

the griff

griff [griff] n. (19th c. slang) a tip; reliable news

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

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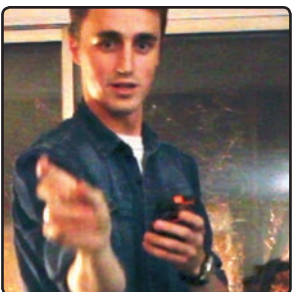
Volume IV, Number 8



Beer label reviews

The griff sits down with Shawn O'Keefe, the artist behind Phillips Brewery's beer bottle labels, to talk shop.

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Tweeting While Sportsing: Beer Pong

Kyle Muzyka and friends take on tweeting while sportsing under the dual influences of alcohol and texting. For once, nobody's phone was injured.

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Take in the sights and smells of our annual beer issue.

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7-297C, 10700-104 Avenue
City Centre Campus
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4S2MANAGING EDITOR
Angela Johnston
780.497.5412
managing@thegriff.ca

All Editors: 780.497.4429

NEWS EDITOR
Danika McConnell
news@thegriff.caOPINIONS EDITOR
Marc W. Kitteringham
opinions@thegriff.caARTS EDITOR
Stephan Boissonneault
arts@thegriff.caSPORTS EDITOR
Kyle Muzyka
sports@thegriff.caPHOTO & GRAPHICS EDITOR
Madison Kerr
graphics@thegriff.caONLINE EDITOR
Daren L. Zomerman
online@thegriff.caCOPY EDITOR
Emily Jansen
copy@thegriff.caCONTRIBUTORS
Tomas Acuna, Michael Chau,
Rachita Chugh, Jordan Gill, Ana
Holleman, Zachary Keizer, Megan
Lovelin, Anna McMillan, Kelsey
McMillan Jake Pesaruk, Paruiq
Sedighi, Devin Smith, Aqsa Tariq,
Evan Wakal,The griff's local and national sales
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agency representing the campus
press across Canada. For
advertising inquiries, please contact:Travis Riedlhuber
travis@free-media.ca
(780) 4211000 ext. 121

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FREEMEDIA



Marching against GMOs



Members of the Edmonton Occupy Movement marching against Monsanto.

ERIC BOWLING/THE GRIFF

Eric Bowling Writer

"Buzz, buzz, for the bees — bring Monsanto to its knees! Buzz, buzz, for the bees — bring Monsanto to its knees!"

A crowd of concerned citizens took to the streets on Oct. 18 for Occupy Edmonton's March Against Monsanto, the second of this year.

"The chief concern is the control of our food supply," explained David Laing of Occupy Edmonton. "In a very short period of time, in a couple generations, food has been taken out of the hands of communities and local farmers."

"Food is something we need to take back in our hands."

The march began with a rally at End of Steel Park where a number of speakers voiced their concerns for the lack of clarity in food labelling.

According to Health Canada's website, current labelling of genetically modified (GM) food is on a voluntary basis. To place a GM food product on the market is a 7- to 10-year process.

During this time, the product is subjected to a series of scientific assessments, including a review of the organism's development, a comparison of the GM food to a non-GM equivalent, an assessment of the potential for new toxins to be created in the food or for the development of new allergies as a result of the chemical changes, key nutrients and toxicants, and major constituents like fats and proteins, as well as minor constituents like minerals and vitamins.

“Our bodies are like an equation.”

- John Shamchuk

Following this process, a decision document is published on Health Canada's website with a complete safety review.

However, many experts are not convinced that Health Canada's regulations do enough.

"Our bodies are like an equation," said John Shamchuk, a glyco-biologist with over 30 years of experience. "Everything is based on a sequence of events; it's like 1-2-3-4-5. If that gets out of balance, your body starts stuttering. When you introduce something that is alien to the body, the body has trouble breaking it down."

While speakers informed the crowd of their plight, a group of police officers arrived to control the crowd. After a brief discussion with David Laing, the officers politely asked the crowd to keep the rally to the sidewalk, which the organizers gracefully agreed to.

The rally proceeded down Gateway Boulevard and then down Whyte Avenue, moving towards 99 Street before finally turning towards Trinity Lutheran Church for a feast of organic food.

While the main focus of the rally was to demand labelling of genetically modified food products, another large concern was pesticide use in the province.

"We have no bylaws in Alberta except for the hamlet of Grandview on Pigeon Lake," said Sheryl

McCumsey, head of Pesticide Free Alberta. "Meanwhile, beekeepers are taking [pesticides] so seriously they've launched a \$450 million lawsuit against Bayer and Syngenta."

The Alberta government's Environmental and Sustainable Resource Development website states that anyone using pesticides requires a pesticide applicator certificate. Using pesticides within 30 metres of a body of water also needs a Pesticide Special Use Approval, unless they are listed as a "certified applicator," at which point they are exempt from the 30-metre rule.

While the rally itself was to raise awareness of these various issues and to compel citizens to lobby city hall and the legislature for better regulation, people wanting to improve the quality of their food don't need to wait for the government to start making changes.

"I advise people to start gardening," concluded David Laing. "Grow your own food, educate yourself. Stop depending on the system."

hot Shots

Tell us your story with a photo! Every week we select one of your photos to appear in Hot Shots, the griff's photo of the week column. Think you have the next Hot Shot, then send in your photos to graphics@thegriff.ca.



KELSEY MCMILLAN/THE GRIFF

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

Building sustainability in Africa

Local non-profit organization, Africa We Care, bringing long-lasting support overseas



GABRIEL WHITE/FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Danika McConnell
News Editor

The 8th annual Bras Across the Bridge fundraising campaign is nearing its grand finale.

Spearheaded by radio station 91.7 The Bounce, each bra donated will provide a \$1 donation to the Alberta Cancer Foundation and Cross Cancer Institute.

On Oct. 24, the fundraiser will end by showcasing the bras strung across the High Level Bridge.

Throughout the majority of September and October, the Students' Association of MacEwan University was also accepting donations from students and staff alike, accompanied by women's health information sessions and yoga classes available through the donation of bras.

Following the end of the campaign, after the money is donated and the bras have been collected, the non-profit organization Africa We Care will take these bras and ship them to the coast of Africa via sea-can.

Africa We Care is a non-profit that is dedicated to the allevia-

tion of suffering in Africa through providing basic necessities such as clean water, medicines, access to education and more.

The organization's intentions are not only to provide these means, but to help the people who need them sustain them.

Africa We Care was founded by native Nigerian Chukwuemeka Obiajunwa, PhD, when he returned to Nigeria after years of schooling in Saskatchewan.

What he witnessed were the devastating outcomes of a nation painted with distress, danger and inhumanity brought by man.

Growing up in a poor country with so much potential but little opportunity to move forward, Obiajunwa understood that alleviation was needed, and in his absence he found that over the years the country only plummeted to further ruin.

For over 13 years, Africa We Care has been working alongside African people to help foster the notion of sustainable living.

Understanding the importance of sustainability, accompanied with hard work, empathy and extreme generosity, remains as a key focus

which has maintained the organization.

As the executive director of Africa We Care, Obiajunwa expressed the importance in understanding that charity is not what these people need, but rather a means of instilling sustainable opportunities for perfectly capable people.

Obiajunwa explained in great detail the drive of African people and their desire to further themselves without charity but opportunity to make a life for themselves with the right tools.

Africa We Care aims to "provide gainful, productive economic activity that restores basic human dignity."

Obiajunwa said one of the primary problems that charity relays is that it can be given and change can occur, but the lack of sustainability is what brings the initiatives of many charities to failure.

"We in the West here, we go there with the preconceived notion that what they need is a dollar a day."

Africa We Care identifies the needs of the people, how they can assist them, and where contribu-

tions should be made to existing initiatives of the people there.

The only difficulties Africa We Care has is the shipment of goods.

"We can collect a warehouse full of books in one week," said Obiajunwa. "What people neglect is the fact that it gets from here to there — and nobody thinks about this."

Africa We Care has more than enough supplies, clothing and donated goods to bring to the coast of Africa — it's getting it there that costs money and takes time.

"It has to go by sea. And to go by sea, you have to have at least a 20-foot or 40-foot [sea-can]," explained Obiajunwa.

To transfer these sea-cans, it costs roughly \$5,000 for a 20-foot container and \$7,000 for a 40-foot.

Inside these containers are bales with supplies that weigh around 100 pounds each.

Support can be seen through second-hand donations and through the forwarding of monetary contributions. However, it seems as though most people are more keen to the former; giving what is used versus what is most needed.

These containers cost money and that is what is needed to bring these goods from here to there in an efficient and timely manner.

Amongst all of the goods and supplies donated, bras have served as a great contribution to the women of Africa.

"African women, they are the breadwinners," said Obiajunwa. "They are the market women, they are the farmers, they are the traders, they are the mothers of the children and they are the livewire of the family and the community and everything."

Although these women carry their families and communities on their shoulders, Obiajunwa noted how they are still heavily marginalized.

"They need a lot of support," said Obiajunwa. "They need bras."

These bras have provided sup-

port toward the funding of cancer research and awareness, as well as in the most literal sense — support for women who need the bras.

"These bras are very expensive for new ones for average African women to afford," explained Obiajunwa.

Obiajunwa recalled how the bras were provided for women in the past by seamstresses, but weren't ideal because they never gave the proper support and time-consuming.

Donated bras aren't always used, either; a lot of speciality stores often give what they deem as defective or flawed or what is overstocked and needs to be discarded.

What we may deem as ruined or no good by our conventions is still, in its purpose, useful. Simply because an item is "defective" does not mean it cannot be used and still serve a purpose.

"The life of an African woman is busy morning 'til night," said Obiajunwa.

"It provides a lot of support for African women."

Based on the amount of donations, Africa We Care could easily ship three or four sea-cans on a monthly basis if it had the financial backing to do so.

Some people have assumed in the past that the government provides support for its initiatives, but Africa We Care works on a completely independent basis through community support and a dedicated team of people.

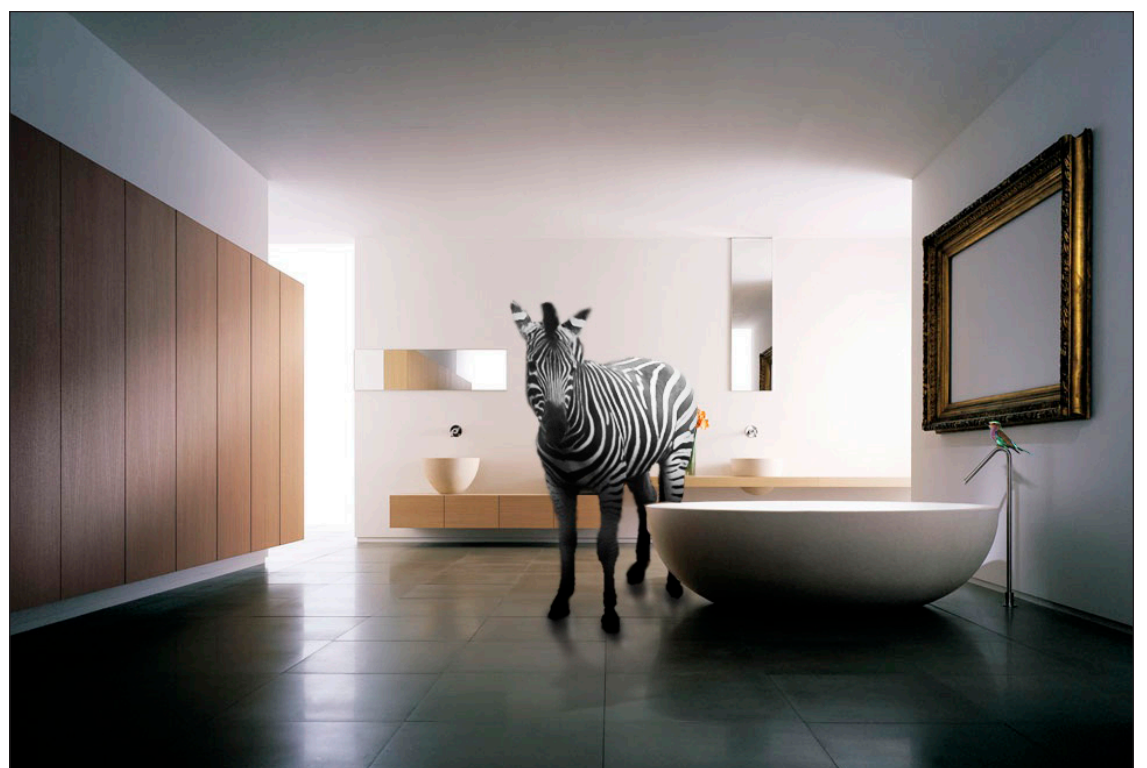
Several Edmontonians have stepped up in order to support Africa We Care in its goal to not be a charity, but to support African people in pursuing their goals through providing their basic needs and then sustaining them.

Africa We Care not only brings goods and clothing by sea, but also provides other programs such as Water for Life, which aims to find a sustainable approach in providing safe drinking water for communities.

