Getting down to monkey business

Cartoonist Frank Cho talks about the future of comics, his newspaper frustrations and—of course—his undying love for monkeys.

I love the webcomic and the format. It's liberating with no censorship every self-censorship,” Cho relates. “There's so much talent that syndication ignores or tries to take as a square peg and hammer it into a round hole.”

If you missed out on Liberty Meadows in the newspapers, the popular comic is about an animal sanctuary run by three most popular comic characters: Leslie the hypochondriac frog, Ralph the midget circus bear and Dean the clown-virus pig—literally.

While artists vary in their opinions on carrying over their creations into other media or merchandising, Cho isn't opposed to the idea with Liberty Meadows but also recognizes the need not to overdo it.

“My artistic philosophy is not as strict as others,” Cho says. “I'm a cakewalk where, but within limits.”

That means fans hoping for official merchandise like home pregnancy tests may be disappointed, “unless there's a real demand,” jokes Cho.

But fans who enjoy the combination of television and comedy should keep their fingers crossed with some juicy news straight from the Monkey Boy's mouth. We're negotiating to do an animated television show [based on Liberty Meadows] aimed at an adult audience with a PG-13 or R rating,” Cho says. “I can't really say any more than that because I don't want to jinx it.”

Besides working on his own creation, Cho has done projects at Marvel Comics and is currently working with writer Brian Michael Bendis on The Mighty Avengers, with the first issue hitting stands a few weeks ago.

“The Mighty Avengers is basically about a new team of government-sanctioned Avengers in the new order of the Marvel Universe after the events of Civil War,” Cho explains.

The recently concluded Civil War storyline attracted attention in the mainstream press with high-profile events that included the surprising and controversial death of a major superhero icon.

“I expected the increased attention in the mainstream press because of the way Hollywood is gobbling up all of the properties,” Cho says. “Some of the harsher, more visceral reactions to the Civil War story and things like the death of Captain America were a bit surprising though.”

As for Liberty Meadows, it wouldn't be complete in any format without the Monkey Boy, a rendition of himself in monkey form that Cho uses in sometimes break the fourth wall in his strips. Cult film aficionados may also recognize it as a reference to the 1984 film, The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension starring Peter “Robocop” Weller. As for the fascination with monkeys and other primates, Cho gives several reasons.

“I don't know what it is,” Cho pondered. “I think there's an innate philosophy that all people have that monkeys equal comedy, something I discovered early on. They're like caricatures of human beings and they're fun to look at. And they fling their own poop.”

But when faced with choosing between his children or having an army of primates at his command, the father of two has his priorities in order.

“As a loving pragmatist, I'd have to go with my children,” Cho gushed. “At least until they hit puberty. When they reach their teen years and start rebelling, I might look into monkeys. Robot monkeys.”
The Cherry Orchard: a bittersweet performance

The Cherry Orchard
By Anton Chekhov
Directed by Richard Greenblatt
Starring the graduating BFA Acting Class of 2007
Terroni Centre for the Arts
Theatre District
April 3 – 8

REVIEW

RYAN KENNY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In the bowl of cherries that is life, a few are bound to be sour. Such is the case in the latest Studio Theatre production of The Cherry Orchard, your face may puck from time to time, but in the end, you’ll be satisfied. The director’s eye for the place-flow, The Cherry Orchard takes place in Russia during the late 1800s, a time of great social change. It concerns a family and their home estate, which will soon be lost if swift action is not taken. However, the owners are stuck in the past, unable to fully grasp the situation they find themselves in. This obtuseness is the source of both comedy and tragedy.

The play’s cast is made up of soon-to-be graduates from the University of Alberta’s BFA program, which is representative of the number of truly excellent performances. Years down the road, audience members will be able to proudly tell their nearly theatre-hating friends that they watched local theatre celebrities X, Y, and Z while they were only students—and even then, they knew those kids would be stars.

The atmosphere created by Serbian set designer Stevan Popic, however, is hit-and-miss. She takes a minimalist approach, scattering the odd chair or furniture piece across a large, empty stage. The sets for the first and last scenes were very well done, both incorporating a large cherry tree branch hanging behind a picture frame, a stark and powerful symbol. Other sets, though, were less successful: a group of hanging charicatures to run amock and take the audience, a large, empty stage. The sets for the second scene, only becoming significant near the end where they functioned as a visual supplement for a speech. It was a bit of a stretch.

