

GAUNTLET



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STUDENTS' UNION

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Bermuda Shorts Day

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APRIL 4, 2014

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Golden Spatula**Jocelyn Yet**

"All shall love me and
despair, etc. etc."

This week's Golden Spatula goes to the illustrious Jocelyn Yet. On Wednesday nights, she appears in a cloud of glowing white light to shepherd us to the Promised Land of edited articles and righteous font choices. Parting the murky waters of student journalism, the huddled *Gauntlet* staff follow her. Her wisdom enables us to ignore the evils of missed deadlines and American spelling. Thursday morning, she will disappear again in a puff of smoke, but we will never forget her service.

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 an Illuminati based ink. We urge you to recycle/summon the anti-Christ using the *Gauntlet*.

Letter Policy

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

The Cover

Illustration by Dawn Muenchrath
Design by Dawn Muenchrath and Michael Grondin

BSD! BSD! BSD! BSD!

End of year celebrations: pointless or essential?

Bermuda Shorts Day: a celebration for the masses? More like a celebration for deluded, post-teen, first-year partiers — those who would rather drink their calories than eat them.

For those who have never experienced BSD, consider yourself lucky. Imagine 10,000 rambunctious students partying in one area. Imagine a quarter of those people throwing up by the time BSD comes to a close. Imagine losing your friends in the crowd of crazed individuals.

The exploits of those 10,000 people have scared off the other two thirds of the student body who refuse to show up for a day of debauchery and drinking.

Are the rest of us too nerdy, unsocial and insular to show up to school that day? Do we really consider ourselves "intellectual chic?"

We want to join in on the celebrations too! But getting drunk in the beer gardens on the last day of classes does not exactly spark voracious appeal. Since when did drinking become a critical element of having a good time?

BSD has become a traditional endeavour, a hallmark of University of Calgary's student life. The su describe it as a "legendary end-of-year party." Sadly, we are not alone in our hedonistic pursuits. Every university in Canada holds a similar stunt, often with more impressive venues.

The su has tried to appeal to other students through the BSD Day of

Service, encouraging students to participate in volunteer activities around the greater Calgary community. I think we should be the first campus in Canada to step up our game even further and diversify the types of activities that happen during BSD.

After all, exams are just beginning. Not everyone likes to spend the greater part of their week hung over. And for you first years, who believe you possess the right to loosen up and chug down buckets of beer, remember you have at least three more years to go. Save some partying strength for the years to come.

Salimah Kassamali
Gauntlet Features Editor

Two score and thirteen years ago, a young man named Alan Arthur wrote "wear shorts tomorrow" on a classroom chalkboard. These are the humble beginnings of our now famed Bermuda Shorts Day. Thousands of University of Calgary students submit to shoddy judgment and celebrate being done lectures on the last day of classes while attempting to consume enough tent beer to forget that they still have finals.

In the midst of the hoopla there will be some intellectuals that distance themselves from the event with claims that BSD is no more than bread and circuses for the hapless masses. They will

likely spend the day discussing how Valentine's Day has been co-opted by Hallmark and how New Years Eve is always a disappointment. They're artists.

Let's get one thing straight. As a U of C student you aren't required to drink your weight in domestic swill and get run over by an engineering student riding a couch on wheels.

BSD is the epitome of 'to each their own.' It's an opportunity to celebrate your successes and forget your failures if just for that day. It's a good time to hug that friend who lent you their notes or high-five that classmate who took the lion's share of the work in your group project.

Take a moment to think of the general public who catch a glimpse of our festivities and bask in a sepia-filtered image of their dearly departed youth before continuing to trudge through their humdrum day. Have a good time for those miserable bastards, if nothing else.

Don't get bogged down by the horror stories of the past. Celebrate in whatever way pleases you. With or without booze, make sure you get loose. You deserve it.

Do you know what the University of Alberta does to celebrate the end of the year? Me neither.

Tendayi Moyo
Gauntlet News Assistant



campus comment

How important is it to you that the university offers fair trade options on campus?



"People deserve to be treated fairly."

– Keshia Cheesman,
second-year drama



"It's important businesses are recognized if they support fair trade."

– Natalie Gillespie,
third-year business



"I think it is pretty important."

– Odai Almoqadam,
third-year engineering



"Options won't change the opinions of big companies."

– Eshwar Dutt,
first-year science

Distress Centre wins club of the year

Club awards showcase the best of student life on campus



Louie Villanueva



Louie Villanueva

Winners accept their well-deserved awards.

Chris Adams
News Assistant

The Students' Union Club Awards ceremony was held in MacEwan Hall on Wednesday April 2. Of the 300 clubs on campus, 13 received awards. SU vice-president student life elect Jonah Ardiel was the master of ceremonies for the event in place of current vice-president student life Ben Cannon.

Club of the Year, announced by Cannon over video message, was awarded to the Distress Centre. Distress Centre president and founder Amy Li accepted the award alongside club executives.

"We are so excited. We're a brand new club so we really wanted to put all our effort into doing a good job and to really make this club stand out and spread the word about mental health stigma," Li said.

In a speech before Cannon's announcement, Ardiel said the club of the year "has been successful in most, if not all of the other award categories. This club is a cut above all the rest and has displayed some crowning achievements that prove they deserve this award."

Oxfam Calgary received the Best New Club award. Oxfam works to reduce poverty and injustice. They

// We really wanted to put all our effort into doing a good job and to really make this club stand out and spread the word about mental health stigma.

— Amy Li, Distress Centre president

advocate for equal rights to education and health care around the world. Oxfam Calgary president Hayeong Rho said she was happy to win among stiff competition.

"We're very glad that we won. We're just really happy about this award," Rho said.

The Engineering Students' Society received the Student Life award. ESS recently raised over \$5,000 for charity during their Pi Week campaign. The Muslim Students' Association received one of its two honourable mentions in this category.

The Quality of Education award was given to Easy Ace Tutoring, while the Harry Potter Quidditch club received the Innovation award.

Other winners include the Calgary Health Care Improvement Network who won the Leadership award and the Eco Club for the Sustainability award. The European Council nabbed the

Collaboration award.

After receiving an honourable mention for best new club, the Consent Awareness and Sexual Education club took the Advocacy award. While Amnesty International got an honourable mention in this category, they did win the Community Leadership award.

The Alumni Engagement award went to the Rundle Group of Geology.

The Kinesiology Students' Society received the First-Year Engagement award and the Campus Pride award was won by the U of C Cheer team.

Ten club members received an Eric Lahoda SU Memorial Scholarship. Each scholarship is valued at \$1,000. Current SU arts representative Zainab Malik and incoming arts representative Kirsty McGowan were among the 10 winners.

Muslim students get new prayer space

Prayer space moved from outside multi-faith prayer rooms to the Loft

Riley Hill
News Editor

Muslim students now have their own private prayer space in the Loft, moving them out of the hallway by the multi-faith prayer rooms where they used to pray.

They will pray in the Loft until the winter semester ends in four weeks. Once spring begins, Muslim students will move back to the old prayer rooms until the Students' Union and administration find a permanent space for them to pray.

"Once the summer rolls around, prayer space is not a problem be-

cause there are so few people on campus," said SU president Raphael Jacob. "We will have to meet in the summer with all the stakeholders and figure out a solution. I believe the university has a space in mind. They're working on it right now."

SU and administration want the new permanent space ready by the 2015 winter semester. Administration has not announced where the new prayer space will be.

The Loft, which is on the third floor of MacHall, is run by Student Enrolment Services (SES), which falls under the control of university administration. Muslims from

the community already use the Loft for services on Fridays.

Jacob said the SU agreed to let SES use some of their space, clearing the way for Muslim students.

"All of the SES meetings that had been booked for the Loft will be moving into Conference and Events at the SU," he said.

Student senate representative Ilyas Gora brought up the lack of Muslim prayer space to the SU in March. He said everyone involved was supportive, and he's glad to see the move finally happen.

"The situation now is perfect. All our stuff is already there from Friday prayers," Gora said. "It's a quiet room in a central location.



Michael Grondin

The new Muslim prayer space in the loft.

And now we have that for the rest of the semester, which is perfect." Muslim students are currently not allowed to pray in the hall-

way next to the multi-faith prayer rooms. Signs were put up last week telling the students about the new space in the Loft.

BSD: It'll be a bloodbath

Ben Cannon says BSD is going to be as big as ever

Scott Strasser
Gauntlet News

With less than two weeks until Bermuda Shorts Day, preparations are in full swing for the University of Calgary's most popular annual student event.

The party kicks off on April 14 at 12:00 p.m. in parking lot 32. With an internationally recognized concert lineup and over 90 on-site porta-potties, Students' Union vice-president student life Ben Cannon believes 2014 will be BSD's most successful year yet.

"It should be great. We had a lot of encouraging statistics last year, and 2014 should be even better," Cannon said.

This year's party includes live performances from a wide range of musical talents. The concert will begin with opening act and U of C student Crooka before Jah Cutta, Los Kung Fu Monkeys, local band Cowpuncher and headliners Smalltown DJs take the stage.

For students who would rather make a difference in their community than partake in the usual BSD shenanigans, there is an alternative option available — the BSD Day of Service.

"The Day of Service is a volunteer program for students to go out to various places in the city to work for food banks or other charity projects for the day," Cannon said.

The BSD Day of Service was formed in conjunction with the Centre for Community-Engaged Learning. The program is in its second year. Organizations students can volunteer for include the Wildwood Garden, Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, the Drop-In Centre, the Mustard Seed and the Calgary Zoo. Forty one U of C students participated in the Day of Service last year. More than double that are expected to join this year.