HUH?! HEADLINE OF THE WEEK

Calgary Zoo takes 2nd place in Canada's best washroom contest

- CBC News, Oct. 21



ERICRUMOR/FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Influential conference lacks local support

Aboriginal youth conference connects students nationally but has shortage of Edmonton presence

Danika McConnell
News Editor

MacEwan University hosted the annual Dreamcatcher Aboriginal Youth Conference on Oct. 18.

This conference, hosted by the Faculty of Health and Community Studies, brings in students from across Canada and emphasizes the benefits of post-secondary education and how it can lead to success and opportunity.

However, with the recent cutbacks in educational funding in the region and across the province, this beneficial and inspiring occasion isn't as accessible to all students as it once was. The conference, which is highly recognized on a national scale, has disappointingly low numbers of participation from Edmonton schools.

Kym Pelletier, Dreamcatcher conference committee member and social worker with Metis Child and Family Services Society Edmonton (MCFS), expressed her concern with the lack of involvement in Edmonton.

Pelletier works closely with aboriginal children in Edmonton through MCFS. Pelletier, alongside a team of trained professionals, works to alleviate issues around education and hunger and help children who have been sexually exploited.

"Our goal is to keep [aboriginal] kids in school," explained Pelletier.

Pelletier is the only conference committee member from outside of MacEwan.

"Community members haven't stepped up to the plate," said Pelletier.

The lack of Edmonton schools present at the conference is concerning to Pelletier, as its initiatives work to foster the notion of post-secondary's long-term benefits.

Conference organizer, Carolyn Kane, noted that the most participation ranged from groups travelling from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and from northern Alberta. Groups also came from British Columbia and as far as the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The cost for each participant is \$219, and to Kane's understanding, Edmonton public schools no longer cover participant fees.

While it is up to parents and fundraising to send the children to the conference, finances covered include chaperones and travel.

"There really isn't a lot of Edmonton schools, which is really sad," said Pelletier. "The funding's just not there."

The Dreamcatcher conference is run on a cost-recovery basis and therefore does not make a profit. All fees go toward furthering the event



PHILIPPA WILLITTS/Flickr CREATIVE COMMONS

and continuing the work it has done for well over two decades.

"We try to keep it as cheap as possible, so across the board everyone gets the same rate," said Kane. "Because of cutbacks in education ... the youth have to fundraise for it."

They have seen a decline in recent years of Edmonton youth participants through these cutbacks in specific areas.

"The only event it's not affecting

is our childcare event," said Kane. "There's still money in early learning and funding for that."

With the financial woes, Kane further explained that participation isn't lacking on a provincial scale, but within the Edmonton region.

Edmonton schools have contacted Kane to assist in bringing in speakers to individual schools, as it has been more fiscally feasible for them to bring a speaker in rath-

er than sending students to conferences.

This year, the conference hosted approximately 500 students to experience exhibitors from other post-secondary institutions, presenters and entertainment. Keynote speakers included former professional wrestler Stefan Richard, and internationally recognized storyteller and best-selling author Richard Van Camp.

Sexualization in the bar industry

Anna McMillan
Writer

October is one of the most important months of the year, in the bar industry, as it brings about the arrival of Oktoberfest and Halloween festivities.

For the people working in Edmonton's restaurants, bars and nightclubs, however, this time of year is not as enjoyable as some people might assume.

Festivals and holidays do not only bring hordes of customers to the bars and provide people with a reason to celebrate. They also provide certain establishments with a tradition of implementing very specific, and often inappropriate, dress code requirements.

Unfortunately, many employees feel uncomfortable, as though they are on display in the uniforms that they are required to wear.

More often than not, female workers are treated as display pieces rather than employees, while their male coworkers are free to dress normally.

Courtney Erickson, a server and bartender who has been working in the industry for nearly a decade, explained that "there's not a whole lot of leeway" when it comes to dress codes at bars and nightclubs.

"[T]his year, the dresses were extremely short, to the point where shorts were needed underneath. I know that it made a lot of the girls uncomfortable," Erickson said.

Erickson has worked in Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie and the Dominican Republic, and the sexual objectification of female workers in the bar industry is a common factor.

"I think it goes along with — as sad as it sounds — the whole theory that sex sells," she said.

In Erickson's early years as a server, she said it was common to see people using their looks or revealing uniforms as a means of receiving better tips.

After having gained a great deal of experience, "I like to think now I can use my skill," said Erickson. "I am a strong server and I enjoy talking to people and I can give them a good experience."

In some establishments, an individual's refusal to wear a certain costume or uniform usually results in the termination of that night's shift.

Costumes and dress codes that leave employees feeling exposed are only one of many ways that females are sexualized in the industry.

Erickson expressed that the level of discomfort that people might experience depends on the work environment.

"Nightclubs, in my opinion, are definitely the worst," said Erickson. "That's where there's usually the most alcohol intake, and depending on the person, alcohol can bring out the worst in them."

Sexual harassment, accompanied by the consumption of alcohol, is a prevalent issue in the

industry. Any form of communication or physical contact that makes an employee feel unsafe or uncomfortable has the potential to be qualified as sexual harassment.

"If you don't want it to happen, it doesn't need to happen," said Erickson. "Just because you're a server at a bar it doesn't mean [customers] can touch you in any way."

Sadly, a lot of people hold the perspective that being harassed or mistreated by customers is simply part of the job.

For this reason, Erickson emphasized the importance of having a good management and security team as a means of support.

She noted that working with a team that can properly handle situations where employees are at risk is essential in ensuring that staff do not feel alone or unsafe.

The majority of the mistreatment that female labourers are exposed to is swept under the rug because it has slowly become a norm for the industry.

"As of right now, I think it is something to be expected," Erickson said of the sexualization that occurs in bars and nightclubs around the world.

It is likely that people having this expectation of harassment is one of the main reasons why the issue is not being handled properly.

Erickson explained that she has never witnessed any fellow employees take a stand against the various ways that they are looked at in solely a sexual context.

Erickson, who has always been

relatively comfortable with the situations that arise in the industry, explained, "I think that it's important for people to stand up for themselves."

For now, it seems that this might be the only way for employees who are made to feel unsafe, exposed and uncomfortable while at work to have their voices heard.



Another gore-filled year for DEDfest

Bloody Knuckles and *Lost Soul* are some of the films in this year's DEDfest

Where and When

What: DEDfest

Where: Garneau Theatre, 8712 109St.

When: Oct. 21 to Oct. 26

Price: Buy tickets on metro cinema's website or Permanent Records and Lobby DVD Shop on Whyte Avenue

Devin Smith
Writer

Lovers of the weird rejoice. DEDfest is back. Western Canada's horror, science fiction and cult film festival is returning to the Garneau Theatre with a new crop of films just in time for Halloween.

DEDfest is the perfect comeback to those who believe the horror film industry is on its way out for a lack of creativity and a reliance on sexualized gore.

Grab a beer and chat with other movie buffs, all while enjoying hours of exciting, bloody and occasionally campy horror fun.

DEDfest's unique lineup of films can't be found at the larger chain theatres, which gives audiences the chance to see something different; the festival offers films from around the world, including Canada. For those who want to go, but have no idea where to start, check out the following.

Bloody Knuckles

Directed by Matt O'Mahoney

Travis is an up-and-coming comic book creator with a penchant for the crude and offensive. His work gets him in serious trouble when he uses a local Asian gang as inspiration for his latest book.

The comic book falls into their — hands and Travis loses his. Offended by his depiction of them, the gang severs Travis's drawing hand.

Travis spirals into a depression until his hand crawls back to him, bloodthirsty and ready for vengeance.

Bloody Knuckles is the feature-length debut of Vancouver's Matt O'Mahoney, who is somehow able to inject a badass personality into a severed hand.

Equal parts disgusting and hilarious, *Bloody Knuckles* is a low-budget horror comedy done right. The laughs are as frequent as the fake blood, and the special effects (particularly the severed hand) are surprisingly decent, giving the film a more polished look than the standard indie-horror fare.

Adam Boys is charming as Travis, but shows some serious comedic chops when he begins to argue with his detached limb.

The hand, which uses a text-to-speech program on Travis's computer to communicate, is sassy and violent.

It scratches, stabs and even wields a gun at one point.

Bloody Knuckles is sure to please fans of both horror and comedy, but will resonate most with those who can't resist a cheesy B-movie.

Giving in to its own absurdity, *Bloody Knuckles* isn't afraid to be messy, offensive and downright insane.

Lost Soul: The Doomed Journey of Richard Stanley's Island of Dr. Moreau

Directed by David Gregory

It was a passion project four years in the making for director Richard Stanley. Driven by an immense love for H.G. Wells's original novel, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, he set out to make an interpretation that he felt best honoured the classic work, feeling disappointed with previous adaptations.

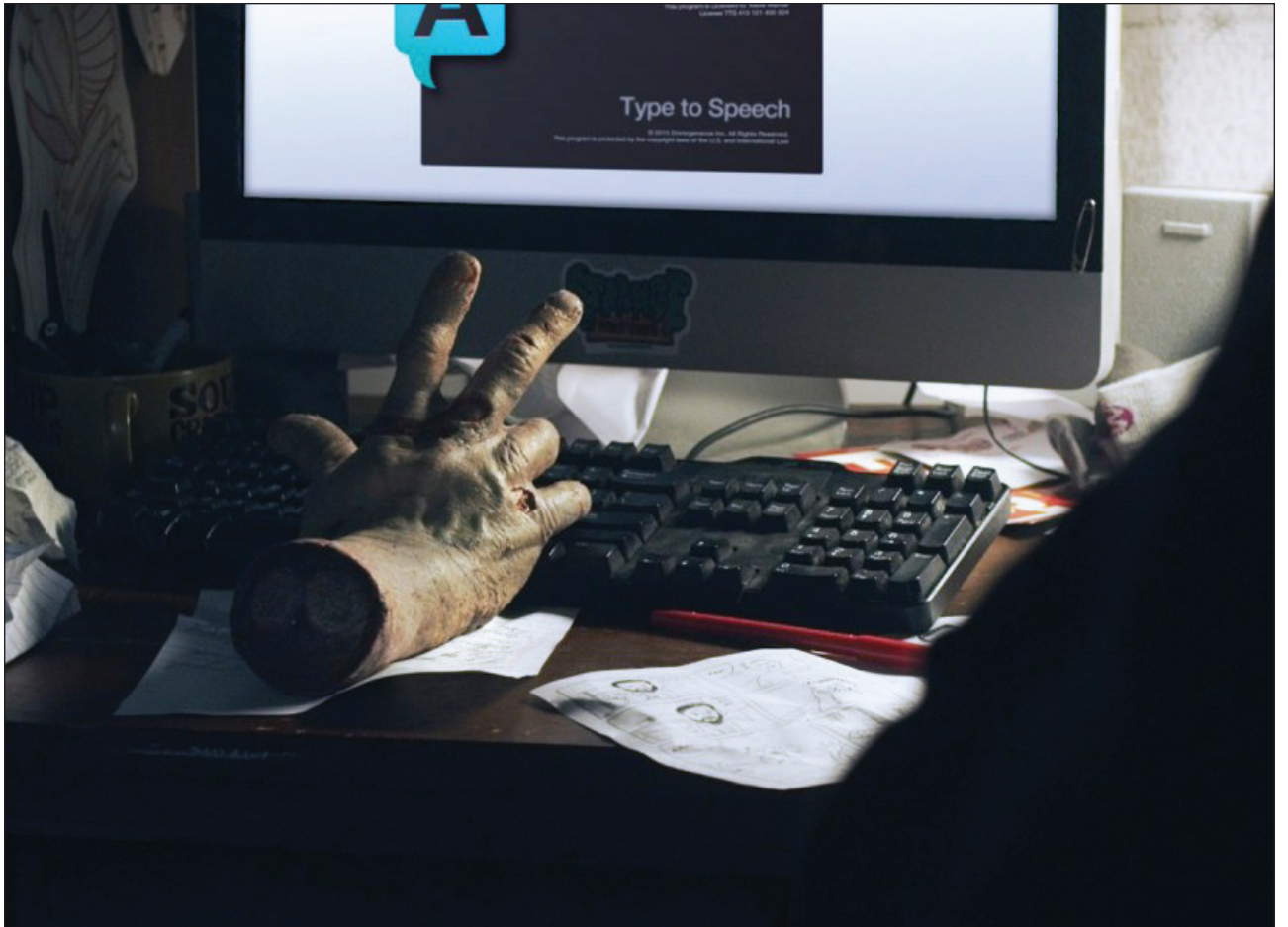
It was Stanley's dream project, but it soon turned into the stuff of nightmares when he was fired just several days into production.

Lost Soul gives an inside look into the notoriously bad 1996 film that would eventually become a cult favourite.

Told through interviews with cast and crew members, producers, and Richard Stanley himself, the documentary recounts the seemingly never-ending shoot from hell. John Frankenheimer, who had none of the passion and was reportedly disrespectful and arrogant, quickly replaced Stanley.

