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March 4th, 2015 ■ Issue No. 27 ■ Volume 105

THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The collage features several campaign posters:

- NAVNEET KHINDA for PRESIDENT**: "Taking Together THE HELM VOTE MARCH 4 & 5".
- VIVIAN KWAN FOR STUDENT LIFE**: "ENHANCING CAMPUS HEALTH, ENRICHING STUDENT EXPERIENCE, STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATIONS. VOTE! MARCH 4TH - 5TH".
- CODY BONDARCHUK FOR VP OPERATIONS & FINANCE**: "ON MARCH 4 & 5 VOTE TO ACCESS: AFFORDABLE FOOD & GROCERY ALTERNATIVES. LEGITIMATE VEGAN & GLUTEN-FREE OPTIONS. FULLY STOCKED GROCERY AISLE IN SUBMART. PHOTOGRAPHY BY HAN LEE. votecody.com".
- DYLAN HANWELL for VP EXTERNAL**: "ESTABLISH QUALITY STANDARDS, PRESERVING THE TUITION CAP, EMPOWER STUDENT VOTERS. vobteonline.com SUBprint votedylan.ca".
- BLUE VPX**: "VOTE4BLUE.COM A VOICE FOR U.".
- FAHIM RAHMAN FOR VP ACADEMIC**: "IDENTIFY & CONFRONT MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS, ADVANCE ACCESSIBLE & QUALITY TEACHING, DELIVER DIVERSE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES, DEVELOP & SUPPORT STUDENT LEADERS. BELIEVE IN FAHIM RAHMAN FOR VP ACADEMIC. MARCH 4 & 5. vobteonline.com SUBprint".
- AZHAR KHAN**: "ON MARCH 4 & 5, ELECT AZHAR KHAN BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPRESENTATIVE".
- PARAM SINGH For V.P.**: "VOTE PARAM SINGH For V.P.".
- KIBA AZIMI**: "KIBA AZIMI March 4th & 5th for Academic".

POSTER SLAM 12

ELECTION DISSECTION 14

CAMPUS PROTEST

Reproductive rights protest heats up campus



Collins Maina
STAFF REPORTER ■ @COLLINSMANIA

The University of Alberta's main quad was filled with both sides of the debate on abortion as images of aborted fetuses and stillbirths drew intense criticism from students and staff.

The images were set up on six large signboards placed in the university's core as part of the Go-Life student group's two-day anti-abortion campaign, which ran from March 3-4. But around 60 pro-choice advocates made sure their voices didn't go unheard as they came out in a counter-protest filled with banners and chants demanding for "Safe Space NOW!"

Pro-choice demonstration organizer Zoe Chaytors said they believe that the university should be a safe space for all students to participate in campus life. Chaytors argued that the display of images of aborted fetuses and stillbirths, contrasted with images of genocide, could endanger individuals within the U of A community.

"(The images) could be triggering for those who have gone through a terminated pregnancy, miscarriage or had a pregnancy that resulted in a still-birth," Chaytors said. "We want to make sure that everyone on campus feels safe."

Chaytors said the pro-life display also took away students' choice to view the content, as Chaytors said "not enough warnings" were published prior to the protest. The display also overlapped with the U of A's Pride Week celebrations, as the annual Pride Parade took place on March 3.

"Everyone has the right to decide whether or not they want to engage with graphic material," Chaytors said. "We don't want it to deter anyone who wants to come out and celebrate in the pride parade."

PLEASE SEE PRO-LIFE • PAGE 3

THE gateway

visit us at GTWY.CA

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colophon

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haiku

SU elections
Popularity contest
Who is good looking

Pride week upon us
Solidarity rainbow
Let's all be best friends

Everyone is mad
Let's fight about abortion
It's so productive



streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY Riley Samson + Kevin Schenk

As shown by the posters everywhere, elections are coming!

WE ASKED...

Do you care about SU elections?



Brendon Kuimosko ENGINEERING III

"I can't say I really participate. I don't really see the changes enough to go out and vote."



Lauren Terlecki ARTS II

"I think they're important but I don't really have the time to participate. I think The Landing is important, but not so much the candidates."



Maria Johnstone GRADUATE STUDIES

"Absolutely. I think it's a really important body that can advocate for the student body and can contribute to the larger dialogue around academic life."



John Murray SCIENCE III

"I can't say I really pay that much attention, but I think they're important and I'd like to find out more about them."



PHOTO OF THE WEEK Golden Bears hockey won their second straight CanWest title last weekend.

RUILIN FU



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- Develop Your Leadership Skills
- Contribute to the Campus Community
- Flexible Hours
- On-Campus



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SU candidates pitch last-minute platforms at Horowitz

Andrea Ross

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ■ @ROSSANDREA

Classes were cancelled Monday at noon as Students' Union executive candidates pitched their platforms at the Myer Horowitz Theatre during the last forum before election day.

About 100 students arrived for the forum, which included a timed question and answer period between contenders, as well as an opportunity for audience questions near the end.

President

Presidential candidate Navneet Khinda took to the microphone first, criticizing romantic notions of university life and the issue of increasing tuition.

"Our government is actively disinvesting in post-secondary education," she said in her opening pitch, adding the possibility of more tuition hikes means some youth may be "shut out of their own potential" of attending and completing university.

Khinda said as President, she would advocate for affordable post-secondary education as the province faces an upcoming election. She also recommended a review of the Code of Student Conduct and in how the university deals with sexual assault.

Faced with a question about how to improve communications between the SU and the student body, Khinda said she would aim to revamp the SU communication plan and create a video and multimedia production space for use by students and the SU.

Joke candidate Omnibot warned students about the perils of "singularity," saying many students will perish, but that as a student body, "we will survive."

Omnibot argued they are best prepared for the position because they are equipped with an AM radio and a cassette deck.

Joke candidate Frank Daniels said the provincial government has "grabbed us by the balls" with last year's budget cuts, and advocated for fracking in quad and a free Left Shark costume for every first-year student. Daniels pitched the construction of a campus "sky palace," before dropping an actual microphone and returning to his seat.

When asked by Khinda what his vision is to help students succeed,

Daniels pulled out a homemade fortune-teller, and, with audience participation, responded with "Thanks, Obama."

Vice-President (Academic)

Candidate Fahim Rahman advocated for cheaper textbooks and relaxation programming on campus during the most stressful times of the year. Rahman also emphasized the importance of equality on campus, and voiced support for a method of identifying excellent instructors and finding ways of having them share their methods with other instructors.

Candidate Shakiba Azimi said she would focus her efforts on a centralized mental health resource and cheaper textbooks, saying acknowledging the SU and university's past mistakes is valuable in creating a better future for students. Azimi said her platform rests on collaboration and cooperation between students and the SU, and that buzzwords and inaction from fellow candidates won't help accomplish these goals.

Vice-President (External)

Tension was felt throughout the auditorium as both VP (External) candidates vied for audience approval by honing in on their opponent's perceived flaws.

Candidate Dylan Hanwell said he has spent three years at the U of A trying to answer his own question: "Who do you want to see sitting across the table from Jim Prentice?" Hanwell said he embodies the characteristics of the person who should be in that position, and that he understands all sides of the issue when it comes to post-secondary education at a institutional and provincial level.

When asked how he could assist students with financial aid, Hanwell said awareness is key to students understanding their post-secondary fees, because many students don't know what a tuition cap is.

Candidate Blue Knox said she is prepared for the role of VP (External) because of her lobbying and advocacy experience, adding she has multiple perspectives outside of the "SU bubble." Knox focused on her travel experience and prior connections with students and the government as being assets to her campaign.



HOT HOROWITZ DEBATE UASU executive election candidates participated in the annual Myer Horowitz forum.

CHRISTINA VARVYS

Knox also responded to a question about ensuring financial aid for students, saying lobbying for a tuition cap is necessary, but legislation surrounding the tuition cap also needs to be improved.

Vice-President (Student Life)

Candidate Vivian Kwan took to the podium first, saying her experience with stress, anxiety and depression resonates with many students on campus facing similar issues. Kwan said despite the mental health challenges she's faced, she has learned a lot from it and is eager to represent students who may be facing similar issues.

Kwan said advocacy and awareness of these issues is key, but said class talks aren't the most effective way of doing this.

Candidate Param Singh said his platform is focused on diversifying social events for students to make the student experience more enjoyable. Singh said some students might not know about the mental health services available to them on campus, and said he would work on raising awareness of them.

Vice-President (Operations and

Finance)

Candidate Cody Bondarchuk presented a platform focused on providing safe spaces, accessibility and respect for students on campus. Bondarchuk said revenue could be increased by focusing on increasing ad sales for the 70 SUTV screens across campus.

Candidate Samer Sleiman said working from a young age taught him the value in working hard despite having the odds stacked against him. Sleiman advocated for a second winter Week of Welcome and a Dewey's renovation, saying a facelift to the worn-out power plant could increase traffic and revenue from food and beverage sales.

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative

Uncontested candidate Azhar Khan began his pitch by explaining the position, saying some students might not be aware of what the BoG Representative does for them. Khan urged better financial disclosure from the university on where money is being spent on different faculties, and said he hasn't used the entire budget allowed for his campaign.

"I shouldn't be wasting your money more than I am," he said.

The Landing "yes" campaign

A safe space on campus supporting gender and sexual diversity, The Landing is presenting a referendum vying for \$1.50 per semester from undergraduate students to fund programming and workshops. Linh Lu said she founded the group after hearing concerns from students about feeling unsafe on campus. A vote "yes" is a vote to allow freedom of self expression, Lu said.

Single-source cold beverage agreement "yes" plebiscite

As the U of A's decade-long Coca-Cola beverage agreement expires in July, the SU is gauging student interest in the next single-source cold beverage deal with a plebiscite question on the ballot. Representative Nicholas Diaz said this agreement is necessary because without it students would no longer have access to \$300,000 in scholarships and bursaries.

When addressing sustainability concerns, Diaz said reusable bottles are an option in negotiating a new agreement.

U of A community protests anti-abortion images in Quad

Collins Maina

STAFF REPORTER ■ @COLLINS_MANIA

PROTEST • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chaytors said protesters were concerned with the mental health of students on campus and were disappointed with the university for approving the time and location of the pro-life side demonstration.

U of A Interim Provost Olive Yonge, spokesperson for the Dean of Students Office on the subject, said that the university "welcomed the debate" and that measures had been taken to minimize the risk.

"Students should have the right to engage in debate, to question, and to engage in high order critical

thinking," Yonge said. "(The protests) are part of the breadth and bones of the university and we welcome the diversity or free speech."

Yonge said that U of A Protective Services (UAPS) officers would be monitoring the events around the display to ensure that the protests were carried out in a peaceful manner.

She also said that students affected by the pro-life campaign should seek out support services including Counselling and Clinical Services, the Chaplains Association and the Community Social Work Team.

University Marketing and Communications Director Kian McNeill said that the university

(Dean of Students Office) has no process in place to review content prior to a demonstration due to the high volume of events that take place on campus.

"We don't pre-judge the materials."

KIANN MCNEILL
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

"We don't pre-judge the materials before they go up," McNeill said.

But any individual could make file an official complaint with either UAPS or the Dean of Students' Office if the events violated the student

procedures or the University Code of Behaviour, she said.

U of A President Indira Samarasekera posted an official statement on Feb. 27, which said that as a registered student group Go-Life "has the same rights and privileges as other student groups." She wrote that the university's role is to "foster and facilitate discussion and debate."

Go-Life President Amberlee Nicol said that the purpose of the display was to draw attention to the "reality" of what abortion does to a fetus through photography.

"When it comes to the abortion debate we tend to hide the reality of abortion behind rhetoric," she said.

Nicol said that the group had

"no idea that it was Pride Week." She said Go-Life did not choose the dates of the demonstration and did not intend to have their demonstration overlap with the Pride Parade celebrations.

"It's a bad overlap because not only do some of us have friends in the community but some of us are part of that community," Nichol said.

She said that they wanted to generate dialogue in the community on the effects of abortion.

"The one thing about campus is that people can express opposing opinions," Nichol said. "If people want to disagree with us we welcome the dialogue, but we want to do it in a respectful manner."



ALUMNI ASKED & ANSWERED

with Meghan Dear

'02 BSc

Current Occupation:
CEO, Localize

What do you miss most about being a U of A student?

I miss having daily interactions with such a diverse community of smart, engaged, and progressive thinkers from all over the world. Whenever I am back on campus, I am reminded of how unique this type of concentrated environment is — and why so many people emerge from their education there with big plans to fix our biggest problems.

What's the one piece of advice you'd give a current U of A student?

Volunteer! Grades are important, but so is experience — so strive to incorporate as much diversity of experiences as you can through school.

Favourite course/professor?

Dr. Lynn McMullen, Food Microbiology. Her enthusiasm for storytelling, food, and microbiology forever changed how I looked at food ... and how much I cook it.

If you got one university do-over, what would it be?

I'd have taken more business and finance courses — would have made the learning curve just a little less steep when I started my own business.

Favourite secret makeout/study spot?

Those Chemistry wing couches circa 1999 had many great applications.

What impact has the U of A had on your life?

My education in the sciences and in agriculture had a deep impact on how I approach problems and solutions. It also cultivated four years of intense and rich experiences that I needed to help me grow up and figure out how to achieve my dreams.

alumni.ualberta.ca/students



Pride Week at the U of A

By Kevin Schenk



The Landing integrates itself with Pride Week festivities

Zach Borutski

NEWS STAFF • @ZACHSPRETTYCOOL

Although The Landing is relatively new to campus, it's already making an impact on the University of Alberta's third-annual Pride Week festivities.

Also helping plan the annual festivities during Pride Week include Campus OUTreach, the U of A's queer social group, and the Institute for Sexual Minorities Studies and Services (iSMSS).

"It's really exciting being a part of something where the entire purpose is purely celebratory," The Landing's Program Manager Parker Leflar said. "It's about looking at the community we have and the diversity of it, and putting that front and centre on campus for everyone to see."

iSMSS Program and Services Director Kristopher Wells agreed with Leflar's statements. Students make up the majority of the U of A, so it's important their voices, ideas and concerns are heard, he said.

"This is a moment for us to pause, celebrate and reflect, as well as build towards the future," Wells said.

"Students are often the ones that are the most impacted by these issues, so we value our partnership, because it signifies a coming together of the community, with each of us having a role to play."

Wells and Leflar highlighted several events taking place throughout the week, including the LGBTQ2 homelessness workshop, and Two Spirit People: Then and Now, which outlines the history of Two-Spirit

First Nations people and how they work to restore their health, wellness and balance.

The Landing itself will host the Intersections of Queer symposium, a series of workshops and discussions based on issues of race, class, ability, gender, age and spirituality in relation to queerness, on Thursday and Friday.

"It's important that we continue to work collectively to make this a welcoming, inclusive and respectful campus for everyone."

KRISTOPHER WELLS
iSMSS PROGRAM AND SERVICES DIRECTOR

Leflar said the symposium should provide a way for people to understand the complexities of these communities by looking at diversity within queerness.

"People usually just think of Pride Week as being about queer people and queer communities, although it's also much broader than that in terms of the whole LGBTQ spectrum," Leflar said.

"It's important to look at all different aspects of the community and how they intersect to create a unique experience."

On Tuesday, a rainbow made of hundreds of students, faculty and staff marched throughout campus with colourful signage. Alicia Naundorf was among them.

"It helps raise the question of why people are different, and why we should celebrate that fact," Naundorf said.

"Having everyone together and seeing why we should celebrate is definitely a good thing."

Pride Week wraps up on March 7 with the 10th-annual Camp fYrefly Gala Wine Tasting and Silent Auction, which spotlights Camp fYrefly, a national leadership retreat for sexual and gender minority youth — the only one of its kind in Canada.

Both Wells and Leflar said they are pleased with how Pride Week currently operates, but both also believe it can be improved.

Wells referenced 2013's iSMSS Safe Spaces Report, which contains 26 criteria for making campus a more welcoming and safer environment for students.

"It's important that we continue to work collectively to make this a welcoming, inclusive and respectful campus for everyone," Wells said.

Leflar said he wanted The Landing to be more actively involved in upcoming Pride Weeks, as well as to promote more events similar to Pride Week year round.

"As a result of us being so new, we couldn't contribute as much as we'd like to this year, but I definitely see that growing in the future."

"I'm also really interested in doing more to promote events throughout the year that have the same feel as Pride Week."

Pride Week runs from Feb. 28 to March 7.



COLOURFUL CELEBRATION Hundreds marched in this year's Pride Parade. KEVIN SCHENK

Alberta government looking towards killing the tuition cap

Richard Catangay-Liew

NEWS EDITOR • @RICHARDCLIEW

After the Alberta government approved 25 of 26 market modifiers, or tuition increase, proposals in December, nothing surprises Students' Union Vice-President (External) Navneet Khinda.

But it's still "ridiculous" to see that the Alberta government is floating the idea of possibly eliminating the province's tuition cap, which regulates the cost of tuition in Alberta post-secondary institutions, she said. Tuition can increase by one to five per cent inflation with the cap, which allows for prediction. The province's current tuition cap expires in August,

2016. In December, the University of Alberta's Board of Governors approved a tuition increase of 2.2 per cent.

"Before the tuition cap, tuition could double or triple every year if they wanted it to," Khinda said.

Khinda, who has been advocating for affordable tuition as VP (External) and Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) this year, said she's worried that students who are already struggling with financial difficulties would be "shut out" from post-secondary learning.

CAUS and the SU are looking to "make a lot of noise," and let Albertans know the impacts this could have on future generations of students, Khinda said.

Alberta Premier Jim Prentice said on Feb. 26 that the province is possibly looking at a \$7 billion deficit, and that a sustainable revenue model is the main goal of the province and college and university education.

Prentice said the government has been working with post-secondary institutions on what needs to be done to increase revenues and "look at all the options."

"All Albertans will bear some share of responsibility in terms of dealing with the \$7 billion hole in our finances," Prentice said. "It's important that we come back to first principles in the case of our education system ... that's going to require for all of us to share some

part of that responsibility."

While running for Alberta Progressive Conservatives leadership last year, Prentice pledged to restore the remaining fund cuts from Alberta's post-secondary budget in 2013, and that the budget "wouldn't be balanced on the back of students."

Khinda said she hasn't met with the government and Alberta Innovation and Advanced Education since November 2014.

She added that she's worried about the immediate impact of the possible elimination of the tuition cap, as tuition could "easily increase by 10 per cent."

