

# THE gateway

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## UNIVERSITY WILL NO LONGER COLLECT RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION FEES

PAGE 3

## STUDENTS' UNION EXECUTIVE REPORT CARD

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PAGE 12

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**colophon**

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# Meeting UAlberta

Courtney Gibb

ARTS III



**Gateway: How do you like Criminology?**

**Gibb:** I've really enjoyed it. Mostly because it offers a placement. So you don't just go to classes, you have the real life application as well.

**Gateway: When you came in to first year, was Criminology your original plan?**

**Gibb:** I was trying to go into dental hygiene for my first year and a half. I was doing well, and then I went and did a volunteer service mission in BC. And I spent a lot of time with different populations, especially Indigenous populations up north. I realized there was a bit more of a need for that type of help.

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# News

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## University will no longer collect Residence Association Fees

Change in fee collection could mean no mandatory membership in Residence Associations, SU fears for decline in memberships

**Jamie Sarkonak**

STAFF REPORTER ■ @SWAGONAK

Residence Services will no longer collect Residence Association fees, starting May 2016. Residence Associations next year will have to collect fees with a manual opt-in method, which will likely result in a membership decrease, Students' Union Vice-President (Student Life) Vivian Kwan said.

Residence Associations at the University of Alberta are concerned they will no longer receive consistent funding, as associations will have to table for their memberships.

Residence Services' decreased involvement in fee collection will increase Residence Association autonomy and the change in collection method will likely not affect membership rates, Assistant Dean of Students and Residence Advisory Committee (RAC) Chair Sarah Wolgemuth said.

■ **“We didn't say we never wanted Residence Services' help. But they make it so either they have full control, or nothing.”**

VIVIAN KWAN  
VICE-PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE), STUDENTS' UNION

Residence Services is the branch of university administration, and is responsible for rent and maintenance. Residence Associations are student-run groups, such as the former Lister Hall Students' Association and the East Campus Students' Association, which provide programming and events for their respective residents. As per the SU Operating Policy, which states that the SU shall “liaise with the University of collect all fees on behalf of Student Representative Associations,” Residence Associations cannot collect fees themselves and must do so through the university. Residence Services, Residence Associations and the Graduate Students' Association meet in RAC to discuss issues in residence.

The decision to discontinue fee collection was announced by Residence Services in last Wednesday's RAC meeting. All major changes discussed in RAC go through the U of A's Board Finance and Property Committee, which evaluates major financial decisions for the university's Board of Governors. The decision to no longer collect fees was a one-line policy change, and therefore did not need to go through a higher administration pathway, Kwan said. Meanwhile, a major change such as transferring collection of fees to the Office of the Registrar would take that pathway.

Talks in RAC about changing fee collection have gone on since 2012, Wolgemuth said.

“(Residence Associations) will now have the autonomy that they've asked for and will fall in line with other groups at the U of A,” Wolgemuth said.

Support for space, training and events could be to Residence Associations by Residence Services, Wolgemuth said. If the associations want help with promoting their fees, Residence Services could help as well, she added.

“When I announced the change, I said, ‘I know you're looking for increased autonomy, but (Residence Services) is really here to support you,’” she said. “We don't want (Residence Associations) to disappear.”

The SU and Residence Associations want to work out a fee collection method with the Office of the Registrar (RO), Kwan said. The Office of the Registrar currently collects students' SU fees, and Kwan said the office told the SU that it's possible to collect Residence Association fees as well.

Until this year, students in residence paid a mandatory Residence Association fee, which went towards their respective residences' initiatives, which include programming and advocacy for students in residence. These include organizing events such as Campus Saint-Jean's Bal D'Hiver (Winter Ball) and running groups such as the English Conversation Club in HUB.

While the past model of having a mandatory fee provided predictable funding for Residence Associations, concerns from Residence Services and Residence Associations have arose in several areas, primarily autonomy and accountability.

Students shouldn't be “double dipping” for advocacy, as residents in the past have paid for advocacy with their SU fees and with their Residence Association fees, Wolgemuth said, and added that advocacy should be paid for once.

The U of A's Residence Associations represent their constituents as residents, which is important because they are not protected by the Alberta's Residential Tenancies Act, Kwan said. The act states under section 2.2(e), that the Act does not apply to a tenancy agreement between an educational institution as landlord and a student of that institution. Associations advocate for resident students in disputes such as when entry notices aren't given 24 hours in advance and security deposit disputes. Kwan said.

Residence Services proposed three models of fee collection near the end of November 2015 to the RAC. The first would remove Residence Services from the fee collection process entirely. The second would collect fees in a similar way, but Residence Services would distribute them with more controlled guidelines. In the third proposal, Residence Services would collect a mandatory fee and provide a programming fund to Residence Associations, which “could be equal to the current budgets,” the proposal said.

The SU rejected all three proposals, as Kwan said each proposal would reduce Residence Association autonomy.

“We didn't say we never wanted (Residence Services') help,” Kwan said. “But they make it (so), either they have full control or nothing.”

Residence Association fees are decided at their residence's

respective Annual General Meetings in a majority vote. Each residence has its own fee breakdown, but all are collected in the same manner. Association fees are paid with rent, then they're collected by Residence Services as a mandatory fee during move-in.

Cheques are procced by Residence Services to the respective Residence Associations as long as they have satisfied a set of financial guidelines. If Residence Services doesn't receive Residence Association budgets at the beginning of the term, it uses predictive funding to provide 90 per cent of the funding in September and the remainder in January, Wolgemuth said.

■ **“When I announced the change, I said, ‘I know you're looking for increased autonomy, but Residence Services are really here to support you. We don't want Residence Associations to dissappear.”**

SARAH WOLGEMUTH  
ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS AND RESIDENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Residence Services' role in approving the budgets are advisory — they exist to provide guidance to Residence Associations and make sure university policies are being adhered to, Wolgemuth said. Ideally, budgets are presented to Residence Services at the beginning of the academic year.

Withholding association payments by Residence Services is possible if they don't agree with the budget, Kwan said. If residents pass their budgets by vote, then students through their Residence Associations, should be able to receive their funding, she added.

Wolgemuth said Residence Services has had problems with certain Residence Associations not having their budgets approved until as late as January.

“By that time money has been spent out of pocket from associations, which makes us uncomfortable,” she said. “Because students don't have thousands of extra dollars to be planning events. While they would always get that money back, it's obviously not ideal.”

The SU hopes to find an alternative to the decision by May 1, 2016 so Residence Associations won't have to deal with the “side effects” of Residence Services no longer collecting fees, Kwan said. The next RAC meeting will likely be at the end of the February.

“The relationship between Residence Associations and Residence Services is like a boss and employee,” Kwan said. “What we wanted to clarify is that Residence Services can continue to collect a fee, just being the middle person. But don't interfere with the accountability part, because that's strictly up to students.”



**CONTENTIOUS COLLECTION OF FEES** The University will no longer collect Residence Association fees, making them non-mandatory starting on May 1, 2016.

CHRISTINA VARVIS



## SU membership fees to increase

Richard Liew & Jamie Sarkonak  
NEWS STAFF • @GTWYPOLITICS

Students' Council approved a motion (20 in favour, eight opposed) to increase the mandatory SU membership fee by 7.7 per cent annually over each of the next three years. The SU Executive Committee motioned to approve the increase at its Tuesday, Feb. 2 forum.

Arts Councillor Kevin Wang proposed the vote go to secret ballot, but councillors were largely opposed due to problems with transparency. Only three councillors were in favour of voting by secret ballot, and the vote went to division.

The SU says the increase is necessary to fund the proposed minimum wage increases the Government of Alberta promised when the Alberta NDP and Rachel Notley were elected last year. Notley has stated that she expects to raise Alberta's minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2017.

In a letter penned to undergraduate students, SU President Navneet Khinda and Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Cody Bondarchuk wrote that the increases are a must, as the other alternative would be to make cuts to existing programs.

"While any increase in fees is of concern to students who already pay a significant amount in tuition and university fees, we believe students value existing programming and services," Khinda wrote in the letter.

The letter states that currently, 65 per cent of SU employees make below \$15 an hour, and the increase in membership fees would require an additional \$1 million for its operating budget in 2018.

Members of Students' Council raised concerns with the fee increase regarding student consultation, the risks of agreeing on an incremental fee increase for three years and whether the proposed SU fee increase should go to referendum.

Proxy councillor John Hampson asked about the possibility of letting students decide on the SU fee increase in a referendum. Vice-President (Academic) Fahim Rahman said it was too late for the SU fee increase to go to referendum, and would result in a \$250 loss if the fees were not decided on Feb. 2.

Councillors Levi Flaman and Brandon Christensen asked why it was necessary to decide on incremental increases over the next three years, and whether just going year-to-year would be possible. Concerns were with the possibility of the NDP not fully increasing the minimum wage to \$15, and the risk of the SU over-adjusting fee increases in that scenario. President Khinda and General Manager Marc Dumouchel responded that a three-year plan will help with negotiations with the Union, which are more effective with long-term financial plans. Bondarchuk said future Councils can adjust their

plans for SU fees accordingly, in the case of the provincial government not reaching a \$15 minimum wage.

Current membership fees cost \$39.05 per full-time student in the Fall and Winter terms, \$19.04 per part-time student in Fall and Winter, and \$24.73 per student in Spring and Summer terms.

With the increase approved, SU membership fees will be as follows\*:

### Fall and Winter (per full-time student)

2015-16: \$39.05  
2016-17: Increase by \$3.00  
2017-18: Increase by \$3.25  
2018-19: Increase by \$3.50

### Fall and Winter (per part-time student)

2015-16: \$19.04  
2016-17: Increase by \$1.50  
2017-18: Increase by \$1.63  
2018-19: Increase by \$1.75

### Spring and Summer (per student)

2016: \$24.73  
2017: Increase by \$1.50  
2018: Increase by \$1.63  
2019: Increase by \$1.75

\*Exact membership fees through 2019 are currently unknown, as SU membership fees will increase by percentage in accordance to Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures for inflation.



PUBLISHED BY U OF A PRESS Ghada Ageel held a book launch on Jan. 28.

SUPPLIED

## Visiting prof details Palestinian apartheid

Releases new book through U of A Press on Gaza Strip

Kate McInnes

NEWS STAFF • @KATEMCGUINEAPIG

From the crashing waves of the Mediterranean to the sun-baked sand dunes of Khan Yunis, Palestinians herald the Gaza Strip, in its sporadic periods of peace, as one of the most stunning landscapes in the world. In recent years, Gazans have also taken reluctant pride in a modern manmade creation: the Israel-Gaza barrier, whose concrete canvas has inspired Palestinian artists since its construction in 1994.

"People say (the graffiti) is very beautiful," Ghada Ageel, a visiting professor in the Department of Political Science, said. "And it is beautiful — but it should be torn down."

At the launch for her most recent book, *Apartheid in Palestine: Hard Laws and Harder Experiences*, on Jan. 28 in the Tory building, Ageel spoke nostalgically of her childhood home in the Gaza Strip, a region that has suffered three wars in the past four years. The publication, printed by the University of Alberta Press, was written by a team of academics, activists and Indigenous Palestinians in hopes of humanizing the displacement of Palestinians by the Israeli state.

Applying the term "apartheid" to Israel's occupied territories has always been controversial, especially because the term draws to mind the violent racial segregation and white minority rule under South Africa's National Party from 1948 to 1994.

According to *Apartheid in Palestine*, however, the segregation of Arabs and Jews in Israel is most blatantly comparable to that of whites and blacks in South Africa with the creation of the Israel-Gaza border, which runs the entire length of the Gaza Strip. The wall has not only separated Israelis from Palestinians, but Palestinians in Gaza from

those living in Israel and the West Bank.

"Imagine you just woke up, you want to go to your school or your work, and you cannot," Ageel said. "Sometimes you can get a permit, but sometimes you cannot."

Though her education and research is focused around the Palestinian question, Ageel was particularly motivated to create her anthology when she first attended Israeli Apartheid Week (IWA) — an annual series of university lectures and rallies against the Israeli occupation of Palestine — in 2010. She said she wanted to continue the dialogue beyond a single week in February.

"I wanted this publication to communicate effectively with any person," Ageel said. "I wanted this collection to respond to the comments, questions and remarks made by those who ... expressed themselves on campuses and in their communities."

Ageel's motivation has been heightened by the deteriorating living conditions in the Gaza Strip, where many of her family members still live. Philosopher and political activist Noam Chomsky recently called the region "the largest open-air prison in the world." Because of the Israel-Gaza barrier, 80 per cent of Palestinians are dependent on food aid, and the United Nations estimates it will become uninhabitable by 2020 unless there is a "substantial easing on border restrictions."

"I just felt the need was greater than ever to engage different voices and share the stories of the Palestinians," Ageel said.

"I wanted to tell the story of the Palestinians, the whole version of it. I wanted to expose what has shaped the world our children will inhabit."



SEE FLUX The SU approved a 7.7 per cent membership fee increase to compensate for increased minimum wage.

KEVIN SCHENK

## Notley introduces new Minister of Advanced Education, AB cabinet

Richard Catangay-Liew

NEWS EDITOR • @RICHARDCLIEW

The Alberta post-secondary sector had a new face sworn in at Tuesday's cabinet shuffle, as Marlin Schmidt will succeed Lori Sigurdson as AB Minister of Advanced Education.

Schmidt, the Edmonton-Gold Bar representative who was elected to the Legislative Assembly on May 5, 2015, will now be overseeing funding for Alberta post-secondary institutions and approval of programs of study.

Previous Minister of Advanced Education Sigurdson will now take over as Minister of Seniors and Housing.

Notley's cabinet now houses 19 ministers, up from the initial 12 ministers when she stepped into office last summer. The current cabinet is the smallest of any previous cabinet over the last 10 years, and is the smallest provincial

cabinet in Western Canada.

"Together, our new Cabinet team will deliver on the government's plans to create jobs, diversify the economy during difficult times and out our province in the best position possible for future growth," Notley said in a press release.

Students' Union President Navneet Khinda said she's "excited" to work with the new minister in the Tuition and Fees Review.

"As always, we're very excited to work with our new minister," Khinda said. "I can't emphasize enough how important it is that the Minister actually meet with students and this is especially important given the high turnover we've seen in the Ministry in recent years."

Since May 2012, the province has seen seven different Ministers of Advanced Education.

Khinda said the SU's next step will be meeting with the new minister, and continuing to lobby MLAs in the process.



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"We really want to ensure the government follows through on its promise to review how tuition and fees are set in this province and that includes improving our financial aid system as well," Khinda said.



# Bachelor of Arts to possibly cut basic requirements

Richard Catangay-Liew

NEWS EDITOR • @RICHARDCLIEW

The University of Alberta's Faculty of Arts is considering sweeping changes to its Bachelor of Arts degree, as the BA program is up for renewal. While the current proposal, which was circulated publicly early January, contains recommendations and no concrete decisions, the Dean's Executive Committee could be facing impending conflict and pushback from academic staff.

The Dean's Executive Committee has proposed that the BA program sever its core requirements, a total of 36 credits, and the requirement of a minor for graduation.

Allen Ball, Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning), who has been leading the BA curriculum renewal since July 2015, said the removal of the basic requirements means those credit requirements would be moved down to the departmental level, depending on which program and major undergraduate students choose to pursue.

Those requirements could also depend on what the Ball calls a "set of (five) key attributes," which includes analysis and interpretation, research, creation and inquiry, communication and culture, global citizenship, and lifelong, adaptive and engaged learning. The idea arose after the Dean's Executive Committee examined how the United States and Australia organized their BA requirements around the concept of attributions. Ball said it is currently unclear what requirements these pathways would entail, but said the committee aims to make those pathways more flexible than the current BA model.

Carolyn Sale, English & Film Stud-



**ARTS ALTERATION?** The Bachelor of Arts could see changes, as the Dean's office has released a new list of proposals.

CHRISTINA VARVIS

ies professor and General Faculties Council member, said she's "quite opposed" to the committee's current recommendations, and that the thematic pathways are one of her biggest concerns about the BA renewal document.

"It's very odd they're not telling us what these pathways are, even with a brief description," Sale said. "I believe these should be referred to as the five core rubrics."

"My general feeling is that we need core requirements. I don't agree with the simple proposition of simply eradicating the core requirements to make our BA more attractive, and in theory, 'more competitive,' than the University of Calgary or MacEwan University."

The removal of the minor, which currently requires a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 42 credits, would provide students with an opportunity to apply to more certificate programs to gain more credentials when they enter the workforce, Ball said.

Another point of contention the current proposed model faces is the removal of the Language other than English (LOE) requirement. Removing the LOE requirement could cause attendance in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies to decline.

"That's an understandable concern," Ball said. "Any change to that model would affect in some ways attendance and enrolment in the first

year of programs.

