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# WRECK CITY

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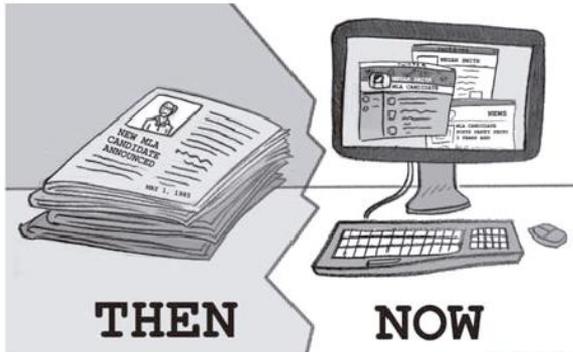
# Inexperienced MLAs deserve a chance

In the May 5 provincial election, the Alberta New Democratic Party broke the 44-year reign of the Progressive Conservatives, winning a majority government with 53 seats. Not everyone was happy about this.

Almost immediately, disgruntled conservatives went to work uncovering the scandals of their orange-clad successors. An obvious target became apparent — the social media histories of the young, inexperienced MLAs that were elected.

One of these MLAs was 26-year-old Deborah Drever, who made headlines after conservatives began sharing pictures found on her Facebook page. These included a picture of Drever flashing a peace sign next to a shirt adorned with a marijuana leaf, along with another picture of someone flipping off a Canadian flag.

These photos were passed off as supposed evidence that Drever is unfit for her position, prompting finger wagging and tut-tutting



SAMANTHA LUCY

about the dangers of letting young people hold political office.

Which, of course, is nonsense.

If standing next to something with a pot leaf on it or giving something important the finger is all it takes to make someone ineligible to hold public office, then anyone who has ever been 20 can kiss their political careers goodbye. Politicians have been doing dumb crap like this for decades. Even

President Obama has smoked weed.

The only difference is that these poor choices now wind up on the Internet, where they wait for years until an enterprising political enemy digs them back up. Social media can capture us at our least thoughtful, and young people are the ones most likely to have an embarrassing photo or two on Facebook or Twitter.

This type of public shaming will

only become more common. As more young people enter the public sector, their political opponents will use these temporary lapses in judgment to discredit younger candidates.

Young people are often encouraged to get involved in politics, but we're criticized as soon as we go beyond volunteering to knock on doors. It then becomes a matter of experience or maturity — qualities rarely brought up with any candidate past the age of 40.

The truth is that these young candidates are no more or less experienced for their positions as anyone else running for public office for the first time, and they shouldn't be treated like liabilities just because they still get carded at bars.

These MLAs are young, but they were elected to hold public office. Criticize them for what they do when they get there.

Sean Willett  
Gauntlet Editorial Board

**Summer Den**  
Patio Edition

**DRINK SPECIALS THURSDEN PRICING**  
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JULY 24    AUGUST 21

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**STUDENTS SU UNION**

## NEWS

ELECTION »

## Student issues ignored during provincial election campaign

Fabian Mayer  
News Editor

Taxation, healthcare and K-to-12 education were all hotly debated during Alberta's election. Student issues, on the other hand, were all but ignored.

Both post-secondary funding and the tuition cap were left out of the election's lone televised debate and they were seldom mentioned on the campaign trail. Students' Union president Levi Nilson said he was disappointed by the lack of attention paid to post-secondary.

"It was something we hoped parties would take notice of since we've been the ones taking the brunt of everything that's gone wrong in the budget the last couple of years," Nilson said.

When the SU called on parties to clarify their stances on post-secondary issues, only the Alberta Party and the New Democratic Party did so.

SU vice-president external and newly elected chair of the Council of Alberta University Students Romy Garrido said the timing of the vote around exams contributed to the lack of discussion surrounding student issues.

"Post-secondary education isn't quite the ballot box issue that we want it to be, but we're hoping to get there," Garrido said.

She's optimistic that the relatively high number of students elected to the



Candidate signs were taken down this week as Alberta's election campaign wrapped up.

LOUIE VILLANUEVA

legislature will help bring more of a focus to post-secondary.

"They'll be representing students. They're within our demographic so we're excited to be working with those students specifically," Garrido said.