The play’s direction was quite non-descript. Nothing very bold or modern, just a traditional play directed in a traditional way. The introduction of each scene with a song is one of the only noticeable touches, but it doesn’t add much to the production as a whole. One of the songs even has a strangely African beat, which does more to confuse the audience than enhance the tone of the piece.

In the end, a great script always complements a great production. The complex, funny and emotional text carried the show through the occasional stumbles. From the squeaking boots of chainy triplechonders to the obscure speeches of the delightfully odd Carlotta, the play is full of hilarious moments. It’s also full of irony: the phrase “life is awful” is repeated from start to finish from a variety of characters, taking on a slightly different meaning each time it’s used.

Although many of Chekhov’s plays tend to lean on the base, serious side of things, The Cherry Orchard does a fine job of allowing detailed charicatures to run amock and take entertaining spins. Indeed, once you pick out all the sour cherries, what you’ll have left is a decent, well-rounded production.

Playing Host to a formaldehyde-fuelled sea monster

The Host
Directed by Soon-ho Hong
Starring Kang-Ho Song, Hae-bong Byeon, Hye-low Park, Du-na Bae and Ah-mung Ko
Empire Theatres
Now Playing

BRYAN SAUNDERS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Just the thought of subtitled movies can turn away most audiences, and if you add “Korean” and “monster” to proudly tell their snobby theatre friends that they watched local theatre celebrities X, Y and Z while they were only students—and even then, they knew those kids would be stars.

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Stop the spread of syphilis

Alberta is facing an outbreak of infectious syphilis.

Over 200 cases of infectious syphilis were identified throughout the province last year; a 40% increase from the previous year.

Anyone who is having unprotected sex, outside of an exclusive, single partner relationship, can contract syphilis. People of all ages face the risk.

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TREND HIRES ON AN ONGOING BASIS
Zombies are eating modern cinema. You heard me. Every time I see one of those shambling pus-bags take a bite out of some hapless human’s neck, I sigh, space out and wait for the credits to finally start rolling. Zombies are stupid, pointless and dull villians in any movie, but it seems that more and more flocks about the undead are being made to a weaker and weaker effect. Graveyard Alive? Zombie Honeymoon? Night of the Living Dead 3D? Are you kidding me?

Monsters aren’t just created out of pure imagination like modern filmmakers seem to think; they all stem from deeply rooted societal fears. Frankenstein’s creature originally emerged out of Industrial Revolution-era fears, where new technologies were forcing people out of jobs. Society was afraid of what it was creating, and thus the man-made monster resounded deeply. Now that those fears have left society, however, as technologies were forcing people out of jobs, that the genre’s in. Most newer zombie movies arecorpse type, not the voodoo type—have folled a similar route as Frankenstein’s monster, (yeah, you know, the one with his pet toad—who’s still around, right?—and his creation). That zombie monster is designed with you in mind.

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Paul Blaw份额

Zombies in movies: uncouth or totally awesome?

There’s no room for zombies in my cinematic collection, Jonn

Paul, this is a no-brainer. Zombies are filled with blood and rage! It perfectly emphasizes how zombies could push cinema further. That genre has been dry and mundane for far too long. Just add some nagged-ridicked canvases, and your boyfriends will be begging you to go check out the newest Jane Law Rick, ladies! This innovation could revolutionize modern relationships; no longer will men have to sit in the theater, inse¬

The real sad part is that these modern zombie movies—zombie nouveau, if you will—are anything but exciting enough to compensate for the lack of fright. Zombies on screen are almost always slow, meandering wastes of our time. We know exactly what they’re going to do on their own—nothing. The only times these zombies actually catch someone is through sheer luck or superhuman strength. Boring, huh? How’s that for a scary thing—if it’s portrayed at all. The fear within society that spawned the monster, (yeah, you know, the one with his pet toad—who’s still around, right?—and his creation), is designed with you in mind.

Students don’t just create out of pure imagination like modern filmmakers seem to think; they all stem from deeply rooted societal fears. Frankenstein’s creature originally emerged out of Industrial Revolution-era fears, where new technologies were forcing people out of jobs. Society was afraid of what it was creating, and thus the man-made monster resounded deeply. Now that those fears have left society, however, as technologies were forcing people out of jobs, that the genre’s in. Most newer zombie movies arecorpse type, not the voodoo type—have folled a similar route as Frankenstein’s monster, (yeah, you know, the one with his pet toad—who’s still around, right?—and his creation). That zombie monster is designed with you in mind.

