

THE

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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



Needles are scary, but not this scary

Vaccines are a necessary part of living in communities where infectious diseases could flourish. Yet some people have called into question the safety of vaccines and refuse to get their children vaccinated.

Some opponents to vaccines cite a now-discredited academic paper published by Andrew Wakefield in 1998 that claimed the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine causes autism. Other opposition comes from proponents of naturopathic medicine.

Recently, this problem was highlighted by the addition of Jenny McCarthy to *The View*, where she now has a position of perceived authority and a large audience to whom she can preach her uninformed views. She adamantly believes that vaccinations caused her son's autism and often expresses her views as absolute fact. She bases this belief on her "mommy instinct" and says that she got her degree from the "University

of Google." Reason and credible scientific inquiry is apparently not significant to her.

Vaccination rates have dropped in Canada and the United States. Wales has experienced a measles outbreak with 1,200 cases since last November — mostly among children and teens under 18. The most recent measles outbreak in Canada was in 2011 with 725 cases in Quebec. While measles rarely kills, side effects can include deafness and pneumonia. Other diseases such as polio haven't posed a reasonable threat in Canada since the 1950s, yet tetanus can still live in the soil world wide and can be deadly. A re-emergence of these diseases would be a huge step backward for public health.

A 2013 UNICEF office of research report called "Child well-being in rich countries" compared Canada's immunization rate to that of 28 other countries as part of overall markers of child welfare. Average coverage for measles, polio



and DPT3 (diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus) in Canada has dropped below 85 per cent, which puts Canada second last among the 28 countries. Hungary and Greece maintain almost 99 per cent vaccination rates. The report remarks that among the richest countries,

only Denmark, Canada and Austria have immunization rates below 90 per cent. These low rates suggest that this misinformation has influenced parents' perception of vaccines, increasing the chance of illness among those who rely on the immunity of the general population — such as infants too young to be vaccinated and those with compromised immune systems.

While there are always risks with medicine, the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks. The process of science requires skepticism, debate and solid evidence, but laypeople need to know enough about science to respect the body of academic work and trust peer-reviewed, reproducible research. Should we trust medicine without thought? No, but doctors, nurses and researchers aren't trying to sell vaccines or cause autism. They are just trying to stop people from getting preventable diseases.

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Everyone at the Gauntlet hopes the Wein man will pull through in New York's mayoral election.

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The Cover
Design by Michael Grondin



New club targets sexual assault

CASE helps raise consent awareness on campus

Riley Hill

News Editor

Sex requires consent, but do you really understand what that means? A group of University of Calgary students want to make sure you do.

The Consent Awareness and Sexual Education Club is a newly sanctioned club at the U of C that seeks to clarify and educate campus and community members about sexual assault and the meaning of consent.

“The mission of our club is to fill in a missing piece of the puzzle in terms of people’s education about sex,” CASE president Ellen Bolger said. “We’re trying to bring awareness to what consent is to try to prevent sexual assault.”

Canadian law requires clear consent of all individuals involved in a sexual act. Consent means that someone who is high, drunk or unconscious is not capable of giving his or her consent. Any type of coercion through a position of power or privilege cancels the possibility of sex being consensual and not saying “no” to someone performing a sexual act



Michael Grondin

Emily Leedham and Ellen Bolger both helped to found CASE.

does not mean the other person is consenting to it, as they must give verbal approval. In the words of a CASE pamphlet, consent means an “enthusiastic yes.”

CASE plans on getting their message out through campaigns on campus and a presentation they have put together for junior high students. Bolger said the club plans to take this presentation to junior high schools in the

upcoming year, as they hope to educate kids about sexual assault before they are sexually active.

“It’s good to [educate] them before that starts,” Bolger said. “Also, it’s a pretty awkward time for people. Everyone is kind of figuring everything out and there’s also a lot of sexual harassment during that period.”

CASE’s presentation will concentrate on the potential

perpetrators of sexual assault, instead of likely victims. According to Bolger, most preventative education about sexual assault she has seen concentrates on what women should do to avoid being assaulted — an approach she disagrees with.

“A lot of the kind of preventative measures that have been taken against sexual assault in the past has been focused on the victim. You hear advice like bring a whistle, make sure you travel in pairs, don’t go out at night, don’t wear short skirts,” she said. “We think it’s more effective trying to educate people about what consent is and what sexual assault is so that people won’t become assaultants.”

