

GAUNTLET

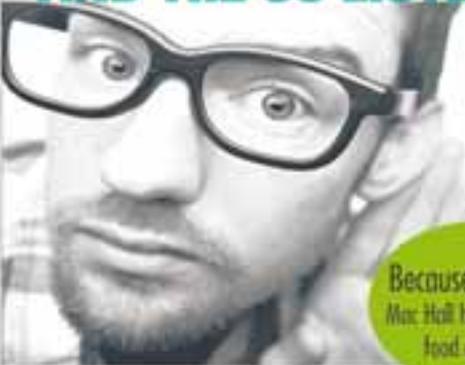


VOL. 54 | ISSUE NO. 35 | MARCH 27, 2014

A photograph of a person with curly hair, wearing a black cap and a white long-sleeved shirt, standing in a room with vertical wooden slats. They are surrounded by people who are holding up white fabric, possibly a flag or a banner, creating a sense of movement and energy. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights.

# TAKING FLIGHT

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Whitlock Avenue, April 8 - 10 and 11, 8000 Garryton, SWC, 3rd & 4th fl. U OF C STUDENTS ONLY. Age and ID required. See website for prices. \*Have Fun Responsibly. Privately owned by your Student Union.

## Students' Union General Election 2014 Official Results

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<b>VP ACADEMIC</b> Hana Kadri	<b>SCIENCE</b> Keean Bexte Amy Li Taylor Woo
<b>VP STUDENT LIFE</b> Jonah Ardiel	<b>VETERINARY MEDICINE</b> Blythe Sola
<b>VP EXTERNAL</b> Levi Nilson	<b>WERKLUND SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (ACCLAIMED)</b> Sherin Mohammed
<b>VP OPERATIONS AND FINANCE</b> Adam Swertz	<b>BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPRESENTATIVE</b> Michael Smith
<b>Faculty Reps:</b>	<b>SENATE REPRESENTATIVE</b> Emily Macphail Scott Vu
<b>ARTS</b> Lexi Narowski Sarah Amiry Kirsty McGowan Kalista Sherbaniuk	<b>Vacancies:</b>
<b>HASKAYNE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (ACCLAIMED)</b> Jasmine Chitroda Tyler Hodgson	<b>NURSING</b> <b>SOCIAL WORK</b>
<b>KINESIOLOGY</b> Stephan Guscott	
<b>LAW (ACCLAIMED)</b> George Huang	
<b>MEDICINE</b> Carsten Krueger	



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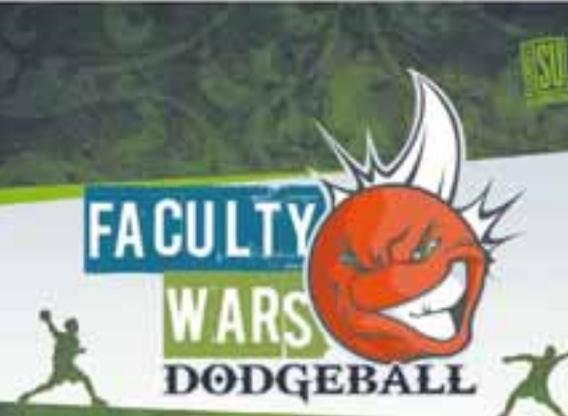
# Bermuda Shorts Day

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**Editor-in-Chief:** Susan Anderson • @AndersSusan  
eic@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-7752

**News Editor:** Riley Hill • @RileyHillyc  
news@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-4318

**News Assistant:** Chris Adams • @CAAdamsYYC

**News Assistant:** Tendayi Moyo • @tjpmoyo

**Entertainment Editor:** Sean Sullivan • @WriterSeanS  
entertainment@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-4376

**Sports Editor:** Curtis Wolff • @CBWolff  
sports@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-4376

**Sports Assistant:** Fabian Mayer • @FGMayer

**Opinions Editor:** Tobias Ma • @Mobias  
opinions@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-4376

**Features Editor:** Salimah Kassamali • @TweeterSal2  
feature@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-4376

**Features Assistant:** Ashton Chugh • @Ashtag00

**Photo Editor:** Michael Grondin • @MGrondinYYC  
photo@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-4376

**Staff Photographer:** Louie Villanueva • @LouieV95

**Production Editor:** Sean Willett • @Willett  
production@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-4376

**Illustrations Editor:** Dawn Muenchrath  
illustrations@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-4376

**Academic Probation Editor:** Elizabeth Scott • @ElizabethJScott  
ap@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-4376

**Volunteer Co-ordinator:** Jeremy Woo  
volunteer@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-4376

**Business Manager:** Evelyn Cone  
business@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-7380

**Advertising Manager:** John Harbidge  
sales@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-7751

**Graphic Artist:** Evangelous Lambrinoudis II  
graphics@thegauntlet.ca  
403-220-2298

**Three Lines Free Editor:** Arlene Lai  
tfs@thegauntlet.ca

**Contributors**  
Diltaj Altval • Katrina Atherholt • Bridgette Badowich  
Melanie Bethune • Liv Ingram • Kate Jacobson  
Ann Karras • Imaan Ladipo • Alexandria Leighton  
Sunny Sachdeva • Connor Sadler • Tiffany Sengsavang  
Kalista Sherbaniuk • Rhys Sosnowski • James Stevenson  
Scott Strasser • Zehra Tajouri • Jocelyn Yet

**Golden Spatula**

**Tiffany Sengsavang** This week's Golden Spatula goes to Tiffany Sengsavang, who wins this award probably because she's one of the few people in this office who isn't entirely incompetent. She can do more backflips in a row than anyone else on the planet, which is impressive considering that the *Gauntlet* is actually a masquerade for a secret crime fighting society, so we can all do a lot of backflips. Tiffany is sure to come in handy on our next mission fighting international crime.



\*drops off an awesome illustration and backflips out of the office\*

**Furor Arma Ministrat**

Room 319, MacEwan Students' Centre  
University of Calgary  
2500 University Drive NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4  
General inquiries: 403-220-7750  
thegauntlet.ca

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 blue collar based ink. We urge you to recycle/riot with 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**

Photo by Louie Villanueva  
Design by Michael Grondin

# Support staff show up students

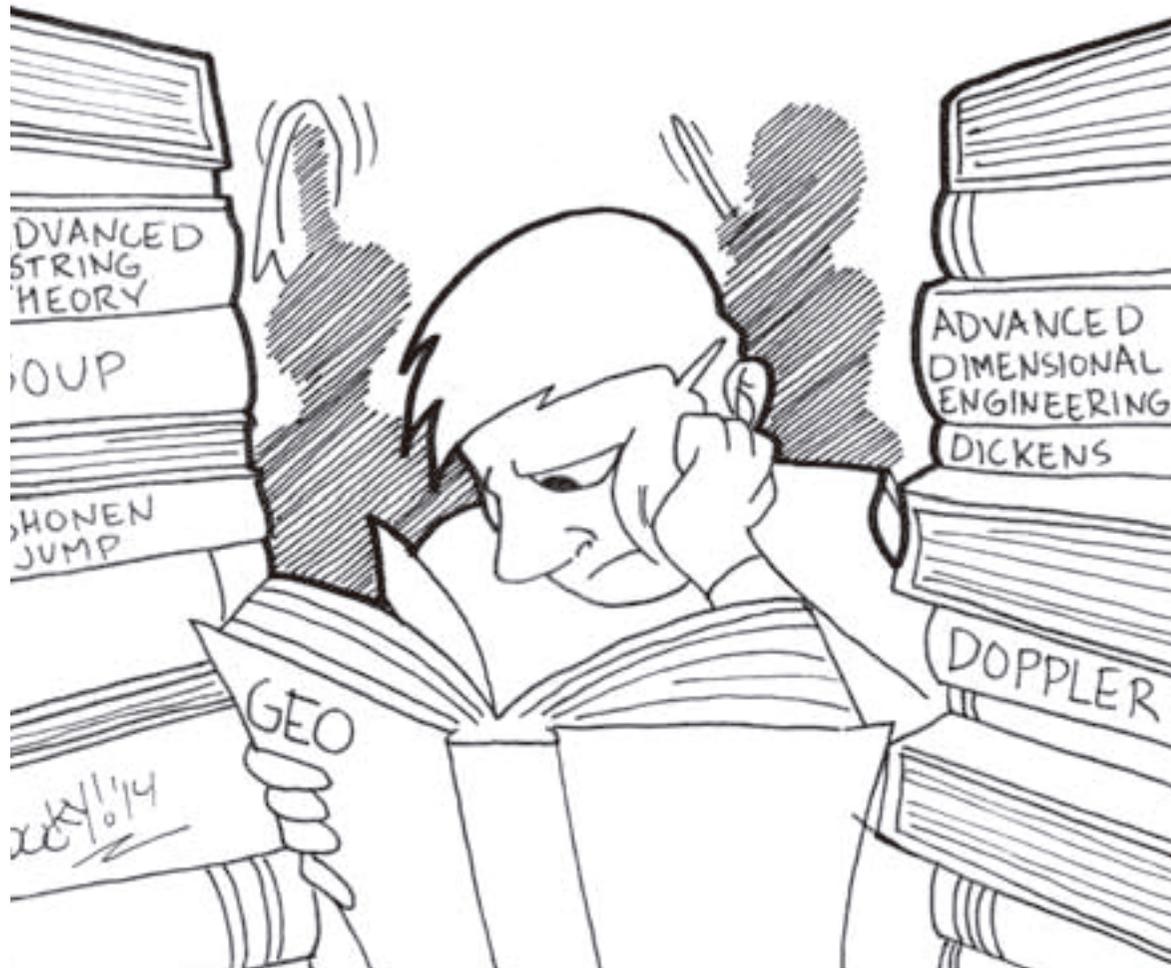
Talk about union pensions usually brings out two reactions — the people who say that unions need to be done away with entirely and those who think they need to be supported further. This debate has been ongoing since the beginning of unions.