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Toy Singers play with simplicity

Toy Singers
With The Corduroys and Colleen Brown
Thursday, 5 April at 8pm
The Powerplant

CARLA KAVINTA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Simplicity is the Toy Singers’ game of choice. The Edmonton-based band takes a refreshing departure from the usual hard rock bands emerging from Canada’s West Coast, placing themselves in a genre lead vocalist/guitarist Aaron Parker calls melodic folk-pop.

And just as the quintet tries to avoid anything that sounds too complex, their choice of moniker was also a straightforward task.

“I wanted a name that didn’t have a meaning at all so I wouldn’t get sick of whatever the meaning was,” Parker says. “The name [Toy Singers] isn’t very aggressive, but it has kind of a child-like quality to it. I don’t really know how I came up with it, but that’s what I thought it should be.”

The band, formed by a group of mutual friends, preserves the authenticity of folk music while creating a mainstream pop sound that appeals to a wide range of listeners—from twenty-something students to 40-something soccer moms. Parker credits their sound to a positive, cheerful and easy-going attitude towards songwriting.

“Our songwriting approach definitely has evolved, but [I think we’ve come to the] realization long ago that the melody is the most important part,” Parker explains. “Our songs had to be kind of hum-able, catchy and would have a fun element outside the words. And usually we try to write about stuff that is realistic in our lives; nothing particularly melodramatic, deep, emo or anything like that. We just stay true to our personalities.”

However, maintaining such artistic prowess can be difficult, as real life often gets in the way of achieving some of the band’s goals. Parker himself works for a publishing company, a fellow vocalist in the group recently gave birth, and having a teacher in the band also serves as a constant factor in determining the group’s touring and rehearsing schedules.

“Our immediate goal would be to play once a month, you know. Or one-and-a-half times a month. Just to play and to get our name out there,” Parker admits. He stresses the importance of a live performance and is eager to tour even just the western provinces.

“The live performance just validates everything because you can start to feel like you’ve disappointed if you just record, practice a few lines and nobody hears it,” Parker continues. “You’re not connecting with people. I’d just like a local tour playing Calgary, Saskatoon… just to get out of here would be a lot of fun, I think.”

Although touring across Canada and performing in larger venues are pressing aspirations for many independent Canadian bands, Parker remains grounded to his E-town roots and is confident that their uniqueness, honesty and ability to cater to a variety of listeners will help them garner a wider fan base.

“I like being the Toy Singers in Edmonton and I think in a lot of ways it’s going to be to our advantage because there aren’t a lot of Toy-Singers-like bands,” Parker says. “In bigger cities, there’s a lot of pressure to fit into a certain scene. And we definitely don’t do that.”
Alberta tops Gateway CIS rankings again

Andrew Renfree
Sports Staff

While students have to slave away until the end of April studying for exams, CIS sports has already packed it in, wrapping up the 2006/07 athletic season last week. The last seven months have seen heated competition in the ranks, gyms, fields, pools, mats and tracks in universities across Canada, but now that all the dust has settled, the chips are poised to be counted. After hours of moving the coloured beads on the abaci, the sportos at the Gateway have calculated the top-ten Athletics programs in the land in our second annual breakdown of which schools have the right to claim to be the best in CIS. See page 15 for scores and how we calculated them.

10. University of Manitoba
Ranked 17th last year

A couple of things stand out from the Bisons’ year as being noteworthy. First, their football team had a great year, going 8-0 in the regular season and dominating the Canadian West conference—only to lose to the pesky Saskatchewan Huskies in the Hardy Cup. Despite the early exit to the season, Manitoba’s football team was still one of the better clubs in Canada, and they showed improvement over the previous year. The other interesting story for the Bisons this year was that they gave the Pandas hockey team their first loss of the regular season on November 1. It was a friendly reminder to Alberta that the days of undefeated seasons were behind them. Another bright spot on the year was when Manitoba women’s volleyball head coach Ken Breley won coach of the year after leading his team to the National Finals for the first time since 2001/02. Freshman outside hitter Ashley Voth was also named Rookie of the Year. Unfortunately for Manitoba, Breley’s highly ranked volleyball squad lost in the first-round at Nationals, preventing them from scoring more points.