The idea for CASE emerged during a February meeting between Bolger and CASE vice-president external Emily Leedham. Following the meeting, the pair looked at recruiting for the club’s executive staff and getting the necessary signatures to be sanctioned by the Students’ Union.

Leedham said the club first became active on campus during Bermuda Shorts Day through a

sexual assault awareness campaign done in partnership with the Women’s Resource Centre.

“We worked with the WRC and got a bunch of buttons that were about consent and sexual assault, then we made these little flyers just going through what consent looks like and how to act on and respect consent,” Leedham said.

According to Leedham, the club will talk to new students during orientation week.

“For orientation week and frosh week, we want to have a huge campaign. We’re trying to get money for that right now,” she said. “We want to print off a bunch of posters and flyers and make buttons. Our goal is to have 5,000 flyers about consent, similar to what we had about BSD. We want to have a large visibility for orientation week.”

Bolger encourages anyone interested in the club to make contact with one of their executives.

“If you’re interested in the club and want to get involved, don’t be shy. The club isn’t just for women to join; it’s for anybody. Sexual assault is not just a women’s issue,” Bolger said.

Women’s Resource Centre moved to new space

Louie Villanueva

Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary’s Women’s Resource Centre has moved to a new space on campus. In late June, the WRC relocated from their former space on the third floor of the MacEwan Student Centre to the fourth floor into room MSC 482.

The new location is located above the Students’ Union Wellness Centre, across from the Examination Centre for Student Accessibility Services.

WRC co-ordinator Nanako Furuyama said the WRC was kept in the MSC so students could have easy access to it.

“Administration thought it was beneficial to keep all student

services in the same building,” Nanako said.

The new space features about twice the area of the previous location and larger windows.

Since being established in October 2006, the WRC has grown to have several full-time and part-time staff in addition to the 60–70 volunteers who contribute every semester. About 60 work-

shops and many weekly events are held throughout the year.

According to SU vice-president operations and finance Eric Termuende, the former WRC space on the third floor was leased to the university in 2006 and returned to the SU in 2012.

Termuende said the SU has contracted engineers to see how the WRC’s old office can be put to use.

“At this point, we don’t really know what’s going to go into the space,” Termuende said. “Right now, we’re doing a space allocation just to see what the space entails and to get some potential ideas about what can go in there.”

The WRC is now open to volunteers and visitors in its new location.

campus quips

How do you think sexual assault can be stopped?



“Awareness on how easily it can happen.”

– Jeannette Piddington, second-year education



“Education. Helping people see the identifiers and that it is harmful.”

– Richard McCaughey, fourth-year history



“Less victim blaming. It’s not shameful to talk about it.”

– Leanne Kelly, second-year education



“Understanding what constitutes as sexual assault to prevent it.”

– Michael Wang, second-year computer science

G News round up

U of C scientists build satellite technology

University of Calgary scientists in the departments of physics and astronomy began working with the European Space Agency this week on satellite instruments that will be used to measure the Earth's magnetic field.

The instruments will be placed on satellites for the ESA's Swarm mission, which will attempt, after its November launch, to record the most accurate measurements of the

Earth's magnetic field to date.

The instrument is called the Electric Field Instrument and was developed by U of C scientists Johnathan Burchill and Kevin Lush. The EFI will measure wind speed, temperature and the density of air in the ionosphere 500 km above Earth.

Scientists from the U of C and the Canadian Space Agency will help process the data once it starts coming in after the Swarm mission begins this November.



Michael Grondin

Gil Kaplan led the four-year Canada-wide study.

Appendicitis linked to smog

U of C led research finds new dangers in pollution

Riley Hill

News Editor

Next time you draw a breath downtown, know that it might cause one of your organs to burst.

A recent study led by University of Calgary researcher Gil Kaplan uncovered a link between the ozone found in smog and perforated appendicitis — the medical term used to describe a ruptured appendix. The study was done across 12 cities in Canada over four years and found that the risk of perforated appendicitis rose by up to 22 per cent with every 16 parts-per-billion rise of ozone in the air.

