



BRIBES  
SHOULDN'T  
DECIDE  
ELECTIONS

pg. 2

FRINGE  
FEST OFFERS  
UNORTHODOX  
THEATRE

pg. 9

PLAYERS  
TRIBUNE  
REVOLUTIONIZES  
SPORTS MEDIA

pg.12



# HOW TO TEACH UNDERGRADS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

pg. 5

# Bribes shouldn't win elections

Millions of Canadian parents opened their mailboxes this week to find government cheques worth between \$400–500 per child. The money is part of the Harper government's expanded universal child-care benefit (UCCB) program.

UCCB payment amounts were increased by the Conservatives on January 1, 2015. The first payments, however, are just being sent out. This means that about half a year's worth of UCCB payments have accumulated into a lump sum and are finding their way into Canadian bank accounts.

Not so coincidentally, Canada is just under three months away from a federal election. It's clear the Conservatives are hoping the cash will help sway voters. Opposition parties and various pundits have called it a "vote-buying scheme."

And it might be working. A recent poll saw the Conservatives pick up around seven to eight percentage points, more than enough to swing an election in their favour.

These delayed UCCB payments are clearly less about helping families and more about helping the Tories win seats on October 19. The best evidence for this is that the UCCB is a taxable benefit. Most of that money will need to be repaid at tax time — but that's well after the election.



SAMANTHA LUCY

According to the Canadian Press, 17 of the 20 ridings that benefit most from the boosted UCCB already lean Conservative. But UCCB payments aren't the only way the Tories are targeting the ridings they need to retain if they hope to once again form government in the fall.

Last week, Conservative minister Jason Kenney announced \$1.5 billion in funding for Calgary's new LRT line. It's good that the government is spending money on infrastructure, and Calgary desperately needs an improved transit system. However, the timing of the announcement and the areas affected — all Conservative-held ridings — make it clear that the pledge is more about what happens

in October than improving the nation's infrastructure.

After spending very little on infrastructure for years, Conservative ministers all around the country are now announcing new projects. *The Globe and Mail* analyzed the Harper government's recent infrastructure announcements and found that 83 per cent of the planned projects are in Conservative-held ridings.

Infrastructure decisions should be based on what areas of the country need it the most, not the political leanings of individual ridings. The logical long-term outcome of the Conservatives' election tactics is crumbling infrastructure in left-leaning areas of the country and shiny

new LRT lines in right-wing strongholds like Calgary.

The UCCB payments are equally cynical. Showering Canadians with cash shortly before an election through a taxable child-care benefit has little to do with helping Canadians shoulder the cost of raising children and everything to do with getting re-elected.

The extra money will certainly be nice for parents raising children, just as new infrastructure funding will make those Conservative ridings better places to live. But voters should consider whether they want a government whose priorities are so heavily skewed towards retaining their grip on power.

And there are certainly more efficient ways to help parents with child-care than returning their tax dollars to them in the form of benefit cheques only to claw most of that money back again next tax season.

Canadians need to think about the kind of government they want. The choice is between a government that makes budget decisions based on where funding is needed, or one that funnels billions of dollars to the voters they need to keep their government pensions.

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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. Opinions regarding the Gauntlet follow a three-step process which requires written decisions from the Editor, the OP's Board of Directors, and the Ombudsboard. The complete Ombuds Policy is online at: [thegauntlet.ca](http://thegauntlet.ca). The Gauntlet is printed with green soybean inks. We urge you to recycle to help minimize damage to the Gauntlet.

The Cover  
Samantha Lucy

THE GAUNTLET ALWAYS  
ACCEPTS NEW  
VOLUNTEERS

**Summer Den**  
Patio Edition

**DRINK SPECIALS  
THURSDEN PRICING**

<b>MAY 22</b>	<b>JUNE 26</b>
<b>JULY 24</b>	<b>AUGUST 21</b>

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**SU STUDENTS UNION**

# NEWS

STUDENT LIFE »

## Students' Union launches clubs program for first-year students

Fabian Mayer  
 News Editor

From the firearms association to the anime club, the University of Calgary's clubs system has organizations dedicated to a wide variety of interests, hobbies and causes. The Students' Union is trying to strengthen this system by introducing a junior executive training program.

The program aims to ensure clubs can survive after their founding executives graduate. SU vice-president student life Kirsty McGowan said the SU is always looking for ways to bolster clubs.

"One of the things that I saw that we could improve was the longevity of clubs and the transition between executive teams," McGowan said.

The SU plans to contact clubs this summer and encourage them to set up junior executive positions. According to McGowan, about 30 U of C clubs already have executive positions available for first-year students.

"It's really important that younger students are engaging in that process earlier, it's to the benefit of the clubs and the first-year students too," McGowan said.

McGowan hopes these junior executives will learn the skills needed to take over the club when current executives move on.

"There are a lot of things that are important to clubs which are very complex. It's almost like running a small business," McGowan said.

In addition, the SU will also offer



McGowan hopes the program will help clubs survive when their founding executives graduate. **LOUIE VILLANUEVA**

workshops for junior executives throughout the year.

McGowan said these workshops will provide training to junior executives so they can eventually take over the club.

Christina Lo is the vice-president finance of the badminton club. She hadn't heard of the program, but thinks it could be valuable.

"Just having people who know they can be in these positions and ready to help out when we leave, I think that's really important," Lo said.

According to Lo, there have been several badminton clubs in the past, though none survived for very long. The current badminton club was only started last year.

Lo said most of the clubs' executives are in their third year. She worries the club will not be able to continue after they graduate.

"I don't know if our president has any plans on how he's going to recruit people to continue it," Lo said.

Lo would like to see the badminton club continue operating

after she graduates.

"With all the work that we put into it, I think it's really important that it doesn't go to waste," Lo said.

There are over 300 clubs currently active at the U of C. The SU will provide signs to clubs that offer junior executive positions during clubs week and will also promote the program during Orientation Week.

McGowan said approximately 20,000 U of C students are involved in clubs in some capacity.

### short form

Are you involved with any clubs on campus?



"I've been in the rowing club."

– Chevone Codd, fourth-year neuroscience



"I'm involved with the chemical engineering students' society and the petroleum engineering students' society."

– Arsalan Fardi, third-year chemical engineering



"I used to be involved in the dance club."

– Cara Tremain, fifth-year PhD Archaeology



"No."

– Henry Tran, third-year software engineering

STUDENTS' UNION »

## SU releases audited financials online

Fabian Mayer  
 News Editor

The Students' Union wants to make it easier for students to see where their money goes. The organization plans to make its audited financials and supporting documents prepared for Students' Legislative Council available online.

Until now, the SU has only posted a two-page summary of their financials on their website. Supporting documents were only available to those involved in the SU or campus media outlets.

SU vice-president operations and finance Sarah Pousette promised greater transparency as part of her election campaign.

"Something that I recognized coming to the Students' Union from the outside is that accessibility of information is really important," Pousette said.

She hopes students will take more interest in the SU as a result of the increase in available information.

"I wanted to make it more accessible to them to be able to find that information all year and to

be able to see what the Students' Union is doing all the time," Pousette said.

Pousette isn't sure why the audited financials haven't been posted before, but believes they will help students get a better idea of what the SU does.

"[It] will let them understand the details of how we are following our budget and doing what we say we're going to do," Pousette said.

According to Pousette, students have requested to see the statements in the past.

"I do believe that students want

more information and they want to understand how we work."

Pousette isn't worried about students finding irregularities with the SU's bookkeeping when they look through the audited financials.