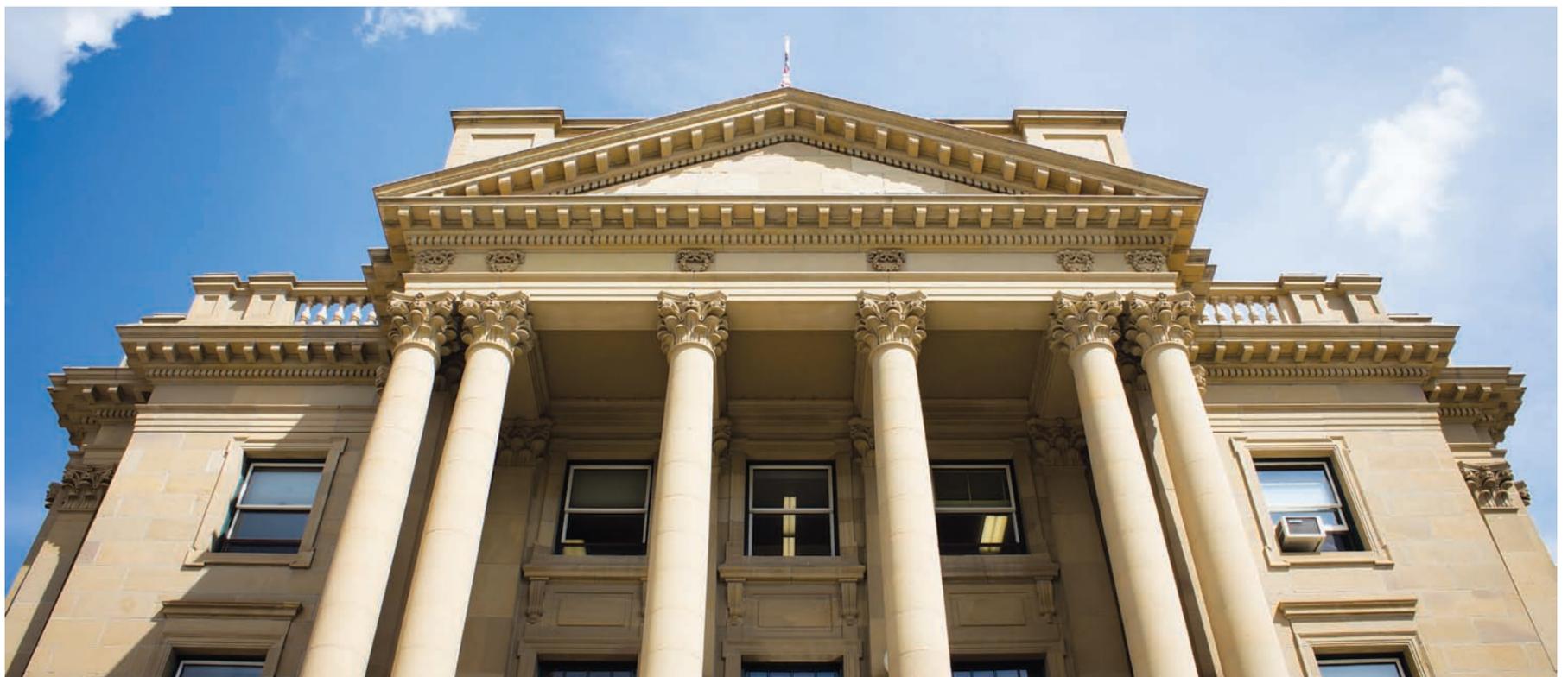
"It's ludicrous if they don't approve. It's incredibly short-sighted,"

Khinda said. "I think this is the most important priority compared to everything else."

"Before the tuition cap, tuition could double or triple every year if they wanted it to."

NAVNEET KHINDA
VICE-PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL), STUDENTS' UNION

"We talked about market modifiers, but this is 10 times as important. We're not going to be asking the government to lower tuition, we're going to be asking them for a tuition cap — and we're going to ask for that to stay."



CAP CATASTROPHE The Alberta government is looking at possibly not renewing the tuition cap when it expires in 2016.

CHRISTINA VARVIS

Opinion

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Volunteer
Hey volunteers, come by 3-04 SUB every Wednesday at 3 p.m.!

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Tips and tricks to best cast your ballot in the SU elections

A LOT OF THINGS IN LIFE ARE CONFUSING, BUT VOTING shouldn't be one of them.

With that being said, let's clear the air on the voting system you'll be subjected to during this week's Students' Union elections.

Unlike most of the other votes you've cast in your life, the Students' Union employs a preferential ballot. This means that you can vote for more than one person, if you'd like — very exciting! Instead of voting one way or another, you rank the candidates for each position based on your preference — mark your first choice with a "1," your second choice with a "2," you get the idea.

There are several cool benefits to the preferential voting system, especially in the student governance setting. As opposed to the simple majority (or "first-past-the-post") method used in the Canadian electoral system, preferential voting ensures that the "most preferred" candidate wins. That is, the first-past-the-post system may award a candidate leadership even if they won 30 per cent of the vote, for example, as long as they got the highest sum of votes in their favour. Given that SU executive races are contested, using preferential ballots prevents "vote-splitting" and the position going towards a person that the majority of the students didn't vote for. Another benefit: in the event that you like a few candidates, you can still give all of them a vote (although one has to be ranked above the other, of course).

However, since preferential voting is unfamiliar to most Canadians, awkwardly coming across it for the first time at university is bound to create some problems. There tends to be a misconception among some students that you must rank every single candidate, regardless of whether you want them to win or not. Not only is this entirely untrue, but it may vote a person into a position that voters didn't "mean" to bring into power — even ranking somebody in fourth place by mistake could contribute to their victory.

As an example of the weird and wonderful ways that preferential voting works, current VP (Academic) Kathryn Orydzuk actually received less first-round votes than Fahim Rahman one year ago. But, because she received more second through fifth-place votes, she ended up receiving the position. This is by no means a testament to whether Orydzuk "deserved" the position or not, but merely shows the stark difference between our familiar and university's electoral systems.

So, to properly exercise the purpose of the preferential ballot, only rank the candidates that you think should have the position — which is hardly ever, to most voters, the entire race. If you hate one candidate's platform, or if your favourite candidate has a known opposition that could harm their chances of winning, don't rank them at all.

And remember, "None of the Above" or (NOTA) is a valid candidate for each election, and is probably the most under-loved and underused facets of the SU's voting system. If you really want your candidate of choice to have a better chance at being elected, I'd suggest marking your candidate of choice with a "1," then marking NOTA with a "2" — that's one less vote your preferred candidates' competitors will be able to gain in the second-placed slot. Or, if there's a race where you think neither of the candidates are qualified for the position, I'd encourage you give your first-place vote to NOTA.

If any candidate receives less votes than NOTA, they won't be eligible for the position they're running for. Though it's extremely rare, NOTA has won and can win races, and it's not the end of the world if it does. The race will simply re-open at a later date, and hopefully people who are better qualified for the job will take a stab at running.

Some people argue that this electoral system is "too complicated" and that it creates more problems than it's worth, often shifting the blame on the SU for not properly explaining preferential ballots to students. In reality, it really isn't that complicated — the Australians use this system, after all, and they seem like a chill bunch of folks. As long as voters aren't lazy and take, like, two minutes to educate themselves, the preferential voting system is actually pretty neat.

Whether you're a preferential ballot fan or critic, there's nothing we can do to change the SU's electoral system — for this year, at least. But if you do vote this week (which you should, obviously), make sure you do it correctly.

Kate Black
MANAGING EDITOR



JESSICA HONG

letters to the editor

Plebiscite doesn't address negative aspects of beverage agreement

Many students and student groups at the University of Alberta think that the Students Union is failing to promote environmental sustainability by pursuing a single source cold beverage agreement which will lock the Students Union building into selling plastic disposable water bottles for the next 10 years. One group, the Sustainable Food Initiative is demanding that the Students' Union seek a disposable water bottle free campus. The Students' Union is running a plebiscite question on March 4th and 5th on whether students want to pursue a campus-wide single-source cold beverage contract.

Based off the Sustainable Food Initiative Facebook page, it is clear that the student group believes the vote yes campaign fails to address several of the negative aspects of the potential 10 year deal. These include but are not limited to; the Students' Union contributing to the notion that water is a commodity and not a human right and the contract providing less money than in previous years. The current plebiscite campaign only addresses the positive side of the contract and fails to educate students on its negative consequences. There is no denying that the scholarship money raised through the single-source beverage agreement is important. However, water is a basic human right and as such many students do not endorse its commodification by multinational corporations. Many student groups including the Sustainable Food

Initiative believes that the Students' Union values and environmental sustainability is worth more than \$300,000 a year in scholarship money that will only benefit a small percentage of undergraduate students.

Many representatives within the Students' Union are accustomed to the existing single-source structure and feel that change is inconvenient. The Sustainable Food Initiative challenges this bystander mentality and knows that if students care about an issue, we can fight to make it a reality.

The University left the plebiscite question until the last possible minute to draft. As a result the question was rushed through hastily and does not adequately explain the downsides of the agreement. This bias leads students to vote yes, without knowing the full impact of the contract.

The Student's Union needs to act as a leader for the university by representing our values through proactive measures, and can play a pivotal role in the advocacy of a water-bottle free campus in the future with their verdict on this contract.

Sustainable Food Initiative
U OF A STUDENT GROUP

FROM THE WEB

Thanks for the editorial

Re: "Editorial: Pro-life groups shouldn't use ads to shame students," by Kieran Chrysler, Feb. 24.

I wanted to say thank you for this article. It was incredibly validating

to read. As someone who has had an abortion AND as someone who is part of the LGBTQ* community, this group's tactics have hit me really hard and have been negatively impacting my ability to concentrate on school or walk around campus and feel safe. I am pro-choice, but I don't begrudge anyone their right to have differing opinions or meet as a group. What I do take issue with is being bombarded by posters and words that shame, belittle, and appropriate my experiences for their purposes.

Thank you
VIA WEB

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number to be considered for publication.

In case you didn't realize, your voice on the cold beverage agreement doesn't matter. A resounding "no" vote won't stop the contract from being signed because it's a plebiscite, not a referendum. So the VPs asking for your vote really should be explaining that they're simply gauging your opinion and informing students to receive better responses to understand the student opinion. Anyways, vote NOTA for President. You heard me. Fuck the system, man. Bring it all down.

Go Life's methods the real problem, not their ideology



Lisa Szabo
OPINION WRITER

The pro-life group on campus, Go Life, has proven their tagline, “it’s not easy holding an unpopular opinion,” as their advertisements have met vicious backlash and vandalism. But they’ve also proven that it’s not easy to get on board with an opinion that is being aggressively and graphically endorsed with little tangible support for those who opt “life.” The student pro-life/pro-choice debate has been overshadowed by the group’s thoughtless approach to the discussion, ironically stifling the real issue before it has the chance to be born.

In the past few months, Go Life has been raising awareness — and tempers — with their often-aggressive advertising material, causing a general distaste for the group, and inspiring response posters and counter-protests. President of campus’ pro-life student group, Amberlee Nicol, said in an interview with *The Gateway* “when you’re conveying the pro-life position, especially if you’re conveying it effectively, it doesn’t matter how you do it or how you try to make it nice or non-confrontational; just because it’s pro-life it will make people angry.” But to say tact is unimportant or even futile is to suggest humans are only capable of one kind of response, or that manipulation has no power over us. People are like clay

— you can make them do or believe pretty much anything if you go about it the right way.

It’s a common response to get defensive when you feel threatened, and many pro-life demonstrations — including the table demonstration featured in SUB a couple weeks ago, and this week’s gory display in Quad — use aggressive tactics and shocking images to get the point across, rather than taking a gentler approach. Nicol says “we often hide the idea of abortion behind words and rhetoric,” and that to “take the reality of what it looks like and bring it to the forefront causes us to really think about the issue,” but it’s difficult to consider any concept when you have already been offended by the presentation of it.

Go Life isn’t alone in forgetting that there’s more to promoting an idea than the conversion of insurgents. If you’ve ever been handed *The Watchtower* or shouted at on Whyte Avenue, you may have been too distracted by the delivery and seemingly one-dimensional dogma to realize that maybe you have dabbled in the occult or that the end really is near. A pro-life group — or any group, really — should exist not only to advocate for their cause, but to flesh out their beliefs in a tangible way. Nicol insists the demonstrations are meant to encourage open and respectful conversation, but the method doesn’t support the message. Shock tactics are uninviting, and a respectful dialogue isn’t possible when one party walks in already feeling condemned. Scholar and Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias says a



KEVIN SCHENK

message must be “not merely heard, but also seen; not only argued, but felt with conviction.” In other words, the way that an idea is portrayed must be consistent with the goal of the idea itself.

Any group propagating an idea, especially a controversial one, should ultimately back up their argument with consistent practices. Proclaiming the immorality of abortions —

regardless of one’s stance on the issue — without providing services to those in crisis pregnancies or those seeking support after an abortion, is providing a hollow message. It would be one thing, as a pro-life group, to offer services such as abortion recovery, crisis pregnancy counselling, education on adoption or (who would have thought) parenting — that would imply a greater purpose than just

scaring people away from abortions — but the group offers little more than contact information for a crisis pregnancy center.

The problem with Go Life isn’t their ideology; it’s the inconsistency of their methods and message. Aggression doesn’t promote respect, and it doesn’t win followers either. You can’t preach peace while shooting at people.

Beverage agreement opposers miss benefits of supporting the plebiscite



Eilish McKinlay
OPINION WRITER

On March 4 and 5, during the Students’ Union election, university students will have the opportunity to vote on a plebiscite question regarding the University of Alberta’s single-source cold beverage agreement, which expires this July.

Those advocating for a “yes” vote claim that signing another single source agreement will only benefit students. The proposed conditions of the new agreement include: \$3 million in scholarships, \$500,000 to be directed at student priorities and an on-going commitment to sustainability. The new agreement will also continue to be a 10-year term.

Those opposing the renewal of the single-source cold beverage agreement are focusing more on the sustainable aspect of the agreement. They’re claiming it will force the university into a 10-year contract with a corporation that contributes to the commodification of water. Water is a basic human right and therefore should be accessible for all

students. They also heavily support the University of Alberta becoming a water bottle free campus.

But those opposing the single-source cold beverage agreement are completely missing the point. If the Students’ Union chooses not to sign the agreement, nothing is stopping the university from signing one of their own. Sure, the Students’ Union has the opportunity to seek out their own individual concessions that focus on sustainability, but this still leaves them with the potential to lose out on the monetary benefits. Benefits that will not only help students in the changing climate of tuition costs, but also help fund valuable SU programs and keep staff employed.

If we’re going to address the sustainability aspect of the proposed agreement, I think it’s crucial to also address the social aspects of sustainability. The University of Alberta has a large population of international students and for many of them, drinking the tap water in their home countries is unsafe. It’s selfish and shortsighted to just expect those students to deal with the culture shock of drinking the tap water here. If water is a basic human right and should therefore be accessible to all students, is it not important for that access to also be

culturally appropriate?

One of the conditions of the proposed agreement is an “ongoing commitment to sustainability.” As of right now, because the plebiscite is non-binding, there are no concrete terms on what this commitment looks like. Therefore, it’s wrong to say that voting “yes” means throwing away all regard for environmental concerns. Instead, I think this is an opportunity for the campus community to really define what sustainability looks like to them. If the university and the SU do sign a joint agreement, students will have the chance to put significant pressure on the SU to prioritize an attainable, sustainable goal that fits their definition.

The biggest oversight being made by those opposing the potential agreement is the loss of scholarship money for students. With the tuition cap expiring and the constant talk of market modifiers, financial security is quickly becoming one of the most discussed issues on campus. This raises the topic of economic sustainability — as students we want our education to be accessible and affordable. The money proposed in the potential agreement could go a long way in alleviating this pressure and could open doorways for disadvantaged students.



SUPPLIED: HARIADHI

the marble pedestal

COMPILED BY Josh Greschner

For the first time in three years on this campus, I’ve felt the power of a student protest.

University administration made a decision with which many disagree, and rather than keeping it to

ourselves, posting our ire on social media and forgetting about it, we responded with strength, passion and civility. Organizers skillfully coordinated and mobilized its force, shouts from the megaphone prolonged and spiked the energy when needed, and everyone chanting in the throng voiced an opinion that could be heard across campus, all on one of the coldest days in recent memory.

The power of freedom of expression is impossible to realize if we keep our voices to ourselves. This fundamental right is wasted if we keep our voices to ourselves. The eruption of direct action on Tuesday gives hope to cynics doubting the ability of the University of Alberta’s student body to fight for a cause. And it’ll be bigger and it’ll be louder on Wednesday.

But don’t let your boots get cold.

Virtually every candidate running in the Students’ Union election has predicted further cuts to post-secondary education, which translates to higher tuition. This is especially concerning given that the tuition cap expires this year, and tuition is liable to increase substantially. In the coming months, we’ll need to direct this power north toward the Legislature, so the noise won’t resonate off our own walls but through

the chambers and up to the office of the Minister of Post-Secondary Education.

An active protest culture with the power to influence public debate has been absent from this campus in the past few years. Finally, we know what we’re capable of.

The Marble Pedestal is a semi-regular feature where a person or group is celebrated and praised like they should.

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Snap judgements on smart guns will leave room for deadly error



Hannah Madsen
OPINION STAFF

As of two weeks ago, Colt Canadian has partnered with the Department of National Defence to produce a new "smart gun" designed to switch weapon types and aim itself at targets automatically, a prospect that should be alarming and is a terrible use of Canadian dollars. \$7 million has gone into the weapon's invention, which is able to shift between being a rifle, a shotgun and a grenade launcher depending on the situation. As a country without a massive military presence, whose foreign deployments are predominantly peacekeeping missions, it's counter-intuitive to think Canada would be the country responsible for an invention that could very well definitively change the face of modern warfare for the worse, even as it aims to reduce civilian casualties.

A gun that aims itself is one that facilitates snap judgements by reducing the time between shots, and while proponents of the weapon argue that it could be programmed to differentiate civilians from enemy soldiers, no

technology is perfect. If a human being is making a conscientious effort to aim and shoot a loaded weapon, there's a bigger weight of responsibility behind it and a greater degree of guilt. If the shooter should hit the wrong target, and they are the sole users of the weapon when it's fired.

Beyond that, there's the issue of what differentiates a civilian from a soldier. In many cases, soldiers disguise themselves as civilians and hide in residences so that they can use that camouflage to increase damages to enemy troops. In such a situation, this weapon would not necessarily make a difference because there would be no overt markers to indicate that a potential target was anything other than an ordinary citizen.

There are vulnerabilities to these new "smart guns" that come with computer-operated technologies. Given the presence of software behind the auto-aiming and communications functions, these weapons are vulnerable to enemy tampering, an intensely problematic aspect when it concerns a semi-automatic weapon that can also fire grenades if it's told to. In addition, chances are good that a hacker could change the targeting parameters so that civilians are targeted instead of soldiers,

intensifying the number of civilian casualties.

The potential for this weapon to be used in a situation like school shootings seems like another obvious reason that it shouldn't have been invented, especially since our closest neighbour who has a major military presence (and the largest military budget out of any other country) is the United States, a nation that's also known for having the largest number of school shootings per year. If such a weapon were brought into a chaotic school shooting situation as a gun that has the potential to inflict so much more damage than even a semi-automatic firearm, it would definitely lead to a greater number of bystander deaths.

The inventors of this gun intended it to reduce civilian casualties by making it identify foes and target them rather than innocents, but there are so many ways that these weapons can go wrong that the negatives far outweigh any potential pros, unless the main goal was merely to generate profit. Controls such as the makers attempted to implement on this weapon can only work so well. At the end of the day, absence of guns on the market reduces civilian casualties and prevents gun violence, not more powerful, multi-purpose firearms.

Racially specific emojis totally unnecessary



Sylvia Wong
OPINION STAFF

Do I need to get my liver checked out? Because, according to the new emojis, I'm jaundiced and that's slightly concerning.

The Apple iOS 8.3 will be implementing new emojis that are more racially diverse in response to a petition complaining about the lack of race represented by the limited options in the previous software. A reported 300 emojis will appear when the users update their phones. Not only this, but a skin-tone modifier is also being developed. Many people are praising this decision and some of my friends are "really excited" for it, but I remain indifferent. Emojis have no need to go beyond the emoticons and the poop emoji. They do the job of capturing the emotions of any given moment, so why does anyone need emojis that tell my friends I'm slightly annoyed at them while also making sure they know I'm Asian? Does it also matter if I'm Asian when I want to tap dance or when I want to give a thumbs up?

Don't get me wrong, I strongly believe in an inclusive environment. This means love and compassion for everyone, despite their cultural background, race or religion. No one

should be discriminated because of skin colour. However, while Apple is responding diligently to what people want, they're unintentionally setting up further barriers that are labelling people based on their skin colour. They confirm that society still tends to label people as "black," "yellow," "white," etc. If we want to fight racism, we should stop talking about skin colour to ensure it doesn't define us. Disagreeing with the addition of these emojis doesn't mean racism is tolerated and that representation of minorities are condemned. It simply means that there are many other and better ways of representing people than by the hue of an emoji's skin. It's also crucial to differentiate race from racism. We must think about how the notion of racism will change if people stopped talking about race. Not to mention, pinpointing different races can lead to overly used stereotypes that I'm sure we're all tired of.