Corey Hogan, a former political strategist who ran the Alberta Liberals' campaign in 2012, suspects the narrative of students being unlikely to vote is largely responsible for student issues being ignored.

"It's very tough when you're in those meetings talking about platforms to argue for student initiatives," Hogan said.

"Ultimately you've got a billion dollars. You can spend it on post-secondary students who will not show up to vote for you, or you can spend it on seniors who will."

Nilson said challenging that narrative is a priority for the SU.

"That's why we ran the Get Out The Vote campaign," Nilson said. "I think once we get the breakdowns of what demographics actually voted we'll see a much different picture than what's normally believed."

Hogan believes these efforts could have an effect on how political

parties engage with students.

"If students begin to vote, a winning party somewhere is going to come and talk to student issues and really drive that agenda," Hogan said. "I don't think it's too engrained to change."

Nilson said he was encouraged by the NDP's victory in last week's vote.

"They want to roll back market modifiers, which is music to my ears. And they want to protect the tuition cap," Nilson said. "We'll have to see if they follow through on some of their platform points but it's potentially a good day."

STUDENTS' UNION »

## Students' Union campaign urged 3,000 students to vote in provincial election

Hayden McBennett  
Gauntlet News

The Students' Union's Get Out The Vote campaign contacted roughly 3,000 students before last week's provincial election to encourage them to vote.

Throughout the winter semester, students were asked for their contact information with the incentive of possibly winning an iPad or laptop. Students were then reminded

how and where to vote on the day of the election via a phone call or text message.

SU president Levi Nilson believes the campaign is an important initiative.

"We want to first of all make sure students are aware of where their polling station is so they can actually go out and vote. Second is to change the narrative of young people not voting," Nilson said.

SU vice-president external Romy

Garrido also participated in the campaign.

"It puts a reminder in students' ears that we have that responsibility to vote," Garrido said. "A lot of them were really excited when we contacted them. It has huge potential to get the student voice out there."

The SU hoped to reach 7,000 students but fell short of this goal due to uncertainty surrounding the date of the election.

"We only had 10 days to get

everything together, so our initial goal was a little ambitious," Nilson said.

Of the 350 students Nilson spoke to personally, only one said they did not plan on voting.

Garrido said the SU is planning a similar campaign for the upcoming federal election, which will likely be held in October.

"We're just going to ride on that momentum. We're really excited about how it went so we're looking forward to making it even bigger next time."

short  
form

What did you base your vote on in last week's election?



"I voted strategically, not necessarily with my specific beliefs."

- Paul Ingle,  
fourth-year history



"I based it on how well they answered questions in the debate."

- Rose Cruz,  
second-year psychology



"Transparency and accountability."

- Christie Ly,  
second-year geology



"I'm a permanent resident and I'm not eligible to vote."

- Farhan Hafiz,  
third-year international relations

Photos: Jason Herring  
Interviews: Fabian Mayer

# Haskayne students win competition with idea for safer campus

Stephanie Tang  
Gauntlet News

Five University of Calgary students won a business competition with an idea designed to make campus safer for women.

The product, a bracelet equipped with a button, is called the Securelet. Pressing the button once signals to Campus Security that the wearer is in trouble and provides security with GPS coordinates. Pressing it twice causes the Securelet to emit a loud, high-pitched noise, bringing attention to the wearer.

They presented the idea at the RBC Fast Pitch competition in April and won first-place, winning \$90,000 to start their business.

**/// If someone's being aggressive towards you, you could press the button. They would have no idea and campus security could come help you out.**

—Kira Lagadin, Feel Safe group member

The Feel Safe group behind the idea — Reagan Nagel, Cassidee Smith, Kira Lagadin, Kelly Weber and Renae McArthur — are second-year students at the Haskayne School of Business.

Lagadin says she remembers the U of C handing out rape whistles in her first year, but hasn't seen anyone wear one. So the group focused on making the Securelet fashionable, while still providing the security of

traditional personal safety devices.

"This is a problem that we have, and we solved our own problem by creating this idea," Lagadin said. "We're actually the target market, we know what we want and we know what women will and will not wear."

The bracelet is designed to be subtle. Ideally, only the wearer will be aware that the Securelet is not a normal bracelet. The button would allow students to summon help without alerting a potential aggressor.