"But the question at the same time is we have to decide whether the faculty collectively thinks that's a good idea or not. Other institutions, and other schools in Canada, have the option for students to make those decisions themselves."

Bismillah Kiani, President of the Organization for Arts Students and Interdisciplinary Studies, said she agrees with the removal of the basic BA requirements, as the U of A's current core requirements of 36 credits is amongst the highest in Canada.

Kiani, who transferred to the BA program from the Bachelor of Sciences program to work towards a major in political science, said the basic core requirements could provide a

rough transition for students such as her who decide to transfer to a BA.

"We like the idea that this will allow students to determine the flexibility to how the BA is going to look like," Kiani said. "If (students) feel like certain courses will help them in the future as opposed to taking some fine arts requirement they may not see value in, then I feel like as adults, they should have the choice to do so."

But Kiani said she had concerns about the possible removal of the English requirement, and said the faculty should consider including it in the BA renewal.

Carolyn Sale, who has been teaching English courses at the U of A since 2006, agreed.

"There should be a general agreement, that one of the core requirements, and core needs, that will support any student exiting the BA should be exiting as accomplished writers," Sale said. "They will do better across their entire degree if they get that writing foundation from the start."

As she's opposed to the proposed "free-for-all," Sale said she'll be present at the upcoming BA Renewal Town Hall on Friday, Feb. 5 to pitch her plea to keep core disciplinary requirements.

Allen Ball said he welcomes all critiques and feedback, as the proposal, which has been discussed at the administrative level since 2011, is currently a "theoretical framework" and the first time the document will be discussed publicly.

"We're really waiting on that feedback," Ball said. "We're going to collect those and respond to them. There will be other drafts to come, and it's critical that we're all part of this process."

# The Gateway to cease weekly newspaper print production

Official student newspaper and campus media source to prioritize digital and online media consumption, print monthly magazine

Richard Catangay-Liew

NEWS EDITOR • @RICHARDCLIEW

After 106 years as a storied campus newspaper, *The Gateway* is gearing towards a new model, which will prioritize digital and online content.

*The Gateway*, which has filled University of Alberta newspaper racks since 1910, will be ceasing print publication as a weekly newspaper, and will shift towards a monthly features magazine. The content and stories that would have packed the print newspaper every Wednesday will now be optimized and prioritized for consistent, daily online consumption.

Cam Lewis, *The Gateway's* Editor-in-Chief for the 2015-16 publishing year, said the move away from the newspaper product and adjustment towards an online product should be viewed as a triumph in the changing media landscape.

"I don't view this as a failure," Lewis said of the changes. "We can, and have the resources, to continue existing and printing the way we are right now. We're not being forced, but we want to steer the path for everybody else."

In the Fall 2015 term, *The Gateway* website generated an estimated 242,000 page views, up from 122,000 page views in Fall 2011. While online page views have spiked upwards, print newspaper pickup on campus has declined in recent years. In 2015, *The Gateway* saw an estimated average newspaper pickup of 2,500 per week, down from the 7,000 pickups per week in 2012.

Lewis, who has attended the U of A since Fall 2011, said he remembers

being one the few people in his 40-student English lectures with a laptop. Now, seemingly everyone has a laptop in their bag, Lewis said.

"Today, it's a completely different climate," Lewis said. "There's an obvious reason why people don't pick up a newspaper anymore. Someone's Facebook or Twitter feed today is essentially what a newspaper used to be."

Print advertising revenue for *The Gateway* has steadily decreased since 2011. In 2015, advertising revenue declined by 16 per cent. In 2014, ad revenue went down by 38 per cent. In 2016, *The Gateway* is projecting a 36 per cent decrease. These numbers mirror the diminishing print ad revenue of Canadian newspaper chain Postmedia, which was down 17 per cent in 2015.

The change has been discussed at *The Gateway's* Board of Directors, the highest governing body in the organization, for years, Lewis said. The idea of switching to an online plan began as "taboo" and a "for a couple years down the road" plan. But this year, Lewis and *The Gateway* Executive Director Beth Mansell said they didn't see the model as a fall-back net, but as an opportunity.

"We're looking to diversify and adapt to the current student climate," Mansell said. "I believe in the current landscape of media, more regular print products would be shifting to this model if they weren't so reliant on their advertising revenue. You can't monetize a print product the way you can monetize a website."

*The Gateway* currently collects \$3.39 from full- and part-time un-



**NEWSPAPER NO MORE** 2015-16 will be the last year *The Gateway* will exist in a print newspaper format.

CHRISTINA VARVIS

dergraduate students in the Fall and Winter term, and \$0.43 from students in the Spring and Summer term. Because students fund the organization, Mansell said *The Gateway* owes it to the student body to be more responsible with their money, and to utilize it wisely.

"We still want to be a valuable organization on campus," she said. "Other people don't have the resources to cover the U of A, but we do. We want to keep students interested in campus politics."

Lewis said that with the way media consumption is headed, as indicated by newspaper pickup and web traffic, to continue to use students' money to produce a newsprint

product would be a "waste of money and resources."

"We can't be throwing that money into what's essentially a garbage bin with printing newspapers every week," he said. "We're going to give students the same amount and quality of content, but we're going to allocate the money in a different, and more useful way."

Mansell noted that the overhead costs of producing a newspaper, such as paying staff for print product layout, the cost of printing on paper and distribution costs, would be eliminated with the model switch.

Lewis said he believes other print newspaper media outlets have been holding onto an idea of familiarity,

which could be holding them back from making vast changes to their organizational plans. For *The Gateway*, he said he hopes their new plan can become a trailblazer in a world where interest in newspapers is dwindling.

"This isn't us failing, this is us trying to lead in a media revolution," Lewis said. "We're trying to be the change we think people want. We didn't mess up."

"We wanted to do this, and we've been thinking about this for a long time."

To view a full breakdown of *The Gateway's* changes and model for the 2016-17 publishing year, visit [gtwy.ca](http://gtwy.ca).



# Hangry app brings pre-ordering to campus food outlets

**Mitchell Sorensen**

STAFF REPORTER • @SONOFAMITCHEE

Dashing between classes can be hard enough without the added stress of trying to get food in-between breaks.

Allowing users to pre-order their food from selected outlets on campus, Hangry, a new app at the University of Alberta lets students pay for the convenience of skipping the line at the cafeteria. Currently available at Engrained in ECHA and the EuroMarket in the Education building, Hangry allows users to pre-order and pre-pay for their meals.

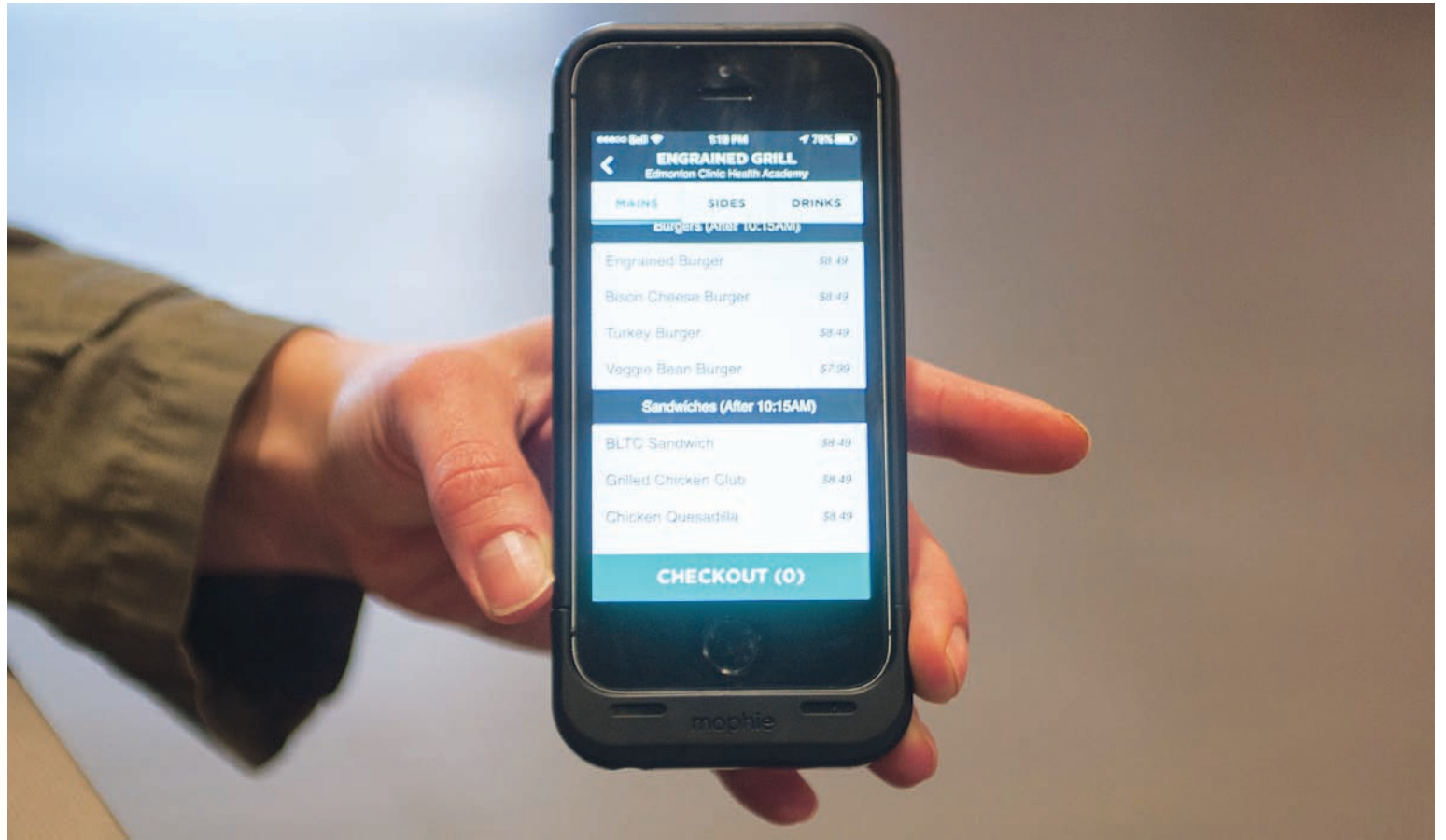
For this skip-the-line service, Hangry charges a 10 per cent convenience charge per order, which is capped at five dollars.

Though they are currently only accepting credit cards as methods of payment, Lindsay Aubin, Manager of Hangry Western Canada, said the app will be able to access oneCARD funds in the next two weeks. By their hard launch date in September 2016, Interac will be a payment option.

A loyalty points system is also in effect, where users can rate food, providers and experiences to earn credits towards orders. Amounting to “about five to six per cent” return to the user in rewards, Aubin said Hangry “really wants to get student loyalty and love.”

**“Patience really is a virtue, and focus on quality. At the end of the day, that is what will put you ahead of the crowd”**

LINDSAY AUBIN  
MANAGER OF HANGRY WESTERN CANADA



**HANGRY NO MORE** The new app will allow customers to pre-order food from Engrained in ECHA and Euro Market in the Education Building.

MITCH SORENSEN

Founded by Fabian Raso and Mark Scattolon, the company was given a boost after a successful pitch on the CBC television program *Dragon's Den*. With *Dragons* Michele Romanow, Michael Wekerle, and Joe Mimran splitting a \$120,000 bid for 20 per cent of the business. Aubin said the idea to push into campuses came from Romanow.

“Originally, Hangry was in the restaurant space,” Aubin said, “But with apps like Just Eat, there is a lot of saturation. We found that there

was nothing comparable for students on campus.

Though the app is meant to be a student service first, Aubin pointed to several benefits for back-of-house staff. With large lineups at lunch and between classes, Aubin said she hopes Hangry help mitigate some of those issues for food providers.

“The app allows the back of house to have better visibility, so they can cater to more students during the rushes and eliminate lineups,” Aubin said.

The app has been operating at the U of A for two weeks, with 275 students signed up at the time of this writing.

In terms of the future of the service on campus, Aubin said Hangry has been gaining interest from providers in SUB and HUB. With a “successful pilot” at Engrained and Euro Market, she said interest could increase, as “students want more options.”

With Hangry currently piloting at the University of Toronto, with

a division opening up at McMaster University (Raso and Scattolon's alma mater) as well, Aubin said Hangry is focused on complete coverage of the Canadian college landscape before possibly expanding internationally.

When it comes to advice for students starting companies of their own, Aubin had a simple message for young entrepreneurs.

“Patience really is a virtue, and focus on quality,” she said. “At the end of the day, that is what will put you ahead of the crowd.”

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# Opinion

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## New BA structure deserves skepticism

I REGRET MANY THINGS ABOUT MY BA. I WISH I HAD TAKEN different courses; I wish I had started essays earlier; I wish I had built better relationships with profs.

But these are things I would discover after first year. First year was equally frightening as it was exhilarating. I chose courses superficially, based on course descriptions. But the BA's basic requirements structure a student's education whether they know it or not.

The current requirements feature six credits of Junior English, six credits of a Language Other than English, six credits of Science, and 18 credits of Breadth and Diversity to offer a well-rounded introductory arts education and the ability for students to experience the faculty's many offerings in order to choose a major and minor. Breadth and Diversity is organized roughly according to discipline and topic such as the study of creative processes, cultures, and social systems.

Personally, I agree with old school profs who say that all BA programs should follow a unified introductory curriculum aligned with the history of ideas starting with Plato. But the current BA requirements at least allow for a sufficient introduction.

Students encounter a lack of structure when they enrol in an English degree. After Junior English, students can choose to enrol in whichever 200 or 300-level courses they like, regardless of the topics in their 100-level courses. After students take six credits of 200-level courses, and six credits of 300-level courses, they can enrol in 400-level seminars. Students must take courses pertaining to certain topics and historical periods, but there is no streamline. Students travel some bizarre paths. It's possible to bypass difficult 200-level courses, but avoiding them disadvantages students in upper-level courses. It's even possible to earn an English degree at the University of Alberta without being required to read Shakespeare.

One professor described this system as a buffet — when you finally get to something you want, it's stale. Of course, 120 credits at an institution as good as ours in any degree program will produce good, intelligent, tax-paying citizens. But it is very unfortunate that many English students are unable to make the most out of such a talented department.

The new BA requirements structure to be discussed at a Town Hall meeting on Friday, Feb. 5 (to which everyone is invited) seems to resemble something like our disorganized English degree, except that first years will experience disorganization too. In the proposal draft document available through the Faculty of Arts website, the rubric on pages eight and nine seems to offer little change to the current requirements: rather than taking six Science credits, students can take six non-Arts credits. And students would no longer be required to declare a minor. A line on page seven reads, to the discomfort of many, "removal of all current BA requirements."

"All the proposal says to people is that we're taking away everything and that it's going to be 'Lord of the Flies,'" said Allen Ball, Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning, Student Programs). "It's so complex what we're doing that it's difficult to do it all in one shot."

He says that the first step would be to remove basic requirements, which would be replaced with "thematic" pathways to be designed by the Faculty of Arts, departments and Undergraduate Student Services. Ball promises to elaborate at the Town Hall meeting on what he and other colleagues intend these pathways to be since they are vague at this point, but what's known thus far is that they're going to some extent be inspired by five attributes championed by the Faculty of Arts in 2014 as a "valuable means of understanding undergraduate programs." The five attributes are "Analysis and Interpretation," "Research, Creation and Inquiry," "Communication and Culture," "Global Citizenship," "Lifelong, Adaptive, and Engaged Learning."

The first attempt to design basic requirements according to these attributes was a failure. On pages 90-92 of the proposal appendices, a rubric features serious problems, the most significant of which is the many classes crudely characterized in the "Global Citizenship" attribute. Such a model would have offered students an awfully confusing and incomplete experience, and the Faculty rejected it.