We need to start embracing diversity differently. I'm a student with major loans who prefers tea over coffee, hates math and is half an extrovert/introvert. I don't need to also mention that "I'm an Asian" for all those things to be true, and even if I did, it wouldn't matter. It wouldn't make a difference because so many other things define me. We need to start asking ourselves how much of a difference race makes when it comes to identifying ourselves. Sure, it must play some part in our identity, but we need to focus on encouraging

inclusiveness in a less problematic way, in a way that doesn't endorse racism. On the same note, in what context would people use those racially diverse emojis anyway? We can't guarantee that they won't be used in any offensive way. As someone living in a tech-based age where communications is basically hieroglyphics again, I can confirm that emojis can convey inappropriate messages.

An inspiring attitude towards this issue is accurately portrayed in an interview with Morgan Freeman back in 2005, where Freeman called the concept of a Black History Month to be "ridiculous." He illustrates that we shouldn't be tagged with an identifier such as "black man" or "Jewish man" in order to stop racism. Freeman says that the method to condemn racism is to "stop talking about it," with "it" pointing to race and not racism. As long as races exist, so will racism.

We either need emojis that don't divide people based on race, or we need no emojis at all. Instead of spending time on creating something that is slightly offensive and counter-productive, I wholeheartedly give Apple consent to develop the taco, middle finger (with the skin colour being something obscure like lime green) and multi-coloured poop emojis. Perhaps re-evaluating our reactions towards these new emojis will inspire new outlooks towards race and racism, and lead to even more inclusive behaviour on campus and everywhere else.

Pink Shirt Day does little to actually combat bullying



Riley Samson
OPINION WRITER

Last week, thousands of people across the country donned pink shirts in recognition of Pink Shirt Day. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of bullying and support for those who are victims of it. But despite being a well-intentioned event, Pink Shirt Day realistically does little to combat bullying.

Pink Shirt Day was started in 2007 by two Nova Scotian high school students after witnessing an instance of bullying against another student who was wearing a pink shirt. Since then, the movement has spread through schools across the country, and although the focus of the movement remains in high schools where bullying is most prevalent, pink shirts can also be seen at universities, workplaces and even seniors' centres every year on a particular day in February.

The issue of bullying is one that has been and continues to be discussed at length. It's a common problem everywhere, and can take many different forms. Bullies are

constantly finding new ways of exploiting others, and with the explosion of the Internet over the last two decades, it's easier than ever to make someone's life miserable.

Although bullying can be obvious — ridiculing someone for wearing a pink shirt, for instance — it's usually far more subtle. Common examples include exclusion and cyber-bullying.

None of this should be news for most, but considering how widespread bullying is and how much attention is given to it, it's astonishing that we can't come up with more effective solutions. Another example of a well-intentioned but ultimately futile method of raising support for victims of bullying is the Day of Silence, where participants agree not to speak for a day in recognition of those who have been "silenced" by bullies.

There are a few fundamental reasons why events like Pink Shirt Day are ineffective methods of combating bullying. In reality, the only possible solution to bullying is a change in behaviour in the bullies themselves. This requires actively and publicly calling bullies out on their behaviour. However, most people are reluctant to do this, either for fear of being harassed themselves, or because



CHRISTINA VARVIS

they think doing so is a form of bullying in itself. Participating in events like Pink Shirt Day may help more people understand that bullying is a widespread problem, but it does little in the way of actually making a difference.

Another flaw is that Pink Shirt Day can actually instigate bullying in certain instances. People who adamantly support Pink Shirt Day may adopt the mentality that those who choose not to participate are actively supporting bullying, or at

least that they don't care. The result of this is pressure on individuals from fellow students, co-workers and even teachers to take part in the event. Putting pressure on someone to wear a pink shirt is just as bad as putting pressure on someone to not wear one. Even more ironically, Pink Shirt Day is often used by bullies as an avenue to come across as a non-bully — all they have to do is put on a pink shirt and limit their bullying to anyone not wearing one, and suddenly they're white knights

in the fight against bullying. The next day, they return to their usual activities.

Pink Shirt Day and other events like it, while noble in origin and intent, are ultimately ineffective methods of combating bullying. We need to face the problem head-on and develop real strategies for dealing with it, rather than hiding behind our pink shirts and deluding ourselves into thinking that we're making any real difference.

the burlap sack

COMPILED BY Mitchell Sorensen

Of course you want a truck, don't be stupid. Not only will women want to leave their husband and

his Corolla, but your dick is guaranteed to grow a whole 25 per cent bigger. Even though you'll pay hundreds of dollars for a boxliner you never use (you'd never dare actually carry something in your truck), you can't put a price on boosting your manhood.

Once you've spent another

thousand dollars on your six-inch lift kit (another 10 per cent boost in penile girth), you can put on your enormous mud tires. Even though you drive exclusively on paved roads, the enormous reduction in your gas mileage will undoubtedly be mitigated by the way you feel. As you choo-choo your 6.7 Turbo Diesel

down Whyte Ave, smoke pouring from the exhaust stacks you paid a few hundred extra dollars, you can rest easy knowing polar bears nor hybrids are any match for you and your ever-unused towing capacity.

Chevy has it right. You want a truck. Why wouldn't you want people to find you more

handsome, tougher, and altogether more manly? If you really think about it, a compact just won't do it — you want a truck.

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.



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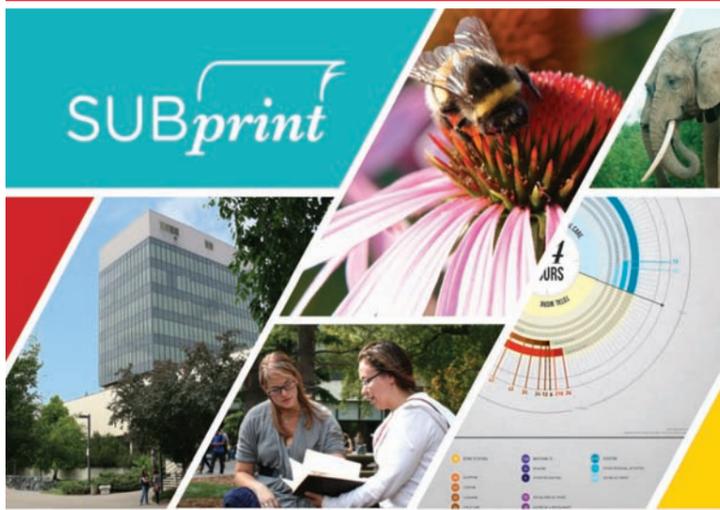
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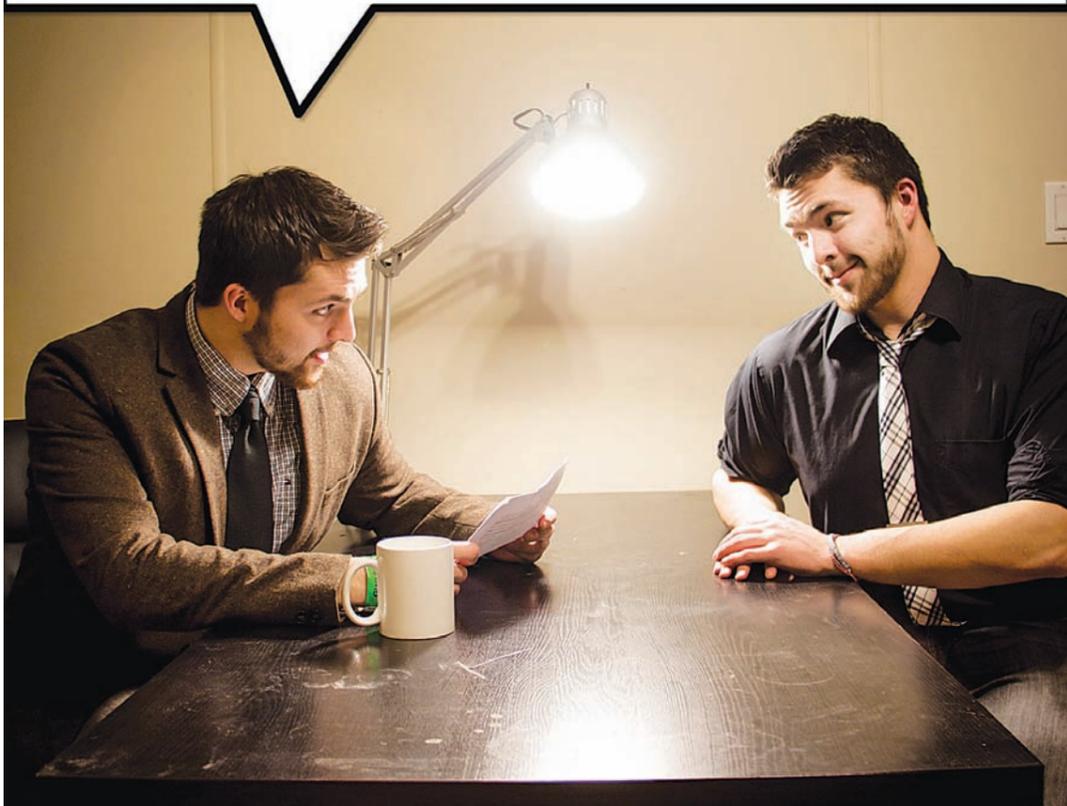
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SPENCER NICHOLS

The reality of 'fake' student groups

'Fake' student clubs ride off the coattails of more successful groups



Zach Popowich
OPINION WRITER

Time and again, lecturers instill the value of being active in student clubs and volunteering for what you're passionate about, for the benefit of boosting your resume and gaining valuable experience.

One of the great parts of being a university student, is if a club for something you're passionate about doesn't exist, then you can make one in a few simple steps. And if you want to beef up your resume even more, then what could help out your resume but making your own club? Employers won't exactly be doing deep background on another entry-level graduate, but those extra notes about your on-campus activity could make the difference. If you want to have a stronger resume, then you can start a fake club.

But what are fake clubs? Fake clubs are sanctioned groups that meet the minimum requirements of forming

a student club. The purpose of a club like this is for the founders to bolster their resumes with impressive sounding titles and then follow up by doing nothing except meet the minimum requirements of membership.

The reality is that there's no method of enforcement and there probably never will be one, and there's no real way to gauge whether a student club has done enough to merit being a "real" club. There are few ways to keep tabs on the active clubs on campus. Also, these clubs are still run by human beings, fellow undergraduates who have all the same failings and faults, not machines. But a well-meaning club will be hard to differentiate from a fake club.

Pragmatically speaking, it's hard to put down fake clubs. If they aren't hurting anyone, then why make hay? There's no doubt about it, building your own club is a sly move. It's smart and it's crafty, and there's no doubt that some people (Gordon Gecko) will be impressed with moves like this.

But it makes me uncomfortable. Probably for the same reason that I get uncomfortable when an able-bodied person uses the handicap parking

stall. It's convenient and at times the more expedient way to get from point A to point B, but it misses the point of having a handicap parking stall just as the same way that it misses the goal of a club founded with altruistic appearances.

It's the ethics of the matter, and I think that it's okay to be uncomfortable with the idea of fake clubs. Maybe it's wrong for me to be squeamish with something that doesn't hurt other people, but I just can't quite get over the feeling that maybe, just maybe, there's something wrong with standing on the shoulders of better people and waving your own flag.

At the end of the day, fake clubs don't hurt people. But, they don't help people either. In fact, I can't be alone in feeling that clubs established for the purpose of building a resume make me uncomfortable. It makes me uncomfortable when others decide to ride on the coattails of better people and better initiatives. It builds off the legacy of those better people who have poured their hearts and souls into activism and have dedicated their valuable time to causes they're passionate about.

Crafty group leaders should be able to get away with doing nothing



Josh Greschner
OPINION STAFF

Fake clubs don't bother me.

How is a club determined to be real or fake in the first place? Volunteer hours? Money raised? Clubs are so diverse, standardization to determine which are "real" or "fake" would be extremely difficult. A club's intent is difficult to prove. Suppose one group goes to great lengths to look like a club (website, mandate, T-shirts), but does very little volunteer work. Consider another well-meaning group that truly wants to outreach and volunteer, but they

become swamped by school work and end up not doing what they set out to do. I don't think the latter should be jeopardized or penalized.

Also, the real impact of putting club membership on a resume is not to be overestimated. A resume-booster like this is supplement. The overall substantial impact of stating that one is a club executive on a resume is minimal. It's highly unlikely the employer will even look into the club anyway. Even if they did, how would they determine which are real and fake? If anything, we should attack fake clubs that look and act fake because they could potentially harm the university's reputation. But since employers would hardly care, this possibility is unrealistic.

The fake clubs that look good are

obviously disingenuous, but they're not dishonest — the club is squeezing as much advantage as it can from the given rules. It's craftiness. It's the kind of talent actually required by certain types of employers.

When applying for a job, ethics are secondary to getting the job itself. All that matters when trying to get a job is the short presentation and the resume in the employer's hands. While not having substantial power, "Club President" is stronger than "honest," because all resumes say "honest." As long as a club exudes integrity, actual integrity can be sacrificed in order to achieve actual opportunities. So fake clubs, carry on.

By the way, the Gateway Heavy Petting Club is looking for a new president.

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With special thanks to Stollery Charitable Foundation

Better SU Presidential joke candidates to earn your vote



Opinion Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY

Despite violent bickering back and forth in *The Gateway* office about who should win each of the SU executive races this year, there's one thing we can all agree on, and that's that this year's joke candidates leave a little something to be desired.

Yes, the combined forces of Omnibot and Frank Daniels come off as more of a waste of time than a funny or entertaining sideshow. So instead, our writers put their heads together to come up with some solid alternative options that would have made better joke candidates for SU President.

Riley Samson

In keeping with the trend of non-human joke candidates for Students' Union (see Omnibot, Horse with a Gun, Soundwave), and to honour the life of a great actor and human being who recently left us, I nominate Spock for Students' Union President.

Spock, being half-Vulcan and having had a predominantly Vulcan upbringing, is well-trained in the use of logic in any situation. His decisions are never motivated by personal interests or agendas. In keeping with the axiom "the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few," Spock would make sure that the needs of the university and student body are put before his

own or any other individuals, without exception (unless Chekov is in trouble). Furthermore, his superior Vulcan brain is well-equipped to handle complex mathematical computations with ease. This will help him make the best possible use of the funds at his disposal. If he can calculate the coefficient of relapse time in relation to the acceleration curve in a time continuum, he can avoid going over budget.

However, Spock is not just a computer in the body of a humanoid. Being half human, he also possesses an innate sense of compassion for his fellow creatures. His ability to experience sympathy and empathy while not letting his actions be dictated by his emotions will allow him to connect with the student body just as deeply as any other human SU President, while still approaching difficult situations from a position of logic and reason.

With his superior Vulcan intellect and affinity for logic-based action, Spock would make the best of all possible SU candidates.

Live long and prosper.

Nathan Fung

These are desperate times for university students who feel like they are just getting screwed here and there. With that in mind, who better to advocate for student's interests other than Grumpy Cat?

Yes, we should have fucking Grumpy Cat as a joke candidate. If you think about it, he'd make the perfect advocate for students. Just imagine what his platform would be like. "Leadership College? How about no." "Highertuition? I had that

once, it was awful." "You want to cut funding for education? I want to cut our friendship." Clearly, Grumpy Cat has the answers to everything: a cold, hard, unforgiving NO to all the bad ideas the university administration and the provincial government have to throw at us. The sheer negativity of the situation deserves a negative response from students and Grumpy Cat would be well up to that task. Because after all, optimism is overrated.

As the frowning face of the SU, his misanthropic demeanor would make a nice change in style, as opposed to say William Lau.

Also, Grumpy Cat has fur and four legs, something clearly lacking in this year's joke candidates. Last year's Doge candidate gave us our fix for furry candidates which is more than I can say for either Omnibot or Frank Daniels.

Kieran Chrysler

The best joke candidate in this election would definitely be the left shark from the Katy Perry Superbowl Halftime show. While it's making a small appearance in the actual candidates this year in the form of Frank Daniels wanting to give everyone a left shark costume, it should have been extrapolated to a full blown candidate.

Left shark is the unofficial icon of the Super Bowl performance, and only because it didn't learn the dance moves it was supposed to. But bumbling through a performance is exactly what we all do to get through university. It's relatable.

Really, it would be the perfect



SUPPLIED

joke candidate because it shines a mirror on the actual people in the race. What is student government if not just a confused person dressed up in a suit who pretends to know what they're doing in front of thousands of people?

Zach Borutski

Everyone thinks left shark is hilarious and whatnot, but isn't part of politics advocating for the little guy? The forgotten man?

In this case, the forgotten man is not a man, but a shark. With all the uproar that left shark caused, not many people remember that there was a right shark, and he actually had his shit together.

Left shark would be so out to lunch that he wouldn't even be able to run a campaign, joke or otherwise. His shtick would purely be based on poor dance moves and not knowing what's going on, and that gets old fast. For all we know, right shark could be a political satire writer in his spare time. That would definitely help him formulate a hilarious and insightful joke campaign. Meanwhile, left shark would just be dancing poorly and generally not understanding direction, and we'd all be tired of him after about 20 minutes.

Right shark may actually be able to win as a joke candidate, to hell with the SU bylaws, right shark forever.

A prospective application for the U of A's new Leadership College



Josh Greschner
OPINION STAFF

Dear Peter Lougheed Leadership College Admissions Committee,

Pioneering has always been an important part of my family. My great-great-grandfather was a pioneer in advancing major legislation which offered vast expanses of land to homesteaders in Canada. My great-aunt is considered by some historians as the sixth member of Nellie McClung's Famous Five, a group of women that worked to pass pioneering legislation to deem women "persons" and to promote pioneering initiatives like eugenics, which led to the Sexual Sterilization Act of 1928. Later, my father was a pioneer in engineering oil sands extraction

and refinement technology, which allowed my family to accumulate significant wealth.

I would like to be a member of the pioneer class of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College, because I strive to continue their legacy of leadership.

I believe I am a strong candidate for the Leadership College because of the leadership I show in charity work at the University of Alberta and abroad. I established a student club, of which I served as the President, Vice President, Executive Treasurer and Chair of Marketing, in order to raise funds for an extremely rare disease called polygraphous nervosa. Polygraphous nervosa causes in sufferers constant symptoms of lying, such as excessive sweating, increased heart-rate and blood pressure, as well as severe shifty eyes. With fundraising and a little help from my family, I was able to raise \$200 million dollars for research

and to aid people afflicted by this disease.

With some of that extra money, I decided to fight for gay rights in Africa. I partnered with Nike and financed a factory in Pakistan with the intent of making 500,000 rainbow-coloured shirts, which I then donated to Africa. The shirts represent how all colours can co-exist equally and apolitically, all in a comfortable 50/50 cotton/polyester blend.

I have also done some work around campus to help the environment. The ubiquitous paper usage at the U of A is unnecessary and wasteful. For the past few months, I have been strongly advocating for the University of Alberta to be a leader in sustainability, specifically through enacting a campus-wide paper ban. I've been hard at work experimenting with alternative, renewable materials on which to write, such as on fog on a bus window or in snow.

Snow writing is an especially attractive option, because it also encourages exercise and a healthy lifestyle. I'm also working with members in the Faculty of Science to develop writing with organically watered blades of grass attached together with organically harvested sap.

It has also recently come to my attention that politically incorrect posters are littered throughout campus. This is not OK. Many students feel offended by these posters and these posters put some students in potentially dangerous emotional situations. Leaders should prevent people from feeling offended. One particularly offensive group made a poster with the message: "Women Regret Abortions." In order to prevent offence, the poster's wording should be changed to "People who define their gender as non-male, not necessarily non-male, potentially somewhat non-male, non-binary neutral, potentially somewhat

fe(male), not necessarily fe(male), non-mutually exclusive (fe)(male), female (no offence intended)(pro or against patriarchy notwithstanding) unfortunately (no offence intended) express sorrow or disappointment about the medical procedure involving the removal or initiation of the non-existence of womb-enveloped cell bundles (a procedure formerly known as a-----) (no offence intended)." For brevity's sake, the group can now safely write, without offending anyone, "PWDTGANMNNNNMPSNMBetc*."

For these efforts, I am proud to announce that I have been the first recipient of the Justin Trudeau Award for showing excellence in keeping my actions and behaviours distinctly separate from the beliefs I espouse, which I think are important qualities of any true leader.

Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to hearing your response.

#3LF three lines free

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree or message us at www.gtwy.ca/threelinesfree

Noticing a higher number of anti-feminist, anti-choice type stuff around the campus community lately, and it is making me feel somewhat less safe, welcome, and included on campus. Not cool, people.

If you don't like abortions Don't fucking get one There is no such thing as the patriarchy, there is no such thing as rape culture, and children need to stop being inundated with a nonstop

stream of anti-male propaganda The Dress for SU President 2015 THAT was clearly a white/gold llama and a blue/black llama. Get it together Dewey's, why? I actually considered applying for a job there since it seems to be the the perfect work environment for broody individuals void of soul or compassion. The food was soulless too. Thrilled that all the Pro-Life Club's ridiculous posters were torn down.

Richard Richard Richard prepare for 3LF to be filled with people ranting about the abortion editorial That shit is white and gold everyone else fuck off Floyd Robert has fire outfits but rhetoric needs a little work. Who submits to 3LF to change people's opinions on social issues? I stopped the poke war only

because I still miss you. I once smoked meth with Cam Lewis backstage at a High School One Act Play The pro-life club are masterful trolls. They're dedicated to pissing people off, and they're really good at it. RICHARD It's march time to break out the stylish knitwear that feeling when you didn't get

completely wrecked by midterms ...:) looking forward to the massive abortion shitshow in quad gateway aint got shit griff4lyfe shoutout to crippling student debt CS students be like "ey girl, wanna see my python" Let's all talk about how one of the VPA candidates uses the n word in a fb photo caption BOOO jaden smith is my hero

POSTER SLAM

THE PANELLISTS:

KATE BLACK (KB)

KIERAN CHRYSLER (KC)

ANDREW JEFFREY (AJ)

CAM LEWIS (CL)

KEVIN SCHENK (KS)

Let's face it: the posters are the most exciting part of SU elections. We've gathered our most opinionated staff members to verbally slay the best and worst of this year's visual offerings.



PRESIDENT:

NAVNEET KHINDA

CL: This poster is about as interesting as the presidential race.
 AJ: It might be the best poster, but that's a low bar
 KC: They're not really inspiring. They just look like headshots for a modeling agency.
 AJ: They look nice, and she's saying some really general things, like we'll be bolder and we'll take the helm and we'll set a new status quo, which isn't really saying anything.
 KB: I'm kind of underwhelmed. It's a poster with a lot of nice fonts, but none of the fonts really go together.
 KC: I don't understand why she used different fonts for the same idea. That's just really confusing and bad design.
 AJ: It's probably a good sign if what you're criticizing about a poster is the design, and not the ideas. She could have said more, but at the same time, she could have said literally whatever she wants.
 KS: It doesn't say anything about what she wants, but she doesn't need to anyway. She's the only one running.
 AJ: Navneet Khinda: fuck it
 KB: Navneet Khinda: just trust me
 KS: Navneet Khinda: the only choice
 KB: I don't know, she could have been way more of an asshole about it, and been like "I'm all you have."
 AJ: It looks like she's looking towards her bright future in an unopposed race like she knew it was coming.



VP OPERATIONS AND FINANCE: CODY BONDARCHUK

AJ: It looks like someone snuck up on him.
 KB: He knows his angles.
 KS: This one is just awful. The white balance is all off and the picture's really soft. He looks like a baby on it.
 AJ: A baby with a neckbeard.
 KS: It's like a baby is about to come talk to you about men's rights.
 KB: Let's look at his platform points.
 KC: Is he going to personally lower food prices across the board?
 AJ: A fully stocked grocery aisle in SUBmart is actually a really good idea.
 CL: I love groceries.
 AJ: And legitimate vegan and gluten-free options is good too.
 CL: Oh, vegans? Fuck, no.
 AJ: Stop pandering to the vegan vote. Typical SU.
 CL: Why would you want to enable vegans?
 KB: He focuses on a strong social media presence. So you look at this and think "Oh, whatever, it seems like they do that already," but sadly they don't, so I could vote for a VP (OpsFi) that uses social media. I'd be down for that.
 CL: He could just tweet MONEY in all caps.
 KB: Synergy!
 KB: There's not a whole lot to tear apart about this.
 CL: Functional!
 KS: Is it really an Ops Fi point to have a strong social media presence?
 AJ: Maybe he'll just make a bunch of jokes and post GIFs on Twitter
 KC: Or pictures of his dog rolling in piles of money.
 AJ: I honestly wouldn't hold it against him if he brought his dog out to win debates.
 KB: Why wouldn't you use Fluffy in the posters? That's the biggest loss.



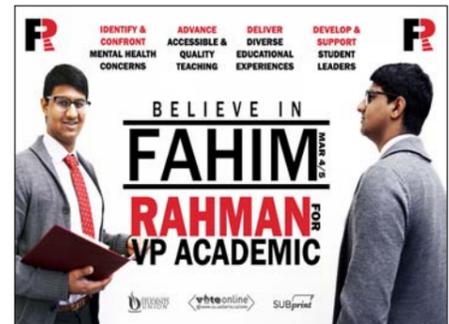
VP OPERATIONS AND FINANCE: SAMER SLEIMAN

KS: Honey brown.
 KC: It's like a terrible pickup line you use at the bar to seduce women.
 AJ: Hey, ladies. I'm notoriously good.
 KB: Did you forget I'm in a frat?
 AJ: Instead of saying anything I want to do on the poster, I'm just going to give a really pained smile, a parody of beer and make an uncomfortable joke about my skin colour. Of all the shades of brown though, honey brown is a pretty good one.
 KS: Is that a colour on the Pantone scale though?
 AJ: His face is saying "I'm just as OK on this campaign as you are."
 CL: He doesn't have time to get a different shirt because of his successful business he runs.
 KC: What is his business?
 AJ: He's not a businessman. He's a business, man.
 AJ: You're not telling us anything you're going to do, you're not telling anyone who you are on these posters.
 CL: Hey, at least we know he's a lighter complexion of brown.
 KB: Samer? I don't even know her! He went to ECHA, which is the most non-alcoholic place in the world.
 KS: Yeah, take the photo in Dewey's.
 AJ: Or just take the photo shitfaced.
 KB: Notoriously wasted.
 AJ: The real problem with the poster is that he just bitched out half-way through. He could've gone all the way with the Sleeman thing.
 KB: Yeah, go full alcoholic.
 KC: If you want to get the frat vote, you need to do a keg stand on your poster.
 KS: That is a nice, wrinkled shirt though.
 KS: I'm a working class hero. I can relate to the common man.
 KB: When you're an SU exec, no one's expecting you to be cool. Cool people don't vote. Just do up your collar one more button, you fucker.
 CL: Can't hold a candle to Cory Hodgson.



VP ACADEMIC: SHAKIBA AZIMI

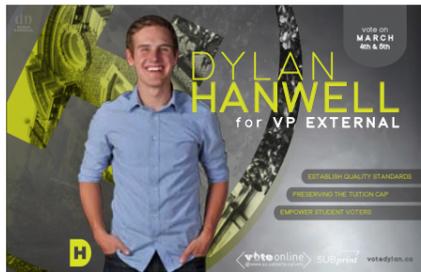
AJ: How can I vote in the SU elections this year for Shakiba? Wherever, whenever.
 KB: Shakiba, put on a god damn winter coat, it is cold outside.
 KS: Is she wearing two watches?
 KC: That's what I was going to say, she's got way too much going on on her wrists.
 KS: It looks like she took Fahim's thing and added a bunch of specific ways about how to do them. It just looks like a paragraph of things that she'll do.
 AJ: I just don't think it looks very good, especially with the italicized text at the bottom.
 KS: And the capital F on Facebook. It looks like she made this on Microsoft Word.
 AJ: Is that her thing that she's always wearing yellow? Does that mean she's a coward?
 CL: She's a duck. I also like how she's wearing white pants in the snow so she's a floating torso.
 AJ: Did she take this photo before or after Labour Day?
 KB: Also, white pants, ladies? Bold move, am I right?
 CL: What if she pooped herself? Everyone would know.
 KB: I respect that she's wearing white pants. It takes a very bold lady to do that.
 KC: Especially in the slush. She's very confident and in charge of her body. The white pants say "I'm in control."
 AJ: What do you guys think of the point for a centralized mental health support website?
 CL: Like WebMD.
 KS: I'm feeling slightly down and I'm not doing well in school. You have cancer.



VP ACADEMIC: FAHIM RAHMAN

KB: Do you believe in Fahim?
 CL: There's three of him! There's three guys that can do the job real good.
 CL: He's like a schizophrenic, like he's dealing with his dark side.
 KB: This is him dealing with mental health in an abstract way. The voices. That's part of his platform, right?
 AJ: It looks like he's sticking his nose up at the other Fahim, like "what the fuck are you doing here?"
 KS: And why is he holding a clipboard? What is this, 1999?
 CL: "Develop and support student leaders." Well he's spawned himself twice, so he can develop new leaders.
 KB: Give birth to further Fahims.
 KS: The Fahimening.
 KB: He should call them the Rahmen.
 AJ: It looks like he ended up with a bunch of white space at the bottom of the poster, so he just thought "Fuck it, just cram a bunch of points in." "Believe in Fahim" is really catchy though.
 KB: I just hate the off-rhyme. I've said it once and I'll say it again, I hate off-rhymes.
 AJ: What would work better?
 CL: Cream to Fahim.
 AJ: We dream of Fahim
 KC: Or just Fahim the dream.
 AJ: Beam me up Fahim... to your better academic experience.
 KB: I'll see you in my Fahims.
 KC: What if there was a million of him and it would just be terrifying?
 AJ: Fun fact actually, at each forum and debate, it's a different Fahim. His campaign manager is Fahim, his volunteer coordinator is Fahim, and there's always two Fahims at every table. Every Fahim is working very hard.
 KC: They're all either smiling or frowning, there is no in between.
 KB: I'm going to give birth to more of myself. I'm going to reproduce asexually.
 KS: Is that the original Fahim?
 AJ: No one knows.
 KB: We'll never know.

KC: Which Fahim is the real Fahim?
 AJ: Some say the real Fahim died a year ago in RATT.
 KB: He's a deity, it's the holy trinity of Fahim.
 CL: It's like the Fighting Polygon Fahim.
 CL: Separate, each one is flawed, but when you put them all together, they're perfect like the Power Rangers when they mix.
 AJ: Fahim will form into a Megazord at the Myer Horowitz forum.
 CL: Mega-him.
 AJ: Believe in Fahim, it's morphin' time.
 KS: Do you believe in God? No, I believe in Fahim.
 AJ: I believe in the one, true Fahim. Not the four imposters though.
 KB: Excuse me, sir. Can I have a moment of your time to talk about the good word of Fahim? Even atheists believe in Fahim.



VP EXTERNAL:
 DYLAN HANWELL

KC: What the fuck is the background?
 KB: Is it a gear?
 AJ: It's a sickle and hammer.
 CL: He's looking like kind of a commie.
 KS: "Establish quality standards." That's the vaguest thing I've ever heard.
 KB: This has some pretty big socialist undertones. "Empower student voters."
 KS: At the same time, it looks like an engineering firm.
 KB: I get that it's supposed to be a DH. Does it stand for dick head? I don't know, I interpret this as a gear. It looks very engineering to me.
 AJ: Which is good. He's appealing to the people who won't vote for him or anyone else.
 CL: Engineers are going to look at this and think "It's a gear! I better vote for him!"
 KC: He looks like his campaign slogan should be Dylan Hanwell: Everything's going to be fine.
 AJ: How could you not like Dylan, he's a Labrador (retriever).
 KB: He's just an agreeable type of dude, and he sells that. Good for you.
 CL: He looks like a golden retriever, beautiful.
 AJ: He looks unassuming, which isn't exactly what I want advocating to the government.
 CL: I'd do him.
 AJ: It's a good point that establishing quality standards is literally saying nothing. Quality standards of what? It's literally nothing, what does this apply to?
 KB: But just look at that smile. He's just so nice, I don't want to say anything bad about him.
 KS: He could be brighter, he kind of blends into the background.
 AJ: He could be smarter, you're right.
 KS: No, nothing stands out in this poster. There's nowhere for the eye to go.
 AJ: Except his smile. Those are some really white teeth. Everything else is dull so his smile will stand out.
 KS: "Empower student voters." I like the word "empower."
 KB: Or just empower them personally, like send them those UAlberta Compliments saying "You are beautiful. Don't let that midterm get you down, you beautiful ray of sunshine. Go get them, you sassy bitch." But only to the student voters. Whatever.
 AJ: Dylan Hanwell: whatever.



VP EXTERNAL:
 BLUE KNOX

KS: Brains, hands, dollars.
 CL: I'm going to use my brain and my hands, and I'm going to make money. I'm Blue Knox. Too bad her name's not Green Knox. Legalize it.
 KC: All I can think is "My parents were hippies, please vote for me."
 AJ: I really like the minimalist look of this one. If you had a bunch of these around and then you had a poster that said anything you

were going to do otherwise, it'd be better.
 CL: It would be sick if she had what Fahim had, and there were five of her, and they were all different colours.
 KC: Rainbow Knox.
 KB: You didn't take blue far enough, Blue.
 KS: She's the final gym leader in Pokemon Gold.
 KC: It's just like, what are you doing? What are your goals? What's her story?
 CL: She looks pretty faded.
 KB: She's tired like the rest of us.
 AJ: She's tired of the government's lies just like the rest of us.
 CL: She didn't utilize Blue's Clues at all.
 KS: Or Fort Knox. Or Knoxville's Tavern.
 CL: Blue comes a-Knox-in'.
 KB: I like this. I feel like Blue has one of the strongest posters.
 KS: I think she has the best designed poster by far.
 AJ: Shouldn't there be a circle with a line through it crossing out the dollar signs? Telling students they'll pay less.
 KS: Well it's only three dollars.
 AJ: Tuition next year: three bucks.
 KB: I could get behind that.



VP STUDENT LIFE:
 VIVIAN KWAN

CL: This is like a combination between a poster for a funeral and a birthday party. Come and celebrate Vivian's tenth birthday, but she's also dead because she's in the clouds. It's like, come celebrate my stillborn baby.
 KS: She looks pretty young already, I don't think the balloons are helping that. And her body's kind of merging with the clouds.
 CL: Because she's dead.
 KB: Or is she implying that she's God? Like I'm in heaven already, come join me.
 KC: God for Student Life.
 KB: Everyone campaigns on communication.
 AJ: People always complain about sustainability and communication as buzzwords but the new one this year is everyone this year is talking about mental health.
 CL: You could just put #BellLetsTalk on that.
 KB: Just be like "I'll talk about mental health, it's a thing, it exists."
 AJ: I'll give you balloons if you're feeling sad.
 KB: I'm pretty sure no one's ever heard of the Peer Support Centre, people should be aware. No.
 AJ: Also, the balloon thing is a play off of Up, the Pixar movie, right?
 KB: Yeah, she's sitting on a house? Fuck you, that's my house.
 KS: This poster is representative of the entire elections.
 KC: It just exists.
 AJ: Vivian's here and no one really cares.



VP STUDENT LIFE:
 PARAMBIR SINGH

KB: He's really good at holding this expression in literally everything he does.
 CL: Let me run through this guy's pamphlet. He says "Hey guys, I'm Parambir," and on the next page, it says "Feel free to contact me, Paramibr." How do you spell your name? Let me go a little bit further down, the best thing about this poster is his email is ps3@ualberta.ca. The one good thing about this guy is that he's PS3, and then his Facebook is a Gmail account.
 KC: His eyes on this poster follow me around the room.

KB: It's like an old painting, he has a classic beauty.
 KS: The "vote online" part takes up 10 per cent of the poster.
 KB: Fuck the haters, I love Param.
 CL: He has no parameters. He just wants people to vote.
 KB: I just love his "fuck it, I believe in myself" attitude.
 CL: These posters are a disaster. But fuck it, I'm just going to do my thang.
 KC: He's looking into my soul. It's like he won't stop staring at me.
 KB: He's excavating the deepest, darkest corners of my being. Good for him.
 CL: He's like that cult leader who just stares at you.
 KB: You could just take a swim in those brown eyes.
 CL: This is the real honey brown.
 KB: He works hard, he's willing to make eye contact, Vivian has fucking balloons, literally floating. She's got her head in the clouds, floating along on her balloons.
 KC: You've got to hand it to this guy, he's not running his campaign based on gimmicks.
 KB: He's not running it based on promises either.
 AJ: It's weird, the more I talk about Param, the more I'm actually digging his campaign.
 KB: He gets it. He knows that if he puts down specific things, he's not going to get them done. So he just put down "Your voice, your choice."
 CL: All that really matters is this guy made his poster on Microsoft Word and said "Fuck it, this shit's not about me. It's about y'all."



BOG REPRESENTATIVE:
 AZHAR KHAN

KC: He looks like a supervillain.
 AJ: It's totally a supervillain name.
 CL: KHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAN!
 AJ: I like how there's no campaign points, because there's really not much a BoG Rep can do for you besides just represent you on the board.
 CL: Because he doesn't get paid.
 KC: His soul patch is hiding his malicious chin.
 KB: I hope he doesn't go to the Board of Governors in that god damn sweater.
 AJ: They'll never respect you, Azar.
 KB: It's a nice sweater, but it's the kind of sweater you wear if you're a dad. That isn't the kind of sweater you wear as a student. Stop lying to me.
 KS: What do you even put on a poster for the BoG Rep?
 AJ: That he'll do what the president asks him to?
 KB: I'll be pushed around? If you're running unopposed, you should do what Cory did last year and use your campaign as an opportunity to educate people about what your job actually is, or use this money you're given from the Students' Union for something different, I don't know.
 AJ: That's not really what Navneet did either.



KB: These posters aren't funny, they're just bad.
 KS: They're boring as fuck, just like the elections.
 CL: It's like the Macklemore of posters.
 AJ: This is like the Mumford and Sons of elections.
 KB: This is the Imagine Dragons of elections.
 KC: It's just really bland.
 KB: Nobody really took any risks.
 AJ: One of you said one looks like a councillor's poster, but they really all look like a councillor's poster, because those posters don't have promises on them because they're not a whole lot they can do. But there's more expectations on what these candidates should tell students they're doing. The biggest problem with a lot of these posters is they're not giving voters any confidence that they're going to accomplish anything or be anything different. It starts with Navneet who's popular and probably going to do a good job, but doesn't give voters any confidence in what she'll really accomplish on her posters, and it spreads to all of the other candidates.

ELECTION DISSECTION

By Andrea Ross, Kate Black and Richard Catangay-Liew • Photos by Kate Black

Ah, Students' Union elections. Whether you think it's the best or worst time of the year, there's no denying things can get a little complicated. But there's no need to get overwhelmed before hitting the ballot box when you can get the inside scoop on who's who right here. Let our panel of three SU experts weigh in on who will — and who should — represent you in 2015-16.

THE PANELLISTS

Bashir Mohamed is a former Faculty of Arts student councilor who ran for SU president in 2014. He's been involved in the SU for years, but is now off to South Korea and is looking forward to retiring from SU governance.

PRESIDENT

Panellists unanimously agreed that Khinda is more than qualified for the SU throne, but Mohamed and Bromsgrove said that as an uncontested candidate, the current Vice-President (External) might have coasted a bit through her campaigning.

But Mvundura said she didn't see this at all from Khinda's campaign.

"Even if she's unopposed, she's still a person who I think would still be like 'I'm going 100 per cent,'" she said. "There were some candidates that were finishing their platforms the morning of Monday on the sixth floor, and Navneet wasn't one of them."

Mohamed said her platform is similar to her VP (External) platform from last year, but that her platform point of reviewing the Student Code of Conduct is a unique and valuable move — one Mvundura said the university hasn't yet seen from an SU presidential candidate.

"I don't think many candidates really speak about (changing) that," Mohamed said.

He also commended her for advocating for a review of how the U of A handles sexual assault.

Mohamed said Khinda is a strong public speaker who would be confident in speaking on behalf of students to the provincial government.