9. University of Saskatchewan
Ranked third last year

The Huskies football team has developed a proud tradition over the last few years of having a great season, getting to the Vanier Cup and blowing the final to secure second place in CIS football. This year was no different as they lost to Laval in the gold medal final to settle for second place in CIS. The Huskies men’s hockey team their first loss of the season, getting to the Vanier Cup and blowing the final to settle for second place in CIS. The Huskies men’s hockey team was finally able to beat Alberta in the Canada West final for the first time in six years, which means that the Dogs advanced to the National finals, and Alberta had to pack up their equipment early. The best-of-three Canada West final between the bitter rivals was some of the best hockey Clarence Drake Arena has seen in a while, which maybe drained Saskatchewan a bit because they didn’t fare as well as expected at the CIS championships. Track and Field and wrestling are also Saskatchewan strong points, but they take a back burner to the hockey and football programs, which have established themselves as some of the premier in the country.

8. University of Western Ontario
 Ranked tenth last year

It’s not really clear what the Western Ontario Mustangs have to run from, but they seem to be in a hurry. Western has dominant cross-country running and track teams that seem to perennially propel them into the upper echelon of Canadian varsity athletics. Western also produces strong rugby, wrestling and soccer squads each year, which help them offset some of the larger team sports that they don’t dominate, like volleyball and hockey. Despite their strong performances in cross-country and on the track, the Mustangs had only one award winner: Jessica Fitzgerald won the student-athlete and community award in women’s wrestling. They also won only two medals silver in men’s track and field and bronze in women’s wrestling.

7. Dalhousie University
Ranked eleventh last year

The Tigers won two bronze medals in men’s swimming and men’s cross-country, and placed fourths in women’s basketball thanks to a five-round upset of the top-seeded UBC Thunderbirds. They also made Nationals in men’s volleyball, where they lost to Alberta in the first round, and placed eighth in men’s track and field. Individually, the Tigers brought home four awards: David Fry was named men’s swimming Coach of the Year, Jeff Weiler was Libero of the Year in men’s volleyball, SFX. Michael Libero of the Year in men’s volleyball, SFX. Michael and Ottawa’s score seems from was improvement in both football and men’s basketball—the two teams placed third in their sports. A bronze medal for the Gee-Gees women’s soccer also helps make the U of O the highest-scoring school in the nation’s capital. They also competed at Nationals in women’s volleyball and women’s hockey, hosting the latter event. The Gee-Gees football team also scored for Ottawa in the individual categories, as head coach Denis Piché was named CIS Coach of the Year, and Naim El-Far won the Russ Jackson award for excellence both academically and athletically. El-Far’s award is especially fitting as Jackson was a longtime standout for the Ottawa Rough Riders.

5. University of Ottawa
 Ranked fourth last year

Toronto finished in the top ten in only six spots—cross-country, swimming, field hockey and track and field—but did very well in those sports to get a high standing. The Blues took three National medals and finished a close fourth in women’s swimming. Ranking the Blues score is standout distance runner Megan Brown, who won gold in cross-country and was named CIS Track Athlete of the Year. Mike Bailey was named the Male Soccer Player of the Year as well. Toronto had the third-highest score in the individual awards, but finished ninth in main performance, resulting in a drop off from last season.
With all this talk of UBC's bid to join the NCAA, they aren't quite the cream of the CIS crop. Their athletic seasons fell a little short this year, and the 'Birds garnered less awards than the other top universities. Perhaps the consolation of falling off the podium in this year's rankings is that most of their athletics facilities are getting facelifts in preparation for the 2010 Olympics. Being on the ocean, it's fitting that swimming is UBC's marquee event, and both their men's and women's squads earned gold at Nationals. But UBC's prowess doesn't stop at the shallow end of the pool. The female Thunderbirds also won gold in soccer and field hockey—which have been strong suits of the program for several years. The basketball and volleyball programs are solid enough to make a national impact, which means UBC is one of the better all-round schools in CIS, and their four titles are more than any other schools.

3. Université Laval
Ranked sixth last year

Laval was the only team from Québec to crack the top ten in CIS this season, but they made a run for the top spot by winning the Vanier Cup in football to the fall and following that up with strong performances in the pool and on the volleyball court. If only their results were considered, the Rouge et Or would have been ranked second in the country, but they only managed to get three awards despite having a strong season. Their silver in women's volleyball and bronze in women's swimming bolstered their score significantly, as did Élie Duchesne, who won libero of the Year in women's volleyball. Laval also scored a pair of Rookie of the Year honours, as Geneviève Thibault took it in women's track and field, and Jean-François Beaudot-Maher did so in men's basketball.