The appendix is a small appendage of the colon, which can burst when infected, releasing fecal matter into the abdomen. This bursting can cause abdominal infections, and in extreme cases, death.

Around one in 15 Canadians will get appendicitis in their lifetime. The only cure for the infection is to remove the appendix through surgery.

The study looked at the reported incidence of appendicitis in Canada's 12 largest cities and compared this number with levels of ozone in these cities as measured by Environment Canada.

"That allowed us to look at an

association of what happens when we see spikes in ozone, which is one of the air pollutants that we get exposed to through smog," Kaplan said, discussing his study. "What we consistently found is that there is an association between air quality and appendicitis, particularly between perforated appendicitis — the more serious form where the appendix bursts."

Ozone is a pollutant that comes from burning gasoline and coal. At high levels, ozone is harmful to the respiratory system and can damage plant life.

The average ozone levels in Calgary range between 13–22 parts-per-billion, with the highest average levels in the northwest. These levels are moderate compared to the other Canadian cities examined.

The study found that short-term rises in ozone corresponded with rises in emergency room visits for appendicitis. The rate of emergency room visits for appendicitis increased at a faster rate during consecutive days with high levels of ozone.

He stressed that while interesting, the reasons behind the correlation between ozone and appendicitis are still unclear, as the study did not look at how smog might cause appendicitis. Kaplan said his colleagues are now looking to find the mechanism

behind this apparent link.

Kaplan said he thought of the idea for the study after looking at historical incidences of perforated appendicitis in wealthy, industrialized societies.

"What's interesting about perforated appendicitis is that it is a relatively modern disease," Kaplan said. "If you go back in history, we really don't see much in terms of records of it and it really began to emerge in post-industrial nations — countries like England, Canada and the United States after the industrial revolution."

Looking at the historical rise of appendicitis in these countries, Kaplan said he noticed a drop in the number of reported cases during the 1960s.

"After the 1960s, you started to see a drop in the incidence of appendicitis for completely unexplained reasons.

No one really understood why that is," he said. "One of the things that happened in these post-industrial societies after the 1960s is people started to create legislation to clean up the air and to create technologies that reduced emissions in cars. Looking at these measures, you actually begin to see an improvement in air quality in these industrialized nations."

The study was funded through a grant from the Canadian Institute of Health Research.

Mount Royal borrows cash for concert hall

Mount Royal University will borrow \$15 million from the provincial government to help cover the costs for a new 750-seat, \$90-million concert hall.

Planning for the concert hall began in 2009, with the initial costs estimated at only \$73 million.

Additional funding for the project will come from the federal and municipal governments

and a number of private donors, including a \$20-million donation from the Taylor family — a major donor for the Taylor Family Digital Library at the U of C.

The new provincial loan comes in the midst of deep cuts to MRU's arts programs to make up for a \$14-million budget shortfall following the provincial government's post-secondary budget cuts announced in March

Study highlights smartphone take over

A recent study released by Google sheds new light on the meteoric rise of smartphone use in our daily lives.

According to the study titled *Our Mobile Planet: Understanding the Mobile Customer*, smartphone ownership in Canada swelled from 33 per cent of the population in 2012 to 56 per cent in 2013.

Of smartphone users, the study shows that 78 per cent use

their phones to visit social networking sites, 79 per cent don't leave home without their device and 27 per cent have bought something on their phone.

The study also shows that 87 per cent of smartphone users regularly view advertisements on their phones.

The study was based off an Ipos Media survey done with 1,000 participants across Canada.

Tossed around the stage

Historical reimagining of Henry VIII's six wives a 'gymnastics display'

Sean Sullivan

Entertainment Editor

Monster Theatre artistic producer and actor Tara Travis says that after artistic director Ryan Gladstone finished writing the screenplay for *Till Death: The Six Wives of Henry VIII* she hated him.

Travis plays seven characters in the play — Henry VIII and his six wives.

"I never would have thought I was physically capable of doing what I do in this show," Travis says, despite, as she points out, Monster Theatre being known for its multiple-character acting.

In *Till Death*, the six wives of Henry VIII arrive one after another to a waiting room in purgatory where Saint Peter has gathered them before they go on to heaven. Only one of them will be allowed to

pass on with Henry VIII to a special royal heaven as his true queen. Travis plays all six wives in rapid-fire succession as they compete to be Henry's true wife, in what Travis calls a "physical and vocal gymnastics display."

