

THE

GAUNTLET

EST 1960

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER » VOL. 53 | ISSUE NO. 10 | AUGUST 9, 2012

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

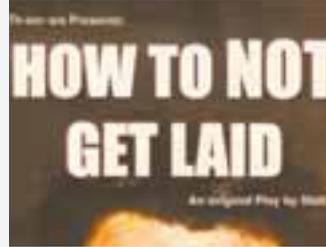
NEWS

Alberta is the only province where residence buildings are taxed. The Students' Union is looking to change that, page 3.



ENTERTAINMENT

How Not To Get Laid is a charming and insightful look at the mishaps and pitfalls involved in sex and dating, page 7.



SPORTS

The path to the London Olympics went through Calgary this year with the 2012 Canadian track and field trials, page 6.



It's almost
that time...

Editor-in-Chief: Erin Shumlich 403-220-7752
eic@thegauntlet.ca

News Editor: Michael Grondin 403-220-4318
news@thegauntlet.ca • @GauntletUofC

Entertainment: Sean Willett 403-220-4376
entertainment@thegauntlet.ca • @Gauntainment

Sports: Taylor McKee 403-220-4376
sports@thegauntlet.ca • @GauntletSports

Opinions: Tamara Cottle 403-220-4376
opinions@thegauntlet.ca

Features: Susan Anderson 403-220-4376
feature@thegauntlet.ca

Photo: Adrienne Shumlich 403-220-4376
photo@thegauntlet.ca

Production: Sarah Dorchak 403-220-4376
production@thegauntlet.ca

Illustrations: Morgan Shandro 403-220-4376
illustrations@thegauntlet.ca

Business Manager: Evelyn Cone 403-220-7380
business@thegauntlet.ca

Advertising Manager: John Harbidge 403-220-7751
sales@thegauntlet.ca

Graphic Artist: Evangelos Lambrinoudis II 403-220-2298
graphics@thegauntlet.ca

Contributors
Alex Hamilton • Emily Macphail
Eric Mathison • Gurman Sahota

Golden Spatula
Leya Russell for taking so many great photos last week. We didn't forget about you! Thanks for the rad photo skills.

Furor Arma Ministat

Room 319, MacEwan Students' Centre
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
General inquiries: 403-220-7750
thegauntlet.ca

The Gauntlet is the official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute. Opinions contained herein are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire Gauntlet staff. Editorials are chosen by the majority of the editorial board. The Gauntlet is a forum open to all U of C students but may refuse any submission judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic, libelous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Grievances regarding the Gauntlet follow a three-step process which requires written decisions from the Editor, the GPS Board of Directors, and the Ombudsboard. The complete Grievance Policy is online at: thegauntlet.ca. The Gauntlet is printed on recycled paper and uses anti-gum based ink. We urge you to recycle/give strangers on Nose Hill the Gauntlet.

The Cover
Design by Adrienne Shumlich
Last week's cover photo by Leya Russell

The War of 1812's inferiority complex

Unlike the United States, Canada is a nation that gained its independence without a bloody revolution. This does not mean that Canada's history is without violence. Many consider some of Canada's defining moments to be on the battlefield. Vimy Ridge, the battle of the Somme and the Passchendaele battles are all examples of Canadian valour in the First World War that went a long way in defining our nation on a global scale. There is nothing inherently wrong with celebrating a military victory and honouring those who fought for our country.

If you have been watching the Olympic games recently, or any television for that matter, there is a good chance that you have seen the Government of Canada's ad campaign raising awareness about the bicentennial of the War of 1812. The ad features a cast of luminaries from Canadian historical folklore including Tecumseh,

Laura Secord, Isaac Brock and Charles de Salaberry all bravely beating back an American invasion. Clearly, Canada's foe in the War of 1812 is the main focus for the renewed interest in the war and the federal government has decided to sink \$28 million into promoting the bicentennial. This campaign aims to fill the perceived need to promote national identity by reminding Canadians that we once beat the U.S. in a war, or held them to a draw at least. Canadians have plenty to be proud of, especially in the realm of military history.

Although it is absolutely true that these men and women fought bravely and suffered for our land, trying to drum up any sort of jingoism from a 200-year-old battle is unbecoming for any nation and smacks of immaturity. The stated purpose of the program is to raise awareness for a particular moment in history where Canadians, if one can confi-

dently identify them as such 55 years before Confederation, defeated a would-be American invasion. Most of the residents of Upper Canada at this point in history were British loyalists or those who had fled the U.S. in the years following the Revolutionary War in America. Jefferson himself even expressed that he believed that it would be an easy task to march as far as Quebec without any real resistance. Keeping the Americans out was indeed an impressive military achievement, just not something that can be re-hashed now to assuage Canadian insecurities.