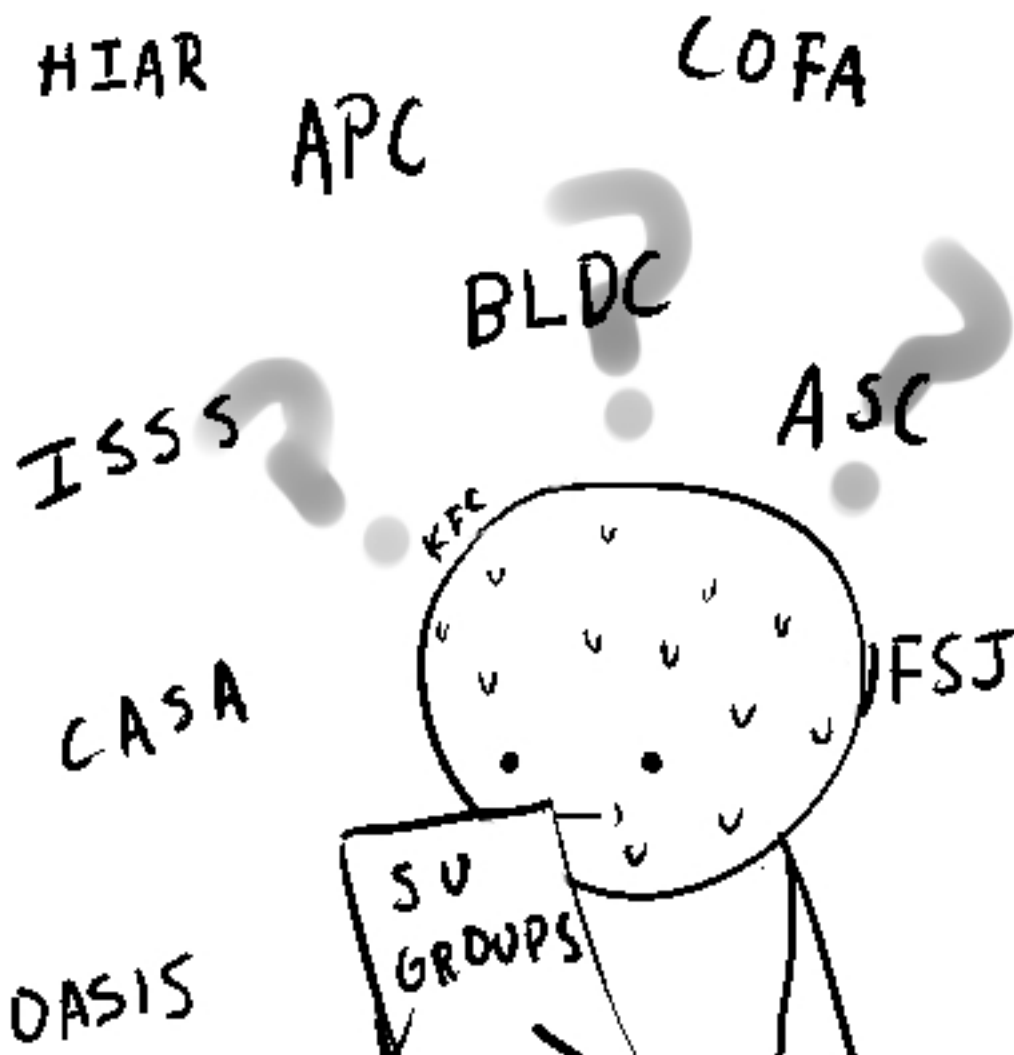
Ball says the Faculty has learned from previous mistakes and that the proposed pathways are only supposed to "echo the sentiment of the attributes" rather than be strictly defined by the attributes.

While a thorough assessment of the proposed changes can't be made until students, faculty and administrators better understand the proposed pathways, such a change to the basic requirements, at least to me, seems unnecessary. It might be that I major in a department in which "the regulations encompassed in the existing core requirements favour some disciplines" (like English) "over others," but except for the most astute students, first years need strict boundaries in order to learn fundamental concepts. The current BA requirements allow students to experiment within the boundaries, whereas the pathways seem to impose onto new students the responsibility of choice when they don't possess the appropriate means of making the choice in the first place.

Some of the proposed changes are good, such as the elimination of the necessity of declaring a minor. And the English department would definitely do good by adopting the conceptual model of pathways to guide students who've declared a major.

However, what's regrettable is the enthusiasm with which committee members in the Faculty of Arts advocate for the proposed changes as every effort to promote "student choice" denies future students, who wish to be forced to read Shakespeare, the fundamentals-based education that the committee members received years ago.

**Josh Greschner**  
OPINION EDITOR



TRYING TO FOLLOW THE SU EXECS AND AAALL THE COMMITTEES

Jimmy Nguyen

## letters to the editor

### FROM THE WEB

#### Small, weekly newspapers don't face same problems

(Re: Editorial: the state of local journalism is dire, by Richard Catangay-Liew, Jan.27)

Good piece. As a former newspaper editor/reporter who toiled around weeklies and small dailies for about 12 years, I can tell you that news of the layoffs last month was chilling. Some of my former co-workers (including a former roommate), people who moved on to the Journal and the Sun, were among the cuts. I was glad to be a working journalist for as long as I was ... but I'm also glad I got out when I did. Sad to say, but it's true.

What many people who aren't in the media (or newspaper) business fail to grasp is the problem faced by traditional media isn't a content issue, it's a revenue-generation issue on the advertising side.

Newspapers aren't dying because print-reporters are getting outgunned or beaten to stories by bloggers and other forms of "new media." Rather, newspapers are dying because no one in the business has figured out a way to make the same kind of money off the Internet as they did with good-old-fashioned print advertising.

But no one should ever think that it's the fault of working journalists

or the content they're delivering, either on printed paper, on the airwaves or via HTML coding. Journalists have been, and always will be, the best developers of content in the media.

My advice to you? Head on out to the weeklies, my friend. I realize that the work's not as glamorous and the pay isn't quite as good but, in many communities, weeklies have a monopoly on content and are very measured with what they put online and don't put online. Because of that, they can, to some extent, drive people to the printed product and still make money off of the display ads. St. Albert has an excellent weekly - I'd highly recommend it.

From there, find a small daily (again, try to find one in a one-newspaper town) and hunker down and build up your portfolio for a couple of years. In 3-5 years' time, you still might be able to find your way to the Edmonton Journal or Calgary Herald or, failing that, the Winnipeg Free Press, one of the Saskatchewan dailies or even the Red Deer Advocate. There are still plenty of viable operations out there, even if it seems like none of them are operating in Edmonton or Calgary.

Newspapers have always been a young-person's game and to play it the right way, you have to earn your way up. I'm out of the business now but I'm still convinced it's that way. Don't quit on it just yet and don't despair just because doors seem to be closing in Edmonton and Calgary.

**Spaceman Spiff**  
VIA WEB

#### Crossword?! More like you're cross-eyed and can't read!!

There seems to be a print issue where the puzzle IS NOWHERE NEAR WHAT WORKS FOR THE SOLUTION. Thanks, have a good day!

**ConcernedReader**  
VIA WEB

I'm really sorry that the crossword grid was wrong. It was probably really frustrating to try to figure, but maybe also a bit funny now looking back on it? No harm no foul. We've put the right grid in! Also, if you're an illustrator or want to contribute to the comics section, let me knowooow!

**Adaïre Beatty**  
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be sent to [opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca) (no attachments, please).

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# Listerites unimpressed with Aramark, deserve to see contract



**Sofia Osborne**  
OPINION WRITER

Does anyone genuinely like Lister food? Seemingly no one, except the university.

My digging has turned up conflicting information; former LHSA presidents say Aramark, the food provider of various institutions including prisons, can do no good, but the university says they can do no wrong. Why is there a glaring disconnect between what Lister students are saying and what the university hears? I don't pretend to know for sure, but I can provide some context for this discussion, and the observation that there's something fishy going on here (and it's not just the \$12 fish and chips at the cafeteria).

The current contract between Aramark and the university started on Aug. 1, 2010 and will last for three five-year terms. It won't be up for negotiation again until summer 2025. Samuel Wright, LHSA 2013-2014 president, and Talha Sajjad, president in 2014-2015, didn't know this. They also had no idea that the LHSA president in 2010 was one of the two students (the other being the President of the Residence Halls Association at that time) who were on the panel that chose the contractor. The panel consisted of five people, and the students were given an equal vote. All of this information regarding contract negotiations, though made readily available to me by Associate Vice President of Ancillary Services Doug Dawson, didn't seem to be



CHRISTINA VARVIS

provided to the LHSA. Sajjad said he never even got a clear answer about when the contract would be up for renewal again, despite asking multiple times.

The terms of the contract are confidential. This would be acceptable for a contract between two private parties, but the university is a public institution. We have a right to know what the university gets for the exclusive arrangement to provide food in Lister. The two students who sat on the panel in 2010 knew the terms of the contract, Dawson said, and compared them to other proposals. It's good to know that some students were involved but still, I think Lister students deserve some transparency for the minimum \$3,227 we shell out every year.

The LHSA's relationship with Aramark, though civil, was defined by a "rift of understanding" according to Wright. Frequent disagreements

over fair pricing and promises made by Aramark that were never followed through on coloured their biweekly meetings. Compare that to the university's relationship with Aramark. Dawson said, "I think it's been a very good relationship, very positive over the years. They're extremely responsive. That's why they're still here."

Extremely responsive is not how Sajjad describes Aramark. He says the LHSA would receive complaints about Lister food multiple times every day, yet when they brought these to the company's attention any changes made would never last. He acknowledges that the addition of the Halal station in the Cafeteria has been an important improvement, as a resident with strict dietary restrictions he found it embarrassing to ask employees to do things he considers part of the job description like washing their hands before

handling a vegetarian sandwich or cooking vegetarian patties on a different part of the grill than beef burgers. "This was something that was promised to us by Aramark, that they would educate their employees ... (but) these problems continued to persist and they continue to persist today."

Lister students and the university also have different opinions about food quality, and I have to side with the former LHSA on this one. Wright lived in Lister for three years and Sajjad for four. They both saw the food quality improve, but since prices soared (all price changes are approved by the university) they never felt the food lived up to expectations. Of course Dawson thinks that Lister food quality is "superb."

What does the Students' Union think about Aramark? "We tend to disagree with a lot of what they do on campus," said Vice President

(Operations and Finance) Cody Bondarchuk. No one from the Students' Union represented students during contract negotiations because the SU is a competitor. They're also worried about implementing a \$4,900 all-you-can eat meal plan (in which students are permitted to only spend \$300 on campus away from Lister) with a company that they believe has not earned students' trust. The proposal was rejected by the SU and I agree that the prices are outrageous. Sajjad and Wright like the all-you-can-eat concept but not at that price.

So we have a secret, 15-year contract, a university that says that Aramark is a responsive company, and a students' association that says they never saw any promises being fulfilled. Add in the restaurant-priced food which is either great or not worth it depending on who you ask and you get a hell of a lot of mixed messages. What's going on? Stay tuned.



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# INTERNATIONAL WEEK

## Keynote Stephen Lewis explains, confronts global problems



**Nathan Fung**  
OPINION STAFF

What did Stephen Lewis, currently one of Canada's most illustrious political figures, have to say about the state of the world today and the challenges that faces the international community for years to come? Turns out it was a little more than your typical left-wing indignation.

**■ (Lewis') speech was excellent and energetic as he balanced anger at the evils of the world with a persistent optimism that progress is sure to arrive.**

The 78-year-old diplomat and academic graced the University of Alberta's presence when he delivered his anticipated keynote speech at the tail end of International Week on Friday. I think I can comfortably call him one of Canada's most accomplished political figures without being hyperbolic and without seeming like a shameless partisan hack. His career, spanning over five decades, began with the Ontario NDP in the 70s, followed by service as Canada's U.N. representative from 1984 to 1988 during Brian Mulroney's time as Prime Minister. From 1995 to 1999, he acted as deputy director of UNICEF and spent 2001 to 2006 as a special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. It's the stuff of dreams for any left-wing idealist aspiring to become a diplomat.



RANDY SAVOIE

It was expected that Lewis would have some interesting things to say regarding the state of the world, and he managed to deliver. His speech was excellent and energetic as he balanced anger at the evils of the world with a persistent optimism that progress is sure to arrive. He

punctured his points with humour. "There was a time where I required a visa to come to Alberta!" Lewis jested. "Now of course, it's the promised land!"

While talking about the U.N. Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Lewis took the audience on a guided tour of some of the gravest global issues facing the world today: from poverty to climate change, from infant mortality to the overindulgences of capitalism.

The part of Lewis' speech that stood out in my mind was when he broke

away from the routine lambasting of the usual villains of left wing lore, such as your neo-liberal conspirators, your Stephen Harpers and your one percenters. While discussing the issues at the heart of the sustainability goals, Lewis devoted a good chunk of his speech to gender inequality and some of its facets such as sexual and reproductive rights. "I have come to the recognition that the single most important struggle on the planet bar none, is the struggle for gender equality" proclaimed Lewis. "It is beyond belief that the world could continue to tolerate so much vindictive and savage abuse of women reported time and time again."

While elaborating on sexual violence, Lewis delivered a lengthy and livid tirade on how several U.N. peacekeepers in the Central African Republic have been charged with sexually exploiting youths in the region, a problem that Lewis is addressing through the Code Blue initiative. Lewis didn't hold back when he condemned not just the peacekeepers but what he saw as decadence within the U.N. itself and how these allegations were suppressed, for those in the U.N. who had known about the abuse "were more interested in their own reputations than the reputation of the U.N."

There isn't a single villain at work here, rather it's an institutionalized problem and a failure on the part of people who neglected to address the issue. While the idea that the consequences of complacency is as destructive as malice may not have been Lewis' overall message, which is to push forth and solve the world's problems despite how persistent concerns like poverty and gender inequality may seem, it's an interesting point that leads to a deeper, less black and white understanding of these global issues.

## "This is about climate trauma": Sheila Watt-Cloutier on the Arctic



**Shaylee Foord**  
OPINION WRITER

When I hear about the Arctic, the image that comes to mind is a vague, cold, melting block of ice, populated by distressed polar bears. I know, of course, that there are people that live in the North, but shamefully, they're usually an afterthought to a set of issues that doesn't get enough thought to begin with.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, a climate change activist and self-proclaimed "introvert doing extrovert work" — whose honours include Officer of the Order of Canada, the 2004 United Nations Environment Programme's Champion of the Earth Award, the Governor General's Northern Medal, and an honorary degree from the University of Alberta, among others — addressed this prevalent attitude in her talk for International Week, titled "The Right to Be Cold."

Watt-Cloutier's talk, and recent-

ly released book of the same title, serves to make Canadians and the world take notice of a people who are struggling. The Inuit people of Arctic communities have a colonial history (and present) that, while similar to that of other First Nations in Canada, is separate and distinctive, and presents modern-day challenges that impact the whole world. A history of colonial violence and a dependence on government brought on by factors including the rise and collapse of the fur trade, the exploitation of resources, and the prevention of sealing by the animal rights movement have all led to many of the struggles faced in northern communities today, like loss of culture and staggeringly high suicide rates.

According to Watt-Cloutier, these social and health issues are not separate from the environmental factors melting the Arctic ice, and unless we do something differently, we all stand to lose.

"This isn't about climate change anymore, this is climate trauma," said Watt-Cloutier, drawing parallels between the historical trauma that is still very present in

Indigenous peoples and the trauma enacted on the land. She talked about the preservation of northern hunting culture, and the life skills learned by a holistic approach to education — a connection to the land that has been severed by imposed educational institutions.

**■ Unless we do something differently, we all stand to lose.**

To survive in the harshest climate on earth, northern people need to possess "adaptability, wisdom and ingenuity", which are all traditionally learned on the ice while hunting and providing. Hunting culture also teaches patience, courage, natural conservatism, and good judgment, which are all necessary to navigate a changing world. In this way, the preservation of traditional northern culture contributes to a connection with the land that is necessary for preserving the Arctic ice, which Watt-Cloutier describes as "the cooling system of the world."

"The strength of our environment

is what will allow us to stand back up," Watt-Cloutier told the full lecture hall.

The collective feeling in the room was something Watt-Cloutier has felt before, in classes she's taught in other parts of Canada. First sadness, then anger — often initially misdirected at Watt-Cloutier herself — followed by a deep sense of betrayal. How is this happening right here in Canada? Who is letting this happen? Why is this the first I'm hearing of it? Why aren't our schools teaching us this?

In the business of creating change, however, there's little time to dwell on what has gone wrong in the past. It's important to remember the history, and tell the difficult stories, but with the intention of looking toward the future.

So now that we've been made aware of the problem, the question is what can we do about it? Especially for those of us who aren't from the North, the challenge lies in finding solutions that don't replicate systems of oppression, or cause more harm than good. The current "solutions" have been

band-aid fixes like increasing the police force and number of hospitals in northern communities, without getting at the real roots of the problem.

"(These institutions) seem to be growing with the problem instead of alleviating them," Watt-Cloutier noted.

The most important is spreading knowledge and awareness. Watt-Cloutier recommends taking a minute to call or write to your MPs, and making it clear how necessary the preservation of Arctic culture and Arctic ice is for our collective futures. She also emphasized the difference between "community-based" research about the north and actually living with and consulting with people through community-placed research in northern communities.

To really solve the health, social, and environmental problems faced in the north, the work we do must raise the level of voices that have gone unheard for too long. An audience member put it best, quoting something he had heard at the COP21 climate talks: "If you drink water and you breathe air, this is about you."





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## Inaccuracies plague recent media representations of U of A study



**Brenna Schuldhuis**  
OPINION WRITER

Context and detail are essential when reporting on academic research. If the media covers a study and fails to include them appropriately, misconception, and even blatant misrepresentation, can occur.