Recently, the Alberta government has been looking to reduce the pensions of Alberta Union of Provincial Employees members. AUPE is the local union which backs around 4,200 support staff at the university.

Now lowly university student you might be thinking, what does this have to do with me? You worry about actually getting a job after graduation, let alone what benefits (if any) you'll have. Retirement is a long way off and probably further than you think because the baby boomers already ruined what chance you have of retiring in 45 years with a pension. What you might not know that this university is run partly on the work of support staff who help us students go about our daily routines. People at the registrar's office, the academic departments and caretakers services all play an important role in our experience here.

Yes, I'm sure you could complain about a staff member who was cranky or unhelpful one day, but for the most part, these are people who enjoy working with students and are mostly underappreciated.

On Feb. 24, the government of Alberta announced changes to the Public Service Pension Plan which AUPE works under. The changes are scheduled for 2016 and won't affect benefits earned before then. Current retirees living off the program won't be affected. The government is saying there isn't a benefit to retiring early before the changes take place.



The government says that the core of the program is not changing — only the add-on benefits will be tweaked.

However, union officials disagree with this claim. The age at which certain benefits kick in is increasing by five years. Annual increases to the plan will not be guaranteed and will depend on the perceived financial stability of the program.

Alberta public servants held rallies at 30 locations in the province on March 20, including here at the U of C. Union officials say that the changes are being imposed unilaterally by the province. AUPE is saying that the changes will drastically hurt

pensions, and current employees will have to change their retirement plans.

Now I'm sure you've all heard this narrative before. Unions want to keep the benefits which they believe are sustainable and governments or businesses don't want to keep paying their portion. I'm sure the latest exchange is not going to change your mind on the value or lack thereof of pension benefits. However, you should keep in mind the number of support staff who work here at the university and how contributions that we don't even notice keep the the university functioning. Consider

being more sympathetic when a staff member seems to be having a bad day.

We could also take a leaf out of the union members' book because when the government cuts their benefits, they rally even in horrible winter weather. Students have a way of not caring about what the government is doing to our funding, and no student rally has made news recently. So let's support our support staff because they will stand up and fight for what they want, and because one day, we just might be one of them.

Gauntlet Editorial Board

## campus comment

How long would you wait in line at Smoke's Poutinerie?



"I've had it before, so not long, 10 minutes maybe."

– Lena Nunez,  
second-year nursing



"I don't eat poutine, but if I did I'd wait 10 minutes."

– Jenna Maier,  
second-year nursing



"Not long at all."

– Muhammad Khan,  
PhD mathematics



"Depending on how I feel, probably 5–10 minutes."

– Kirill Dubrovskiy,  
first-year kinesiology

Photos: Chris Adams Interviews: Liv Ingram

# Provincial government looks at cutting support staff pensions

Finance minister says cuts needed to keep pension fund afloat

Riley Hill

News Editor

The union representing support staff at the University of Calgary has started protesting changes to their pension plans made by the Alberta government.

The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) represents most non-academic and non-administrative staff on campus, including caretakers, IT specialists and trade workers. Under proposed changes by Alberta finance minister Doug Horner, staff at the U of C would have to work an extra five years to receive their pensions or lose up to 25 per cent of it for their remaining years.

As it stands, employees have to work 30 years to get their full pension, which is on average \$14,500 a year. Under Horner's new plan, the sum of your age and years of work would have to be 90 or greater to receive the pension in full, up from the former 85.

If workers choose to retire early,



Louie Villanueva

Employees protest in front of MacHall.

the penalty is now five per cent per year instead of three.

"Just to use a round simple number, let's say you have a pension that is \$1,000 a month that you've paid into for your entire career," said AUPE spokesperson Mark Wells. "If you were 60-years-old and only had 25 years of service instead of 30, your pension would be reduced by 25 per cent, or \$250 a month."

The changes will also reduce au-

tomatic pension increases tied to inflation. Before, pensions were automatically raised to cover 60 per cent of cost of living increases. This will drop down to 50 per cent.

The new plan would make this increase dependent on the financial performance of the pension fund, though Wells said Horner did not specify what constitutes a good or bad performance.

"Basically, this means that if

Alberta's public sector pension plans are facing challenges such as low interest rates, uncertain investment returns and people living longer in retirement. As a result, the plans are no longer suitable in their current form.

— Doug Horner, Alberta finance minister

the finance minister deems that the pension plan has had a bad year, they can opt out of paying the cost of living adjustments," he said.

In a letter sent to AUPE members, Horner said the changes were necessary for the government to maintain pension coffers.

"Alberta's public sector pension plans are facing challenges such as low interest rates, uncertain investment returns and people living longer in retirement. As a result, the plans are no longer suitable in their

current form," reads Horner's letter. According to Horner, Alberta has around \$7.4 billion in unfunded liabilities.

But local AUPE representative Kevin Berry thinks his union is making reasonable demands.

"All we're asking for is a moderate income after years of work so we can live somewhat comfortably when we retire," Berry said.

The AUPE has around 82,000 members across the province.

The changes were made without consulting the AUPE.

# Engineering students raise over \$5,400 during Pi Week

Scott Strasser

Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary Engineering Students' Society (ESS) hosted Pi Week from March 10–14, an annual charity event where students bought \$5 pies for their friends. The pies were given to said friend, who could take the pie to the face or pay extra to forward the pie to someone else.

In total, the ESS raised \$5,419 for the Calgary Urban Projects Society (CUPS). CUPS is a non-profit with programs to help people escape the challenges of pov-

erty. U of C president Elizabeth Cannon unveiled the cheque on March 21 in the Engineering Lounge.

"Pi Week is a great tradition for ESS and shows what students can do," Cannon said. "It's great to see engineers step up and it's tremendous to raise more than \$5,000."

Pi Week has supported CUPS for eight years.

CUPS executive director Carlene Donnelly was in attendance at the unveiling of the cheque.

"Pi Week is something that has grown tremendously. You need leadership that embraces

fun," Donnelly said.

Students were not the only ones who took part this year. Some professors agreed to be pied if certain milestones were reached — for instance, the \$1,000 mark. Ten professors agreed to be 'milestones' this year, including new dean of engineering Bill Roseheart.

