Minister unveils application website, voids transcript fees

SEAN STEELS
Senior News Editor

The provincial government officially launched its new website, ApplyAlberta.ca on Tuesday morning. The website will allow students to apply to any of Alberta’s publicly funded postsecondary institutions using a single website — a considerable alteration from the province’s previous system, which required students to individually apply to each institution.

The website currently aggregates the application processes of 21 different Alberta institutions, including the University of Alberta, with five others in development as future partners.

"I'm pleased we can now offer to students a new way to apply to one, two, three, four or even 21 of our outstanding Alberta postsecondary institutions in one single place," said Sharon Casey, board chair of Apply Alberta, and president/CFO of Bow Valley College, one of the schools participating in the program.

Carry began work on the project approximately five years ago with the province’s introduction of the Access to the Future Act. She professed that although streamlining application procedures might seem easy, heavy work was involved.

"When I was flying up here, I told a stewardess about our work, and all she had to say was, 'you haven't done that already'" Carry said.

As Deputy Premier Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner explained, the task was a big change for many institutions, which have been using their own distinct application systems for years — many since their creation.

"It really is a feat to get all these institutions who used 21 different application processes to co-ordinate under one system. It wasn’t at the direct benefit of some," he said, "but they did it anyway.

The new website will have some other added benefits, Horner explained, in addition to allowing for multiple applications. To relieve financial stress on students, the system will also eliminate all transcript transfer fees, meaning that students can send high school or postsecondary transcripts at no cost.

Horner’s own experience with the difficulties of Alberta’s former postsecondary application process are as both an administrator and user. He became disillusioned with the system after spending too much time in front of the computer with his own daughters.

"It was interesting because you had to do the same thing every time you applied to a new institution — the same thing in terms of questions, transcript requests. And it was confusing," he admitted.

"Once you create your profile on ApplyAlberta, with the click of a button, students will be able to use it to apply to as many postsecondary institutions as they like," he said.

Horner also pointed out that the government had done its due diligence regarding the safety of student information on the site. He said that advanced encryption and several other security measures were being employed to protect student information.

"The personal and academic information in your profile will remain private and secure," he said.

For a full list of institutions using ApplyAlberta, visit ApplyAlberta.ca.

New Arts dean aims to guide faculty through economic hardship

JONATHAN TWES
Deputy News Editor

Though her area of expertise involves carefully looking at the past, new faculty of Arts dean Lesley Cormack will be looking to the future when she begins her five-year term on July 1.

Cormack has been Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby B.C. since 2007, but she thinks coming back to the U of A, where she was a history professor for 17 years, is like coming home.

"I’m very excited about coming back to the University of Alberta, it's a fabulous university, and the research and teaching that's done there is just exceptional," Cormack says. "I think the Arts faculty has really wonderful and diverse people.

She’s even looking forward to Alberta winters.

"I’ll miss living on the west coast. That’s been a really interesting thing. Though I have to say, I’ve missed the winters in Alberta," she laughs.

"The winters here are gloomy and rainy. I actually prefer snow and cold when the sun shines."

However, there is a different type of gloomy forecast that Cormack isn’t looking forward to.

"The budget’s not good. It’s going to be a difficult year I think," she says, referring to the U of A’s $9-million deficit.

"It’s important that the Faculty of Arts looks and feels like an inviting place to be, and one that people care about."

LESLEY CORRICK
NEW ARTS DEAN

Cormack maintains that when universities face tough times, as she has dealt with before, it’s important to remember what’s at their core:

"One of the most important things always to remember is that any organization, whether it’s a university or anything else, is only as good as its people," she says.

"If you forget the people, the organization will crumble. It’s more important to do things to celebrate successes and appreciate what people are doing than it is to have money."

Arts students may sometimes feel that their faculty is in the bottom of the academic totem pole, but Cormack argues this isn’t a warranted conception.

"[That signal] comes from a time where more applied studies seemed to be the best way to a good job," she explains. "In the economic times we live in, it’s become clear that the most successful strategy will be for those that are able to be nimble and change their career, look at the big picture, and think critically about what’s going on."

With that, Cormack hopes to increase the prominence of the faculty on the U of A campus.

Unravelled coverage

Discover the story behind the greatest threat facing our Olympic athletes and our nation at large: sub-par mittens.

Unrivalled carbonage

You won’t find it anywhere else — energy economics and provincial politics in the second part of our Carbon Capture feature.
THE GATEWAY

Over 1,000 U of C students sign tuition increase rejection

ALEXANDRA ELDRIDGE CUP Alberta and Northern Bureau Chief

The University of Calgary Student Union hosted a Tuition Day of Action on February 2, where students voiced concerns about potential tuition increases.

The government of Alberta currently has a tuition fee policy that ties its increases to the Consumer Price Index, meaning that tuition can increase by more than 3.5 per cent this year.

But the U of C administration is submitting a proposal to the government that would allow them to increase tuition for professional faculites based on market modifiers, meaning that some faculties could see an increase of up to 47 per cent.

Business will see the largest increase with a 46.5 per cent raise in its tuition, while Law will see the smallest increase with 15.4 per cent.

The only other faculties seeing an increase will be Engineering and Medicine, at 38.7 and 37.8 per cent, respectively.

At the Day of Action, students had the opportunity to sign a petition that would be sent to both the Board of Governors and the provincial government asking them to reject the University’s proposal. Approximately 1,000 students signed each petition.

The Students’ Union Vice President (External) for the SU, said that the government needs to stand by their original agreement.

“Our hope at this point lies with the Alberta government, that they are going to stick with the promise they made to Albertans. Our University has come up with these proposals that the government needs to reject, because this is not affordable and this is not sustainable post-secondary education.”

As a second part of the event, the SU invited Provost Alan Harrison to answer student’s questions.

“We saw from the public forum that students were outraged at this proposal. The U of C is not usually a very politically active campus,” she said.

“But students are really mobilizing around this issue. This is something that affects them greatly and concerns them greatly.”

She also said that the University should look at other ways to save money, rather than putting the burden on students.

“We’re asking our University to take a look at how their central administration runs, and how they could reduce their expenditures. Our faculty association is pushing for a fiscal audit of our university, and we support them. We think that this public institution needs to be held financially accountable and needs to be financially transparent,” she said.

Harrison said that tuition increases are necessary for professional programs to maintain the quality of the programs.

“We recognize that these programs are programs where we are cut line with our competitors. If we are not able to maintain our competitive position [...] we need to be spending as much money on these programs as they are to ensure that we can offer programs of comparable quality,” he said.

Harrison said that he realizes students will be affected by increases, but the University will do everything they can to help students by investing in student services.

“The students will obviously have to pay more and there will be in certain cases, one would imagine, some amount of hardship for at least some of the students affected. We’re trying to mitigate that by screening out of plan that our plan is to set aside a chunk of the revenue to provide for students who need some form of financial support.”

The U of C’s budget is balanced for this year, but Harrison said that based on their latest information that their provincial funding will say the same. However, this is not guaranteed until the release of the provincial budget on February 9.

“For the current year, 2009/2010, we are projecting no deficit. That’s not because we’re comfortably off. That’s because we’ve made significant sacrifices within the institution,” Harrison said.

CORRECTION

The images from the January 20 feature “The Science Beneath Us” were incorrectly credited. Enbridge provided the image on page 12, and the images on page 13 are from Enhance Energy. The Gateway regrets the error.

As you may be aware, Edmonton is surging ahead in an online vote for the Canada-Opoly board game.

What Canadian city should be ranked the highest and why?

Comments

Amanda Laren

The Gateway invites its readers to submit comments to the Gateway on various editorial topics and issues. The Gateway reserves the right to edit and reject any comments that may be deemed inaccurate or irrelevant.

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Students are encoura...
Arctic expert calls for strategy

While Canada already possesses a 'northern' strategy, competition for resources in the unclaimed north will likely necessitate more preparation

SEAN STEELE Senior News Editor

One of Canada’s leading experts on Arctic affairs is urging the federal government to formulate a definitive “Arctic strategy” that would ensure Canada’s interests north of its borders as international interests also hold in the region.

Franklyn Griffiths stopped by the University of Alberta on Tuesday night as part of a International Week to give his lecture titled “Towards A Canadian Arctic Strategy.” Griffiths has chaired the Arctic Council Panel, shaping policy for the region, and is currently completing a book on its history in preparation for a North American public debut.

“The government of the day has produced a strategy for the north, rather than the Arctic. It is very largely a domestic strategy for the Canadian interior north. It stops, largely, at the water’s edge,” Griffiths said.

“We can try to intervene in the Middle East, but it’s not very easy. But this is a place that is, in a way, akin to us, home to us, if we can’t make a difference in the Arctic, where can we possibly make things better?”

Griffiths explained that if Canada was going to successfully establish itself as an Arctic superpower, the country has to do more than just go off in some direction or another. It needs to look at developing a far different strategy than its hard-line, domestic approach, and should be looking for opportunities to keep up with other Arctic nations. “We are seeing a whole new type of sovereignty over the passage, while the majority of nations see it as an international shipping route,” Griffiths said.

“People are starting to think about what it will take to get reliable access to the resources that are up there. Canada’s certainly thinking about this, and it carries the potential for us to become an energy superpower — an Arctic superpower,” he said. “There is a kind of scramble, or gold rush for resources.”

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“People are starting to think about what it will take to get reliable access to the resources that are up there. Canada’s certainly thinking about this, and it carries the potential for us to become an energy superpower — an Arctic superpower,” he said. “There is a kind of scramble, or gold rush for resources.”

Griffiths maintained that while Canada should be aggressive in the timing and assertion of its Arctic goals, a co-operative approach to development is necessary.

Without the ability to defend a militarized Arctic, Canada would quickly find itself with little leverage in the region. Even defence of the Arctic region, he said, would “bare the Canadian piggy bank.”

“There’s a real problem for Canada,” he said. “It’s left open for the presenter to interpret that as well.”