Admission to BSD is restricted to U of C students only. Cannon believes that with an expected crowd of 10,000 people, it makes sense to restrict attendance.

"We want students to feel safe," said Cannon. "A big party like this is obviously attractive to other people in the city — other university students for instance — but this is an event for U of C students."

With more than 25 per cent of the BSD budget being spent on security measures, the SU is working hard to ensure the appropri-



Gauntlet File Photo

This was the line-up last year. Go early.

ate precautions will be in effect. Eighty security personnel will be on staff and the SU will partner with Calgary Police Services to ensure check stops located outside lot 32 will prevent instances of drinking and driving.

Wristbands can be picked up in the north MacHall courtyard from April 8–11 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Both government-issued photo ID and a U of C student ID are required to get a wristband.

BSD: A history lesson

Scott Strasser
Gauntlet News

Bermuda Shorts Day, or BSD as it is commonly known, is an annual tradition at the U of C that has been around for over 50 years. Every spring, on the last day of winter semester classes, U of C students gather to blow off some steam and celebrate finishing their classes in the form of a campus-wide party.

In 1961, U of C student and *Gauntlet* editor Alan Arthur bought his first pair of Bermuda shorts. Wanting to celebrate spring, Arthur wrote a message on the main hall blackboard, stating that everyone should show up wearing Bermuda shorts. Many of the university's 250 students did, and a tradition was born.

Nowadays, BSD is an SU sanctioned event, with live concerts, beer gardens and other organized events. BSD has achieved national recognition, and has become one of the U of C's most time-honoured traditions.

So if you don't know, now you know.

SU science rep receives reprimand

Coworkers decide Jacob Nasser slacking on the job

Riley Hill
News Editor

Students' Union science representative Jacob Nasser received a reprimand after his coworkers brought forward complaints to Student Legislative Council (SLC).

Fellow science representatives Jacqueline Boon and Amar Deshwar accused Nasser of violating SU bylaw 34.1d, which says faculty representatives must represent their constituents on university committees.

"It was a failure to attend, meaningfully, the university committees that he was supposed

to," said SU president Raphael Jacob. "More serious options would have been a removal of his honouraria or benefits, censure and finally impeachment. Council felt that was not appropriate and went with a reprimand."

At the meeting, each side was given 10 minutes to state their case, then five minutes for a rebuttal.

"We had a very long question period, over an hour," Jacob said. "Then we went in camera and the complainants and respondents left the room. That's when SLC began its discussion."

The reprimand was issued after the four hour, private ses-

sion of SLC. Nasser was given 24-hours notice to produce documents.

Nasser said he was not given enough information about the complaints brought against him before the meeting, making it difficult to produce documents.

"I was told to submit all the documents about the rules I had broken. For me that's very vague," Nasser said. "If they would have given me some evidence before about what I did wrong, then I could build my own case."

Nasser said he wants the bylaws to change so defendants have more time to present evidence to SLC.



Louie Villanueva

Science rep Jacob Nasser sits in Student Legislative Council.

U of C a step away from fair trade

Graduate Students' Association added as stakeholder, asked to comply

Chris Adams
News Assistant

The University of Calgary was slated to receive Fair Trade Campus (FTC) status last year. But a new stakeholder was recently added, and so far, it has yet to live up to FTC standards, postponing the U of C receiving FTC status.

There are three FTC stakeholders on campus: the administration, Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association. Both the administration and SU have complied with fair trade standards. The GSA has not.

The Canadian Fair Trade Network (CFTN) works with universities to encourage them to sell fair trade items. CFTN board of governors non-regional representative Kelly James said the GSA has not met FTC standards since being added as a stakeholder last month.

"The administration signed on to meet Fair Trade Campus standards, and then the SU also signed on to meet those standards and we had met those standards. The Graduate Students' Association, they haven't met the standards," James said. "That means they have to be serving fair trade coffee and they have to have fair trade tea options available at the grad lounge, which they don't."



Michael Grondin

Both the SU and administration offer fair trade coffee.

Stakeholders have to meet standards in three categories — availability, visibility and committee — to get FTC status.

For example, the administration is responsible for the products Chartwells offers. Since Chartwells offers fair trade coffees and teas, administration meets FTC availability standards. Third-party food providers like Good Earth do not apply.

Fair Trade products have to meet environmental and social standards before they are certified. These standards reflect

environmental sustainability, working conditions and ethical harvesting.

Executive director of ancillary services Voula Cocolakis said they are working to get the GSA in line.

"The requirements for the designation were changed this year. We were advised, just as we were getting ready, that the GSA also has to comply," Cocolakis said. "This is news to us and we're just working through it. No roadblock at all."

James said that while the GSA

// We are aware of and fully encourage the Fair Trade Campus initiative and are in the process of researching supplier options for fair trade coffee and tea.

— Sarah Akierman, GSA president

does not meet FTC requirements, it's only a matter of time before they do.

"It's not a reflection of them being uncooperative. It's a reflection of the standards changing," James said.

GSA president Sarah Akierman said they are looking into fair trade options for the Last Defence Lounge.

"We are aware of and fully encourage the Fair Trade Campus initiative and are in the process of researching supplier options for fair trade coffee and tea," Akierman said. "We want to not only align with our strategic goals, but to bring our customers the best quality product we can while being socially responsible."

According to CFTN, fair trade products do not cost more than products without fair trade certification. James said quality dictates price, not its certification.

The SU offers fair trade products at many MacHall vendors including the Den, Black Lounge and Stör. Stör offers a Cadbury

fair trade chocolate bar. SU vice-president operations and finance Eric Termuende said the SU exceeds the standards set out by FTC.

"It's our responsibility to make sure that we're holding up our end of the bargain. And it's not an obligation, it's a choice. But for a cause like this, obviously we want to jump on board," Termuende said.

While there is no deadline to meet these standards, Cocolakis hopes the U of C can receive FTC status over the summer.

When standards are met, the U of C will join the ranks of seven other Canadian universities.

The U of C's FTC committee will meet next week to discuss how to bring the GSA in line with FTC standards.

"Right now, the only thing we need to do is meet as a committee and work with the GSA to help them meet these standards. And then we'll be in a place where we can write the application," James said.

Bermuda Shorts Day: Make it Memorable



Ben Cannon
VP Student Life



With months of hard work behind us, we can finally look forward to Bermuda Shorts Day! The legendary end-of-year party is set for Tuesday April 14 in Lot 32. The gates open at 11:30 a.m., with food and beverage service from 12 - 5 p.m. As always, we've got a great list of artists lined up to keep your flip-flops shufflin'. This year, look for Smalltown DJs, Crooka, Jah Cutta, Los Kung Fu

Monkeys and Cowpuncher!

Get ready to celebrate the last day of classes with over 5000 of your closest friends! Pick up your wristband from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 8, 9, 10 or 11 in the North Courtyard, MSC. Wristbands will not be available on Bermuda Shorts Day, so get in line early in the week. Remember, you will need three things to get yourself into the beer gardens:

- Bermuda Shorts Day wristband
- U of C student ID
- age ID

BSD is a U of C tradition that spans over fifty years. On an April day in 1960, then Gauntlet editor Alan Arthur created the first BSD by writing "Wear shorts tomorrow" on a chalkboard. With decades of music, hilarious costumes and memories in its wake, BSD is a campus institution.

Speaking of history, we have all heard the urban legends surrounding BSD, from the girl who dropped her iPhone into the porta-john to the guy who pre-drunk so much that he was banned at the gate. Don't let that be you! Here are a few simple tips to keep your BSD

fun and memorable:

- Balance: alternate between "drinking" and drinking water
- Don't leave your drink unattended
- Take it slow, you have all day
- Take care of your friends
- Carry your U of C ID and age ID
- Have a plan to get home
- Remember to Be a Smart Drinker!

Enjoy your Bermuda Shorts Day safely, U of C! You deserve it!
For more information, visit www.su.ucalgary.ca

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

Arts Internationalization Committee formed

New committee aims to diversify arts faculty

Diltaj Atwal
Gauntlet News

The newly formed Arts Internationalization Committee held its first meeting a month ago. The committee aims to internationalize the faculty of arts and provide resources for students and professors to go abroad. The committee has faculty and student representatives to help both students and professors with international affairs and opportunities.

"The Arts Internationalization Committee is basically a way to advance internationalization in the faculty of arts. Basically the reason it exists is to document existing international activities happening within the faculty, and to identify and promote other international opportunities there are for students as well as professors," said faculty of arts representative Zainab Malik.

The committee consists of seven representatives from the faculty of arts. Vice-dean of arts Florentine Strzelczyk also sits on the committee, along with a Students' Union arts representative, a graduate student and a staff representative. Faculty of arts dean Richard Sigurdson will ap-

point all representatives.

"It's really important for University of Calgary to be international. Especially with our goals being with Eyes High, we should definitely make sure our faculties are in line with that," Malik said. "With the faculty of arts, there are such diverse job opportunities in the future."

The committee aims to help students and professors on campus, as well as students from abroad. It will also focus on making the transition process as comfortable, easy and exciting as possible, for both students on campus and abroad.

"Some of the goals involve more international students to join the arts faculty and definitely show a more international side to the arts faculty right now. I know we have large international population at our university which is wonderful," incoming SU arts representative Sarah Amiry said. "We have the Centre for International Students and Study Abroad as that involves international students and makes them feel comfortable and welcome at the University of Calgary. Many of the goals involve collaborating with CISSA and many of the other services on campus. We want to

make the internationalization process as connected as possible to the rest of the university."

The committee aims to not only expand the faculty of arts, but also the university as a whole. Amiry said ACI wants to create a more diverse community, resulting in a more culturally inclusive university experience.