Putting aside the fact that the physical battle is largely regarded as a draw, perhaps it is time that Canada stops extracting national pride from an ancient military victory against the U.S. When considering the motivations of those who would have fought on behalf of Canada in that war, it seems as though anti-revolution-

ary sentiments would have been equally as viable as any sort of patriotism for the new Canadian territory. The U.S. desire to march on Canada is hardly illogical. The goal of the American invasion was to once and for all eradicate the British, the imperial power that they had just spent years fighting for independence from. Meanwhile, Canada remained a bastion for America's political and military enemies.

The War of 1812 should absolutely remain in the curriculum, but Canada does not need to beat its chest and rattle its sabres over the bicentennial of a battle against the Americans. As a nation, Canada has achieved so much since then, sometimes fighting alongside the Americans. Canada should remain proud of its past and confident in its place in the world, and no centuries old battle should change this.

Gauntlet Editorial Board

Work where you play.

my MacHall

Now hiring:

- Den Bussers, Servers & Coat Check Staff
- Conference and Events Servers & Set Up Staff
- Stor & Bound and Copied Staff
- Kitchen Cooks and Dishwashers

What we offer:

- Flexible work hours
- Training
- An organization that gives back to students
- An opportunity to be part of the campus community
- Work with friends and make friends

Please send your resume to resumes@su.ucalgary.ca and indicate which position you are interested in.



Residence property tax under scrutiny

Council lobby Alberta municipal governments to remove unnecessary taxes

Michael Grondin

News Editor

Most post-secondary institutions and residence buildings across Canada are exempt from paying property tax to municipal governments. In Alberta, however, residence buildings are taxed hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

One priority for the Council of Alberta University Students, a student advocacy group that represents 70,000 Albertan undergraduates, is to lobby provincial and municipal governments to remove these residence property taxes, bringing money back to student services and making living in residence better.

“Why are students being taxed, why are residence structures being taxed and why are we the only province where this is happening?” asked University of Calgary Students’ Union vice-president external and chair of CAUS Raphael



Adrienne Shumlach

Residence buildings in Alberta, like Kananaskis Hall, pay hundreds of thousands in property tax.

Jacob. “Across the country, it’s generally assumed that post-secondary institutions and residence institutions are not levied property taxes.”

According to Jacob, the U of C’s residences are levied an average of \$500,000 annually. He also said that the U of C’s residence buildings should not be taxed.

“We find it interesting that our residence buildings are wholly on

campus, they have no market value and can only be used for student living purposes, so we needed to ask why the U of C is paying property taxes on these structures,” said Jacob.

Every year, residence associations in Alberta appeal the taxes — the U of C receives roughly \$150,000 in tax returns. Jacob said this process takes unnecessary resources.

“It takes time, lawyers, staff in-

volvement and money, which swiftly cuts into how much money we are actually getting back,” said Jacob. “It’s honestly a stupid system, it’s wildly inefficient and it needs to be changed.”

The U of C administration, Residence and Ancillary Services, the SU and student associations from other schools in the province are currently discussing ways to lobby

provincial and municipal governments to change residence property taxes. There are two main lobby goals: eliminating or greatly reducing the taxes and receiving more money in return to go towards student services, like residence maintenance.

Residences in Alberta operate on a cost-recovery model, which means they do not profit, and due to property taxes, rent is higher and maintenance is postponed.

Jacob said maintaining residences are a top priority if any of the taxed money is returned.

“We want to make sure that the money is used to benefit students and bring positive changes to schools in Alberta,” he said. “By the end of the summer we want to have a signed letter about our plans.”

Other CAUS priorities include restoring provincial tuition cap, non-instructional fees, removing barriers to voting and increasing post-secondary participation.

The Mustard Seed offers rare living opportunity

Michael Grondin

News Editor

The Mustard Seed, a Christian humanitarian group in Calgary, is offering a unique living experience for post-secondary students and a chance to become neighbours with less fortunate individuals.

“The Missional Housing Program is an opportunity for college and university students to take the learning they get in their own lives, from the classroom and books, and really put it to work in their own community, living among the poor and the homeless,” said The

Mustard Seed’s manager of community living Deb Runnalls.

The housing initiative debuted in 2011. Runnalls said the program can help students share their skills with the community and gain an understanding of the challenges the impoverished face. It is open to students in all areas of study, and will begin again this September.

Participants will live at The Mustard Seed’s downtown location for \$400 a month, which includes 10 meals a week, utilities and Internet. Participants will live in dormitory-style housing for

two semesters with a shared common area and kitchen.

“For students who really want to understand their community in a different way, and who feel that living among the poor would enhance their own learning experience, regardless of what they’re [studying], this is good chance to do so,” said Runnalls. “This program will give endless opportunities to engage in the community in whatever way each student feels would help.”

She said the program is about friendship, in which students can help boost confidence and en-

courage less fortunate people.