Travis spends part of the play developing the women's personalities, their dialect and their physicality. She says the play ultimately allows these characters the freedom to be funny, to be raw and have their own thoughts in a way that she hasn't found in films, books or TV series about the characters.

And one of the characters to receive a voice is the disembodied head of Anne Boleyn.

"It's the most bizarre thing I have ever done in my 25-year history in theatre," Travis says.

Performing as Boleyn, Travis physically isolates her head by thrusting it forward from her body

and then positions herself depending on which other character is interacting with the head. She places her head where Boleyn's head is held by another character's arms, moves around as her head is tossed between characters, grabbed by other characters, and swings as her head is dangled by her hair.

"I think the most bizarre thing I've ever done is deliver a dramatic monologue as a disembodied head," Travis says, "and I've done stripping puppet shows."

Travis says that at first she was convinced the audience would be confused by the performance and think it "totally idiotic."

"I almost died when I opened the show," Travis says, "I was so terrified."

Monster Theatre has done historical re-imaginings before and multiple-character acting but Travis says Gladstone believed in her and



courtesy Monster Theatre

wrote the play to push her further than she had gone before.

At first she hated him, but now she says she is grateful because the experience has been incredible.

"I hope I can perform this play

until I die," Travis says. "I may very well die doing it."

Till Death: The Six Wives of Henry VIII is playing at Alexandra Centre Society during Calgary Fringe Festival, Aug. 2-10. For tickets and more information visit calgaryfringe.ca.

Celebrating our collective psychosis

Play tries to dismantle belief that mental illness only happens to other people

Sean Sullivan

Entertainment Editor

Each of us attempts to open a dialogue or form a deal with our absolute reality at some point in our lives. We attempt to bargain with the randomness of everyday events, no matter how illogical the attempt may be.

Stand-up poet Rob Gee, who spent 11 years working as a nurse in an acute psychiatric ward, calls it the "collective psychosis that makes us human." And he says his award-winning play *Fruitcake* is a celebration of that psychosis.

Gee says that mental illness is typically seen as either the stereotype of the creative genius or the complete nutter.

"I wanted to explode that little myth," Gee says. "Any of us can have a psychiatric episode given the wrong set of circumstances. The idea of normality is actually a mirage. There really isn't such a thing."

Gee described the way people deal with stressful situations as an example.

"If you've got a big day tomorrow," Gee says, "like an exam, a driving test or a job interview and you're a



courtesy Rob Gee

bit nervous about it, you're a bit pre-occupied, you're just screwing with a bit of paper and throwing that bit of paper into the [waste bin], in that split second before the paper leaves your hand to go into the bin you can't always block out that little voice in the back of your head that goes: 'if this goes in the bin, my day is going to go really well' and then the beauti-

ful but totally illogical feeling of relief when you get it in there."

There is no logic to it and it's a very normal thing to experience, but at the same time, Gee says, the feeling is not very far removed from something like obsessive compulsive disorder.

"It's only when that gets exaggerated that it'll become what we

call obsessive compulsive disorder," Gee says.

Fruitcake is about a jaded nurse during the night shift at an acute psychiatric ward. The nurse hears the voice of God — an elderly Rastafarian woman — who gives him 10 commandments to help him through his shift and his life.