"She's really good at debating everything, like Petros," he said, alluding to the 2013-14 SU President.

Bromsgrove said he's been following her political progression for years, and believes she would be a great face of the SU.

"I would take Navneet for President over really anyone in the executive positions now," Mvundura said.

The panellists expressed general apathy for the joke candidates and their lack of creativity, but Bromsgrove commended Omnibot for having a banner in SUB. All panellists agreed joke candidates are only worth it if they actually try and produce a decent campaign.

"Frank Daniels, he's just a guy in a T-shirt," Mohamed said. "Even the dog last year was kind of creative."

Will win: Khinda — *three votes*

Should win: Khinda — *three votes*

VP (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

Panellists agreed that VP (Operations and Finance) candidates Cody Bondarchuk and Samer Sleiman were "polar opposites" in terms of character and personality in forums and on paper.

Mohamed said Sleiman's "aggressive, yet laidback" nature during forums was reminiscent of his time on Students' Council this year, which may "turn off" some voters.

Bondarchuk on the other hand, comes off as "super friendly," and "somebody who could go around and get free hugs."

"This is the biggest race of perceptions," Mohamed said.

On paper, the panellists noted the differences in focus of each candidate platforms.

Mohamed noted that VP (Operations and Finance) in the past were either service-based, which directs resources to students, or business-based, which aims to generate profit.

The student vote could come down to two different approaches Bondarchuk and Sleiman could bring to the SU.

"They have two very different approaches," Mvundura said. "It might even be a little over-the-head for some people."

And while the panellists appreciated Sleiman's intention of translating SU Bylaws into French, they didn't see the purpose.

"When you translate the bylaws, are you going to get the precision that the bylaws have?"

"That's going to be difficult," Bromsgrove said.

"But really, do students really read the bylaws?" Mvundura added. "I really like the idea, but only SU people do."

The panellists also questioned Bondarchuk's point of creating an affordable food and grocery aisle on campus. While they appreciated his intention, Bromsgrove noted that grocery food aisles have been attempted in SUB, but never took off. Instead, Bondarchuk should have focused on improving the popular bi-weekly SUB Farmer's Market.

But Bondarchuk's point on "expansive and attainable awards and scholarships" drew praise from the panellists.

"(Bondarchuk's) platform is very student-centered, which is a big contrast from Sleiman," Mvundura said.

The panellists also challenged each candidate's experience, and how that would translate to the VP (Operations and Finance) portfolio. Sleiman, who has mentioned a "business he started three years ago," while campaigning, drew questions from the panel. Bromsgrove called Sleiman's business "ambiguous," as Sleiman has yet to fully elaborate on it.

Bondarchuk, who has acted as Safewalk Director for two years, hasn't been using his experience at the SU service, which surprised Mohamed.

"He manages hundreds of volunteers, he already has relationships with the SU and he knows all the people he'll be working with," Mohamed said. "He doesn't have to work on building that repertoire."

But while Bondarchuk has ample experience as Safewalk Director, Mvundura wondered how transferable those skills are.

"I was kind of surprised with (Bondarchuk's) move to run for VP (Operations and Finance)," she said. "I think he would be better suited for (VP Student Life)."

Since the SU sets their operating budget before the VP (Operations and Finance) even takes office, making promises at this point aren't realistic at this time, the panellists said.

"It's not like they're going to do any of these platform points, but these platform points show what kind of person they are or what kind of manager you want," Mohamed said.

Will win: Sleiman — *two votes*

Undecided — *one vote*

Should win: Bondarchuk — *two votes*

Undecided — *one vote*

VP (STUDENT LIFE)

Panellists found this year's VP (Student Life) race to be a battle of two extremes: platform- and experience-heavy Vivian Kwan and fresh-faced Param Singh. The group quickly wrote off Singh as a legitimate competitor, and focused most of their conversation on questioning Kwan's extremely detailed website outlining her goals.

Mvundura appreciated plenty of the material on Kwan's platform, including targeting mental health issues with international students and expanding Unwind Your Mind to more campus buildings. She shared sentiments with Mohamed and Bromsgrove, though, that it's unlikely Kwan achieve all of her platform points.

Bromsgrove said that the platform is "overkill." He questioned whether her "mental health packages," which would provide professors with suggestions on how to "better engage" students, truly confronts the issue of mental health on campus.

The panel took particular interest with the "experiences" section on her website, where she outlines the variety of groups and committees that she has sat on in recent memory.

Mohamed noted that just because she's proved her worth in "high-up positions," she may not necessarily be able to connect with students as VP (SL). Though Kwan has experience with the SU as an Science Faculty Councillor, Mohamed was concerned by her lack of contributions to council.

"I've never heard her speak (in council)," Mohamed said. "I'm surprised that she's running for exec because on council she didn't speak up on any of the major debates."

Mvundura noted that not taking initiative to push her ideas forward could detriment her abilities to achieve her platform points — especially in regard to her goals to include more alcohol-free events at Week of Welcome, and re-attempting Break the Record.

"A lot of her work as VP (SL) is working with services and programming and venues, and in those departments there's a lot of people who have been working there for a really long time. And if you really want to make changes, you have to sometimes be a little strong and try to push your initiatives forward. Is she going to be able to do that? I don't know," she said.

On the other hand, the panel agreed that Singh seems unprepared to run for an executive position. Mvundura felt that his motivations for running appear to be "random." She found it concerning how when asked about possible improvements to be made to residence in *the Gateway's* Q&A, he replied by stating that the residence situation is "pretty good."

"It doesn't seem like he's done any background work on the things that seem important," she said.

But Mohamed said she thinks it's "kind of cool" to see an "average student" run among the hack-heavy group of candidates this year.

"I'm kind of glad he ran this year, because if he didn't, every candidate would have been coming from that SU circle, or that stereotypical path to getting elected," he said.

Will win: Kwan — *three votes*

Should win: None of the Above (NOTA) — *three votes*

VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

The panel felt generally uninspired by this year's VP (Academic) race, mostly due to the glaring similarity between the two candidates. Both Shakiba Azimi and Fahim Rahman currently hold executive positions in the Interdepartmental Science Students Society (ISSS), the Faculty of Science's student association — Rahman being President, and Azimi holding Rahman's former position as VP (Academic) of the organization.

Mvundura and Mohamed agreed that both candidates missed an opportunity to address issues in Students' Council as a part of their platform, in response to the paltry attendance records of councillors this past year. Bromsgrove said he wishes the candidates opened a greater conversation on how education is delivered on the U of A campus, which he thinks is traditionally a general issue with the position.

"They're dancing around 'oh, textbooks are bad,' but can we have a VPA who really talks publicly and strongly about why textbooks are bad what are the alternatives?"

Bromsgrove said. "I want to see a VPA who not only knows what they're talking about, but who's thinking 'outside the box' as education as a whole."

Mvundura said Rahman's platform is significantly more general



Ryan Bromsgrove was *The Gateway's* Opinion Editor in 2011–12, Editor-in-Chief 2012–13 and Business Manager 2013–14. During his time writing for the paper, had a special place in his heart for complaining about student politics.

Sharon Mvundura is a recent Department of Political Science graduate. She spent many years as an executive for the Political Science Undergraduate Association and was a longtime Campus Food Bank volunteer. She now spends her time working full time at the Campus Food Bank and keeping up with the latest student news, but maintains that SU elections are her favourite time of the year.



than Azimi's, while Bromsgrove took issue with how his goals address problems without offering viable solutions. Mohamed noted that Rahman is running a campaign fairly similar to his platform from last year, but notes that it works for him — after all, he received the most first-round votes in last year's election.

Mvundura praised Rahman's initiative in his platform to evaluate already-existing mental health options on campus, instead of introducing new initiatives.

"Even though his platform points are very general ... he would be a good person in those committees," Mvundura said, noting that the position traditionally requires the executive to sit on a variety of committees.

Panel members were disappointed by Azimi's lack of website and use of a Facebook page instead to post her platform points. But, they were impressed by how her platform was more specific than Rahman's — notably, her promises to encourage professors to use course-packs instead of textbooks and release syllabi in Beartracks, and create a centralized mental health website.

Mvundura thought her presence in forums could give her an edge on the electorate.

"I think Shakiba comes off very strong in forums. Very articulate, very on it. Not that Fahim doesn't come across as articulate, but I think in forums so far Shakiba comes across as more articulate," Mvundura said.

Will win: Rahman — *three votes*

Should win: Rahman — *one vote*

Azimi — *one vote*

None of the Above (NOTA) — *one vote*

VP (EXTERNAL)

In a closely contested race with two very different opponents, panellists agreed Dylan Hanwell is the frontrunner because of his experience in student governance and focus on issues more closely related to the External position. Panellists agreed Hanwell has run a solid campaign, and has learned from his mistakes one year after his first attempt at VP (External) against Navneet Khinda last year.

Panellists said Blue Knox's platform more closely resembled a platform for Vice-President (Student Life), and were confused about Knox's mental health focus. Knox's platform states she wants to make a provincial mental health strategy, which panellist Mvundura said is good in theory but is an idea better suited to VP(SL.) When faced with an uncertain provincial economy and upcoming election, she said candidates would be better off focusing on the issues more focused on the position for which they're vying. Mohamed said she would have been smart to focus more on the link between affordability and mental health, which she has mentioned in panels, but hasn't explored deeply. Regardless, Mohamed said she outshone her opponent in this regard.

Bromsgrove said Knox's advocacy is "buried" in her portfolio. Mvundura added Knox has run on a campaign where she has tried to be realistic in her promises for students, but said that might not have been the best approach for a race with such high expectations in the coming year.

"I know she's trying to play the card of like 'you don't want to be like the other ones of making big promises,'" Mvundura said. "Yeah, we know you can't do everything, but tell us what you can do."

Panellists agreed Knox is a well-known face on campus and that her campaign has been made highly visible to students, which could garner her votes. Mohamed said he was disappointed

in her election video, which he said was "just dancing," and that her focus on building relationships might not be what the student body needs for the upcoming year. "A lot of bridges are going to be blown up in the next few months, so that strategy is not going to help," he said. "I think we need somebody who can just take the gloves off."

Panellists applauded Hanwell for his slightly more "radical" approach to campaigning.

"He's coming back smarter and better," Mvundura said, acknowledging him for his strong stance on renewing the tuition cap, which she said Knox has somewhat overlooked. "Last year I watched Dylan and I thought he put on a good campaign when he was going against Navneet," Bromsgrove added. "I like a guy that comes back for a second year."

Mvundura said the weakest point of his platform is his focus on quality insurance policy. "I get the idea, but who judges the quality? It's just all very vague, is it really applicable?" She asked.

Mohamed said that although he has disagreed with Hanwell in the past, he's in tune with what students expect from their executives.

"What I like about Dylan is that even though I disagree with his principle, he's very direct," he said. "He says directly in his platform, 'students are consumers so they should have consumer protection.' And because he has that principle, that's what I like about him versus Blue, who is a little more grey and back and forth."

Mohamed said the external race is about "what kind of person you want to fight for you."

With his platform focused on attainable goals and his extensive experience in policy and having worked for the provincial government, panellists agreed Hanwell leads the race.

Will win: Knox — *one vote*

Undecided — *two votes*

Should win: Hanwell — *three votes*

UNDERGRADUATE BOG REP

The panel was vocally unimpressed with law councillor Azhar Khan's campaign as the sole Undergraduate Board of Governors' Representative candidate. Khan, a second-year law student, briefly lists his platform on a Facebook event, which left the pundits wanting more.

"He has very weak platform points, if you can even call them that," Mvundura said.

Bromsgrove was critical of Khan's main platform point, in which he calls for a "united front" between the three student representatives on the board. He raised concerns that he may sacrifice his own principles in favour of unity.

"Not everything that the board's going to be discussing is going to be directly relate to students in a way three student reps voting differently would confuse them," he said.

Bromsgrove also found his second point, opting for greater financial transparency from the board, unrealistic, stating that "the board isn't going to be any more transparent than it is now."

The panel raised eyebrows at his third platform point, that he brings a "fresh perspective" to the board as both a former student of the University of British Columbia and as a student currently in a professional program. Mvundura called the point "elitist," while Mohamed raised concerns over whether this attitude will perpetuate the current trend of law students becoming the BoG representative.

Mohamed was "surprised" with Khan's lacklustre campaign,

stating that Khan seems to be more comfortable speaking in council than in forums, where he often flips through cue cards. Mvundura and Bromsgrove questioned whether his awkward public speaking skills would impact his role on the board, but Mohamed maintained that Khan seems to be confident in the smaller, council setting.

"The funny thing is, on council, he's the opposite of this. He takes strong opinions on issues like tuition," Mohamed said. "He's not afraid to take stances."

Ultimately, the panel wasn't sold on his campaign.

"He hasn't shown us anything," Mvundura said.

Will win: Azhar Khan — *three votes*

Should win: None of the Above (NOTA) — *three votes*

SINGLE-SOURCE BEVERAGE PLEBISCITE

Panellists said they took issue with how the single-source beverage plebiscite was presented to students.

Mohamed said the plebiscite was hastily passed through council at the last minute, at an emergency council meeting held right before elections began. He also took issue with the wording of the plebiscite, arguing the 'yes' side has been presented in a misleading way, while the 'no' side has had no representation. He said having one beverage company monopolize campus means students would miss out on other opportunities, such as having Red Bull sponsor a student group event.

"It's an issue student care about, but the problem is it's been presented in the worst possible way," Mohamed said. "Beyond that, I'm just very disappointed in the way this was done. The process wasn't transparent at all."

Mvundura said regardless of how students vote on the plebiscite, the decision might already have been made by the SU. "It doesn't really affect their ultimate decision, they probably already know which way they're going to decide," she said. "I would rather them just do it without telling any of us than pretend we have a voice."

Will it pass: Yes — *three votes*

Should it pass: No — *three votes*

THE LANDING REFERENDUM

A safe space on campus supporting gender and sexual diversity, The Landing is presenting a referendum vying for \$1.50 per semester from undergraduate students to fund programming and workshops.

Mvundura said the service is an asset for the SU and is deserving of enhanced support from students, despite some criticism from those who in the community who say the service won't be widely used.

Mohamed commended The Landing for campaigning hard during election season and actually pleading their case at forums.

"They are putting the effort into having this, so I think it's very commendable," he said.

Bromsgrove said the group already has a solid base and have a plan of how to expand were they to get the financial boost from students. "I say give them a chance," he said, adding students have the opportunity to opt out of paying the extra fee.

Will it pass: Yes — *two votes*

Undecided — *one vote*

Should it pass: Yes — *three votes*

Arts & Culture

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Volunteer
Arts meetings every Wednesday at 4pm

social intercourse

COMPILED BY Maggie Schmidt

Two Spirit People: Then and Now

Education South Building, Room 122
Wednesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Free

It's Pride Week on campus, and there are many educational workshops and seminars being held around the university to help raise awareness and promote equality between people of all gender identities and preferences. Two Spirit People is a presentation and Q & A session hosted by NorthEast Two-Spirit Society's Harlan Pruden, who will enlighten you on the history of Two-Spirit people and will provide tools to help create an open and welcoming community for all.

Humans

w/ Physical Copies, Nik7, Borys
Pawn Shop (10549 82 Avenue)
Friday, March 6 at 8 p.m.
\$10

Is midterm season starting to get you down? Shake off the blues to some of the best electro-pop acts that Canada has to offer. Nik7, also known as Normals Welcome, is first to throw down some gnarly dance beats. Local legend Borys follows with some glitchy electro, and babely duo Physical Copies is guaranteed to bring back the spirit of the '80s (the good part) and get you moving your feet. Vancouver's eternally wonderful Humans headlines, and is sure to live up to the hype from their brand new album release, *Noontide*. Burn off some of that freshman 15 and dance to your heart's content!

Cobra Ramone

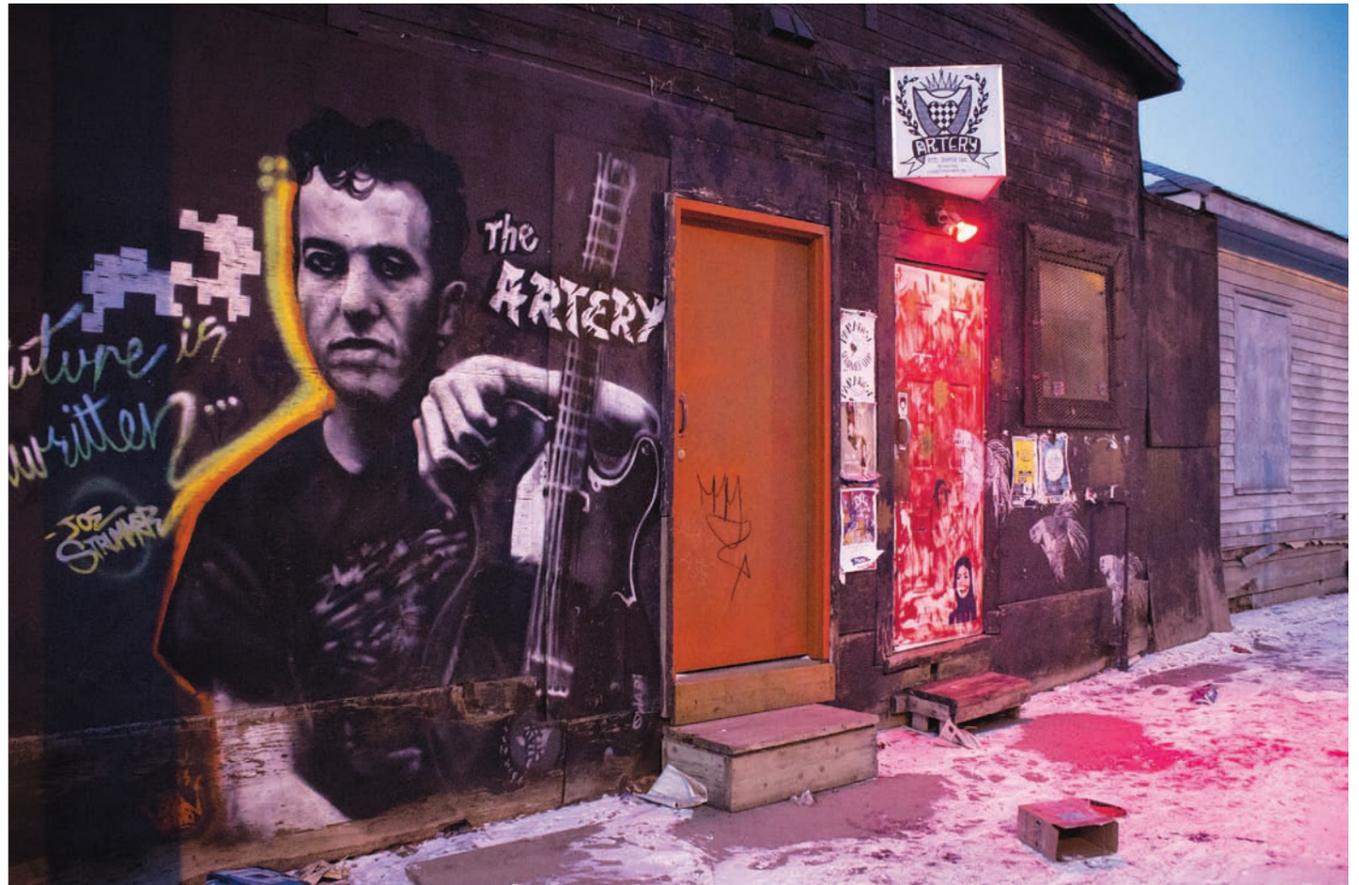
w/ guests
Artery (9535 Jasper Avenue)
Friday, March 6 at 8 p.m.
\$12 at door

Cobra Ramone is a bad bitch. Let out your inner wild child and get your groove on to Cobra's powerful pipes. It's also one of the many shows to catch at The Artery before doors close for the last time on March 31. Let out your frustration with the city's decision to close the venue to the hard rock stylings of the Vancouver-based band. Be sure to buy an extra drink or two, and help contribute to the arts community that makes Edmonton wonderful.