Weekly support meetings will be offered to help participants process their feelings and what they have learned. They will also receive mentorship from the community living and housing team and The Mustard Seed staff.

Runnalls said this program can also help struggling students.

“We are aware that students struggle with homelessness and poverty,” she said. “There’s a lot of couch surfing going on, residence fills up quickly and we feel like this would also help students in need.”

She said diversity among par-

ticipants is valued and the experience can be positive for anyone involved.

“It’s important for anyone, regardless of their individual life journey, to understand that we all have blessings in our lives, and we all have something to offer,” said Runnalls. “Sometimes all we have to give is what we can give, and it’s the small things like time, sharing and friendship that go a long way.”

Participants were unavailable to comment.

To register and for more information visit theseed.ca

What are you excited about for the upcoming year?

campus quips



“Getting involved in co-curricular activities.”
– Vikrum Rao, fourth-year zoology



“To broaden what I know.”
– David Khoo, second-year computer science



“I’m really excited to get into the groove of things.”
– Monica Nguyen, second-year bio-medical sciences



“Moving back into rez.”
– Ashley Corcorain, second-year social work

Common reading brings new students together

First-year students are welcomed to campus with a graphic memoir

Michael Grondin

News Editor

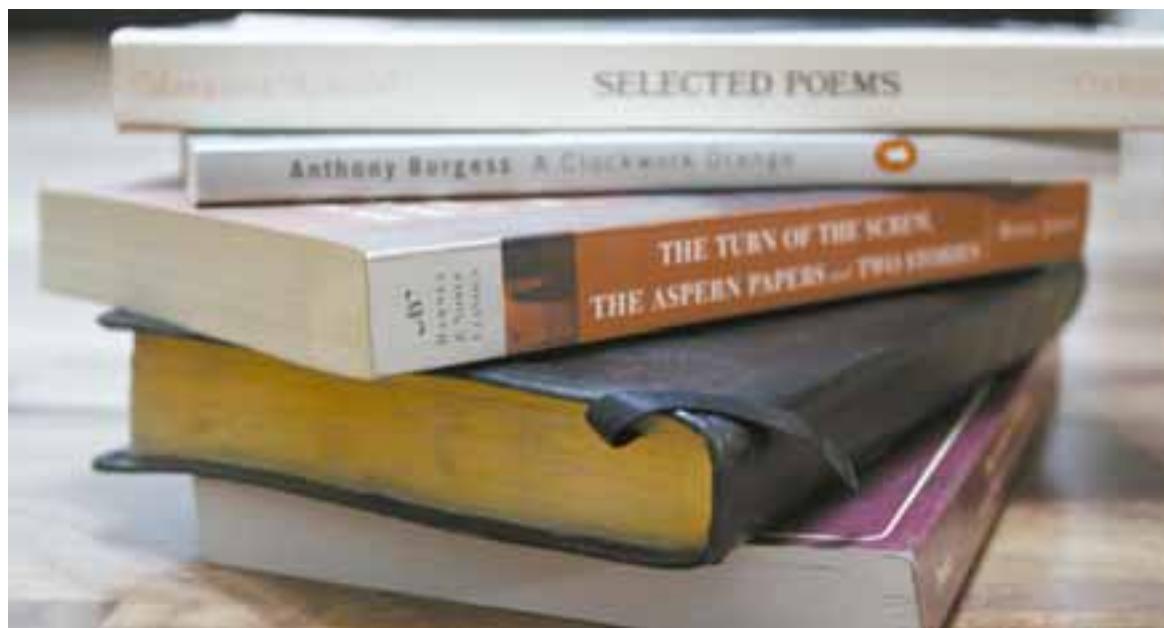
The University of Calgary is welcoming all new students with a book to spark a shared learning experience. As part of the Common Reading Program, all first-year students are given a book in the mail before September. The program is the only one of its kind in Western Canada.

The project was initiated in 2011 with *Little Princes* by Conor Grennan, which had a theme of globalization. This year's selection is *Bitter Medicine: A Graphic Memoir of Mental Illness* by U of C drama professor Clem Martini and artist Olivier Martini.

The books are chosen through a nomination process and have a tie to the university community.

Bitter Medicine is about a family living with mental illness. It deals with the Martini family and their experiences with schizophrenia. The book works as a conversation between pictures and words, said Martini.

"What we had hoped to do is open up what it is like for a family to experience mental illness, the stigma surrounding it and the challenges it provokes," said Martini. "This graphic memoir allowed us to talk across disciplines about



Adrienne Shumlach

The Common Reading Program strengthens discussion and community on campus.

how a life can be changed when a diagnosis of mental illness occurs."

Martini also hopes that discussion about mental health awareness will increase.

Leadership and student engage-

ment orientation coordinator Meg Martin said the goals of the program are community engagement and academic introduction.

"The books can be challenging, and something students haven't

read in high school. [The books] apply to multiple disciplines and they relate to the student experience in some way," said Martin.