Actors Val Kilmer and the legendary Marlon Brando proved to be impossible to work with; Kilmer was condescending and egotistical, while Brando did his best to sabotage the film (possibly for his own enjoyment) when he realized it was a sinking ship.

Things progressively go from difficult to absurd, truly making the story of *The Island of Dr. Moreau* a stranger-than-fiction situation.



A comic book artist's severed hand gets a bloody revenge in *Bloody Knuckles*.

SUPPLIED



Lost Soul documents the creation of the terrible film *The Island of Dr. Moreau*.

SUPPLIED

The man behind the labels

Angela Johnston
Managing Editor

If you haven't tried beer from Phillips, you should get on it. The Victoria, B.C. brewery has a wide selection of tasty brews, and Shawn O'Keefe is the artist behind the bottle labels. The following Q&A has been edited for brevity.

Do you work on contract with Phillips, or are you on staff?

Officially, I am an independent contractor and one of the very first people hired at the brewery. After working that long with these folks, I feel like a part of the staff and a little bit more like one of the family, really.

Are you the sole artist for Phillips?

No, Phillips has a very cool roster of artists that they work with. I create all of the labels and packaging for the brewery so if you see something on a box, bottle or can, yeah, that's my work — but the art goes way beyond the product.

We have an amazingly talented sign writer, Chris Dobell, who works on site. He is a master of his craft, a hell of a storyteller and an absolute beauty.

We also have a junior graphic artist, Ahmed Sidky, who is mind-blowingly talented. As you can imagine with an art and craft focused brewery like Phillips, we put a lot of time in trying to support the

amazing and unique beer with equally amazing and unique art.

We also bring in other artisans for specialty projects, like local legend Russ Papp, who can make virtually any concept you dream up a reality. Phillips truly is one of the most creative and fun places I've ever had the good fortune of working at. It's pretty limitless.

Have you done similar work for other companies / do you currently?

Early in my freelance career, I helped to develop some core branding for other local craft breweries but it was a much different time and relationship. Phillips was allowing me so much creative input, and they were so great to work with, that basically I just couldn't justify putting my work on another brewery's product. It's been probably 10 years since I've worked with another brewery. I still work outside of the brewery on other projects, though. I do regular magazine illustrations [and] work with snow, surf and skate companies and a variety of other contract illustration gigs.



MARC W. KITTINGHAM / THEGRIFF

How long have you been a label artist?

Thirteen years, if you don't count the time I brewed beer in my parents' basement when I was 15. I made some labels for that fermented mess. The beer was almost undrinkable. I learned early that my talents were meant for the outside of a beer bottle, not the inside.

What's your background, in terms of education and previous work experience?

I snagged a diploma in graphic design straight out of high school with the hope of turning my love of drawing into some sort of career.

That pursuit of a "career" got me a job at a screen-printing shop where I worked for almost 10 years.

It was a pretty wild little shop. Lots of punk rockers, metal heads, graffiti kids and burnouts passed through those doors. I forged a lot of long-lasting friendships and working relationships out of that place.

As much as I could complain about the working conditions and meagre income, it really did give me the opportunity to develop my style and gave me a kick-ass education in rock and roll. My record collection is huge thanks to my time there.

How did you land the Phillips gig?

Well, funny enough, a younger Matt Phillips skateboarded up to the front door of that same shop, looking for the guy that designed the Great Canadian Beer Festival t-shirts — and that was me. Boom. History made.

What's your process for creating the labels? How do you come up with and execute ideas?

We usually have a bit of an idea jam session with lots of amazing beer. We throw out a bunch of ridiculous ideas, almost trying to one up each other in their outrageousness. Crazy beer names, fun beer styles, and talk of what those names and beer styles might look like graphically. From there, I sit down and draw the label out. I do all of my il-

lustration on paper and then scan them in and do all of the colour work and type layout in either Photoshop or CorelDraw.

What's your favourite part of your job?

The creative license, the people that I get to work with, and enjoying the fruits of our labour. At the end of the day, it's all so tangible. I can sit back, look at my art on the bottle and then taste the art that the brewers put inside. I think of all the people that I work with when I sip one of our beers.

Do you network with other label artists?

I don't really network at all. I definitely hang out with other artists and make art with other artists. We have a public art space in our front showroom at the brewery where local artists can hang their work, and we host parties for them. I don't have a lot of time. I have a wife, two kids and a home renovation that deserve my attention as well. Got to keep it all in check.

What's your favourite type of beer?

I like them big and hoppy so my go-to is Phillips Amnesiac Double IPA, but I seriously enjoy the fact that our rotating seasonal line up is so vast and varied that there is something new and delicious to taste all year long. That's the beauty of craft beer: so many flavours and styles to enjoy.

Drinkin' songs

"I Gotta Get Drunk" by George Jones & Willie Nelson

This song was introduced to me just before my 20th birthday and I listened to it constantly thereafter. I was working as a pipe fitter apprentice up in Fort McMurray at the time.

I worked everyday for 21 days straight for 10 hours a day. But for my birthday we had the day off. So the boys and I went out for drinks that night and they got me blackout drunk. Somehow some of us made it to the casino in town and I ended up blowing \$1,600 on blackjack.

Funny thing was I didn't even care that much. Now all this song reminds me of are those times of being reckless and having the cash to do so. It's a song that will definitely inspire some bad decisions.

-Tomas Acuna

"Echoes of Silence" by The Weeknd
Abel Tesfaye, better known as the alternative R&B singer The Weeknd, has seen one of the most rapid ascents into fame in recent memory. While much of his music focuses on the party scene, not all of it is so dismal.

"Echoes of Silence," the title track of his third mix tape remains destructive, angry and utterly fascinating. Still singing about a lonely, intoxicated party life, a girl is begging Tesfaye to stay the night while he is dismissing her needs. The heavy piano ballad is mired in self-pity:

"Don't go home ... don't leave my little life." This mournful melody paired with gloomy lyrics leaves a listener with an eerie, desolate feeling. "Echoes of Silence" is sure to make you feel a little depressed, and maybe even pick up a bottle or two.

-Aqsa Tariq

"Just One Drink" by Jack White
When Jack White's *Lazaretto* comes on,

it makes you want to do all sorts of things. In the case of the song "Just One Drink," it makes me want to do exactly that. I don't drink a lot, and when I do, it's just one drink. Anyone who knows Jack White knows how cryptic he is, thus making it easy to assume that the meaning of the song is much deeper than I'm making it seem. But that's the beauty of music — we can interpret the song meanings however we want. It reminds me of the end of summer, when we can celebrate the vacation that was and prepare for eight more months of school. As long as I don't listen too hard to the lyrics, my thoughts will stay this way.

-Kyle Muzyka

"Sink, Florida, Sink" by Against Me!
With its opening verse of "Not One More Word Tonight," Against Me!'s song "Sink, Florida Sink," is just melancholy enough to be played at the end of a party or the end of a night drowning your sorrows, but it has the uplifting chorus and sing-along that pulls one from the depths of the madness that could be, and often is, at the bottom of a bottle.

I have been known to sing/play this song late at night when the guitars inevitably come out. There is no better time to sing about an entire state drifting into the ocean than around a campfire with your friends. Against Me! has long been one of my favourite bands, and this song is why. I can listen to it any day and feel better, but it lends itself particularly well to drinking.

"Sink, Florida, Sink" is my go-to drinking song. It brings whatever group of people you are with into a loud, raucous sing-along about the depravity of drinking, but ends on a high enough note to make it all seem like the world is good.

-Marc W. Kitteringham

THIS COLUMN MAY CONTAIN

**GRAPHIC
CONTENT**

Sex: it is a thing most of us do, and yet for some reason some things associated with the act are often labeled as "smutty" or "in poor taste." We live on an oversexualized, commercialized planet. We can't escape the truth that sex is appealing and is something that is never going to go out of style. In the first book of writer Matt Fraction and artist Chip Zdarsky's modern classic, *Sex Criminals: One Weird Trick*, a controversial subject that is often taboo in comics gets a humorous, honest and up-to-date look at a thing we all do. Oh, and there are sexual superpowers involved. That got your attention, didn't it? The greatest achievement of this first issue is Fraction's sarcastic and honest style of storytelling. Two 20 somethings, Suzie and Jon, discover in their adolescence that when they achieved orgasm time simply stopped. They both assume they are alone in this dilemma, until one fateful night where they meet at a party and, well, have intercourse. Upon discovering that they both have this power, they utilize it to their full advantage. A plan is hatched to save the library where Suzie works, which is in financial crisis. By using their time-stopping powers, Suzie and Jon begin to rob banks. However, a malevolent force known as the "sex police," whom are aware of people with abilities like these, begin to hunt the couple down.

The story seems to follow the classic for-



mula, with its own imaginative twist. Girl meets boy, girls sleeps with boy, girl starts falling for boy — followed by girl and boy robbing banks with their time-stopping sex powers. The portrayal of Suzie and Jon's antics is something that most people who have ever been in an adult relationship will find strangely familiar. Things are moving fast and they're both too

smitten and uncertain about what's going on to completely stop and assess the situation. The honesty and hilarity of their relationship is what makes the book have its own identity.

Sex Criminals is a must read for a modern generation that is exposed to sex on a constant basis. Both characters have very mixed emotions about their ability and due to the youthful fear of talking about sex, stay confused and assume it's normal. Everybody went through the confusion of sexual comeuppance in their adolescence, and *Sex Criminals* portrays it in a satirical way that illustrates that confusion perfectly. Time-stopping sex powers aside, it is a triumphant modern love story with the taboos of sex being the bedrock for the foundation of its narrative. The fact that Fraction and Zdarsky have circumnavigated the demonization of sex in literature and made a fun compelling story proves that sex doesn't always have to be just about sex.

- Jake Pesarik



Hexagon board game café is packed with different board games of all shapes and sizes for fans of the board game world.

TOMAS ACUNA/THE GRIFF

Board games, coffee and beer — oh my!

Whyte Avenue's new Hexagon board game café offers something for everyone

Tomas Acuna
Writer

It's a windy fall Friday night. My friends and I hit up Whyte Avenue, but instead of going to a bar, we take refuge from the cool air in a café on the east side of where the tracks used to be. Right between 101 and 102 Street lies the Hexagon board game café.

The café, only being open for a month, stands out from the surrounding east Whyte shops, which look weathered in comparison.

Its front end is all windows and the lights are turned up bright. The white counter and bar area at the front reflect that light and intensify it, giving the place a daytime feel.

The beautifully designed room is simple and modern with blue and grey walls. The owners' favourite board game cover artwork is framed on the walls.

Kellie Ho and Randy Wong, co-owners of Hexagon Café, designed the place themselves.

"This is going to sound lame," says Wong. "But you know how people say their pets or their dogs are a reflection of their owner? Our business is kind of like a reflection of

us."

Both their backgrounds are in architectural design. Ho and Wong went to the University of Manitoba to study and it is where they met.

After graduating in 2008, the couple went to Korea to teach because of the lack of jobs available in Canada.

That is where they had the inspiration for the café. Game cafés were big in Asia at the time.

When they returned to Wong's hometown of Calgary, they noticed a possible market. They ended up getting jobs in their field as architects to save up for their dream.

"When I first started my job, I wanted to quit within the first three months," said Wong. "But I knew I really wanted to do this, really bad, so I stuck it out for three years."

The couple described the work in their field as being like an internship.

They had to endure low pay and being "treated like crap." However, they had something to look forward to. So they bided their time planning, designing and collecting games. Ho and Wong started their collection when the dream started to look like a reality, nearly four

years ago. Settlers of Catan, which is one of the couple's favourites, was just the beginning.

Some of the games came from game conventions the couple visited. Others came in the form of Christmas gifts from family and friends, all hoping to help the couple's idea to come to fruition.

The result is a collection that caters to all types of people or groups. In the back of the room lies a shelf that's around 10 feet long and 7 feet tall, packed full of games. The choice is intimidating at first.

I understand why Ho asked if we needed a recommendation. It took us at least 15 minutes to make a decision, but could have easily taken longer.

Most games I had never seen or heard of before.

There are games like Cards Against Humanity for some lighthearted fun and Poleconomy — the game of Canada — for maybe the more serious (and bland). We settled on a game somewhere in the middle called Takenoko. It's a game that plays like Settlers, but centres on pandas and bamboo.

We settle down at our table and wait for another friend to join us.

Along the wall, where I'm sitting are tables of four. On the other side of the narrow room, the tables are long and close together, much like a beer hall. The couple says that they purposefully set up the café this way to give it this vibe.

"Beer halls became very popular while we were [in Calgary]," said Ho. "We were like 'this is such an awesome experience.' Like you're almost elbow-to-elbow with a complete stranger and you don't care because you need a seat and this is the only way you can sit. But just the closeness, like the proximity you are to a stranger, we kind of wanted to encourage here."

Although the place was not crammed like a beer hall that night, the couple says that it's usually busy on Fridays and Saturdays. Ho mentions that it's midterm season.

She doesn't need to; I'm well aware.

So I embrace the beer hall feel and get a bowl of toffee-covered peanuts and a beer to enjoy while playing.