"You don't have to pull out your phone and dial whatever number that might be and talk to someone," Lagadin said. "So if you're feeling uncomfortable, or if someone's being aggressive towards you, you could press the button. They would have no idea and Campus Security could come help you out."

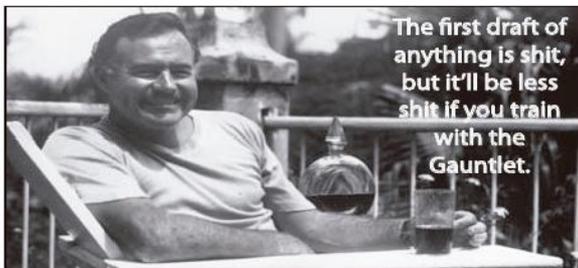
Campus Security director Brian Sembo says that while little information is available on the concept, his team has met with the group to discuss the need for a product like the Securelet on campus. He says Campus Security is fully supportive of the initiative.

But not everyone is on board. U of C Consent Awareness and Sexual Education club president Hilary Jahelka opposes personal safety devices, including the Securelet.

"Any kind of personal safety device puts the responsibility on the potential victim rather than the potential perpetrator and that's not something we endorse at all," Jahelka said. "Lots of victim blaming can happen because of typical prevention methods."

The Feel Safe group will pilot the project at the U of C, with the intent of expanding to campuses across Canada.

Lagadin says the next steps are to incorporate the company and speak with developers. They intend to develop a preliminary version of the Securelet by September. The group eventually wants to create a version of the device for men.



The inaugural UCalgary Strong Festival was deemed a success by administration.



ERIC GONZALEZ

# Campus events mark end of classes one year after tragedy

Fabian Mayer  
News Editor

Old and new celebrations marked the last day of classes and end of the academic year. Both Bermuda Shorts Day and the inaugural UCalgary Strong Festival were deemed successes.

The university put on the UCalgary Strong Festival with funding from the UCalgary Strong initiative, which was created last year following the murder of five students on the last day of classes. It was designed to provide a sober alternative to the Students' Union's year-end festivities, BSD.

Vice-provost student experience Susan Barker helped create the event. Barker said the turnout of roughly 2,700 students, staff and faculty was better than expected.

"When you start something new you're not quite sure how many people will turnout, but we were blessed with great weather and there was a great turnout from students, but also from staff and faculty," Barker said.

Students' Union vice-president student life Kirsty McGowan said the SU supports the UCalgary Strong event.

"It's great that students are being offered an alternative to make sure we are including a lot of people in celebrating the last day of classes," McGowan said.

Though attendance at BSD was down from 7,958 last year to 7,752 this year, McGowan said it was a success.

"It went really well, we had a really good turnout and everything went smoothly so we were happy

with it," McGowan said.

Barker said organizers noticed students going back and forth between the two events.

"It was great that people felt able to participate in both year-end events. We didn't have any security issues or incidents of any sort in the festival area at all," Barker said.

Despite taking place on the one-year anniversary of last year's murders, Barker said the event did not have difficulty balancing commemoration of the victims with celebrating the last day of classes.

"It actually just enriched what we were trying to do. It probably enhanced [it], there was sort of a synergy between the two rather than any conflict," Barker said.

Both BSD and the UCalgary Strong Festival will take place again next year on the last day of classes.

## ELECTION »

# How the NDP toppled a 44-year PC dynasty

Fabian Mayer  
News Editor

Prior to last week, only Albertans over the age of 65 could say they had voted in a provincial election that did not result in a Progressive Conservative majority government.

The PCs' near 44-year reign ended when Albertans elected the New Democratic Party as their government on May 5.

Professor of political science David Stewart, who studies Albertan politics at the University of Calgary, said it's a historic victory.

"This is the longest serving one-party government in Canadian history. When a dynasty like that ends, it's an important moment," Stewart said.

Six months ago, the largest opposition party in the legislature had just five of 87 seats. Most believed the PCs would decisively win the anticipated spring election.

But today the NDP forms a majority government and the PCs have been relegated to the legislature's third party. It was a shock to Canadians, who have long considered Alberta to be Canada's most conservative province.