Martin said it can be difficult for new students to get involved with the campus community, however, the Common Reading Program aims to bring students together.

"We want students to have a conversation starter before they come to campus, and this program is a simple way to accomplish that," she said. "The books can also engage students in critical thought and discussion about the issues

they present, and it can start critical dialogue which is what university is about inside and outside the classroom."

Martini said the program is a good initiative to strengthen community.

"The notion is that through reading and through examining a book, it permits certain opportunities to draw a class together, to provoke discussion and provide a common point of reference," said Martini. "It allows students to think right from the beginning about issues presented by the text, and explore these issues as a community."

Martini said the book will be integrated into orientation week, as well as lectures in first-year classes. There will also be organized discussions and opportunities to speak with the authors.

"We are a large community-based campus, and the more we can do to increase the connections, the better. We just really want to help new students get engaged and enjoy their experience," said Martini.

Throughout the year, students, faculty and staff can participate in the nomination process for next year's book.

It allows students to think right from the beginning about issues presented by the text, and explore these issues as a community.

— Clem Martini, co-author of *Bitter Medicine*

For more information visit leadership.ucalgary.ca or email crp@ucalgary.ca

West LRT line will be complete by early 2013

Michael Grondin

News Editor

Many areas of the city will have easier access to transit because the West LRT development is running smoothly.

Students who live in Calgary's far west can expect the West LRT, the brand new transit line that extends all the way up 17th Avenue to 69th Street S.W., to be up and running by early 2013.

According to West LRT communications strategist Melanie MacKenzie, the development and construction for the project is on schedule.

The line will have six new stops, including Calgary's first under-

ground and overhead stations. The line will go straight through downtown and up to the brand new station being built in the far N.E.

"The track has been laid down right to the end, and the overhead wiring has been placed," said MacKenzie. "Right now we're saying early 2013. We do not have a definitive date yet because there is still a lot of work to do."

Testing began in May and will continue periodically. Construction is planned to be complete by October, when Calgary Transit will begin training operators.

"We're just finishing up construction, but we need to keep testing the track to make sure it

runs smoothly and efficiently. We just need to make sure that everything works properly and everything is safe," said MacKenzie. "It's a completely new line, there's a lot of training that needs to be done. You don't know what the track is going to be like from an operators perspective until you're in the train and you can see what the sightlines are."

There will also be 24 revised bus routes, which will make travelling across the city easier.

If all goes according to plan, the project can be completed by December 2012.



Michael Grondin

For more information visit westlrt.ca

The West LRT line will create better access.

Leaders strategize year to come

CASA conference looks at educational needs

Emily Macphail
Gauntlet News

Student politicians met last month to develop strategies to improve the student experience for the 2012–13 year.

Over 30 student government

with Birk on the Policy Committee and Jacob part of the National Lobby Team.

According to Birk, the planning and strategy conference is the first of three held by CASA every year. In November, there will be a lobby conference, where

loans program involve the removal of in-study income and a single vehicle from the assets used to assess borrower resources.

“For example, if you have a part-time job and are working during the year, or you have an internship and get an honorarium, this isn’t counted towards your assessed assets because it’s in-study,” said Jacob.

In terms of removing educational barriers, support for increased funding for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program — a program which helps financially support First Nations and Inuit students — is on the agenda. Providing international students with quicker and easier access to work visas and multiple-entry study visas is also a main portion of the agenda.

CASA would additionally like to see alterations to Tri-Agency, the federal granting council and financial administration organization, to better protect the intellectual property rights of students and provide more respect for student research.

Jacob is hopeful about the lobby conference in November. He spoke specifically about student loan changes in Alberta.

“In terms of the provincial [government], we’ve seen changes to the student loans program, so perhaps the time is right for the federal government too,” said Jacob.

As a part of the federal government’s 2013 pre-budget consultations, CASA will be putting their recommendations forward to the House of Commons.

For more information on CASA
visit casa-acae.com



courtesy CASA

CASA members at the policy strategy conference.

leaders from 25 Canadian post-secondary institutions, including the University of Calgary Students’ Union president Hardave Birk and vice-president external Raphael Jacob, convened at

members of CASA meet with politicians and Members of Parliament, and there is a year-end review in March.

“It’s good to set our policies and goals for the year. This is the first

“It’s good to set our policies and goals for the year. This is the first conference of the three, and it is the most important because we get our strategies and goals in place.”

— Hardave Birk, Students’ Union president

Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick for the Policy and Strategy 2012 conference of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations from July 18–20.

CASA is a student advocacy group that represents student associations throughout Canada and implements strategies in the interest of students.

The aim of the annual conference is to take the many ideas submitted by members, define them and transform them into a framework of what the group’s focuses for the year will be.

This conference builds the framework for the strategies and decisions for the year.