"I think that the international aspect of the university is so imperative for the growth not just of the university but also the student body," Amiry said. "I think that with the incoming students from abroad, it will definitely make a huge impact on students."



Louie Villanueva

Construction update

Here's a run down of construction on campus. The two new graduate residence towers by lot 12 will open in fall 2015. Students can submit names for the buildings before April 4. And it's unclear when construction on the Taylor Institute of Teaching and Learning and Engineering Buildings will be complete.



UNIVERSITY OF
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Cash reward for undergrads



The Shell Experiential Energy Learning (SEEL) Program provides funding to University of Calgary undergraduates in all disciplines for field trips, conferences, special projects and other activities focused on sustainable energy, environment and economy.

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Magic Card club gathers on campus

New club meets Tuesdays to summon trading card hellspawn

Connor Sadler
Gauntlet News

The Magic the Gathering club has met on campus for almost a year and a half to play one of the oldest and most cherished trading card games in North America.

Magic the Gathering is a competitive card game where players duel with collectible cards from a custom deck. The game involves playing monster cards to attack the other players. Once their hit points reach zero, your glorious victory is assured.

The club was formed to help University of Calgary Magic players find an organized way to meet up and enjoy the game.

"You could find the occasional two, three, four students you could meet with and play Magic,

but there wasn't a big gathering for it," said club president Gabriel Payne. "There are lots of people at the U of C who play, but there wasn't a consolidated time or place to meet up."

Magic the Gathering was created in 1993 and currently has 11 million registered players worldwide.

The Students' Union club has attracted attention from across campus since its start last year.

"We have over 125 people on the mailing list and on a good week we have 40 or more students come to the club meetings," Payne said. "Magic is not something you have to sell. People, as soon as they find out about us, they're like, Oh I'm there!"

Club vice-president Alex Lamoureux said the club has members from a number of faculties.



Michael Grondin

Two Magic players duel their way to ultimate victory.

"I'm really happy with the way the club has brought in Magic players from all over the university," Lamoureux said. "It's a popular game so we've brought in

people who used to play, people who want to learn how to play and people who play a lot already."

For more serious players, the club holds drafting events. You

pay a small fee to buy some cards, build a deck on the spot then compete against your friends.

"We do events, we do drafts and we get funding from the SU so it makes it considerably cheaper than [drafting] at the store," Payne said.

Even with the large membership, the club is always looking for new people to join.

"We're willing to teach people, so if people are interested in learning how to play they don't even have to come with a deck and we can show them how," said Payne. "So if you're interested in Magic but don't know a whole lot about it, you can come to us to find out what it's all about and to get involved."

The club holds weekly meetings every Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the SU clubs room.

 An advertisement for EY featuring a large, detailed image of a fish underwater. The fish is positioned in the lower right foreground, looking towards the left. The background shows a large, dark, textured object (possibly a rock or a piece of equipment) partially submerged in the water. The overall scene is lit with a greenish-yellow hue, suggesting an underwater environment.

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Those who regularly park in assigned lots 25, 28, 21 and 19 will need to access their parking lots from 32nd Avenue for this day.

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Folk music not just for cowboys

Local folk music scene is a testament to community and solidarity



courtesy thecalgarycollection.ca

Tobias Ma
Opinions Editor
@mobias



One does not often find a room full of young and old people singing along to the same sappy tune. But Saturday, Mar. 29 saw exactly that during the screening of the *Calgary Collection*. The collection is a collaborative documentary that was originally released last fall as a web series, which features interviews with several of Calgary's folk musicians. The film was showcased as part of an integrated performance involving live music and a Q&A with the film's director.

The web series is now an edited documentary melded into a series of interweaving conversations with local artists Robbie Bankes, Barry Luft, Spencer Jo, Nathan Godfrey, John Leeder, Matt Masters, Tim Rogers and Mike Tod. The film discusses the origins and meanings of folk music and is set to background tunes provided by the artists. The full documentary will be released online in the future, although the individual in-

terviews are on the website for viewing.

Folk music is uncool in the global sense. The melodies are monotonously paced, the characters and settings are unrelatable to a city dweller and the lyrics often roll with a cheesy sentimentality.

Folk music is a primarily white genre of music, having evolved out of European Christian hymns. All of the interviewed artists were white men, as this is the main demographic that produces and enjoys folk.

To many Canadians, folk and country music is a reminder of a bygone legend, an exciting epoch when cowboys were pushing frontiers and laying the groundwork for our cities. But others like myself are reminded of a time when life was considerably worse for ethnic minorities, women and pretty much everyone else — a reminder of stories my father used to tell me of dodging drive-by buckshot in our family's Saskatchewan restaurant because we were "chinks." I've never found much use for music that glorifies the past.

However, the *Calgary Collection* is a reminder that music

transcends its origins. To many city dwellers, folk music might seem irrelevant, but the interviews with the artists suggest that many genres have more in common than our immediate tastes would have us acknowledge. Many of the featured musicians discuss how rock and pop have affected their own work. Artistic megastars like Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen have hybridized folk and opened the door for the next generation of folk singers to incorporate all sorts of auditory eclectic influences.

Whether you view the blending of musical genres as a distasteful bastardization or the happiest logical step, folk's sound and lyrical content will undoubtedly evolve. Its method of appeal, however, need not.

During the documentary, several of the artists commented that traditional folk music has lost its popularity due to a lack of exposure. Folk music is rooted as entertainment of the most local variety — played in the house, by family, for family. The genre often explores insular settings, like life in a small mining town or local fauna, topics that seem forgotten

to an outsider.

While the genre's traditional format suffers from an inability to entertain a mass audience, the *Calgary Collection* reminds viewers that this trait is also a strength. In a city that is often derided for its lack of culture, last Saturday saw a sold-out performance involving eight artists who are surviving and developing their craft thanks to their talent, yes, but also because of the personal networks they have built. Never underestimate the power of proximity and community.

The film suggests that to folk artists, the music is as much about people and the times as it is about the sound. There is no reason that the next generation of folk singers will be unable to produce a product that pays homage to its musical foundation while addressing a modern audience. After all, even though the genre might seem to belong in an era of horse-drawn carriages and water in buckets, the best folk often hides timeless commentary on generosity, loss and gumption in the face of adversity beneath old layers of paint.

The local folk music scene will

mirror Calgary's growth. Our biggest festival, the annual Folk Fest held late July in Prince's Island Park, has already abandoned its namesake in the strictest sense by incorporating artists from a wide variety of genres. While many of these artists have folk influences, this trend reinforces what the *Calgary Collection's* screening suggested: the essence of folk music lies in locality and the spectacle of live performance.

With intelligent marketing and hard work, these new artists will continue to produce music that speaks to both the young and old, as folk is one of few genres capable of reaching across the generational gap. I hope that these musicians can find some way to create music for modern tastes without compromising their values, but I doubt this will be a problem. Most folk musicians and those involved in the scene seem to understand why they are there. As Gillian McKercher, the film's director says, "I care about folk because the stories speak to the heart. Folk music is for anyone and its power is for anyone to recognize their story in the lyrics of a song."

Call-out culture on the Internet

Hateful introductions to social justice movements create distrust

Kate Jacobson
Gauntlet Opinions
@beruramiryam



One of the first animal rights posts I ever saw on the Internet was a shockingly dehumanizing image that compared the factory farming of pigs to the Holocaust. It showed Jewish people behind barbed-wire fences in a concentration camp, juxtaposed with an image of pigs in squalid conditions. The caption read, “I don’t see a difference.”

This tasteless comparison resurfaces every once in a while among the more extreme factions of animal rights groups. My introduction to this activism was characterized by shock tactics. This first experience with the animal rights movement coloured my view of any future activism the community undertook, no matter how positive it might be.

Currently, the Internet is undergoing a love affair with call-out culture, a form of social justice in which people are expected to confront others when they say something that is homophobic, racist, transphobic, misogynistic, etc.

If you aren’t a feminist, you could be introduced to feminism by reading an article by a self-proclaimed feminist arguing that men cannot be raped or sexually assaulted, or caustically attacking men in some other way. These opinions are not necessarily popular within the feminist community as a whole, and it’s understandable why many non-feminists react with contempt.

The Internet ensures an us versus them mentality, and we begin to associate these communities solely with self-righteous indignation. We construct a narrative where our communities are pitted against the fringe opinions of other communities.

The main issue with this call-out culture trend is that if you aren’t immersed in a specific community, the only actions you see from that community are the call outs, and the only people you see are those offended enough to speak up. We see only the fringe, reactionary elements of activism, not the core of the community itself.

Call-out culture certainly has positive effects — it often shifts

traditional power dynamics and provides meaningful platforms to silenced groups. However, one of the unfortunate side effects is that we are exposed to ideas at the outskirts of social justice movements and not the ideas at their heart.

These call outs might be a fad of Internet culture, but they’re valuable because bigoted people deserve to be called out. Although awareness is an often-mocked aspect of social justice, it is necessary. Call-out culture can, however, bring the equally dangerous and bigoted fringes of social crusades to the forefront of our social consciousness.

The Internet brings fringe activists to the centre in a way that other mediums don’t. We obsess over fringe activism and circulate it around and around, obsessing over details, marveling at how awful and outlandish these particular opinions are.