It’s a great way to get exposed to a variety of activity, as resource reserves and increased global competition drives governments and industry north for profit. Canadians have already begun to see shadows of such competition with the defence of the Northwest Passage. Canada stands almost solidly in its claim of sovereignty over the passage, while the majority of nations see it as an international shipping route.

Tonight’s Pecha Kucha to explore Edmonton’s secrets

JONATHAN DAVIS Deputy News Editor

Burping Edmontonian ideas will be on display at the city’s sixth Pecha Kucha night at the McDougall United Church this evening.

The event, which first conceived in Japan, is a chance for designers, artists, and writers to discuss their projects in a concise, six-minute, 40-second presentation.

It’s organized through Edmonton’s Next Gen committee, and is hosted about four times per year.

“We’re an initiative within the city of Edmonton that focuses on getting young people involved in their community, hosting networking events, and as well as events to encourage getting our voice heard in different plans,” explained Christine Cazan, Next Gen Coordinator.

Tonight’s event, which is $7 for students and $9 for the public, will have presentations along the theme of “It’s a Secret.”

“We’re exploring some of the city’s best- and worst-kept secrets,” Cazan said. “It’s left-open for the presenter to interprets that as well.”

Jessica Roden is an urban planner with O’Neil Prostinsky Architects, and will be giving his presentation.

“My presentation is looking at evolution as the master designer, and taking cues from evolution when we do our design work,” she said. “[Pecha Kucha] is a good venue to explore ideas that may not get to full sentence. It’s a way to get exposed to a lot of different ideas in a short period of time.”

Other presentations will be done by writer Matt Sasone, Merna Schmidt, Outreach Coordinator of A Child’s Hope, a charity set-up to help people adopt children from developing countries; Ken Chapman, a co-founder of Cambridge Strategies and one of the core organizers of Reboat Alberta; activist Matthew Capowski; Youth Emergency Shelter Society volunteer Liz Leeper; Chris Moore from the Chief Information Office for the city of Edmonton; and Chris Ford, program director for Action for Healthy Communities.

Any interested in attending tonight’s event at 7 p.m. can visit Pecha-Kucha.com/nights/edmonton-6 for more details.
The Festival of Teaching, now in its third year, will bring a host of informative activities to the Telus Building on February 9, giving students a chance to help shape their educational experience through dialogue.

This year's festival theme, "I Teach Because . . . I Learn Because . . ." is a leap from last year's, "Get Bigged!" Students' Union Vice President (Academic) Leah Trueblood said, explaining that the new theme left more for students to engage with.

"I think there is a real sense that welcoming students to the University is a broader and deeper process than putting up posters. It's a dialogue and it's a dialogue that happens all year, and it's about students really understanding that their voice, in its most authentic form, can push the dialogue forward," she said.

This year, the festival will run from 1-5 p.m. and will feature approximately 50 displays, and several workshops on activities ranging from watching Russian television commercials to peer tutoring. Students can also catch workshops on Chinese calligraphy and how to engage undergraduate students with the video sharing website YouTube.

The evening will culminate in a keynote from former U of A president Myer Horowitz. He was a leader in Canada, and certainly an incredible leader here on campus, Trueblood explained, the festival, while beneficial, is only a stepping stone for students to begin contemplating the place of both teaching and learning in their daily lives.

"What's powerful is the idea that an instructor is a learner," Trueblood said, "if students learn from them, and when elevating their experience, we're talking about what's really special at a research-intensive school. That's the way we can really invest in our students," she said.

"By saying these are equal and work together, then we have elevated the experience and created a more respectful and thoughtful dialogue. You absolutely cannot have one without the other and students are the next piece of the puzzle."

But the festival is also one of note this year due to an absence — more specifically, that of the late David Cook, formerly of the Department of Pharmacology, who passed away last September. Cook's involvement with the Festival was well-known.

"What's powerful is the idea that an instructor is a learner." — LEAH TRUEBLOOD

"David Cook was a tremendous, extraordinary champion for students. He wanted to showcase and celebrate the best, and to provide good role models while bringing the community together to talk about teaching." Luckily, Cook's legacy isn't meeting any impasse. In fact, if Trueblood's excitement for the event is any indication, 2010 will be more helpful for students than ever.

"I know it can be difficult to break into university. I know that the university has its own sort of language and lexicon," she said.

"But I really want everyone to feel welcome to this event so they can contribute. This is a time when we can come together and imagine when things can be different."
Summer career fair begins today

BRIDGET MURPHY
News Writer

Employers and students will have the opportunity to meet on February 4 at the University of Alberta Butterdome from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the arrival of the U of A's summer job fair. The fair, presented CAPS: Your U of A Careers Centre, represents an excellent chance for students to learn more about organizations from a wide variety of sectors that are hiring. Any person is welcome to take part in the fair, from students who are new to the job market to students who are returning to campus to continue their job search.

"There are a wide variety of employers coming to this year's fair," noted CAPS communications co-ordinator Ray Deane.

"That being said, we do have 60 employers coming to meet students and employers. They're from a good range of sectors. We have employers coming from the non-profit sector, mining, manufacturing, oilfield, education, agriculture, retail, summer camps, and they'll be hiring a good range of students from the University."

In recent months, it has been the mining, oilfield, and financial sectors that have led Canadian economic growth into a cautiously positive territory, although overall growth remains markedly lower in most industries relative to the previous year's figures, according to a recent report issued by TD Bank. These industries will all be well represented at the fair. There are, however, some notable changes in this year's lineup of presenters. Most prominently absent is the Government of Alberta, which is currently under a hiring freeze because of large budget deficits, but other levels of government, including federal departments and municipal governments will be recruiting at this year's event.

Also striking in this year's lineup is the reduced number of major corporations, both public and private, which will be attending. This should have the effect of raising the profile of those present, as student job seekers may risk with employers they were not familiar with and had not considered before.

"We're hiring, despite the alleged recession, and we're growing," said Ray Deane, HR Manager for Enterprise Rent-A-Car. "We're always interested in people who want to start a career in business and management in particular."

When asked about the importance of the summer job fair for employers, he said regarding Enterprise that "we're active on campus because the University has been a great source of talent for us in the past and it's important for us to maintain a presence there."

"The biggest benefit for students who attend the fair will be the chance to get out and network," Coffin said. "The fair is designed for students to connect with employers."

While it's clear that finding a summer job is a job related to one's field of study is ideal, there may be other ways to get started in a career once the connection with a potential employer has been made.

"It is most important for students [looking for work] to stay active, volunteer, try it out, job shadow, and interview for information," Coffin recommended. "Even if an employer is not hiring, students should not discount them as there might be [future] opportunities within that organization."

Addressing the strategy for finding the right job has shifted in recent years, Coffin said that CAPS work search advice during a recession is very similar to any other period: "Do your research, network, and start early."

CAPS is also offering an upcoming seminar related to finding summer employment, on March 21 at their centre in SUB.

A complete list of the organizations that will be at the job fair can be found on CAPS' website, www.caps.ualberta.ca/LookingToHire/SummerFair.

TUITION TALKS

The Students' Union will be hosting a meeting open to all students to discuss the Mandatory Fee Unit, a new mandatory $570 fee next year. The SU is hosting this meeting to allow students to ask any questions and voice their concerns about the new fee. The meeting will be held in the Gardens Room of the Student Union Building from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on February 5. Refreshments will be provided.

TUITION TALKS

Students wanting to register on the "yes" or "no" sides of this year's tuition referendum question can do so on February 12. Interested students are asked to attend a meeting from 3 to 6 p.m. on February 10 to begin their campaign.

Left up for students to decide this March's vote is the fate of the Millennium Villages Dedicated Fee Unit, U-Pass Renewal (which was extended the program for three more years) and the potential Physical Activity and Wellness Centre Dedicated Fee Unit.

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

The U of A celebrated their annual event with events taking place next week. Quad will be converted into a giant skating rink as students are invited to bring their skates to campus to carve the surface.

A giant Monopoly game will be played there on Wednesday, and Herdies and Bears will play in Quad on Tuesday and Thursday, respectively. A theme party at Dewsey's and a movie night at the Horwitz theatre are also on the docket.

CHECKMATE

The University of Alberta's chess team took first place at the Battle of Alberta chess tournament in Calgary. The team, led by co-presidents Geogos Davids and Kevin Kinzig, defeated the highestoverall tournament score, clinching the event for the club.

"It was tough. Chess is a game that requires hours of complete focus, but the end was definitely a team effort on behalf of everyone," Kinzig said.

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FOR HIRE Employable students will want in at the Butterdome at 2009’s fair.

Cormack seeks Arts Faculty research jump

"It is important that the Faculty of Arts looks and feels like an inviting place to be, and one that people care about," she says.

"But there are priorities. So I think one has to decide which ones are worth lobbying for, and which are the ones you just put up with. So buildings sometimes take a back road during difficult economic times."

An expected part of the U of A’s new academic vision will be a greater emphasis on research across all faculties, something Cormack supports for.

"I agree that having research experiences is an important part [and] one that has been for students coming to a research-intensive university, so I think we need to think about how we do that," she notes. "I think the trick is it’s different with different disciplines and departments. I don’t think there’s going to be one size that fits all."
Postsecondary akin to business: U of S prof

HOWARD WOODHOUSE

Academic Freedom and the Corporate Market

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8
• Business & Administration
• Media Arts
• Hospitality & Culinary Arts

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9
• Engineering Technologies & Applied Sciences
• IT & Electronics

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
• Building Construction & Design
• Environment & Land Management
• Trades-related programs

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11
• Animal Studies
• Health Sciences

HOT OFF THE PRESSES: Woodhouse argues academic integrity is deteriorating.

FEBRUARY 10, 2010
11:00 AM–3:00 PM
The Sheaf (University of Saskatchewan)

Sheaf (University of Saskatchewan)

Academic Freedom and the Corporate Market

RORY MACLEAN

Postsecondary akin to business: U of S prof

SASKATOON (CUP) — Universities are falling their faculty and students by adopting a corporate model antithetic to the goals of higher education, says University of Saskatchewan professor Howard Woodhouse.