Gee wrote the play after becom-

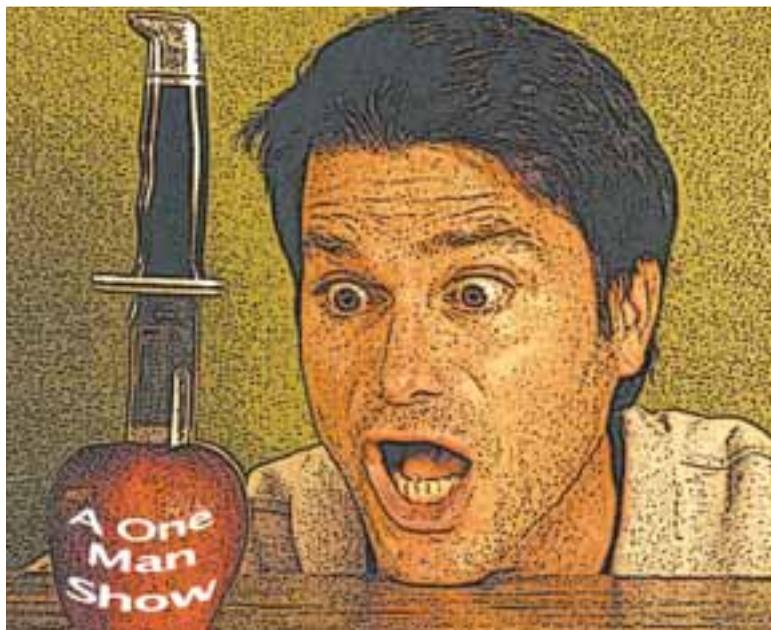
ing a full-time stand-up poet. Looking back on his career in psychiatric nursing, he says he had a lot about mental health and psychiatry that he wanted to tell. Part of what inspired him to write the play in 2009 was his feeling that psychiatric nurses were rarely given a voice in art and pop culture.

"Our users of mental health services have more of a voice now than they ever did," Gee says, "which is great. But it's rare that anyone hears the nurses' perspective on mental health and we are the only professional that gets to be with patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

When he reflected back on his nursing career after being away from it for a few years, he says he "realized that all the little rants, stories, jokes and opinions could be condensed into something surprisingly jolly and informative."

Fruitcake became 11 years of experience in acute psychiatry condensed into an hour of humour, performance and a little singing.

Fruitcake: Ten Commandments from the Psych Ward is playing at Alexandra Centre Society during Calgary Fringe Festival, Aug. 2-10. For tickets and more information visit calgaryfringe.ca.



courtesy Sew and Sew Productions

All the classroom's a stage

Play about L.A. schoolteacher coming to Calgary

Sean Sullivan

Entertainment Editor

Jack Freiberger's critically acclaimed one-man show, *They Call Me Mister Fry*, is coming to the Calgary Fringe Festival.

The show is the true story of Freiberger's time working as a Grade 5 teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District, his relationship with two challenging students and the ways they each affect the other's

lives. The play follows Freiberger (Mr. Fry) as he gets a job in a tough L.A. grade school and his involvement in his students' lives as they deal with their own personal challenges and tragedies.

They Call Me Mister Fry has earned awards at fringe festivals across the United States, at performances in L.A.; Washington, D.C.; and New York. Freiberger performed at the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival in July

before coming to Calgary.

For Freiberger, acting and teaching have gone hand in hand.

"I don't know how people can be a teacher without being an actor in a way," Freiberger says.

Freiberger originally moved to L.A. to act before he began working as a substitute teacher. After five years as a substitute he began gravitating toward full-time teaching and got teaching credentials. Now he spends his summers performing.

reel

MOVIE REVIEWS

Review: *The Wolverine*

Sean Sullivan

Entertainment Editor

While leaving the theatre after *The Wolverine*, I felt mildly disappointed. There was nothing particularly wrong with the movie and it was better than *X-Men: The Last Stand* and *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, but the film adaptation of Wolverine's "Japanese saga" did not live up to my expectations. And to be fair, the film had the difficult task of living up to one of the best Wolverine storylines, one written by Chris Claremont.

The movie begins with a more subdued feeling than the other X-Men films. Occurring after *X-Men: The Last Stand*, Logan, the Wolverine, is camped out in the Canadian wilderness struggling with the internal demons lingering from the aftermath of the first trilogy, until a young Japanese woman comes to bring him to the deathbed of an old friend in Japan — a man whom Logan saved during the bombing of Hiroshima. During his visit

to Japan, Logan gets caught up in the attempted assassination of his friend's granddaughter and a mystery involving the loss of his regenerative ability and his sudden mortality. A subtle tension continues through most of the film, a contrast to the fast paced original films.

The movie is different from other superhero films over the last couple of years, at least at first. It balances the psychological trauma that Logan experiences with the various action sequences littered through the film. Also, unlike other superhero films, the movie does not have a straightforward plot line or a distinct villain that Logan needs to defeat. There are villains, but they are working from the shadows and much of the film revolves around Logan playing hard-boiled cop and figuring out who is pulling the strings. Logan is also not fighting against other mutants in this movie, but against normal human beings.