The most recent local offense of exclusion of context and detail in the media comes from the coverage of *Up, Not Down: The Age Curve in Happiness from Early Adulthood to Midlife in Two Longitudinal Studies* by Nancy L. Galambos et al. The main finding of this study is an upward happiness trajectory from late adolescence to early adulthood, using longitudinal studies of up to 25 years.

While this statement presents the overall conclusions and methods, it's deceptively straightforward, and lacks crucial subtleties of the research that are needed for accurate representation. Unfortunately, this is often the way that the media has chosen to depict the study.

The majority of the media suggests applicability to the general population. This isn't entirely accurate, despite longitudinal methods. The study itself addresses this concern, stating "Turning to possible limitations ... generalizability, too, is an issue. Although the samples were representative of the populations from which they were drawn and likely representative of cohorts of youth from the same era in other similar North American

cities ... younger cohorts may not necessarily follow the same trajectory."

It's true that longitudinal methods are more appropriate than the cross-sectional analysis used in many prior studies of happiness, but in no way does it make the study applicable to all. The media often portrays the longitudinal technique with reverence in relation to this study, and fails to mention that it also possesses tangible flaws.

**Cherry-picking in the overflowing orchard that is academic research supplies sweet, seductive details at the expense of crucial contextual roots.**

Some articles are also eager to support the notion that this study has relegated the "mid-life crisis" to mythical status. However, nowhere in the paper itself is "mid-life crisis" mentioned. Neither do the authors claim that their research refutes a mid-life crisis completely. They're quoted as saying the data suggests the need to reconsider this socially-accepted belief. While this is entirely reasonable, I'm not sure how expected academic skepticism transformed into complete media denial, fostering headlines such as "Your midlife crisis doesn't exist: we actually get happier as we age."

As for overall content, most media did adequately portray the "mid-life crisis myth" as merely suggestion, as it should be. But

others simply restated their horrifically inaccurate headlines, continuing in their hopefully unintentional misrepresentation.

Perhaps the most unfortunate consequence of this incomplete portrayal results indirectly from the actions of the media in the form of consumers reactions. Some naively take the partial story as complete, making initially logical, but ultimately wrong, assumptions. Others read headlines, skim articles, and rashly discount studies as frivolous based on flawed representation. Both these extremes are ultimately denied what I believe to be a worthwhile study.

A potential solution is for readers to supplement articles by perusing the study themselves. Of course, this isn't always plausible. While the study is only eight pages long, if readers don't possess the necessary background or initial interest in the topic, it can appear dense and tedious. Alternatively, all media outlets could just portray the study accurately to begin with.

This isn't to say that I think the media shouldn't cover research. They absolutely should, and actually, it's crucial they do. Knowledge is meant to be shared, and without coverage the larger community would be ignorant of new discoveries. But cherry-picking in the overflowing orchard that is academic research supplies sweet, seductive details at the expense of crucial contextual roots. If a reader is lured into an article, it shouldn't be because of headlines advertising definitive renouncement of depressing socially-accepted beliefs. Likewise, a reader's attention should be preserved with relevant, accurate detail, not convenient omission.

## Course evals must be anonymous



**Cole Forster**  
OPINION WRITER

Every once in a while, one can hear the insidious murmuring of professors who feel that course evaluations should be conducted in a less anonymous fashion. But, the anonymity of course evaluations is precisely what guarantees their integrity in the first place.

The argument from the pedagogic corner of the ring is that the omission of student information from each form opens the door to dishonesty, and worse, pure trolling. Profs will say that because their salary, tenure track, and career outlook are all in some respect tied to student evaluations

of their performance, that there is no room for the potential off-hand remark. It's true that undermining a person's career while hiding behind the wall of secrecy is probably quite mean; the whole fear is actually a phobia. That is to say, like the phantom of voter fraud it's just that, a mere specter.

**It is in the arena of freedom and privacy that the most genuine sentiments arise.**

Another ready-made argument that profs frequently resuscitate from the morgue of nullary logic, builds in a supposed protection for the student from the inherently imbalanced power dynamic between educator and pupil. It is suggested that by withholding

course evaluations from professors until after final grades are faculty approved, the potential for retributive action is disappeared. But what's the point? Why would we take a relationship that innately disfavors the student in favor of the professor and exacerbate that asymmetry?

Course evaluations simply have to be conducted with the promise of namelessness. And indeed with the acknowledgement that students (mature adults) are not inclined to give wildly mischievous responses. It is in the arena of freedom and privacy that the most genuine sentiments arise. That is the ambiance that should permeate the entire process of appraising a professor's capacity to deliver a curriculum with efficacy. We are, after all, peers in the sense that we all inhabit this particular parcel of academia.

**#3LF** **three lines free**

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at [threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca), tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at [www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree)

I open The Gateway as an alumnus - and it now has a 'sex columnist' who clearly understands very little about sex or intimacy. Am I just older, or is the Gateway more juvenile and idiotic than ever? The Gateway sucks this year

Jimi Hendrix was great at setting his guitar on fire and eating guitar strings but Danny Gatton actually was a brilliant guitarist. Look him up.  
Avoid food vendors in the WEM food court that advertise "any 3 items" for one price. They usually expect you to buy 3 totally different food items. Stuff like deep fried broccoli and other tasteless crap. The food is always terrible and it really is a big rip-off.7a  
#SUSUCKSASS





CHRISTINA VARVIS

## New Tawatinâ Bridge an important act of reconciliation



**Nina Legesse**  
OPINION WRITER

Two weeks ago, it was announced that the North Saskatchewan River's newest bridge will be named Tawatinâ, the Cree word for "valley." The bridge is in the works for the proposed 2020 Valley LRT line, which will finally connect Millwoods to the train system.

With this decision, city planner Cory Sousa hopes to convey the city's respect for Indigenous culture. Edmonton is, in fact, the city with the

second largest First Nations population in the country. In spite of this, there is very little acknowledgment given to the existing culture of Indigenous peoples, and so they remain the most invisible of visible minorities.

Yet, it looks as though we are experiencing a significant rise in the awareness of Aboriginal culture. Although racially prejudiced attitudes are omnipresent, one only has to glance at social media feeds, local events and news articles to realize there is a noticeable and progressive change in Aboriginal visibility.

It doesn't take a lot of searching to notice a growing interest among Edmonton's youth in Aboriginal issues and culture. The voices of Aboriginal

youth, as a result, are more frequently rising from the shadows.

**It doesn't take a lot of searching to notice a growing interest among Edmonton's youth in Aboriginal issues and culture.**

On Jan. 12, Edmonton Journal writer Elise Stolte interviewed two founding members of RISE (Reconciliation in Solidarity Edmonton), on the topic of First Nations reconciliation. Miranda Jimmy, from the Thunderchild First Nation in Saskatchewan,

described reconciliation as "a process that's been happening for a long time, since the signing of treaty." But why should non-Aboriginal Edmontonians care about reconciliation?

To commemorate Edmonton's long and progressive process of reconciliation, Jimmy and her co-founder, Kasey Machin, found powerful images that represented the city's history: one depicted "Treaty 6 elders praying in the middle of Whyte Avenue when it was still a dirt road."

Reconciliation is not only about social relations. Culture is inextricably attached to land and environment, and the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth of Edmonton are bringing this fact to light with activism. It is clear that

Sousa's incorporation of Cree into Edmonton's landscape is impactful testimony of this contemporary movement of cultural awareness.

Further, as a rapidly increasing youth population loses the languages of older Cree speakers, the simple act of naming a bridge also signifies the will to preserve Indigenous languages.

Besides, perhaps it's time to live up the aesthetics our city, in which the names of monuments and roads are seldom more interesting than "High Level Bridge," "Calgary Trail" and "West Edmonton Mall." And, while Tawatinâ is just a translation of the simple word "valley," at least it fits the theme of banality that seems to belong to Edmonton's legacy.

## UBC Law prof who was denied tenure responsible for her own termination



**Spencer Morrison**  
OPINION WRITER

After 39 long months, Lorna McCue, a Ned'u'ten chief and former director of the First Nations Legal Studies program at the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Law, finally gets to perform centre-stage in the social justice circus of disgrace.

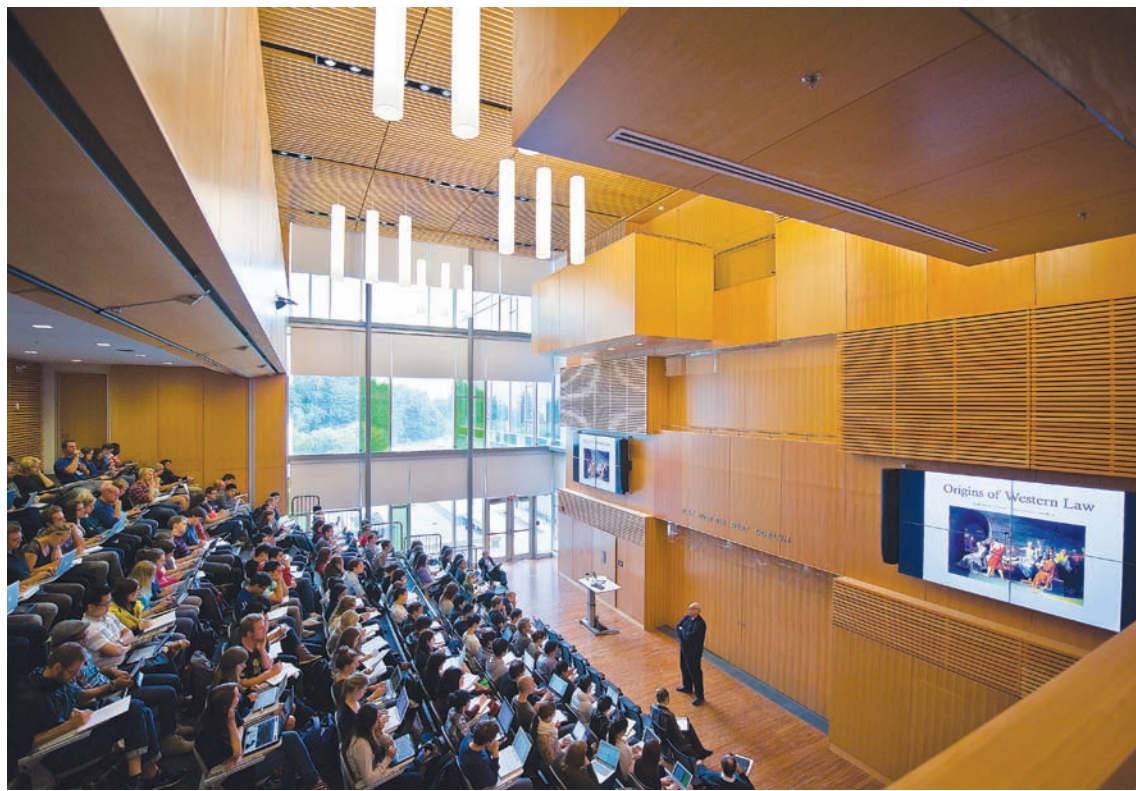
In 2012 UBC denied McCue tenure, and subsequently dismissed her. Last week she convinced a Human Rights Tribunal to hear her case, where she will argue that her "race, colour, (and) ancestry" played a role in her dismissal. According to the tribunal, her position is that UBC was forcing her, "as an indigenous scholar, to be someone she is not."

How could UBC Law so brazenly and rashly discriminate against this vulnerable law professor? Simple, they didn't.

Here are the facts.

McCue was a professor at UBC for eleven years, during which time she published no peer-reviewed articles. None. This is why she was let go. In light of the facts, I believe McCue's discrimination allegation is absolutely disingenuous.

I agree, the "publish-or-perish"



SUPPLIED

mentality is problematic, but in this situation UBC's expectations were clearly communicated to McCue. Early in her career the Dean wrote her: "expect to see five to six peer-reviewed, significant publications by the time you seek tenure." She knew the expectations.

Not only that, but the expectations

themselves were eminently reasonable. To begin with, all universities require their professors to publish academic writing, whether you're a law professor in London, or a neuroscientist in Nairobi. McCue knew this was standard practice.

On top of that, UBC only required that she publish "five to six" articles,

and they gave her 11 years to do so. This is more than fair, especially given that professors at the University of Toronto, in non-STEM faculties, publish an average of 2.7 articles per year; at McMaster, 3.9; and the University of Ottawa, 3.7.

In 2008 UBC even granted her an eight month reprieve from teaching,

specifically to give her time to research and publish something, anything. During these eight months she published just eight pages, and in a non-academic source at that. McCue had golden opportunity to get her career on track, and she failed to take it. That's on her.

McCue also argues that as an indigenous scholar, she should not be held to the same standards as non-aboriginal academics. She argues that she partakes in "non-traditional scholarship," such as attending conferences and penning chapters in colloquial books. She says she "was doing teaching with (her) community," instead of publishing.

As noble as that sounds, we must remember that all professors attend conferences, many professors author chapters, and some even write books; but this is always above and beyond their academic publications. She says she needed "significant compromise" because of her background, as it turns out UBC gave her nearly sycophantic compromise, but it was to no avail.

Lorna McCue is not a victim of discrimination, but of her own dissatisfaction. Her arbitrary, vindictive actions devalue every potentially legitimate human rights claim. For McCue, I have no sympathy.

### the burlap sack

COMPILED BY Nathan Fung

**People who ask stupid and longwinded questions at exceptionally engaging events**

Hey you back there with the massive ego, would you mind piping it down? Stop me if this sounds familiar. You're attending an interesting

and exciting guest lecture event featuring some famous guy who presumably knows their stuff, has an excellent command of tone and rhetoric, has years of experience and has possibly studied the talk's subject for years. All is well until its time for the Q and A session where you encounter that one person, the one person who appears at every guest lecture, the one who is convinced that they have something that must be said regardless of how relevant it is to the topic at hand,

the one who saps away time from other people who also have stuff to add to the discussion. The one who thinks that they must be heard at all costs!

Over my three years attending the U of A, I can seldom recall a guest lecture event in which I did not encounter this familiar and obnoxious individual. Most recently, a lady during Stephen Lewis' speech took several minutes to pitch the documentary *Cowspiracy* and attempted to embark on a tirade on

speciesism, much to the ire of all the other people in the room who were trying to ask Mr. Lewis their question.

Now let me be clear, there is absolutely nothing wrong with speaking your mind. By all means, tell me about how you think western politicians are a bunch of hypocrites, or how speciesism is one of the most neglected issues of this generation, or how our policy regarding the middle east is totally broken, or how big money runs everything,

etcetera etcetera. However, there is a time and a place for you to voice your opinion in a less obnoxious fashion including your own Facebook wall, your Twitter page, or even a letter to the editor if you're feeling retro. The wrong place to do so is during the Q and A event following a guest speaker's speech. In case you haven't notice or as beautiful as the sound of your own voice may be, we didn't come to listen to it. We came to listen to the guy on the advertisement.



# STUDENTS' UNION EXECUTIVE REPORT CARD

Written by Kieran Chrysler & Josh Greschner

Layout by Adaire Beatty & Photos by Christina Varvis

# 2016

Last year, five executives were chosen to be representatives of the student body in a cutthroat election. We laughed, we cried, we were baffled by some mild election fraud. But campus got through the insane two weeks of campaigning to bring in five eager individuals, determined to bring the best to the students of the University of Alberta.

Like any election, the SU's was full of vague campaign promises, lofty buzzwords and determination to represent the student body. So now, past the halfway mark of their terms, *The Gateway* is checking in to see what the fresh faced politicians have been doing with their time in office.



With a new Board Chair, a new president, a new provost and new provincial and federal governments, Student Union President Navneet Khinda was required to attend many functions. As a result, the U of A's SU has a pretty good name.

Through numerous conversations and media appearances, Khinda has promoted the SU externally to large institutions and influential people in order for them to take student issues seriously. It paid off when a proposal by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (a group to which our SU belongs and of which Khinda is the chair) appeared as a federal Liberal Party platform point. The NDP being voted into government certainly helped Khinda's platform, but when advocating for the tuition cap became no longer necessary, she shifted her priorities to fighting for students in accordance with her Vice Presidents' platform points, as the President's position allows one to do. Khinda was central in the negotiations with administration that postponed the proposed \$4900 meal plan intended for the residences in Lister and the Peter Lougheed Leadership College.

Khinda's accomplishments include a number of long-term and short-term initiatives. In Lister, she actively pursued the formation of a new student association after the former LHSA was disbanded, and while her unprecedented platform point of examining the Student Code of Behaviour to determine if the university should re-evaluate the ways in which it handles sexual assault cases is being undertaken by the university anyway, Khinda continues to research the topic and promises some sort of project. Khinda also helped VP (OpsFI) Cody Bondarchuk introduce French SU Awards forms while discussions to provide Beartracks in French are ongoing. Not to be understated, Khinda learned from last year and directed her VPs to keep their message sustained and consistent.