Woodhouse’s new book, Selling Out: Academic Freedom and the Corporate Market, is a scathing overview of the modern university.

"The regime of the market model of education has to cease," Woodhouse said. "I don’t think the imagination of students or faculty, in general, is engaged enough." The steady decline in government funding since the 1980s has led universities to fill the budget shortfall with corporate funding, slowly eroding academic autonomy, he said.

Increased competition for scarce funding resources has led universities to adopt a corporate model themselves, courting students like businesses court customers, Woodhouse the professor of educational foundations said.

In Selling Out, Woodhouse describes the relationship between students and the university. The perception of students as clients has resulted in the widespread use of student evaluations in decisions such as awarding tenure, renewal of probation, promotion, and right of first refusal.

"Student evaluations of teaching tend to indicate ‘customer satisfaction’ rather than the extent to which learning has taken place, and they are an inaccurate measure of the quality of a professor’s teaching," he said.

According to Woodhouse’s research, another students now believe in the effectiveness of student evaluations, despite their growing impact in administrative decisions. Underfunding has also caused rising tuition costs and inflated class sizes. Students now perceive themselves as customers, coming to class demanding results.

"You’d say, ‘I’m not getting what I paid for,’” Woodhouse said. On the research side, Selling Out outlines a shift in emphasis toward projects with the potential to bring goods and services to market and away from curiosity-based research.

Government research dollars are increasingly tied to projects done in partnership with groups in the private sector who will offer to match funds, he said. This can erode the research autonomy of university researchers.

"They can set the goals and the nature of the research,” he said of the private sector. Research in the fields of the humanities and social sciences has been particularly affected — with less fund and less money for research in the sectors, professors more often spend more time dreaming up ways of connecting their current research to business applications rather than nurturing their imaginations, Woodhouse charged.

"How can I re-frame what I’m doing to make it related to business? How can I use my study of John Donne’s poetry to improve the marketability of books?” the professor asked. "If it wasn’t so disastrous, it would be laughable.”

Woodhouse has come out critically against the Canadian Light Source, whose radiation research takes place at the University of Saskatchewan. He fears that the Canadian Light Source project’s synchrotron — a particle accelerator paid for largely with public funds — will be used by private corporations to withhold socially valuable discoveries from the public.

"The Canadian Institute for Health Research, which funds the Canadian Light Source project, is a scathing overview of the modern university. It tends to indicate ‘customer satisfaction’ rather than the extent to which learning has taken place, and they are an inaccurate measure of the quality of a professor’s teaching,” he said.

As another example, he notes that patent laws controlling intellectual property allow pharmaceutical companies to control new drug discoveries, inflating prices.

"The regime of the market model of education has to cease,” Woodhouse said. "I don’t think the imagination of students or faculty, in general, is engaged enough.”

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Leaving municipal identity to Chance

SHERM EDMONSON IS DOING PRETTY WELL ON our quest to score a sweet spot on the new Canadian Monopoly board. How ‘bout that? The online vote, sponsored by game maker Hasbro, is winding down for the last three weeks. In that time, our fair city has rocketed through the ranks from the lowest rung, with which our cellular-dwelling citizens are so well-acquainted, to a respectable sixth place. This comes evidently on the heels of a Get-out-of-jail-free-changed public opinion mobilized by city journalist Mike Plaat, though I’m sure that those no-good ‘flyby Twitertant had something to do with it as well.

But I’m getting ahead of myself. This past week, when football season was suspended indefinitely due to a strict lockdown, I caught up on the latest news. In that time the “City of Champions” moniker was relevant — and I’m pretty sure it’s got nothing to do with the big tornado everyone kept talking about.

At best, “winning” this contest will gain us 15 minutes of fame while Torontoans turn up their noses and insist that they’re the only Canadian city that really matters. At worst, it’ll be even tackier than that — open public ballots like this rarely hold much merit or legitimacy, after all. In that case, that’d put our city right up there alongside Ryan Malcolm or Rex Goodall. What a treat.

If the city really wanted to strut its stuff, it’d be pursuing avenues of entertainment more lucrative than a Monopoly board. If sticking with board games is a must, Ticket to Ride: Edmonton seems like a profitable venture at first glance, but the fun factor would take a severe dip when real estate developers inevitably take a back seat to the homegrown mini-game, “Keep Off Tony Caterina’s lawn.”

I did hear that a custom edition of Sim City was in development for Bismarck, it was canned, however, when they couldn’t resolve the issue of the Civic Advisor’s permanence alert system, obviating the player for forgetting to build schools in Ellerslie.

And where’s my copy of Grant Theft Auto: Oil City, where a working class Hawaiian immigrant must lie, cheat, and steal his way through the seedy underbelly of Edmonton — cutting drug deals with the Katz empire, setting up laundering operations and eventually landing in the middle of an all-out gang war when the Pocklingtons return to town? I find that a new thug has been rolling in on their turf.

For some reason, I signed up to a back seat to the bureaucratic mini-game, “Keep Off Our City’s Name on a Monopoly Board,” and now I’m writing the term “engineers” more frequently than I was before. I can only be lack of imagination on the part of the promoters, and an evident lack of foresight on the part of the public.

Having just seen the first kick-line of the year, and having experienced kick-lines in previous years, we have come to several conclusions:

1. Kick-lines seen on this campus are almost invariably of sub-standard quality. The choreography is generally non-existent, the lyrics know much to be desired, the girls are frequently out of step and off-key, and the general appearance is messy.

2. Kick-lines are used to promote nearly everything on this campus, from presidential candidates, to various political parties, to dances. Surely other methods of promotion could be found by some of the less obnoxious, less people-worshipping, people-worshiping universities. This vendetta can only be lack of imagination on the part of the promoters, and an apparent lack of resources.

3. The constant use of kick-lines on the part of promoters of at least fairly serious aims would appear to reflect the opinion of the majority of the student body. We suggest that the nature of the promotion be appropriate to what is being promoted.

In view of all this, we have a suggestion for at least a partial solution. Perhaps a kick-line bureau could be established with the help of one of the dance clubs on campus. An organization feeling the need for a kick-line would approach this bureau, who, if they considered the request legitimate, would provide a kick-line of trained dancers and singers and possibly even a lyricist.

Michael G. Walker, Lyn Wemlo, and Eric Steenwee
October 17, 1967

Engineers have egos. Colour me surprised.

Does he figure we’re just a bunch of yahoos he can cut down to impress Alice (this remedial English professor)? Watch yourself, Mr. or I’m going to beat the shit out of you like I’ve been saying since you turned into an English major.

Our team name should be ‘The Deadliners’

Dodgeball is coming for some reason, I signed up. What was I thinking?

DAVID JOHNSON
A legendary hero with an ordinary name

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Campus musical numbers are sub-par!

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“THE MBO WATTSKILLER”
November 21, 1970

Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway turns historical letters that we feel are of particular importance — or are just really hilarious. Or when we have no actual runnible letters. My inbox is rather cold and empty, people. There are tumbleweeds. This must stop.

Letters to the editor should be sent to gateway@ualberta.ca or delivered via origami swan to SUB R-04. Website comments are also occasionally invited.

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

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

They should also not be about Avatar. No, terribly. Enough with those.

KELSEY TANAS

The Gateway is hiring a Circulation Public Affairs Liaison (Circulation PAL)

The position's duties include:
- delivering the Gateway to designated locations on and around campus as soon as possible after delivery from the printer,
- sorting incoming newspapers and other publications and displaying them neatly in the Gateway office, and
- coordinating the solution of the year's issues of the Gateway for the production of bound editions at the end of the year.

The successful applicant will:
- be reliable and hard-working with excellent organization and time-management skills,
- be available Tuesday and Thursday mornings and early afternoons (meaning no classes before 2 pm on those days),
- possess a valid driver's license, be 21 years of age or more, and be able to produce a clean driver's abstract; and
- be registered in at least one course for credit during each of the Fall and Winter terms.

The position requires ten hours per week (less if you're speedy), runs from March 2 until 30 April, 2010, Salary is $500 per month. We are seeking to fill this position immediately, and will close the position as soon as we find an acceptable candidate.

For further information or to apply, contact Asia Szukudlarek, Gateway Business Manager, 304 Students' Union Building, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca

The position is a problem. Not to mention that the mittens seem designed for people of all levels of intelligence. After all, it was rather nice for HBC to put not only the country our athletes are from, but also the event in which they are partaking on the mitt. Some might call this overkill, but it seems helpful. This way, there will be no awkward interviews where a recently crashed Canadian bobsledder tells the viewer will remember, and what will define our Olympic run. This is a problem.

Not to mention that the mittens are a very mixed and confusing image. Sometimes "blood on our hands" to all other Olympic athletes. Still, there's a silver lining here. Perhaps this is intentional, as an attempt to differentiate to other athletes, suggesting that in the quest for a gold metal, a few violent actions need to be taken. Canadians athletes wouldn't even have to take their mittens off!

The mittens will be distinctly what every viewer will remember, and what will define our Olympic run. This is a problem.

The Toronto Star mittens send out a very mixed and confusing image. They scream "blood on our hands" to all other Olympic athletes. Still, there's a silver lining here. Perhaps this is intentional, as an attempt to differentiate to other athletes, suggesting that in the quest for a gold metal, a few violent actions need to be taken. Canadians athletes wouldn't even have to take their mittens off!

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The Torchbearer mittens send out a very mixed and confusing image. They scream "blood on our hands" to all other Olympic athletes. Still, there's a silver lining here. Perhaps this is intentional, as an attempt to differentiate to other athletes, suggesting that in the quest for a gold metal, a few violent actions need to be taken. Canadians athletes wouldn't even have to take their mittens off!