Edmonton BeerFest

Shaw Conference Centre (9797 Jasper Avenue)
Saturday, March 7 at 3 p.m. – 10 p.m.
\$29

To some people, beer is just alcoholic liquid bread. To others, it's a lifestyle. The passionate few have mastered the art of brewing and are ready to share their beers with the rest of the world. BeerFest is a place where people from all walks of life can taste, share, and appreciate beer however they feel like it. There are over 200 beers available including everything from domestic to import brews. There is also an extensive lineup of live music and various vendors selling beer-related merchandise. What more could you ask for in a beer festival?



CHRISTINA VARVIS

Philip Muz looks back fondly on The Artery

Maggie Schmidt
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

When Philip Muz first experienced The Artery to see his friend's band play, he phoned his Mom to tell her that he had found the venue of his dreams.

Working as an event promoter and bartender at the time, the idea of owning and running a concert space seemed like something that could only happen in the distant future.

"I couldn't believe that something like this exists in the city," Muz says. "A wonderful space with so much opportunity."

The Artery stands on the east end of Jasper Avenue, past the sleazy nightclubs and cougar bars. Behind a small but busy liquor store is the iconic red door that leads into a venue with a rich history of blacksmithing, theatre productions, live music, and general shenanigans.

The Artery and the rest of the arts community suffered a major blow on Feb. 25 when Muz received a phone call from the City of Edmonton that declared the building to be structurally unsound. The building, which hosts the music venue, a dance studio, and is home for four of The Artery's staff members, must be vacated by March 31.

"I was told by my landlord that I would be able to resign the lease," Muz says. "After a series of miscommunication and failed efforts to re-sign, I found out that I have until the end of March to vacate, and that's about it."

Among the outpouring of patrons' favourite memories of the venue on social media, Muz looks back fondly on his history with The Artery.

After first discovering that running The Artery was a viable dream, Muz worked enthusiastically while running various art shows and concerts at the venue until he finally presented his first show on March 24, 2012 as The Artery's official owner.

"It was an art show," Philip gushes. "We wanted rock, so we had Noble Thiefs, the Sorels and J. Eygenraam. We had art by Mike Boldt, Kevin Green and Jared Robinson."

The star-studded lineup was the first of many shows that blurred together during a very hectic year of learning how to run a music venue.

"That first year, I was never at home," Muz recalls, "I was there seven nights a week. I was up until six in the morning working, making connections, talking to people. There were always a minimum of five people staying after every show. That's networking, making it inclusive, getting all of these people from different communities. Bringing people together."

After realizing that he would be able to make a living running The Artery, his focus shifted from just keeping his business afloat to encouraging an atmosphere that was welcoming for art lovers from any walk of life. For the next two years, The Artery flourished as a cultural centre of Edmonton.

"I turned it into a place that was open all the time," Muz describes. "You could depend

on there being shows. This was a place for people to meet other people. Everyone's welcome. We do every genre, we mash genres. We're bringing everyone together."

By the time the news was delivered that the venue had 34 days to vacate, there were more than 80 shows lined up between the first of April and February of next year. While many of those shows had to scramble to make new arrangements, several had to cancel their shows entirely.

Despite all of the pandemonium, Muz is staying positive while making big plans for his next venue.

"The new venue is going to be really good," Muz insists. "It feels like a fresh page. With my brother's carpentry skills and with the help of several tradesmen in the Edmonton arts scene, we're going to get this place done up."

Thanks to the positivity of Muz and the rest of The Artery gang, as well as the support from the arts community, the final month of The Artery is being treated more like a celebration than a funeral. With events happening nearly every night until doors close, there are many more chances for people to gain precious memories of one of the most culturally significant venues in Edmonton.

For Philip Muz, the past three years have been the best learning experience that he could have ever asked for, as he looks forward to starting fresh and creating an even better space for the Edmonton arts community to persevere.



the brewcrew

WRITTEN BY Jason Timmons

Amnesiac Double IPA

Brewery: Phillips Brewing Company

Available at: Sherbrooke Liquor Store
(11819 St. Albert Trail)



As someone who thoroughly enjoys a strong IPA, I thought I knew what I was getting myself into when I poured a glass of Amnesiac Double IPA — I had no idea what I was in for. As promised by the surly-looking elephant on the label, Amnesiac Double IPA will knock the socks off even the most experienced hops lover.

The pour leaves a frothy and satisfying head loaded with just the right balance of bubbles and foam. The colour is an incredibly natural looking mix of golden-yellow and orange, managing to be glow strongly in the light without looking artificial. On the nose we have strong notes of citrus and light floral

notes. The floral notes ground the beer, stopping the citrus from being too overpowering.

Weighing in at 8.5 per cent ABV, this brew packs a punch upon first taste, and also upon every taste after that. Despite its powerful profile, Amnesiac Double IPA maintains great flavour without succumbing to bitterness. The finish is a light citrus taste with no unpleasant burn, rounding out the experience of a fantastic sipping beer.

This is the ultimate strong beer for those who love to be kicked in the teeth with hops. Those who are not so partial to strong hops flavour may want to venture elsewhere.

fashion streeters

COMPILED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY Christina Varvis

Jondrei Victoria-Alcain
ARTS I



GATEWAY: Describe what you're wearing.

BICTORIA-ALCAIN: I'm wearing a plaid perry jacket with a Top Shop cardigan. And distressed frame denim, happy socks and Doc Martens.

GATEWAY: How has your style evolved in the past five years?

BICTORIA-ALCAIN: I have a much cleaner look. I used to wear a lot of graphic T-shirts. I still do wear some, but I like to look more minimal compared to five years ago.



flop culture

COMPILED BY Jason Timmons

Kanye's Twitter Apology to Beck

On the afternoon of Feb. 24, Kanye West apologized for his onstage intrusion during Beck's acceptance speech at the Grammys with yet another Twitter spaz. It involved both an apology to Beck and a dick-stroking of Bruno Mars. The event marked yet another

public outburst from Kanye, who seems to whine like a spoiled child whenever things don't go his way. His apology marked yet another instance of proof that he thinks saying sorry means anything to anybody anymore.

It seems like every year we get an outburst from Kanye, followed by two weeks of news coverage and a boost in album sales for everyone involved. After the hype dies down we get some sort of public apology, once again making news and inflating album sales.

It's all just manufactured controversy created by Kanye West to maintain social relevancy

between albums. It's happened before with notables such as Jimmy Kimmel, Justin Timberlake and Chris Brown. And it will definitely happen again. What never changes is the huge, annoying media reaction that stays at the forefront of conversation until the next beef.

Congratulations Kanye, you're still an asshole.

Flop Culture is a semi-regular feature in which Gateway pop culture pundits get mad and bitch about things that have no effect on our lives like mad celebrities and Twitter beefs.

Vino Bitches

WINE: *Pasion de Bobal*

Written by: Danielle Carlson

Pasión de Bobal is the perfect match for this first week of March, but not for the right reasons. Like the beginning of the first month of spring, Pasión is expected to be, fresh, floral and festive, but turns out to be dull, dank and dissuading.

The presentation of Pasión de Bobal's bottle is not one I've seen before and I was immediately charmed. Its white label and black script is littered with bright red hearts. It reminds me of the doodles in the margins of my used textbooks left by previous students. Even the cap had a little heart on its surface.

Its contents initially appeared just as fun. This is the only rosé wine I've sampled that was not red or pink. Instead, Pasión is a lovely peach colour that looked quite refreshing.

And then I smelled it. This is where my experience gradually turned downhill. Overall, Pasión de Bobal's aroma is too thin. After a while, you may pick out peach blossoms and tangerine and, if your nose is exceptionally strong, just a hint of red currant. It's an agreeable combination. However, the scent is so delicate, that what you can identify could be just the ghosts of a separate bolder tasting wine.

Pasión's taste follows the same tune as its scent. Initially, I thought that I was drinking water. I could only registered a hint of floral in the wine before an overwhelming dryness took over. This, and the absent tannin make drinking my sample feel too clean. As rosé wines go, Pasión de Bobal seems to have followed the correct basic steps. It's combination of accents is sufficient and it is as dry as rosés are meant to be. It's drinkable. But I am disappointed by its serious lack in depth and flavour.

Although it seems half-baked by itself, Pasión de Bobal may make a meal more enjoyable. Try it with a berries and spinach salad, cooked salmon, or something equally light and cheerful. These spring-worthy dishes might make the snow melt a little faster.



Price: \$17.99

Available at: Liquor Depot

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CINEMA**

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• FREE SCREENING •

FREE FOR STUDENTS WITH VALID ID AT THE DOOR

**WEDNESDAY
MAR 18**

7 PM

**METRO
CINEMA
— AT THE —
GARNEAU
8712-109ST**

E-Town cabaret rethinks clowns

THEATRE PREVIEW

E-Town Clown Cabaret

WHEN Wednesday, March 25
WHERE Evolution Wonderlounge
 10220 103 Street
WRITTEN BY Fool Spectrum Theatre
DIRECTED BY Director's name
STARRING Morgan Nadeau, Bill Yong, Barry Bilinsky
HOW MUCH By donation

Lisa Szabo
 ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

For many of us, the word “clown” evokes images of Krusty, Ronald McDonald or Stephen King’s demon-possessed version. But for the folks behind the E-Town Clown Cabaret, the art of clowning is a world bigger than just floppy shoes and birthday party trauma — it’s about getting out of your comfort zone, finding your inner clown and having a good time doing it.

Fool Spectrum Theatre, formed last September by Morgan Nadeau, Bill Yong and Barry Bilinsky, aims to bring the relatively unknown world of clowning to audiences, while providing a platform for local clowns to expand their character profiles. The Cabaret, a sort of variety show, is a compilation of short skits performed by members of the company

and other local clowns.

“We just wanted to have a space for clowns to perform because there wasn’t one in Edmonton,” Nadeau explains, adding that prior to Fool Spectrum’s Cabaret, the opportunity for local clowns to perform was sporadic. “We just wanted a place for clowns to come and perform more regularly, to try new material, (and) to get new characters out there because that was something we also wanted to do.”

Nadeau says, for the clowns at Fool Spectrum who have all studied the Canadian-born mask-based Pochinko Method, clowning is based on three principles: it must be physical, it must be character-driven and you have to have fun while doing it.

“That being said, you can be the most miserable clown in the world, but the performer has to have fun being miserable,” says Nadeau.

She explains that the Pochinko Method is all about the character and how the audience relates to the clown’s personality, not the fact that he or she can juggle or tumble.

“If you think of Charlie Chaplin — everyone knows The Tramp ... because you love him, and you feel what he feels, and you are what he is,” she says.

This month’s show, themed “Love is in the Air,” saw clowns in love and lust, getting dated and dumped, and even auctioned off to audience members for a romantic licorice dinner during the show. And with

three more uniquely themed performances scheduled this season, there is plenty of opportunity to transform your potentially nightmarish image of the word clown into a charming, innocent, or even horny little bugger.

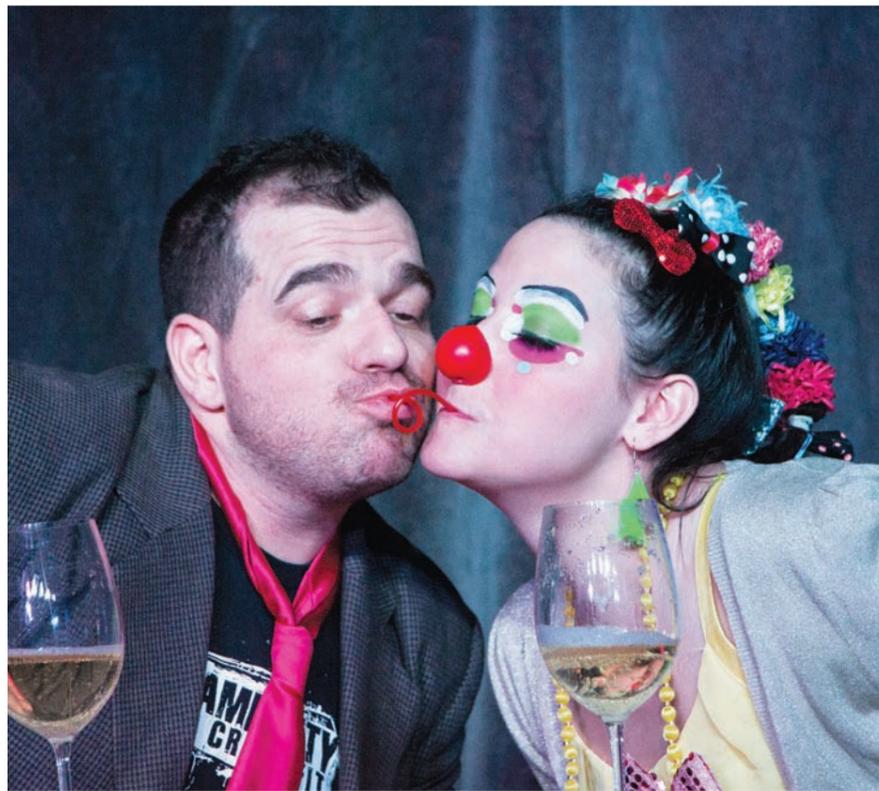
While the Cabaret is a great opportunity for local clowns to get out of their comfort zones and try out new personas, it’s also an interactive experience for the audience members. Bilinsky starts off the show explaining that “clowns feed off energy,” and aside from the usual clapping and cheering, you may be called upon to hop up on stage. Don’t worry though — you won’t have to say much. The clowns rarely speak — aside from Bilinsky’s jokes and introductions between skits — so you’ll likely just stand there while a brightly dressed and pigtailed girl enlists the help of the endlessly-wise and surprisingly witty Cosmo, to find out if you’re “the one.”

Not sure about the Cabaret? Nadeau promises it’s fun, and it’s always something new.

“Being a clown is an extremely scary thing to do and people are so brave to be coming out to perform for us,” Nadeau explains. “Take a chance on clowns, and come support us. We’re local Edmonton theatre artists. It’s a style that is really hard and really demanding and takes a lot of effort and courage to do and I think people can connect with it if they take a chance and come watch.”



SPENCER NICHOLS



flop culture

COMPILED BY Maggie Schmidt

Bitching about bands changing sounds

Although no new songs have been released, Facebook users have been losing their minds at Mumford and Sons’ press release that states that their new music will feature electric instruments. The band, which is known for generally agreeable acoustic jams, has a worldwide following of hip indie kids who are apparently afraid of change. In reality, Mumford and Sons doesn’t owe anything to you. They are a group of professional musicians who are

allowed to create art however they seem fit. If the Budweiser of folk wants to put a little more flavour in their music, good on them.

Posting a boring cut-and-paste status on social media isn’t going to make Mumford and Sons reconsider their decision to change their instrumentation, so stop flooding newsfeeds with your whiny opinion. Facebook is a nice place where people should feel comfortable catching up on hot UAlberta Confession gossip and cat videos, and tainting it with some band that people stopped caring about a while ago is totally uncool.

Flop Culture is a semi-regular feature in which Gateway pop culture pundits shake their literary fists at ridiculous events or celebrities deserving of an inky bitch-slap.

ALBUM REVIEW

Purity Ring another eternity

4AD
 purityringthing.com

Jon Zilinski
 ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

Edmonton’s future-pop darlings Corin Roddick and Megan James are back with *another eternity*, their sophomore follow up to 2012’s *Shrines*. While *another eternity* demonstrates the group’s willingness to experiment and excellent lyricism, the record falls a little flat in comparison to Purity Ring’s previous record.

In the process of creating *another eternity*, the duo essentially have had a complete musical makeover from *Shrines*. Gone are their trademark blueprint, the ghostly pitched-down vocals, as well as the darkness that accompanied them. Roddick has instead elected for a bolder, brighter pop mosaic, giving way to his modern hip-hop and rap influences. Although many of the songs feel festival main stage-ready, the unique charm in which Purity Ring initially delivered their sound with has been slightly jeopardized.

On the lyrical side of this division of labour, James helps Purity Ring reach levels of intimacy that were

previously unexplored by the duo. James cleverly goes above and beyond in her writing to push intimacy deeper, reaching a juxtaposition of emotion and physiology. She revisits the need to be climbed inside on “Repetition,” but also reminds her partner and her listener “Watching me is like watching a fire take your eyes from you.” Evidentially James gives Taylor Swift a run for her money, as she will literally burn you.

Any time an artist switches up their style it’s stressful for both artist and fans, but the bold change, and growth Purity Ring experienced shouldn’t be seen as a sophomore slump. *another eternity* is modern, but the only big problem is that it isn’t ahead of its time, like *Shrines* proved to be. It’s not too often that twice a decade, a duo can set the pace for the next few years in pop.

Risks reward Mangan + Blacksmith

MUSIC PREVIEW

Dan Mangan + Blacksmith

WITH Hayden, Astral Swans
WHEN Wednesday, March 11
WHERE Winspear Centre (4 Sir Winston Churchill Square)
HOW MUCH \$41.50 (winspearcentre.com)

Jason Timmons

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @JOURNOPHOBIC

Artistic evolution is never easy. Leaving the comfort of a genre that's been your bread and butter for years can be a huge risk for any artist, but despite the risks involved, Dan Mangan has successfully reinvented himself with his newest album, *Club Meds*. No longer do we see the plaid-wearing, bearded troubadour who stole our hearts with sing-along folk songs. Instead, the listener is faced with a darker, more honest artist, unafraid to take risks in the name of artistic expression. The result of this transformation is the newly dubbed Dan Mangan + Blacksmith.

"This record feels a little bit like the beginning of something," Mangan says. "Kinda feels like the beginning of a new era in my work and in my life."

The most visible symbol of Mangan's "new era" is the addition of "Blacksmith" to his moniker, representing the bandmates he has performed with for years. Changing the name of an established project is definitely a risk, but the group felt it was time for a title that reflected the dynamic of their performance

more accurately.

"It just sorta seemed like time," Mangan notes. "We had been playing together and it felt like a band, but it was just my name on the ticket and just my face in the photographs (and) that got a little bit weird."

Armed with a new name and a firm group dynamic, Dan Mangan + Blacksmith dove into some of their most risky writing to date. Mangan weaves a poetic lyrical tapestry, exploring personal and societal issues to create the bones of the song. Blacksmith answers Mangan's lyrical call by adding technical precision and instrumental artistry into the equation.

"I feel like the word (Blacksmith) encompasses a lot of romantic notions of craftsmanship and artistry," Mangan explains. "It eludes to the way the guys in the band approach music."

Experimentation runs rampant on their newest album, most notably in the final mixing. Mangan's vocals are treated like any other instrument, placed in the midst of the guitar, bass, and drums as opposed to in from of them.

"The vocals are more buried than they ever have been, so it's sorta like they're these little treasures, you have to hunt for them a little bit."

The vocal dynamic on *Club Meds* stands in stark contrast to the mixing done on previous releases like *Nice, Nice, Very Nice*, and *Oh Fortune*, where the folksy feel that dominated Mangan's previous work demanded that vocals be at the forefront of the listening experience. All the instruments work together to make each song a strong group effort, not relying on lyrics to tell stories. Instead, as demonstrated on

tracks like "Vessel," where instead of Mangan's vocals standing out, they fade into the music, making tracks seem more unified.

"I feel like in honour of this new era and the fact that we're calling it a band; it makes more sense that vocals are part of the pie, they're not the icing on top of the pie," he says.

For an artist who used to be rigidly defined by the singer-songwriter genre, burying vocals could spell disaster. Only an artist who's confident in the message of his album would take such a risk. Mangan makes repeated remarks to the concept of sedation when speaking about the new record, noting it was the driving force behind much of the writing.

"It can be narcotic thing, but it can also have nothing to do with that," Mangan states. "It can also just be a sort of willful blindness to one's own humanity."

Fans who identified with the feel-good tropes of albums past may be uncertain about the serious tone and sedative influence. But, *Club Meds* isn't a pit of critical despair.

"The record isn't so much about saying everything is screwed and how we failed," Mangan says. "It's about saying 'let's be honest with ourselves about our feelings because that will help us to find peace.'"