"Not at all. I totally believe we are very transparent as an organization. This simply shows students that we are," Pousette said. "I think it will give students confidence in what we're doing."

The audited financials can be found at [su.ucalgary.ca/about/more/financial/](http://su.ucalgary.ca/about/more/financial/)

Photos: Jason Herring  
 Interviews: Fabian Mayer

## ACADEMIC »

# Professor from Cairo teaches summer course on the Middle East

Brittany Haines

Gauntlet News  
(with files from Fabian Mayer)

The Middle East is often on the evening news. A summer political science class (POLI 369) at the University of Calgary dissects the complexities of the conflict-riddled region.

Egyptian academic Walid Kazziha teaches the summer version of the course. Kazziha, a professor of political science at the American University of Cairo, has been teaching various courses in Calgary since 1985.

Kazziha lectures at universities across the Middle East and North America and has written or contributed to numerous books, articles and journals. He was also an editor for the recently released book *Egypt's Tahrir Revolution*.

Kazziha said he has experienced a few Calgary winters, one of the reasons he only teaches here in the summer.

"The advantage is that I come in the summer and not in the winter," Kazziha said. "In the winter I'm somewhere warmer than here."

POLI 369 focuses on the political history of the Middle East and how the rest of the world influences the region. The course concludes with a discussion of contemporary issues.

Kazziha said he can see how U of C students' views on the Middle East are influenced by the media,

Canada's political parties and lobby groups. He thinks having a professor from the Middle East with a less ideological perspective has an impact on how students think about the issues.

"They mention that it's refreshing to have a perspective from the region."

Kazziha said he has seen a shift in students' views during his decades of teaching at the U of C. A shift mirrored by students in the Middle East according to Kazziha.

"They've become much more open-minded. They are becoming much more acquainted with the rest of the world rather than being isolated in their own environment," Kazziha said.

According to Kazziha, some students find the conflict-prone and often undemocratic politics of the Middle East difficult to understand at first.

"Once they learn about the socioeconomic situation, the politics, the history — then they realize that this is a natural outcome of a long process and not a spontaneous thing," Kazziha said.

Despite teaching at the U of C for nearly three decades, Kazziha said he still learns something new from the students every time he teaches the course.

"It acquaints me regularly with the way the young generation in a western society is moving and are thinking and their perspectives and how they are changing."

## BRIEFS

### Federal funding gives Green Line LRT boost

Construction on the next phase of Calgary's Light Rail Transit (LRT) system may start sooner than expected after the federal government pledged over \$1.5-billion for the project. The funding accounts for around a third of the total cost of the proposed Green Line.

The roughly 40-kilometre line will run north-south, starting just northwest of the airport and ending at the southeast end of the city near the South Health Campus. Construction is slated to begin in 2017, with completion expected by 2024.

Alberta's opposition parties have called on the provincial NDP government to commit to funding its third of the project, but the NDP has yet to comment on their plans. The final third will come from the city's coffers.

### American dentist faces social media backlash after killing lion

Walter Palmer, a dentist from Minnesota, is at the centre of social media outrage after he killed a famous lion in Zimbabwe.

Cecil the lion, known for his distinctive black mane, was a famous part of the country's Hwange National Park.

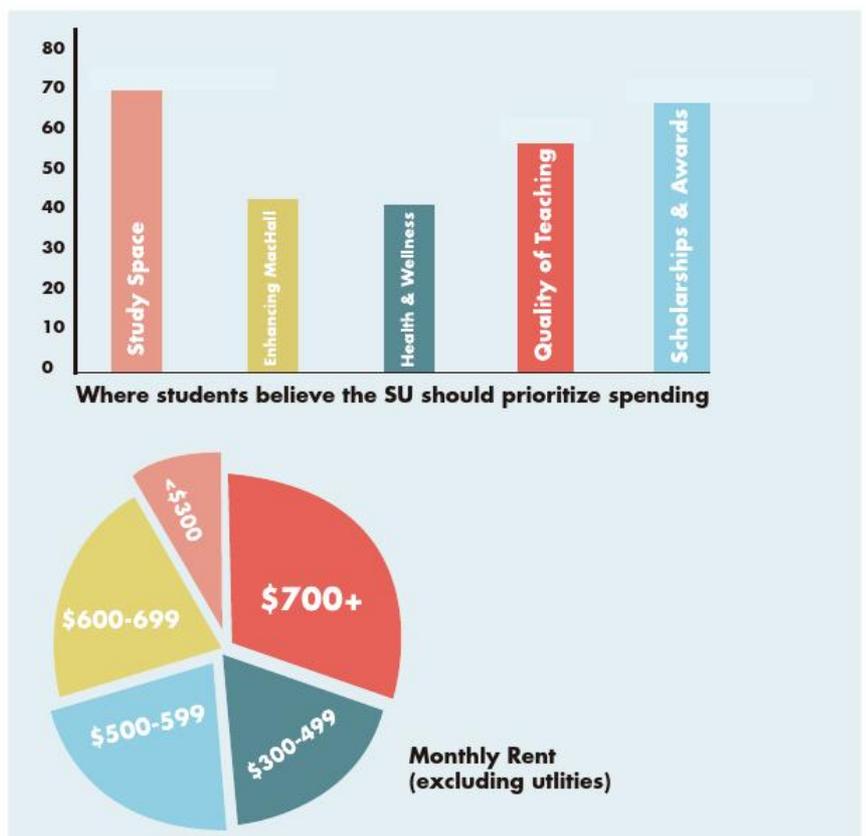
Palmer reportedly paid \$50,000 U.S. to shoot the lion with a bow and arrow. The wounded lion was later killed with a rifle, skinned and beheaded.

Two men who helped Palmer now face poaching charges in Zimbabwe.

The lion was believed to be killed in early July, though the carcass was not discovered until a few days later.

Celebrities from Ricky Gervais to journalist Glen Greenwald have criticized Palmer on Twitter.

## STUDENT LIFE »



The SU survey asked students a variety of questions on how to improve the U of C.

SAMANTHA LUCY

# Students identify key concerns in annual survey

Fabian Mayer  
News Editor

The Students' Union presented its annual survey to Students' Legislative Council last week. The survey asked students a broad range of questions, from how many hours they work per week to whether they follow the SU on social media.

Just over 1,300 students responded to the survey. It was administered in January and February of 2015.

SU president Levi Nilson said the survey helps the SU decide what issues to prioritize.

"It basically informs what we do as the SU. It informs what we advocate on, what programs and services we offer and what we ask for from the university," Nilson said.

When asked what issues the SU should lobby the government on, 83.6 per cent of respondents identified affordability and accessibility of education. Nilson said this was something that really jumped out at him.

"Definitely the emphasis that affordability and accessibility played with people," Nilson said. "There was hundreds of responses about market modifiers and tuition."

The survey also asked students

where they think the SU should prioritize its spending. Top responses included study space (69 per cent), scholarships and awards (65 per cent) and the quality of teaching (55 per cent).

**It informs what we advocate on, what programs and services we offer and what we ask for from the university.**

— SU president, Levi Nilson

Nilson said the SU has already put a lot of effort into improving study space on campus, but that they will keep promoting study spot alternatives to the popular Taylor Family Digital Library.

Another question asked how students would improve the U of C experience if money was not a factor. Over 60 per cent of students said facilities and infrastructure, while about 45 per cent said the quality

of student life. Nilson attributes this second number to other factors in students' lives.

"It's tough for students to get engaged in student life activities on campus if they're spending so much more time working. Every year we see more people spending more hours of the week working," Nilson said.