When the price of oil crashed last year, falling from over \$100 a barrel to less than \$50, it significantly reduced government royalty revenues, leaving a \$7-billion hole in the provincial budget. Stewart believes this marked the beginning of the end for the PC dynasty.

"You're left with choices to raise taxes or cut services, which no one really likes. And when you're a government that's been in power for a long time, you're faced with the demand for



Rachel Notley made one of her last campaign stops at the University of Calgary's MacEwan Ballroom.

ALEXANDER KIM

explanations as to why you weren't prepared for this," Stewart said.

The PCs tabled their budget in late March. It included a mix of tax increases, spending cuts and a \$5-billion deficit that angered many Albertans.

Corey Hogan has worked on numerous political campaigns and managed the Alberta Liberals' election bid in 2012.

"Jim Prentice brought in this budget. He did not raise taxes enough to satisfy the left and he did not cut spending enough to satisfy the right," Hogan said. "He antagonized all of his constituents with that budget."

The PCs called an election shortly after the budget was released, a full year before they were required by

law to do so. Hogan believes running an election campaign on a "bad news budget" was a critical mistake.

"Time would have allowed that budget to move in, and people would have realized the sky wasn't falling," Hogan said. "It was like impaling yourself with your own sword. He chose his own demise."

Stewart said the PCs were "clearly outperformed" by the NDP during the four-week campaign.

The only leaders debate of the election was punctuated by terse exchanges between PC leader Jim Prentice and NDP leader Rachel Notley. Both pundits and citizens agreed that Notley won the debate.

Hogan questions Prentice's debate

strategy of focusing only on Notley and ignoring the other leaders on stage.

"When Albertans saw [the PCs] focusing everything on the NDP I think that hurt them. The NDP was elevated and I think, of the many things Jim Prentice regrets today, that's probably one of them," Hogan said.

Notley, who has been an NDP MLA since 2008, was central to the party's winning campaign.

"Rachel Notley was fresh and new. She's a once-in-a-generation politician. She's smart, she's warm, she exudes all of the qualities that you want a politician to exude," Hogan said.

Despite an NDP victory, Stewart

doesn't believe Alberta has shifted to the left.

"I'd say Alberta was never as right wing as we've been portrayed," Stewart said. "I think the New Democrats triumphed in large part due to a populist platform and a desire for change. I'm not sure either of those presage a major shift to the left in terms of public opinion."

Stewart was at the PCs' election headquarters the night of the vote. He said he didn't want to miss his only chance to witness the demise of a 44-year old regime.

"It was like being at a poorly attended funeral. People there were stunned, they were sad, and there weren't many of them."

## Great job, valuable experience, too little pay?

S.U.P.E.R.WORK can help! The Students' Union Program for Education Related Work (S.U.P.E.R.WORK) is a work experience subsidy program.

S.U.P.E.R.WORK provides a \$1000 wage subsidy award to undergraduate University of Calgary students earning less than a competitive wage at a summer employment position related to their degree program. To find out if you qualify or to apply, visit [www.su.ucalgary.ca/super-work](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/super-work)



Students' Union Program for Education Related Work

## BRIEFS

### SU vice-president external elected as chair of provincial lobby group

University of Calgary Students' Union vice-president external Romy Garrido was elected chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) at the group's last meeting.

CAUS is made up of five Alberta students' unions. It lobbies the provincial government on post-secondary issues. Garrido's election marks the third time in four years that the U of C su's vice-president external has chaired the group.

CAUS also set its priorities for the

upcoming year. These include tuition and fees, mental health, student aid, student employment, research and the Post-Secondary Learning Act.

### White House accused of lying about the killing of Osama bin Laden

Pulitzer prize winning investigative journalist Seymour Hersh has alleged that the Obama administration's account of the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011 was partially fabricated. Hersh penned a 10,000 word article published on the London Review of Books' website.

In the article, Hersh alleges that Pakistan had bin Laden in custody since

2006, but struck a deal with the United States government to stage a raid on bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

The Obama administration has rejected the claims, sticking to its story that the CIA tracked a courier to find bin Laden's hideout.

Hersh also claimed the story of bin Laden being killed in a firefight, with his body subsequently buried at sea, was false.