The mittens will be distinctly what every viewer will remember, and what will define our Olympic run. This is a problem.
Walk a path away from apathy

ROBB VINCENT

I recently attended an International Week lecture entitled "Student Movements That Changed the World," in which the speakers recounted their experiences and research into various student demonstrations in China, France, and South Africa. This naturally got me thinking about our campus, how passionate and selfless our peers are, and how our demonstrations and protests are when compared to these people who challenged their country’s oppression at great personal risk and were actually successful. It seems like many of the student organizers at the University of Alberta are these movements but fail to see what made them successful, instead relying on ineffective tactics such as sit-ins and gimmicky demonstrations. Comparing these to successful movements abroad, three important lessons come through that future student activists should take to heart.

Firstly, do not blame student apathy, or students in general, for lack of interest in a cause. The obvious distinction between us and the aforementioned movements is that we aren’t oppressed. We may dislike paying tuition or governmental chicanery, but nobody is infringing on our rights, so there is no moral compulsion to act. People are free to choose whether they will support a cause or not, and to what degree they actively participate — and we need to respect their choice, be it apathetic or fully committed.

Secondly, stick to issues that you can actually change. The previous student movements succeeded because they were tackling local issues that affected everyone, and thus they were able to be directly involved. Solidarity is crucial, because it’s what powers a cause and lends credibility to its aims. I’m bound to feel more strongly about an issue if it affects not only me, but my friends and fellow students. Moreover, I’m much more confident in the success of a protest if I’m physically near the powers that be, and can directly influence their decision-making.

This is on point, incidentally, where most tuition protests falter. Though none of us is paying tuition, most of us can and do, after which you quickly lose interest in further demonstration — either apathy for those sufficiently affected by high tuition fees bleeds away among peers and malcontents. That, and having just successfully paid a tuition you thought was unfair is unfair to still admitting defeat.

Lastly, have a single attainable goal and a realistic plan for achieving it. It’s not enough to organize a rally inQuad or a march on the legislature. Those happen all the time, and the most they accomplish is fleeting off some steam. Every activist group must have a clearly stated goal, an endpoint at which you can say you’ve succeeded. Without end in sight, interests in any case will inevitably drift away. Furthermore you need a well-thought-out strategy for attaining your goal, offering solutions to a problem instead of just protesting it. Tell your supporters what they can do individually to help implement these solutions. This will help maintain interest and a feeling that you’re making a positive change.

To exemplify these points, consider the issue of the proposed $570 increase to student fees, which will likely be protested in the future. This affects every student at the U of A, and is one of the few things you can view it — hence, public knowledge.

What does this all add up to? Though these seem like meaningless pieces of information, a pretty good profile of the move comes together. I’m sure that if the few would agree that we should bear the costs, so the seeds of solidarity are sewn into our clothes. We need to watch this new fee repeat. With this goal in mind, we can better plan a strategy. A fiscal problem likely has a fiscal solution. One idea could be to campaign students to simply not pay the $570 fee come September. If enough students do it, the University will not get the money they need and be forced to find a new one.

So if there are any student activists out there, please consider these points. And if you do insist on trying the same old ineffective rallies, at least have the honesty to call them “we’re not actually going to protest, but not the way it was designed for the public good — it’s about us” and you’ll be on the right course.

CCTV cameras have never had my tail, if for no other reason than I’ve caught smoking. Of visits to drinking establishments on Whyte Avenue is in a public area and anyone can view it — hence, public knowledge. Though this may not be a malicious purpose of visits to drinking establishments on Whyte Avenue is in a public area and anyone can view it — hence, public knowledge. Though this may not be a malicious purpose of visits to drinking establishments on Whyte Avenue is in a public area and anyone can view it — hence, public knowledge. Though this may not be a malicious purpose of visits to drinking establishments on Whyte Avenue is in a public area and anyone can view it — hence, public knowledge. Though this may not be a malicious purpose of visits to drinking establishments on Whyte Avenue is in a public area and anyone can view it — hence, public knowledge. Though this may not be a malicious purpose.
Living today with no news is bad news

ALEX KEMP

We're all familiar with the Metro distributors who lack on the main floor of the LRT building on which unsuspecting students trying to get to class or go home. I often take one out of pity for the woman who usually works the transit, idly flipping through a few pages on the bus home. Some students, however, dive behind the pay phones or push themselves as close to the wall as possible, trying to look out of sight while she waves the paper in her hand, weakly asking no one in particular, “Free Metro? Free Metro!” Many of those she manages to corner push and paste, safety in HUB, panicking in the face of her mild degradation.

Recently, as I stood in the station, checking the daily tabloid I'd felt obliged to take, I watched the woman in the green apron push a paper towards a girl and her friend. The girl, perfectly poised and cool, ignored her completely, saying to her friend, “I don’t read the news.” I was briefly tempted by the urge to march over and beat her over her completely, saying to her friend, “I read the news.” This slump in the quality of our news is largely a result of corporate interests cramming real journalism into a deeply flawed business plan. It’s a scary time to work in news media, as the industry is facing massive layoffs as the larger newspapers are attempting to cut down on staff by offering voluntary buyouts, or generously offering to allow employees to leave for less money. CanWest, the company that publishes the Edmonton Journal, has been continually trying to “centralize editorial operations,” which is a nice way of saying, “saying off and/or buying out as many staff as we possibly can.” These layoffs are part of an attempt to allocate more funds to online resources, and to increase profits by competing with YouTube and Wikipedia. The Canadian Association of Journalists, however, points out that the true result of these mass layoffs — more than 2,000 in the past few years — is a drop in the quality of media, both in print and online. And really, if it’s not you, for one, don’t need my news sources to resemble YouTube — I’d like them to resemble something called journalism.

Readership is falling, not because we’re not interested in the news, but because the news is less and less interesting. Less in with the sale of papers, newspaper publishers try to keep the advertising dollars coming in, and create advertising campaigns that might damage profitability by hooking the journalist. Journalists who are too continuously are liable to find themselves out of a job. This has obvious implications for investigative journalism, an invaluable source of news that’s often unpopular with the men in suits. The void left by those stories is then filled with a combination of ads and blurbs fill pieces that are as insipid as possible. It’s not surprising that many Canadian journalists are considering the buyout plan, due to plunging ad standards. With all these issues of mainstream news media, what’s an information-hungry teenager to do? Well, if you desperately need to know what Paris Hilton is tweeting right now, you can follow her on Twitter! Or you might consider following a commentary from that of investing in a paper that reports it. Otherwise, you might consider following a Canadian newspaper editor’s musings on the state of the world. There are also a number of “reader-supported” independent news sources available online. And, of course, you would be able to watch the developers of the Guardian — Actually, don’t answer that. My job might hinge on it.

The Marble Pedestal is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who does something particularly noteworthy and awesome is elevated to the Marble Pedestal. Edmonton cops. Congratulations, I’ll provide the soundtrack.

DAVID JOHNSTON

I have an iPod. And like any red-blooded Canadian male, I also have the uncontrolable urge to purchase elaborate, dinky sidewalk dances when listening to upbeat music. Okay, maybe I’m just a red-blooded Canadian male dandy making. Hey, don’t judge me. Taylor Swift is occasionally catchy. At any rate, this week marks a new step in my street dancing: the first time my dancing got me pulled over by the police.

Let me paint a portrait of my mystery pull-over. It’s 1:30 a.m. I’m standing on the sidewalk, having just gotten off work and needed to stay awake on my walk home. I’d been微博ing around and checking to make sure I wasn’t missing a society to come So he pulled up and asked me a couple questions, probably to ensure that I was indeed sober (check) and not a riding cker (check). Satisfied on this way it wasn’t particularly exciting. I didn’t even have to pull out my anti-cop tactics (I’ve learned to say). But not too long after that, I received a note in the Edmonton Police Force where they’re so awesome at their jobs that they actually do the things they say they do. Congratulations, I’ll provide the soundtrack.

U of A" — is a drop in the quality of media, both in print and online. And, of course, you would be able to watch the developers of the Guardian — Actually, don’t answer that. My job might hinge on it.

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David Johnston
Carbon capture and storage technology (CCS) is a strategy that the Alberta government is investing in to combat greenhouse gas emission levels. The process extracts carbon dioxide — the primary greenhouse gas — from factories and coal-fired power plants, and injects it hundreds of metres underground. When the government released its 2008 plan on combating climate change, it called for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 200 megatons by the year 2050 — 139 of which will be put underground with CCS — making Alberta the first jurisdiction in the world to use CCS on such a scale. Although environmentalists are raising concerns in regards to CCS, even proponents of the technology are finding flaws in the government's plans.

The government established its $2-billion CCS fund with the passage of Bill 14 last June. Companies interested in pursuing CCS were able to apply to the Alberta Carbon Capture Development Council — established by the government in 2008 — for funding assistance to build their CCS projects. Since last October, the government has given hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to four different CCS projects in the province. Last October, the government gave grants to Shell Energy for $745 million and TransAlta for $436 million. Then in November and December, the government awarded Calgary-based Enhance Energy and Swan Hills-based Swan Hills Synfuels for $495 million and $285 million, respectively.

"The $2 billion is an investment in our environment and our future, and a continued signal of our commitment to the responsible development of Alberta's resources," Environment Minister Rob Renner said while introducing Bill 14 in the Alberta legislature last March. "This act will give Alberta a very powerful tool with which to meet the unique set of challenges we face and further cement Alberta's leadership in this area."

Separate from the government grants, Enbridge, a Calgary-based energy company, is leading a consortium of 20 firms working on CCS. Called the Alberta Saline Aquifer Project, the consortium is looking to turn a profit from storing CO2 underground in a pilot project in southern Alberta.

However, Rob Lavioe, project manager for the University of Calgary's WASP CCS research project, said that the province's strategy faces some serious obstacles. He explained that since 69.5 per cent of Alberta's planned greenhouse gas reductions is to come from CCS, the government needs to substantially raise the $15-per-tonne surcharge charged to CO2 emitters, as well as broaden who it's applicable to.

"The large-scale saline aquifer sequestration of carbon dioxide has no economic driver other than a social conscience and a social desire to eliminate carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, or to prevent CO2 from being released into the atmosphere to prevent further increases in atmospheric CO2 concentrations," Lavioe said, explaining that the financial cost of engaging in CCS will need to be cheaper than doing nothing.