2. University of Calgary
Ranked fifth last year

Track and field, volleyball and wrestling were strong sports that put the Dinos on pace for a strong athletic year, as were their efforts in the pool. What really bolstered their ranking this year was a plethora of awards including two for football, three for swimming, two for track and two for wrestling. Jessica Zeltiska was named Female Field Athlete of the Year, while quarterback Dallas Tollerup was Rookie of the Year in football. With Calgary having such a strong year in 2006/07, the battle of Alberta for varsity athletics supremacy looks to heat up even more next year. A pair of silvers in swimming, a bronze in women's volleyball and golds in women's wrestling and track gave the Dinos five National medals on the year—a number that tied them with Alberta.

1. University of Alberta
Ranked first last year

For the second year in a row, the oil-Green and Gold came out as the best university athletics program in Canada. Be sure to put that on your Curriculum Vitae when you leave these hallowed halls. Both the Bears and Pandas were represented in the national finals by 13 of their 19 CIS teams. Football and rugby were the only real disappointments in an excellent year marked by five national championship appearances, three of which won gold medals. Alberta also brought in a ton of hardware in the form of individual awards for coaches and players. Scott Edwards, Carla Somerville, Les Vickery, Lisa Jepsen and Terry Danyluk were all recognized as Coach of the Year in their respective sports. Pandas hockey and volleyball standouts Lindsay McAlpine and Tiffany Dodds both received Player of the Year nods, and Taryn Barry (Pandas Hockey) and James Wall (Wrestling) were both recognized for their community involvement.

Method to the madness

Here's the skinny: universities were first assigned points based on how well their varsity teams fared at national championships—ten points for a win, nine less for each subsequent position up to tenth. In some cases, only six or eight teams were considered because that's how many competed at Nationals. There was also a 1.5 times multiplier given to the seven televised finals: men's football, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's hockey and men's and women's volleyball. After points were assigned, awards that schools won this year were also considered. Performance-based awards (player, coach, rookie, position) were given five points while community, sportsmanship and academic were given three. All results are based on National results; conference records didn't come into play. So that's about it: performance plus awards equals CIS dominance.

For complete statistics, including per-sport breakdowns and rankings of all CIS schools, check out the online edition at www.thegatewayonline.ca/sports

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25TH ANNIVERSARY!
Athletes staying in class for Masters in coaching

For most CIS athletes, contribution to their team ends when their eligibility does. But, with the U of A's Masters of Coaching program, some former Bears and Pandas are finding a way back to their former teams by holding clipboardson the sidelines.

Of the four students currently enrolled in the program, three are former Golden Bear or Panda athletes—despite it being available to anyone who has an undergraduate degree and a level-three coaching certification through the national coaching body. Current Golden Bears football running backs coach Jason Lafferty and current Bears volleyball assistant coach Aaron Schulha are both helping with their former teams, while former Pandas volleyball player Jennifer Telfer is also taking her graduate degree.

"The Masters in Coaching program is a big reason why I came back from playing volleyball overseas last year," said Schullia, who spent the past year competing in Europe. "You get a different view from some of the other people who have coached in the past. As well, there are people from all different sports, so the thinking is a little bit different in that it kind of broadens your view on a few things—things you wouldn't think about in your own sport. It's nice to have those different views to help you think outside the box a little bit and apply that to your own sport."

The degree is offered at only a handful of universities across the country, and provides students with not only a Masters degree but also a corresponding level of coaching, according to Mike Mahon, Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation.

"When our coaches graduate, they graduate with certification from the National Coaching Certification program, as well as with a Masters of Education degree because of our relationship with the Faculty of Physical Education. Our coaches teach, and it makes a huge difference even in terms of the respect that they have for the student-side of the athlete. They're not coaching their athletes, they're teaching, running the operation of the team in the student body, so they get a different feel for what the pressures are on a student. It's a very important piece of why this all works—if the coaches weren't our academic staff, this program wouldn't exist. It's as simple as that."

However, the program—now in its fourth year of existence—has encountered some bumps along the way. One concern faced by its directors is the number of students enrolling each year; on average, only four students enroll for their Masters in coaching annually, with coaching seminars being offered every two years, bringing the student total to eight. Because of the demand for high-level coaches in Canada, Reade—one of the people spearheading the degree—said that if the demand is high, students may be offered every year, and there will be more students.

"We're struggling to try and figure out what the real number should be—if you get too big, the quality of the experience for the students in the seminars just isn't there," Reade explained. "I don't think you can have a good seminar beyond eight or ten students, so it's hard to say where it's going to go."

The program is run by the Bears and Pandas and is a good thing for the SPC Card which gets you exclusive discounts at hundreds of Canadian retailers.