He argues that the account presented by President Obama was politically motivated. Hersh suggests that the assassination was designed to help Obama, whose approval ratings spiked after bin Laden was killed, win re-election.

## LOCAL ART »

## Pre-demolition car wash hosts art exhibit

Rachel Woodward  
Entertainment Assistant

Calgary-based curatorial ensemble Wreck City is partnering with Sled Island Music Festival to give local artists an interesting venue to display their works.

Their newest project, *Demo Tape*, will take over the abandoned Penguin Car Wash located in Calgary's Ramsay neighbourhood, which is slated for demolition following the conclusion of the project. It offers artists the opportunity to take a short residency in the building and display their art.

In preparation for the project, Penguin Car Wash will be open to select artists and performers until June 19. This installation period gives artists time to transform the space into a makeshift art gallery.

Co-curator of *Demo Tape* Caitlind Brown says the goal of the project is to explore what it means to preserve something in a stage of pre-demolition.

"It's funny, because I think there is a great deal of opportunism in the way that this comes together," Brown says. "There's a desire that's being filled. You have to balance impulse with conceptual foundation. It makes [audiences] think about what temporary means versus permanence."

The project intends to highlight temporary art, forcing audiences to reflect on the creation of pieces that will be destroyed along with the



Wreck City is allowing local artists to take over the Penguin Car Wash before its demolition for their new project, *Demo Tape*.

COURTESY CAITLIND BROWN

building they're housed in. Since the artist's pieces will survive only as long as Penguin Car Wash, contributing artists are asked to incorporate ideas about change over time in their work.

"The nostalgia is important, but that reckless abandon is also really important," Brown says. "It's nice as curator because you never need to fully identify what the project will be. Ultimately, the artists are what make the project. I think it's the same with the audience too. They come into this space and they see the project

through eyes we don't have. They usually bring this whole perspective in the way that they respond."

Brown says the relationship between music and art is particularly important, which is why the group partnered with Sled Island for the project. She says Wreck City is "hoping to preserve some sort of methodology that looks at the overlap between music and art or sound and image."

The music festival has been a huge motivator for *Demo Tape*, Brown

says. Sled Island was cancelled after Calgary flooded in 2013, but multiple house performances began to take place for musicians whose shows were cancelled.

"There was this really fascinating vibe that people were calling 'Flood Island.' The year [Sled Island] got cancelled, they were trying to find ways to pay tribute to that vibe and they thought of Wreck City and found the connection there," Brown says.

Brown says it's tough to say what

kind of art will come out of the open call. Submissions for the project are currently under review. Wreck City will provide 32 grants to artists wishing to showcase their work. The pieces range in size from large installations and sculptures to one-time performances.

Wreck City will present *Demo Tape* from June 19–28 at the Penguin Car Wash in Ramsay.

For more information visit  
wreckcity.ca

## LOCAL ART »

## Alternative literary magazine holds authors' reading

Rachel Woodward  
Entertainment Assistant

Created in 1993 by University of Calgary students seeking editorial independence from the university, *Filling Station* is an alternative literary and arts magazine. It is published three times a year by volunteer staff and highlights the work of emerging artists.

The magazine includes poetry, fiction and visual art. Though *Filling Station* typically focuses on local artists, the magazine's managing editor Paul Zits says they publish work from contributors across the world.

"Part of our mandate is to publish

emerging and established artists that are local, but we certainly receive and publish writers from across Canada, North America, and all over the world," Zits says.

Flywheel Reading Series is a monthly reading series curated by *Filling Station*. Held on the second Thursday of each month at Pages Books on Kensington, the series showcases diverse works from local and international writers.

Speakers at this month's event include David Joiner, an American historical fiction writer currently living in Vietnam and Kerry-Leigh Fox, a Calgary writer who is finishing her MA degree at the University of Calgary.

Zits says the magazine was originally formed with the intention of distinguishing itself from the *Dandelion*, a magazine then housed in the English department at the U of C.

"The whole idea was to create a magazine that was going to separate itself from *Dandelion*, and try to establish itself as a magazine that has a little more freedom," Zits says.

Flywheel Reading Series will take place this month on May 14 at Pages Books on Kensington at 7:30 pm.