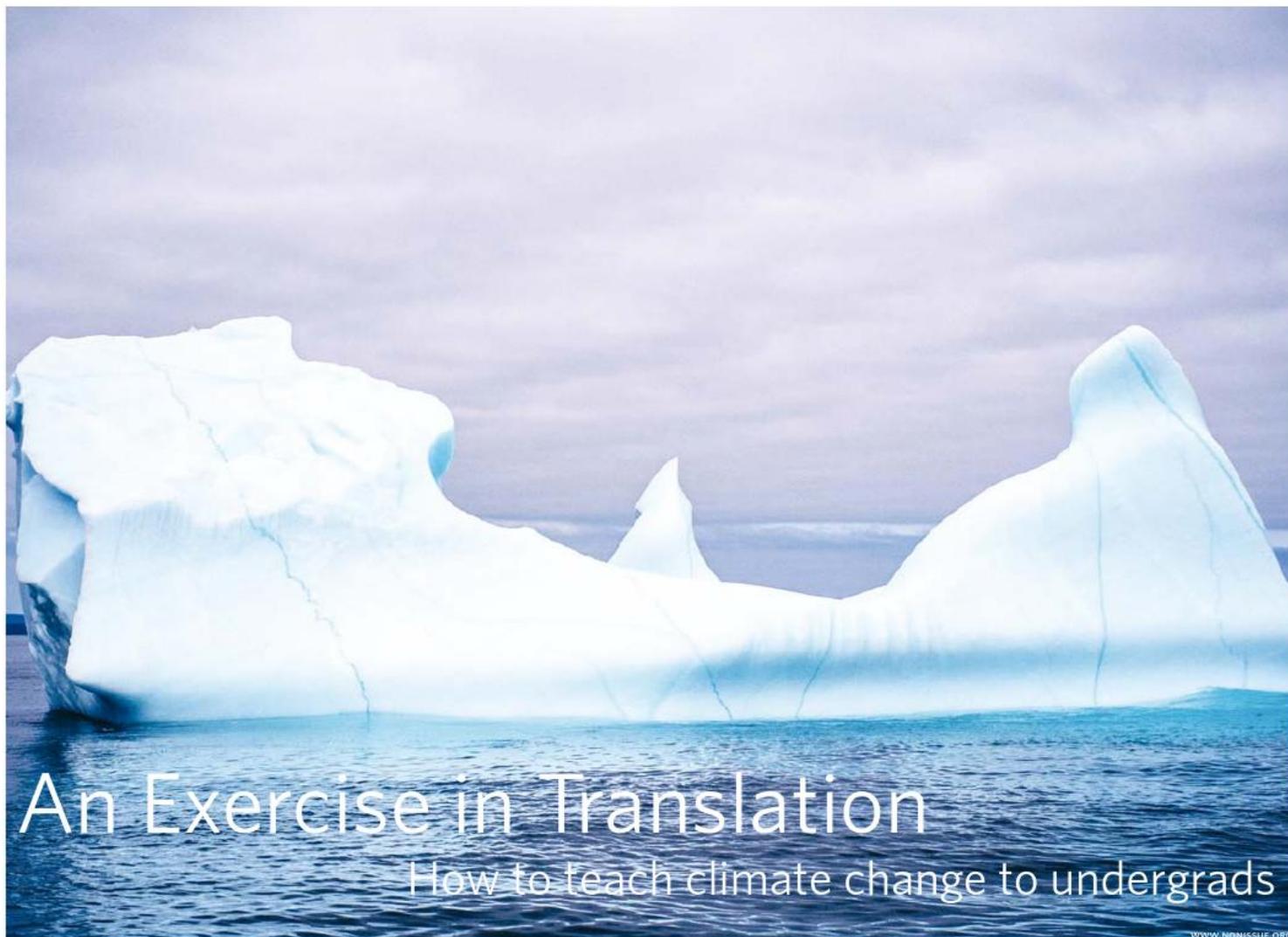
Students who rent are seeing their costs of living rise. In 2013, about 25 per cent of renters paid more than \$600 a month in rent. In 2015 it was over 40 per cent. Nilson said that housing is one issue where the SU can only do so much.

"Basically just trying to let councillors and the province know that housing is just not good, that's one thing we can do. But solutions have to come from other levels," Nilson said.

Many of the questions are open ended and then coded into different categories.

Nilson said he was generally impressed by how comprehensively many of the questions were answered. However, not all of the responses were usable.

"There was one person who answered 'yo mama' to every single question," Nilson said. "That one just kind of gets thrown out."



# An Exercise in Translation

## How to teach climate change to undergrads

WWW.NDMISSUE.ORG

Chris Adams  
Features Editor

What do you count as the most practical post-secondary degree you can get? Finance? Engineering? Something in the sciences? Prevailing wisdom suggests the most valuable degrees get you a job, preferably immediately after graduation.

If you just finished the program at Vermillion's firefighting school, you've got this summer's hottest ticket to employment.

There have been 5,603 forest fires in Canada so far this year. That's about 1,500 more than the ten-year average.

Since a warming climate causes more forest fires, more burnt ash will wind up as soot deposited in glacial ice in places like Greenland and Antarctica. This creates what's called black ice, which absorbs more energy than ice without soot deposits, making it melt faster.

Additional soot deposits will speed up the shrinking of glacial ice. If Greenland's ice sheet melts — which scientists say looks increasingly likely — the sea level will rise over six

metres. Populations in the world's coastal cities will find their streets and their malls and their subway systems flooded.

I reached Dave Pederson, the executive director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), as Western Canada was on fire.

"It's a tough summer, for sure. We had air quality advisories [in Victoria] for almost the first time in our history. The air is quite clear now, but it was very weird."

Vancouver was smoggier than the notoriously polluted Hong Kong for the first time. Smoke from Saskatchewan crossed the prairies and headed south toward Colorado. Calgary's skyline hued with red and orange outside my window.

B.C. premier Christy Clark described the severity of this year's fire season as the new normal. You could say that's good news for firefighting grads, but bad news for the planet.

Sadly, my degree in political science won't give me license to hang out of a biplane and dump buckets of water on burning hectares of forest. Few of us are equipped to deal with the threat climate change poses in the very near

future. And few courses, let alone degrees, at Canadian universities directly prepare students to adapt to a world forever altered by climate change. That's a problem. Canadian universities need to develop more courses that offer a solid, interdisciplinary foundation on climate change because all of us — scientists or otherwise — will have to deal with its effects.

Getting a holistic look at climate change at the undergraduate level is difficult because most courses only hint at narrow aspects of it. This rings true at the U of C. According to its website, the University of Calgary has over 350 courses that cover topics related to sustainability. Courses must meet one or more of the three criteria for sustainability to get the distinction. Those criteria include social, economic and environmental components — the last of which lists climate change adaptation as a qualifier.

Courses are then split into two camps: those that are sustainability-focused and those that are sustainability-related. But there's no clear way to tell which are which. Those classified as "sustainable" under the U of C's guidelines cross nearly every faculty — from

philosophy to indigenous studies to veterinary medicine.

U of C political science professor Sarah Jordaan teaches a selected topics course in Canada-U.S. energy policy and a special topics graduate course on environmental policy analysis. She spitballed how much of her course on energy policy actually deals with climate change.

"About 50 per cent," she said.

Climate change is too pervasive not to study anymore and it's great that so many courses cover sustainability. But when the university says sustainability, they don't necessarily mean climate change.

Touching on a topic isn't the same as comprehensively covering it. An arts student trying to fill a science requirement can't take the U of C's only dedicated class on climate change, a 500-level geography course taught by glaciologist Shawn Marshall.