Both Birk and Jacob are involved with CASA committees,

conference of the three, and it is the most important because we get our strategies and goals in place,” said Birk. “It was a good time.”

The group decides on 24 priorities which include changes to student loan policies, copyright and government relations. Strategies to carry these priorities forward are then developed.

This year’s conference agenda focused on improving the quality and accessibility of post-secondary education. The current advocacy priorities that were put in place for this year include modernization of the Canada Student Loans Program, decreased barriers to post-secondary education and increased student protection around academic materials.

The proposed changes to the



Michael Grondin

Lockers are now available

Students can now get their lockers for the upcoming 2012–13 school year. They can leave dirty old gym clothes and uneaten lunches in there, and make a real stink. To get your locker, for the fall/winter semester log on to your MyUofC. There are over 5,000 lockers available throughout campus at affordable prices, so get your stink on.



Adventure!

Teach English Overseas
TESOL Certified in 5 Days
In-Class or Online – No degree Required!
1.888.270.2941
Job Guaranteed!
Next In-Class Course: August 22 - 26
Next Info Seminar: TBA
Travelodge University Hotel
2227 Banff Trail NW
www.globaltesol.com



SUMMER DEN!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24TH

THURSDEN PRICING ALL DAY.
\$3 SINGLES, \$8.50 TRIPLES.
\$3 PINTS, \$10.25 JUGS.






courtesy David Moll

Trials and tribulations of Olympic glory

Eric Mathison

Gauntlet Uebermensch - @Mathisoncj

For most track and field athletes, fame and fortune isn't a likely outcome. Even for the ones who achieve relative success — placing well in international competitions, qualifying for the Olympics — sponsorships are likely to cover equipment costs and some travel expenses, but that's it.

Compared to the Stanley Cup or the Superbowl, making it to the Olympics is important for solely non-monetary reasons. It justifies the time spent training, the sacrifices of family members and the careers put on hold.

The International Olympic Committee sets standards for each event which athletes had to meet to qualify for London. To decide which ath-

letes to send, most countries hold trials sometime during the year leading up to the games. Canada's track and field trials were held in Calgary June 27–30. With the track and field events in London more than halfway finished, the narratives from June until now are being written.

At the trials there were some broken hearts. The University of Calgary's Sam Effah was hoping to qualify for the 100-metre sprint and the 4 x 100-metre relay, but failed to qualify with a disappointing last place finish.

"It's unfortunate but I like to come out with no excuses," he said. "I've been training for this and sometimes you just don't always get what you want."

Meanwhile, Justyn Warner made both the 100m and 4 x 100m team,

with his brother Ian also qualifying for the 4 x 100m. On August 5 Justyn set a personal best of 10.09 seconds, but it wasn't enough to qualify for the finals. With the relay still to come in London, Justyn is also looking forward to future teams.

"We're going to have a good group these next four years, and by the time 2016 rolls around we're going to have a good squad," said Warner. "There are a lot of people out here [competing] — more than there was last year — and that's a good thing. We need this for our sport," he said.

The two most exciting medal opportunities for Canada's track and field team were the men's shot put and women's 100m hurdles. In the shot put, Dylan Armstrong of Kamloops easily qualified at the trials. Armstrong was clear about his

goal going into London: "I'd like to throw over 22 metres. That's always the goal and I can definitely do that," he said. Unfortunately, while he hoped to medal in London he finished in fifth with a best throw of 20.93 metres.

The women's 100m hurdles was the most anticipated of the trials. All six women competing had made the qualifying standard, so the pressure was high. The biggest surprise at the trials was heptathlete Jessica Zelinka winning the event after Perdita Felicien, the Canadian record holder and a favourite for London, was disqualified after a false start.

Zelinka and Phylcia George ended up qualifying for the 100m hurdle final in London with George placing sixth and Zelinka placing seventh. Two Canadians in the top-

10 will surely be viewed as a success for Canadian athletics.

As surprises go, one of the most spectacular stories of the last year has been distance runner Cameron Levins. Nearly unheard of one year ago, racing for Southern Utah University last season Levins won the Division 1 NCAA 5,000 and 10,000 metre titles.

In the 10,000m on Aug. 4 Levins placed the highest a Canadian has since 1912. He was in the lead group until the last lap, finishing 11th place. Athletics Canada coach Wynn Gmitroski said "I didn't really know if I would ever see a Canadian run like this, especially in the 10K, in my lifetime of coaching." At just 23 years old and with a new Nike sponsorship, Levins still has the 5,000m this week and a long career to look forward to.

The greatest of all Olympic follies

Alex Hamilton

Gauntlet Sports - @SKRollins

This message has been prevalent during the London 2012 Olympic Games: Michael Phelps is the greatest Olympic athlete of all time and has the hardware to prove it. Countless articles have been written to this effect in the aftermath of the American swimmer's record-breaking 22 medals.