For more information about *Filling Station* or Flywheel Reading Series visit  
fillingstation.ca



Flywheel Reading Series is hosted at Pages bookstore.

JASON HERRING

ON CAMPUS »

# School of Creative and Performing Arts reveals program offerings for the upcoming school year

Jason Herring  
Entertainment Editor

The University of Calgary's School of Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) recently unveiled their program for the 2015-16 season. SCPA Director Bruce Barton says the quality of the upcoming season shows the school's growth as they enter their third year.

"There's a wealth of things going on. The school is in an exciting time, and it's why I came here," says Barton, who joined the SCPA in January. "It's a rare school that has dance, drama and music under one roof."

Performances from these three disciplines make up the SCPA's upcoming season. The program contains a mix of work by U of C students and pieces brought in by established artists. Some events, like the returning *Dance Montage*, emphasize collaboration between students and members of the local artistic community.

"*Dance Montage* is the point at which our [dance] division engages with the community," Barton says. "It's also an opportunity for the students to learn who's out there, what they're doing and figure out who they'll be working with when they



*Dance Montage* is a highlight of the SCPA's 2015-16 season. leave the university."

In the *Dance@Noon* and *Dance@Night* performances, however, both choreography and dancing are left to the students. Barton says that faculty members provide guidance, but students are given artistic freedom

when choreographing.

In the drama department, acclaimed Canadian playwright Daniel MacIvor is bringing his play *Inside* to the university. MacIvor, who previously worked with a number of student groups across Canada to

create *Inside*, will work with students at the U of C to adapt the play and create a Calgary-centric version of the piece.

The school's annual *Taking Flight* festival will also return, giving students a chance to showcase their

work at the end of the year. The festival will be extended this season as Calgary's Ghost River Theatre company collaborates with students to create a staged piece.

Barton says it's difficult to choose a highlight from the musical portion of the season. He says the University's Rozsa Centre is so revered that "musicians from all over the world want to play there."

One standout from the music program is international award-winning pianist Krzysztof Jablonski. Barton says the Polish musician will be among the most exciting musical performances of the season.

The SCPA will continue to offer the Claim Your Seat program to students over the coming year. The initiative guarantees all U of C students free admission into any SCPA performance. Barton says he hopes more students will take advantage of it this year.

"So many of the performers who are coming are from other places, it's a rare opportunity. The world is opening up on a stage in front of you, and all you've got to do is show up. And you don't even have to leave campus!"

View the SCPA's 2015-16 program online at [scpa.ucalgary.ca](http://scpa.ucalgary.ca)

## NEW MUSIC »



Built to Spill  
*Untethered Moon*  
April 14, 2015 (Warner Bros)

There's a reason Built to Spill is one of the most acclaimed alternative rock bands of the 90s. Frontman Doug Martsch's virtuosic guitar lines and fragmented lyrics create tight, sprawling songs that perfectly walk the line between pop and rock.

Built to Spill's best work still came before the turn of the century, but their new album *Untethered Moon* is a collection of songs that proves the band still has plenty left to offer.

The record starts out strong with

"All Our Songs," an unrelenting track that features the album's best guitar work. "I knew when I woke up, rock and roll will be here forever," Martsch sings as the song reaches its climax. Though it isn't original, it's a powerful statement from a band that isn't getting any younger.

The following song, "Living Zoo," is the album's highlight. Featuring tight instrumentation that takes a turn for the unexpected and Kurt Vonnegut-esque sci-fi lyrics, the song is a joy to

listen to and can stand alongside Built to Spill's best.

Other choice cuts include the gorgeous "So," whose stilted instrumentation and introspective lyrics bring back shades of early Built to Spill classics, and the requisite album-ending jam "When I'm Blind."

Unfortunately, not all of the songs are able to channel the band's previous energy. The middle of the album features a string of tracks that sound conventional without indulging in the

weirdness Built to Spill is known for. As soon as *Untethered Moon* starts to sound formulaic, its charm is lost.

Despite these filler tracks, *Untethered Moon* manages to give new life to Built to Spill with songs containing a charisma that Martsch and company haven't had since 1999's *Keep it Like a Secret*. The album won't win the band new fans, but it's a welcome addition to the discography of one of alternative rock's greatest.