Of course, education is foundational and a fourth-year political science student without any geography prerequisites has no business in a 500-level GEOG class. I got stuck taking GLGY 209, Introduction to Geology. The instructor did a great job of making me care

about felsic rock and I learned a lot about cinnabar, the most toxic mineral in the world. By acknowledging that she was teaching a science class catered to arts students, the instructor made the class interesting by talking about the subject in a language we could understand.

But from the perspective of a political science student, I didn't understand why that logic was applied to a class colloquially known as 'Rocks for Jocks' instead of one that gives students a primer on the science behind climate change. There has to be a better way to structure mandatory breadth requirements. These classes should broaden the scope of our arts degrees in practical ways. Instead, we're stuck memorizing the phases of the moon.

Deborah Harford, executive director of Simon Fraser University's Adaptation to Climate Change Team (ACT), agrees.

"I think we should have a foundational undergraduate course on climate change that is mandatory for all students, both on ethics but also on the demonstrable, measurable impacts that humans are now having on the environment," she said.

Introducing new mandatory courses isn't unusual at Canadian universities. The University of Winnipeg requires all its students take a course on aboriginal relations. The aboriginal population in Manitoba was 17 per cent and rising in 2011. Degree requirements for arts students at the University of British Columbia demand they take a full-course in a language other than English whether or not they're in an honours program.

You can argue for the necessity of any degree requirement, and climate change presents a compelling case.

Humanity's impact on the environment has been massive — and measurable — in the last 150 years. The global concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide averaged 400 parts per million (PPM) in March 2015, 50 million PPM higher than what's considered safe. CO<sub>2</sub> concentration hasn't been that high in 3.3 million years, when the temperature was between two and three degrees Celsius higher than the pre-industrial average.

And the way we've altered the environment affects more than just temperature. Scientists recently concluded that humanity is the cause of a sixth mass extinction of Earth's species due to factors like air pollution, habitat destruction and industrial activity. The last mass extinction happened 65-million years ago, when a meteor impact wiped out non-avian dinosaurs.

"The fact [is] that every single person

on the planet faces major climate changes whether or not we reduce our emissions to zero today," Harford said. "We've got what we call the commitment to climate change — it doesn't matter what we do now. We will see warming through 2050."

That's compelling enough for me.

ACT is the only research consortium in Canada that focuses on adaptation to a changing climate by identifying gaps in government policy. By connecting graduate students, professors and researchers at Simon Fraser University with First Nations leaders, industry and government agencies, they work to translate scientific research and specialized knowledge into language that policymakers can understand.

Pederson's PICS — a research consortium connecting British Columbia's four research-intensive universities — is much the same. Their focus is on solutions for the BC government. Neither PICS nor ACT directly crafts curriculum at the universities they're housed in, but academics researching at these institutes do teach courses on climate.

"We're trying to hear all of the different voices and all of the different languages they're speaking; trying to understand what languages make the most sense for which messages, when and for which groups," Harford said. "It's very much a kind of translation exercise."

U of C geography professor Gwendolyn Blue researches how we discuss solutions to the problems posed by climate change. She also teaches a course in the natural sciences program called Science in Society. Her course focuses on scientific controversies — things like vaccination and water fluoridation — and how society debates them.

It's a required course for natural science students. The premise is that in order to get a sense of scientific literacy, you need to understand how science functions in a broader social context. She often uses climate change as a way of thinking

through the challenges associated with science's role in contemporary society.

"The rationale for it is that science students need other elements of scientific literacy. Not just understanding the scientific concepts, but how science is used in a social setting," Blue said.

Reverse the equation, and you've got a sound justification for a foundational course in climate change for arts students. And these courses do exist, just not that broadly.

McGill University offers multiple upper-level geography courses on climate change. One is called Human Dimensions of Climate Change. Another is titled Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation. They also have a senior economics course called Economics of Climate Change. The University of Toronto's school of environment offers a course called Assessing Global Change: Science and the Environment. There's also a 200-level earth sciences course at the U of T called Confronting Global Change that teaches how humanity has impacted the planet through environmental degradation and climate change.

Those are the top two schools in Canada according to *Maclean's* University Rankings. As you work your way down *Maclean's* list, fewer and fewer schools offer courses on climate as comprehensively as McGill or U of T. Few of these are interdisciplinary and none of them are mandatory. When you reach the U of C — 12th in the rankings — there's only one dedicated course on climate change, and that's a geography course with a handful of prerequisites.

At the graduate level, Daniel Scott oversees the University



"Every single person on the planet faces major climate changes whether or not we reduce our emissions to zero today."

of Waterloo's Masters in climate change program, the only graduate program dedicated to its study. Over email, he said that Canadian universities don't adequately prepare their students for "one of the major issues this century," noting that many don't have dedicated climate change courses at the undergraduate level.

I asked Pederson to give me an example of a university that's doing a bad job of teaching undergrads about climate change. In my head, the school that teaches least, teaches worst. But he said there's a traditional approach to undergraduate education that doesn't always lend itself well to a course on something as complex as climate change.

"At that level, the traditional model is to supply courses that contribute to a specific degree," Pederson said. "There's nothing really wrong with the traditional model."

But this model doesn't work well for interdisciplinary coursework. Climate change courses need to use an interdisciplinary framework to make both the scientific and social aspects palatable to students across disciplines. A good foundational climate change course won't be for fourth year geology students, so the science should be translated into a dialect social scientists can understand.

That's not the traditional approach. But climate change requires non-traditional solutions.

"We're going to see consequences and we're going to need every single engineer, urban planner, architect, policy-maker, social and natural scientist aware of what these changes mean," Harford said. "You could teach that in a course that would be relevant to both natural and social sciences."

But the problem is deeper than a lack of coursework. The University of Victoria offers an interdisciplinary minor on the human dimensions of climate change. But Pederson said students aren't as attracted to it as he expected they'd be. Even

at the University of Waterloo, which has a dedicated undergraduate course on climate change and a masters program committed to its study, Scott said only around one or two per cent of students graduate having taken a course on climate change.

UVic also offers a course called Climate and Society. It's not mandatory, but it's a popular third-year interdisciplinary course on how climate change will impact society.

Pederson, who taught the course at UVic in 2014, said there's a lot of room for improvement at Canadian universities in terms of how they teach climate change. But interdisciplinary courses like these, he said, are among the hardest to teach. There are problems with the language.

"We're going to need every single engineer, urban planner, architect, policy-maker aware of what these changes mean."

"The instructors are walking a fine line by trying to keep it interesting for those students who come into it with a science background and those students who come into it with an English literature background and everything in-between," Pederson said.

In his suite of lectures, Pederson used the price of food as a focal point his students could intellectually rally around. He asked 'how many of you pay for groceries?' Hands shot up. He asked 'how many of you noticed your grocery bill has risen dramatically in the last few years?' Heads nodded.

Then he asked why.

The answer is complicated — a combination of decreased crop yields and the rising cost of food

transportation. People get nervous when prices go up and they want to know why they're paying more. Pederson's students were hooked. He used a practical example as a vehicle to ease his students into the physics of climate change at a level they could understand without getting bogged down by scientific language.

"Translate equations into words," he said, "and they get it."

Along with giving lectures on the environment to masters of social work students, professor Mishka Lysack hosts a series of conferences at the U of C about climate change. Some look at the limitations of traditional energy (coal, oil and gas, etc), the health impacts of unconventional gas extraction (fracking)

or the feasibility of implementing renewable energy and job creation in a green economy.