Khinda maintains an impressive social media presence, which is an invaluable tool in modern politics. She posts not only relevant, engaging readings on her Facebook and Twitter accounts but also student governance documents. Her posts regularly inspire debate and sometimes serves as an extended council session. Friend her now and expect big things.





The Vice President (External) is in charge of lobbying student interests to the government, so it makes sense that the first part of Dylan Hanwell's term was focused on the 2015 elections.

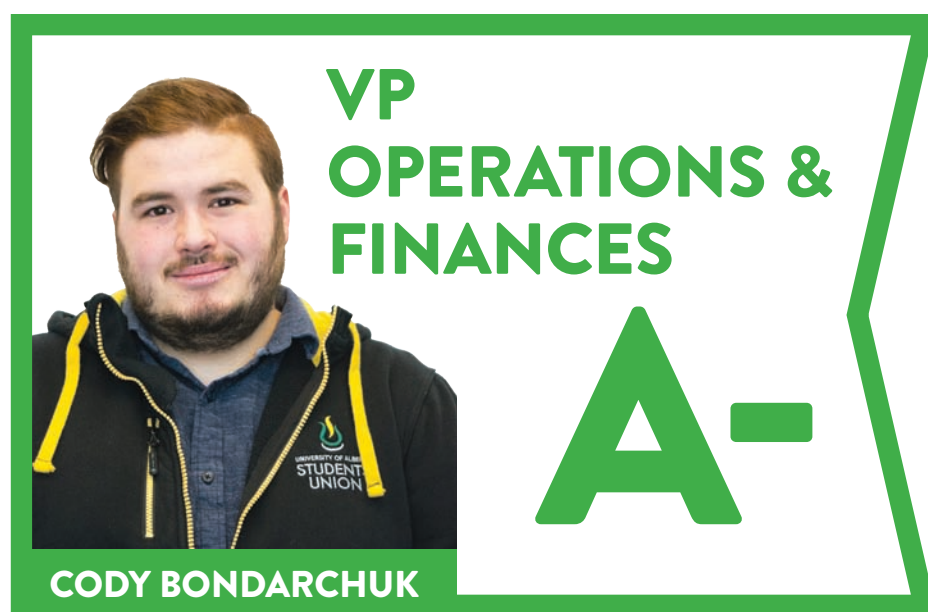
A large part of Hanwell's campaign was making sure student interests were represented during the election and seeing the tuition cap reinstated. With the NDP coming into power, we saw a tuition freeze very quickly, meaning tuition won't go up for two years. While that was a short-term win, Hanwell has been focused on lobbying the provincial government to enforce a long-term cap, efforts that he hopes will be continued by next year's VPX.

The new governments were aware of student issues, so it seemed that he may have had an easier time advocating them than past VPX executives. But he's been able to shift his focus to some issues important to students, like bringing conversations about student mental health outside of the campus bubble, which will hopefully

see more funding for professional services being brought in next year. He's also been advocating the STEP program, and is helping to identify some ways that it can better benefit students.

After elections were wrapped up, Hanwell turned his focus to the least tangible part of his campaign, which was the buzzword-y "Student Experience." Hanwell has been working to try and obtain data on the nebulous topic, using the National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE) survey that quantifies the student experience, and how the U of A can improve. Hanwell wanted more in-depth data, so he is working on a tailored survey for the U of A. He hopes to have results by the end of the year, so that next year's executives can take the results to the provincial government.

He notes that he hasn't blown all of his campaign points out of the water, but he's been able to deliver on everything he promised he would do during his time in office.



After a scandalous Vice-President (Operations and Finance) race, Cody Bondarchuk came into office and has found a way to advocate for broader societal issues within the operations portfolio.

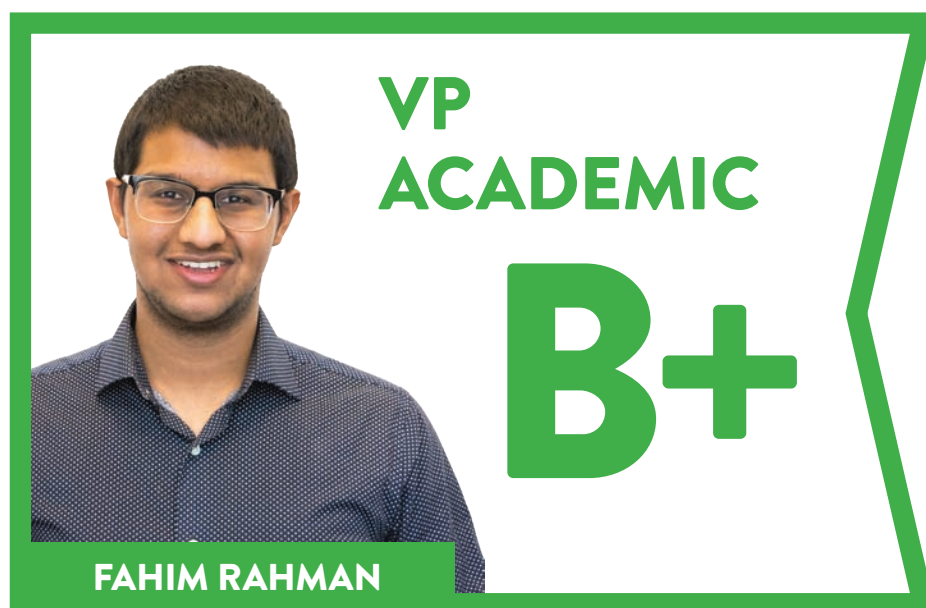
Food on campus has been a big focus for him, and he's managed to make some changes in the quality and availability of affordable food. The SUBMart grocery store was implemented in early October; students could now run out of eggs or milk midweek and grab it on campus instead of trekking to the grocery store, a novelty for most. It's been a learning process for sure, certain staples make more money than others, but he's working constantly to figure out where there is spoilage and where there is profit in the products offered. He's also been working with RATT and Dewey's to bring some healthier options to the menus, as well as identifying what is vegan, vegetarian and sustainable.

Bondarchuk has also been very vocal about supporting LGBT+ advocacy, and has found a way to do that by restructuring some of SUB's

building codes. He moved forward a new SU gender policy, which has translated into not having to disclose gender on university application forms as well as changing the signage on all-gender bathrooms to be more inclusive for those students. He's also planning on trying to work on changing wording in the University Calendar to have more gender-neutral language for the 2016/17 year.

Looking forward, Bondarchuk is exploring raising the SU fee in increments by year to allow the SU to offer their 300 staff the expected \$15 minimum wage increase that the NDP is planning on implementing by 2018. He has been working with managers in the SU to look at the pay scales used within the SU, and how they would be able to adapt to that change without driving up the SU membership fee exponentially in a short period of time.

Overall, Bondarchuk has made a lot of changes to operational functions of the SU that will hugely benefit students in the long run, even if they haven't been glaringly obvious to the uninformed.



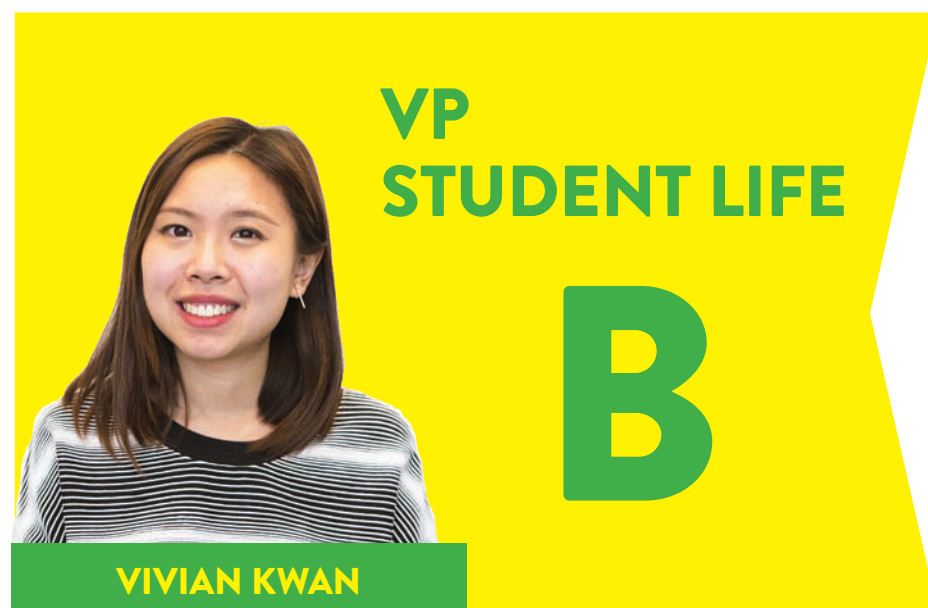
Fahim Rahman has been working on ambitious projects since he was elected VP (Academic).

To ensure affordable, high quality education, Rahman has heavily advocated administration and faculties to introduce a teaching tenure stream. A teaching tenure stream is an emerging trend in academic labour: the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario reports that rather than tenured faculty dividing their work into 40 per cent teaching, 40 per cent research and 20 per cent service to the university, teaching tenure stream faculty would dedicate most of their efforts to teaching and researching pedagogy. Rahman's advocacy has paid off. President David Turpin expressed interest in faculties eventually implementing teaching tenure streams, although it would be months before anything would come of it. Rahman is confident that instructors fully dedicated to their teaching work would improve the student experience.

Rahman has also advocated faculties for embracing open access culture by encouraging the use of Open Educational Resources, about which certain students and staff are enthusiastic. OERs are freely accessible online course materials that instructors can use to build courses with

a low price that is appealing to students. A recent example of an OER is the \$9.99 app that accompanied Phillip Currie's Dino 101 MOOC. Rahman hopes that faculties with large classes eventually implement more online material. Meanwhile, Be Booksmart has continued, receiving a certain amount of media coverage, and Rahman must also be commended for his tireless work on an impressive 65 committees.

Rahman successfully embodies and advocates for the sensibilities of modern-day students, but his envisioned classroom is sure to upset traditionalists. The implementation of a teaching tenure stream has the potential to disrupt the current model that many argue does not need changing. It might also prove problematic for those with teaching tenure whose research time is spent primarily investigating pedagogy rather than an evolving discipline — the teachers themselves could become as obsolete as some claim the traditional professorial model to be. The long-term adaptability of teaching tenure stream might not prove as useful to future students. Nonetheless, the consultative process for enacting such a change should involve individual scholars rather than faculties or administration.



Any VP (Student Life) candidate who answers that they're looking to bring more alcohol-free events to campus, as Vice President (Student Life) Vivian Kwan did last February, is sure to draw skepticism.

But it's unfair to hold her to only an obscure part of her platform as she's followed through with her campaign promise of advocating for mental health awareness on campus. Kwan avoided using mental health as a vague buzzword by enacting useful initiatives. One of her accomplishments was the creation of mental health packages which guide profs in appropriately dealing with students experiencing stress or hardship. The first level of engagement is what most profs do already by informing students of campus services on syllabi, but another recommendation encourages profs to receive training in how to deal with students in crisis situations, since troubled students often first come to their instructors. Kwan also plans to reach out to international students by disseminating their stories of mental illness through print and video.

Kwan stressed the importance of one-on-one communication, which shouldn't be exceptional for SU execs, except that she has a thorough understanding of the complexities of mental health at the U of A. She explained that since funding is limited,

professionals will concentrate their efforts on life-threatening disorders at the expense of providing care for more generalized ones. This is troublesome as less severe disorders can be left untreated and intensify into life-threatening disorders.

Residences are another component of the VP SL portfolio, and Kwan has adequately supported students. She implemented a new residence feedback form and distributed them throughout Infolinks, allowing students to communicate their concerns, which is especially important when students living in residence can be charged exorbitantly for a great number of things. Kwan has also made a push for student autonomy in light of the desire of Residence Services to approve or veto the budgets of the primarily student-run Residence Associations.

The explanation for her grade is that the VP SL is associated with large-scale community spirit projects such as Break the Record, for those who remember it. In this regard, Kwan seems to lack ambition and few efforts were made to organize something big this year or in the coming years after it was announced that Break the Record wasn't going to happen. Yet Kwan's tenure might signal a shift in how the VP SL should be evaluated.



# Arts & Culture

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**Volunteer**  
Arts meetings every Wednesday at 4pm in SUB 3-04



WILLOW AUSTIN

## “Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind”

### THEATRE PREVIEW

### A Midsummer Night's Dream

**WHEN** Feb. 4-13 at 7:30 p.m., matinee on Feb. 11 at 12:30 p.m.

**WHERE** Timms Centre for the Arts

**WRITTEN BY** William Shakespeare

**DIRECTED BY** Marti Maraden

**STARRING** Jessy Ardern, Bradley Doré, Sarah Feutl, Morgan Grau, Corben Hushneryk-Fjeld, Stuart McDougall, Natasha Napoleao

**HOW MUCH** \$12 for students, \$5 for matinee

**Kate McInnes**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

The blurring of dreams and reality is a theme that seems to have been done to death in modern film

and literature. Though the drug-soaked 1960s and 70s were certainly contributors, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* remains a timeless trip in every sense of the word.

■ **“A Midsummer Night's Dream implies that we're taking audiences on a whimsical journey.”**

NATASHA NAPOLEAO  
ACTRESS

Since its debut in the late 1500s, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has established itself as a perennial favourite, and is more often performed outdoors in front of picnickers than inside the Timms Centre, as it will be from Feb. 4-13. Set in a chaotic fairy world that contrasts starkly with the strict social structure of ancient Athens,

the comedy follows the misadventures of four lovers — Lysander, Hermia, Demetrius and Helena — who are drunk on a potion that causes its victims to fall in love with the first person they see. The lesson of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is one every hormone-driven teenager has already learned: love is a drug with ecstatic highs and crushing lows.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* stands out against *Julius Caesar*, *Othello*, and *Romeo and Juliet* in its commitment to ridiculousness and absurdity. But, like every trip, euphoria must eventually dissolve into despair, and the play's dark psychological undertones — namely, Puck's consideration of suicide and the constant allusions to rape and bestiality — are downplayed or omitted in most productions.

Natasha Napoleao, who will be

assuming the roles of Hippolyta and Titania, believes it is important to adhere closely to Shakespeare's original script by weaving together bumbling comic relief and darker, more serious content.

“It's a play with a lot of levity, and ... I think the smart thing for directors to do is to bring out the darkness in it,” Napoleao says. “You can't just live in the levity and forget about the dark side of it.”

As a result of the interconnecting plots, the “play within a play,” and the intense pairing of magic and drugs, the distinction between reality and fantasy becomes hazier and hazier as the story progresses for both the characters and their spectators. By the end of the night, much is left up to the audience to interpret what was real and what was imaginary.

For Stuart McDougall, who is

playing Theseus and Oberon, the confusion audiences may have when first watching the play is not only intentional, but beside the point.

“Whether or not this dream actually did happen, you still saw it,” McDougall says. “You still laughed, you still had feelings about it, and at the end of the day, you're experiencing it on every level of your being.”

Despite its emotional ebbs and flows, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has always been, despite creative liberties, a comedy.

“Ultimately, it's in the title,” Napoleao says. “*A Midsummer Night's Dream* implies that we're taking audiences on a whimsical journey.”

“It's truly a play in the verb sense — we're going to be playing around with you for two and a half hours.”

## Son of Saul uses gritty film techniques to explore The Holocaust



SUPPLIED

### FILM PREVIEW

### Son of Saul

**WHEN** Opens Feb. 5

**WHERE** Princess Theatre (10337 82 Ave)

**WRITTEN BY** László Nemes, Clara Royer

**DIRECTED BY** László Nemes

**STARRING** Géza Röhrig, Levente Molnár, Urs Rechn

**HOW MUCH** \$8 with student ID

**Josh Hickmore**

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

*Saul Fia* (*Son of Saul* in English) is the first feature length film by Hungarian director László Nemes. *Son of Saul* is nominated at this year's Oscars for best foreign language film and won the Golden Globe for the same category. The film is in German, Hungarian, and Yiddish, with English subtitles throughout. The film premiered and won the Grand Prix at the 68th Cannes film festival back in May 2015.

The plot follows Saul Ausländer (played by Géza Röhrig), a

Hungarian Sonderkommando, who are Jewish prisoners during The Holocaust. These sonderkommandos are forced to aid in removal and destruction of the bodies of gas chamber victims by threat of death. In the midst of cleaning out a gas chambers, Saul connects with a deceased boy and claims him as his son. Saul is determined and takes great risks to give his son a proper Jewish burial.