"The only revenue there could be is through a carbon tax. That's the only way revenue can be factored in. There has to be some kind of cost on carbon in order for there to be revenue for pure saline aquifer sequestration."

Lavioe estimated that because the costs of CCS ranges anywhere from $60—120 per tonne, that would be the minimum carbon tax required to get power plants and factories to switch to CCS. He believes that the government will look to doing this after CO2 has proven itself within five years. The main reason the current proposals have received money was because they were the most likely to succeed.
There's a lot of risk. It's not assured that carbon capture will work. There's no means assured that it won't — but as soon as we lock in on that as a winner, then you would give up all those other elements that we can shift around."

- Andrew Leach, associate professor from U of A's School of Energy and the Environment

**BURNING CRUDE WITH ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY**

One possibility for CCS companies to generate revenue is through the well-established process of Enhanced Oil Recovery, known as EOR, which squashes more oil out of exhausted wells. Enhance Energy and Swan Hills Synfuels — two companies receiving government CCS grants — plan to generate revenue through the sale of the newly recovered oil. The government estimates that 444 million tonnes of CO₂ can be captured using EOR.

However, this raises a paradox, as mentioned by Edmonton Journal columnist Graham Thompson in an article published last October. "Running three barrels of oil on average generates almost the entire volume of CO₂ that burning those 14 billion tonnes will produce about 444 million tonnes of CO₂ — almost the same amount of CO₂ injected in the first place. In other words, Alberta could claim to have buried 444 million tonnes of CO₂, but so far as the global climate is concerned almost no carbon dioxide would have been removed from the atmosphere." Despite this, Swan Hills Synfuels' CEO Martin Lambert defended using EOR in its emissions. "I just don't understand how an argument based on 'we shouldn't produce more oil' kind of holds together. If you use feeds money and a drilling rig to produce more oil, that's acceptable, but injecting CO₂ to produce more oil isn't? That sounds like a non-sequitur to me." Susan Cole, Enhance Energy's president, added, "There's CO₂ that remains in the ground after you do enhanced oil recovery means that even though we produce oil, the net calculation is that CO₂ emissions are reduced in the province."

All requests by the Gateway for comment from Alberta Energy Minister Ron Liepert and Dana McQuenn, the Parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Energy and co-chair for Climate Change Change and Management, were unfilled by the time you get to 2020," he said. "We're looking at the province being able to shift Alberta's reliance from less CCS to other forms of green energy."

"There's a lot of risk. It's not assured that Enhanced Oil Recovery will work. There's no means assured that it won't — but as soon as we lock in on that as a winner, then you would give up all those other elements that we can shift around."
IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF CCS

Critics of CCS in general have raised issues surrounding its environmental impacts. A May 2008 report by Greenpeace, entitled False Hope, raised concerns regarding sulfur dioxide creeping into the process.

"Captured CO₂ often contains various byproducts of combustion processes such as nitrogen oxides (NOₓ) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂), as well as trace heavy metals including lead, mercury, and cadmium," the report indicated. "In contact with water, SO₂ forms the highly corrosive sulfuric acid that more readily dissolves materials, such as the cement used to seal wells."

However, John Zhou, the Executive Director of the Environment Solutions branch of Alberta Innovates — the province’s energy and environmental research agency — said that the sulfur dioxide isn’t a concern.

"Most pollutants associated with CO₂ are captured today and disposed of safely [for example] in depleted hydrocarbon reservoirs and deep saline aquifers. Sulfur emissions from coal combuption [are] controlled by reacting [sulfur emissions] with limestone to form gypsum (a mineral used in dry wall). CO₂ capture itself will not generate additional pollutants."

Lavoie echoed this sentiment, "You also have to look at the scale of it and how much SO₂ are we actually talking about. Is there enough to dissolve any significant amount of rock? And the answer to that is CO₂ is 99 or 98 per cent pure going into these reservoirs, so the chances of there being enough impurity of SO₂ in that CO₂ is very low."

Chuck Strumolo, Enbridge’s vice president of alternative and emerging technologies, emphasized that the aquifers are separated from usable ground water by impermeable cap rocks.

"There [are] enormous physical distances between these salt water aquifers and a fresh water aquifer, so the odds of them coming into contact are pretty remote. Even given that remote chance, again, where there’s CO₂ injection, there would be extensive monitoring of this and comparing it to base levels."

THE BOTTOMLINE

The CCS strategy doesn’t appear to be a threat to public safety, and is a scientifically plausible solution to dealing with Alberta’s carbon emissions, albeit at an unknown degree. Still, however, remains the issue of affordability. While Lavoie said that CCS isn’t a silver bullet, he called it "a silver buckshot."

"It’s one part of the solution and it’s not the entire thing, so I think to the degree that it can work for us, it will add to a number of other solutions that are out there to bring CO₂ emissions down," he said, adding that there needs to be other methods to reduce greenhouse gases. "But why would you tie a hand behind your back when this is a significant scalable process that is available to us?"

"We need to be looking at the CO₂ sequestration, the CO₂ emissions reduction, and managing the CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere from all of the options that are available, not just CCS. It is one of many solutions and it’s a significant one."
**U of A Students’ Union**

**Centenary Celebrations**

**MONDAY 8 FEB**

The launch of the Students’ Union’s 100th Birthday

Keep your eyes open between 11:50 & Noon

If you would like to be involved in the launch, drop by an Infolink booth on the main reception at 2-9pm SUB before 11am on Monday Feb. 8th for your free party package

**TUESDAY 9 FEB**

**GAME TIME**

Come by the Centenary Rink in Quad to watch the Bears play some hockey!

**FREE DOUBLE FEATURE MOVIE NIGHT**

5pm: *Up*  
8pm: *Where the Wild Things Are*

**WEDNESDAY 10 FEB**

**SU MONOPOLY**

Come play a life-size version of Monopoly on the Centenary Rink in Quad & win loads of prizes. You get one chance to get around the board & win as much as you can.

This event runs from 11am - 1pm (while supplies last)

**THURSDAY 11 FEB**

**GAME TIME**

Come by the Centenary Rink in Quad to watch the Pandas play some hockey!

**KARAOKE THEME PARTY**

Dewey’s @ 3pm  
Theme: 100 men, 100Future  
Dress from a past decade or a decade yet to come  
Fries for 100 cents (5j)  
$100 prize for Best Dressed

**FRIDAY 12 FEB**

**CUPCAKES, CUPCAKES & CUPCAKES**

Drop by SUB at noon for your free cupcake (while supplies last)

**WRAP UP CELEBRATIONS**

Centenary Rink in Quad @ 6pm  
Join us for some skating, free hot chocolate & fun!

**CENTENARY RINK**

**MON 8 - FRI 12 FEB**

Bring your skates & join us at the Centenary Rink in Quad

*All Centenary Rink activities & skating are weather & ice conditions permitting  
Please adhere to posted rules & dress signs & skate with care

**FREE STUFF!**

All week the Students’ Union will be giving away 100 free treats each day. Keep your eyes open for the volunteer teams handing out these coupons.

There will also be opportunities for students to win a chance to present a **Molson Cup** in March. Please check the website and poster boards for more information.

**FOR MORE INFO & UPDATES PLEASE GO TO WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/CENTENARY**
Celebrate with Susan Aglukark
Saturday, February 6 at 8 p.m.
New City Likwid Lounge (10081 Jasper Ave.)
$16.75 for students at tixonline.squares.ca

The Inuk singer and Distinguished Scholar in the field.

This genre-blending artist has dipped his music in everything from new wave to soul to country; produced the Pogues' Rum, which works out to less than a dollar per play! New Works plays in front of the audience. If there's a chance to engage actors and directors with everybody involved.

Elvis Costello
Saturday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Emmax Hall Winpise Centre (9720-102 Ave.) $107-212 at 780-428-1414

This genre-blending artist has dipped his music in everything from new wave to soul to country; produced the Pogues' Rum; Sodomy and the Lash; performed with artists as diverse as Burt Bacharach, No Doubt, and Bruce Springsteen; mar¬

The Carmela here [isn't] the same Carmela on stage. My character’s name is Carmela in the show, but it’s not necessarily me on stage. [However], there are aspects of me and my classroom on stage. It sounds so silly, but it’s a big concept of what is real.

KEVIN KERR
PLAYWRITING & SPINE

The project involves themes like care-cashing and issues in the disability community about how much energy should be devoted to try and “cure” disability, as opposed to the idea of trying to integrate disability into a larger culture. The lead actor is a quadriplegic, but doesn’t expect the show to be a preachy lecture about the disability’s effect on people’s lives.

As Kerr says it’s not his job to educate or teach the audience about anything, but rather, just to get them thinking about the issues on their own.

“I don’t feel that it’s my business as to what the audience takes away from the piece of art. It is my business to try and create a world that reflects the questions that we [as a company] are interested in. We want to put these questions on stage and allow the audience to interact with them. We want to open a door for understanding through just showing on stage.”

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For me personally,” adds Beaz, “I am one of the company members that had been working on [SPINE] for almost three years, it’s very personal.”

As Kerr jumps in, “Although a lot of [our personal connections are] not necessarily going to be known or obvious to the audience, I think that it will inform the whole experience of the play in a way that’s different from a line in how the audience will want to engage with it and perceive what is [happening] on stage. Hopefully that ends up being a good [topic] for after-show conversation over wine.”

The show at the Timms Centre on campus runs back-to-back with the Olympics in Vancouver. Kerr explains this as being a great opportunity for the show to play in the public eye. Both are just as excited for the show to play in the public eye. "We want to put these questions on stage and allow the audience to interact with them. We want to open a door for understanding through just showing on stage.”

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Dear John: a sweet Valentine's Day film

Dear John
Directed by Lasse Håjestrom
Starring Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried
Opens February 5

LARISSA SZMIHELSKY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you love A Walk to Remember, or The Notebook, it's pretty much guaranteed that you'll fall in love with Nicholas Sparks’ newest novel-turned-film, Dear John. Surprisingly, there are fewer tears than expected, but there are tears nonetheless.