Village Brewery beer is the only beer they serve at the café. It's a Calgary-based craft beer brewery.

They also serve Fratello coffee

from a Calgary-based coffee roaster.

"We're slowly becoming a little bit of a taste of Calgary," says Ho.

Wong says that this is somewhat due to them doing most of the planning in Calgary.

Opportunity popped up in Edmonton, so they left everything to seize it.

Ho also says it's because it's fresh and it brings something new to the city.

Hexagon is definitely something new. And there's something special about it, too.

Ho and Wong did not approach it from an angle of business, but from design, and it shows.

"Everything within this space has been thought out," said Wong. "Nothing is ever put there randomly. So we kind of applied that kind of thinking methodology into our business plan the best we could."

We finish up our game near closing. There is one couple that's sitting a few tables down from us. Ho and Wong join them at their table to play a game.

As we got up from our table, my friend Bry turns to me and says, "We should do this at least once a month." I'm game.

Christmas reveals the esoteric world of nuns

Edmonton's Litfest invites author Jane Christmas to discuss her new novel

Rachita Chugh
Writer

The city of Edmonton hosts a variety of festivals annually and one such festival is LitFest, the only non-fiction festival in Canada.

This particular literary festival allows individuals to connect and have intimate conversations with noteworthy authors, among other activities.

This year, LitFest began on Oct. 16, and welcomed over 30 authors from across the globe.

Among the spectacular list of authors was Ms. Jane Christmas, a Canadian writer who has gained global recognition as well as an expanding international readership.

Ms. Christmas has written several books and each one has been very well received.

She was always interested in the written word and began her career as a journalist.

In her forties, she started working on her first book, *The Pelee Project: One Woman's Escape from Urban Madness*.

The book contains Christmas's accounts of adapting to a life on Pelee Island and being completely detached from the loudness of the city.

Once that particular book was completed, numerous other books penned by her were also published.

Her latest publication is titled *And Then There Were Nuns*, discussing issues such as religion and exploring the mystical world of nunneries.

Christmas has a rather unique way of writing and classifies her style as somewhat "confessional."

"My writing is very direct, humorous and sometimes even raw," says Christmas.

Individuals familiar with her writing prior to this memoir should be expecting a pleasant change in her latest piece.

Christmas describes *And Then There Were Nuns* as being more introspective, dark, and more spiritual as compared to her other works.

"The readers are going to get something different. They can also expect to read about religious and monastic life."

Writing this book has allowed Jane Christmas to dive into the workings of convents and also allows her to make some very unusual discoveries that may very well surprise the readers.

According to Christmas, nuns are very human and have the ability to see life a lot more sharply than

us. "Nuns are quite funny people and certainly not as holy as we imagine them to be."

Despite the antagonistic sentiment surrounding religion — Christianity in particular — Christmas has received considerably positive feedback from the masses. The book has also been shortlisted for two Leacock Medal awards for humour and word.

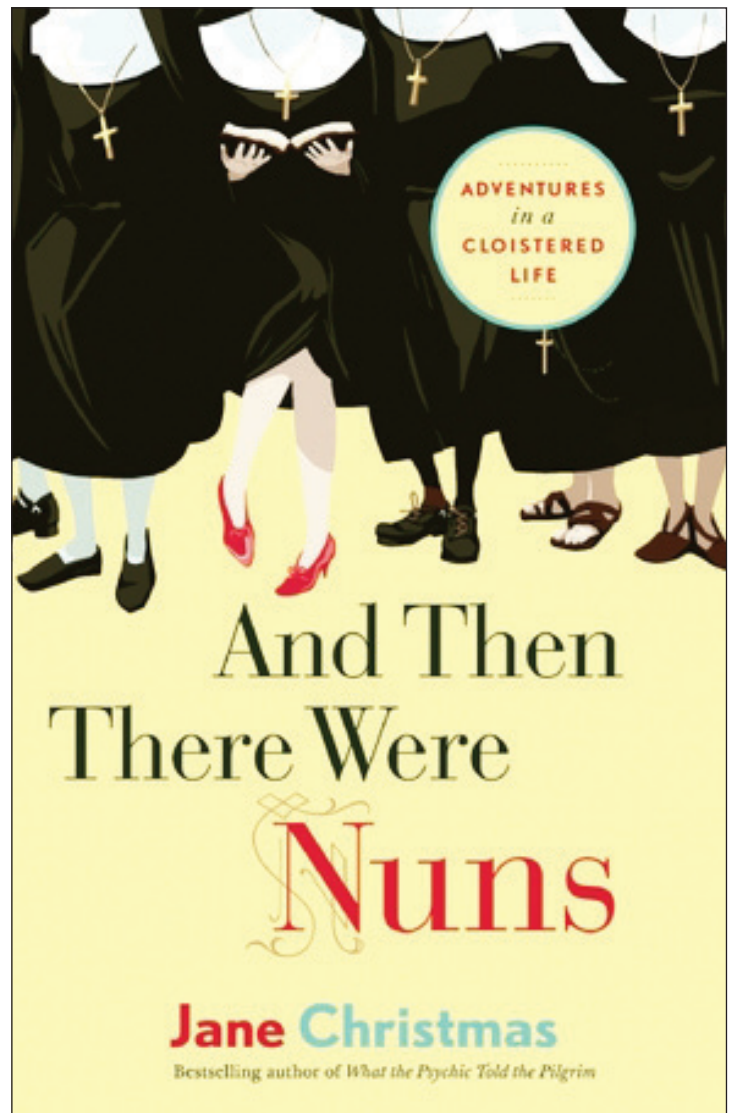
Using this book as a medium, Christmas hopes to start discussions on religion and eradicate negative perceptions of it.

"I think we've driven religion underground, but the discussion for religion needs to be out there."

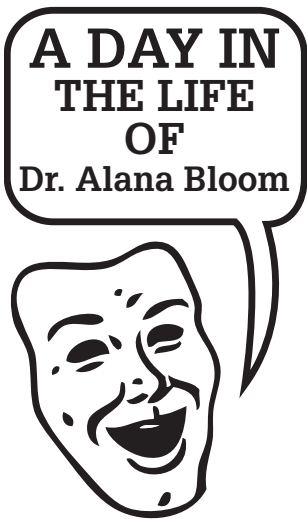
Her attempts at making the book accessible to a varied audience have definitely been successful. The book appeals to people from many different religious backgrounds, as well as people that identify as being atheist or agnostic.

"I wanted my book to be really current and modern," says Christmas. The evident success of the book has led Christmas all the way to Edmonton.

She is delighted to have been invited to LitFest, and hopes to interact and connect with her Western readership.



SUPPLIED



By Parvin Sedighi

I couldn't sleep at all last night. All I could think about was Will: the frenzied look that's in his eyes so often these days, and how more and more I'm receiving calls from him, stranded in strange places he doesn't remember walking to.

Some days it gets hard to visit the FBI offices, because it really feels like I'm the only sane one there. Jack is blind to my warnings about Will's well-being, and his team follows his lead without question. I'll be the first to say that pushing Will like that will lead to nothing but trouble.

Last Saturday I made the trip out to see Will at his home, and the air was thick with tension in his small sitting room. I think he was still thinking of our, er, awkward conversation about stability and relationships.

Thankfully, his dog Winston padded into the room just then and proceeded to jump on my lap and lick my face, killing any remaining tension. I wish Will was as easy to understand as his dog.

I'm going to Hannibal's for dinner tonight, and he insisted on keeping the meal a surprise. He said he couldn't tell me about the contents just yet, should he change his mind, only that the x-ray attendant at the hospital was his inspiration for it.

I found that rather strange, because as



METAHEADJACK/DEVIANTART

far as I remember, the last time that man and Hannibal were in a room, Hannibal received shoddy treatment from him. To my surprise, all Hannibal did was ask for the man's business card; I assume he filed a complaint or something of that kind. No one should have to deal with rude people, and certainly not a man as civilized and as gentle as Hannibal!

It's best I go get ready for the dinner tonight; I'm always amazed at how incredibly Hannibal prepares meals. During one of our gatherings at Hannibal's home with the Crawfords, Jack joked that Hannibal could cook up Jack's mother and feed her to them, and Jack wouldn't say no, because that's simply how talented our chef is.

Hannibal had only smiled a humble yet sly smile and thanked Jack for the compliment. He's truly a well-rounded human being; not only is he gifted in his field of work, his skill with knives leaves me baffled and amazed. He manages to be so quiet about his achievements. He could be doing anything, really, and no one would take notice.

Enough chitchat now, I really do have to go. I'm hoping Will can attend tonight but if not, I'll be content to just spend the evening with Hannibal, perhaps the most trustworthy and respectable man I know.

-Dr. Alana Bloom

WHAT'S ON AT UALBERTA?

Prism
A vibrant spectrum of student ensembles, choirs and bands, faculty strings, pianists and vocalists.
Winspear Centre

Oct 23
8:00 p.m.

Oct 24 & 25
8:00 p.m.

Drumzy
A Celebration of Egyptian Music and Dance. Featuring Hossam & Serena Ramzy
Convocation Hall

ualberta.ca/artshows





Postmedia Network's acquisition of Sun Media means both of Edmonton's biggest newspapers will be owned by the same company.

MARC W. KITTINGHAM / THE GRIFF

Media takeover is message monopoly

Anna McMillan
 Writer

A lack of diversity in news coverage appears to be on the horizon for cities across Canada.

The Postmedia Network recently announced a \$316 million deal to obtain the English language properties of its rival, Sun Media. As a result of the arrangement, Postmedia will own competing newspapers in major cities across the country.

Once the deal is closed, the network will acquire 175 English language newspapers and their associated websites. *The Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star* and the *Winnipeg Free Press* are the only major Canadian newspapers that will not be under Postmedia's control.

Postmedia's procurement of five Sun dailies has been a major source of scrutiny in the deal. By managing both competitive dailies in Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa,

Postmedia will be creating an obvious concentration of media ownership in Canada.

When there is a limited number of individuals who control shares of mass media in a nation, the possibility for the consolidation of editorial voices becomes a concern. The presentation of biased political views and the monopolization of opinion also pose a problem.

If diverse perspectives are not provided to the public, citizens will only be receiving one message from one corporate voice. The publication of stories that report from various points on the political and economic spectrums is essential, as this exposes citizens to different global perspectives and prevents the creation of blind spots in coverage.

Free media is considered a pillar of democracy, and many feel that Postmedia's purchase of the Sun Media chain infringes upon this right.

The deal, however, is not yet fi-

nal, as the proposal requires regulatory approval from the Federal Competition Bureau.

Competition is a driving force for innovation in the journalism industry. Unfortunately, media convergence often decreases the incentive for journalistic innovation, as there are fewer corporations to compete against.

One of the Competition Bureau's purposes is to closely review media mergers to determine if they will dramatically decrease competition in the industry. The review of the proposal is a process that is expected to take up to six months. It is imperative that the bureau ensures that competition is actually being promoted in order to avoid uniform coverage of important stories in newspapers and online.

Postmedia's reasoning for the proposal, however, moves away from the discussion of the problems associated with media consolidation and instead focuses on an improved ability to compete with

digital media. The corporation claims that consolidation is necessary in order to remain viable when competing with the digital giants of Facebook, Google and Twitter.

An increasing number of people find their news online and Postmedia's actions are being made under the rationale that merging with Sun Media will create a cohesively stronger unit, instead of two separate entities with less power in the online news competition.

There is concern in the journalism industry that traditional forms of print journalism are being replaced by online publications. In a world where news reporting becoming almost entirely digital seems inevitable, Postmedia is making strides to ensure that print journalism has a fighting chance in the competition.

The purchase puts Postmedia in a better position to dominate the highly competitive and fast-changing online media platform. By merging the two news organiza-

tions, there is promise that the company will stay afloat and be better equipped to compete online.

It is quite evident that media consolidation needs to be avoided in the journalism industry, as it is essential that people be provided with a variety of lenses to view the world through. Postmedia's purchasing of Sun Media is a textbook example of media convergence, but it is important that the intent behind the consolidation is made clear.

Converged media is better than no media. Print media plays a key role in the delivery of news coverage, but its ability to survive in the face of online media is becoming increasingly unlikely. Postmedia's proposal greatly improves print media's ability to be a contender for news coverage both online and off, and Canadian citizens can only hope that the network ensures that diversified news continues to be delivered in an ethical and responsible manner.

Everyone should be able to give blood

Ana Holleman
 Writer

In 2013, Canadian Blood Services began allowing "men who have sex with men" to be blood donors, provided these men had been abstinent five years prior to the time of donation. This marked a change from previous policy, which forbade men who had ever engaged in homosexual activities from donating blood indefinitely.

While this change is certainly an improvement over what was in place before, it still comes across as homophobic.

When HIV (human immu-

nodeficiency virus) and AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, which can develop after a person has HIV) were discovered, they were and still are highly associated with homosexual men — to the point where AIDS was, at one point, referred to as "GRID" (gay-related immune deficiency).