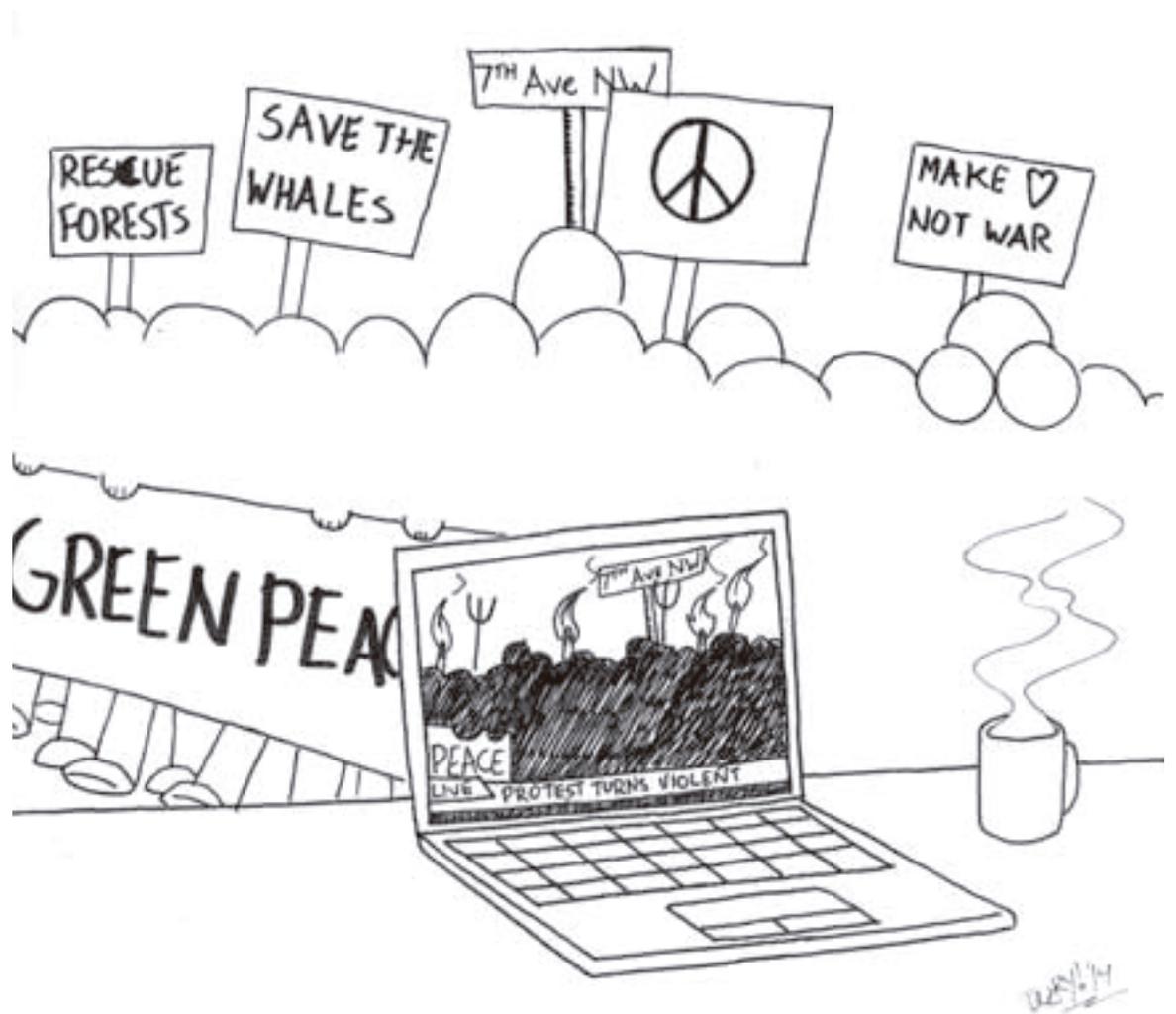
An antagonistic introduction can destroy the good intentions underneath any movement. These vicious introductions ensure that every time you brush up against a controversial topic, the remnants of its call-out culture are brought to the forefront by our obsession with the awful and the outlandish.

The animal rights activism I encountered was racist and tactless, but everyday animal rights activists are often kind and compassionate people who, while passionate about the issue, approach it with respect for the opinions and troubles of others.

We shouldn’t simply dismiss fringe activism, this co-opting of legitimate social justice movements to push radical ideas. These are dangerous ideas and they can do real harm. They should be condemned with the full weight of our communities.

But we can’t be obsessed with the language of call-out culture at the expense of social change. Antagonistic introductions breed distrust and hostility between communities where the majority of people in both groups are working to dismantle larger oppressive power structures.

The medium affects the message. And when the message is that every community you’re not a part of is filled with dangerous and harmful ideas, I don’t like to think about what that makes the medium.



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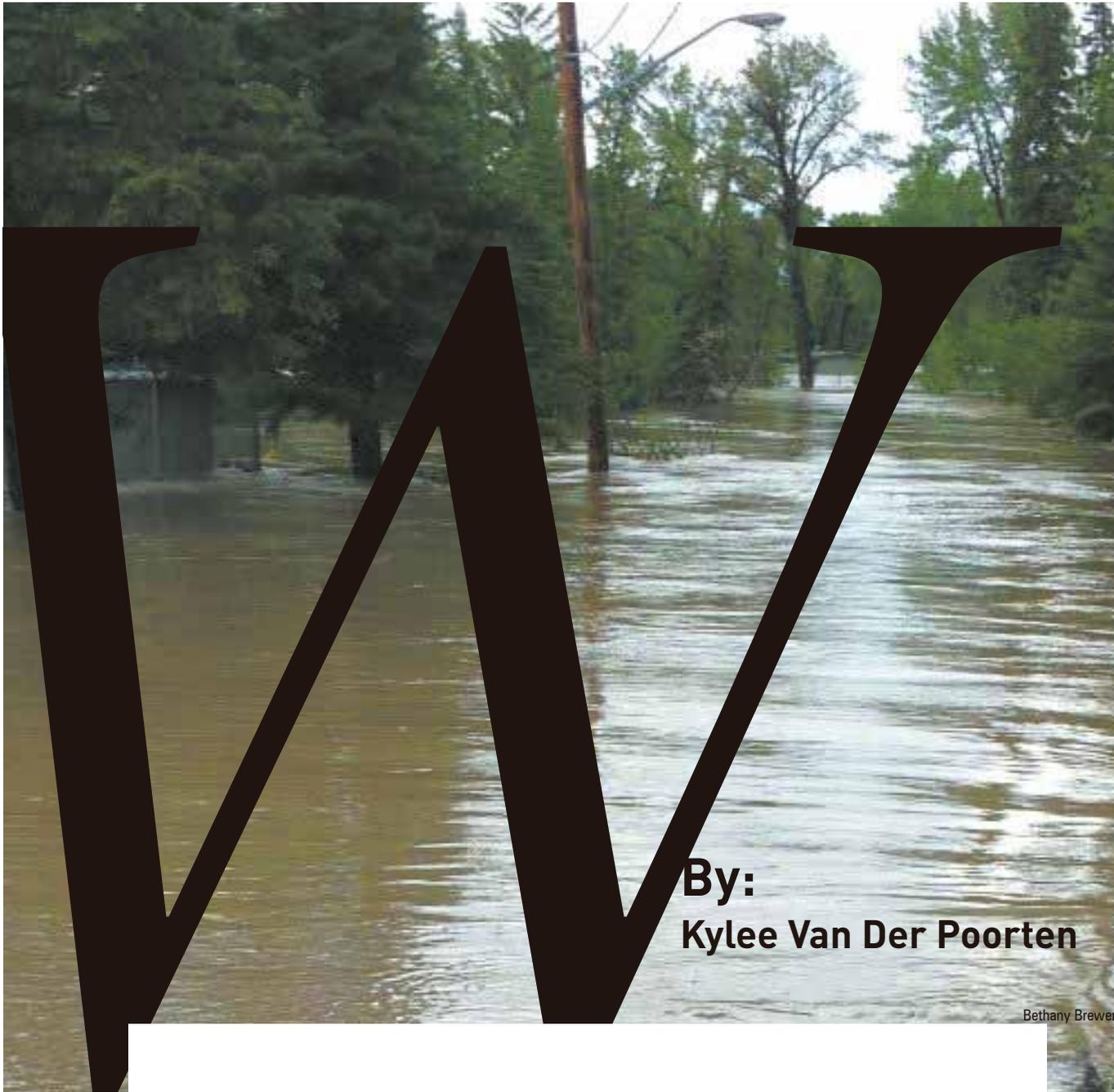
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By:
Kylee Van Der Poorten

Bethany Brewer

World Water Month was in March, a time to learn about and celebrate the management, sanitation and preservation of water. Water is both a resource and a risk, as the June flooding of Southern Alberta illustrated.

The 2013 flood was deemed the worst in Alberta's history and has spurred a number of initiatives including a proposed dry dam and water-diverting tunnel to reduce our vulnerability to future disaster.

"We create [the flood hazard] ourselves. It is not a fluke of a nature — it's the most expectable thing there is. The flood wasn't a hazard until we developed on a flood plain," says Jerry Osborn, geoscience professor and expert in surficial geology and geomorphology.

Why do we continue to implement residential zoning in areas along the riverfront? It seems like a good way to put private property and homeowners at risk. The City of Calgary could rezone these areas as recreational areas or public space. There is a cost to rezoning, however, because if residential areas were replaced by recreational areas, the City loses a substantial portion of property tax revenue.

Downtown homeowners could alternatively be protected by the Alberta government through adequate headwater protection along the south-eastern slopes of the Rockies, where potential floodwater is diffused or slowed. This would mean preserving and maintaining forest growth in those areas. The government has not yet implemented such policy, possibly because timber harvesting companies in Hidden Creek Valley don't like the idea. Neither do the motorized recreation community who often rip through unofficial trails in protected areas.

Undoubtedly there are a number of stakeholders involved including residential owners and businesses such as timber harvesting companies, and they must be consulted before flood mitigation policy is implemented. Trade-offs are necessary for successful planning.