The love story between John Tyree (Channing Tatum) and Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried) is pretty typical of a Sparks novel. John is a Special Forces soldier on a two-week leave on the U.S. east coast, when he meets and falls in love with Savannah. They blissfully spend the remainder of that time together surfing, beach partying, building houses (yes, really), and just being perfect couple. Tyree inevitably has to go back to his nation in Germany, so they promise to learn everything about each other via the old-fashioned method of writing letters until his return the following year.

There’s no doubt that Tatum and Seyfried’s performances are convincing and they accomplished their roles as look-alikes without flaw. They’re both good-looking actors, and they look even better together. However, the most astounding performance came from Richard Jenkins, who is John’s father in a sub-story in the film.

Jenkins plays a tear-jerking role as a parent who has a difficult time showing affection to his son for reasons that go beyond a dysfunctional family. The way he goes about his parental duties is heartbreaking and affecting. I don’t think there was a person in the audience who didn’t fall in love with Jenkins’ character and want to reach out and comfort him when John couldn’t.

Also in the story is Alan, a six-year-old boy with autism. The role is played by Braeden Reed, who is autistic in real life. The subtle parallels between Jenkins’ character and Alan make for a touching story, and in a way also educates the audience about autism and how people affected by it live their lives.

Another insightful aspect of the film is that of the young soldier’s life in a cycle of repetitive patterns is heartbreaking and affecting. I don’t think there was a person in the audience who didn’t fall in love with Jenkins’ character and want to reach out and comfort him when John couldn’t.

As I was exiting the theatre, a couple behind me was commenting on how accurately the life of a soldier was captured, from the costumes down to the mannerisms. I took this comment seriously, and found myself satisfied with how accurately the film portrayed military life.

I would recommend the film to anyone, especially now with Valentine’s Day around the corner. Granted, there are a few tacky scenes, but what can you expect from a romance? The beginning of the movie starts out with Tyree saying Seyfried’s purse, which fell in the ocean. She then feels indebted to him because “her whole life was in that purse, and she wouldn’t know what to do without it.”

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Blood, guts, and fancy haircuts

The diabolical musical Sweeney Todd is coming to the Citadel this month

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by Hugh Wheeler
Directed by Bob Baker
Starring Rejean Cournoyer, Jeremy Baumung, John Ullyatt, Andrew Shatnack, Nicole Robert, Roman Pfob, Douglas MacLeod, Jeff Irving, Kelley Harwood, and Elizabeth Beaulieu

Runs February 6-March 7 (showtimes vary)

Theatre

Citadel Theatre (Macleod)
1922 97A Ave.
$60-$95 at citadeltheatre.com

While Ullyatt hasn’t actually seen any of the special effects at work, he confirms rumours that the gore associated with Sweeney’s famous barber-shop chair will not disappoint.

“Sweeney could be any one of us, side by side, for Ullyatt, the show also showcases the best of what theatre has to offer its audience.

“Sweeney Todd is coming to the Citadel this month. I love this play; it’s so good.”

Everything, but it doesn’t stop being different and it’s got to be. It’s a different time, in this story, Sweeney gets the worst of it.”

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Dan Vacon of The Dudes shares his money-saving secret: Walmart

**music preview**

**The Dudes**

With Raptors and The Secretaries
Saturday, February 6 at 8 p.m.
Pawn Shop (10549-82 Ave.)
$12 at Door, $5 for students, under 18 free

**VAN GONZOLEA**
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Dan Vacon of The Dudes comes off a lot like his music: honest and direct. He loves his music, and it reflects who he is — a man totally committed to his work. And commitment is essential when you’re an up-and-coming band, where the lifestyle is anything but glamorous.

“We’re broke-ass on tour, man. We got to cut every corner we can,” says Vacon. “I bought grapes, of all things, at Walmart.”

Between buying produce from Walmart and eating Cheezies for breakfast, the prospect of being an artist who is actually starving almost seems preferable. Whether they’re crashing on the floor of a fan’s house or chugging back cheap beer in the van before the show, The Dudes get by. But Vacon is not a man who is entirely concerned with the material things life has to offer. For him, the decision to go into this lifestyle was an easy one. Vacon has always been involved in music, being the “singing fool” as a child.

“I knew that I could totally kiss this girl if I learned this rad tune. And I played that tune [...] I played it at a house party and this girl actually cried her eyes out. I was like ‘Oh my God, there could be something to this.’”

Whether it’s the physical misfortunes the band has suffered recently — both Vacon and drummer Scott Ross have been in accidents, resulting in broken collarbones, knee caps, and mustaches — or the lies people tell each other to get through the day, for Vacon there is inspiration everywhere.

“I think an artist just needs to be a total yes man,” he says. “You got to live a wild life and that’s where you get your material from.”

And Vacon is a man who relates very closely to his music. What he writes is what he has lived through. If you want to be with Vacon, you need to love his music, “or at least pretend to,” because he is his music.

For him, one band is not enough to store all of his creative output; he also has a side project, The Dudes Workhorse. There have not been any clashes between his wife and his mistress, though — far from it. In fact, fellow Dude Scott Ross has saddled up with Dan in said band. Between the two bands, they have a “good, tight unit.”

The Dudes are on tour, promoting their latest album Blood. Guts. Bruises. Cuts., an unfortunate title, considering the personal injuries acquired by the band. There’s “no hanging around” on tour, making it hard. But it’s enough for these four fellows. All they need is a good crowd, an after party, and hopefully some generous fans to put them up for the night because on tour, booking a hotel is the last thing they do.

Vacon sums up his feelings about this lifestyle in a few words: “I mean, I’m broke as fuck but I’m happy too, and not working.”
Gilbert & Sullivan back in E-town

Robert Herriot is directing Pirates of Penzance, bringing the classic back to life.

Pirates of Penzance

Written by Gilbert and Sullivan
Directed by Rob et Herriot

Back before Captain Jack Sparrow or the Internet, Pirate-Ninja Wars, there was The Pirates of Penzance, or, The Slave of Duty. Written by the renowned duo Gilbert & Sullivan in 1879, the comic opera has been a mainstay of theaters, both professional and amateur, for over a hundred years. And now it is casting anchor at the Edmonton Opera.

The story concerns Frederic, apprenticed as a pirate until his 21st birthday due to a misunderstanding (pikin and pirate sound alike). When he finally achieves his emancipation from a lovable gang of swashbucklers, he ventures out and finds a fiancée in the lovely Mabel. However, before a fairytale wedding can take place, it is revealed that Frederic was born on February 29 and thus has only served five birthdays according to his constitution. The opera has outfitted many new costumes to equal the British sense of "duty."

He goes on to say age is no barrier, so who will enjoy Pirates of Penzance? Just about everybody, claims Herriot. "The average non-opera goer, the people who think opera is the homed-women singing, will be pleasantly surprised to find this isn't the same stigma." The production has been given costume and tonal qualities of the piece, and "the music is quick and engaging which makes up for the lack of lyrics. The music puts an innovative spin on psychotherapy and gives the music more pizzazz. The script remains as hilariously topsy-turvy as ever, with plenty of jokes at the society of the time. The British sense of "duty" is particularly played upon, including such troubles as Frederic's ridiculous legal woes, and his Victorian nursemaid's staunch personal attendance, despite being abroad in a pirate vessel.

To better match both the historical and social qualities of the piece, the production has been given costumes to do the job. The opera has outfitted many new costumes to equal the British sense of "duty." (The opera is set in the very model of a modern Major-General with a few bumbling cops, and you're struck comedic gold."

"The average non-opera goer, the people who think opera is the homed-women singing, will be pleasantly surprised to find this isn't the same stigma." The average person who enjoys a good laugh in their opera is sure to enjoy Pirates of Penzance, which has been redesigned with a much more whimsical approach to it. Very colourful, very handclapping," says Herriot.

The English seacoast set, too, is colourful, apart from the "gothic look at Act II inside a minred chapel.

"The average non-opera goer, the people who think opera is the homed-women singing, will be pleasantly surprised to find this isn't the same stigma," says Herriot.

"He goes on to say age is no barrier," says Herriot. "We had a young girl, a family friend, in the audience during rehearsal and she really enjoyed it. She's only eight. And of course I think older people will enjoy it because it will bring back memories of their high-school production. Everyone knows Pirates of Penzance, and I think universally it will be enjoyable."

What did poor little gnomes ever do to our society? It seems that breach electronic acts infected Mushroom wants to showcase their evil side. And by the sounds and looks of it, the gnomes from the cover are angry ones.

Putting the tone aside, their music's to-nature kind, Legend of the Black Shawarma offers an anger release mechanism. Instead of just screaming along with the music, some of the lyrics allow the listener to put themselves inside a ball and throw that ball against a wall. How's that for a stress releaser?

It's unknown what has infected the mushroom, but something definitely infects the internet. There seems to be a hidden subliminal message that is played throughout the whole album that increases the speed of the task at hand, whether it is homework, or a run on the treadmill. A bonus indeed! However, I'd not recommend this disc for schizophrenics, or the high-strung - it will serve well, though, for those afflicted with the munchies.
FIGHTING THE FRESHMAN 15

Week 4: Team Freshifian 15 shares their struggles and successes after a month of healthy living.

Follow them at:
http://thegatewayonline.ca/blogs/freshman15

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DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: February 26, 2010

READY FOR MY CLOSE UP

The New Works Festival will run at the Timms Centre from February 9-14. For just $5 per night, students can check out work by their peers before much of it ends up on the summer theatre festival circuit.

OK GO ON THE BLUE COLOUR OF THE SKY

"I've been trying to get my head around what the fuck is happening," sings OK Go vocalist Damien Kulash in the first track, "WTF?" This fall, apparently to make the bizarre lyrics even more incomprehensible, they released an EP under the pseudonym OK Go. But there's more to the story of their new album, Of the Blue Colour of the Sky.