Despite subsequent medical research demonstrating that absolutely anyone can contract HIV/AIDS, homosexual men and other "men who have sex with men" have been considered to be at "high risk" for the illness, and have been banned from donating blood.

It is currently the 21st centu-

ry. Science has evolved to a point where we now know that anybody can get HIV/AIDS, and we are at a point where we can do blood tests to see if a person has HIV or AIDS.

In fact, one of the questions on the Canadian Blood Services' donor eligibility sheet is, "Do you have AIDS or have you ever tested positive for HIV/AIDS?" This question finds itself alongside questions such as, "Have you had sex with anyone who has AIDS or has tested positive for HIV or AIDS?" and "In the past 6 months, have you had sex with someone whose sexual background you don't know?"

These all cover the factors that

fuel the fears over blood donations from men who engage in sexual intercourse with other men. All of these questions cover the same basic question: "Do you potentially have HIV/AIDS?" There is no need to single out men who engage in homosexual acts.

Indeed, the "six months" question is rather dubious. It asks essentially the same question as the inquiry into men's same-sex activities, which is, "Is there a chance you have an STI such as HIV/AIDS?"

The difference, though, lies in the fact that people who have sex without knowing their partners'

histories only have an apparent six month prohibition on blood donation, while men who engage in sexual activity with men have to wait five years — apparently regardless of whether or not any of these men have any infection.

While Health Canada's allowing the Canadian Blood Services to accept male donors who have had sex with other men is a step above the past, it still comes across as unnecessary.

Given the screenings needed to give blood in the first place, the existence of this prohibition comes across as archaic and homophobic.

Selling democracy across the sea



Stephen Harper signed a long-coming FIPA deal with the Chinese government on Sept. 9. The deal came into force on Oct 8. PHOTOSWEBPM / FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Zachary Keizer
Writer

Three weeks ago, the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) came into force. In a nutshell, FIPA is a deal negotiated between two countries that aims at encouraging and protecting bilateral foreign investments. While some people might see the opening of our borders to foreign venture capital as a step towards a dystopian future of complete globalization and unrestricted corporate tyranny, others welcome the stimulus that Chinese investments will provide to the Canadian economy.

It's not the first such agreement that Canada has entered into with another nation, and it won't be the last. Currently, FIPAs are being negotiated with Indonesia, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates, and other countries, according to the Government of Canada's website.

Economic ideologies notwithstanding, the Canada-China FIPA presents some troubling consequences for Canadians. Under the terms of the agreement, Chinese companies are essentially able to override legislative decisions made by any level of government. If, for example, the Albertan government attempts to limit Chinese access to bitumen oil, or the British Colum-

bian government tries to place restrictions on the construction of a pipeline, and a Chinese investor finds these circumstances unfavourable, the investor is able to sue the provincial governments.

The same applies to the federal government; if a First Nations band rejects a proposal to construct mining facilities on the community's territory and the federal government intervenes on behalf of the band as per treaty obligations, a Chinese investor can contest the government's decision and the dispute will be subject to arbitration.

Arbitration doesn't involve the Canadian courts, by the way. The process of resolving disputes be-

tween Chinese investors and Canadian governments takes place outside of the Canadian legal system. Canadian law has no bearing on these proceedings. A panel of arbitrators settles the dispute, and only one of these panelists is appointed by the Canadian government — the second is chosen by China and the third by the World Bank.

We might never know how effective Chinese investors are in their extralegal endeavours, because these hearings are to be conducted entirely in secret. No press. No public. Under the terms of the treaty, the federal government has the right to withhold any and all

documents pertaining to the hearing. This was a wise move on the behalf of the Canadian negotiators, because there are no limits on the damages that can be awarded to the plaintiffs should the dispute be settled in their favour. Canadians, like most people, tend to get upset when they find out that massive amounts of their tax dollars are being shelled out to foreign corporations.

This deal did not come out of the blue. Canada and China began negotiating in 1994, and the deal has been signed for two years. It's only now, with the ratification of the deal by the cabinet, that a few heads seem to be turning. Since Canada is locked into the deal for the next three decades, it's safe to say that a few more will have turned by 2045.

The agreement has far greater consequences for our country than I can hope to address in this article. Don't take my word for it — go and look for yourself. If you find yourself feeling angry or betrayed by the acquiescence of the Harper administration to the terms of the Chinese government, consider your role in this agreement. We elected these people to lead our country. If you don't vote Conservative, consider that the negotiations for the Canada-China FIPA were initiated (and re-initiated in 2004) during a Liberal administration.

The fact of the matter is that FIPA should shock no one. It's not new. It's not a secret. It's just another example of how the majority of Canadians stood in silence with their heads down as their leaders quietly sold another piece of their democracy down the river. Or in this case, across the Pacific.

Ugly fruit deserve our love too



Pretty vegetables ganging up on their ugly brethren are a thing of the past thanks to French supermarkets.

GLOOMY CORP / FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Angela Johnston
Managing Editor

Six months ago, French supermarket chain Intermarché began posting about its campaign, Les Fruits et Légumes Moches. Directly translated, it means “the ugly fruits and vegetables” but the English-language campaign name is Inglorious Fruits and Vegetables.

I'm not sure why Intermarché chose that translation — maybe

the marketers didn't think English speakers could handle the hard truth.

The campaign received a fair amount of global press this past summer, and for good reason. As its name suggests, the project shines a light on unattractive produce, usually not seen on the shelves of conventional grocery stores. The initiative aims to reduce waste by promoting the sale and purchase of these oddballs.

By selling the ugly fruits and veggies at a reduced rate, it's an all-around win for the grocer, the customer, the farmer and the environment. The farmer and grocer are able to sell products they previously couldn't move, the customer gets a 30 per cent discount, and the fruits and veggies don't go to waste just because they aren't perfect.

I was a product of the perfect produce madness before inten-

tionally reforming myself. I've never turned away oddly shaped fruits or veggies, but I admit to avoiding ones with scabs or discolorations, even though they were probably perfectly edible.

When a person is accustomed to shiny, unblemished tomatoes, the ugly ones can be shocking and even make you question whether they're safe to eat.

This campaign is important because people should know that

unattractive fruits and vegetables are just as safe and nutritious as their model counterparts, and they shouldn't be tossed away.

Intermarché offering a steep discount is a significant incentive for customers to change their ways, and supermarkets worldwide should follow suit.

Just as humans have blemishes, so do fruits and veggies. That doesn't make them any less worthy.



B.C. has more breweries, Alberta has more beer

Daren Zomeran
Online Editor

British Columbia and Alberta are two completely different beasts when it comes to their beer industries.

Alberta sold its control over liquor stores back in 1993, and since then has enjoyed an increasingly larger selection of import craft beer. While beer selection has been growing steadily, the number of breweries in the province hasn't.

B.C., on the other hand, is seeing more and more breweries open up every year. So much so that Kevin Hearsun, a brewer at Driftwood Brewery in Victoria, B.C., says brewers have to limit the amount of seasonal beers that they release to ensure that liquor stores will have the shelf space.

"People keep likening Vancouver and Victoria to the beer capital of Canada," Hearsun said. "There were 22 breweries that opened here last year."

To put that into perspective, Alberta only has a total of 17 operational breweries (not including macro brewers such as Molson, Labatts, etc.), with two more in the works.

But that isn't because of a lack of interest.

In fact, until very recently, it was because the Alberta government made it almost impossible for anyone to start a brewery in the province. Before December 2013, the government required that a brewer be able to produce more than 2,500 hectolitres, or 118,708 six-packs of beer per year.

To make this kind of production easily requires a couple million worth of investment — much more than any bank would be willing to shell out.

Some brewers, like Tool Shed Brewery from Calgary, temporarily got around the law by contracting their brewing to Dead Frog Brewery in B.C. They would then ship their beer into Alberta and market it as an Alberta brew.

Now that the minimum production laws have been repealed, Tool Shed has been building their brewery and are almost producing beer within the province.

Although, in all honesty, banks have never been all that accommodating to brewers. Dan Reid from Phillips Brewery says that the brewery started out with credit card debt and slowly made its way to become one of the biggest brewers on the West Coast.

These days, the guys over at Phillips Brewery host events to raise money for the arts community in Victoria, B.C. as well as support local charities. As well, breweries tend to create healthy atmospheres for their employees by encouraging simple things like biking to work instead of driving.

Breweries also add to the food culture of any city with the addition of brewpubs, which only produce and sell their beer within a restaurant. They are often experimental, because they have a lot more freedom to play with food and drink specials such as small batch beers.

Alberta currently has only three brewpubs: Jasper Brewing Co. in Jasper, Norsemen in Camrose, and the Brewsters chain of restaurants. In provinces like B.C., brewpubs are thriving. Establishments like Canoe brewery are popping up all over the province and making a killing.

It's understandable why so many people are passionate about beer and why we should be encouraging these kinds of businesses in Alberta. However, now that the minimum production requirements have been taken out of the commission, the biggest thing stopping brewers is that privatized industry.

We have the largest selection of all provinces in Canada. It's extremely easy to get beer into the province, so Alberta and Ontario are usually the first stops for the major players down south and across the pond.

But all of these imports need to find shelves. Not even Sherbrooke Liquor store is able to store every style available in the province.

So how can a local brewer compete?

It's no doubt that selection is good for the people, and soon it is possible that we will start seeing more breweries popping up in Alberta.

Alberta has the passion for beer that exists in other provinces; all it needs is entrepreneurs who are willing to take a risk for their passions. The breweries that are here are doing well, and are supported by the local communities. It's about time that see some more culture brewing.

The griff reviews beer!

Oskar Blues
Ten Fidy Imperial Stout
 Daren Zomeran

Ten Fidy is as evil as it is black — the most intense light cannot be seen through the other side. Drinking one is such a euphoric experience that it could be compared to a voodoo celebration.

It's called Ten Fidy because it's 10.5 per cent alcohol.

It feels like coffee-flavoured engine oil going down your throat, and the ensuing delirium creeps up just as slowly, allowing the user to drink two or three of these concoctions before getting kicked to the curb.

The beer gets extra points for coming in a four-pack of cans.

Ten Fidy is extremely smooth for a stout. One would expect to get burnt by the alcohol, or have to choke it down while pretending to enjoy it. But fortunately not, because this beer is the cream of the high-alcohol crop.

It's a killer — not one for the faint of heart, the brave, or even the living, really.



Granville Island Brewery
False Creek Raspberry Ale
 Ana Holleman

False Creek Raspberry Ale by Granville Island Brewery does well in aroma: the drink has distinctive tones of raspberry, without one element being so overbearing as to distract from the other. In fact, the scent might be too subtle for a berry as potent as the raspberry.

Meanwhile, the colour of the beer is congruent with its labelling — the ale is a pink colour

expected of a raspberry beer. However, upon drinking, False Creek Raspberry Ale does not have a sufficient taste of either beer or raspberry. It is almost as if the drink is unsure of whether or not it actually wishes to be a fruit beer, and the result is something with an underwhelming taste. Likewise, while False Creek Raspberry Ale is slightly bubbly, it also comes off a bit flat.

Overall, the ale is adequate, but lacks the direction to be great.



Phillips Brewing Co.
Coulrophobia
 Zack Keizer

This new addition to the Phillips Brewing Co. family derives its name from a common ailment: the fear of clowns. If you suffer from this, you might want to remove the label before taking a swig, although I'd recommend a sip if you want to appreciate the ale's subtlety.

This India Red Ale (IRA) is clean and smooth, making it a good thirst-quencher. The characteristic bitter associated with beers that are hop-heavy doesn't take effect until the last drops have passed your tongue, but as with any good IPA, it lingers long beyond the bottom of the bottle. Phillips' use of hops in Coulrophobia is relatively tame compared to their usual variety. The beer's richness is masked behind the hoppy finish, and a moment of reflection is required to realize the full flavour.

Overall, the Coulrophobia is refreshing, although the red of the IRA doesn't make much of an appearance. Good after a hot day spent hosing down elephants or for warming your blood after seeing a flash of that familiar facepaint.

Brasserie d'Achouffe
La Chouffe
Megan Lovelin

Despite having a higher alcohol content than most at 8 per cent, Brasserie d'Achouffe's La Chouffe is deliciously smooth with very little alcohol taste.

The flavour starts out peachy with notes of pear and white grape rounded out by pale malted barley — sweet, but not overly so. At the back, a hint of light hops spiced with coriander balances the initial sweetness.

It is lightly carbonated and leaves a dry, effervescent mouth feel. La Chouffe pours a hazy golden colour and looks almost like honey.

La Chouffe tastes a lot more like champagne than beer. If you don't typically enjoy strong-flavoured beers and are looking for something lighter, try La Chouffe.

I haven't come across many beers that I truly like, but I really enjoyed this one — a lot more than I thought I would enjoy a beer with a gnome on the label.