However, the certainty surrounding Phelps's coronation is fading. Many are suggesting that Phelps is the best swimmer of all time, the best American athlete of all time and many other claims about his remarkable athletic career. Such arguments are superficial at best and needlessly contrarian at worst. More importantly, what actual purpose does such a debate serve towards

the celebration of an achievement?

Those who argue against Phelps as the greatest athlete of all time struggle to place athletes inside of their own time period, instead relying on what-if scenarios. For instance, Mark Spitz, who Phelps surpassed as the greatest swimmer of all time, retired early after the 1972 Games in Munich after setting a seemingly insurmountable record. His stated reason for retirement was achieving all he possibly could — the same reason Phelps is retiring at 27 — and an unsteady financial future for him in swimming.

One has to wonder how long he would have gone on had there been the opportunity for financial stability through lucrative corporate endorsements in 1972.

Jesse Owens is another athlete contested to be one of the best of

all time. His career was cut short by the American racial climate and WWII. These claims may not be off-base, but they simply don't serve any logical purpose in the evaluation of Phelps's performance in the present day.

It is easy to postulate that any number of athletes from a variety of different sports have experienced different challenges unique to their sport and time period. It is also clear that when another athlete surpasses or equals Phelps, the same debate will occur.

Another common problem is placing the athletes in a larger context. For example, who is to say that Phelps's 22 medals in the pool is more impressive than Steve Redgrave's six gold medals in rowing from 1984 to 2000 or Clara Hughes's six medals over

the course of four separate winter and summer Olympics?

Arguments about the inherent athleticism required for each sport are never ending, and subjective at best. Some point out that swimming hands out an unusually high amount of medals. However, this line of thinking ignores the fact that it took 24 years before Phelps broke Mark Spitz's record of seven golds in a single Games.

However, this reasoning shows that Olympic greatness is not necessarily measured by medal count. Debating whether Phelps's record is the greatest is a waste of energy in this regard. "Greatest" has a different meaning for everyone — the debate is subjective at best, and risks becoming meaningless when taken to the extreme.

The debate about the degree of

difficulty needlessly splits hairs, perhaps to the point of denigration. For instance, some exclude gymnasts from the discussion because a judged sport is inherently subjective.

Regardless of whether you think Phelps is the greatest of all time or not, it is unnecessary to subject him to needless comparisons. It reduces the Olympics to a fantasy sports draft, and obscures the enjoyment of the moment.

As it stands, ranking athletes based on historical era is a parlour game — a nearly impossible exercise in objectivity that leaves one to simply evaluate the facts and the medal count. The best we can do is appreciate historic moments when they happen and be content with witnessing athletic greatness in any sport.

Play review: *How Not To Get Laid*

Calgarian play explores the ups and downs of relationships

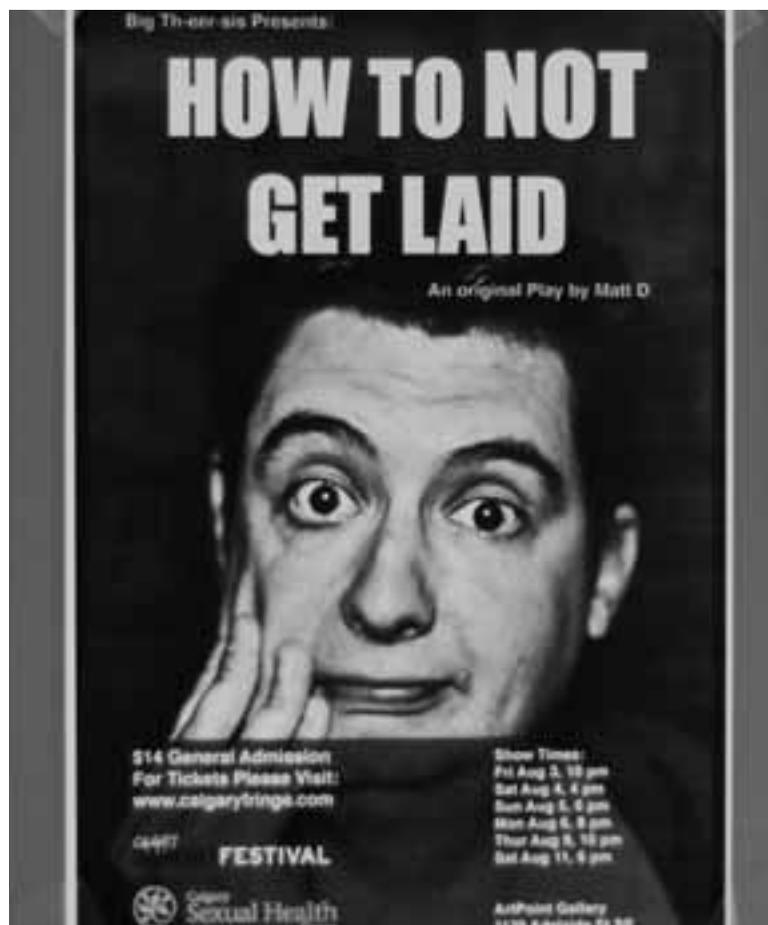
Morgan Shandro

Illustrations Editor • @MorganShandro

At some point in all of our lives, we experience problems in the areas of dating, relationships, love and sex — or most likely a combination of these. *How Not To Get Laid* is a play that teaches exactly what its title suggests, with two actors who take turns in a series of short, humorous solo performances which explore some dating and relationship mishaps that many people can probably relate to.