The album tells a story about a group of people whose plight the average Canadian is unaware. Refugees from the African country Liberia fled to a camp in Ghana called Buduburum in 1990. This camp was designed to hold 8,000 people for a short time, but at one point housed around 40,000 people who had fought against one another in the war in Liberia. Among the people who lived there was a group of people who fled the war in Liberia, people who fought against one another, sleeping together, eating together, and most importantly, singing together.

The album's introduction, "WTF?" is delivered in falsetto, apparently to make the bizarre lyrics even more incomprehensible. But it's not until the album's aptly titled "Full of Upset Songs About Heartbreak and Disaster," that the quality of the songs is so variable. Several tracks fall short due to overproduction — a cheesy robot voice ruins the haunting lyrics of "Before the Earth Was Round," while the introduction to "WTF?" almost had me convinced my speakers were broken.

"All Is Not Lost," the album's final track, is delivered in full of upbeat songs about heartbreak and disaster, Of the Blue Colour of the Sky

The idea of this compilation is to provide a documentation of dance music and chronic depression. Hip hop style works well for some of the beat tracks, particularly the thoroughly enjoyable "White Knuckles." But "In the Glass," is woefully unremarkable. The idea of the songs is variable. Several tracks fall short due to overproduction — a cheesy robot voice ruins the haunting lyrics of "Before the Earth Was Round," while the introduction to "WTF?" almost had me convinced my speakers were broken.

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The joint venture between the University of Alberta's Education Abroad Program, U of A Art and Design Students, and the Liberian Centre for Youth Empowerment provided a documentation of the refugees' experiences through music.

The project initially came about when an Edmontonian went to Ghana and discovered the refugee camp, where people were living among rats and cockroaches while suffering from many diseases including hepatitis and malaria. To his astonishment, he found that these people who had fought against one another in the war in Liberia were living together, sleeping together, eating together, and most importantly, singing together.

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**Volleyball squads welcome T-birds to town**

Bears set to host west-coast opponents, with a trio of seniors ready for their final regular season games

**DAN HAUM**
Sports Editor

With the postseason on the horizon, the defending national champion Golden Bears volleyball squad has only one thing on its mind as the team closes out the regular season—finishing at the top. The Green and Gold will look to accomplish that this weekend in their final regular season series, as the UBC Thunderbirds come to town looking to put a damper on the Bears’ plans to host a playoff round.

With the Canada West playoff picture still cloudy, the Bears have clinched at least a postseason berth, but still have work to do if they hope to secure a home playoff date — something head coach Terry Danyluk’s team can control with a pair of victories over the T-Birds this weekend.

“This is a really important weekend for us if we are to make it,” Danyluk said. “We’ve got to win both games and hope someone beats Calgary,” Danyluk explained.

Alberta can put the pressure on the Calgary Dinos for first place with a sweep, but the Dinos are still in the driver’s seat with two games in hand on the Bears. Alberta can, however, assure themselves of at the very least, a five-round home playoff date with a pair of victories over UBC.

“Finishing first would say a lot this year in our conference just because it has been so close. Mathematically, there are still four teams that could finish in first place, so for us this weekend is the first thing we have to think about and wherever the cards land after that, we’ll deal with it.” Saturday night will be Senior Night for a trio of Golden Bears, as fifth-year senior Millie Defeo, Craig President, and Thomas Jerome will all take to the court for their final regular season games in the Green and Gold.

“Those three guys have been major contributors for us in their time here — Jamie straight out of high school, and Craig and Millie transferring from Grant MacEwan. They’re guys that are different types of players, different personalities, but they’ve all contributed a great deal both on and off the court to the program’s success.”

Like this past weekend when the Bears basketball squad honoured their pair of fifth-year seniors, the weekend series will give all three players an opportunity to showcase their game on a night dedicated to their contributions.

“Every year when players leave us, all we can hope is that their experiences have been great and that the next phase in their life, we’ve helped make them ready for,” Danyluk said. The Bears and T-Birds take to the court Friday night at the Main Gym, with game-time slated for 6:30 p.m.

The second game of the weekend doubleheader gets underway Saturday night at 6:30 p.m.

**Pandas look to snap current three-game losing skid against undefeated, and number-one ranked UBC**

**BREN CARGILL**
Sports Staff

The U of A Panda volleyball squad will try and rebound this weekend after being swept last weekend in Brandon.

The pair of losses to the Bobcats squelched the Pandas’ losing streak to three games, and while some might be worried about the recent slide heading into the playoffs, head coach Laurie Biler isn’t among them. She believes that her team is just working through some kinks heading into the Canada West playoffs.

“I don’t believe that we’re off track,” Biler commented. “We just have to keep working hard and the success will come.”

It’s not going to be an easy tune-up, though, as the final weekend series is a matchup with the top-ranked and undefeated UBC Thunderbirds. The T-Birds marched into the U of A after taking six-straight sets from the Manitoba Bisons last weekend, setting up the number-one seed and a bye to the semi-finals in the process.

Having lost only seven sets all season long, the T-Birds will be a very stiff test for the Pandas, but Biler believes her team is up to the challenge.

“It’s always a great opportunity to test ourselves against the number-one seed, but our mindset is always that we want to win.”

While UBC’s starting six — Liz Condonier, Shantie Marcella, Katie Tyzol, Kyle Richay, Jessica Vonhoffing, and Jen Hume — don’t have eyes-popping individual stats, they’re leading the way in areas vital to their success, such as hitting percentage, assists per set, and aces and blocks.

The Pandas are no strangers to great teamwork either, as they lead the league in assists and are second in blocks this season. A very large part of the team’s success with moving the ball comes from the play of sophomore Jaki Ellis. She leads Canada West in assists and her coach believes it has put a damper on the Bears’ plans to host a playoff round.

“Jaki is great because she can adjust to each one of her teammates strengths to be successful. She doesn’t force others to change to accommodate her.”

The Pandas enter this weekend in the middle of a tightly packed playoff race, with eight teams jockeying for the seven playoff positions. Alberta, despite having dropped four of their last five contests, will have a good chance of finishing in second, which would give them home court in the first round of the playoffs. The Pandas currently sit a game back of Brandon for second spot, but will need a sweep this weekend to put the pressure on the Caras, and some help in order to host the conference’s first playoff round.

The action kicks off at 6:30 p.m. on Friday in the Main Gym, while the second game goes Saturday at 8 p.m.
Krepps ready to take lifelong passion for curling to Olympic Games

**NATHAN LIENKWI**
Sports Staff

As preparations for the Winter Olympics enter the final stretch, Golden Bear and Pandas curling head coach Rob Krepps is among those scrambling to ready himself for the trip to Vancouver.

Krepps, who is also the curling manager and head coach at the Saville Sports Centre, is headed to the Olympics to serve as a specialty coach and scout for the Canadian women’s curling team skipped by Calgary’s Cheryl Bernard.

Originally from Ottawa, Krepps learned how to curl at age 14, and instantly became hooked on the sport.

“I can remember, time to time, skipping school and going to the rink in an effort to try to perfect my game,” Krepps noted.

After a stellar junior career and some time spent competing in the Ontario provincial playdowns, Krepps decided to join the World Curling Tour at age 25. He spent almost 10 years competing on the circuit before moving to Halifax, where he managed a couple of curling clubs, before eventually finding his way to the Saville Centre.

Shortly after his arrival in Edmonton, Krepps was targeted by the Director of the Canadian Curling Association (CCA) Gerry Proehlman as someone who could possibly contribute as a coach.

“Approximately 10 years ago, I started to get involved with coaching and I received great support from Gerry. He has mentored me along and, to this day, he is probably the strongest influence I have in my coaching career.” Krepps stated. “I have also channeled that competitive drive from my playing days into my coaching efforts.”

“Approximately 10 years ago, I started to get involved with coaching and I received great support from Gerry. He has mentored me along and, to this day, he is probably the strongest influence I have in my coaching career.”

ROB KREPPS
HEAD COACH OF A CURLING

Only recently, however, has Krepps become regularly involved in working with Canadian curling squads at international competitions. At the 2007 Men’s World Championship held at Renal Place, Krepps worked in a small capacity with Canada’s Glenn Howard. In 2008 and 2009, Krepps found himself coaching the Canadian Women’s World Championship teams, skipped both years by Winnipeg’s Jennifer Jones.

“My role has been one as a CCA consultant coach that goes into an existing team to work with that team and its coach, to help them improve in areas that I might have expertise in. The areas I focus on are the technical aspects of the game, such as the four phases of the curling delivery and, to some extent, brushing and shot management,” Krepps explained.

Krepps’ love of the strategy and tactics involved with curling prompted him to write a book on the game that will be released shortly after the Olympics. The book will serve as a resource for the CCA, as well as to the development of advanced coaching.

His expertise in these areas was recently asked when the Saville Centre was named as the national training centre for curling; State-of-the-art technology has been put in place, and, as Krepps said, “it gives the athletes immediate feedback after they’ve thrown a shot.”

With Bernard’s risk, Krepps maintains that it in Vancouver, in addition to scouting other teams, as well as to having a chance to analyze the game, is there to offer a different perspective and help the athletes with their overall comfort and confidence as they strive for gold.

**The School of Energy and the Environment (SEE) invites you to attend the next presentation in our “SEE the research at work” seminar series:**

**Social Impacts of Oil Sands Development: Research on Fort McMurray**

Date: Friday, February 12, 2010
Time: 12:00 to 1:30 pm
Location: Stollery, Executive Development Building, University of Alberta (S.U.B.)
Registration: Please RSVP online at http://www.see.ualberta.ca

**Sara Batterman (Associate Professor, Sociology) and Nova Koeneman (Associate Professor, Rural Sociology)**

"How does Fort McMurray cultivate its urban environment as an industrial development, and how does the social array of oil sands differ from other places? What is the impact of industry-governmental and corporate power structures on these themes?"