Much of the film comes across as

a type of samurai Spaghetti Western.

The Spaghetti Western-style comes from the continued reference to Logan as a "ronin," a Samurai without a master, and the family feuding that he is thrust into. Toss in Logan's vastly superior fighting ability to every human around him and you get the typical Spaghetti Western formula.

The lead up to the final confrontation in the movie however feels like a return to the style and action of the original X-Men films. The last third of the movie begins reincorporating the mutant powers and elaborate science that dominated the other X-Men films and quickly overpowers the more subtle themes of the first two-thirds.

The shift is a bit too jarring and taints the ending of the movie. Nothing about the ending is necessarily wrong, it does end well, but the ending back pedals and is unable to keep going with the subtler tone. What could have been a truly great movie instead is just a pretty good one.



courtesy 20th Century Fox

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Coming up in Calgary

Calgary's 1st Street Theatre Festival

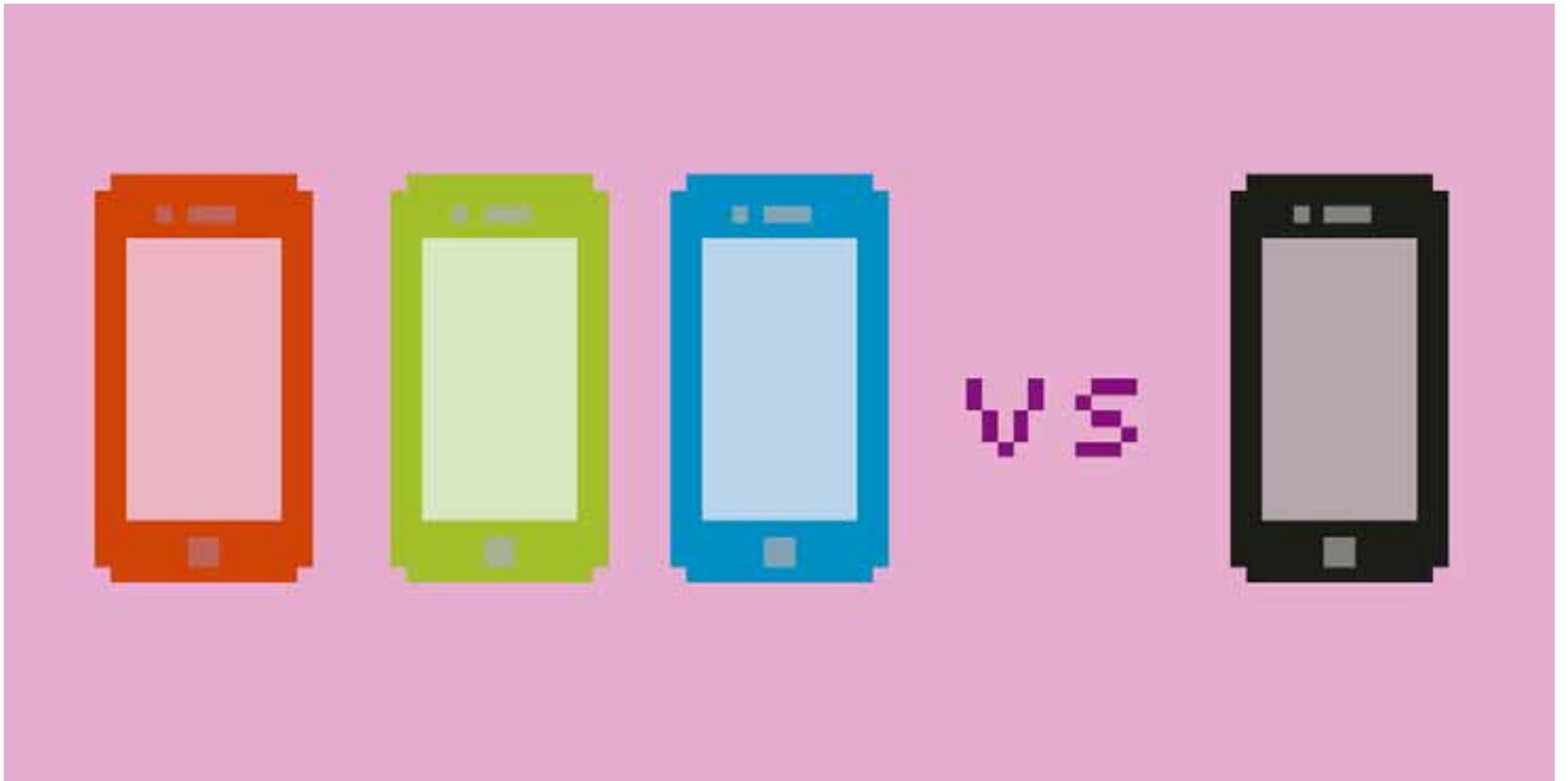
Aug. 3-11

During Fringe Fest, Garden Variety is hosting an outdoor circus-style street festival in Inglewood.

Mardi Gras Street Festival

Aug. 11

Drop by Marda Loop for Calgary's own Mardi Gras festival with entertainment for all ages.



Sean Willett

Northern Sprites: Nothing like a little friendly competition

Why Canadian cellphone carriers are scared, and why this is a good thing

Sean Willett
Production Editor

If you ask almost any Canadian how they feel about their country's phone companies, you probably won't receive a very positive answer. People are painfully aware that the Big Three Canadian telecommunication companies — Bell, Rogers and Telus — have notoriously overcharged Canadians for cellphone services.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Canadian cellphone charges rank among the highest in the world, and the Big Three are able to sustain these inflated prices through a sort of mutual understanding. Since all three companies already have a fairly well established customer base, more profit can be gained by sustaining these high prices instead of drastically undercutting each other in an ef-

fort to compete. This type of enforced stagnation could only be unseated by another large telecom company entering the market, one that would have to undercut prices in order to attract a customer base.

Fortunately, if the federal government's plan to attract Verizon works out, this may be exactly what happens.