Dan Mangan + Blacksmith's risk-taking has paid off in the form of newfound sonic textures and unapologetically honest lyrics; effectively reinventing themselves to stay true to the direction they feel the band is heading. Dan Mangan may no longer be the same troubadour fans fell in love with, but those who respect the risks he's taken will fall in love with his new persona all over again.



SUPPLIED



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Muppets Take Manhattan

Reel Family Cinema

March 7 at 1:00

After setting Hollywood alight, the Muppets take on Broadway – or Frogway, in this case. The musical, written and starring Kermit the Frog, has only one flaw: there aren't enough frogs. During this delightful adventure, the Muppets graduate from college, hit New York, and are parted only to be reunited minutes before show time, the day saved by a right hook from Miss Piggy.

Free admission for children 12 and under

Also on screen this week:

- Inherent Vice*
- Rise and Shine: The Jay DeMerit Story* - Southwest United Sports Club
- Two Days, One Night*
- The Room*
- A Film About Coffee*
- African Grandmothers Tribunal: Seeking Justice at the Frontlines of the AIDS Crisis*
- A.I. Artificial Intelligence* - Staff Pics
- Leprechaun 4: In Space* - Turkey Shoot!



The Duke of Burgundy

March 6 at 9:00
 March 8 at 9:00
 March 9 at 9:30
 March 11 at 7:00
 March 12 at 9:00

When we first meet butterfly professor Cynthia, she seems like a cruel, patrician employer to her maid, Evelyn. As their moves lead toward the bedroom in the manner of Emmanuelle-esque soft core fare, we learn that their relationship is sexual. Despite appearances, Evelyn is submissive by choice and the architect of the increasingly peculiar and deviant sex acts Cynthia unleashes. Peter Strickland, the highly stylized film fetishist behind Berberian Sound Studio, keeps his bizarre fantasy of a May-December lesbian S&M relationship laced-up in a peculiar corset of his own design. More than just a filthy movie, this is a considerable work of art that touches on a rarely discussed side of human sexuality without judgement.



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Psycho Crime Watch Mar 17 at 7:00	The Birds Apr 25 at 7:00 Apr 26 at 1:00 Apr 29 at 9:15	North by Northwest Mar 28 at 7:00 Mar 29 at 1:00 Apr 1 at 9:15

Visit metrocinema.org for full listings!

The Duke of Burgundy challenges heteronormativity

FILM PREVIEW

The Duke of Burgundy

WHEN Friday, March 6 until Thursday, March 12

WHERE Garneau Theatre (8712 109 Street)

WRITTEN BY Peter Strickland

DIRECTED BY Peter Strickland

STARRING Sidse Babbett Knudsen and Chiara D'Anna

HOW MUCH \$8 for students

Alex Migdal

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @ALEXEM

What a shame that *Fifty Shades of Grey* has re-framed BDSM in our cultural psyche. For the bemused moviegoer, these erotic practices have been diluted to lip-biting, toe-curling responses to a peacock feather grazing a moisturized back. Grossly overlooked are the interpersonal dynamics of its players and all the thorny nuances of a relationship grounded in submission and humiliation.

But British director Peter Strickland has loftier ambitions in his striking third offering, *The Duke of Burgundy*. Drawing on the '70s exploitation flicks of Spanish

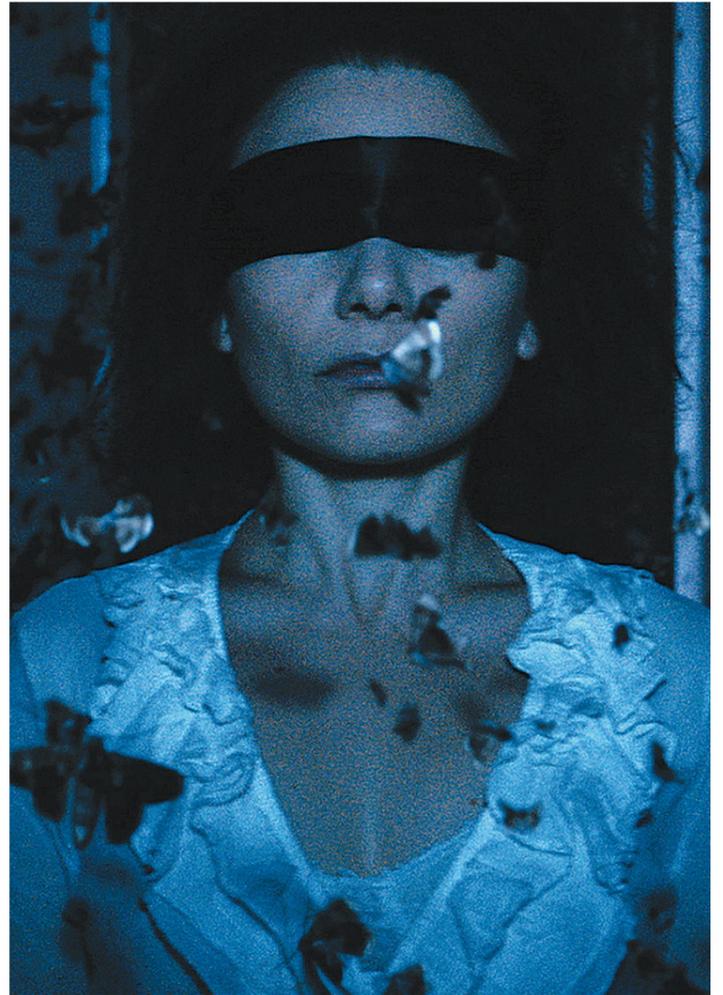
filmmaker Jess Franco, Strickland chronicles the everyday machinations of BDSM and roleplay. Rather than revel in the sex, though, of which there is very little here, Strickland highlights the mundane nooks of a submissive lifestyle: the detailed instructions, the rehearsed dialogue, the purchase of a customized bed meant for imprisonment.

Caught in this daily cycle of sex and roleplay are Cynthia (Sidse Babbett Knudsen) and Evelyn (Charia D'Anna), two lesbian entomologists occupying a European villa. Strickland wisely omits geographical or historical identifiers, opting for an airy landscape that the characters criss-cross on bicycle. Most notable, however, is the film's absence of men. In select scenes, a smattering of women flank Cynthia and Evelyn or serve as backdrops, easing the couple's transgressions through the erasure of heteronormativity.

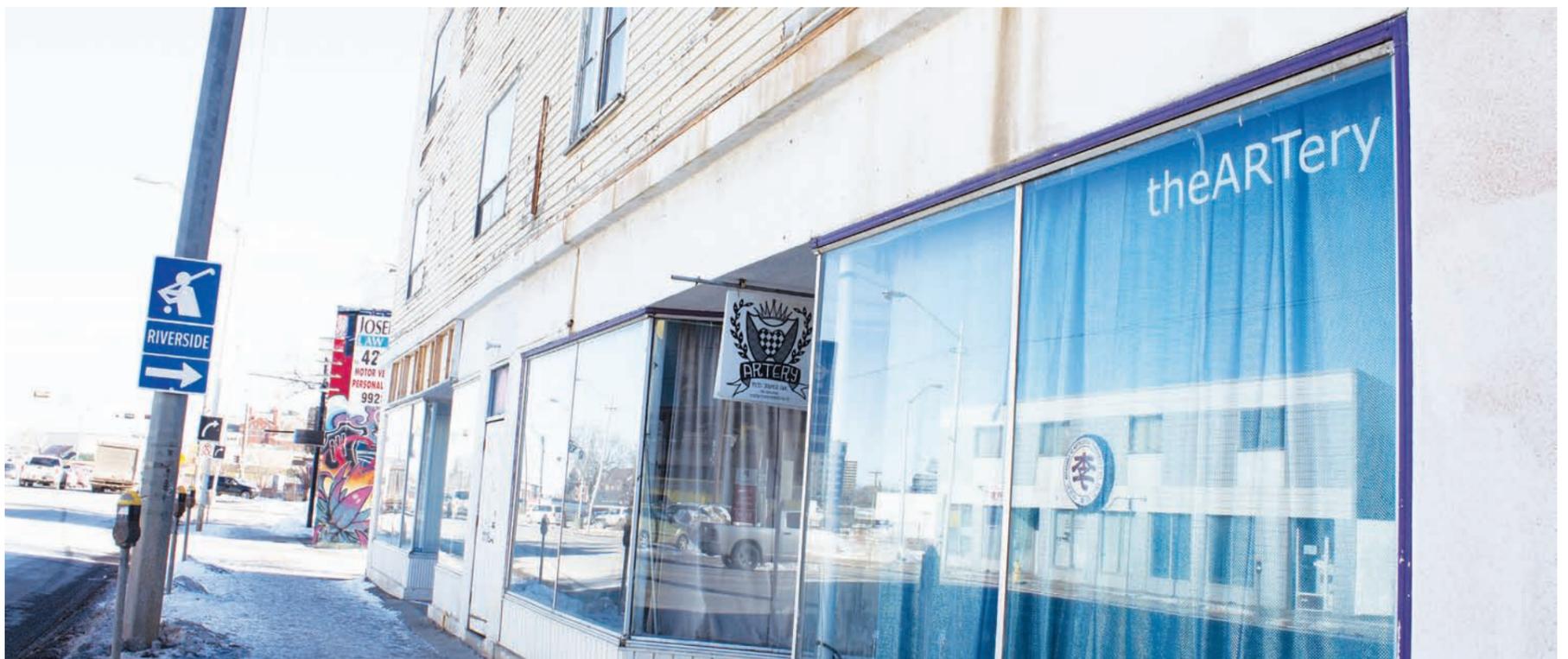
The Duke of Burgundy instead re-shapes their social subversions as sacrifices. In one of the film's more discomfiting scenes, Evelyn demands that Cynthia recite commands as she pleasures herself. Cynthia's eyes widen with fear as she wracks her brain for more lines. "I don't know what to say," she finally confesses. Yet she persists in the awkward roleplay, one of the film's many murky acts of love.

We start to wonder, however, whether that love is solely grounded in artifice and fantasy. Soon, the safe word stops applying and the power dynamics rupture. Evelyn persistently feigns a Dickensian persona, forced to scrub floors and rub her master's feet. Cynthia grows weary of Evelyn's endless instructions ("Try to have more conviction in your voice next time," Evelyn says with little affect). The hallucinatory visuals ramp up as the couple struggles to achieve their next sexual high. The film relishes in a visual motif of butterflies and moths, à la *Silence of the Lambs*, which culminates in a disjointed nightmarish sequence at odds with the rest of the narrative.

But such artistic indulgences can be pardoned, given *The Duke of Burgundy* treats its characters and subject matter with such nuance and empathy. Cynthia and Evelyn, played with equal fortitude by Knudsen and D'Anna, are ideal foils for the dim leads of *Fifty Shades*, who operate as vacuous props for a whips-and-chains play. Strickland thankfully sees past such follies. He expertly builds erotic tension, but that eroticism never overshadows the heart of his story. A film about sex without the sex, *The Duke of Burgundy* deprives us of instant gratification for a more prickly kind of pleasure.



SUPPLIED - MONGREL MEDIA



CHRISTINA VARVIS

Group Commentary: The best place for The Artery's new home



Arts & Culture Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY

On Thursday, Feb. 26, the Edmonton music community was hit with the news that the beloved music venue The Artery is being forced by the city to close its doors on March 31. This is a tragic loss to the music community, especially coming so soon after the fire at The Roxy and the notice that Wunderbar is up for sale.

Because we have nothing better to do, *The Gateway* wants to help in its usual weird and non-helpful way by writing about things that will never actually happen. Here are some suggestions that we think would be the best places in the city where The Artery should relocate.

Jason Timmons

In light of the terribly shocking and brutally sudden loss of The Artery, we are now forced to look ahead for a new venue to fill the hole in our hearts. The obvious choice is a building you've probably heard of, that's going to find itself lacking a certain hockey team very soon. That's right, I want to move The Artery to Rexall Place.

Think about it, it's the perfect spot. Oftentimes concertgoers noted the lack of space in The Artery, problem solved. How does a capacity of over 16,000 sound? What was once an ice surface now becomes the biggest band stage imaginable. Multiple bands could play simultaneously, attracting fans of all genres to celebrate a glorious night of music.

Critics may say the acoustics will suck, and those critics will be right. But really, who cares about acoustics when you're watching

eight bands at once and you're too drunk to tell the difference between any of them? The sheer sonic power of that event will be enough to convince any doubters that the new Artery belongs in Rexall Place.

Riley Samson

You know what this university could really use? Another performance venue. I happen to know of one that could use a place to relocate. Why not bring it here?

Sure, we've got the Myer Horowitz and Convocation Hall, which are great for larger ensembles. There's the Jube, which is nice if you're an orchestra or if more than a dozen or so people know who you are. Then there's Dinwoodie, which is really only good for poster sales. What we need is a place like The Artery: a small, slightly seedy venue with a good beer selection and a pleasant atmosphere.

In addition to livening up the campus with regular shows, it would be a great source of revenue for the university. As for where to put it, there's plenty of space in Quad for a new building. Or, to save money and in an effort to maintain the atmosphere of The Artery, it would fit nicely in one of the pre-existing buildings; perhaps somewhere in FAB, or even better, part of the Faculty Club could be reworked to accommodate it. It doesn't exactly take up a huge amount of space even as it is.

Giving The Artery a space at the U of A would go a long way towards improving our campus culture. It would give students an additional avenue through which to connect with the Edmonton arts and music scene without having to brave the elements just to go to a concert. And, most importantly, it would mean that we wouldn't have to say goodbye to wonderful place that is The Artery.

Maggie Schmidt

If I had any say, I'd keep The Artery right where it is. Maybe I'm a little biased because I live in the apartment upstairs, but the "structural integrity" doesn't seem to be an impending issue. If it really was a problem, I doubt we'd have even been allowed to continue running shows until the end of March.

The ideal would be six months to a year with The Artery staying where it is, followed by owner Philip and crew opening a new venue somewhere else downtown. Which was sort of the plan, until the city decided the LRT needs to happen immediately.

Where The Artery stands right now is accessible by public transit and has the aesthetics that make it feel like an intimate hole-in-the-wall experience. It's definitely going to be hard to find any location that compares.

Sports

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Volunteer
Sports meetings every Wednesday at 5pm

Volley Bears are Golden again, the Pandas come up short

Mitch Sorensen
SPORTS STAFF • @MITCH

For the second time in as many years, the Golden Bears Volleyball team are national champions. Unfortunately for the Pandas, they came up just short for the second time in two weeks.

The Bears dominated their way through CIS Nationals in Saskatoon last weekend, beating the Waterloo Warriors, Dalhousie Tigers, and Trinity Western Spartans in straight sets. The Pandas made easy work of the Ottawa Gee-Gees and Toronto Blues last weekend in Toronto, but were stopped in five sets in the gold medal match by Trinity Western — the same team they lost Canada West gold to.

“We were able to step up our level, stick together and play our best volleyball when it really counted the most.”

BRETT WALSH
GOLDEN BEARS SETTER

“We were able to step up our level, stick together and play our best volleyball when it really counted the most,” Golden Bears third year setter Brett Walsh said.

Step up they did, as the Bears didn't lose a single set in their three game run to the eighth Tantramar Trophy in program history.

Their first match saw them face the OUA runners-up from Waterloo. The offence-by-committee mentality saw Ryan Nickifor lead the Bears with eleven kills, while Kevin Proudfoot and Ryley Barnes were a close second with nine apiece. Combined with their extraordinary 0.388 team kill efficiency, the Bears committed fewer unforced errors and maintained a strong block. Leading the charge was middle Taylor Arnett, who had five blocks to go along with seven kills on the night. Dominance all over the court saw the Bears take the match in straight sets.

Riding the momentum from their quarterfinal win, the Bears took on the Dalhousie Tigers. Though a hotly



GOLDEN ONCE AGAIN The Bears volleyball team won CIS nationals again.

HARRY DU

contested match, the Bears always seemed to have the edge when it counted, and assistant coach Brock Davidiuk credits their defence for this success.

“We outdug Dalhousie in the semifinal and they're a ball-control team, so that was really big,” he said. “I thought our guys really found ways to be competitive; and that's a big part of performing under pressure at the big show.”

In addition to the defensive performance, consistency from the serve line and a spread offence meant that Dalhousie seemed to be a half-step behind all evening. Unable to contain the Bears, the Tigers fell

3-0, giving the green and gold their second straight-sets win.

With their barely one-week-old Canada West Final victory over Trinity Western fresh in their minds, the Bears set about repeating their performance. With a strong block containing the two-time CIS Player of the Year Nick Del Bianco to a meagre twelve kills, the Bears set the tone for the match early. They blasted away from a 16-16 score to win the first set 25-19. Continuing to dominate the offensive side of the game, Proudfoot, Nickifor, and Barnes each had double-digit point totals on the evening, utterly demoralizing the Spartans en route

to a 3-0 win.

Although the Bears dominated the tournament, Walsh believes the team's greatest strength is its balance and depth.

“It's funny, I think there isn't one specific area of our game that is better than anybody else,” Walsh said. “I think that we have a balanced team and a lot of different weapons, it gave a lot of teams a lot of trouble.”

Going into the next season, the Bears will boast the same starting lineup, and maintain their perennial-contender status in the CIS.

“When it comes down to the

volleyball, having that much time spent together I think is a really big part of our success,” Davidiuk said.

Davidiuk also acknowledges that the team will have a target on their back as two-time defending CIS champs, but welcomes the opportunity.

“When you're the 'overdog,' you have to find a way to sustain a high level of play all the time,” he said. “What we try to instil in the guys is to never take a break regardless of circumstance or who's on the other side of the court.”

On the other side, the Pandas came within a hair of winning their first CIS championship in eight years last weekend. After a dominant performance against Ottawa in the first round, a very close win over Toronto and an even closer loss to Trinity Western meant the Pandas had to settle for a silver medal.

Up by two sets going into the third in the gold medal match, the Pandas appeared to be well on their way to victory. The Spartans, however, had other ideas.

“We got back on our heels when (Trinity Western) started to push harder,” head coach Laurie Eisler said. “We got beaten quite convincingly in the third and fourth sets.”

Facing a second-straight fifth set against the Spartans, the Pandas left it all on the court in the fifth, but fell to a veteran Trinity squad 15-11.

For Eisler, the growth of the program was apparent over the year, and she plans on using this loss as a learning experience for her team.

“You learn how to play in championships by playing in championships,” she said. “You learn from getting things exposed, both good and bad.”

Though her squad plans to take some time to heal and evaluate their respective futures on the team, Eisler is excited about what's to come.

“They're pretty tapped out right now, but we'll recover and get back in the hunt for next year. Our goal is always to be in the position to contend for a national championship, and we'll do our best to get there.”

Scores from CIS Volleyball Nationals



3-0



3-0



3-0



3-2



3-0



2-3



Canada West



Hockey Finals

Puck Bears and Pandas have a chance to take home gold

Cam Lewis
SPORTS EDITOR • @COOOM

Picking up the puck and throwing it out of the zone may seem like a good idea, but it really, really isn't.

UBC Thunderbirds' forward Anthony Bardaro knows all about it. Not only did he throw the puck away, he also threw away his team's season.

The Bears lead the Golden Bears 3-1 with under 10 minutes to go in game two of the Canada West semifinals on Saturday, until Bardaro took a penalty for, well, throwing the puck.

During the ensuing power play, Bears defenceman Jordan Rowley fired one past goaltender Eric Williams to begin the comeback. Bears forward Levko Koper tied the game five minutes later, then captain Kruike Reddick stabbed every single player on the Thunderbirds in the heart with just 33 seconds to go in the game.

And it all started with one guy throwing the puck.

Golden Bears head coach Ian Herbers said it was the resilience and experience of everybody on the bench that allowed his team to claw back and steal the victory from the Thunderbirds.

“It wasn't just one player, one forward, one defenceman, one goalie. We rely heavily on our team strength.”

IAN HERBERS
GOLDEN BEARS HEAD COACH

“It's part of the character in the dressing room,” he said. “It would have been really easy for them to say “we'll get them in the third game,” and pack this game in, but there wasn't any of that in here.