Sponsors for the event included Safeway and the U of C Dining Centre. Safeway supplied the shells, while the Dining Centre's ovens were used to bake the shells. Safeway supplied more than 1,700 pie shells for the event.



Louie Villanueva

U of C president Elizabeth Cannon unveils the cheque.

# U of C administration unveils 2014–15 budget

## Balanced budget, new enrolment seats and money for construction

Michael Grondin

Photo Editor

University of Calgary administration announced a balanced budget and a new Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) for 2014–15 at a town hall meeting on March 21.

According to provost and vice-president academic Dru Marshall, this balanced budget will help the U of C further its goal of becoming a top-five Canadian university by 2016.

“We really wanted to thank the community for helping us to weather the budget storm of 2013,” Marshall said, “and for focusing on our academic and research priorities and helping us to keep our foot on the gas.”

The Alberta government allocated \$3.8 million to the U of C for 339 new enrolment seats for next September. This is after last year’s provincial net budget cut of 7.2 per cent for post-secondary education.

The U of C’s expenditures for 2014–15 are set at \$1.22 billion.

The new CIP will focus on enrolment, research, internationalization and advancements in information technology.

The budget provides money for construction and maintenance on a number of buildings, including the MacKimmie complex, Professional Faculties, Scurfield Hall, Science A, MacHall as well as new fume hoods for labs.

Funding for new student residences are also included in the plan.

Scholarships and awards are set at \$78 million, slightly more than last year.

Students’ Union president Raphael Jacob said he is optimistic about the U of C’s finances.

“I think we are in a very strong financial situation. You could especially see that last year, in the wake of the 7.2 per cent cut, we stayed strong then and we continue to have a really strong balanced budget,” Jacob said.

The Board of Governors re-approved Quality Money, which sets aside roughly \$1.6 million for student-focused projects for each

of the next three years.

“When we are in a strong financial position as a university, that has real benefits for students,” Jacob said. “Our board and our university is in a comfortable enough position financially that they can afford to give millions to the students every year.”

At the town hall, U of C president Elizabeth Cannon said the institutional plan will benefit undergraduate and graduate students.

“We have to continue to innovate in terms of ensuring that the student experience meets the expectations and needs of the students,” Cannon said.

Cannon praised instructors and researchers for their work in upholding the U of C’s academic goals.

“It’s a feather in the cap of all of you and what you do day in and day out whether it’s in the classroom, whether it’s through your research or engaging in our community. It’s really important to build our reputation,” Cannon said.



Louie Villanueva

## Smoke’s is open!

Smoke’s Poutinerie opened in MacHall on March 25. Students clogged the hallway in front of the new fry shop before clogging their arteries with this gooey potato delicacy from the east. Lives must be sacrificed to appease the gravy gods. No one will be spared, not even at breakfast.

### STUDENTS’ UNION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Faculty Representatives: Social Work and Nursing

Appointed Position | Term: Immediately | Pay: Honoraria of up to \$300/month

Faculty Representatives are the main communication link between the SU and the faculty in which they are registered. They are responsible for representing and promoting the interests of the students in their faculty. Successful candidates will be reliable, flexible and have superior interpersonal, organizational and writing skills.

### Duties

In addition to the purposes, functions and duties as defined within the SU Bylaw and procedures, SLC Members/Faculty Representatives are responsible for:

- preparing for, attending and participating in SLC and GFC meetings (approximately 4 SLC meetings per month and 1 GFC meeting per month from September through June),
- working on SU committees,
- working with student clubs in their faculty,
- where appropriate, attending the Faculty Promotions Committee (FPC) and acting as the student member on the faculty’s student appeal committee,
- where appropriate, attending the Faculty Council meetings and any FC sub-committees,
- assisting in administering Teaching Excellence Awards in their faculty, and
- informing faculty about the Students’ Union policies, programs, services and elections.

Knowledge of student government and SU programs, services and structure is a definite asset. If you are enthusiastic, energetic and innovative we can provide you with a diverse, exciting and ever-changing environment. This is your opportunity make a difference: advocate on academic issues, create new initiatives and help strengthen the university community on behalf of students.

To apply for the Social Work Faculty Representative or the Nursing Faculty Representative position, please visit the University of Calgary Student’s Union employment posting at: [www.su.ucalgary.ca/employment](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/employment)  
Deadline Date: April 4, 2014



# Go get a free tax return from the SU you turkey

Scott Strasser

Gauntlet News

University of Calgary students looking for help with their income tax returns can find it from an unexpected source — the Students’ Union.

The SU has offered a volunteer tax program since 2000. If you’re part of the campus community, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) certified volunteers file your income tax returns for free. The program also helps the CRA provide training for their staff. This

year, the program has 110 volunteers who were trained in February to prepare for the tax season. They will collectively file more than 1,000 returns.

According to program co-ordinator Alexandra Zarnowski, helping students file their tax returns is a great way to learn the ins and outs of taxation.

“Volunteers get great experience filing taxes, and learn to understand the process,” Zarnowski said. “If you’re in accounting classes, it gives you a better background on the infor-

mation you’re learning.”

The program has eligibility requirements and is tailored for people with limited incomes. Individuals must earn less than \$30,000 a year, or couples must have a combined income less than \$45,000. You can not own real estate and or be self-employed.

Students are not the only ones who may meet the requirements for the program. All campus staff and faculty may apply.

The service is available until March 28.

# Making something out of arts students

## Arts students look to bring the largest faculty on campus together

**Chris Adams**  
News Assistant

Getting 17 departments together under one banner is difficult. The Faculty of Arts Students' Association (FASA) was created to solve that problem.

Faculty of arts representatives Jarett Henry and Levi Nilson formed FASA last August. The two started the association to advocate and build community for the big

and somewhat disjointed faculty of arts.

"What Jarett and I ran on was increasing a sense of community. There are 8,000 students in 17 departments, a school within the faculty, a whole bunch of interdisciplinary programs. Nobody knew what the hell was going on," Nilson said. "Having a department rep structure in the mode of a faculty association just made so much sense."

FASA is based on a structure thought out by former arts rep Ryland Brennan. Nilson, who is also FASA's president, said he and Henry needed to start those plans before the fall semester.

"We kind of revamped his structure last summer and we just moved forward on it," Nilson said. "We were like 'we need to have this before September if we want this to happen.' We can't hum and haw about it for a year."

Henry hopes FASA events will bring arts students with majors as different as dance and economics together. Along with this week's Celebrate Your Degree Arts Gala, FASA has held two other events since September.

They hosted glow-in-the-dark yoga in That Empty Space earlier this year, with That Empty Space filled to capacity.

FASA has representatives from 10 departments. Tina Shaygan, FASA's English rep, said information from representatives allow executives to advocate for student concerns they may not be familiar with.

"Basically it is to create better communication for the executives who can take the issues to the Students' Union," Shaygan said. "Jarett and Levi are in economics and political science. They might not know what's going on in urban studies or English."

While FASA lobbies for the entire faculty, they encourage departments to deal with grievances themselves.

"We didn't want to assert ourselves above any department with FASA," Henry said. "When it comes to advocacy issues, we leave it up to the clubs themselves. The other option is that if they want us to get involved, we do have some of those connections to the dean, to the associate dean and the Stu-



Louie Villanueva

Jarett Henry and Levi Nilson are handsome and powerful.

ents' Union president."

Henry and Nilson have high hopes for the organization they started. They would like to see FASA become as important to arts as the Engineering Students' Society is to Schulich.

"We view FASA as being something like the Engineering Students' Society. It's something that everyone knows about and everyone's a member of," Henry said.

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# Varsity MLA leaves Progressive Conservatives

## Gauntlet Q & A: Donna Kennedy-Glans

**Tendayi Moyo**  
News Assistant

On March 17, Calgary-Varsity MLA and former cabinet minister Donna Kennedy-Glans resigned from the Progressive Conservative caucus. The decision came four days after Calgary-Foothills MLA Len Webber crossed the floor to sit as an independent. Two days after Kennedy-Glans left the party, Alberta Premier Alison Redford announced her resignation. We caught up with Kennedy-Glans — who represents the University of Calgary's provincial riding — to ask about one of the biggest political shake-ups Alberta has seen in years.