He said they draw relatively large audiences by bringing in speakers from different disciplines to give their take on certain aspects of climate change. Lysack brought in a medical doctor, veterinarian, engineering professor and an environmental policy expert to discuss how natural gas impacts health and the climate at his last conference in January. He said he looks for common themes among researchers from different fields before inviting them to speak. The diversity of his panels reflects the interdisciplinary approach that's necessary to tackling climate change.

Lysack's conference series is essentially a template for how a foundational climate change course should look. It shouldn't focus on any one aspect. Instead, the course would give students from any discipline the necessary primer to inform their lives in a world increasingly affected by climate change.

Each field has key findings to contribute, but everyone needs to be able to understand them. The best speakers he brings in are able to translate the language they use to audiences outside their disciplines. They see it as a part of their responsibility as good educators.

"There seems to be certain people who, by temperament, ethic, interest and skill, seem to be inclined to be able to talk across interdisciplinary boundaries in ways that makes it accessible for people who are not medical students," Lysack said.

But that isn't always easy, and incentivizing professors to teach these courses is sometimes just as problematic as finding one with a finesse for translation. Especially if universities don't always encourage interdisciplinary cooperation.

"When I comment about interdisciplinary research needs within universities to some of the faculty that I know, they say 'good luck, that's not going to happen,'" Harford said.

"The way that tenure is set up, academics don't get any credit for interdisciplinary work," Harford said. "They only get credit for work they can claim authorship on."

The U of C's approach to interdisciplinary programs also deters faculty from construct inter-departmental courses. Administration decentralized the undergraduate interdisciplinary office last year, meaning there's no central housing authority for professors to propose and seek help when building interdisciplinary courses. Professors

are essentially on their own.

We've lost the ability to formally make interdisciplinary linkages at the U of C. And there is demand for that kind of course at the faculty level. Blue said she and fellow geography professor Shawn Marshall have talked about building a foundational course on climate change. In her view, it would bring people together from different different specializations. It wouldn't "reproduce divisions, but give the relevant science that you need to know and the relevant politics that you need

to be a good citizen."

And there are other disincentives that dissuade professors from building interdisciplinary courses. Blue said there isn't a way to experiment with teaching new courses. If a course fails, it often "puts a nail in a coffin." That's counterintuitive. Experimentation isn't about success. Failure is often built into an experiment and professors need space to test new courses without fear they'll harm their careers in the process.

People say education is a lifelong pursuit, and most of us can wait until fourth year to specialize. But the climate isn't changing slowly; it's altering every facet of the planet at a rate that has far outpaced most climate models. We're going to see warming through 2050, even if we cut emissions to zero today. We're married to it now, and we

need to adapt — fast.

And it isn't just about saving polar bears and rainforest frogs. A study published in March by the National Academy of Sciences claimed the effects of climate change had a hand in sparking Syria's ongoing civil war. Severe drought pushed millions of people off their farms and into Syrian cities, where a corrupt government and a high unemployment rate were already weighing heavily on the bureaucratic system.

Climate change didn't cause Syria's civil war on its own, but it had a heavy hand to play in straining the social system just enough to push them in that direction. After four years, millions have fled the country, hundreds of thousands have died and a terrorist organization more radical than al-Qaeda has taken control of large swathes of Syria's territory.

A foundational, interdisciplinary undergraduate course won't instantly end the migration of climate refugees, stop species destruction or douse any forest fires, but it'll give students the basis to decide how to adapt to a changed climate when they find themselves in positions of power.

Universities need to let students know what we're up against so we'll have the capacity to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Humans are good at this sort of thing — when we're given the tools to do it well.

"We should have a foundational undergraduate course on climate change that is mandatory for all students."

## FUN FACTS ABOUT CJSW

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

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

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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

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



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

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

## WHAT IS CJSW?

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

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

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

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

## LOCAL FESTIVAL »

## Fringe Fest offers unorthodox theatre

Liv Ingram  
Gauntlet Entertainment

When something is described as "fringe," it usually means it's outside the mainstream, unconventional or maybe even a bit weird. All of these accurately describe the Calgary Fringe Festival, which presents its tenth year of unorthodox theatre performances from July 31 – August 8.

Unlike other theatre festivals, fringe festivals have no selection committees. All submissions are accepted, giving artists unhindered freedom in their performances. Director Michele Gallant says giving artists complete freedom over their work leads to a more dynamic experience.

"Anything goes. There's something for everybody," Gallant says. "It could be musical comedy, drama, improv, puppetry, performance poetry, clowning, physical theatre. You name it, you'll find it at Fringe."

For nine days, theatre troupes from across Canada and as far away as Australia will present an eclectic mix of performances in various



*Berlin Waltz*, a musical comedy set in the Cold War, is one of the plays at Fringe Fest. COURTESY PETROCKER PHOTOGRAPHY

venues around Inglewood.

Improv shows include *A Notorious Beer Garden*, which combines freestyle rap with high-energy comedy, and *North East: The Show*, a sketch comedy about growing up and living in northeast Calgary.

The festival also features war stories like *Berlin Waltz*, a one-woman musical comedy set in the Cold War

featuring a double agent, a pilgrim on a bicycle and a schadenfreude-fueled teacher with a ukelele. There are also plays like *Breaking Bange*, the magic-filled true story of a clown who nearly dies while trying to be funny, and shows that have to be seen to be believed, such as *Pretending Things are a Cock*, an Australian stand-up show featuring

"over 300 [fake] cocks."

Festival artists are not selected by an organization. Instead, they earn their spot based on a lottery system, which Gallant says is essentially "pulling names out of a hat." She says this type of approach makes performing accessible to artists of all levels.

"It doesn't matter if you're a

first-timer or an experienced performer. You have just as equal an opportunity to get in," Gallant says. "For me, Fringe Festival is synonymous with the word inclusivity. Anybody can participate."

Patrons can purchase individual tickets, which range from \$10–15, five-ticket passes for \$55, 10-ticket passes for \$105 or the Fringe Binger pass, which includes 20 tickets for \$200. All show proceeds go directly to the artists. Gallant says artists earn an average of \$3,000 during the festival.

She added that the best way to experience Fringe Fest is to check out any show that piques your interest and walk around Inglewood talking to other theatre-goers and artists.

"If you've never experienced a Fringe Festival, if you've never experienced an unrestricted indoor theatre performance, take a leap of faith and try it," Gallant says. "You will be amazed with the level of talent that's out there."

For more information on Fringe Fest, visit [calgaryfringe.ca](http://calgaryfringe.ca)

## COMEDY »

## Comedians serve up laughs at Calgary Folk Festival

Ashton Chugh  
Gauntlet Entertainment

The Calgary Folk Music Festival offered a steady stream of laughs at the talk tent on July 25–26. An all-Canadian lineup provided refuge from the tornado warnings while brewing up a storm of their own.

Calgary-based comic Noor Kidwai delivered his first performance at Folk Fest. Kidwai, an up-and-coming comedian who grew up in High River, said his upbringing in rural Alberta influenced his world perspective.

"We were one of the only brown families there," Kidwai says. "It definitely gave me a different perspective on the world — I got two different cultures growing up."

Kidwai says his experiences in High River informed his comedy and helped him jump onto the scene.

"It really helped me start out in comedy," Kidwai says. "When I started out, I made mostly jokes about [my hometown] and it helped me build a voice. Now I can go off and do different topics on stage."

Kidwai says comedy is about

traveling to all parts of the world and making people laugh.