■ **... Son of Saul is a powerful film about the atrocities of The Holocaust.**

Nemes shot the movie on 35 mm film rather than a standard digital film. The grainy and narrow view of the frame help set the solemn tone. The film is shot almost entirely within a few feet of Saul, resulting in a out of focus background and a narrow field of view. Continually, Nemes uses the sudden introduction of a character within the frame to carry the plot.

This narrow and specific focus forces the audience into Saul's lack of focus. His distracted and defeated mind does not notice the details, or what surrounds him, only what is directly in his presence.

Röhrig spends much of the film without talking, in an atmosphere of trying not to stand out, he and the other prisoners only resort to whispers when necessary. Despite the non-vocal characteristics, Röhrig convincingly portrays Saul strongly, even though he not acted in a film since the 80s. In addition to the prolonged voiceless silences, the film features no musical score. Instead, Nemes chose to welcome the silence and contrast it with gunshots and German shouting.

As a whole *Son of Saul* is a powerful film about tragedy during the atrocities of The Holocaust. It chooses to force the audience sit and think in silence. It forces the audience to experience the disorienting nature of the chaos surrounding Saul. By doing these two things well, László Nemes' first film is continuing to be nominated for an win numerous awards around the globe.



# fashion streeters

COMPILED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY Christina Varvis



**Meagan Miller**  
SPANISH III

**GATEWAY:** Describe your outfit.

**MILLER:** The jacket is thrifted, the sweater is from American Apparel, the boots are from the Doctor Martens store and the dress is from Lazy Oaf. My earrings are actually a purchase I made way back in the day when I originally graduated. My friends and I went to Iceland for a sort of a grad vacation and so bought them there.

**GATEWAY:** What was your thought process when you were putting together your outfit?

**MILLER:** Mostly I'm just trying to adapt to the environment of the university, because I feel like Tory is so hot and then you go to Humanities and you're cold, so it's mostly about layering so you can take it on and off when you need to. It's all about adaptability. platform, and I prefer wearing black because that's what I'm comfortable in.



## ALBUM REVIEW



### St. Lucia Matter

Neon Gold Records  
www.stlucianewyork.com

**Jessica Jack**  
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

By looking at new albums released in the last five years or so, it's obvious that many artists recycle ideas and material. It feels as if the 2010s are lacking originality, especially as other decades seem to be defining this current one (chokers, scrunchies, crop tops, anyone?). However, this is not always a bad thing. St. Lucia's new album, *Matter*, is excellent as an epitome of the 80s.

Immediately upon listening to the album, it feels as if audiences are being transported into a John

Hughes film; listeners might as well be enduring detention in the library with the cast of the *Breakfast Club*. The heavy use of synth creates this nostalgic vibe, but the use of meaningful lyrics and electronic effects give the album a contemporary edge.

Each track on this album is very complex; they use multiple instruments to complete their sound. "Love Somebody", in particular, uses the flute, bass, electric guitar, and drums, along with their usual keyboards and synths. This variety

creates a well-rounded and versatile sound.

The amount of work that went into the making of this album is clearly demonstrated on each track; according to St. Lucia's website, each song had approximately 200 unmixed individual audio tracks. With a similar formula, they managed to make every song unique and complex. "Dancing on Glass" is an example of this complexity, as there is so much happening in terms of music, effects, and vocals. The use of many vocal harmonies, synth, and electronic beats makes this complexity effective without being over-stimulating.

Not only is this album extremely well thought out, but it is catchy as hell and you can expect to hear it playing at every Urban Outfitters in the next few months. Beware of the incoming swarm of teens in Docs and infinity scarves jumping on the St. Lucia bandwagon.

## ALBUM REVIEW



### Rihanna ANTI

Roc Nation  
rihannanow.com

**Kieran Chrysler**  
MANAGING EDITOR • @CHRYSLERRR

*ANTI* has been so long coming, and so hyped, that by the time it was released on TIDAL on Jan. 28, it was barely noticed. Coming only hours after Kanye West and Wiz Khalifa's twitter spat, it was somewhat eclipsed by the internet drama of the day. But even though the release came much more quietly than would be expected of RiRi, *ANTI* makes for an excellent follow-up to 2012's lackluster *Unapologetic*, as we see a Rihanna who is more self-aware and confident in where she stands in the music industry.

Like its release, *ANTI* is under-

stated compared to what 2015's "Bitch Better Have My Money" had us expecting of the record. The R&B tracks from *ANTI* float into one another, making for an easy listening experience. The only thing close that eclipsing banger territory is the album's main single "Work," where Rihanna does "workworkworkworkwork," and features our lovable Six God, Drake.

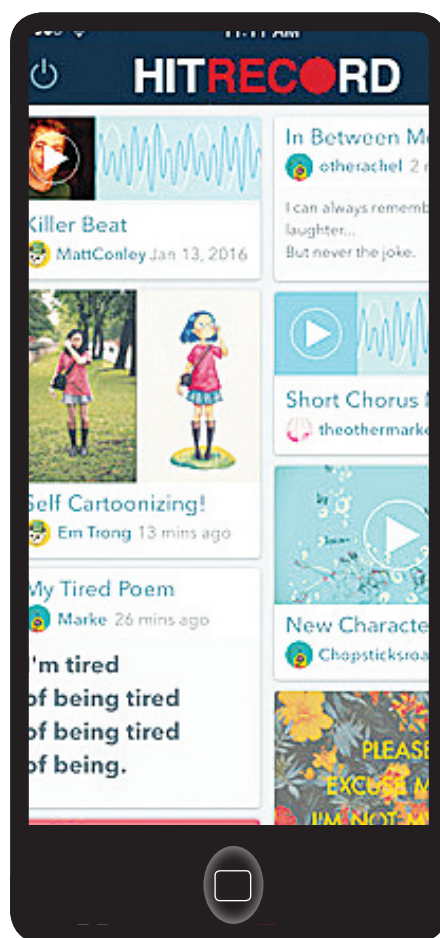
While Drake and Rihanna always make great collaborations, "Work" doesn't stand up to opening track "Consideration," where unlikely feature SZA appears. The two women

demand "Will you ever respect me?/ No," and bring in a disenchanted feeling to *ANTI*. This is continued throughout the album in tracks like "Woo" and "Desperado," where we get a taste of a relationship gone wrong. This is not uncommon to Rihanna's music, seeing the emotional ups and downs of *Rated R* (released after the Chris Brown incident), but this is a much different tone. It's more of a lack of caring after the relationships than a self-reflection, Rihanna really doesn't care anymore.

*ANTI* is not the RiRi we've come to know and love, but that isn't a bad thing. She's become much more self-aware of where she stands in the industry, and isn't catering to any pop boxes that are so easy for today's musicians to fall into. She's more confident and not spending too much time dwelling on people who don't deserve her time. And thank God, because we didn't need another Chris Brown collaboration.

## datapp

WRITTEN BY Meghan Rannells



### hitRECORD

**COST** Free  
**PLATFORM** iOS 8.1 or later

You may have heard about the hitRECORD collaborative production company as you scrolled through a glaringly bright Facebook feed before bed, or you may have seen its Emmy winning show on Netflix.

What you may not have heard is that the company, founded by Joseph Gordon-Levitt (star of films *Don Jon* and *Looper*) and brother Daniel Gordon-Levitt, released the hitRECORD app on Jan. 21, 2016. What does this mean for you? Well, in short: even more collaborative opportunities for any and all artists wishing to contribute to the seemingly endless list of projects! Whether you're a graphic designer, vocalist or poet, there is a place for you.

Once an account is

registered, the user is at liberty to explore projects in the making, contribute something to a work in progress, or create a new "challenge." Challenges are typically made by Gordon-Levitt and his team, but are broken down aspects of larger projects that all users are able to attempt. For example, a writing challenge requests users to finish a sentence in under twenty-five words. In another category, Gordon-Levitt asks musicians to accompany his guitar playing. Still need more? Well, there is always the potential of gaining monetary rewards (cha-ching!). If you have contributed in any degree to a profitable project, hitRECORD will pay you a certain amount of their earnings. Could they make their company any more enticing?

The addition of hitRECORD into the app mosaic on my iPhone has come with only one problem: it is absolutely addictive. Whatever your desire, be it to contribute or peruse the array of ongoing hitRECORD projects, it is certainly refreshing to see artists from multiple locations working towards impressive and accessible art for anyone wishing to get involved.



# New Works Festival features U of A students and alumni

## THEATRE PREVIEW

### Raine

**WHEN** Feb. 2, Feb. 4, Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 7 at 2 p.m.

**WHERE** Timms Center

**WRITTEN BY** Cheryl Vandergraff

**DIRECTED BY** Madeleine Stout

**STARRING** Miranda Broumas, Christopher de Vries, Franco Correa

**HOW MUCH** \$15 Adults and \$10 Students

#### Eryn Pinksen

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Everyone has baggage going into a relationship, whether it's secrets they want to hide or an unsavoury past. Relationships cause people to test their vulnerable state and *Raine* explores the vulnerable state of individuals, focusing on the key moments when one decides to spill it all or stay hidden away. Strangers Lucy and Max cross paths in a coffee shop. As the pair faces sassy comments from the barista Joe who is encouraging their partnership, Lucy has to decide to either push Max away or allow him to enter into her life.

**“I love these two; the confident and the less confident whose passions interlock.”**

MADELINE STOUT  
DIRECTOR

The New Works Festival has been a University of Alberta tradition for the last sixteen years. The fes-



SUPPLIED KELSI KALMER

tival's mission is to showcase students from the University and give them an opportunity to have the stage. There are four plays being produced and all the playwrights and directors are U of A students or alumni, as well as many of the cast members of the different plays. This unique festival is proudly encouraging all university students.

Madeline Stout is the director of *Raine*, one of the productions at the festival. Stout is not a drama student herself but has a passion

for directing. She says she loves this festival because it is very much “by the students, for the students.”

*Raine* is a classic boy meets girl story. Stout explains how audiences will find the story incredibly relatable as these two characters meet at a coffee shop and have tragedies in their past, while they struggle to make a connection with one another in the present. The characters are “navigating meeting someone new and really liking them and trying to find a solution.”

“She is a fiery and tempestuous nurse, while he is a bit more awkward and a bit more nerdy but really driven by his passion for law and for children,” Stout says. “I love these two; the confident and the less confident whose passions interlock.”

The student relationships formed in the New Works Festival are those that you would not find elsewhere in the theatre industry. University student playwrights send in their plays, and the directors

and producers choose from the collection of scripts that are entered. The directors of New Works are given the exciting opportunity to work directly with the playwright, which is unusual in theatre. Stout explains that Cheryl Vandergraff was able to give feedback and they moved the script forward together as they had the opportunity to mold the characters to fit the actors. These script changes were made all the way up until a week before the performances.

To those who would rather see a movie than watch a play Stout says, “nothing compares to being in the room and watching a person who is five or ten feet from you have an emotional realization and watch that character process. Films are amazing and movies are amazing and I love them as well, but they simply cannot compete with a physical person standing in front of you.”

Stout refers to a “weird and heightened connection” between the audience and the characters, which she says is the reason to take in live theatre. These shows are inexpensive and are in support of U of A students trying to kick-start their acting, directing, and playwriting careers or who are just very passionate about theatre.

At its core, *Raine* is a play about modern relationships. Meeting at a coffee shop has become so common but in this charming play it takes a turn as the characters will be faced to decide between opening themselves up to another person or stay covered in security. They will win you over, as the audience desperately wants these characters to come together despite the challenges they face.

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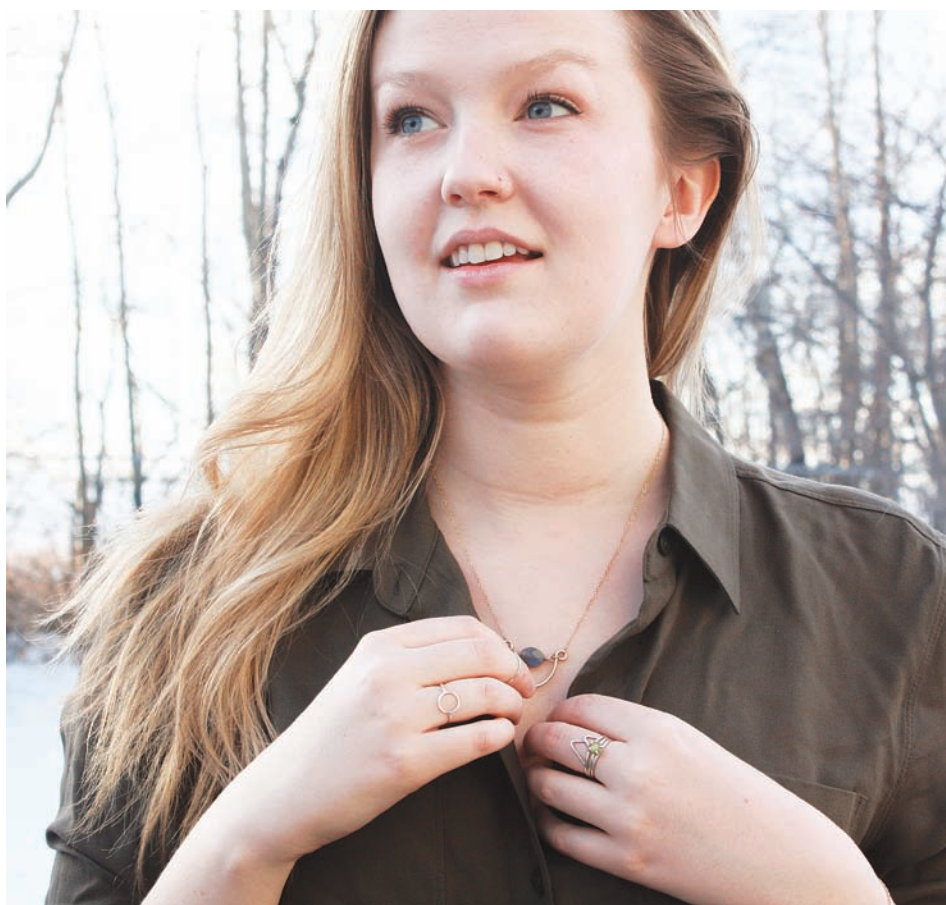
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SUPPLIED ELINA KORCHAGINA

## Mountain & Lake's soulful approach to jewelry

**Lisa Szabo**

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Janice Easton, a third year Arts student at MacEwan University, started making jewelry for herself and her friends a year ago, and this past December launched Mountain & Lake Jewelry on Instagram and Etsy. With pieces ranging from tiny sterling silver mountain peak rings, to rough-cut crystal necklaces and gem-stone bracelets, Mountain & Lake Jewelry is marked by its delicate simplicity and attention to detail.

"My little motto is simple, soulful jewelry. So it's simple, but with a lot of meaning — and special things you can wear everyday and feel really good about," Easton says.

Mountain & Lake's Instagram (@mountain\_and\_lake) showcases Easton's products, as well as behind the scenes shots that let people

see inside her creative process. Easton's aim, aside from creating unique and wearable pieces, is to connect her buyers to the jewelry in a way that mass produced items can't.

**"My little motto is simple, soulful jewelry. So it's simple, but with a lot of meaning."**

JANICE EASTON  
JEWELLER

"I know a lot of people go to Forever 21 and buy a ring and wear it twice and it turns green and they forget about it," Easton says. "I have no interest in making jewelry like that. I want it to be something that lasts a long time and has meaning and sort of goes through life with you."

Easton hand-crafts each piece and takes her inspiration from the contentment she finds in nature and transfers that into pieces she hopes will be meaningful to her wearers. The creation of Mountain & Lake was more than just a business decision; it was the culmination of two things that bring her joy.

"I went through a period where I was very unhappy, before I started making jewelry, and the only thing that ever made me feel better was being outside, being in nature. And I think when I started making jewelry I started to feel that as well [...] and maybe it sounds crazy, like a necklace isn't going to change your life, but the process of it did change my life."

As a self-professed perfectionist, opening Mountain & Lake Jewelry has been a learning curve, and Easton has had to let go of some of the insecurities that have come with

putting herself and her art out there.

"It's a scary thing to jump into, being a perfectionist, not knowing if you're going to be successful," Easton says. "I think it's definitely healthy to get over that [...] and try something because you want to try it, and if it doesn't work out, then that's OK. It's a therapeutic thing to learn to not sweat the small stuff."

**"It's a scary thing to jump into being a perfectionist, not knowing if you're going to be successful."**

JANICE EASTON  
JEWELLER

But her precision has also helped her to establish a level of detail in her work that begins with the piece

itself and finishes with a connection to the buyer. Easton pours attention not only into the item but into its packaging as well, hand-writing notes and tying her boxes up with a little stone bead.

"By the time you've made this product, it feels like something you've put so much of yourself into and then to send it across an ocean... and knowing that someone over there is wearing it and it's just as special to them as it is to you..."