Jason Herring



No Island  
*Better Days*  
April 21, 2015 (Independent)

No Island's newest album *Better Days* marks the first time in the Vancouver band's five-year history that the current roster of musicians perform on the same album. The result is their most complete and vibrant-sounding effort to date.

The album opens with "First to Forget," showcasing the band's strong vocal harmonies and Supertramp-esque guitar and piano stylings. The drum beat is irresistible and the chorus is pop-rock at its best — brimming with infectiousness and belting-with-the-

windows-open lyrics. The band makes their best songs when they embrace this formula, like on the album's most repeatable track, "Angeline," which speaks of a complicated love affair.

"Second Spin" opens with anthemic piano and crashing cymbals that hint towards the level of professionalism found on the rest of the record. Featuring a perfectly executed saxophone solo, which is as surprising as it is satisfying, "Second Spin" will surely lead to air-sax performances in your kitchen.

Elements of Elton John, Pink Floyd

and Chicago are all over *Better Days*, mostly on "City of Strangers" and "Where We Left It." The sound is richer for it.

This is music that knows where it's been and where it wants to go. As the title suggests, it's an album that yearns for better days filled with cold beers and rocking out with friends.

While the immersive solos provide a satisfying musicality, the vocals, though smooth and fitting, often feel restrained. This album drips with passion, but the vocal intensity

doesn't always match the music's liberated feeling. When the instrumentals are at their most grandiose, the vocals often feel like they're holding back.

One can hope this isn't the case with their live show. The two-minute musical interlude in "Long Road" suggests this is an album begging for live performance. Hopefully, No Island crosses the Rockies and graces us prairie-folk with their infectious music sometime soon.

Liv Ingram

## BASKETBALL »

## 2015 NBA championship predictions

Sonny Sachdeva  
Sports Editor

The NBA playoffs are in full swing. After a few seasons of watching the same cast of characters repeatedly reach the championship, this year's tournament has given fans all they could ask for in terms of fresh storylines.

We've seen LeBron's homecoming, the return of Derrick Rose, Steph Curry's arrival among the sport's highest echelon and the Clippers' elimination of last year's champions.

Soon, however, two of the eight remaining teams will write a new script when they meet in the 2015 NBA Finals. As the championship picture gets clearer, the *Gauntlet* predicts who will get the chance to vie for the title.

**Western Conference**

It's hard to bet against the Golden State Warriors. The club finished with a league-best 67 wins during the regular season, losing only two games at home all year. They're led by the historic play of first-time MVP, Steph Curry. The 27-year-old point guard has established himself as the sport's best long-range shooter, twice breaking and resetting the record for most three-pointers in one season. I don't see their current foe, the Memphis Grizzlies, being able to shut down the Warriors' elite offensive duo of Curry and Klay Thompson.

Then we have the Los Angeles Clippers. While they face a tough match-up



The return of Derrick Rose should be enough to bring the championship back to Chicago.

COURTESY KEITH ALLISON

in the Houston Rockets, the Clippers are riding the momentum of taking down last year's champions, the San Antonio Spurs, in the first round. The Clippers are already out to a quick lead against the Rockets and should be able to easily put them away.

Should the two California rivals meet, the Warriors look poised to come out on top, though it won't be easy. Golden State won three of four games against the Clippers during the regular season. But while the Warriors had L.A.'s number early on in the season, the final two meetings between the pair were close, with each game

decided by no more than eight points.

Both clubs have plenty of firepower and leaders who can step up with clutch play, but I see Curry's banner season continuing en route to a seven-game series victory over the Clippers.

**Eastern Conference**

You have to feel for the Washington Wizards. After star point guard John Wall stepped up his game this season, guiding the team past a strong Toronto Raptors squad in a four-game sweep, the Wizards seemed ready to go on a dangerous run.

However, Wall recently suffered five non-displaced fractures in his left

hand and wrist, relegating him to the bench. Veteran forward Paul Pierce has stepped up in his absence, suggesting the club may have just enough heart to grind out a series victory over Atlanta. The Wizards' suggestion that Wall could return further down the line only helps their chances.