"Social Impacts of Oil Sands Development: Research on Fort McMurray" is the latest in a series of seminars organized by SEE, which will feature presentations on local research projects and initiatives. The seminars will provide insight into ongoing research and policy development in the oil sands industry and related fields. We will particularly focus on themes of energy, housing, and social issues, and how these are shaped by social location and experience in resource-rich parts of the world, as in Fort McMurray.

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**ON THE BUTTON** Krepps will be among those lending their coaching expertise in Vancouver, as he looks to help Cheryl Bernard’s rink to a gold medal.
Top rookies meet as hockey Bears host suddenly red-hot Pronghorns

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

Sudden rookies collide this weekend at Clare Drake Arena, as Adam Chorneyko and the Lethbridge Pronghorns share town to take on Sean Ringrose and the number-two ranked Golden Bears in Canada West men's hockey action.

One of the biggest storylines that is sure to play out over the course of the weekend is the race between Chorneyko and Ringrose for the conference's rookie scoring title. Both freshmen have been fantastic for their respective clubs; however, it's Ringrose who leads the race, having collected 21 points on the season — three more than Chorneyko.

Chorneyko, a St. Albert native, is second in scoring for the Bears' southern Alberta rivals. Heavily recruited out of the WHL, Chorneyko put up a 21-goal season with 13 goals and 11 assists, second in scoring for the 'Horns this season with 13 goals and 11 assists, second in scoring for the Medicine Hat Tigers, has been among the veteran tandem of Eric Hunter and Jesse Gilmour. Ringrose, who notched 38 goals last season playing with the Medicine Hat Tigers, has been among the Bears' most consistent performers, putting up terrific offensive numbers, but has also been one of the team's most defensively sound forwards.

"We've really been happy with the way Sean Ringrose has played. There's a lot of little things that he does that go unnoticed. He does such a great job on the forecheck and in the defensive zone with puck retrieval, that we don't spend a lot of our time bottled up in our defensive zone with our top line," Bears head coach Eric Thurston said.

"Sean has really stepped up and been a big part of our team this year for a freshman," Thurston pointed out.

"Adam's a really good player. I would've liked to him to come here, but it just didn't work out for whatever reason, and he's really stepped up," Bears head coach Eric Thurston said. Staying out of the box will be a major key to shutting down the six-foot winger, as Chorneyko is tied for third in the conference with six power play markers.

"He's a big player who has good skills and can be physical. We've got to keep an eye on him, and [...] limit his time and space," Thurston said.

For the Bears, Sean Ringrose has been tremendous from the outset of the season as well, playing between the veteran tandem of Eric Hunter and Jesse Gilmour. Ringrose, who notched 38 goals last season playing with the Medicine Hat Tigers, has been among the Bears' most consistent performers, putting up terrific offensive numbers, but has also been one of the team's most defensively sound forwards.

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Gateway prognosticators go head-to-head on Colts vs. Saints

Indianapolis has a secret weapon, and so do I — it's called Twitter, and it gave me all the answers to the Super Bowl.

R Vitale

While my counterpart over there will surely try and win you over with his prognostications as to why the New Orleans Saints will win the Super Bowl by picking holes in my reverence for a certain quarterback and outclassing Twitter scoops, you would be wise to take my words as those of reason. There is a viral laundry list of reasons as to why the Saints won't in the Lombardi Trophy this Sunday in Miami, I'll take the high road in this conversation, opting instead to run a positive campaign by extolling the greatness that is Peyton Manning and a mystery man whose identity I will reveal shortly.

Whether you love him, or hate him, Peyton Manning is the NFL's very best quarterback. Manning has proven, and will prove yet again this Sunday, that he is the single greatest quarterback of his generation.

Now, if I really wanted to, I could lay out my entire argument based solely on the greatness that is Manning, but for argument's sake, I think he was referring to a certain Jean-Sebastien Giguere, who recently got traded to the Toronto Maple Leafs — knowing papajeeves as well as I do, I think he was referring to someone much more intricate — more specifically, the Colts secret weapon that has yet to be unleashed on the world, Samuel Giguere. Recently rated the 106th best player on either side, theCanadian goalie was apparently been saved by Colts head coach Jim Caldwell for the sole purpose of winning the Super Bowl.

This may seem far-fetched, but in reality it will become the single greatest play ever used in a Super Bowl. The plays that will see Giguere make his lasting impression on the sporting world — "Giguere is a good fit. He'll look good in the blue and white." — will become staples of NFL Films for the next 100 years. Feel free to withhold your excitement for this tasty nugget of fact — the simple fact of the matter is the New Saints have put in has finally culminated in a moment that will put the final piece of the city's soul back in place. And provided that God isn't busy assassinating one of Tony Robbins' motivational lectures out at the airport Hilton like he was when Karma landed, New Orleans will finally get its soul piece by piece.

No matter how much anyone analyzes this matchup — either from a football or universal perspective — there is one overarching fact that can't be ignored here: God totally owes New Orleans.

See, back in 2005, in an event that received almost no coverage from the mainstream media, a female libertarian roughly the size of Mesoamerican rose from the Gulf of Mexico and began wreaking havoc on the Louisiana city.

Known among the townpeople simply as “Katrina,” the cruel beast inflicted damage in every direction by fanning her smirk to create a destructive gale-force wind that wreaked part of the Superdome, and using her gigantic rolling pin to destroy the city's levees, thus completely submerging houses in water. Those who weren't busy crying to swim out of their front doors stood on their rooftops, declaring, "Quit PMing, you cranky bitch!" Unfortunately, that just intensified her wrath.

Realizing that he had "dropped the ball on that one," God sprang forth almost a year later and unleashed a man who didn't know the meaning of "drop the ball" upon the mammal woman — a vigorous young stallion named Drew Brees. By that time, though, Katrina's physician recommended that she cease wreaking havoc upon cities due to a chronic back problem, so Brees instead turned his attention from punch-ing Katrina's ovaries to rebuilding New Orleans soul piece by piece.

It has taken a few years of dedicated work — along with the tireless help of God's other lumpen, including Reggie Bush, Marques Colston, and Pierre Thomas — but the time and effort that these Saints have put in has finally culminated in a moment that will put the final piece of the city's soul back in place. And provided that God isn't busy assassinating one of Tony Robbins' motivational lectures out at the airport Hilton like he was when Karma landed, New Orleans will finally get its hands on Vince Lombardi's trophy.

The Indianapolis Colts can have all the poorly ranked, rogue wide receivers that they want, but when they're losing by 56 points with two minutes left and they need some divine intervention, is Samuel Giguere going to snap his fingers and unleash a man who didn't know the meaning of "drop the ball" upon the mammal woman — a vigorous young stallion named Drew Brees. By that time, though, Katrina's physician recommended that she cease wreaking havoc upon cities due to a chronic back problem, so Brees instead turned his attention from punch-ing Katrina's ovaries to rebuilding New Orleans soul piece by piece.

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Pandas Hockey

The Pandas return to the ice this weekend for a series in southern Alberta against the Lethbridge Pronghorns after a bye-week last weekend. Alberta comes into the weekend sporting the conference's best record at 19-1-0, while the Pronghorns are still in the playoff conversation, sitting four points back of fourth-place Regina. Alberta has taken on the 'Horns twice this season, with the Pandas skating away with victories in both outings back in November. The number-three ranked Pandas take on the Pronghorns on Friday and Saturday night at 7 p.m. in the Chinook City.

Bears Basketball

Just barely holding onto their playoff hopes, the Stetson Bears also travel to Winnipeg this weekend for a pair of games against the Bisons. The meetings between the Bears and Bisons will be the first of the season, and Manitoba will be looking to play the role of spoiler, as they've already been eliminated from playoff contention. Rookie sensation Jordan Baker and the rest of the Bears tip-off with Manitoba both Friday and Saturday night starting at 7 p.m. All four Alberta-Manitoba basketball games can be seen live online at www.educationcdn.com/bisons.

Pandas Basketball

Head coach Scott Edwards and his Pandas basketball team travels to Winnipeg this weekend to take on the Manitoba Bisons, as the Green and Gold will be looking to wrap up the regular season with a pair of wins. Alberta heads to the Manitoba capital looking to clinch second place in Canada West's Prairie Division, and in doing so, would secure themselves a first-round playoff home date.

Olympic send-off

The Saville Sports Centre will be hosting a send-off tonight for Kevin Martin and his men's Olympic curling team. Martin and team members John Morris, Marc Kennedy, Ben Hebert, Adam Enright, and coach Jules Owchar will be in attendance to meet and greet. Everyone is welcome to come out and show their support for Team Martin at the send-off, which gets underway at 8 p.m. in the Balmoral Lounge inside the SSC.

Tallon to carry Olympic Torch

Pandas soccer goalkeeper Sarah Tallon will be carrying the Olympic Torch on February 6 through the town of Cache Creek, just outside her hometown of Kamloops, B.C.

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ID & EGO by Lauren Alston

Grow your own army of Mendelian peas? Cool!

AAAUGH!!! THE PEAS!!

PEOPLE WATCHING by Faye Campbell

Why do we have so many liquor stores?

Competition keeps prices down, I guess.

Is bargain hunting really that common in liquor retail?

I could get this cheaper at Wal-Mart, you know.

POP AND ICE CREAM by Lance and Evan Mudryk

Cooking food is too much work. I should get a wife who can cook for me.

This dating thing is too hard. I should just get a mail-order bride.

This marriage sucks. My wife doesn’t speak English and frankly, this postram is overcooked.

I should just eat at McDonalds.

I'm lovin' it!

SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood

Berkeley - Science Conference

God, I love conferences. New friends, cool ideas... Free drinks...

Wait, free drinks?

Yeah, free drinks.

Free?

Free?

Free?

Yeah, free drinks.

I... Love... Science...

THE RESTLESS WICKED by Marie Gojmerac:

Part Four

Suspicious

It's you! It's me! What are you doing here?

Just chilling.

So this has nothing to do with my crushing doubt?

I find that hard to believe.

You're an angel!

I'm also not a friend.

What do you believe?

If not my concern.

BLACK RAINBOW by Jeff Cheng

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