What sets Mountain & Lake apart from jewelry stores and even other sellers is that her focus isn't just on the item itself, it's about the relationship created between the artist and buyer.

"It makes me feel special whenever I buy something and I know that someone's put effort into it, it just somehow infuses whatever the item is with this special meaning. It's the human connection."

### vino bitches

#### Ménage à Trois California Red

WRITTEN BY Ashton Mucha



If you're looking for the perfect Olivia Pope wine without the \$500 price tag, look no further. Ménage à Trois California Red blend will pair just fine with your bowl of popcorn and Netflix rom-com.

Sometimes your Friday nights, or week nights (no judgement), will consist of you watching Meg Ryan and Hugh Jackman in *Kate & Leopold* by yourself. It's ok girl, this wine will keep you company.

Sometimes I think I'm slowly becoming a wine connoisseur since I've been on all of three wine tours in three different countries. I know, hella posh. Plus I've been transitioning. Not in the Bruce to Caitlyn kind of way, but in the whites to reds kind of way. Instinctively, this means that I gravitate towards sweeter reds that aren't

too "full bodied" and have less tannins. So, if you're looking for an easy-drinking red that's totally acceptable to guzzle, try Ménage à Trois' California Red.

This is where I feed you some bullshit about it tasting like blackberry and raspberry jam (because that's what it says on their website), but we all know that wine simply tastes like wine, smells like wine, and looks like wine. It includes three different grapes — Zinfandel, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon. Wow, la-di-da. This wasn't the selling feature for me. Who actually reads past the label and onto the back of the bottle anyways?

Let's just say that after a bottle or two of this fine wine, you'll be fantasizing about yourself in between *Kate & Leopold* or between Kerry Washington and the President. And if not, at least you can comfort your damaged soul by double-fisting in the classiest of ways in your very own ménage à trois.

### brew crew

#### Schöfferhofer Grapefruit Radler

WRITTEN BY Mitch Sorensen

Since winter is depressing and there are only so many porters and stouts that one can drink before literally turning into a pint of Guinness, this import provides a summery respite.

Originally formulated when a group of thirsty cyclists descended on a Bavarian pub, the radler style was invented when the proprietor of that pub cut his half-full keg with sparkling lemonade. Still bearing the German for "cyclist" as it's name, radler is now made with a variety of citrus flavors, and unquestionably the best is from Schöfferhofer.

A 50-50 blend of Hefeweizen-style German wheat beer and grapefruit soda, Schöfferhofer is the original radler, and it shows. Rather than the rusty taste that can plague lesser citrus blends, the grapefruit in the Schöfferhofer has an entirely refreshing quality.

On the pour, the beer is a cloudy, golden colour with a thick, light, foamy head. Light-bodied and easy drinking, the meagre 2.2 per cent

ABV figure means you can drink these by the six pack and still feel great the next morning. Simultaneously sweet and citrusy, while also possessing the sedimentary texture of a traditional wheat beer, it's not easy to place this beer on the palate. All one can be sure of is that whatever it tastes like, it's delicious.

Like the San Pelligrino Aranciata soda you've been waiting your whole legal life for, Schöfferhofer Grapefruit Radler instantly transports the drinker to a sunnier, warmer time and place.





# Sports

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## Puck Pandas split with Dinos, still looking for consistency

**Zach Borutski**

SPORTS EDITOR • @ZACHSPRETTYCOOL

The U of A Pandas hockey team continued their string of inconsistent play this past weekend, splitting their two games against their provincial rivals, the Calgary Dinos.

The weekend got off to a tough start for the green and gold, as they lost a double-overtime heartbreaker, 1-0. Despite carrying the pace of play for the majority of the game, and outshooting the Dinos 27-15 in regulation, the Pandas couldn't solve Hayley Dowling, who was on her game all night.

Despite the loss, head coach Howie Draper didn't fault his team's execution or effort level.

"The girls were flying, I thought their execution was good for the most part," he said. "It just would've been nice to have been able to finish off some of those

opportunities,"

Dowling finished with a shutout, turning aside all 35 shots she faced, while Sasha Vafina scored the overtime winner for the Dinos.

Saturday's game was a different story for the Pandas, as they pulled out a 3-1 victory courtesy of two goals late in the third period.

**"I feel like other teams have started to lift their level, and we haven't answered that bell yet."**

HOWIE DRAPER  
PANDAS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

The Pandas broke out of their goal-scoring slump just over 12 minutes into the first period on Saturday, as Janelle Froehler converted on a breakaway to give the green and gold a 1-0 lead. Even

though the Pandas only had two shots in the period, they still left the first period with a lead.

The Dinos were able to pull even early in the second, as Canada West leading scorer Ilya Gavrilova buried her 16th goal of the season to tie the game at one apiece. The game remained tied until late in the third, until the Pandas finally broke through with two late goals courtesy of Alex Poznikoff and Lindsey Cunningham.

Draper credited an adjustment made to the Pandas level of physical play between the second and third periods as one of the keys to the victory. He said the Pandas came out with more of a physical mindset for the third period.

"Our level of physical play and compete wasn't where it needed to be, and we addressed that between the second and third, and I thought it was better in the third," he said.

With the split, the Pandas are now 5-5 in their last 10 games, and struggling to find the consistency they had before the Christmas break. Draper noted that now is the time for the Pandas to raise the level of their game.

**"This week is going to be about helping our players realize that they have to compete harder."**

HOWIE DRAPER  
PANDAS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

"We have to recognize that now is the time to be pulling the best out of ourselves and each other," he said.

"I feel that other teams have started to lift their level, and we haven't answered that bell yet."

The Pandas now sit in logjam at the top of Canada West, tied for

second with the Regina Cougars with 42 points, with both teams only sitting a single point behind the UBC Thunderbirds for first in the conference.

They now look forward to a matchup with the fourth place Saskatchewan Huskies, and Draper noted that he was looking for some improvements in his team's game.

"We've got to go in there like it's a total shutdown, we limit their opportunity to make passes, and we limit their ability to take shots," he said.

"This week is going to be about helping our players realize that they have to compete harder."

"We're fighting for first place right now, and they have to bring that intensity, and they have to bring it in spades."

The Pandas will hit the road this upcoming weekend to take on the Huskies on Feb. 5 and 6.



PLAYOFF PUSH Pandas hockey is gearing up for a playoff run.

JOSHUA STORIE



JOSHUA STORIE



**Sasha Eccleston**

Phys Ed & Rec 4  
Hometown: Hinton  
Team: Biathlon

SUPPLIED

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

WRITTEN BY Jamie Sarkonak

**Q: Why biathlon?**

**A:** Growing up, I was always really outdoorsy, that's just what my family was like. And so I was in cross-country skiing. And my family has a background in shooting; my dad did precision target shooting when he was younger. So biathlon just seemed like a good fit, with a good mix of both.

**Q: What's the most interesting thing you've seen on the trails?**

**A:** It was last year, in Camrose. I was coming on a downhill and I almost ran over a porcupine. I came over the top of the hill and started going down pretty good and stopped just in time as it was waddling onto the trail.

**Q: What sets Augustana's biathlon team apart from other sports teams?**

**A:** One of the things is just the sport itself. Biathlon's a pretty unique sport. With Camrose and Augustana having the only team outside Europe, that's the big deal I guess, being the only ones out here.

**Q: What's your favourite memory on the biathlon team?**

**A:** It was my first year on the team, my first race. It was going down to Canmore with everyone I grew up admiring and looking up to when I was younger. And actually being on the team with them and racing with them and training with them.

**Q: What's your favourite gun to shoot?**

**A:** If I had to choose, it would definitely be my biathlon rifle. I guess it's because I'm used to it. It has precision and speed and everything you want to have in a rifle.



# Hoop Pandas dominate Pronghorns, now 14-1 on season

**Zach Borutski**  
SPORTS EDITOR • @ZACHSPRETTYCOOL

Pandas basketball continued to roll this past weekend, sweeping away the lowly Lethbridge Pronghorns with a pair of convincing wins, 75-53 on Friday night, and an 86-36 drubbing on Saturday night.

The green and gold started Friday's game off well, outscoring the Pronghorns 20-11 in the first quarter, setting the tone for the rest of the game.

"Especially on the road, it's important to get off to a good start," head coach Scott Edwards said. "It was nice to see us performing well early and setting the pace for the game."

Although the next three quarters were more competitive, the Pandas

didn't allow the home team to gain any ground, and ended with a comfortable 22-point victory.

Elle Hendershot led the charge for the Pandas, both in scoring and on the glass, putting up a double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds. Maddie Rogers was the only other Panda in double figures, scoring 10 points on the night.

Edwards credited his bench with performing well on Friday, as the reserves chipped in 31 points in total, with Sydney Kumar leading the way with nine points in just 10 minutes of action.

Saturday night's victory was a complete win for the Pandas, as simultaneously allowed a season low in points while scoring a season high. Edwards was especially pleased with how his players played

on the defensive side of the ball.

"It was nice to see, regardless of who was on the floor, that they executed well, communicated well, and just played as a unit."

**"We've got three weeks of games left before playoffs, and this week is just another step for us."**

SCOTT EDWARDS  
PANDAS BASKETBALL COACH

Hendershot once again came through with her second consecutive double-double, this time scoring 19 points while shooting 80 per cent from the field, and pulling down 14 boards. Vanessa Wild

had a strong showing off the bench as well, scoring 11 points in nine minutes of action, and going three for three from beyond the arc.

The Pandas now sit at 14-1 on the season, but thanks to the Saskatchewan Huskies, still sit in second place in the Pioneer division, thanks to the Huskies' 14-0 record.

Despite this, Edwards maintained the Pandas are still more focused on their game than what other teams are doing.

"It's my job to be on top of the league, and give (the players) a sense of who we play, but for them it's all about focusing on Trinity Western next weekend," he said.

The Pandas matchup with Trinity Western will be a tough one, despite their lacklustre 4-10 record,

according to Edwards.

"For us it's a really big test," Edwards said. "They're a really big team, they're athletic, and they shoot the (three-pointer) really well."

The Pandas have already clinched a spot in Canada West playoffs, and their preparation for the postseason is already beginning, Edwards said.

"We need to really fight for everyone possession in practice to get a sense of the urgency that playoffs come with," he said.

"We've got three weeks of games left before playoffs, and this week is just another step for us."

The Pandas will return home to face the Spartans this upcoming weekend, with games on Feb. 5 and 6 at 5 P.M. at the Saville Centre.



**PUNISHING PANDAS** Pandas basketball posted twoconvincing wins over Lethbridge last weekend. JOSHUA STORIE

JOSHUA STORIE

## Varsity Sports Roundup

### bears volleyball



3-0  
3-0



On the road in Saskatchewan last week, the undefeated University of Alberta Golden Bears were in Regina to take on the 1-17 Cougars. The second ranked Bears had not lost a set in three matches, and looked to continue their dominating season. That dominance was shown often for the Bears, as their torrid .405 team hitting percentage coupled with airtight blocking and solid defence saw them roll to a straight sets victory.

Saturday night's match was much the same, with the offence picking up where it had left off. Setter Brett Walsh notched 35 assists on the weekend, and the Bears hit .542 on the night to guarantee another straight-sets win. Now 20-0 on the season, and only having lost five sets all year, the Bears will face their toughest test yet, as they play the third ranked University of Calgary Dinos next week at the Saville Centre. — Mitch Sorensen

### pandas volleyball



3-0  
3-1



After a difficult six game stretch that saw them go 2-4, the Pandas were looking to get back to their winning ways against the 1-17 Regina Cougars. Having dropped from the #1-ranked team in CIS and Canada West, the Pandas are now fighting to keep themselves in the top three. Friday night saw the Pandas dynamic offence produce at a slightly reduced output than normal, as their .130 hitting average was well below their season average of .213. Despite this, solid blocking

and cagey defense led the them to a 3-0 win. The second match of the weekend saw a rejuvenated Cougar team take the floor, and win the battles on the block and defence. The Pandas didn't fold however, and used a balanced hitting attack that saw three players reach double-digit kill figures to grind out a 3-1 win. The Pandas will look to keep up their winning ways in next weekend's two-game home stand against the Calgary Dinos. — Mitch Sorensen

### bears basketball



61-93  
62-88



Second half woes plagued the Bears basketball team this past weekend, as they lost both their games to the Lethbridge Pronghorns. Friday's matchup saw a tightly contested game going into the third quarter, with the Bears holding a 39-38 lead. It wouldn't last however, as the Pronghorns came out firing, outscoring the green and gold 32-14 in the third quarter, and 23-8 in the fourth, en route to a 93-61 victory.

Lyndon Anetts led the Bears with 20

points on the night, while Brandon Brine had a huge game for the 'Horns, pouring in 37 points. It was a similar story on Saturday, as the Bears were very much in the game at halftime, only trailing by five points, but once again got blown out in the second half, getting outscored 23-8 in the third quarter. The Pronghorns would eventually roll to the 88-62 victory. The Bears will look to get back on track against the Trinity Western Spartans this weekend. — Zach Borutski

### bears hockey



4-6  
3-5



After a dominating performance last weekend against the Regina Cougars, the Bears hockey team came back down to earth this weekend, getting swept by their provincial rival, the Calgary Dinos. Friday night's game saw the Bears claw their way back from a 4-1 second period deficit to tie the game at four apiece early in the third period. Despite dominating the Dinos in the shots department, the green and gold couldn't find the go ahead goal, and Calgary scored on their first shot

of the third period with under four minutes to go, and would add an empty netter to take Friday's game 6-4. The Bears dug themselves into a hole once again on Saturday night, finding themselves down 3-1 after the first period. They did manage to score two goals in the third period, but the Dinos were also able to score two of their own, making the final 5-3. Things don't get any easier for the Bears next weekend, as the first place Saskatchewan Huskies come to town. — Zach Borutski





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Will there be an earthquake during the game?

Yes 10/1

Will Left Shark make an appearance at the Halftime Show?

Yes 15/1

Who will the MVP mention first?

God 2/1

Team 2/1

City/fans 6/1

Family 15/1







# Super Bowl half time show performances

The Superbowl half time show is always a multi-million dollar spectacle, always guaranteed to shock viewers with either awe inspiring pyrotechnics or outrageous scandal. Here, we look back at our favourite half-time chicken wing-soaked memories.

**1. Janet Jackson & Justin Timberlake (2004):** Ah, the concert that invented the term “wardrobe malfunction.” While P. Diddy and Kid Rock also performed at the “Rock the Vote” themed half time show, the last number, Justin Timberlake’s “Rock Your Body” that plunged the duo into infamy, and kept anyone but classic rock musicians off the show until Taio Cruz was for some reason allowed to be on stage with The Who in 2010. The nip slip at the end of the song was hugely controversial, and there is still discussion over whether or not the incident was planned. Regardless of whether it was or not, it went down in history as one of the most memorable

halftime shows to date. — *Kieran Chrysler*

**2. The Blues Brothers: (1997):** As part of a “Blues Brothers Bash” theme, the Blues Brothers reunited minus John Belushi and with James Belushi subbing in. The Saturday Night Live born group hit the stage with two of their more popular tracks, soon bowing out to give James Brown the stage. ZZ Top was also there, for some reason.

The show was as 90s as you could get, with a cheesy “breaking news” interlude announcing that Joliet Jake had escaped from prison and was on the loose in New Orleans. But despite all that, it was a fun and outrageous half time show, which is all you really need. — *Kieran Chrysler*

**3. Beyonce (2013):** Bow down bitches, Bey came to win. Performing her most notable tracks with a gang of backup dancers more numerous than a football team, the show was a spectacle full of old hits

like “Crazy in Love” and new favourites like “Halo.” But the best part of the show was easily the reunion with her Destiny’s Child group mates for a rousing performance of “Bootylicious” and “Independent Women Part I.” Beyonce will be gracing the stage with Coldplay this year to bless viewers once again. — *Kieran Chrysler*

**4. Katy Perry (but mostly left shark and Missy Elliot) (2015):** Last year’s performance by Katy Perry was noteworthy for pretty much every reason except for Katy Perry. Sure, she rode out on a giant mechanical tiger while singing “Roar,” but everyone else involved with her performance stole the show. Except for Lenny Kravitz of course. The first surprise came when Perry brought Missy Elliott to sing her hits such as “Get Ur Freak On” and “Lost Control.” After Elliott’s crowd-pleasing performance, it was Left Shark’s time to shine. Perry had two backup dancers dressed in shark costumes

for the final song of her act, and the one on the left had a lot of trouble with his/her choreography, stumbling through dance moves, and unintentionally making a meme out of themselves. A show for the ages, thanks to a couple of guest performances. — *Zach Borutski*

**5. Madonna (2012):** Let’s get this out of the way: yes, this show was way over the top. Way too over the top, in fact. But it’s Madonna, so it would be disappointing if she did it any other way. Starting off the show with “Vogue” while dressed in full Egyptian garb, she brought out a veritable all-star team of 2012 musical talent afterwards. Starting with LMFAO joining her for her performance of “Music,” then bringing out Nicki Minaj and MIA soon afterwards. Notably, MIA also caught a lot of grief for flipping the bird to a camera during her performance, because Madonna couldn’t possibly have all of the spotlight could she? — *Zach Borutski*

## The Super Bowl media circus: pointless, or fun distraction?

Media week is pointless, and we’re better off without it | It’s entertaining, despite being stupid and over the top



**Mitch Sorensen**  
POINT

In a sport that’s leaning towards giving Howie Long and Jimmy Johnson more airtime than the actual people who play the game, the game-free media week that precedes the Super Bowl is a completely pointless exercise.