Courtesy Legislative Assembly of Alberta

### Newly independent MLA Donna Kennedy-Glans.

have been acting on those values and making sure that we honour them. I think this independent status allows me to do that even more effectively.

**G:** You said that you don't think the PCs can change from within.

**DKG:** No, I didn't say that. People misquote me on that. I said there are elements within the PC party that cannot, or seem not able to change from within — not all elements, but some elements.

**G:** Which elements?

**DKG:** Oh, they're all over the

**// I think we've got a lot of top-down decision-making that is not consistent with the values of the party.**

— Donna Kennedy-Glans, Calgary-Varsity MLA

place. What is a political party? It's the people who vote for the party, the people who join and become members of the party. It's constituency associations, MLAs, a caucus, a cabinet and a leader. There were players within all of those groups that weren't really motivated to do anything differently.

**G:** What kind of change does Albertan politics need?

**DKG:** Fiscal discipline. I think we've got a lot of top-down decision-making that is not consistent with the values of the party, so I think how we make decisions is really important. We need to do that with more discipline. And entitlement: I think the perception of entitlement in this province, given the party's age, is something we have to proactively manage and anticipate.

**G:** We've heard the term entitlement thrown around quite a bit.

What does that mean and how does it manifest itself in the PC party?

**DKG:** There is a suspicion that people who are party members have better access to politicians and decision makers. That if you're a member of the party, you're special, and if you're an MLA, you're even more special, and if you're the leader of the party you're extra special. It's as simple as that.

**G:** Do you think Redford's resignation was best for the party?

**DKG:** I think it was inevitable. Leadership in any political party is important but I think there are other equally important aspects of a party that need to be respected. We need to walk our talk on not just leadership roles.

**G:** Now that Redford has resigned will you consider rejoining the party?

**DKG:** I think it would be rather fickle of me to leave on a Monday

and come back the next Monday. My decision will be made based on what my constituents need and want.

**G:** Are there structural problems that need to be fixed?

**DKG:** Yes, there are. I think there has been a blurring of lines between government and politics. My MLA office is a government office. There is no political paraphernalia in here. I am a MLA who represents my constituency and it doesn't really matter what stripe I am — and it shouldn't matter. So if it ever does, then we've blurred the line between government and politics. That's something you've got to keep really neat and tidy particularly in a province where you've had a party in power for so long.

**G:** Will Dave Hancock be a capable premier?

**DKG:** I think he's a very capable man. He understands the legislative process probably as well as anybody in that legislature. I'm a little bit surprised at some of the comments he has made in the house of late. He seems very defensive. I understand where that comes from, but I think we have to move beyond being defensive of what has just happened.

## Let the Wars Begin!

### Students' Union Hosts the 2014 Faculty Wars Dodgeball Tournament

**Ben Cannon**  
VP Student Life



Gather the troops, loosen up that arm and prepare to represent your faculty/club/floor with pride! The rules are simple, the objective is clear, and the atmosphere is electric. You play for bragging rights and thousands of dollars in prizes.

The Students' Union is pleased present the annual Pre-BSD Faculty Wars Dodgeball. Battles will take place

Friday, Apr. 11 in the Jack Simpson Gym. This is a great opportunity to show what you are made of. End the semester with a night of friendly competition, ridiculous costumes, tons of unreal awards and prizes and an incredible evening you will never forget.

Faculty Wars is an opportunity for all U of C students to let off some steam, build friendships and just have a great time. This event has a successful history with hundreds of students joining in.

It's easy to get on board and you don't have to be a star athlete to be part of your team. Just register to participate

on-line at [www.su.ucalgary.ca/facultywars](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/facultywars) and your team captain will be in touch. If you're still not sure,

**“friendly competition, ridiculous costumes, tons of unreal awards and prizes...”**

check out the photos on the web site — you definitely don't want to miss this!

Our commitment at the SU is to make sure you get the most out of student life at the U of C. Sure, school is pretty

serious, but we all need to have a release from studying — and what better way than to hit someone in the face from a rival team with a dodgeball?

Make sure you register early — the tournaments have sold out early in the past, and will definitely sell out again!

**Registration Deadline —  
Tuesday, Apr. 8**

Visit [www.su.ucalgary.ca/facultywars](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/facultywars) for hilarious photos and registration details.



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

# Future SU candidates be warned

**Kalista Sherbaniuk**  
Gauntlet Opinions  
@KSherbi



Once upon a few weeks ago, all I talked about was campaigning. I felt like a big wig — talking strategies, planning incessantly, researching, forgetting to eat. This was only for a Students' Union election, yet the campaign consumed my life.

I thought of little else — schoolwork was abandoned or thrown together last minute, spewed out in haste by my distracted mind. When I went out campaigning, some students were rude, but many more were surprisingly kind. I felt a need to be perfect on the campaign trail, to accurately represent the KirKal symbol slathered on top of my imperfect self and my social media attempts to seem anything but.

Now that the campaign is over I have a new respect for politicians. They're slimy more often than not but they also manage to smile through a tiring lifestyle. I

was one of the lucky ones during the campaign, who escaped with a position to show for my work, but I know that many people wanted to win just as much as I did, and many deserved it as much.

I'll bet that these people will continue to work on their various endeavours to enrich the University of Calgary's community. And they'll do so without a monthly honourarium or a blue su hoodie.

Hopefully everyone receives recognition for their contributions in one way or another, but perhaps some won't. That was the sad part at the end of the campaign — seeing talented individuals miss out on an opportunity to have the su's resources at their disposal.

The fear of missing that opportunity never left my mind during the campaign. I nearly succumbed to this fear and might have given up completely were it not for my slate partner Kirsty McGowan, who reminded me on one particularly bad day of canvassing that I would regret giving up.

One does not simply run for the Students' Union on a whim. You must want to win a great deal to justify the work involved in a campaign. Hopefully you want to win for the right reasons, to effect what change you can in a limited term.

I can only speak for myself, but I know that a blue sweater alone isn't enough of an incentive to devote so much time to something. I can also tell you that after seeing what people go through during the campaign, many candidates feel the same way.

The su campaign publicly displays jobs that mostly happen in committees behind office doors. "So what do you do as an arts representative?" has been asked of me many times.

Honestly, being an arts rep will probably be like the campaign itself. I may think I know what I'm getting myself into but there will be surprises, although I'm sure I will have a support system around me. Nor do I intend to wear my blue hoodie as a mere victory badge, the campaign was too much work to treat it that way.



# Calgary accolades belong in humour section

**Zehra Tajouri**  
Gauntlet Opinions



Calgary is on a roll this year. Our city was ranked 17th on the *New York Times* "52 Places to Go in 2014" list and also received acclamations from the *Guardian*, who called it the city that has gone "from cowboy town

to cosmopolitan cool."

Recently, *MoneySense* magazine added more fuel to Calgary's ego, by naming it the second-best place to live in all of Canada.

While that's cool and all, it likely has many Calgarians wondering, "Is this a joke?"

Sure, Calgary is nice — but like a relationship, it's not exactly the city you fall in love with or one that you want to spend all of your free

time in. It's more like the city you end up settling down with when 30 rolls around.

People who don't live in Calgary love the city's premise because it is great in principle. Calgary's streets are clean and we have a steady economy. Our crime rate is low and our unemployment rate is lower.

The people are so accepting and diverse that we voted a brown

Muslim guy for mayor and he later led the Pride parade.

In principle? Calgary is pretty much heaven on earth.

In reality? Calgary is incredibly boring. If it was a person, it would be a registered Progressive Conservative named John with a nine-to-five job who ended up marrying Barb, a woman he met on PlentyofFish, whose hormones fluctuate much the same way the

weather here does.

We live in Calgary because it's easy and it's safe.

We know Calgary lacks a certain panache which we all crave. That's why Barb is always secretly looking for something better — Vancouver is exciting and fun with all of its movies, celebrities and beaches, while Toronto is the dangerous bad boy with a high crime rate and

see CALGARY ACCOLADES, page 9



scan for more info.