Le Trou du Diable brewery
Punkrauch
Angela Johnston

When we were selecting beers for our group tasting, I fell in love with the labels by Quebec's Le Trou du Diable brewery. It was my first time at Sherbrooke Liquor — in-

sane, I know — and I was mesmerized by their beloved beer selection. After I decided to go for a beer from Le Trou du Diable, I still paced the cooler, trying to select a specific brew. I landed on Punkrauch, a smoked lager. You can't blame me for being curious about smoked beer! The brew lived up to its name,

with smoky flavours reminiscent of bacon and campfire, and notes of caramel, too. It's flavourful and complex without being overbearing. At 6.5 per cent alcohol, it's strong but you won't be wearing a lampshade at the end of the 750 ml bottle. If you come across it, give it a try. It's pretty unique.



Dieu du Ciel!
Rescousse Altbier
Marc W. Kitteringham

Dieu du Ciel!'s Rescousse is a German-style red ale, also known as an altbier. It has a nutty smell with hints of burnt toast and a slightly sweet, nutty cashew flavour to it that ends on a bitter note at the back of the tongue.

The beer's smooth mouthfeel and complex malt body reminds me of a darker style lager, a little reminiscent of a dunkel or a marzen, with its distinctive sweet nut characteristics.

The beer is a dark red colour that tends to be more brown near the top of the pour. It has a thin, cream-coloured head that quickly dissipates. At 5.3 per cent alcohol, it is not too strong, yet is strong enough to feel it after a few.

Rescousse is an interesting beer with many distinctive flavours that lend themselves well to the palate. I would definitely recommend this beer to anyone who is interested in expanding their palate with complex ale.

All Photos By Daren Zomerman/Madison Kerr



DAREN ZOMERMAN/THE GRIFF

The battle of lagers vs. ales

Marc W. Kitteringham
Opinions Editor

Looking around the craft beer market today, a potential beer snob will find that there is an abundance of ales, including the red ale, India pale ale (IPA), porters and stouts, but lagers tend to go unnoticed. Most people know lagers as the common American light lager, which most multinational breweries make and can be seen in any liquor store as the red, white or blue cans. What makes lagers different from ales and other types of beer is the kind of yeast. However, many European brewing traditions view lager as a process rather than a different type of beer.

Lagering involves using yeast that is bottom-fermenting (meaning it sits on the bottom of the fermenter). The beer is brewed at lower temperatures and ends up a more stable beer, allowing certain types to be stored longer. The word “lager” comes from the German word for “to store.” This makes it easier to mass-produce, leading to the widespread amount of pale lagers today. They also can use other crops like corn or rice to add to the mash (the mixture of grain that is used to brew beer), which affects the flavour and characteristics of the beer. The pale lager is one of the most consumed beer styles in the world.

So what is the big deal about lagers vs. ales? In the craft beer world, lagers have generally taken the back seat. While pale lager is generally well-known, there are options for more flavourful beers coming from the lagering process.

Lagers comprise many European styles of beer including pilsners, bocks, Munich helles, dunkels and Oktoberfest beers such as the märzen. While they don't necessarily have the intense flavour of ales, they do have their own distinct flavours that appeal to many drinkers.

Lagers can be experimented with using different kinds of malts which leads to very different flavours in the beer. Darker malts are used in beers like dunkels, which lead to a darker beer with a nuttier taste that is not as intense as a porter or a stout.

Lagers can also be brewed at different temperatures, leading to different styles and flavours, such as the California common. While la-

gers are usually fermented around 10 to 14 degrees Celsius, California commons are fermented at the same temperature as ales. This is a practice that by all accounts should not work, but it does, creating a distinctive beer with some off flavours resulting from the higher temperatures. The California common arose in San Francisco during the gold rush. Open-topped cauldrons were used to brew the beer that stayed the ambient temperature of the bay area. The new style of steam beer, known today as the California common, was invented.

On the other side of the spectrum, Kölsch beers are ales that are fermented at lager temperatures, which on paper should also not work, but for some reason, it does. Kölsch was brewed to combat the rise of lagers, and the bring a focus more on ales. The same way lagers eventually became the norm, but were slowly taken over by ales in the craft beer industry.

The practice of lagering beer rose with the advent of cold storage. They originated in the medieval era in Bohemia in cave brewing, but remained unpopular until the 1860s. From the 1860s to 1870s lager became the main form of brewing in the area.

In Canada and the United States, the mid 20th century was the time of prohibition. Beforehand, much of the population were immigrants and they brought their brewing traditions to North America. During prohibition, all but the largest breweries went bankrupt. Those that remained had full control of the market. During World War II, rationing across North America restricted the use of wheat. Because of these restrictions, some brewers added rice to their recipes, which sweetened the taste of the beer. This appealed to the workforce at the time, which was mostly women. Companies saw the trends and invested in the easier drinking lager style. The effect of this was so big that even today most of the beers on the mainstream market are light lagers.

Craft breweries have stayed away from lagers because of their lighter flavours, but I think it is time to experiment with the process. There are already many delicious lagers out there, let's see some more.

Infected beers are weird

As someone relatively new to the craft beer game, it has taken me a little while to figure out what I'm a fan of and what I'm not. When I was told there was a type of beer called “sour beer,” I was a little intrigued, especially after discovering that wild yeast is sometimes used in the brewing process, and is often infected it with different types of bacteria.

The word “infected” has a bit of a negative connotation, but I pushed that aside, eager to try a beer with a unique kick.

Unfortunately, that “kick” was a kick in the face. Its sourness was startling, like Sourpuss mixed with a red wine. It was interesting, to say the least.

In my infinite wisdom, I poured myself a mason jar full of it before even giving it a try, solidifying my fate for the next 45 minutes. As I choked down the remainder of New Belgium's La Folie, a Flander's red style, I moved on to the Berliner Weisse, hoping for something with a little less kick.

I was rewarded with Dieu du Ciel's Solstice D'été, a personal favourite of our resident beer re-

viewer.

The kick was still present, but its smoothness was unparalleled. It had a nice, crisp taste, one aspect that few beers manage to hit the nail on the head for my personal taste.

However, I can safely say that sour beers are definitely not a favourite. Though the unique kick can sometimes be done well, it's hard for someone that's not a big fan of wine to thoroughly enjoy these.

If you're a fan of wine and looking to try something new, give sour beer a try.

-Kyle Muzyka

The sour beer trend seems to be all the rage for beer enthusiasts around the world. These beers are brewed in a traditional sense. Sour beers can be made in an unsterile environment, such as at Brasserie Cantillon, that encourages the intrusion of wild yeast into oak barrels. This allows for acidic, tart and funky flavours that may be strange and unsatisfying for some. After trying a couple of these sour beers, I quickly realized they are not for

my palate.

The first was New Belgium Brewing's La Folie, which had the taste of an expired cranberry juice. It had a hint of bitterness and an extremely sharp and sour taste that makes your lips pucker.

Brasserie Cantillon's Cuvée Saint-Gilloise Gueuze was the next one we tried. This beer simply did not have the taste of beer, but more of a sour wine. It is yellowish brown in colour with the same viscosity as malt vinegar. As a matter of fact, it tasted more like a sweetened version of malt vinegar.

The argument of whether sour beers are even beer has also sparked debate in the beer community. I would argue that yes, they are a type of beer, but they should not be recommended to the common beer drinker. I don't see the appeal of drinking a beer that has the qualities of a sour juice. But hey, if the idea of a harsh acidic beer created in an unsterile environment sounds up your alley, give them a try.

-Stephan Boissonneault

You should definitely try session beers

Marc W. Kitteringham
Opinions Editor

“Whoa, that's definitely not for me,” “This tastes like it went bad” and “Bleh, that's gross.” Those are the reactions I usually get when I get my friends to try a new craft beer that I'm enjoying. I can tell why, too. Craft beers are known for pushing the envelope in everything from malt body flavour, hop bitterness, controlled infections and extreme alcohol content. One running joke is that beer snobs can have one beer and be as drunk as someone who has had four or five regular beers. This trend in the industry has led to breweries trying to one-up each other and make crazier and crazier combinations until what is left isn't recognizable as beer, instead leaving an abundance of over-alcoholic, palate-destroying beers that aren't for the faint of heart.

Enter the session beer. Session beers are craft beers with lower alcohol contents. They usually are at about 2.5 to 4 per cent alcohol in contrast to other craft beers that can come in at 10 per cent or higher. These beers are a direct response to the Americanization of the craft brewing industry, and are becoming the norm. Some people still wonder if these can even be called traditional session beers.

Getting deep into beer snob

territory, you meet people who are sticklers for rules. I am not saying this is a bad thing. I often refer to my more well-versed friends for beer advice and I haven't been disappointed yet.

The idea for a session beer comes from traditional European brewing practices. In countries like Germany, Belgium and France, small breweries make batches of Trappist table beers, or farmhouse saisons. These are around 2.5 per cent and are even lower in alcohol content than North American session beers, begging the question “are they just another Americanized version of real beer?”

The saison gets its name from the French word for season. These are off-season beers, brewed in the cooler months and stored for the summer as a refreshing drink for farmers. Since the ideal time for brewing beer is in the fall just after harvest, winter would have been the season when less exciting combinations could be made. Throughout the winter the fresh fruit, hops, and the best malt and barley would have already been used, leaving enough leftover ingredients to make lighter beers. The farmers would brew their saison and save it for summer when a light beer could be properly enjoyed. Brewing in the winter also had benefits before the age of refrigeration. Since beer must be brewed at lower temperatures to avoid bac-

terial infections and off flavours, the summer wasn't the ideal time to brew.

Modern session beers are named because you can drink more than one in a single sitting without getting overwhelmingly drunk. Many of the beers have an alcohol percentage of under 3 per cent, yet still taste like care and real ingredients were put into them. According to an Oct. 7 article in *The Globe and Mail's* Food and Wine trends section, balancing low alcohol with distinctive flavours is actually harder to do than pumping out the intensely flavoured craft brews. To get the mixture right, these beers must use hotter temperatures than other beers to avoid extracting too many fermentable sugars resulting in a higher alcohol content. They also need precise measurements of ingredients to ensure full flavours that are enjoyable and distinct from those of the big breweries. Lower alcohol beers also have a shorter shelf life, so shipping long distances is a problem.

Still, session beers are making a comeback. According to the article in *The Globe and Mail*, session beers are one of the fastest growing styles of beer in Canada. Maybe with more session beers on the market, I'll finally be able to win people over to the craft beer side and I'll never have to hear their complaints again.

NDP vote means it's time for change



New NDP leader Rachel Notley speaks to the press after her election to the leadership position.

DAVE COURNOYER / FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

What's Left

Marc W. Kitteringham is the griff's political columnist. Each week he takes apart a current political issue, and gives his opinion from an alternative point of view.

Marc W. Kitteringham
Opinions Editor

Alberta NDP leader Brian Mason stepped down from his position on Oct. 19, and the party held an internal election over the weekend. Rachel Notley, with 28 per cent of the vote, took the reins of the party.

Mason told *Global News* that he had been mulling over the idea for a while. He said that it was time for a new face to the party and that they were trying to reach new voters in

the province following the disastrous year for the PC party.

After leading the party to a 10 per cent gain in the last provincial election, Mason chose the right time to step down. With the next election in just under two years, it makes sense for the party to have new leadership going into the pre-campaign season. The NDP has been strong in Edmonton, but outside the city there have been almost no votes for the party. The mood of political change this year has them

pushing for a new Alberta, and that means new faces and hopefully new ridings for the party.

The mood in Alberta politics is one of change. I've said before that the long-standing PC dynasty is a ship full of holes about to sink, and it seems that everyone is trying to put the last nail in the coffin. The Wildrose party has been active in the media, having media announcements for every decision made in the legislature, and the NDP has a new leader. The only party remain-

ing to make a move is the Liberal party. According to *Global News*, the NDP's fundraising is at \$124,000 while the Liberals are at \$80,000. Mason said to *Global* that he was unsure that Raj Sherman's party could handle any big changes.

Regardless of the inner party changes, the timing is right for Alberta's future to change hands. Mason stepping down proves that the NDP party is ready to move with Alberta into that future. What matters now is where that future will lead.

Kids can't live without iPads, and it's our fault

Generation Vexed

Some things about Millennials are simply vexing. Jake Pesaruk analyzes the issues that are unique to our generation.

Jake Pesaruk
Writer

Children: they're loud, usually have some form of crusty substance under their nose, and most of their actions are usually influenced by an outside source, be it television, print advertising, or their own parents.

They reflect what the world around them puts out. This is the way it has been for millennia and that is not going to stop anytime soon. Granted, like most people from a previous generation comparing itself to the new one, I can't help but feel mildly responsible for what the mirror image is. If we take a long look at the subtle influences in the lives of today's youth, the reflection is that it is the faults of the adults of the 21st century that make them this way.

Technology will always dominate the priorities of the young. As long as new toys are being built, young people will want them, and by all rights they should. Half of the fun of being a child was just the raw desire for anything new. Be it



Kids are becoming more and more dependent on their screens.

ERIC PEACOCK / FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

something material or knowledge based, everybody wanted to be either the kid with the trampoline or the kid who had the answers to the tests. These were the power players of playground politics.