“Kruike Reddick, the captain,

stepped it up and made the big play and everybody else chipped in and it was a team effort. It wasn't just one player, one forward, one defenceman, one goalie. We rely heavily on our team strength.”

With the win, the Bears sweep the Thunderbirds and move on to the Canada West finals for the third year in a row. They'll host the Calgary Dinos who will be looking for some revenge after the miserable defeat they suffered in last year's final.

Herbers said the key to taking down the Dinos is maintaining the gritty style that's allowed them to be successful all season.

“Just stay with it,” he said. “You need to keep driving that net. It might not be a pretty goal ... it might be a goal off their shin pad, off their skate, off their back side, whatever, we just need to keep driving the net, getting pucks to the net and stay with it.”

The Pandas hockey team just

finished a Battle of Alberta of their own, as they swept the Calgary Dinos in the Canada West semifinals by scores of 4-2 and 4-3. The win came as a sigh of relief for the Pandas, who were upset in last year's semifinals by the fifth-seed Regina Cougars.

“There's a sense of resilience and determination that wasn't quite there last year.”

HOWIE DRAPER
PANDAS HEAD COACH

Head coach Howie Draper said the loss last season has helped his team mature and become more determined.

“There's a sense of resilience and determination that wasn't quite there last year,” he said. “I guess

you can chalk that up to experience. Maybe we had to go through that last year to get to where we are now.”

The Pandas will host the Manitoba Bisons — a team they had a difficult time with over the season. In four games, the teams exchanged victories, with each team winning and losing two games.

Draper said his team needs to focus on improving its fundamentals in what will likely be a much higher tempo series than the one they just played.

“After our first few weeks of the second half, we had a bit of a lull where we were winning games, but I didn't feel that we were playing our best hockey,” he said. “I thought this past weekend was a step forward. I still feel that we have more, but we have to keep trying to get better where we're able to compete in higher tempo games that we'll face next weekend (against Manitoba) and possibly into nationals.”



KEVIN SCHENK



RUILIN FU



Alberta Golden Bears:

The Golden Bears head into the Canada West finals fresh off a thrilling 2-0 series victory over a gritty UBC Thunderbirds squad. The Bears took the first game 3-1, then came all the way back from a 3-1 deficit in the second game to clinch the series sweep.

The Battle of Alberta will be a rematch of last year's Canada West finals in which the Bears destroyed the Dinos with ease. The Dinos have proven to be the biggest thorn in Alberta's side this season, as they handed the Bears two of their four losses this year.



Calgary Dinos:

The Dinos edged out the Mount Royal Cougars last weekend in the inaugural version of the Crowchild Classic, of the Battle of Calgary. The Dinos won the first game 3-2 in overtime, Mount Royal battled back and took the second game 5-2, then the Dinos won the series with a commanding 6-3 victory.

Revenge will be fresh on the Dinos' mind heading into the Battle of Alberta, as they were dominated by the Bears in last year's Canada West finals. Like last year, the Dinos will be in tough to take down a dominant Bears squad.



Alberta Pandas:

Last year, the Pandas went into the Canada West playoffs with the best record in the conference, earning them a bye to the semifinals. In the semifinals, they were upset the fifth seed Regina Cougars, who went on to come within one goal away from winning the Canada West championship.

This year, the Pandas overcame their demons and swept their provincial rivals, the Calgary Dinos, earning them a shot at gold. They'll take on the Bisons, a team they struggled with during the regular season, going 2-2 in their season series.



Manitoba Bisons:

It's taken the Bisons the most possible games to make it to the Canada West finals, as both of their previous series went the full three games. In the quarterfinals, they took down the Regina Cougars 2-1, then they came back from one game down to beat the favoured UBC Thunderbirds 2-1.

The Bisons and Pandas split their season series this year 2-2, but it's hard to say whether they have the energy left to take down the Pandas on the road, especially after their lengthy playoff run. As a result, they'll certainly be the underdogs in this championship series



Prediction:

The Dinos won't let the same thing happen to them again this year. Last year, the Bears blew them out of the water, winning 8-1 in the first game, and 2-1 in the second, earning them the sweep.

The Dinos have given the Bears a rough time this year and they'll be competitive in the finals, but they won't be able to best Alberta's veteran experience and depth. Same goes for the Bisons, who likely won't be able to out duel a rested Pandas squad.

All games will be played at the Clare Drake Arena in Edmonton, which will also give the Bears and Pandas an edge.

Enter the fifth dimension...



Asselstine, Thomas take home gold at CIS wrestling nationals

Maddie Payette
SPORTS WRITER

To start off the best day of her wrestling career, fifth-year Pandas wrestler Hayley Thomas took part in her normal daily routine — by grabbing her wrestling boots and going off to coach five to eight year old kids at the Edmonton Wrestling Club.

The CIS finalist spent her morning warming up with the kids and doing what she loves.

“I love working with our elementary kids. It’s one of my favourite parts of the week,” said Thomas, who wasn’t going to let her own CIS tournament get in the way of giving back to her wrestling community.

Before she had the chance to compete herself, Thomas, along with the rest of the University of Alberta Bears and Pandas wrestling squad, spent the majority of the day cheering on the bronze medal matches. This included Marlen Figueroa (82 kilograms), Brandy Perry (67 kilograms) and Drew Belanger (68 kilograms), who were able to fight back from previous losses and capture themselves a third place finish.

After competing in the CIS Championships three years previously and never quite being able to catch a podium finish, Thomas found herself in the 51 kilogram women’s gold medal

match against competitor Emily Schafer representing Brock University.

Surrounded by her family and friends, Thomas skillfully defeated her opponent with a 8-0 difference by the end of the match. Having won her first CIS championship and last varsity match, this win was emotional and rewarding to say the least.

• **“Competing at home was unreal, having all my friends and family there watching me means a lot.”**

MIKE ASSELSTINE
GOLDEN BEARS WRESTLER

“Winning that match was the most amazing thing,” she said. “I won gold at my university with all my family, friends and team mates watching. That was the best.”

When her hand was raised and the realization of her success set in, Thomas ran off into the stands and jumped into her dad’s arms, where they celebrated and shed a few tears.

Later that night, at the 2015 CIS Wrestling banquet, she was surprised to receive the Most Outstanding Female Wrestler

award.

“That was the icing on top of the best day of my wrestling career,” Thomas said.

Mike Asselstine also won his weight class this past weekend, his second consecutive CIS Championship at 61 kg this year and was also awarded the Most Outstanding Male Wrestler award. He expressed gratitude towards his home crowd for giving him the push he needed in his gold medal match.

“Competing at home was unreal, having all my friends and family there watching me means a lot,” he said. “Having that little extra emotional boost was nice this time around.”

Knowing his opponent, Jason Buckle from McMaster, was going to be a tough match, Asselstine stayed calm and kept to his game plan. This lead Asselstine to a ten point difference (12-2) technical win over Buckle and the second CIS championship of his career.

At the end of CIS championships on Saturday, the Bears finished fourth overall, while the Pandas finished third. Despite the strong showing by the Bears and Pandas, the Brock Badgers wrestling team took home both the men’s and women’s titles. In doing so, the Badgers became the first team in CIS history to sweep the titles in consecutive years.

Pandas dominate MacEwan, earn a spot in Canada West Final Four

Zach Borutski
SPORTS STAFF • @ZACHSPRETTYCOOL

They say that defence wins championships, and it certainly looked like the Pandas took that to heart this past weekend.

The Pandas dominated the MacEwan Griffins in the first ever installment of the Battle of Edmonton last weekend. Alberta conceded just 57 and 46 points respectively Friday and Saturday against a Griffins team that averaged a respectable 74 points per game during the course of the regular season.

Pandas’ head coach Scott Edwards said his team’s defence really rose to the occasion over the weekend.

“We’re a program that prides itself on playing tough defence and that was one of the things we wanted to do over the weekend,” Edwards said. “We’ve got some things we need to improve upon before Friday, but overall I was happy with how we played.”

Edwards also cited his team’s preparation as a key to their success.

“I think we did a good job in our scouting, the girls really prepared well for MacEwan’s offensive

tendencies,” Edwards said. “I give a lot of credit to our athletes for really buying into our game plan in terms of their compete level.”

The Pandas were also able to feed off of the playoff atmosphere created by their home fans at the Saville Centre this weekend.

“We had a really nice crowd, and some great support from our fellow student athletes - I think we really fed off the crowd’s energy during the game,” Edwards said.

• **“I give a lot of credit to our athletes for really buying into our game plan in terms of their compete level.”**

SCOTT EDWARDS
HEAD COACH, PANDAS BASKETBALL

“We need to play at a certain level if we want to win the conference championship, and I think we’re on that path now for sure.”

The Pandas now travel to Vancouver to take on the UBC Thunderbirds this weekend in the Canada West Final Four. The Pandas hosted the Thunderbirds

twice earlier this season, coming out with a 71-63 win and a 73-66 loss.

Edwards said he believes offensive execution is the key to defeating the Thunderbirds on their home turf.

“We need to play at a certain level if we want to win the conference championship and I think we’re on that path now for sure,” he said. “It’s going to come down to how we execute offensively because they’re a really good defensive team.”

“I think we’ll defend them fine, it’s just a matter of us being able to manufacture enough offence.”

The Pandas were eliminated in the Canada West Final Four semifinals by the Fraser Valley Cascades last year, and will look to make up for it this weekend.

“We’re a motivated group from last year’s loss,” Edwards said. “The team has worked hard to get to this point in the season, and they deserve their shot at the championship, but there’s still a formidable opponent in front of us.”

Unlike the Pandas, the Bears were unable to advance past the quarterfinals, losing in consecutive games to Victoria by scored of 77-62 on Thursday night, and 81-67 on Friday.

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Canada West Basketball Final Four



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All games to be played at UBC

Some celebrity kids that would do wonders for NCAA programs



Sports Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY

You might think it's weird that a handful of NCAA basketball programs are already recruiting LeBron James' son to join their programs, especially considering King Jr. is only 10-years old. But can you really blame them? Go search some highlight videos of this kid — he's probably better than half of the Cleveland Cavaliers' bench. He's tearing up 10-year old hoops all over the country, making defenders look like they're wearing roller blades on a freshly waxed floor. Sign the kid up now, and eight years down the road, you've got the best freshman in the country, no doubt. But if teams do strike out on BabyBron, here are some other kids they can get after to boost their programs.

Jason Timmons

The celebrity kid that should be on every scout's radar, regardless of sport, is Jaden Smith. Who needs athletic talent when you have an overzealous six-year-old in the body of an overzealous 16-year-old? Jaden Smith probably won't participate in training camp, or practice, or even games.

Where Smith will shine is standing on the sidelines waxing poetic about the futility of the game, and existence in general. Most likely saying something along the lines of "how can the ball be real if our hands aren't real" or "Daddy, put more Fresh Prince money in my trust fund." He may not be popular with his teammates, and his tiny frame may not hold up well against his incredibly fit opponents, but Smith's real value will shine through in his philosophical pre-game speeches. Because, really, what do athletes like more than a philosophy lesson from a child?

The Twitter world certainly appreciated his boundless knowledge, so I'm sure his teammates will too. Most importantly, he'll bring with him that sweet sweet Will Smith daddy money. Does your team need new

jerseys? Just draft Jaden Smith and you'll get them for sure. They might have his face on them, though.

Christian Pagnani

Tatum Gretzky-Johnson is a no-brainer for heavy NCAA recruitment as he has good odds to win the genetic lottery with bloodlines to The Great One, Wayne Gretzky, in mother, Paulina, and a pro golfer, Dustin Johnson, for a father. Tatum Gretzky-Johnson may be only a couple months old, but it is never too early to start recruiting a potential hockey-golf star.

Gretzky-Johnson can bring the dual hockey-golf athlete combination to the mainstream, or focus on either one as he's bound to excel with at least one of them. It's rumoured Gretzky-Johnson already boasts the milk-drinking ability of a second-line power forward, and has also recently grabbed hold of a toy golf club, cementing his status as a complete game changer for any top NCAA school. Top colleges should not hold back in terms of recruitment, even if that means giving grandpa Wayne the head coaching position.

Zach Borutski

In terms of famous kids, they don't get more famous than North West. She would be able to bring instant exposure to whatever school she chose, regardless of which program she actually ended up suiting up for. Just imagine Kanye West sitting down and watching a Wisconsin Badgers swim meet — it would be amazing. Kanye could even do weekly performances while his daughter does the back stroke — imagine hearing "Can't Tell Me Nothing" as you're soothed by the sound of splashing water.

There would be an inevitable reality show, probably called something like "The Wests Take Wisconsin," or maybe "Swimming in the Money Come and Find Me." Even if North doesn't make a career out of sports, she can follow in her mother's footsteps and become famous while doing nothing of note, or she could also follow in her father's footsteps, and become a college dropout. Either way, North West would be the

most famous swimmer in history that isn't an advocate for legalizing marijuana.

Kevin Schenk

It may be too late to draft one of Neil Armstrong's children, but one of his descendants should definitely be in the NBA. I know it might sound weird, but think about it: the best basketball players can jump really, really high. Having been on the moon, Neil Armstrong has jumped higher than anyone else on Earth. If his descendants can't jump, just send them into space to train them. In fact, send his entire team into space, film it, add some Looney Tunes characters and call the whole thing Space Jam 2.

Of course, jumping isn't everything; shooting hoops also requires arm strength. His family obviously has this trait, as it's in their name. In the end, we must think of the words that Armstrong himself spoke when he stepped onto the moon: "one small step for man, one giant leap for the Utah Jazz."

Dan Guild

March Madness is just around the corner, which means it's that time of year that you'll find everybody screaming at their phone or laptop because their bracket just got dismantled by 14th seed South Dakota State. It's viewed as the most exciting three weeks in college sports, but to truly test that belief I would suggest throwing a 19 year old Liam Neeson on a Cinderella team. Anything that makes that guy crack a smile deserves some serious attention. Or maybe recruit his careless daughter to Villanova and see how many ushers' necks get broken before he realizes head coach Jay Wright didn't actually kidnap her.

Also, if one of these schools wants to make a serious push for the title this year I recommend signing one of Harry Potter's kids. I know this one isn't realistic but how cool would it be to see a player yell a bunch of Latin from his baseline and see the ball go in for three. Damn cool. Plus it would leave the Washington Wizards with a no-brainer in the upcoming NBA draft.



MAN ON THE MOON One of Neil Armstrong's descendants should be a basketball player.

KEVIN SCHENK

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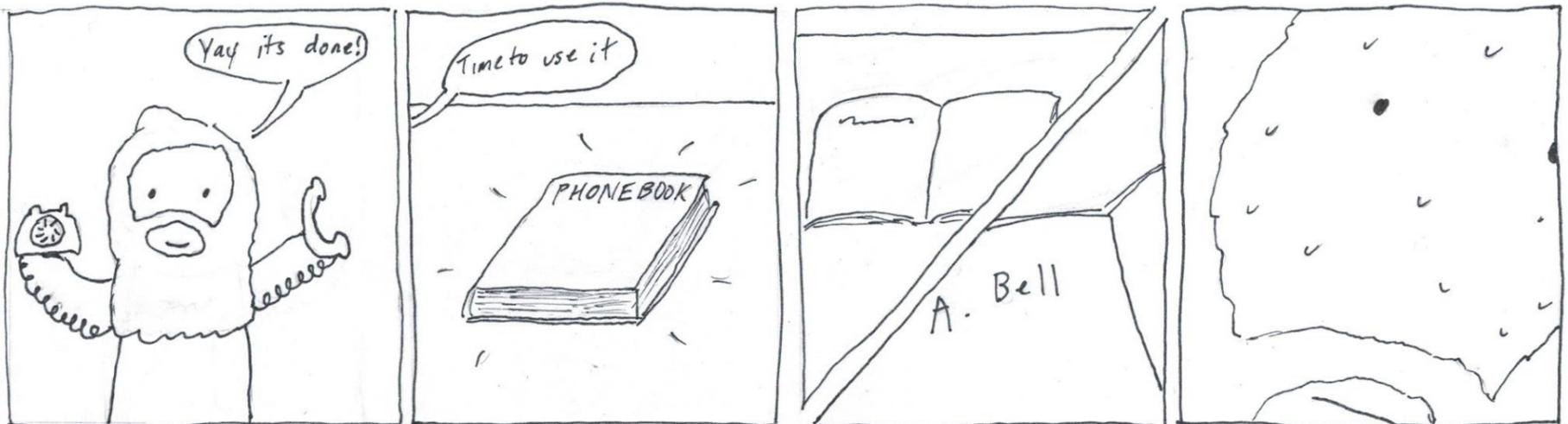
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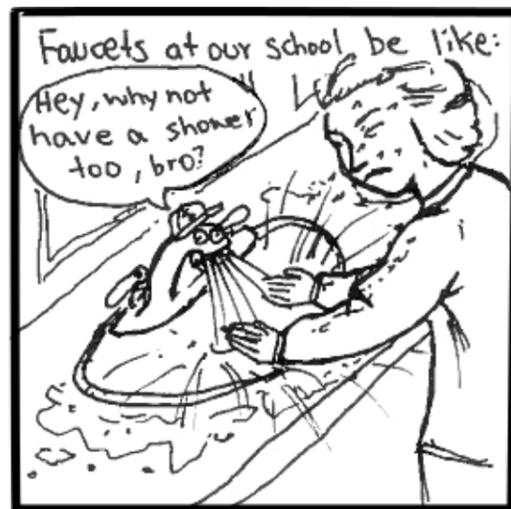
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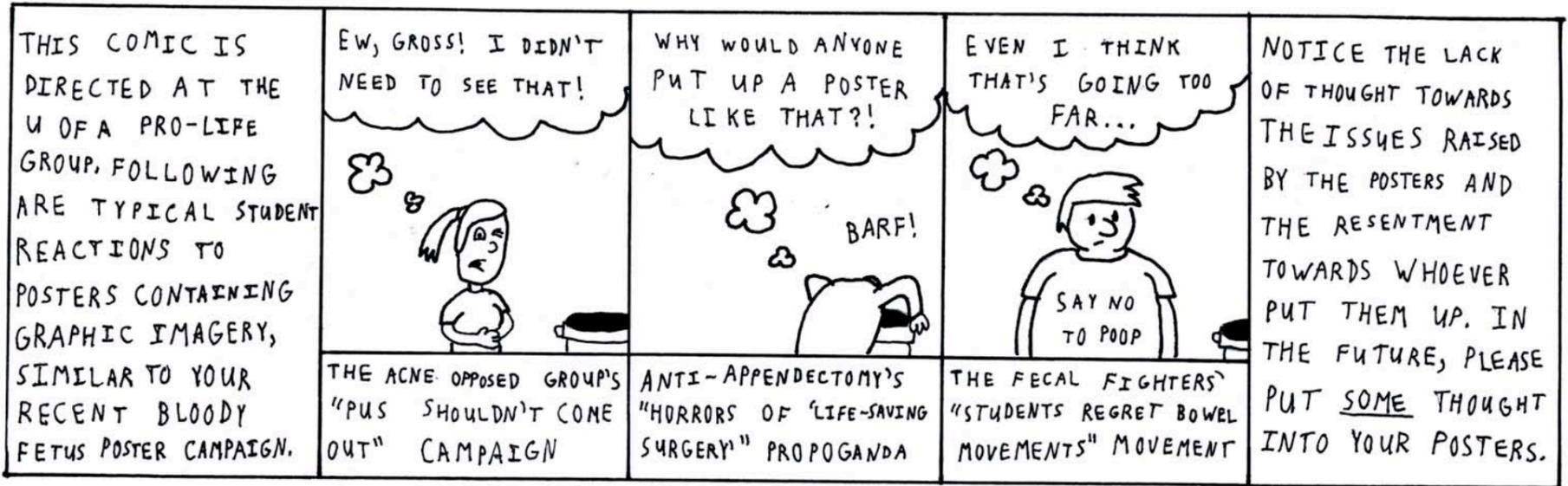
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