"I love the art form," Kidwai says. "To be able to craft your own material and go up on stage and have people from all different backgrounds laugh. To figure out how to make different types of people laugh, you learn so much about people, and you learn so much about yourself. It's such a great feeling."

Adora Nwofor, who studied anthropology at the University of Calgary, provided a set about life growing up as a black woman in Canada. Nwofor's shocking and unfiltered set made even the most well-attuned comedy fan blush.

Comedy wasn't just limited to the talk tent, however. In addition to performing her set, Martha Chavas hosted the main stage Saturday night, introducing Canadian folk legend and political activist Buffy Sainte-Marie.

"It was challenging but amazing," Chavas says. "As a standup comedian, I know I wasn't going to get a big laugh at the main stage, but I found it so delightful to be on the same stage as Buffy Sainte-Marie."



From left to right: Noor Kidwai, Martha Chavas, Adora Nwofor and Derek Seguin.

MIRANDA KROGSTAD

Chavas, a political activist herself, found sympathy from the crowd when voicing her opinion on Donald Trump's recent comments on Latinos. After proclaiming Trump "an asshole," the folk fest crowd chanted her sentiments in unison with her.

"Buffy is an activist, so I set it up for her," Chavas says. "I even got my

tape recorder to record the 'Donald Trump is an asshole' chant."

The entertainment at the talk tent began to wind down the next day, but attendees still flooded the talk tent to see CBC Radio's Derek Seguin, who riffed on family life, peanut allergies and unsuspecting crowd members with no shoes.

Seguin didn't hold back despite

the tent's close proximity to the family zone, and he left the stage to a standing ovation. Even as rain clouds began to approach, the set was a perfect conclusion to a week-end of comedy.

For more Folk Fest coverage, visit [thegauntlet.ca](http://thegauntlet.ca)

# Jamie xx HiFi anniversary set lives up to the hype

Hayden McBennett  
Gauntlet Entertainment

HiFi Club brought famed electronic musician Jamie xx to town to kick off their 10th anniversary celebrations on Wednesday July 22.

The highly touted show sold out almost immediately, due in part to the massive popularity of Jamie's new album, *In Colour*. A scruffy man in a ball cap and worn-out jeans greeted show-goers outside with the offer of \$150 in exchange for a last-minute ticket.

Local act Small Town DJs opened the show with vibrant electronic beats to match the room's anticipatory energy.

Jamie took stage just before midnight. The crowd was enthralled, staying that way for the entirety of his nearly two-hour-long set.

Jamie eased into the night with droning, trance-inducing bass leading into the song "All Under One Roof Raving." The dedication of the crowd was apparent, with EDM-loving bass heads and well-dressed hipsters bobbing along and chanting the sparse lyrics. The evening lacked the typical too-drunk patrons of the club, which left the room emanating positivity.

The set progressed through a variety of genres, including funk, electronic and jazz. Jamie even played some of the tracks he's sampled from, like Idris Muhammad's classic

"Could Heaven Ever be Like This."

The lighting for the show added to the overall experience. From the timing to the colour, it was spectacularly well-done and perfectly matched the feeling of the show.

But the best aspect of the night was Jamie's demeanor. He bobbed around for the entire set with the kind of boyish charm you'd expect to find at a child's piano recital. His shyness and modesty was endearing, making the crowd feel like they might be the first group of people he's played for.

When he was finally finished, Jamie left with a nervous smile and an awkward thumbs up, a surprisingly fitting end to an incredible night of music.



Jamie xx is touring to promote his new album, *In Colour*. COURTESY NRK3



LOUIE VILLANUEVA

## ABOUT TOWN »

The City of Calgary is holding a series of piano concerts featuring local musicians throughout the summer.

The concerts will be held at two locations in the downtown core. One of them is the Woodlands piano, pictured above, on

the corner of 3rd St and 6th Ave SW. The piano doubles as a community garden when it's not being played.

The second piano is the Wee Little Piano, which is located on Stephen Avenue between Centre St and 1st St SW.

Several notable artists are performing, including Warren Tse,

who plays the organ at Calgary Flames games, and renowned Calgarian jazz pianist Tricia Edwards.

When the pianos are not in use for street concerts, passerbys are encouraged to sit down and play.

Concerts occur each Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00-1:00 p.m. until September 8.

## STAFF PICKS » JULY 30 - AUGUST 6

### Thursday, July 30:

Explore the unique art of west coast architect Rob Thom without having to leave campus.

Place: Nickle Galleries at Taylor Family Digital Library

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### Friday, July 31:

Smoke's Poutinerie may be gone from MacHall, but you can head to their Mission location to score some free poutine, participate in amateur eating competitions and create some extreme poutine dishes.

Place: Smoke's Poutinerie, 1800 4th St sw

Time: 12:00 p.m.

### Saturday, August 1:

Kensington presents their first Beach in the City festival with music, patios and cheap drinks. Fittingly, local electronic duo Beach Season are headlining.

Place: 10th St in Kensington

Time: 12:00 p.m. until sunset

### Sunday, August 2:

Still craving some folk jams after Calgary Folk Fest? Head west to the Rocky Mountains for Canmore's annual folk music festival. Martin Sexton and Hanggai headline Sunday evening.

Place: Centennial Park, Canmore

Time: 4:30 - 11:00 p.m.

### Monday, August 3:

Indulge in a few offbeat plays at the Calgary Fringe Festival, then head to the Late Night Cabaret afterwards for a post-party. Costumes are highly recommended.

Place: Festival Hall

Time: 11:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, August 5:

Afrikadey! Festival, a festival celebrating African culture, kicks off with a concert from Sonia Aimey. Aimey is a multilinguist who creates music that's a blend of folk, funk and afropop.

Place: Holy Redeemer Church

Time: 9:00 p.m.

## Dr. Seuss in the Park

...and other classics

weather permitting

**Join us at the Reading Tent in Riley Park**  
(8th Avenue and 12th Street NW).

**Every Saturday from June 27 - August 29, from 11 a.m. - 3:30 pm.** The tent will be set-up between the wading pool and the playground.

- Have fun with reading, games and crafts.
- Enjoy the outdoors.
- Children of all ages are welcome and must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

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## OPINION »

## Kanye West doesn't deserve to be vilified

Jason Herring  
Entertainment Editor

The 2015 Pan American Games finished on Sunday with closing ceremonies capping off the two-week Toronto sporting event. The ceremony featured music from Canadian rocker Serena Ryder, Cuban-American rapper Pitbull and the ever-controversial Kanye West.

After the musical acts for the closing ceremonies were announced, an immediate backlash surrounded the inclusion of Kanye. A Change.org petition quickly began to circulate, asking that Kanye be removed from the event and replaced by a different musician. At the time of his performance, it had accumulated over 54,000 signatures.

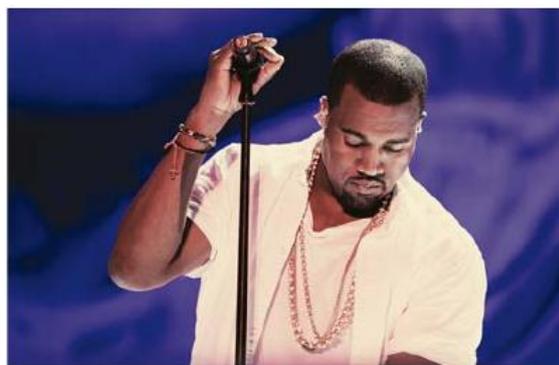
Those who objected to Kanye's presence had three main concerns. He has a supposedly arrogant

attitude that goes against the spirit of the Pan Am Games, he isn't a Canadian musician and he doesn't make good music.