Who should pay the costs of flood mitigation — the public, the government, industry or all three? Various groups have criticized the government for not doing enough to balance interests.

A proposed dry dam in the headwaters of the Elbow River is currently entering the environmental screening and community consultation phase in Alberta. A dry dam is specifically designed for flood control and would collect some floodwater when river levels are high in the Elbow River. However, key experts including Osborn, question the success of such a strategy.

"This dam will be too far upstream to do any significant mitigation for some storms," says Osborn.

Others, such as Kevin Van Tighem, a wildlife author who has studied landscape ecology and conservation biology for almost 40 years, believes that such a dam would require massive storage capacity to hold back the volume of water that comes down during floods.

"A dry dam, at first glance, seems a clever idea. It's essentially a dam with a permanent hole in it. The river runs through the hole. The hole is big enough to let a moderate flood through, but during extreme floods, the extra water can't get through. Instead, the water backs up into a temporary reservoir," he writes in the *Calgary Herald* in January.

Van Tighem believes the problem with a dry dam on the Elbow River is that massive amount of gravel, sediment and trees would impact the dam's wall.

The impacts of building a dam will likely fall upon the ecological environment in that area, including fisheries and recreational users of the Elbow. Dam construction can block or delay fish migration and endanger species.

The most controversial project proposed is a tunnel that would carry water from the Glenmore Reservoir underground to the Bow River, further downstream. It would run right through Calgary and help control Elbow River overflows.

Osborn thinks it's important to look at the beneficiaries of Elbow River engineering structures.

"Floodplain residents should assume the cost of their own risk, which is presently not the case. The general taxpayer pays for the risk, either in flood bailouts or they pay for it with dams and tunnels," he says.

Continued, page 14

Continued from page 13

Ofentimes talk of this tunnel includes rhetoric about protecting the downtown, but experts assert that Bow River floodwaters will endanger downtown infrastructure, not the Elbow.

“Turns out that for the 100-year flood, downtown flooding comes from the Bow. My colleague and I are pretty convinced of that. The beneficiaries of the dam and the tunnel would be mainly homeowners on the Elbow and the Stampede Grounds,” says Osborn.

Using the downtown as a leverage point is effective because the downtown is not only the heart of Calgary, it’s symbolic of economic status and strength. And yet the Elbow dam isn’t really about saving the downtown, it’s about protecting the property values of residences along the riverfront.

A \$300-million tunnel diverting water from the Glenmore Reservoir into the Bow would effectively excuse the provincial and municipal governments from rezoning and it would protect the interests of those who value their riverfront property.

The loss of electoral support aside, what costs more: the tax-payer funded tunnel or the loss in property tax revenue? The fact the City is entirely dependent upon property tax revenue is instituted by the provincial government. Fiscal issues that plague municipal government relate to the inability to manage water. The \$300 million would be better spent if at least a portion were granted to the municipal government to buy riverfront properties and discourage further development.

“For the good of the city in general, it makes sense to buy up the houses closest to the channels and put in a strip of park that people could walk along. The money for the tunnels and dams could be spent on that instead. Politically that’s very difficult,” says Osborn.

Rather than private space along that riverfront, we could provide greater public accessibility to an enjoyable area. Osborn believes that parks and recreational space is easier to evacuate and can be cleaned up without as much cost.

Homeowners along the riverfront, such as Beth Brewer, disagree.

“I don’t want to move because I love my house. The river is a great amenity and it’s just a risk you take,” says Brewer, when asked about the reality of moving to another part of the city in case of another flood.

“That sense of community is rare,” says Brewer, of her Bowness neighbourhood. While residents were devastated by the destruction the flood inflicted on Bowness, she thinks it would be difficult to make people who lived there for generations leave.

“Rezoning is not an option. It’s a terrible idea,” she says.

“It’s the responsibility of the homeowner as well as the government,” says Brewer when asked who is responsible for flood mitigation.

While it’s difficult for residents such as Brewer to consider leaving their homes, re-zoning seems to be the best solution available. The reality is that Bowness and other communities near the riverfront will flood again. It’s just a matter of when.

If residents like Brewer already feel as though their sense of community was jeopardized by the 2013 flood, it’s frightening to imagine how liveable those places will be in the event of another, potentially more devastating event.

The government of Alberta recognized that the status quo of land management isn’t working and endeavoured towards a comprehensive regional planning framework in 2008.

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan has been in the works since 2008 and is be-

ing drafted by the Government of Alberta and it will directly affect flood mitigation. The success of such a plan, especially after the flood, remains a contentious issue. The SSRP creates new conservation areas, establishes environmental limits, protects our water supply and provides clarity about land use and access. However, there are some major shortcomings in the plan.

Conservation director Kate Morrison of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) explains the regional planning framework “aims to balance economy, communities, and environment by looking at how we manage our land.” Ultimately it has failed to achieve this goal.

Headwater areas are the source from which a river originates — the area furthest upstream in a river from its estuary. Maintaining intact forests in these areas helps retain some of the water that might otherwise flow downstream, and further reduces the rapid pace of that flow. Despite numerous public concerns regarding the protection of headwater areas, the Alberta government has not provided any substantial action in the SSRP to explicitly protect headwater areas.

“It’s less of a planning document and more of a political or policy document,” says Morrison. The draft proposed after public consultation introduced little change to current measures. Morrison points out that the newly proposed protected headwater areas in Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat have actually been protected since 1984 under a different piece of legislation. The plan does not outline any new areas to protect.

Forest in headwater areas has a number of roles: to soaks up, slows down and spreads water out. Cutting down forest to build road networks, for example, decrease the ability of forest to hold back water.

Bethany Brewer



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Some point out that severe floods have been a reality in this province long before our inadequate headwater management plan came along. Destroying trees in headwater areas, however, would make the problem worse.

"If we logged 50 per cent of headwaters we're going to get more runoff and higher floods," contends Osborn.

Protecting forest in headwater areas is therefore the best way to prevent massive flooding. Once an area is deforested it takes decades if not centuries to regrow and gain back its same capacity to contain water.

"I think what people find hard to understand is when we talk about headwater protection as a way of mitigating floods, we're not saying it's going to stop all floods. The difference between an intact and a fragmented or

cleared forest is its ability to help mitigate those larger water flows," says Morrison.

Planning should focus on longterm sustainability. Unregulated ATV activity and unofficial routes through headwater areas are a huge issue right now, and Morrison points out that violators are rarely prosecuted.

In addition to intensive logging, oil wells, factories, roads and pipelines are all culprits of deforestation. Economic development is a necessity, yes, but there are areas feasible for development, and areas that aren't. Exploiting the natural environment doesn't make much sense if it means compromising water quality and making houses and government buildings in the downtown more vulnerable to floods.

Headwater protection is inexpensive compared to flood di-

version projects, and therefore should be considered part and parcel of reducing flood vulnerability. Diverting floodwater is just one, very reactive, solution to this problem. Headwater management is proactive; it accounts for climate change and the need to harness the environment's ability to manage water. There is often an ideology that nature should be engineered to our own requirements rather than working with nature.

While there is merit to dry dams and diversion tunnels, there are obvious limitations. Planning

departments must face this reality. A diversion tunnel or dry dam may not have the capacity to hold back another flood because we just don't know how big the next one will be — nature is unpredictable, and any engineered solution will have a breaking point. Rezoning and better headwater protection may not look good on a politician's track record, but it's vital nonetheless. It's important to consider the short and long-term perspectives and impacts of flood mitigation. Southern Alberta communities will be better for it in the end.

Bethany Brewer

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courtesy Calgary Underground Film Festival

Calgary festival brings indie films and cereal

Liv Ingram

Gauntlet Entertainment

The Calgary Underground Film Festival is dedicated to showcasing fringe films that defy convention. The festival features films from a variety of genres including horror, sci-fi and thrillers to comedies, documentaries and music-related films. This year's festival features a lineup of over 30 films — many of which will be making their Al-bertan premieres at the festival.

Festival director Brenda Lieberman says CUFF strives to provide a unique theatre-going experience with its diverse programming.

“Our main focus is to look for films that we feel are new, innovative, provocative, boundary pushing — contemporary independent films from around the world. We’re looking for some unique genre films. We’re looking for some up-and-coming, emerging directors,” Lieberman

says. “But overall, we just want to make sure that we’ve got some absurdist, some fantasy, some sci-fi, some horror, some comedy, so we definitely wanted to make sure we’ve got something for everybody.”

The festival opens with *Frank*, a comedy-drama starring Maggie Gyllenhaal and Micheal Fassbender as a quirky musician who lives his life wearing an over-sized papier-mâché head. Other films include *Asphalt Watches*, an animated Canadian psychedelic road movie; *The Machine*, a futuristic pro-science, anti-war Cold War story featuring a synthy John Carpenter-esque score; *Vannin*, a documentary about van enthusiasts who keep the 1970s dream alive; and a host of other weird, wacky and delightful films that you’ll likely not see anywhere else.

With such an eclectic mix of cinema, Lieberman says it can be difficult to classify the films under any one genre or theme.

“We actually never really feel

like we have a theme because we do want the diversity and wide range of subjects and genres,” Lieberman says. “But we definitely have more Asian and martial arts this year, which is not something that happens every year. We have more animation and art related stuff, so that is also a bonus.”

CUFF features the Canadian premiere of the highly anticipated Indonesian martial arts film *The Raid 2*, which is a follow up to director Gareth Evan’s 2011 smash hit *The Raid*. The film claims to have more jaw-dropping action than Hollywood’s entire summer slate.