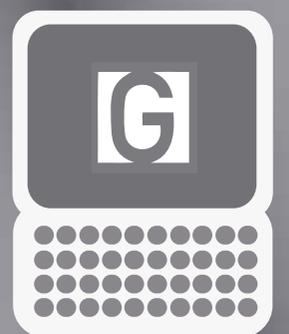
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# Calgary accolades, continued from page 9

a cocaine-snorting-cunnilingus-loving mayor.

They're not practical places, but no one falls in love with practical.

Barb wants an adventure.

Also, let's forget the idea that Calgary is somehow now "cosmopolitan cool" because seriously — the most famous nightclub we have is literally called Cowboys, and it's filled with people who look more like cows than cowboys.

Sorry.

Not sorry.

Kind of sorry.

The nightlife goes on until about 2 a.m. on a good night, and then everything closes and the city sleeps.

Yep, that's when Barb wants you home by, Calgary. Be back by 2 a.m. so you can make sure your kids, Jared and Julia, are in their beds with their retainers on, getting ready for another exciting day in a safe but inclusive school district.

That's pretty much Calgary in a nutshell, a never-ending boring routine.

Yeah, we have a cool event here and there and some fantastic res-

taurants, but you want to have a real good time? You have to leave the city, go to Canmore, go to Banff, travel and find a mountain to hike because there is nothing for you here. The only year-round tourism hotspot we have is the Calgary Tower, which is about as fun as receiving an enema — except climbing the damn thing takes more of your time.

You stand on a tower with a glass floor for about 30 minutes. That might sound super cool, except for the fact that the floor opens up a view to bland and uninspired downtown architecture.

The floor also rotates, as if to suggest that maybe the scenery will improve. It doesn't.

Now, I don't want to bag on Calgary this entire time because I grew up here — I wish nothing but the best for the city that accepted me into its wide, urban sprawling arms and raised me to be the person I am today.

But after seeing what the world has to offer over these past couple of years, I have to say — Calgary, I love you...but I'm not in love with you.



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THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY





# Taking Flight student festival taking off

Liv Ingram

Gauntlet Entertainment

As the school year draws to a close, the University of Calgary drama department's Taking Flight: Festival of Student Work is taking off. Now entering its 10th year, the festival allows students the opportunity to control all aspects of creating a theatrical production — both on and off stage. The festival is open to all theatre students, ranging from first-year actors to fourth-year designers and although the faculty is there to provide support, the festival is student-run and operated.

This year's festival features six productions from a variety of forms and genres, such as musicals, theatre for young audiences, staged readings by graduate-level playwrights, improvisation pieces and complete productions of one-act plays by some of the world's most celebrated playwrights. The

festival provides theatre students an opportunity to harness their creativity and put class-learned theories into action.

"Drama itself is such a physically, emotionally, spiritually and everything demanding [art form]," actor Bianca Miranda says, "so it has been a real challenge to be here until 10:00 p.m. every day, but at the end of the day, I think it's really cool that we get to tell these stories."

One of the stories, *Song of Myself*, is a play based on excerpts from the deathbed edition of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*. With this edition containing over 400 poems, director and fourth-year drama student Britt van Groningen says adapting Whitman's poetry for theatrical production has been difficult. Because there isn't always a previous production to take inspiration from, van Groningen says preparing poetry for the stage is more difficult than reinterpreting previously produced plays. While this presents

a challenge, it also allows for more experimentation.

"I think one of the main challenges, but also benefits, is the ability to take a lot of risk in the work," van Groningen says. "Theatre to me is poetry of the senses. It's taking poetry on text and realizing it visually and aurally, so it just made sense for me to want to take poems and realize them theatrically."

The plays in the festival take inspiration from a variety of sources, styles and languages. *The Beautiful Galatea* is a German operetta by Franz von Suppé, translated and adapted by Barry Yzereef and features live piano performances by U of C alumni Kathleen van Mourik and former U of C music professor Charles Foreman.

*Legoland*, the prequel to the smash hit *Ride The Cyclone*, which was presented at the 2013 High Performance Rodeo, is a theme-park inspired dark comedy by playwright Jacob Richmond, directed by drama

student Courtney Charnock.

*The Family Facsimile* is a work-in-progress written by playwriting student Ted Stenson about a man and a woman who decide to have a child together, but soon realize parenting is more work than they thought.

'*Art*' is an award-winning comedy by French playwright Yasmina Reza and is the first full-length English production that graduate student Fasyali Fadzly has directed.

*The Intruder* is a 19th-century play by Nobel Prize winner Maurice Maeterlinck and is directed by Tim Sutherland.

In addition to showcasing student talent, the festival provides students with practical experience to use after they graduate.

Van Groninger says this hands-on approach makes the festival a valuable experience.

"I think that is what makes it such a rich experience, too. We have first years, second years and up until the end, so it's just a great mixture and

it's a great time for first years to get involved," van Groningen says. "There's a sense of pride that as students we have come together and we have made this — with help from the faculty, of course — but that it's something that we've taken charge of and it's great working with the people we're going to graduate and then be working with professionally."

With so many different influences and styles coming together, the eclectic mix of productions speaks to the diversity of talent in the drama department.

"I think it's important to check out all of the pieces," van Groningen says. "There is such a mixture of time periods and styles. I think it's a great overview of theatre in Calgary and in Canada. It's very exciting to get a taste of everything."

The Taking Flight: Festival of Student Work runs until April 5 in the Reeve Theatre. General admission is \$8 and festival passes are available at the door for \$17.

## Taking Flight performance schedule

Thursday, March 27  
7:30 *Song of Myself*  
8:15 *Legoland*

Friday, March 28  
12:00 *Song of Myself (free)*  
7:30 *The Family Facsimile*  
9:15 *The Beautiful Galatea*

Saturday, March 29  
7:30 *Legoland*  
8:45 *Song of Myself*  
9:30 *The Beautiful Galatea*

Wednesday, April 2  
7:30 'Art'  
9:00 *The Intruder*

Thursday, April 3  
7:30 *The Intruder*  
8:15 'Art'

Friday, April 4  
7:30 'Art'  
9:00 *The Intruder*

Saturday, April 5  
7:30 *The Intruder*  
8:15 'Art'

# Saxophonist Oliver Miguel plays Monday Night Jazz Series

Liv Ingram

Gauntlet Entertainment

The University of Calgary's Monday Night Jazz Series continues this month with a performance by Chilean-born, Calgary-based saxophonist Oliver Miguel.

Growing up in a musical household, Miguel was introduced to music at an early age and was 12 when he picked up his first saxophone. Now an accomplished saxophonist, Miguel has toured North America and Europe extensively playing music festivals and even private parties for clients such as former Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Prince Philip. Previously, Miguel performed at the Monday Night Jazz Series in 2011, alongside his personal mentor, acclaimed Cuban pianist Hilario Durán.

"I was very excited and very humbled that they would ask me again. This time I'm approaching it a little differently," Miguel says. "I'm not bringing in an international artist but am going to do it on my own with incredibly talented local artists."

Miguel will be accompanied by pianist Mark Limacher, bassist

Brendan Lyn McElroy and Latin American percussionists Raul Gomez Tabera and Luis Elpana Tovar. While Miguel has collaborated with these musicians individually, this concert will mark the first time they are performing together as a group. Miguel says they will be performing many new songs that he has not yet performed in public.

"Some of it is not written by me originally, some of it is traditional Latin American songs, from the 'Latin American songbook,' if you will. They are songs that I grew up hearing in my household and I still hear now — my family listens to a lot of music," Miguel says.

Although Miguel describes his style as "world music," thanks to his extensive travels and musical influences, this sound marks a new direction for Miguel's music, one he says will be reflected in his next album. While a release date for this album has not been announced, audiences can expect to see a lot of Miguel in 2014 as he embarks on a cross-country tour with fellow Calgary musician Ellen Doty in the summer.