The first concern is the most valid. In the past, Kanye has stirred up attention for outbursts at award shows, but that shouldn't be enough to keep him from performing.

It's true that Kanye isn't Canadian — but he doesn't need to be. The Pan Am Games are meant for athletes from all of the Americas, and the musicians performing should be as diverse as the athletes competing. There's already one Canadian musician representing our athletes. It would be selfish not to include performers of other nationalities as well.

It's nearly impossible to back up the assertion that Kanye is a poor musician. Though taste in music is always subjective, it's hard to overlook his legacy. Each of his albums have received widespread



"My presence is a present, kiss my ass." — Kanye West COURTESY NRKPK3

critical acclaim, he's produced hundreds of tracks and he's one of the best-selling artists of all-time despite releasing music in an age where overall music sales have plummeted. Even if you don't like his music, we shouldn't deny others the chance to see a world-class

musician in his prime.

But most of the people signing the Change.org petition don't hate Kanye for any of these reasons. They hate Kanye because they need something to hate. If it wasn't him, someone else would be under attack.

Having things to hate makes the things we love feel more special. All of us are guilty of this to some extent — making fun of things we don't like reaffirms that our tastes are correct. When I go to the theatre and make fun of the cardboard *Minions* cutouts, it makes me feel better about my choice of movie.

Another reason people disparage Kanye is one they're less enthusiastic to acknowledge. Kanye is an outspoken, intelligent and left-leaning black man, and this makes people uncomfortable. Like it or not, racism is a large part of the criticism of Kanye.

And even if you do want to vilify Kanye, asking that he doesn't perform because of your personal preferences is ridiculous. Popular music is popular because it resonates with a lot of people. It doesn't matter how you feel about Kanye — just don't let your disdain take away from other people's joy.

## NEW MUSIC »



Owl City  
*Mobile Orchestra*  
July 10, 2015 (Republic)

Adam Young's latest album, *Mobile Orchestra*, comes at a time when the electronic music scene is dominated by bass-heavy electronic dance music (EDM). Young, better known as Owl City, tries to keep pace with the evolving scene by adding pounding synth loops and drum machines to his work.

Young has produced music under a variety of names since the early 2000s, but didn't find success until he formed Owl City in 2007. Since then, his sound has moved towards his contemporaries, shifting from

light electronica to heavily produced EDM.

Though Owl City's sound has matured, the lyrics haven't. Many of the songs are club tracks, but it's hard to get down to lyrics like "when I was a kid I ate Spaghetti-Os, played laser tag and GI Joe's," from the nostalgic track "Unbelievable." Old fans of Owl City will still enjoy the quirky attempts at sincerity, which haven't changed since Young's early work.

*Mobile Orchestra* features collaborations from a mix of different

artists, including pop singer Aloe Blacc in "Verge," country singer Jake Owen in "Back Home" and Christian-pop singer Britt Nicole in "You're Not Alone."

Guest vocalist and regular collaborator Breanne Düren is notably missing from the album. Though she tours with Owl City to provide female vocals, this is the second album in a row where Düren isn't featured in any of the songs. Instead, established EDM vocalist Sarah Russell takes Düren's place in the song

"Thunderstruck," one of the album's highlights.

Other strong tracks include the trance-influenced "Can't Live Without You" and the electronic ballad "Bird With A Broken Wing."

Although fans may not be happy with the change in sound, they can take solace in the fact that *Mobile Orchestra* is produced by Young alone, a statement to his passion and musical talent. In a scene full of cookie-cutter pop, this talent helps *Mobile Orchestra* stand above the rest.

Derek Baker

I was eager to dismiss Titus Andronicus' new album, *The Most Lamentable Tragedy*, after finding out that it's a rock opera. Rock operas have a reputation of being bulky and pretentious, and it's arguable that there hasn't been a truly great one since the late '70s.

But on *The Most Lamentable Tragedy*, the punk band creates an impressive suite that tells a cohesive and compelling narrative. It's an ambitious piece of work and Titus Andronicus pull it off with only minor flaws.

The album, which contains a

staggering 29 songs over 93 minutes, loosely tells the story of a man who encounters a doppelganger identical to him in appearance but opposite in personality.

The narrative succeeds because it manages to tell an interesting story without having bulk that drags down songs. Though tracks on *The Most Lamentable Tragedy* fit into a larger narrative, each is still enjoyable in its own right.

The album is bolstered by lead singer Patrick Stickles' strong vocal performance. His raspy voice gives the

album a passionate edge, but his vocals can be frustrating at times. On some of the album's faster songs, Stickles' impassioned yelling makes it hard to discern lyrics, which can be irritating when you're trying to follow the album's narrative.

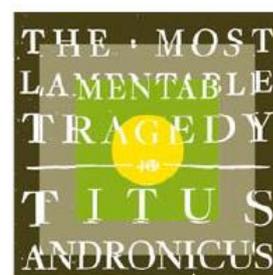
It's not surprising Titus Andronicus are making music with such an involved narrative — they're named after one of Shakespeare's most violent plays and their 2010 album, *The Monitor*, was about the American Civil War.

Musically, the album is a mixture

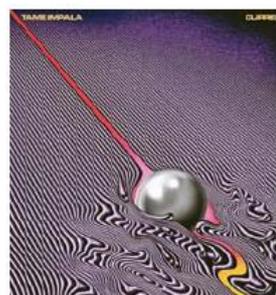
of Americana, hardcore punk and orchestral flourishes, which makes the record sound like a more badass version of Bruce Springsteen. And tracks like the album's highlight, "Dimed Out," are every bit as powerful and anthemic as Springsteen's classics.

Due to the length of the album, it can take a while for all the pieces of the record to click. But once it does, it becomes clear that *The Most Lamentable Tragedy* is an intricate and sprawling rock masterpiece well worth exploring.

Jason Herring



Titus Andronicus  
*The Most Lamentable Tragedy*  
July 28, 2015 (Merge)



Tame Impala  
*Currents*  
July 17, 2015 (Interscope)

It's been a busy few years for Kevin Parker, the driving force behind Australian psychedelic-rock group Tame Impala. After the release of the stellar album *Lonerism* in 2013, the band shot to fame, headlining festivals and soundtracking movies. And their success is well-deserved — *Lonerism*'s best riffs feel classic, and Parker's skill in crafting druggy masterpieces rivals John Lennon's.

Now, Tame Impala return with their highly anticipated follow-up album, *Currents*. The album sees Parker taking a new approach with his band. While Tame Impala's old work

had grandiose guitar lines at the core of nearly every song, they're only used sparsely throughout *Currents*.

Instead of guitars, Parker fills songs with layered synthesizers. The result is spectacular, with synths creating engulfing walls of sound easy to lose yourself in. This is clear on the album's opener, "Let It Happen," which starts off slowly, but steadily builds up with keyboard flourishes and drum fills until it arrives at an explosive and triumphant conclusion.

But the best example of Tame Impala's stylistic change comes in "Yes

I'm Changing," a song that's already a contender for this year's best. The song is a joy to listen to, with ascending keyboard lines providing a gorgeous backdrop. But it also excels lyrically. Parker sings "they say people never change, but that's bullshit," on the pensive track, speaking about why it's so difficult to cope with change.

The introspective lyricism continues for the rest of the album. Parker is frank and open as he discusses topics ranging from inertia on "New Person, Same Old Mistakes" to masculinity on "Cause I'm a Man."

A lot of the songs are concerned

with what sounds like a failed relationship. You could call *Currents* a breakup album, but I think that sells the album short.