But the true battle in the East lies in the match-up between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Chicago Bulls.

It's a series the basketball community has been waiting for. LeBron James, the sport's undisputed best, has returned to his hometown club of Cleveland after a run in Miami that saw him

win two championships. On the other side of the court is Derrick Rose, finally returning to elite form after three tough years that saw him undergo multiple knee surgeries as his career nearly slipped away. Both former MVPs are capable of taking over games and draining big shots when it counts.

Ultimately, injuries could be the deciding factor here. While James looks ready to go all the way for Cleveland, his club finds itself without key contributor Kevin Love, who is out for the season after undergoing shoulder surgery. Add in the fact that star guard Kyrie Irving is playing through injuries to his right foot and left knee, and the Cavs' title hopes certainly seem dimmer.

Chicago, on the other hand, is healthy and ready to take the next step. They're missing veteran power forward Pau Gasol, but the club still boasts exceptional depth. More importantly, the Bulls have their X-factor back in Rose, who's certainly hungry to return his team to playoff relevancy.

Assuming Cleveland's injuries take their toll and the Bulls advance, I don't see either Washington or Atlanta having a chance to stop them. Chicago already looked dangerous with Rose watching from the stands, and with him back in the fold, the Bulls seem destined for a painless series victory and a trip to the finals.

**Final Prediction:** Golden State Warriors vs. Chicago Bulls (Bulls in 6).

## HOCKEY »

## Flames' award nominations show club's balance

Sonny Sachdeva  
Sports Editor

The Calgary Flames' playoff run may have ended in a disappointing overtime loss to the Anaheim Ducks, but the season as a whole remains a definite success.

While most predicted the Flames would fail to qualify for a playoff berth, the young group forged a never-say-die identity that took them to the second round of the postseason, ranking them as one of the final eight teams in the quest for the Stanley Cup.

After bowing out to a Ducks squad that looks poised to challenge for the championship, many will claim the Flames are a group who rode a series of unlikely circumstances to play

beyond their capabilities.

That may not be a fair assessment. While the Flames' success certainly appears unsustainable, the strength of their roster can't be denied.

The team's league-leading number of NHL Award nominations displays the elite balance of the organization. Calgary's four nominations are the most of any NHL club, and they'd likely boast one more if not for a late-season injury.

Rookie forward Johnny Gaudreau leads the pack with a nomination for the Calder Memorial Trophy as the league's best rookie. The promising winger has a good chance to capture the award after tying for the lead in scoring among all rookies with 64 points this season.

Head coach Bob Hartley will also have an excellent chance to bring home some hardware after being nominated for the Jack Adams Award as top coach. The respected bench-boss was crucial in guiding the young Flames to their successful finish.

A pair of Flames veterans earned awards nominations as well. Leading scorer Jiri Hudler was tabbed for the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy, given to the player judged to be the most sportsmanlike while performing at an exceptional level. As well, Captain Mark Giordano was nominated for the NHL Foundation Player Award, highlighting his commitment to Calgary's community.

But Giordano's presence at the awards ceremony comes with a

caveat. If not for a torn bicep tendon that ended the veteran defenceman's season after 61 games, Giordano could have earned a chance at one of the league's most prestigious awards — the James Norris Memorial Trophy, awarded to the league's top defenceman.

Through the first three quarters of the season, Giordano established himself as the best defender in the league, leading all blue-liners in scoring while remaining a reliable defensive force and unrivalled leader. He emerged as the favourite to claim the Norris before injuries derailed his chances.

Giordano will still enter next season as one of the most respected blue-liners in the league. As we've seen from Calgary's numerous other nominations, he'll play next season under the

tutelage of one of the sport's best coaches and behind perhaps the most promising group of young forwards.

With other young stars Sean Monahan (who finished among the league's top fifteen goal-scorers with 31 tallies this season), T.J. Brodie (who formed what was widely considered the NHL's best defensive pairing alongside Giordano) and Sam Bennett (who excelled during the playoffs and could vie for the Calder next season) on the roster as well, it's clear Calgary's breakout season was more than a lucky break.

Calgary's young roster heads into the 2015-16 season with the invaluable experience of a two-round playoff run, establishing themselves as one of the Western conference elite, with the best surely yet to come.