While Miguel says he enjoys performing on tour, he is always

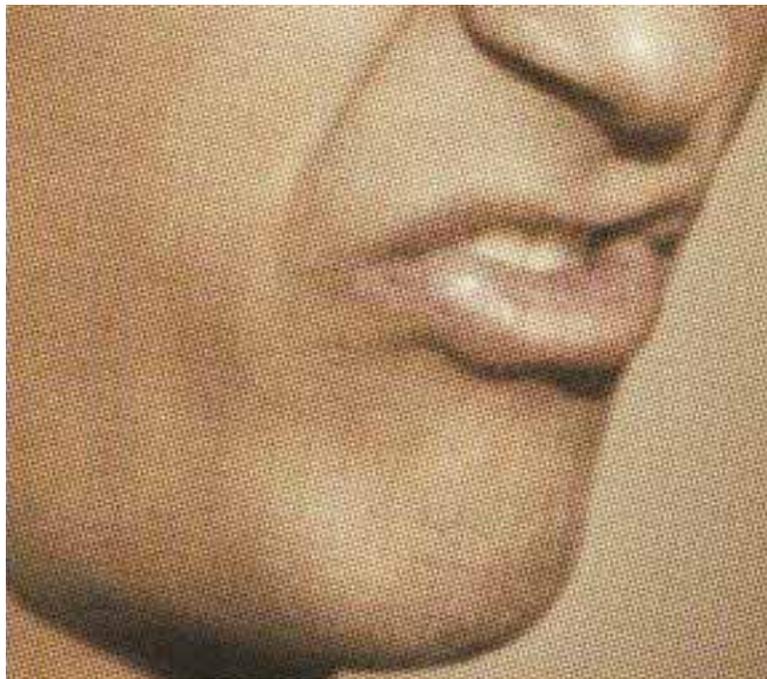


courtesy Ali Kermanshahi

excited to play in Calgary.

"I do find Calgary to be my home and playing in Calgary is a little different because I usually get the privilege of having my family or my parents in the audience," Miguel says. "I want to do my best because it's my home."

Miguel performs at the University Theatre Monday, March 31 at 8:00 p.m. General admission tickets are \$25, student and senior tickets are \$18. U of C students get in free through the Claim Your Seat Program.



courtesy Focus Features

## Film review: *Bad Words*

Melanie Bethune

Gauntlet Entertainment

Jason Bateman, a spelling bee and a little South Asian boy doing whisky shots under a bar: that's what *Bad Words* promises and that's what *Bad Words* gives.

The film is directed by and stars Bateman as 40-year-old Guy Trilby, a junior high school dropout with an ambiguous grudge against lexicons. Guy makes it his mission to enter and win the Golden Quill National Spelling Bee by means of a loophole in the rules — he never passed Grade 8 and is technically allowed to compete. But just because he can, does that mean he should?

That in mind, *Bad Words* is likely not the film to see with your grandma. While it is laugh-out-loud hilarious, it's driven by racial humour and cynicism about the world. The film doesn't criticize Guy for his undesirable habits — if anything it glorifies them. With every smart-ass comment, slur, flip of the bird or shot from the mini bar in a child's hotel room, Guy becomes both more interesting and more guilt-inducing.

I didn't want to like Guy and frankly I came out of the film still not liking him. He is rude, manipulative and sociopathic while he systematically destroys the hopes and dreams of countless pre-pubescent spellers for what felt like little reason at all. I spent the entire film hoping that it would build towards a redeeming moment for Guy, that I would find something relatable about him. Unfortunately, I was disappointed — the plot's conclusion felt luke-warm at best. The ultimate motivation and reason for doing what he did are cliché and unsatisfying compared to the bulk of the movie.

Minor qualms about the plot aside, this is an enjoyable comedy movie. It's maturely funny without being stupid and, while Guy isn't a likable character, Bateman does a good job of crafting him into an interesting, smart-mouthed and enigmatic asshole.

Rohan Chand's wide-eyed portrayal of Chaitanya Chopra, a fellow contestant and unlikely friend of Guy's, is also particularly notable. Chand stands out as the sheltered South Asian boy whom Guy introduces to the vices of life — among them alcohol, petty theft and prostitution. As well, Kathryn Hahn plays Jenny, a low-level journalist bent on uncovering Guy's full story and who apparently needs occasional sexual favours from him.

The humour of this film is bleak and far from politically correct, but ultimately it's still one of the funniest movies I've seen in a long time. Bateman approaches the humour with a sense of maturity and realism often lost in other comedies — it's believable that Guy is doing and saying these things because he's an asshole and not just because it makes for good laughs. This is not goofy comedy, nor is it family comedy. It's gritty. It's dark. It's sometimes uncomfortable — but it's hilarious through all of that.

At the end of the day, Bateman's first turn at directing is surprisingly successful. It's a unique and well put-together film that will draw plenty of laughs and won't leave you bored. The ending may be a little unsatisfying, but ultimately the bulk of the comedy makes up for that. Definitely give *Bad Words* a watch if you're looking for a fun night out with friends. Just check your morals at the door.

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# Lessons from *How I Met Your Mother*

Imaan Ladipo

Gauntlet Entertainment

**A**dulthood is scary. When you're a child, you don't know that you don't know anything. When you're a teenager you think you know everything. But adults know they don't know anything — which is terrifying. But sometimes television shows can make it less terrifying, and reveal how hilarious it is and maybe even teach you something along the way. One such show is nearing the end.

The season finale of *How I Met Your Mother* is on Monday, March 31. In memory of the show, we look back at some of the lessons about life and love the show has taught us.

Here are 10 lessons from *How I Met Your Mother*.

## The Olive Theory

During the series premiere, the show began with Lily and Marshall's engagement and the night Ted meets Robin. On their first date it's revealed that Robin hates olives and Ted likes them, similar to how Lily loves olives and Marshall hates them — and

it's that balance that makes Lily and Marshall such a good couple. Right? Wrong. Later in the episode we find out that Marshall actually loves olives, but that he loves Lily more.

Perfect balance is impossible. Fate and coincidence would love to be your match maker but sometimes they are too busy with events of actual historic importance. We have to put some work into our relationships — much like how Stella was willing to say she loved *Star Wars* for Ted.

Sometimes people aren't compatible, but they can become compatible.

## The Lemon Law

This idea is guaranteed to revolutionize your dating experience. If someone is not interesting after five minutes, just politely say "you've been lemon lawed" and leave. You can both just move on. Nobody has time for that, right?

Use at your own risk.

## Nothing good happens after 2:00 a.m.

Yes, your lives are hard. School

and work are stressful — so you drink and stay up late. Just heed this warning from Ted's grandmother: nothing good happens after 2:00 a.m. One minute you're in bed, the next you're in the bathroom talking to an imaginary version of your long-distance girlfriend trying to stop yourself from cheating on her with the girl who already said no. Or perhaps you're just drinking and within a couple hours you've been spat and hit on by Korean Elvis — so you kick him in the balls. Just remember 2:00 a.m. is always a bad time. Always. Well, nearly always, you're an adult so you never know, remember?

## The Crazy-Hot Scale

This is not just advice — it's math. Imagine a graph in thin air. On the X axis "crazy" and on the Y axis "hotness." From the origin draw a diagonal line. You have the crazy-hot scale. Refer to it on your date. Simply put, your date must be as crazy as he or she is hot in order to stay above the "Vicky Mendos" line, which is what you are aiming for. If he or she crosses that

line and strays into the bottom right corner, called the "Shelley Gelespi zone," all that crazy is not worth it.

Run, just run.

## The Naked Man

If you want to get laid, get naked. It's bold and confident and crazy, and it just might work. Just whip off your clothes and stand in the middle of the room.

Note: only do this if you're with someone you don't really want to see again but still want to sleep with.

On a serious note, there is a lesson to be learnt here. People say life isn't like the movies but why can't we make it like one? The naked man is only one of

several crazy things the characters of *How I Met Your Mother* have done and sometimes these crazy things are for their significant other. So steal a blue French horn, rent a blue orchestra, break a stereo so your crush will fix it, use an elaborate pickup line and make it rain. Adults are a little uptight and pessimistic when it comes to love, don't you think?

## The Front Porch Rule

How much unnecessary time have you spent with people you probably won't see in a month or a year even? That time is wasted and you're never going to get it back. Instead, close your eyes and imagine your-

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self when you're old, sitting on a porch looking out into the world. Who's with you? Spend more time with those people. That said, give people a chance. You might end up adding an extra seat, or you might not. You'll never know until you try.