The openness of Parker's words are reflected in the vocal production. Though filtered through reverb, Parker's voice always rises above the noise.

Overall, *Currents* is a gorgeous, well-crafted album that's radically different than — but equally as impressive as — the music that preceded it. The album cements Parker's status as one of the greatest minds in alternative rock today.

Jason Herring

## OPINION »

# Players' Tribune revolutionizes sports media

Sonny Sachdeva  
Sports Editor

**D**erek Jeter is, without question, one of the greatest athletes in history.

Over the course of 20 seasons with the New York Yankees, Jeter put together what was arguably the finest career of his generation.

But despite his historic accomplishments on the field, one of Jeter's most noteworthy contributions to sports culture came after his retirement, when he launched a website called *The Players' Tribune*.

Dubbed as "the voice of the game," *The Players' Tribune* has revolutionized the sports media industry. Featuring content written exclusively by the athletes themselves, the website gives fans the chance to hear about the sports world from internal rather than external analysis. The website has grown since its founding into something more, serving as a direct, unfiltered line of communication between the biggest sports stars and their fans.

Athletes use the website as an outlet to be incredibly candid — relaying opinions that previously wouldn't have come to light due to the risk of their words being taken out of context and overanalyzed before they would have a chance to defend themselves.

For example, the NHL's Tyler Seguin — who's risen to become one of the top offensive players in the league over the past two seasons — penned a piece about being traded from the Boston Bruins to the Dallas Stars two years ago, stating his former club gave up on him too soon and that the attempts to malign his character

DeAndre Jordan and Russell Wilson have both written articles for *The Players' Tribune*. COURTESY KEITH ALLISON

in the media motivated him to raise his game.

It's the type of brazen, unabashed statement rarely offered in the hockey world, as most players stick to the same list of recycled media-friendly quotes.

But *The Players' Tribune* has become more than just a means of reflecting back on key moments. In some cases, breaking news comes directly from the website. This was the case earlier this summer, when the NBA community waited anxiously for Kevin Love to announce whether he'd return to join LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers or bolt for greener pastures with another club.

Whereas previous players found themselves in media firestorms due to the imperfect ways they made their free-agency intentions clear, Love was able to painlessly

announce his decision to return to Cleveland via *The Players' Tribune*, dispelling rumors of a rift between him and his teammates in the process.

The piece spoke to the importance of the publication in the sports community. Love was able to deliver information that the basketball world was eagerly awaiting, but in a way that granted him complete control over the message.

That ability to control your own voice is clearly important for *The Players' Tribune*, and it recently led to one of the most interesting pieces to date. Los Angeles Clippers star DeAndre Jordan verbally agreed to leave L.A. and join the Dallas Mavericks when the free-agency period opened earlier this month. However, in an unprecedented move, the Clippers convinced Jordan to back out of

the deal and return to California, leaving the Mavericks' offseason plans in shambles. Fans and pundits around the league subsequently decried Jordan as cowardly and dishonest.

Naturally, Jordan wanted to clear the air and give his side of the story. Before, this would have meant an over-produced and over-advertised sit-down with a major publication or network. Instead, the Clippers star took to *The Players' Tribune*, giving fans an unfiltered account of what happened and quickly putting the story to bed.

In only nine months, the publication's presence in the industry has already been a game-changer. It highlights uncharted territory for sports fans by showing them their favourite athletes as more than just names on a roster or numbers on a field.

*The Players' Tribune* gives the

sports community a chance to view their stars on a human level first — showing their doubts, hopes, disappointments and regrets. No longer do fans have to wait decades after athletes' careers are finished to see them write memoirs and uncover their thought-processes.

Now, it's all been brought into real-time. The most potent example of this came after the NFL's Super Bowl XLIX in 2014. Following Seattle's heart-breaking loss — turning over the ball on New England's one-yard line in the final minute to seal a Patriots victory — all eyes were on star Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, whose intercepted pass allowed the Patriots to take the championship game.

Just 17 days after the loss, fans got as clear a look into Wilson's head as would ever come when he published a post for *The Players' Tribune* recounting his emotions during and after that final play. The piece was a seemingly unprecedented look into the mind of one of the historic game's key players, right as he was still coping with the outcome's aftermath.

Coming up on its one-year anniversary in October, *The Players' Tribune* has already grown into one of the most sought after sports media ventures in existence. There just isn't a comparison when it comes to credibility and access.

It's unclear exactly how the website will grow from here. Regardless, *The Players' Tribune* has changed sports journalism for the foreseeable future, altering the roles of both athletes and sportswriters when it comes to connecting fans and the sports they dedicatedly follow.

## OPINION »

# Taking ladies out of women's professional sports

Emilie Medland-Marchen  
Gauntlet Sports

**W**omen's high-performance sport has made great strides over the last decade, but there's one archaic ideal that has been hard to shake — the expectation that female athletes remain "lady-like" in their pursuit of greatness.

When women were first allowed to compete in the Olympic Games, their events were dubbed "Ladies Golf" and "Ladies Tennis." And for some reason, these names have stuck through three feminist waves.

Since then, women's sports have made their mark on the international circuit. Although they still have a long way to go in receiving as much media attention as their male counterparts, their recognition across the world as legitimate athletic events has surged.

Yet some organizations still insist that "lady" remain part of the official name for women's competition, leaving the world of athletics lagging behind the rest of our society when it comes to political correctness.

There is nothing "ladylike" about high-performance and professional sport. When I watch Serena Williams pound out a perfect serve at Wimbledon, I don't see daintiness and grace. The power she competes with was developed through years of hard training and sacrifice. She hasn't been "dainty" in her ambition to become the best tennis player in the world. Instead, Williams has been relentlessly driven, and it's because of this that she's one of the most dominant athletes in all of sports.

Yet many choose to focus not on Williams' athletic success, but her body type. Her image and style

of play are routinely described as manly. The power with which she plays is often noted when her image as a woman is criticized and attacked, shifting the focus away from her success and towards the ways in which she doesn't live up to "ladylike" expectations.

This belief is the result of a sporting community that has yet to shake archaic stereotypes about a woman's role in competitive environments. This same sporting community creates absurd expectations for female athletes. Women are asked to strive towards athletic greatness — but still remain within strict gender-based expectations.

If female athletes do achieve greatness due to athletic dominance, they're often accused of crossing over too far into the realm of masculinity.

There is no clear-cut line. Incredible athletes like tennis player Serena Williams or Canadian bobsledder Kaillie Humphries are decried as "too masculine."

Alternatively, competitors like tennis champion Maria Sharapova are overtly sexualized. Canadian tennis star Eugenie Bouchard was asked to twirl by a reporter on national television. Beach volleyball player Melissa Humana-Paredes recently admitted to a CBC reporter that she felt she and her teammates "do have a controversial uniform" and "are kind of on display" while competing in mandatory bikini uniforms.

It's pretty hard to consider these constricting expectations while in the midst of competition. No high-level athlete has time to check their makeup or fix their hair.

Fans and commentators shouldn't

care about these traditional feminine markers, and yet some clearly do. Time and time again a women's athlete's appearance is considered before her performance.

The consequence is the degradation of women's athleticism. We place women's athletic excellence in a very narrow box and give it second billing to an unavoidable athletic beauty contest.

I've had many a coach in my athletic career refer to me and my teammates as "ladies." Athleticism should be celebrated regardless of attractiveness or sexuality, and sports that female athletes compete in should simply be referred to as "women's" events.

It's time to take the "ladies" out of professional sports, and appreciate these women for the exceptional athletes that they are.