'm not going to shy away from injuries. They happen," said Talbot-

Turner, who believes that parkour has a lower injury rate than most team sports.

Talbot-Turner enjoys the freedom that parkour offers, but for him the most important element of the sport is the group of people he has met along the way.

"The community, the friends that I've made, the experiences I've had. They're unlike any other people I've met."

## DINOS

### ROOKIES OF THE MONTH



**Temi Ogunjimi**  
Dinos Wrestling

In her first season as a Dino, Temi Ogunjimi was named the Canada West Rookie of the Year. Her performance in the 59kg weight class won Ogunjimi her first Canada West gold medal for the Dinos. At the CIS Championships, she finished sixth in the country.



**Drydn Dow**  
Dinos Hockey

Freshman Drydn Dow had a stellar season in his first year with the Dinos. The defenceman scored two goals and added ten assists for Calgary over the course of the regular season. He was named to the Canada West All-Rookie Team as one of two top defencemen in their first year in the conference.

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## Golden Bears dash Dinos's title hopes



courtesy Randy Savoie/the Gateway

Dinos forward Kevin King is muscled off the puck by two University of Alberta Golden Bears players in the Canada West finals. The Dinos were thumped 8-2 in game one and dropped game two 2-1, a disappointing end to one of their best seasons in recent memory.

# Love at first Facebook post

## U of C Compliments page proves to be successful matchmaking service

Melanie Bethune

Gauntlet AP • @water\_melan

Are you searching for love? Are you sick and tired of traditional dating services? Look no further than your Facebook newsfeed.

The popular Facebook page U of C Compliments has almost 8,000 likes and allows students to express their appreciation for friends and strangers.

Students say that they love U of C Compliments for the confidence boost it provides, but it seems that

lately the page has been providing more than that.

“We believe that U of C Compliments is the premiere matchmaking service on campus,” said the page’s administrator who chose to remain anonymous. “And we feel that there is no better way to meet your perfect match than through an anonymous compliment about how cute someone wearing that one thing looked that one time at that one place.”

U of C Compliments originates from a similar program first started at Queen’s University which

has been incredibly successful in creating new relationships. The majority of students complimented said that if it were not for the page they would not have known that they were ‘looking fine in those yoga pants’ or that they ‘are one beautiful specimen.’

While the page states that its intention is to “put smiles on faces of unsuspecting people,” it has also proven to be an ideal setting for romance.

“U of C Compliments is the reason I found love,” said a guy in a purple sweatshirt who was walking through the Taylor Family Digital Library on Monday. “I saw this compliment come up on my newsfeed, right between my brother’s drunk status update and a link to Justin Bieber’s deposition video. It said ‘To the guy in the purple sweatshirt walking through TFDL on Monday, you’re hella cute. From the shy girl with the red beanie.’ When I realized that I’m the guy in the purple sweatshirt, I knew that ‘shy girl’ was destined to be my one true love.”

The people behind the page hope that U of C Compliments

will eventually replace more mainstream relationship searches.

“Gone are the days of finding relationships through shared interests,” the administrator continued, “or dating, or even talking to people. Now all you have to do is anonymously point out that you noticed someone somewhere at some point in time without even knowing their name or personality and the next thing you know you’ll have your soul mate. It’s that easy. Move over eHarmony!”

Thanks to U of C Compliments, the relationship between the guy in the purple hoodie and the shy girl has rapidly moved forward.

“I finally found out his name yesterday,” said shy girl. “It’s like we’re married. And I didn’t have to actually go out and make an effort to meet him, all I had to do was take notice of him, make a Facebook post and the next thing you know we’re together forever. We have a date next week in TFDL — he’s going to wear his purple hoodie again.”

The creators of the page expect that its popularity and matchmaking ability will leave a lasting legacy.

“In 20 years when parents are

telling their kids how they met,” the administrator said proudly, “every couple is going to be saying ‘through a Facebook page about complimenting strangers.’ This is the practical future of love and romance, no effort required. Nothing says romance like stalking from a distance. You can make the first move from the comfort of your keyboard without even talking to your prospective mate.”

According to the couple, U of C Compliments was able to fill a void left by face-to-face interactions.

“There was nothing more I wanted in the world than to be complimented on how I looked at one moment in time and see that posted online a few days later,” the guy in the purple hoodie continued. “Without her observations of me posted on Facebook, I would never have met my shy girl.”

Guy in the purple hoodie said he is looking forward to learning shy girl’s name.

“I really feel like that’s the next step for us,” guy in the purple hoodie said, “and a big one at that, but thanks to U of C Compliments, one day we’ll get there.”

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