### Rabbit/Duck

You've seen that picture that's both a rabbit and duck, yes? You can look at it forever and see a rabbit and then poof, it's a duck.

This change is true of people too. Whether it's your eyes, your tastes or your perception that has changed, I urge you, don't be too picky about people. You never know who might switch into a duck when you least expect it, or a rabbit if you prefer.

### The Mermaid Theory

This is a female version of rabbit versus duck. You might look at a girl and think she's a manatee that you will never find attractive, until her mermaid clock runs out. Then bam, she's a mermaid.

If you're with a girl you don't want to fall for, such as a married woman or your best friend's girl,



courtesy CBS

here are a few tips:

- Don't go anywhere with candles.
- No sharing of food or anything with saliva on it, including toothbrushes and thermometers.
- No lying to anyone about what you did.

### The Dobler/Dahmer Effect

The difference between a stalker

and a romantic is not what you do, but how the other person perceives what you're doing. If you do something crazy and the other person likes it, then you're Dobler from *Say Anything* with a boom box outside the window. Otherwise, you're a Jeffrey Dahmer and you're just a freak. So, as previously mentioned, do something crazy, as it won't

make the other person like you but rather prove that the other person already did. But don't go too crazy, there are boundaries.

### Winners and losers

For every relationship there are reachers and settlers, those who got someone out of their league and those who settled. In every break

up one of you is doing better than the other. When you meet up with someone you haven't seen for a long time one of you will always be doing better than the other. Right?

But did the settler really settle or did they get exactly what they wanted? Is that person doing better than you or are they just hiding it better? Just because you look like you're more successful than your high school counterpart, you might not feel that way. Life, feelings and people are complicated and if you keep score and think of relationships as win or lose situations you are guaranteed to drive everyone away. Instead, concentrate on your relationship and don't care about what everyone else is thinking.

And there you have it. Ten lessons from an era that's about to end.

However, Ted once said that if everyone followed all these rules the human race would cease to exist. Rules make adults feel safe. If we follow them we can pretend we've taken all the right steps and nothing can go wrong. If it does, it's someone else's fault. But that's not true and breaking the rules is often exciting and romantic.

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## COMING UP

### Taking Flight: Festival of Student Work

March 25 - April 5 at 7:30 p.m. — Reeve Theatre

*The Beautiful Galatea*, an operetta by Franz von Suppé

*Legoland*, a theme park inspired dark comedy by Jacob Richmond

*Song of Myself*, a selection of poems by Walt Whitman

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# Breaking down the March Madness

A beginner's guide to NCAA bracketology



**Katarina Atherholt**  
Gauntlet Sports

Every March, brackets are penciled in, jerseys are dusted off and talk of upsets is in the air, yet many have little idea of what's taking place. The March Madness hype can be confusing if you aren't a basketball fan. However, knowing the basics can make keeping up with the insanity of March Madness a pretty great time.

Sixty-eight teams from the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men's basketball are selected to play in the championship tournament, which takes place each year from late-March to early-April. The teams come from 32 conferences and are organized into four geographical regions — South, West, Midwest and East. Each conference champion wins an automatic bid, leaving 36 spots for the Selection Committee to award among the over 300 other teams in the division.

Historically, UCLA, Kentucky, Indiana and North Carolina have won the most titles, but the favourites vary each year. This year the number one seeded — or ranked — teams from each region are Arizona, Florida, University of Virginia and Wichita State. The rankings are done by the committee on Selection Sunday, the Sunday before the First Four, when the tournament selections are broadcast live.

March Madness begins with the First Four, a round played by the four lowest-seeded conference champions and the four lowest-seeded teams who were offered spots by the Selection Committee. These games determine who will make it into the round of 64, which is where the bracket selection and the real fun begins.

At this point the seasoned pros have studied the all of the statistics and carefully placing their bets, while the newbies are trying to figure out how a Cinderella story has anything to do with college basketball. Rest assured, if it's your

first season participating, making a bracket doesn't have to be difficult and with a few basic tips you can be reasonably competitive in your pool.

A bracket is essentially choosing who you think the winners of each game will be, and how those winners will fare against the other winners in future games all the way up to the final game. The biggest rookie mistake is picking all four number-one teams to make it to the Final Four. That has only ever happened once, in 2008, and is pretty unlikely to happen again. Another mistake is sticking to home team loyalties. Unless your team happens to be a great one, it's best to go with the teams who show promise according to predictions being made by sports analysts and betting experts. Trust them. They have money riding on this too.

As a first-time bracket selection technique, choose some top-seeded teams and some of the stronger teams who were stuck with lower seeds to make it to the Elite Eight. If you're feeling up to it, choose a few underdogs to round out the group. Keep in mind that although the Selection Committee aims to rank the teams equitably, it's not always smart to solely rely on tournament standings.

Regardless of the fact that there is an estimated \$80-90 million bet within office pools and leagues, many people simply play for bragging rights with their friends and families. In these cases it can be much more fun to pick teams based on their names, colours or even which mascot you think would win in a real battle.

Whichever way you choose your bracket, just taking part is the real fun. College basketball can be pretty unpredictable and beginners tend to make some surprisingly accurate picks. March Madness brackets are ultimately about tuning in to cheer on your teams and having a really great reason to procrastinate for three awesome, basketball-filled weeks.

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# Committing to the fitness lifestyle

Enthusiasts say fitness is as much a mental commitment as a physical one

Suneil Sachdeva

Gauntlet Sports

There are few things in life more important than our health. It can enable us or limit us, buoy us or sink us and remains one of the only areas where we are afforded near complete control. We may have no say in what happens to us each day at work or at school, or how the people in our lives will treat us. But we can control how we treat ourselves — what we put into our bodies, how we allow ourselves to grow and how we push ourselves to reach our potential.

Achieving this fulfilment is no easy process, and is found not through temporary fixes, but through a higher understanding of the importance of health and the philosophy of fitness.

With this in mind, the *Gauntlet* reached out to some of the University of Calgary's most committed fitness enthusiasts in an effort to understand the principles and philosophies that they have adopted to keep them driven and progressing each day.

Will Young, a member of the University of Calgary Dinos' volleyball team and owner of start-up personal training company Young Fitness, stressed the importance of being accountable, being knowledgeable and enjoying the fitness experience.

"Compete with yourself every day," said Young. "Too many people get distracted with what other people are doing at the gym. Worry about you. The body's ability to adapt from your last workout is amazing. Beat yourself every day by increasing reps, sets or weight or by decreasing rest time."

Young's second key to success is accountability. "Set goals. By having clearly defined goals, you not only hold yourself accountable to your health and fitness, but you will be able to measure whether or not you are accomplishing them," said Young. "If you're not getting the results, you're doing something wrong."

Young believes that making fitness enjoyable is also essential for your psyche.

"Look forward to the social aspect of the gym," said Young. "Train with a friend, meet new people and try new things."

Enjoying the experience lies in the details as well. "Keep your music fresh," said Young. "Pick the right environment for you. Just as some people are better at studying in the library and some are better studying at home, the same can be said for the gym. Find your domain."

Young's training philosophy is grounded in not only training hard, but training smart and thinking long-term.

"It's easier to get creative and keep your workouts interesting when you arm yourself with the knowledge of simple exercise implementation," said Young. "Think long-term and commit to it for life. Do it once, and don't make a habit of yo-yoing. Maintaining results is a lot easier than fighting for them every few months."

Third-year law and society student Eric Licis is a former rugby standout who found significant improvement in his physical and mental health through a rigorous dedication to nutrition and training. He explained the importance of being conscious and appreciative of your continual progression.