Achieving little more than allowing networks to cover more of their broadcast schedule in wall-to-wall analytics and coverage, media week is the sorriest excuse for sports TV I have ever laid eyes upon. Featuring more over-the-hill retired players and coaches who can’t find jobs than you can shake a cheque at, media week pulls out story lines that have no bearing on the game.

Scrolling through NFL.com’s Super Bowl page brings up articles like “Who has more swagger, Panthers or ‘89 Bears?,” “Super Bowl Fashion,” and “Football Baby’s Super Bowl 50 pick.” I am genuinely concerned for the health of anybody who actively wants to watch a three-minute clip that has as its peak of tension an infant reaching a drool-covered hand towards a Panthers helmet.

Let me back up for a moment. I once watched the NFL Pre-Super Bowl coverage, and can trace the exact incident that stopped me. In 2009’s Super Bowl XLIII, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals faced off in the big one. In the lead up to the game, there was a full hour of TV coverage on the hyperbaric chamber that Hines Ward slept in before the matchup. An hour. I don’t give a single fuck, flying or otherwise, about a past-his-prime receiver trying to rehab a muscle strain before his last attempt at a championship. I just don’t.

**Achieving little more than allowing networks to cover more of their broadcast in wall-to-wall analytics and coverage, media week is the sorriest excuse for sports TV I have ever laid eyes on.**

The small city’s worth of media that roll into whatever unfortunate city hosts the NFL Championship leave two whole weeks later, with nothing remaining but confetti. Just cut the damn week out. It’s utterly pointless, and makes us wait one more week to drown ourselves in Coors Light and dive into enormous plates of nachos.



**Zach Borutski**  
COUNTERPOINT

Yeah, Super Bowl media week is stupid. It’s a distraction; it panders to the lowest common denominator, and it’s a huge waste of time. Blah, blah, blah.

It’s stupid to be sure, but I’m honestly OK with that. It allows people to humanize these larger than life personalities. I’ve heard Tom Brady talk about the opposing team’s defence a million times before, but I haven’t heard about how much he likes Jay-Z. How about that? Tom Brady likes Jay-Z, like a regular person.

We forget that these gladiators of the gridiron are just people underneath their pads, so I enjoy seeing them laugh and joke, and I also enjoy the effort reporters put into asking them a mix of serious and silly questions. Let’s not hold media week to the same standard as actual analysis, because they’re not the same at all.

Like it or not, it’s successful. So successful in fact, that this year the NFL is turning its actual media day (which used to take place during the day), into a prime-time event, now being held during the evening. Clearly people

are tuning into this event, and it’s entertaining enough to warrant prime-time status.

What’s the alternative here? Scrap the event altogether? What does that accomplish? It’ll instead just be replaced with more analysis that’s severely lacking in personality in comparison. Sure, Tom Brady fielding marriage proposals carries significantly less merit than thoroughly deconstructing the Panthers’ pass rush, but I know which one I’d rather watch.

**I’ve heard Tom Brady talk about the opposing team’s defence a million times before, but I haven’t heard how much he likes Jay-Z.**

We get normal analysis all the time, but during this special time of the year, we get to see football players laughing it up before the most serious game of their lives. I for one am all in favour of this crazy, stupid event. It’s not as if we have to deal with this before every single game during the regular season — if you don’t like it, grit your teeth, and tune into another channel to get real analysis. Leave media week alone. As Marshawn Lynch once famously said: “I’m all about that action, boss.”



**MEDIA MAYHEM** Media week is almost as big a deal as the Super Bowl itself.

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# Diversions

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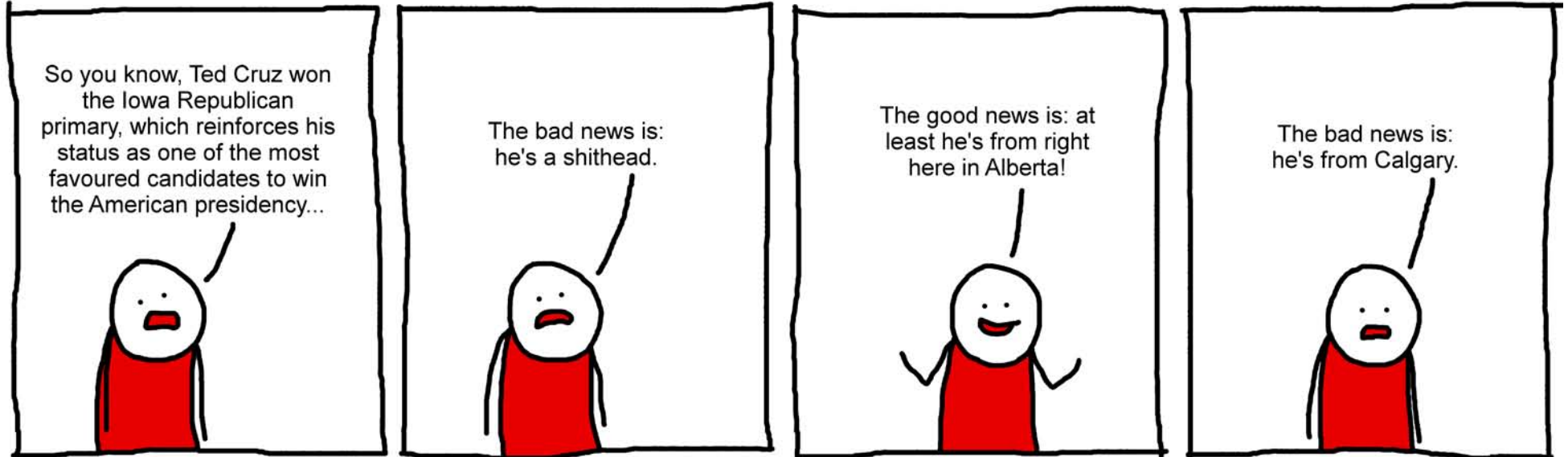
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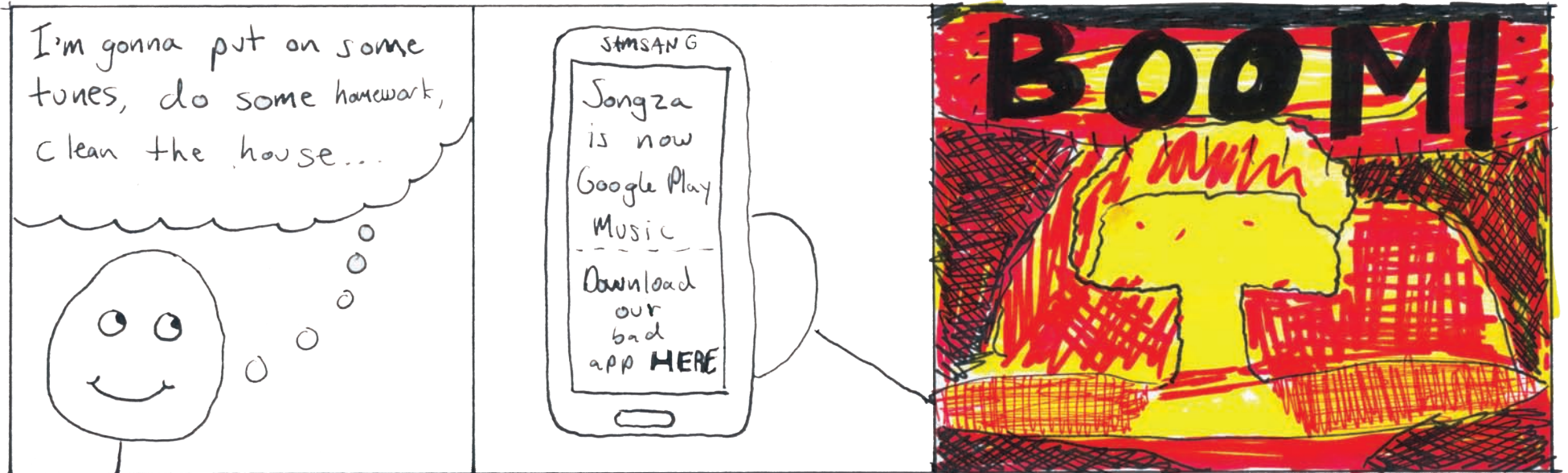
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Diversions meetings every Thursday at 3pm in SUB 3-04

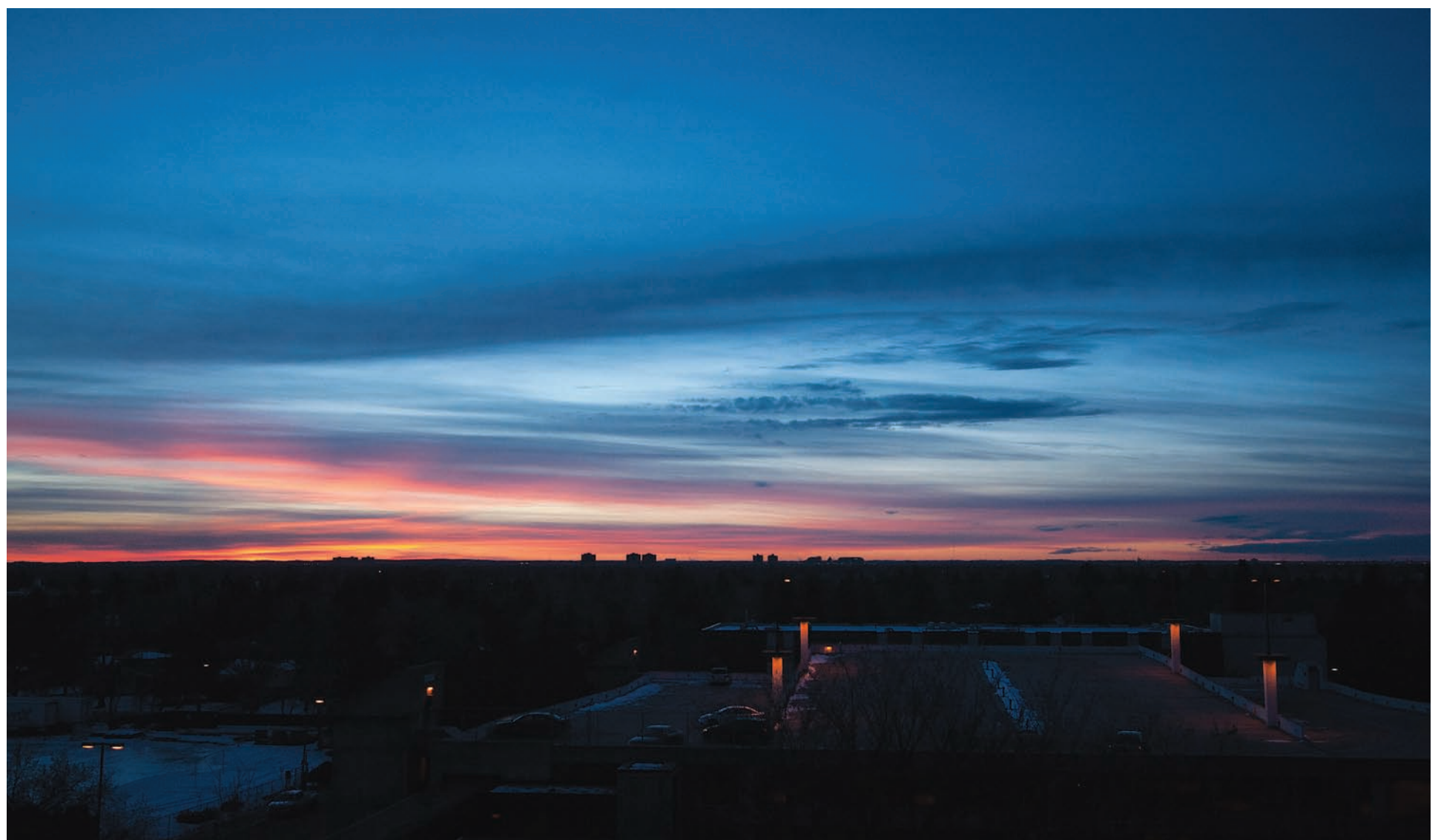
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**DEAR CONCERNED READER,  
THE CROSSWORD GRID IS CORRECT THIS  
TIME! I AM SORRY FOR ANY INCONVIENCES  
THIS MAY HAVE CAUSED!**

# AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3

by Kathy Hui

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**ACROSS**

- 1. Math fcn
- 4. Hush hush subject
- 9. Tiny fairy
- 14. One of the Omega-3's
- 15. Turn away
- 16. Low IQ category
- 17. Not TUT or LAB
- 18. Keen purchaser
- 20. Glass flask
- 22. Fragile when raw
- 23. Man-made orbit (acr.)
- 24. Like blue eyes and winter
- 25. In flames (2 wds)

- 28. The wrong direction
- 30. Rope action
- 31. Invitation's request
- 35. Biblical priest
- 36. LOTR's bad wizard "man"?
- 37. Hazed first year
- 39. Pippin's favourite meal
- 42. Service organization
- 43. Ink vessels
- 44. Sum (abbr.)
- 45. Sac of fluid
- 46. Hulled wheat
- 48. To a high degree

- 49. Not us
- 51. Napkin verb
- 52. Cell's energy unit (acr.)
- 55. Prior to P. Eng
- 56. Impressionist artist
- 59. Don't refer to yourself as I
- 63. Juice suffix
- 64. Lukewarm
- 65. Soil locale
- 66. Knights of \_\_\_\_
- 67. Insecure
- 68. Feel
- 69. \_\_\_\_ ass

**DOWN**

- 1. Gr. 12 math
- 2. Olive's genus
- 3. Kills for a deity
- 4. Chewy sugar
- 5. C'est l' \_\_\_\_
- 6. A German airport code
- 7. Not ifs and ands
- 8. Playful animals
- 9. Stop motion penguin
- 10. Programming language (acr.)
- 11. Unlucky roman?
- 12. Charged particles
- 13. Seine summers
- 19. Uninformed

- 21. Shakespearian section
- 25. Hook/arrow feature
- 26. GOT: Robert the \_\_\_\_\_
- 27. Rate my \_\_\_\_
- 28. In the bag: Dans \_\_\_\_\_
- 29. Poem for the dead
- 30. To a high class female, with your
- 32. Sidewalk transportation?
- 33. Sun screen
- 34. Minor
- 36. Engineering company, with Lavalin
- 38. Gives the go ahead
- 40. Moves to a surface
- 41. Mr. E's Beautiful Blues band, with

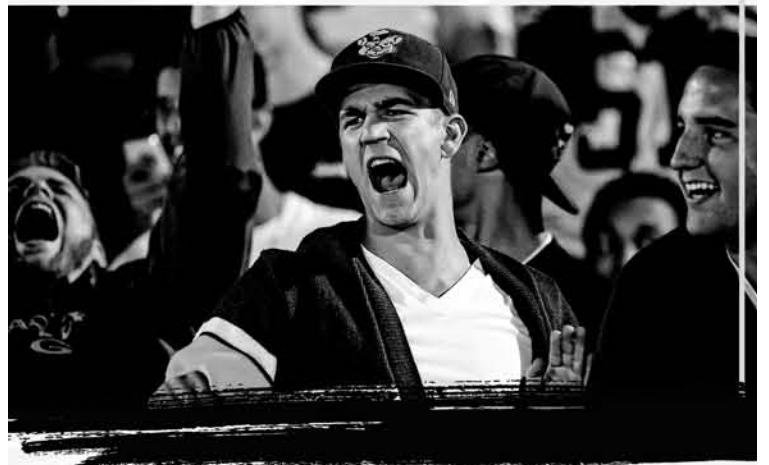
- The
- 47. Dwindles, with out
- 48. Mini or passenger
- 50. Roosevelt, affectionately
- 51. Thick
- 52. To whom it may concern (abbr.)
- 53. "We stand on guard for \_\_\_\_"
- 54. Tobacco locale
- 56. Goes bad
- 57. Incept this
- 58. Monthly expense
- 60. Discard
- 61. Fish egg
- 62. Boy

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