Japanese film *R100* from director Hitoshi Matsumoto is making its Canadian premiere at CUFF. The film centres around Takafumi Katayama, a lonely salaryman who signs a contract with an s&m agency specializing in random acts of public sadist humiliation. While he initially finds this invigorating,

Takafumi soon discovers that he is unable to end his contract with the agency and finds himself pursued by a gang of ruthless dominatrices. The title *R100* references Japan’s movie ratings R-15 and R-18, suggesting that no one under 100 should be permitted to watch this film.

While these mark new additions to the CUFF roster, the program also features some well-known festival favourites. A returning audience favourite is the Saturday Morning All-You-Can-Eat-Cereal Cartoon Party, a three-hour vintage cartoon extravaganza, featuring a secret line-up of cartoons from the ’60s through the ’80s — complete with vintage commercials and public service announcements.

“That one has got people who come and bring their kids, to older people who come dressed up in their pyjamas reliving their youth. There is absolutely every age group and demographic there and it’s a lot of fun. Some

people bring their own bowls [for cereal], some people use the ones we provide, some people just really nerd out to it,” says Lieberman.

Along with an eclectic mix of cartoons, Saturday Morning All-You-Can-Eat-Cereal Cartoon Party features a wide variety of cereals in an all-you-can-eat buffet.

“We’ve been collecting cereal for the last six months from the States. So we do all the Canadian sugar cereals and then we’ve got some wacky ones,” says Lieberman. From the long-discontinued, but temporarily resurrected Fruity Yummy Mummy, to Fruity Pebbles with Pop Rocks, to gluten-free Cocoa Pebbles, the Cartoon Party has a sugary treat for every cereal lover — and can be enjoyed with milk or soy. Due to the popularity of the Cartoon Party in previous years, the event has been extended to two theatres.

Festival schedule and ticket information is available at calgaryundergroundfilm.org.

Game review: *Titanfall*

Diltaj Atwal
Gauntlet Entertainment

Don't believe the hype. *Titanfall* is a fun game, but it's not without its faults — and there are major ones.

I began the game expecting a grand adventure with amazing action, customization, storyline and multiplayer gameplay. I couldn't wait to get my titan. But the game fell short of my expectations.

Made by Respawn Entertainment and the co-creators and other key developers of the beloved *Call of Duty* games, *Titanfall* brings a refreshing take on the shooter genre, not only by

bringing in mechs but through a huge amount of flexibility in the player's movement. It allows for an easy entry into the game.

The game is centred on multiplayer gameplay and this is where most of your time will be spent. The gameplay flows well and provides an engrossing experience, with various ways to approach situations. You start out as a pilot and have the ability to jump from platform to platform, wall run, double jump, all thanks to a handy jet pack. The player can call down their titans to aid them in battle either on automatic, fighting alongside you or guarding a certain area, or so that you can pi-

lot the titan — which makes you feel like you can take on anything. The game has a good balance between the pilot and the titan. As a pilot you aren't defenceless and as a titan you're not invulnerable.

The biggest problem with *Titanfall* however is the campaign. It is laughably short, clocking in at about four to six hours to finish, with no replay value. It's really just a bunch of game modes put together with a few in-game cut scenes and people narrating what is going on. Before every mission, there is a brief overview of the purpose of the mission.

The campaign is split into two sides, with nine missions on the

Interstellar Manufacturing Corporation side and then, after you finish the first playthrough, you play the exact same missions again on the militia side, with few significant differences. There are different cut scenes, perspectives and the ability to customize two other titan types once the campaign is completed.

No matter the result of each mission, the story has a fixed result — winning and achieving goals doesn't matter if they are predestined to win or fail anyway. It's not a fulfilling campaign that adds to the world of *Titanfall* and nothing prompts the player to get invested in its lore, characters or story.

The multiplayer has its flaws as well. The game customization is lacking. It's rather static, with a few changes to weapons choices, ordinance and abilities but few visual changes. Nothing that makes the titan and pilot stand out from others online. There is very little control over the pilot's appearance.

The multiplayer experience relies heavily on different game modes but there are very few. Playing the same two or three modes gets tiresome quickly.

Titanfall is a fun game, but only for a short playthrough. It has a lot of potential and hopefully Respawn Entertainment continues working on it.

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CUFF film review: Three Night Stand

Connor Sadler

Gauntlet Entertainment

A disenchanted married couple, a weekend getaway at a ski lodge, ex-lovers and other wacky characters barging in at the wrong times — it sounds like the recipe for a bland and generic comedy. However *Three Night Stand* explores awkward and uncomfortable topics while maintaining a sense of humour throughout the film.

Three Night Stand follows a weekend in the life of Carl, a somewhat average game designer, whose marriage has cooled off considerably. Attempting to re-ignite their marriage, Carl takes his wife, Sue, on a weekend trip to a romantic ski lodge, which unbeknownst to him is run by his ex-girlfriend Robyn. Over the weekend Carl must confront his feelings for Robyn while also dealing with the other wacky patrons of the lodge and both of their spouses. Needless to say complications quickly arise.

The film, lacking a serious and focused plot, relies on the interactions between the characters.

Director Pat Kiely says he wanted the cast to feel like ordinary and average people, people who would be relatable yet unique.



courtesy Pat Kiely

“All the characters have pieces of me in them as well as pieces of my friends,” Kiely says. “I wanted the characters to talk about things that were true to what my friends talk about.”

Carl is presented as a generic nobody during the opening of the film — an average guy with an average job and (somewhat) happy marriage. As the film pro-

gresses, more of Carl’s personality is revealed and he’s shown to be an asshole with a high-heel fetish, but who cares deeply for his wife. Overall Carl is relatable only because he is so normal. He’s a normal guy who has some deep-seated relationship issues.

The humour in *Three Night Stand* comes across forced at times — when there is awkward spontane-

ous sex or when Carl’s coworkers divulge information that is a little too personal for good taste. However there were parts that were laugh-out-loud funny when Carl is talking with his friends.

“I was drawing from things that happened in my own life and things that had happened in my friends’ lives,” Kiely says.

The natural and unforced humour

present in the film adds levity to the otherwise dramatic story and helps flesh out the characters more fully.

Although the film is slated as a romantic comedy it is usually more awkward for the characters than romantic. Instead of glorifying young love and showing a perfect story book relationship, *Three Night Stand* shows that every relationship has some problems.

“Categorically, [*Three Night Stand*] is a romantic comedy. But I think the film is actually more of an anti-date movie than a romantic one,” Kiely says. “I didn’t want it to feel like some bullshit that you traditionally see in a film. I wanted there to be honest moments.”

Kiely says he was aiming for a more realistic approach to romance.

“It was unlike other romantic comedies because when I was writing it I was letting the characters dictate where the story was going to go,” Kiely says. “I think that it pushes boundaries. Most romantic comedies are quite safe and conventional appealing to a large audience.”

Three Night Stand is a well-made and enjoyable film. The film can be a little serious at times and it’s not traditional romantic comedy, but if you step back from the situation there are a few good laughs to be had during the film.

U of C professor wins Juno award

Sean Sullivan

Entertainment Editor

University of Calgary professor Allan Bell, acting director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts won a Juno award for Classical Composition of the Year on Sunday, March 30, for his composition “Field Notes” with the Land’s End Chamber Ensemble.

Bell was up against Montreal composer James O’Callaghan for “Isomorphia for Orchestra and Electronics,” internationally acclaimed composer R. Murray Schafer for “Quatuors à corder No. 12,” University of British Columbia professor Stephen Chatman for “Magnificat” and composer and guitarist Tim Brady for “Atacama: Symphonie No. 3.”

Bell says winning the award came as a complete surprise, having expected one of two other

composers to win.

“I’ve been listening to Murray Schafer’s music ever since I was in graduate school. He’s a friend as well and so is Stephen Chatman,” Bell says. “These people are just exceptionally fine composers.”

Schafer’s composition, “Trio For Violin, Viola and Cello,” with the Land’s End Chamber Ensemble was nominated for Classical Composition of the Year in 2013.

Bell hopes winning the award will bring more attention to the U of C’s School of Creative and Performing Arts and the talented faculty members and up and coming undergraduate and graduate students.

“No person is an island,” Bell says, “and the reason that I was able to achieve what I was was through the support of this institution and my colleagues.”

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CUFF film review: *Asphalt Watches*

Connor Sadler

Gauntlet Entertainment

Asphalt *Watches* is about two people hitchhiking across Canada — that's the greatest amount of detail that I could infer after watching the animated film.

Asphalt Watches is based on the true story of how Seth Scriver and Shayne Ehman, the film's creators, attempt to travel across the country. The duo's plan involves sneaking onto a freight train with the help of the 1984 *Train Hopping Manual*, a tome that has been photocopied by generations of Canadian hitchhikers. However, they manage

to miss the train at every recommended location and are forced to hitchhike the old fashioned way.

The film is one gigantic trip, both in a literal and figurative sense. The animation style is simplistic almost to the point of being childish, giving the film a hallucinatory feeling. Every person the characters run into on their journey is an over-exaggerated caricature and yet you learn almost no one's name during the entire film. Along the road, the duo run into several particularly weird characters, including a crazy old man who loves Wendy's and claims to be Santa Claus and a loud trucker who is mod-

eled after a penis. Symbolism is everywhere in the film. I'm not exactly sure what aliens speaking to the characters through the stars had to do with anything, let alone the film as a whole.

To add to the eclectic tastes of the film, characters onscreen occasionally break out into psychedelic repetitive songs about seemingly anything. There were several instances of this, such as "Come On Over For Some BHD" (Boiled Hot Dogs) and "Boil The Lock."