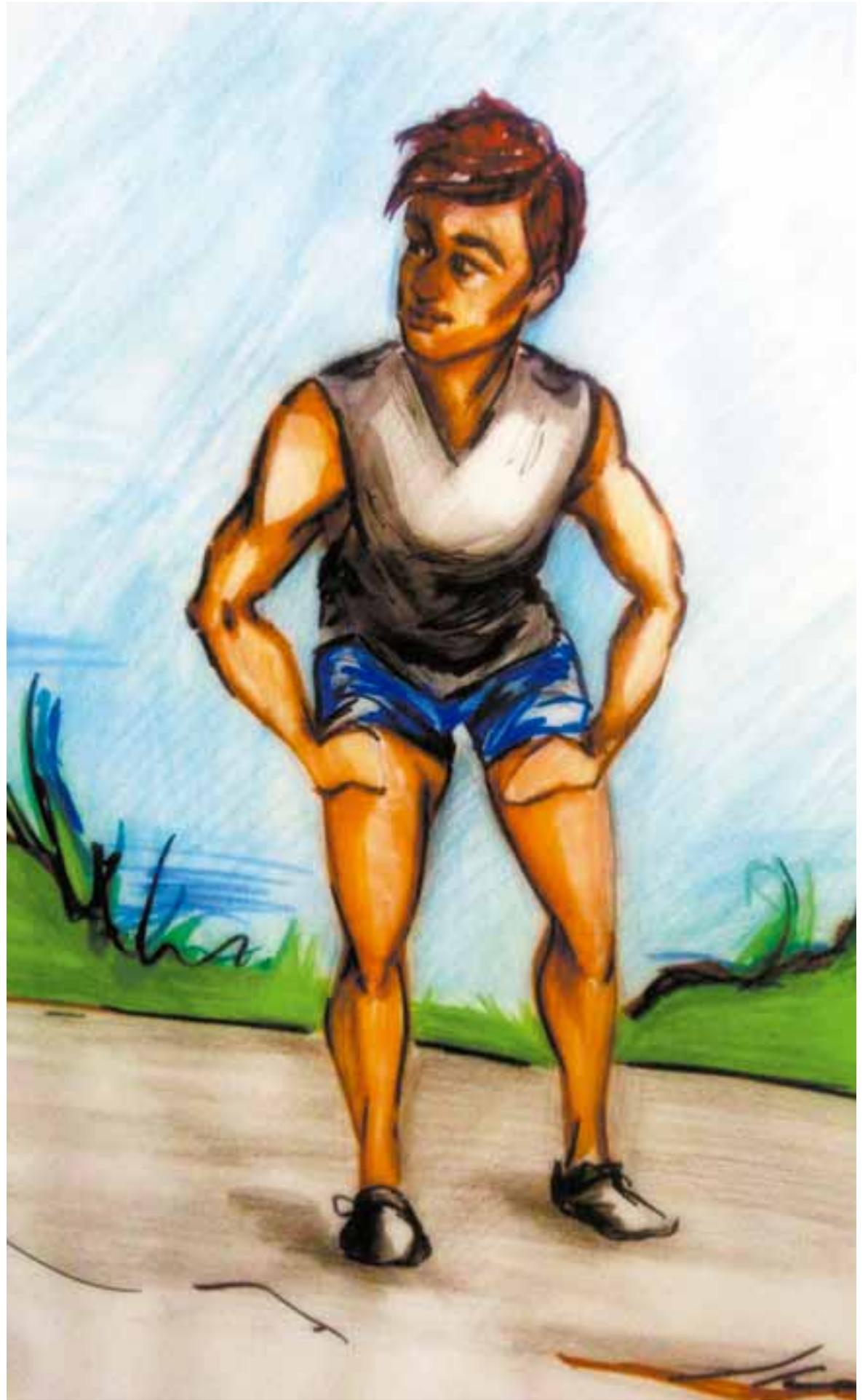
"Know where you are, and know where you were," said Licis. "It's a constant push, and while it was hard to get motivated initially, once I did it snowballed towards the mentality I hold now."

"The simple and routine act of waking up in the morning motivates me to keep going with my diet and exercise," Licis continued. "The overall quality of life that I now am privileged to feel is definitely aided by what I eat and how active I try to be."

Elaine Cagulada, a third-year English and education student and former cardio instructor at GoodLife Fitness, explained how her fitness philosophies keep her motivated and always appreciative of the opportunity to seek better health.

"Appreciate that there is nothing like it," Cagulada. "There is nothing that can give me the same type of satisfaction, joy and mental challenge that exercise has to offer. I have yet to find a better way to release negative energy from within me than through fitness."

Cagulada believes that fitness is



the end, not the means.

"Learning to love the process of fitness only asks that you are 100 per cent invested in the moment and zero per cent concerned

about the pants size you want to fit or the people you wish to impress," said Cagulada. "Fitness requires patience, integrity and self-discipline. Every minute

that you put into nurturing your body is another opportunity to savour, enjoy and rejoice in your personal journey towards wellness."

# Top-10 replacements for Alison Redford

Melanie Bethune

Gauntlet AP • @water\_melan

With Alison Redford's resignation last week amidst numerous controversies and problems, the Alberta government is in a tumultuous position. While Dave Hancock has been sworn in as interim premier for the time being, an election for Progressive Conservative Party leadership will be held on Sept. 6. Until then, the *Gauntlet* has taken the time to break down the early frontrunners in the race.

## 1. The third Tim Hortons in MacHall

Even though it's the third of its kind in one location and hasn't been opened yet, the new Tim Hortons will likely have higher approval ratings than our past two premiers. Also, if any party members threaten to cross the floor, they can easily be lured back in by an always-fresh cup of coffee and a family pack of timbits.

## 2. Kermit the Frog

It may not be easy being green, but at least we know he won't quit the job, as not only Redford but her predecessor Ed Stelmach also did. This puppet amphibian has been around for 60 years, so there's little chance of him skipping out now. Plus, with that wacky arm-flailing he does when he's upset, provincial debates will be adorable.

## 3. A round-trip flight to South Africa on Air Canada

These travel plans will definitely cost the government less than \$45,000. In fact, for that price, 30 hard-working Albertans could make the trip and still have some spare change for a souvenir T-shirt and commemorative shot glass.

## 4. Flappy Bird

If this collagen-injected cyclops bird can successfully navigate those Mario-esque green pipes in the popular phone app, then the Keystone pipeline debate should be a breeze. Then again, in both the game and real life it's just a matter of getting past the first pipe.

## 5. A Greenworks 24-V cordless hedge trimmer

The PC government's largest concern right now is keeping the Wildrose at bay and the Greenworks 24-V cordless hedge trimmer could be just the solution. The Greenworks 24-V cordless hedge trimmer boasts a 24-V lithium ion powered engine and interchangeable lithium ion battery. The Greenworks 24-V cordless hedge trimmer is available for 10 per cent off for a limited time at all Canadian Tire locations.

## 6. The Canadian women's Olympic hockey team

Many media outlets questioned if any of the controversy surrounding Redford was related to her gender. What Alberta really needs is a group of strong, empowered ladies to bring feminism back into style.

## 7. Your great aunt Fran

One of the most publicized negative critiques of Redford's leadership came from one rebel MLA who called her "not a nice lady," so the obvious candidate is the nicest lady you know: your great

aunt Fran. With her trays of fresh-baked cookies and basket of knitted sweaters and coffee mug cozies, auntie Fran will have Albertans feeling guilty for not calling more often in no time.

## 8. The ghost of Ralph Klein

Much of the dissent surrounding Redford and her predecessor Ed Stelmach involves how they weren't like Alberta's long-standing premier who came before them, with his old-timey relatability and King Ralph nickname. The solution? Bring him back from the dead.

## 9. Ellen DeGeneres

Let's be honest here. It's pretty darn near impossible to not like Ellen, so approval ratings are going to skyrocket. We also might get an Oscar-level selfie with the likes of cabinet minister Cal Dallas or treasury board member David Dornward. Move over, Bradley Cooper.

## 10. A personal computer

Putting the PC back in Progressive Conservative, the most logical option for provincial leadership is a platform that can support both



courtesy Michelle O'Connell

Could this be the new face of Albertan politics?

Linux and the totally functional Windows 8. Let's take away all of the human error we've been so critical of with Redford and automate everything. Who needs real breathing and thinking government officials anyway? Let's go full on 1984.

## GAUNTLET COMICS

Editor: Dawn Muenchrath • illustrations@thegauntlet.ca • @GauntletUofC



## LEARNING CURVE - ANDREA SANCHEZ-PONTON