Being able to relate to the scenarios presented by both actors in the production is a big part of what gives this little play its charm. The monologues are delivered the way a friend might tell a story, by acting out the parts of both themselves and the people they are telling you about. If performed by less talented actors, this technique may have fallen flat and failed to achieve the humour it was striving for, but in the case of this production, the actors pull it off well and successfully used it to enhance their monologues.

Supported by the Calgary Sexual Health Centre, the play advertises itself as being primarily about the pursuit of the physical,



Adrienne Shumlich

How Not To Get Laid is a part of the Calgary Fringe Festival.

but it actually comes across as leaning more heavily on the emotional side of dating. The scenes focus mostly on meeting potential partners and show how miscom-

munication, general cluelessness and accidentally committing a social faux pas can mess up your chances of a relationship, with less emphasis on sex as the end goal.

This is a good thing, however, because it means the play stays away from themes like the “pickup artist” philosophy. Instead, it keeps in touch with the humanity found in the common worries that many people have in regards to wanting to be loved and feel attractive.

Presenting both a male and a female take on things, the audience may find that the monologues of the opposite gender offer an enlightening perspective. However, many of the scenes contain elements of social anxieties that are shared by everyone.

As a part of Calgary’s Fringe Festival, the production has its home at Artpoint Gallery, a small building that sits on the edge of the CPR railway tracks. The theatre itself is a small room in the gallery set up with folding chairs, but the small audience size helps give the play a more personable feel.

Just a little more than an hour-long, *How Not To Get Laid* is a light, fun performance that is worth checking out if you, like most people, have ever experienced problems or mishaps in the dating arena.

How Not To Get Laid will be showing on August 9 and August 11. For more info visit calgaryfringe.carbonpop.com



Top 30 July 23 – July 30, 2012

01. PURITY RING*
SHRINES
(LAST GANG)
02. DIRTY PROJECTORS
SWING LO MAGELLAN
(DOMINO)
03. DELETED SCENES
YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHURCH OF THE AIR
(PARK THE VAN)
04. OPPOSITE SEX
OPPOSITE SEX
(FISHRIDER/OCCULTATION)
05. ICKY BLOSSOMS
ICKY BLOSSOMS
(SADDLE CREEK)
06. SHOUT OUT OUT OUT OUT
SPANISH MOSS & TOTAL LOSS
(NORMALS WELCOME)
07. LOST SOUNDS
LOST LOST
(GONER)
08. LA BASTARD
LA BASTARD
(SELF-RELEASED)
09. BRAT FARRAH
BRAT FARRAH
(OFF THE HIP)
10. DIV
OSHW LP
(CAPTURED TRACKS)
11. OPOSSOM
ELECTRIC HAWAY
(FIRE)
12. BALTERSPACE
STROBOSPHERE
(FIRE)
13. FOXYGEN
TAKE THE KIDS OFF BROADWAY
(JAGGLUWAR)
14. MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS
ELECTRA HEART
(76/ATLANTIC)
15. ARNALDO ANTUNES, EDGARDO
SCANDURRA, TOUMANI DIABATE*
A CURVA DA CIVTURA
(MAIS UM DISCO)
16. THE CINEMATIC ORCHESTRA
IN MOTION #1
(NINJA TUNE)
17. GOLD MOTEL
GOLD MOTEL
(GOOD AS GOLD/THIRTY TIGERS)
18. PIST CITY*
IT'S 1983 GROW UP
(BLACKTENT)
19. THE WHITE WIRES*
W
(DIRTYNAP)
20. METRIC*
SYNTHETICA
(MOM + POP)
21. JAPANORIDS*
CELEBRATION ROCK
(POLYVINYL)
22. SLATES*
PRAIRIE FIRE
(SELF-RELEASED)
23. COLD WARPS*
SLINER
(SELF-RELEASED)
24. COLD SPECKS*
I PREDICT A GRACEFUL EXPULSION
(ARTS & CRAFTS)
25. BEACH HOUSE
BLOOM
(SUB POP)
26. NEW GOD
MOTORCAR
(GOOD SOUL)
27. JEANS WILDER
TOTALLY
(EVERLOVING)
28. RUSSIAN ROULETTES
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
(OFF THE HIP)
29. THE NO REAL NEED
NONLOCAL MOTIVES
(OFF THE HIP)
30. SHINTARO SAKAMOTO
HOW TO LIVE WITH A PHANTOM
(OTHER MUSIC)

spun ALBUM REVIEWS



The Mountaineer
Hit the Woodshed
April 3, 2012
Chaos Theory Recordings

If you need a seven-track album that fits nicely at a late night bonfire or an end-of-summer road trip, then *Hit the Woodshed* by Calgary's The Mountaineer is a great pick. The album is the band's debut, and has a mix of sounds ranging from folk to indie rock, although the folk is kept to a minimum.