Details are added only when they become relevant. The audience doesn't learn the protagonists' names until a third of the way through. It is during that scene that we learn Skeleton Hat and Bucktooth Cloud — yes, those are the protagonists' names — are in Medicine Hat. Even though the eclectic style adds uniqueness to the film, it does so at the cost of coherency. You have little idea of why the characters are doing what they're doing.

The conclusion was somewhat confusing and inconclusive but fitting to such an unconventional film. At the end, not much is explained and more questions arise than are answered. How-



courtesy Delusional Brothers

ever this film isn't looking for a definite conclusion. The audience is simply being taken along on Skeleton Hat and Bucktooth Cloud's adventure.

All things considered, the film is something that is truly unique and could never be replicated in

quite the same way by anyone. While this film may not be everyone's cup of tea, if you want to experience a new way of looking at the world, or just want to watch something strange with some friends, go see *Asphalt Watches*.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Psych student a hit on the world stage

Andrew Schnell chasing his squash dreams while studying at the U of C

Ashton Chugh

Features Assistant • @Ashtag00

University of Calgary psychology student Andrew Schnell has been dominating the squash courts for most of his waking life. Schnell is the second-ranked squash player in Canada and 94th in the world. Most recently he won the men's open at the Canadian University and College Squash Championships.

Schnell experienced success early on in his squash career. He won a national title at the age of 14, which Schnell confesses was the perfect positive reinforcement he needed to continue playing.

"It was the best feeling," said Schnell. "That is what gets you going after that because once you win a big title that you worked for, and when you succeed at doing what you love, you just want that feeling over and over, and that is what drives me to succeed."

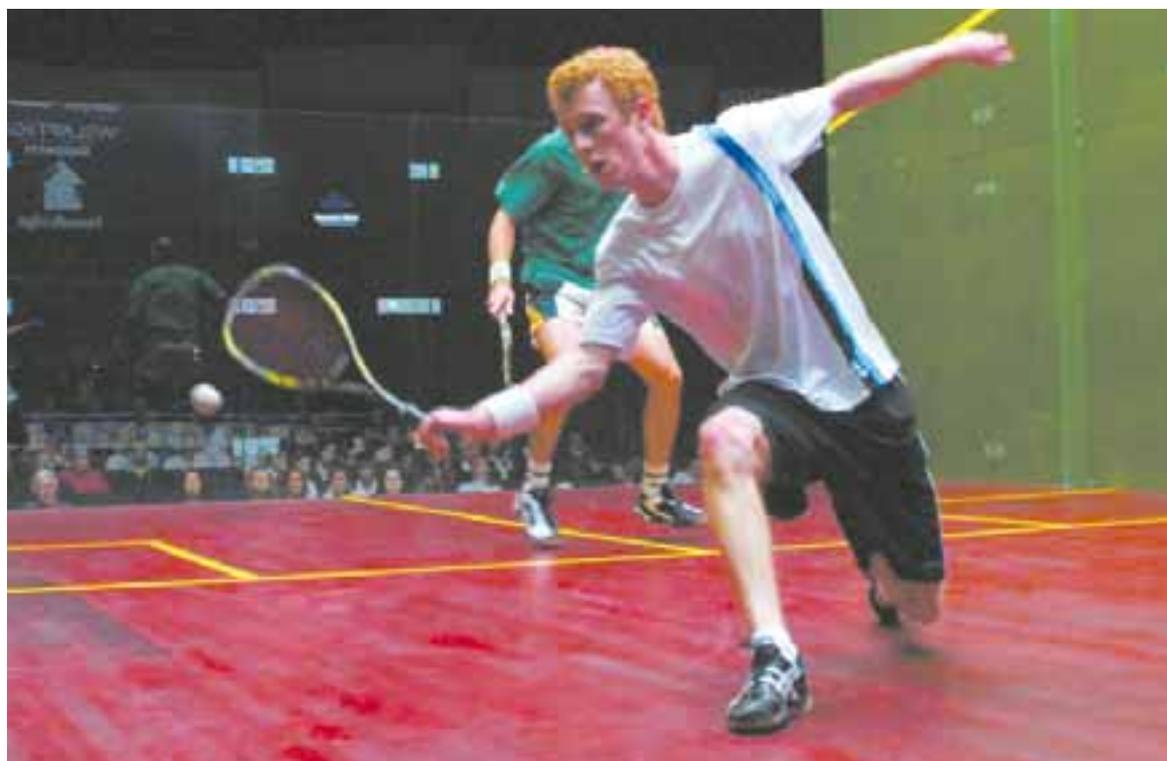
However, Schnell believes that a ranking is more indicative of where you are as an athlete and does not define who you are.

"Rankings are important — they are definitely a side effect because you cannot control them," said Schnell. "Obviously you want your ranking to go up and that is your outcome goal. But in terms of a process goal, you cannot think of that on a day-to-day basis. You can only think of improving and developing your game and the ranking will follow."

Schnell said that one of the perks of being a top-ranked player in the country is that you get to represent Canada on the national stage — an opportunity he feels has been one



courtesy Andrew Schnell



courtesy Andrew Schnell

Andrew Schnell, a University of Calgary student is ranked second in Canada and 94th in the world squash rankings.

of the high points in his career.

"Anytime when you are competing on behalf of Team Canada instead of competing for just yourself it's pretty big," said Schnell. "I competed in a couple of world junior championships and one time I was team captain and we won bronze at the games, which was the best that Canadian junior squash had ever accomplished."

Schnell has been playing squash with his older brother Graeme since the age of seven. Schnell attributes much of his own success in squash to his older brother, who is currently ranked third in Canada.

"He has been the biggest reason why I am as good as I am," said Schnell. "I would like to think that I am a big contributor to his skill development as well because

we have trained, competed and coached each other throughout our lives. So if it were not for him, I would not even be close to as good as I am now."

Despite his close relationship with his older brother — who has won five Canadian national titles himself — Schnell still maintains his competitive edge when competing against him.

"We have had some battles," said Schnell. "We have played each other so many times and in a competition it is kind of a no-win situation because I want him to do well, but I also want to win. Plus, people always want to see you get in a battle with your brother so it's tough that way."

Despite all of Schnell's success, no athlete's career is complete

without pitfalls. For Schnell, it was losing a semifinal match in the under-13 nationals to an athlete who cheated.

"When you are young you think that everything is about the love of the game and life is perfect," said Schnell. "I played this guy in the semifinals and to win the match he cheated. Afterward, he told me that he knew I won the match and he cheated, but he did not apologize. He went on to win the title."

This experience gave Schnell a new perspective on his sport.

"That was tough especially from a 12-year-old's perspective," said Schnell. "From that age your first reaction is that you want to quit because the game is not fair anymore. I thought about quitting squash,

and then my parents asked me why I play this game. Was it just to win, or do I love playing squash? Even though I was 12, I realized that I just love playing squash."

Occasionally, some professional athletes like to take time off and celebrate after winning accolades. For Schnell, he believes that working towards his next goal is his first priority after any win.

"I train more because the title itself is its biggest reward," said Schnell. "For me it's also about remaining humble because after you win a big title you think you're the best guy in the world. I am only ranked 94th in the world, and I have to get that up higher. Part of it is just trying to get my game in stride and work up towards the next goal."

2013-14 provides a spark of hope for Flames fans

David Song

Gauntlet Sports



Despite a recent hot streak in which they routed both the mighty Anaheim Ducks and rival Edmonton Oilers, the Calgary Flames are going to miss the playoffs

yet again. On paper, this year's campaign is not much different from the team's general trend these past few years. Occasional flashes of brilliance and a never-say-die attitude are not enough to overcome a genuine lack of skill on the squad — this grim reality has many Flames fans shaking their heads in frustration.

This is not a preferable situation for a hockey club with such a pas-

sionate following. However, it is not the worst situation either. The Flames may not be playing for the Cup this postseason, but they have learned some valuable lessons, gained a few key pieces and most importantly, shown that they are not willing to remain the punch line of jokes cracked by hockey enthusiasts.

With the departure of star cap-

tain Jarome Iginla, rock-steady defence Jay Bouwmeester and stalwart goaltender Miikka Kiprusoff, the Flames roster looks thinner than ever. With the exceptions of sniper Mike Cammalleri, deft playmaker Jiri Hudler and rearguard Mark Giordano, there is not much to look at on paper. The team is especially vulnerable at centre ice, where perennial checking forward

Matt Stajan is their No. 1 pivot.

However, this unlikely band of athletes has demonstrated time and time again that they are not fazed by the competition, and they certainly don't give a rip about what others think of their chances. Each and every game, the Flames have charged onto the ice with the desire to win.

see FLAMES page 21

Flames, continued from page 20

They are willing to play physical, grind out their defensive duties and fight for every inch of the rink. When experienced assets like Dennis Wideman and Curtis Glencross went down with injury, others have stepped up to the plate, particularly those called up from the minors.

Toward the end of the season, Flames greenhorns have shown that they will soon be ready to play in the big league. First-round draft pick Sean Monahan has displayed tremendous two-way acumen, while T.J. Brodie is maturing into a solid offensive blueliner. Both have locked down a roster spot for good, while others like Joe Colborne, Kris Russell and Mikael Backlund are beginning to come into their own as well. Players like these have teamed up with serviceable veterans such as Cammalleri, Giordano, Hudler and David Jones to compete with much more intensity than the roster chart would suggest.

The Flames have many other youthful players waiting in the wings. Max Reinhart, Tyler Wotherspoon and Markus Granlund have displayed bursts of talent during their auditions with the big club, while 2011 first-rounder



courtesy 5of7

Max Reinhart (left) and Joni Ortio (right) could be a couple of big pieces for the Flames's future.

Sven Baertschi remains an exciting prospect. Karri Ramo is starting to assert himself as a solid netminder, as is Joni Ortio. For athletes such as these, experience and proper development are absolutely crucial, and everyone has received a chance to hone their craft.