Verizon is America's largest telecom company and, like many other American franchises have in the past, is preparing to head northward. The mobile giant has expressed interest in buying Wind Mobile and Mobilicity, two small Canadian upstarts that have been struggling to compete with the Big Three. Purchasing these companies would allow Verizon to quickly gain a foothold in Canada, and begin to establish infrastructure and bid on wireless spectrums.

Verizon's recent interest in Canada is no coincidence, though.

The Canadian federal government, understanding that there needs to be more competition in the country's telecom sector, has been actively attempting to attract a fourth large carrier. 'Loopholes' in anti-consolidation laws — which allow Verizon to buy smaller Canadian companies while preventing the Big Three from doing the same — and rules that allow foreign companies to bid on a broader range of wider spectrums than domestic companies have helped to provide more incentive to Verizon.

To no one's surprise, the Big Three are not very happy about the federal government's attempts to court competition. Telus, Rogers and Bell have launched a co-ordinated media campaign in an attempt to persuade consumers that Verizon's presence would do more harm than good, while simultaneously harassing the Canadian government in an effort to remove the

laws that would help give Verizon equal footing in the Canadian market.

Telus in particular has been raising quite a fuss, suing the federal government for blocking its earlier attempt to buy Mobilicity. They claim foreign companies like Verizon are being given special treatment by being allowed to bypass anti-consolidation laws, insisting that this puts domestic companies at a disadvantage.

While this is technically true — domestic companies are being denied certain privileges that Verizon will be able to take advantage of — these disadvantages are not at all the legal travesty the Big Three are spinning them as. The Canadian telecom sector needs more competition, and these allowances would give Verizon the head start it would need to actually establish itself as a competitor. Without the ability to buy smaller companies and bid on

a broader spectrum of wavelengths Verizon would probably never attempt to enter such a saturated market, thus preserving the status quo the Big Three have worked so hard to maintain.

Telus, Bell and Rogers are terrified of this possibility, which explains why their backlash has been so sudden and visible. They are presenting themselves to the public as hapless victims of the government's unjust laws, when in reality they are merely bullies who are finally facing their comeuppance.

While Verizon's presence might not change anything, they may also be the country's best chance to fix a broken system. Canadians have been pushed around by the Big Three for long enough — now the tables may finally be turning.

Northern Sprites is a bi-monthly column looking at video games and technology in Canada.
Read more at thegauntlet.ca.