Now, I'm no saint. I come from a generation that still had its priorities set on technology at a young age. Remember the viral video with

the kid going completely nuts over getting a Nintendo 64? That was pretty much me. However, whereas technology was mainly for entertainment purposes back then, it seems that if you were born after the year 2000, it is part of your day-to-day.

Before you start to think that this is one of those preachy spiels

about kids having to go outside because they're too busy playing satanic "vidia games," you're wrong. Drive in any school or residential area and you will notice kids outside playing — because you almost hit them with your car because they love running into the middle of the goddamn street.

So if children are still getting

enough exercise and are still being social and learning, what is the problem with massive amounts of technology? The problem is the examples we are setting. If a six-year-old sees someone they know on an iPad, naturally they are going to want to see what's up with that weird flat thing that's making noise. They tap the screen, laugh at the pretty colors and leave a bunch of sticky fingerprints. This is pretty harmless, but if left unchecked it can have unforeseen consequences.

Let's say that six-year-old now has access to that iPad everyday for another six years; what happens then? They become reliant on it in an almost hunter-gatherer sort of way. This is already starting to show with today's youth and it's partially our fault. If you are in your late teens to 20-somethings, you were lucky enough to ride the crest of the 90s technology wave and have technology as a comfort or a luxury.

Which is pretty victimless because it was never big enough to consume our lives back then. However, the examples we set by our own constant use and reliance on technology are playing into the lives of future generations.

We can't stop this now — it's a little late for that — however, we can still mediate usage and influence of technology on young, developing minds. And we should start soon, because if my eight-year-old cousin kicks my ass in Candy Crush again, I'm going to lose it.

Making the case for bad beers

Evan Wakal
Writer

With craft beer sitting on a pedestal in most university students' hearts, I thought it would be as good a time as any to return to my beer roots. No, I'm not talking about my first IPA. Nor a well-known domestic brew. I'm talking about the bottom-barrel, preservative-laden, malty goodness of cheap-ass beer. We've all been there, whether it's because your wallet is heinously light, or you're a fresh-faced 18-year-old learning what's what in the beer isle the hard way. Risking great harm to both body and mind, I've taken a trip down the malty memory lane.

Lucky Lager:

Ahh, the ubiquitous Lucky Lager. This cheapo brew has, uh, let us say, a strong personality. Although a pretty familiar face to anyone who has spent time in western Canada, its presence is not a good omen.

When someone mentions Lucky Lager to me, I usually think of a bush party or bonfire that gets prematurely shut down, either because the individual who brought said Lucky is incredibly intoxicated, or your neighbours have complained about the crowd of screaming yahoos out in the trees somewhere. If you want to be the bush-party connoisseur, make sure you grab Lucky in bottles. Classy. Powerful notes of



Piles of empty beer cans are a staple to many student's lives.

MATT WATSON / FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

malt (shocker), regret and vows of "I'm never drinking again."

Pair with stale bread and a good long look at how you got to this point in life.

Pabst Blue Ribbon:

For some strange reason, this stuff has become the Pumpkin Spice Latte of cheap beer. Or, it WAS cheap beer until every university student in the western hemisphere started buying it in Apocalypse-stockpile quantities. Now what we

have is the same heartburn in a can at almost the price of Heineken (Insert *Blue Velvet* quote here). To be fair, this is still my "oh my god, payday is still a week away" go-to, but only in the direst of circumstances.

Pretty light, really, basically the consistency of water, but add foam and a 90 per cent chance the next hour will be filled with embarrassingly loud beer-belches and a heart-to-heart about postmodernism.

Pair with an ironic moustache, something plaid and a taco from a

food truck.

Olympia:

Surprises do exist. Seriously, they do. And this time the surprise comes in the form of the cheapest beer on this list actually being the best. Olympia (on the six-pack scale, anyway) is a whopping three dollars cheaper than Lucky or PBR. Don't let that turn you off though, because Olympia delivers.

Sure, it shares more in common with water than lager, but with two

huge leaps over its competitors. The first leap I've already mentioned is the price. But the second and possibly more important leap is the taste. Unlike Lucky or PBR, drinking Olympia doesn't feel like you're pouring fresh napalm down your throat. Some of you may say, "But I like to taste my beer, cheap or not," to which my response is, "Do you? Do you REALLY?"

Pair with slices of processed cheese, frozen chicken fingers or ramen.

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Beer leagues: drunk fun for everyone

Recreational league players share their experiences with just-for-fun hockey games



Though these kids look to be preparing for beer leagues early, the most important part about recreational leagues is the gameplay itself.

DEAN MICHAUD/FLICHR CREATIVE COMMONS

Kyle Muzyka Sports Editor

Playing professional hockey is a common pipe dream for a lot of young athletes. Unfortunately, due to injuries, lack of skill or general laziness, a large majority doesn't even come close to the level of hockey they desire.

For those athletes, they turn to recreational sports leagues, or "beer leagues" to fill the void of competitive hockey. Though it's not quite the same, beer leagues facilitate a somewhat competitive atmosphere during an allotted hangout time with your best friends.

"It's tough to keep track of all your buddies," says Kurtis Watts, who plays hockey both competitively and recreationally. With everyone's lives becoming increasingly difficult to work around, having a recreational team acts as a scheduled time for everyone.

Of course, they wouldn't be called beer leagues if there weren't some sort of alcohol involved. Typically, teams will drink before, during and after games to socialize with their teammates and have a little more fun.

Often, teams would designate a player to bring the beer, and everyone interested would partake in the festivities. Contrary to popular belief, not everyone enjoys malt beverage prior to the game.

Tyler Pennington, an accounting student at MacEwan University, prefers to remain relatively sober during play.

"You can go and drink every

other night, so why screw it [the recreational league] up?" says Pennington, who adds that he hates being at a disadvantage on the ice.

"If you enjoy getting obliterated and skating around, go to town," Pennington continued.

Though he is not much of a typical beer leaguer, it's often the older players that drink a little more, presumably to escape the regular stress of their working lives.

Or maybe they just have a little more tolerance to how much they can drink before they are faceplanting on the ice. Either way, Pennington has noticed increased drinking comes with age, though he's seen more people his age take it over the top.

As long as they can perform, though, Pennington doesn't really care how drunk they get. There's often a blurred line when it comes to whether is considered effective.

Pennington was asked whether players performed well when intoxicated.

"If by performing you mean not falling down, then yes," he says.

The teams will often drink before, during and after the games, maintaining a solid buzz throughout the game, though there is a fine line to walk.

Each player has their own unique experiences with teammates and their drinking habits. Though Pennington isn't much of a drinker himself, he's had teammates that were.

"We had two guys that would slam a mickey of vodka before the game," he says. Whether the guys

were factors in the games was a toss up, depending on how well they could manage their buzz on skates.

Additionally, there's a disparity between those that have experience and those that don't in recreational leagues. This sometimes makes things frustrating for players like Pennington, who played years of hockey prior to joining a rec league.

However, the sheer fun a beer league can provide trumps the minor frustrations some of the more skilled players feel.

"It sucks when you see your friends not really trying, [but it's fun] to go screw around for a while," Pennington says.

"There's no pressure, you can play with your friends," Watts continues. Having no pressure means hardly any physicality, something that injury-prone players thrive in.

Kalon Butler, a self-described "junior 'C' dud," played a lower level of hockey for a few years. Even then, he finds he's more skilled than a lot of his teammates, who might not have so much as picked up a hockey stick prior to the season.

He also has an extensive history with injuries. He's gone through a broken ankle, a bothersome wrist and six concussions. To put that in perspective, doctors advise you to refrain from high-contact sports after a maximum three concussions.

For Butler, however, he's not going to quit playing hockey, especially beer league, where contact is limited.

"I'm going to go until I'm broken. It's a sick addiction that I have to it," Butler says. Like substance

addiction, Butler can't stop playing the sport he loves, even if it puts his future career at risk.

Fortunately, most players realize that recreational leagues are meant mainly for recreation, and finishing your checks and playing physical is not a widely accepted practice.

There are exceptions that prove every rule, though. You'll often find a few players that will be trying a lot harder than the others.

"You get a couple meatheads out there that still think they're going to make the show [NHL]," Butler says.

Players that finish checks and use liberal stick-work in recreational games are an annoyance to others, who are there to play hockey while hoping to not get injured in the process.

Those that play hockey professionally also play summer beer league, just to keep their feet under them. It puts their careers at risk, as there's a chance for an injury that can drastically affect their chances at making the NHL. Rarely are there scums, but when there are, the pros often avoid it.

"If it got chippy out there, they'd [the professional players] just stay on the bench," Butler says.

Perhaps finishing checks and aggressively attacking the puck carrier is all part of the specific player's competitiveness. Despite levels of seriousness varying from player to player, all of them share the desire to win, no matter how small.

"It's not super serious, but everybody likes winning," Penning-

ton says.

Everyone does enjoy the idea of winning. It's a big reason why beer leagues are so popular; you can choose how serious you want to take it.

It's actually becoming more of an alternative for other professional players. The traditional route is to play high-level summer hockey, but it often takes the enjoyment out of the game.

As a result, players look more towards recreational leagues, to keep it light while staying on the ice and not losing their feel for the game.

In fact, it was just this past summer that Chicago Blackhawks forward Patrick Kane suited up in a beer league game, and scored 10 points.

Perhaps we will see a shift into more relaxed summer leagues for players with legitimate shots at making pros. It would cut down on injuries, in addition to overall fatigue from the game. Plus, a player like Kane can put up 10 points and maintain his already sizeable ego.

Whether we see a shift in summer hockey remains to be seen, but all three aforementioned recreational hockey players' love playing where they are.

"I don't see myself stopping anytime soon," Pennington says, and both Butler and Watts would agree.

Whether it's for the beer, the buddies, or the backhands, recreational leagues are as present as ever, and show no signs of slowing down.

Women winless versus U of A

Griffins tie one and lose one to cross-town rivals, take third place in Prairie Division

Kyle Muzyka
Sports Editor

After clinching a playoff spot the previous weekend, the MacEwan University women's soccer team had two golden chances to win their division against the University of Alberta Pandas this past weekend.

Unfortunately, untimely injuries and a lack of capitalization on chances created proved costly for the Griffins, who tied one match and lost the other, pushing the team down to third place in the division.

This means MacEwan will travel to Saskatchewan next weekend to play a winner-take-all matchup against the University of Saskatchewan, instead of having the Huskies travel to Edmonton.

Though the Griffins miss an opportunity to have an advantage next weekend, Head Coach Dean Cordeiro was satisfied with his team's play this weekend.

"I felt we did enough to get the job done," Cordeiro said about both games. The Griffins out-chanced the Pandas by a combined total of 35-15 over the weekend, with just a single point to show for it.

On Saturday, before your sports editor even made it into the bowl, the crowd roared. With the game not even three minutes old, Griffins forward Shaelan Donovan scored, putting MacEwan University in the lead 1-0.

Donovan was a force all weekend, generating chance after chance with her superior speed. Having two kids, she's obviously been through a lot, so for Cordeiro, it was a pleasant surprise to see her at top physical condition.

"It's amazing what she can do, given all she's been through," Cordeiro said. Donovan led all forwards with three shots in Saturday's game.

After the first half, however,

the Griffins seemed to have let off the gas a bit. You wouldn't know it from the stats sheet, but the Pandas started to dictate the play and force MacEwan onto their heels.

Cordeiro noted the pushback from the Pandas, given that they expected to win this game. Finally, in the 88th minute, Pandas defender Rebecca Brandt slipped one past Griffins goalie Rebecca Reif on a deflection, tying the game at one apiece.

The Griffins, visibly frustrated with the goal, played out the rest of the game without signs of quitting, something the coaching staff attempts to instill in his team. Despite a 1-1 draw, MacEwan wasn't in a bad spot, having to win on Sunday to ensure home field advantage.

With the draw result of Saturday, both teams had something to prove on Sunday. Both teams came out ready, though it was MacEwan who controlled a lot of the play.

In what seemed like a bit of a bad omen for the Griffins, midfielder Erika Vecchio had a freak nosebleed in the seventh minute, putting the team down a player for a short period of time. The unusual circumstances allowed the Pandas to gain a bit of momentum.

Sure enough, in the 17th minute, Pandas forward Karissa McNutt found some room in the offensive zone. Griffins goaltender Reif had some trouble with the initial strike from McNutt, who put the rebound home for a 1-0 lead.

The team from the north side of the river didn't let up, though; in fact, the goal against lit a fire under some of the Griffins, largely contributing to the dominance on the stat sheet.

The only stat that truly counts is goals scored and conceded, though.

MacEwan looked a bit flat out of the gate in the second half, and the Pandas made them pay. Kristen



Griffins forward Shaelan Donovan looks to push the ball upfield and away from her defender.

LEN JOUDREY/GRIFFINS ATHLETICS

Livingstone of the Pandas scored just three minutes into the second half, giving her team a 2-0 lead.

The Griffins could have easily given up and accepted their fate. Instead, they came back stronger than ever, taking shot after shot on Pandas goaltender Kelti Biggs. Shaelan Donovan led her team with seven attempts on net.