Arguably the most positive sign of the Flames's performance going forward is the attitude in their locker room. Coach Bob Hartley expects and encourages his squad to win, odds be damned. His message is echoed by veteran leaders like Giordano, Cammalleri and

Glencross, instilling a ton of gutsiness in the young bucks. No matter what happens down the stretch, one thing the Flames must avoid is the mentality of tanking to obtain good draft picks. The Oilers have done just that, but the resulting complacency of their squad has stalled

their rebuild. On the other hand, the Flames are willing to take on all comers and play as a unit.

Despite the losses, Flames fans can take many positives out of the first year of their rebuild. This season has merely been a dress rehearsal for future successes.

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Dinos support a marketing matter

Students enjoy the games, but need to be convinced to go

Scott Strasser
Gauntlet Sports



I've always been disappointed by the low attendance at Dinos games. Every time I've gone to a game, regardless of the sport, the stands are mostly populated by small pockets of friends and family. There has never been a solid foundation of fan support from the student body as a whole.

Obviously, you can't expect the same level of attendance for the Dinos as NCAA athletic events in the United States. The level of play in the United States is higher, and the NCAA is far more popular than Canadian Interuniversity Sport. That being said, there should be at least a couple thousand fans at Dinos games, especially for the more popular sports like hockey and basketball.

Apart from football, attendance for these sports is usually around 200-500 fans. For less popular sports such as wrestling, field hockey and even soccer, attendance is even lower, averaging as few as 100 fans or less. For the performance level and for a student body as large as the University of Calgary's, these numbers are far too low.

There are many reasons for low attendances at Dinos games. The games usually take place on Thursday or Friday evenings, when many people are eating dinner. Some students do not realize that Dinos games are free for them.

Also, Calgary already has a variety of professional sports teams to follow. Why watch a bunch of student athletes in their late-teens and early-twenties when you can watch



Michael Grondin

Getting students to attend varsity games is a tough sell for the Dinos marketing

physically and technically superior athletes who are on million-dollar contracts? Cities like Saskatoon and Victoria may have to rely on their university teams to fill a demand for live sports, but Calgary doesn't.

These excuses are a shame, because university athletics can be fun to follow, especially for students. While going to a Flames or Stampeders game is great, fans can't relate to the athletes they are watching. When you're watching the Dinos, you can nudge your friend and say, "That guy is in my stats class."

The main reason why Dinos games don't get high attendance though is because they aren't marketed enough.

The exception is when the university arranges special events to help boost attendance. Events like Kickoff, Pack the Jack and the Crowchild Classic are the only occasions where Dinos games attract a significant portion of the student body. Stu-

dents go to these events and enjoy themselves. Even students who have no interest in the sport being played admit to having a good time. The combination of a raucous atmosphere and the drama of a sporting event creates a fun social experience. The popularity of these events proves that students do enjoy watching the Dinos, when they're willing to go.

The reason Pack the Jack and the Crowchild Classic are so successful is because they are heavily marketed. In the weeks prior, posters advertising the event line the hallways throughout campus. Emails from the Students' Union are sent encouraging students to go. UThisWeek usually mentions them and participating athletes even hand out pamphlets and other reminders the morning of. This is the effort required to convince a decent amount of U of C students to go to games.

If the university treated the regu-

lar season the same way they treated Kickoff, the Dinos would have more fan support and their performances would be better. As someone who used to play competitive sports, I can vouch for the fact that nothing pumps up a team more than knowing they have a big crowd on their side. A big crowd brings out extra motivation for a team and allows them to push a little bit harder. A loud crowd also intimidates the away team and interferes with their focus. There is a reason why home-field advantage is so crucial in professional sports. Big crowds simply motivate teams to perform better.

Just because you don't enjoy a particular sport or know much about it doesn't mean you won't have a good time watching the Dinos. Gather some friends, wear something red, have some drinks beforehand and cheer like crazy every time that guy from your stats class scores a point or sinks a basket.

CIS unveils Super Championship Weekend

Curtis Wolff
Sports Editor • @CBWolff

Canadian Interuniversity Sport is introducing its own version of March Madness during next year's men's and women's hockey and basketball championships.

All four of these national championship events will be held simultaneously from March 12-15, 2015. CIS broadcasting partner Sportsnet will provide over 20 hours of coverage on Semifinal Saturday and Championship Sunday.

"These are exciting times for our organization," said Pierre Lafontaine, chief executive officer of CIS in a press release. "We truly believe these changes will help us take university sport in Canada to the next level and offer our student athletes and coaches the best platforms to showcase their outstanding talent."

Participation in both the men's and women's hockey championships will expand from six to eight teams. This would have likely given the highly-ranked Dinos men's team a berth in the University Cup had the new format been implemented this season. These events will adopt a straightforward knock-out format, replacing the current system in which each team is guaranteed to play two games.

The University of Calgary will be hosting the women's hockey championships next year. The new format will be implemented for 2015 and 2016, and will then undergo a re-evaluation.

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Guy on train good at picking up social cues

Stranger gets and respects that you don't feel like having a conversation

Elizabeth Scott

AP Editor • @elizabethjscott

Early yesterday morning, as you boarded the train to campus, you sat beside a young man engrossed in a book. The man was relatively good looking by conventional standards, with the exception of his Adidas track pants. "Must be laundry day," you thought to yourself hopefully.

After several minutes of silence, the man closed his book and turned to you. "Do I know you?" the man asked, looking at you intently. Removing an earbud, you responded. "No, I don't think so," you said, glancing up and smiling briefly before returning to your game of 2048.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realize you had your headphones in," the man said, picking up on your in-

troverted expression and body language. "That probably means you're not interested in having a conversation, which I totally respect, so I'll just leave you be."

Upon realizing that your attention was already invested in your mobile device, the man returned to reading his book for the remainder of the train ride.

The train coasted along smoothly. Looking out the window, you noticed that the sky was a little bit clearer than it had been the past few days.

"So . . . how's it going?" the man did not ask a few moments after your exchange. Instead, he read his book quietly.

You wondered silently if you had remembered to turn off the stove earlier that morning. Reliving your actions of the past few hours, you came to the conclusion that you had, in fact, remembered to turn off the stove. You

returned to your game.

"Where you headed?" the man did not think to ask after you had passed several stops in silence.

Someone at the other end of the car chattered away loudly on their phone. You quietly revelled in the victory of finally achieving a 1,024 tile.

"I've been loving this weather recently," are words which did not escape the man's lips. "Soon you won't be needing this," he did not add as he did not pat your winter jacket as if he was an old friend and that that was a totally acceptable violation of a stranger's personal space.

Upon arriving at his stop, the man stood up and exited the train without saying goodbye or acknowledging you, as the two of you had not actually been acquainted and the insignificant interaction you had shared minutes before did not warrant a relation-



courtesy daveblogs007

A train full of people who are probably not interested in having a conversation with a stranger at 7 a.m. in the morning.

ship, which the man recognized.

The name of the man is unknown, as he did not tell you, assuming correctly that you had no interest in learning it.

You ultimately did not end up winning your game of 2048, but did manage to beat your previous

high score of 16,184.

You later found out that you had not actually remembered to turn off the stove as you had thought, but luckily your roommate was home and had turned it off for you before any damage happened.

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 or drop by the station located at Room 312 in MacEwan Hall, just around the corner from the Ballroom.

WHAT IS CJSW?

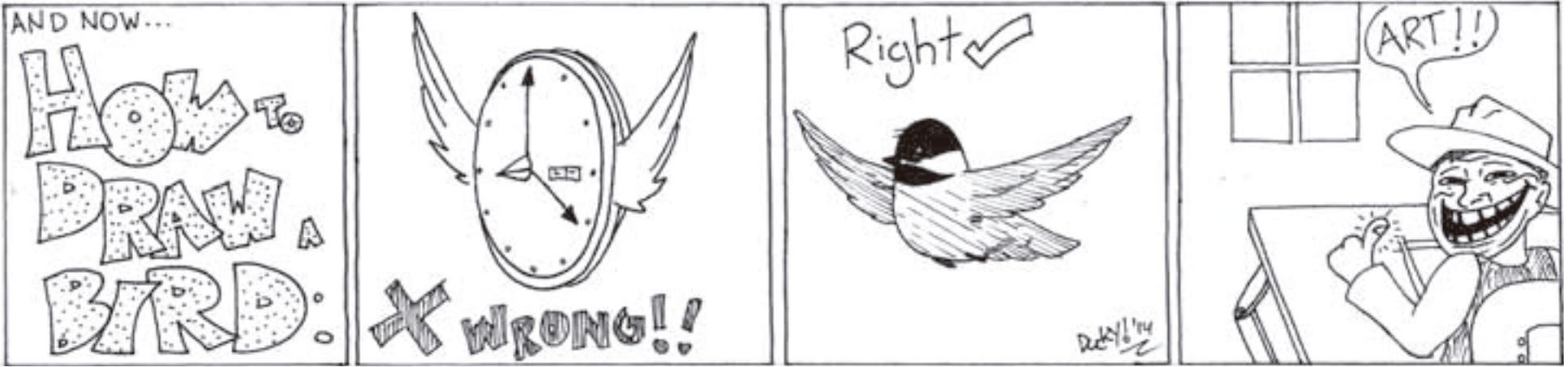
CJSW is Calgary's campus and community radio station, broadcasting 24/7 throughout the city on 90.9 FM, and around the world at cjsw.com. The station is maintained and operated by a group of six staff members and over 300 amazing volunteers.

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.

RIGHT HO, JAMES! -JAMES STEVENSON



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