Like a smoother, softer version of Kings of Leon, The Mountaineer has built a strong album that transitions effortlessly from song to song. The album begins with “Seeds from the Schoolyard,” introducing the subtly throaty and equally indulgent voice of Jourdan Cunningham with back-up vocals provided throughout the record by band members Dan Hanycz, Geoff Rattan and Jason Saldanha.

With the record being a relatively small venture, the band does not waste time in showcasing their talent through seamless instrumentals and smoky vocals. A delightful harmonica riff flows through “The Beltline (This Town)” alongside vocals that are reminiscent of some good old New Orleans blues, making the track wonderfully addicting. However, the real gem of the album is the sixth track, “Try.” With a darker musical sound accompanying equally dark lyrics, the song puts perfect emphasis on the band's unique vocals without taking away from the instrumentals.

Hit the Woodshed works as a shift from summer carelessness into a more carefully planned fall, with the songs transitioning from casual beats to a more serious note encompassed with panache. With this debut, The Mountaineer has begun their climb with a very strong step.

Gurman Sahota

Nobody hates *Wild Children*

Ales Kot and Riley Rossmo's graphic novella is determined to provoke outrage



Adrienne Shumlich

Sean Willett

Entertainment Editor • @Willettton

Recently, a string of domestic terrorist attacks have taken place across the United States. These attacks, which include the shooting in Aurora, have drastically changed the political climate in America. In light of this, what kind of reaction would be elicited by a graphic novella centred on a group of

armed high schoolers taking their teachers hostage? As it turns out, not much of one at all.

The novella in question is *Wild Children*, written by the enigmatic Ales Kot and illustrated by Calgarian artist Riley Rossmo. Although the comic was not intentionally released to coincide with the recent domestic terrorist attacks in America, it was still created with the intention to provoke a strong reaction from readers. Surprising-

ly, the response has been almost universally positive.

"We didn't get any backlash," says Rossmo. "When Ales [Kot] wrote this he said that he was going to send it to Christian mothers groups, and he did. But everyone was okay with it. Even with the shooting in Aurora, there's been nothing"

Featuring scenes of gun violence, drug usage and self immolation, *Wild Children* appears to be the perfect storm of offensive imagery. Despite the heavy amount of media attention the comic has been garnering, there has yet to be a strong reaction from right-wing groups — the people that Kot and Rossmo were attempting to provoke.

"Ales [Kot] really wanted to offend right-wing people," says Rossmo. "There is even some pretty weird sex stuff in the beginning of the book. And nobody really cared, which is encouraging because maybe our society is actually pretty alright."

However, Rossmo also believes that while one of the reasons for the lack of outrage is that our society is becoming more accepting, another may be that we are much more desensitized.

"It does make me think of how much farther we have to push to get a reaction," says Rossmo. "With a book like this, we made it with the intent that people are going to get offended, and people are either accepting or just desensitized. How far do you have to go then to offend the Republican

right? To wake people up, to challenge them?"

Even with all of its political issues, *Wild Children* is still at its heart a comic. It takes full advantage of the medium, occasionally going as far as breaking the fourth wall and acknowledging that the story exists inside of a sequential 2D plane.

"It has this political edge to it, but it's still very much a comic book," explains Rossmo. "It is a little bit pretentious in parts, but it's self aware."

Rossmo, who has worked on such titles as *Proof*, *Cowboy Ninja Viking* and *Green Wake*, made

drastic changes to his art style for *Wild Children*.

"I tried to make it clinical," says Rossmo. "From the get-go we talked about the aesthetic a lot, and how we would design the characters. It was supposed to be institutional, which was very hard for me. Every line had to mean something, when normally I would do more expressive stuff. Like, 'Oh, this part isn't that important so I'll just put some squiggles on it.' With *Wild Children*, there's no squiggles."

For more info on Riley Rossmo's work visit rileyrossmo.com



Adrienne Shumlich

Go truck yourself

Calgarian food trucks, including Jelly Modern Doughnuts will be gathering on August 10 for YYC Taste The Trucks II. Taking place near the Simmons building downtown, the event will feature 20 different trucks.

COMICS

StegoSaraha's – Sarah Dorchak