In the 89th minute, with teams scrambling, Donovan managed to push one past Biggs, scoring her second goal in as many games. It was 2-1.

That was as close as the Griffins would get, however, conceding the final regular season game against the University of Alberta.

The aforementioned shot domi-

nation was ever so present in Sunday's game, but was not enough to propel the team to victory.

"We haven't been able to put teams away," Cordeiro said of his weekend. His team even vigourously outshot the University of Regina in the previous weekend, with a loss to show for it.

Despite the third-place finish in the division, Cordeiro was still satisfied with his team's play. You wouldn't be able to tell that physicality was an issue at the start of the season, judging by the team's gritty performance against the Pandas.

"We have some players that can change the game with their physicality," Cordeiro said.

Though the physicality didn't

hinder the team at all, it wasn't enough to secure home field advantage this year. However, Cordeiro is confident in his team to head into the University of Saskatchewan's barn and take what he feels his team deserves: a win.

He noted that the playoffs are like "splitting hairs," where one mistake can help you pack your bags.

"You've got to be the better team on the day, and if you are, you're going to get the result you're looking for. If you don't play for 90 minutes, you'll be on the short end of the stick," Cordeiro said.

The team travels to Saskatchewan to play the Huskies on Oct. 25, with the game time to be decided.

Golf teams come home empty-handed

MacEwan Griffins placed fourth and seventh in team events, leave on a positive note

Jordan Gill
Writer

The MacEwan University Griffins golf team was unable to bring home any medals from the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Conference National Championships.

After another successful regional season, the Griffins fell just short on the national level. It's the second consecutive year in which the Griffins swept the ACAC tournaments but failed to medal at nationals.

For Head Coach Jodi Campbell, despite his team coming up short, he was pleased with the results this weekend.

"I think overall the tournament was fantastic," said Campbell. "The national event is always a great event for us. The fact that we have been able to qualify for it every year since our inception is great."

The three-day tournament was

shortened to two days due to excessive rain.

"They were forecasting rain right from the beginning of the event so we were really crossing our fingers that we would be able to get the event in," said Campbell.

While the teams were able to play through the rain on Wednesday and Thursday, the course was in no condition for competition on Friday morning. The course ended up being unplayable.

The women's team placed fourth, just eight strokes out of a bronze medal. The men finished in seventh and ended up 18 strokes off the podium.

"It was unfortunate for us," said Campbell. "We had a really great strategy for the week. I felt like the team was ready and was playing well. We needed that third day to make a move."

"I truly believe they were in a solid position to maybe get in for a medal,"

said Campbell. "They were only eight shots away and you can make up eight shots in golf."

While they were unable to bring home any national medals, the Griffins didn't return home completely empty-handed. Barrett Belland and Sydney Johnson-Parker were both recognized as CCAA All-Canadians. A total of 10 players, two from each conference, are honoured each year.

"Since the All-Canadian awards came into effect we've had a couple players each year earning the award," said Campbell.

Campbell recalled that one of Belland's preseason goals this year was to be recognized as an All-Canadian.

"He wanted to be a difference maker on our team and his consistency throughout the year definitely earned him the All-Canadian," said Campbell.

For Johnson-Parker it was her second time receiving the honour,

which sets up a potentially historical season next year.

"She's been a solid player for us for four years now," said Campbell. "The great thing is we've got her again next year so she potentially could be our first player to be a three time All-Canadian."

In addition to having a pair of players recognized as All-Canadians, Elizabeth Stewart was awarded the Fair Play award.

"That was a nice surprise," said Campbell. The Fair Play award is a sportsmanship award, voted on by the players and the coaches.

Going into next season, the Griffins golf team should have a few new faces as the team gets set to say goodbye to a few athletes.

"We've got some big holes to fill," said Campbell. "Megan Vermillion is in her final year with us and on the men's side we have three players who could be potentially leaving us."

However, with the players that are returning Campbell feels as though the team will continue to play at a high level.

"I anticipate with the way we have built our program we should never really be in a situation where we don't have those veterans coming back each year," said Campbell.

Bringing even more optimism for next year was the play of rookie Josh Gorieu, who finished with the best score on the men's team.

"It was great to see a first-year player really step up," said Campbell. "In my opinion, Josh is a gamer and he's the kind of guy that likes stepping up in those situations. So I'm pretty excited to see what he does next year."

With their main season now complete, Campbell and the Griffins golf team will take a break to focus on schoolwork. In the new year they will begin preparations for the Bear Mountain Invitational.

Keep your fantasies to yourself

Jordan Gill
Writer

It's a busy Sunday night for sports. You've buckled down firmly on your couch, remote in one hand and Doritos in the other.

You flip through the channels and avoid commercials and intermissions like the plague, while watching as much football and hockey as you can.

Chances are, whether you're a hardcore sports fan or just a casual one, you've complemented your sports entertainment with a little friendly competition: fantasy sports.

Fantasy sports are a complement to the regular games, except they put you in the driver's seat; they test your knowledge of the game and the players, with a whole lot of luck involved.

You pick a number of players to fill up a team, and battle against your friends who have also picked teams in a specific sport.

There are different rules for each fantasy sport and, to some extent, even the individual tourna-

ments.

However, as you get more and more involved in the realm of fantasy, there's something you should know.

Please, don't talk about your fantasy team excessively to everyone.

Tolerance levels are manageable for those who brag about their favourite teams winning a lot. In fact, that's one of the best things about following sports: watching a friend's team crumble after their hot streak subsides.

But no one cares how awesome your fantasy team has done. Far too often you hear a guy sitting at a bar boasting about how amazing his lineup is doing. Seriously, just watch the game.

The contagious competition that sports provide causes this unnecessary amount of rivalry amongst those in the same draft. It's become a two-tier amount of competition, with fantasy teams slowly becoming the number-one priority.

This epidemic of people talking up their fantasy teams hit an all-new low during a week six matchup

between the Carolina Panthers and the Cincinnati Bengals. Giovanni Bernard, a running back for the Bengals, broke free for an 81-yard touchdown. Inexcusably, Ronde Barber, the man calling the game, thanked Bernard because "I have him in fantasy."

Whether it's something as large as boasting about your fake team on national television or something as minuscule as inarticulately yelling at the TV because the "wrong guy" got the touchdown, it has to stop.

Especially when you cheer after a player owned by your opponent gets hurt.

Whatever happened to simply cheering for your favourite team?

That's not to say that we're not guilty of boasting about our own faux team. However, try to refrain from bragging as much as possible. Sure, if you were in a massive hole and Peyton Manning put up six touchdowns and 400+ yards to give you a narrow win, then bring it up in passing with your work buddies the next day. But other than that, keep your fantasies to yourself.



Whatever happened to just cheering for a team instead of who you have in your fantasy pool?

JUSTIN HENRY/
FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS



DAREN ZOMERMAN/THE GRIFF

Each week, Kyle Muzyka and friends attempt to play various sports while typing a 140-character tweet. This week, we've taken on the difficult task of playing beer pong while under the texting influence.

If there are two things we've learned through our journalistic endeavours while tweeting, it's that:

A) We look like idiots to all passersby, and

B) Most, if not all, sports are difficult to play while tweeting.

When we decided to incorporate alcohol just in time for our beer issue, we were wishfully thinking it would correct all the issues we had with our lack of ability to focus in

previous attempts.

Of course, we were dead wrong. Our attempt at beer pong while under multiple influences was both time-consuming and frustrating, but I didn't realize it at the time. Good thing hindsight is 20-20.

It wasn't the most difficult, however. We were only allowed to type while shooting, but since you didn't have to look at the cups when you threw, more focus was given to the cell phones.

I would give it a 5 out of 10 in terms of difficulty, but that could be attested to our use of bottle caps due to our lack of ping pong balls.

- Kyle Muzyka



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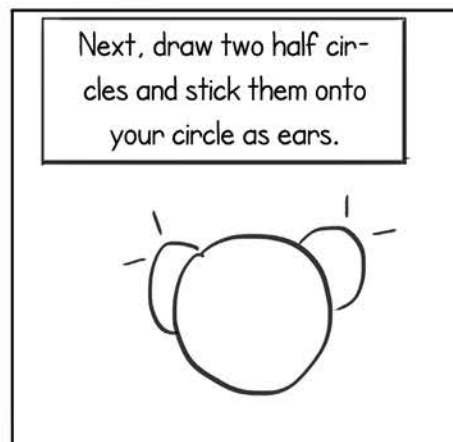
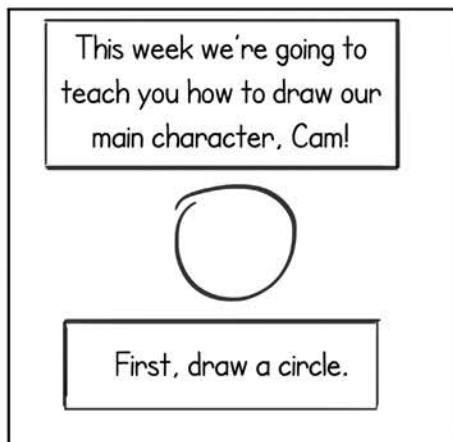
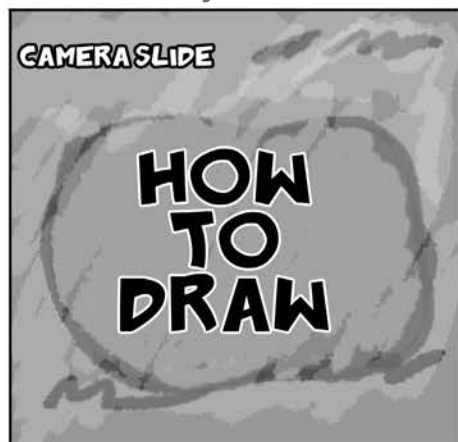


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Something Sticky by griff editors



Horoscopes

Madame Lasagna
Substitute Resident Horoscopist

Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan 19)

You will find good fortune this week, as the person you saw that one time at the local watering hole and said you wanted to marry will appear, albeit briefly. It will be just enough time, however, that you can whisper to your friends and say, "Yeah, that's my future wife."

Aquarius (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

Pink is your colour this week. Unfortunately, it's everyone's colour this month for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. So basically I'm saying that nothing out of the ordinary or cool will happen to you this week.

Pisces (Feb. 19 to March 20)

Wear your fake glasses. They will come in handy this week, other than the obvious sex appeal that they provide. Don't take them off, though; people will soon discover that you're a fraud.

Aries (March 21 to April 19)

Aries, your celestial horizon is in tune. This means that in order to achieve enlightenment, your song of the week

is the 80s classic "Burning Down the House," by the Talking Heads.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20)

The odds are not in your favour this week, Taurus. You are constantly struggling with the reality that Snickers is not actually as filling as you suspected. Your answer is Pringles. Only Pringles.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20)

Understand that there is someone out there in this vast world that looks exactly like you, Gemini. It's probably time to raid a thrift store and pick up some spiffy shades. And remember: no alarms and no surprises, no alarms and no surprises.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22)

You're going to get cured of your cancer this week by adopting a different star sign. Boom, you're officially a Scorpio. Sorry about that.

Leo (July 23 to Aug. 22)

This week Jupiter's orbit crosses Venus's trajectory through the cosmos. Too bad I don't know what that actually means. Just try to be a good person and you should

be okay.

Virgo (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Look at the stars; look how they shine for you and everything you do. Yeah, they were all yellow. Well, technically they shine for everyone, so regardless of what Coldplay says, you are not that special. Sorry.

Libra (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Coffee and sunshine has gotten you this far this week. But you're going to need a lot more for what's coming. Keep working on human photosynthesis to get that extra cosmic boost, or suffer the wrath of the planets.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Sorry man. Looks like you're going to have a bad day. Don't worry, though; it's not like it's your fault or anything.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You're so bad at stuff that you consistently need to get so drunk you won't be allowed into bars just to do anything. Hence why you're bad at stuff. Get that looked at this week.

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(LEVEL ONE, PHASE I)



“My best advice [for students] would be to get involved. I wish I had a longer quote attached to it but it doesn't. Do something that you enjoy with your fellow students.”

Inspired by Brandon Stanton's blog *Humans of New York*, every week we take intimate portraits and uncover personal stories of the inhabitants within MacEwan's halls.

HUMANS OF MACÉWAN

BY MADISON KERR

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Heaven
The Billiard Club

The poster features a blue sky with white clouds. The word "HALLOWEEN" is in large, bold, black letters with a white outline. Below it, "THURS. OCT. 30" is in a similar style. "3RD ANNUAL" is in smaller black letters. "Heaven" is written in a blue, cursive font. At the bottom, there is a logo of a building with two towers and the text "The Billiard Club" below it.

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The poster has a background of orange and red flames. At the top, there is a large white logo of a stylized "S" with a flag on top, and the text "SQUIRES PUB" below it. The word "HELL" is written in large, bold, orange letters with a black outline. Below that, a black banner contains the text "TWO LEGENDARY BARS. ONE EPIC PARTY" in white and red. At the bottom, the address and website information is written in white on a black background.