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I n 185 conference games this season, the Bears and Pandas teams faced off 37 times in regular season play. A total of 40 percent of the entire world has. However, the ability that only a hundredth of a percent of people have is. We're talking about people that have an ability to play unconventional roles. The most shocking season of the 11 teams that didn't make Nationals, the Golden Bears blew two chances to make their ticket to Edmonton on two straight nights—giving up goals in the winning moments of the third period in both contests. The Bears were one of the favourites for the National title, despite having a ridiculous record, and those involved in the program thought they had a good shot of taking it for the third-straight year. Also missing Nationals after a dominating stretch was the Pandas rugby team, who had medalled for seven straight years before this season. Still, when LeBlond splice the Pandas to take the Canada West crown, thus keeping Alberta out of Nationals and snapping their winning streak, it was the first truly shocking moment of the Alberta sports season. Let's not forget about the Pandas baseball team and Bears volleyball squad. The former will be playing "what if" all summer as they wonder what could've happened had they hit a home run in the second half of their 72-68 loss to SFU in the National Final. Similarly the volley Bears will be left wondering why they didn't pass the ball better in their free-set loss to Winnipeg in the gold medal match.

It was a terrific season for Alberta athletics all around, and a couple of bad days in key games doesn't change the fact that this was one of the most dominating seasons from a school ever. It came to the point this year when an Alberta loss in any sport came as a surprise, and that's something pretty special. While the Bears and Pandas gave their fans plenty of reasons to celebrate, it would be wrong to forget that they were within 12 points of winning two more National titles and that two pre-season favourites didn't get to see the big dance at all. It's really a shame; I was hoping to surpass Colin Gallant's 2000-01 record for wins during a Gateway sports editor's tenure. And I would've liked to put sports on the front page a few more times.

Athlete DUI arrests must be a bigger deal

TREVOR PHILLIPS

Sports Commentary

A n interesting trend has developed over the course of spring training in southern Florida. On two separate occasions last month—only six days apart—an MLB player and a manager were pulled over and arrested for drunk driving. It wasn't two Joe Blow minor leaguers who tipped a few back and got behind the wheel.

Typically, I would tend to disagree with the argument that athletes don't deserve to be treated differently. I mean, we're talking about people that have an ability that only a hundredth of a percent of the entire world has. However, when in recent news [the Blue Jays] "I'm drunk" is the media's go-to quote. The most glaring omission in the list of accolades the Alberta teams received over the course of the entire season was the 20 all-Canadians and sent six of those eleven teams to Nationals. If the Alberta loss in any sport came as a surprise, it would be wrong to forget that they were within 12 points of winning two more National titles and that two pre-season favourites didn't get to see the big dance at all. It's really a shame; I was hoping to surpass Colin Gallant's 2000-01 record for wins during a Gateway sports editor's tenure. And I would've liked to put sports on the front page a few more times.

Early on 16 March, Chacin was pulled over by Tampa cops. The pitcher had a blood-alcohol level almost twice that of the legal limit, yet he was released on a $500 bond. Moreover, the Toronto organization declined to comment on the incident, while the whole messy situation was swept underneath the rug. Chacin was even allowed to pitch in his next scheduled start. He got rocked for seven runs in a case of karma biting him in the ass.

This kind of behaviour is bullshit, and the Blue Jays' brass didn't even have the sack to step up and reprimand him. It's bad when anybody disponible and prone to drinking and driving must stop. Portraying the image that it's okay to drink and drive is one of the worst things a sports editor can do. People and the media have to stop ignoring that drunk driving is a problem, and when it happens it deserves no less attention than any other criminal offence. MLB and the national media should be ashamed of themselves, and Chacin and La Russa should be thankful that these cops stopped them before they could do any real damage.
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Fraser, huh? Our program needs him
in our program needs him

Solution to The OntarionWord #5
compiled by Krystian Imgrum of The
Ontarion (CUP, University of Guelph)
The Crossword runs semi-regularly with
the answer available in the next issue

Across
1. A lyrical composition
4. Insoluble one
8. Creep
12. Best
14. Helper
15. Murder on the ______
16. Television predecessor
17. Farm feed
19. Animal pouch
20. Pole structure
22. Amass
26. Disable
28. Took the reins
29. Warn
31. Incite
33. Terrific
37. Charged particle
39. Author Chomsky
41. Marsh bird
42. Misdreading
46. Highland cap
48. New (pr.)
90's game
50. Land parcel
51. Criticize (in speech)
52. Take to court
55. Cabbage kin
57. Take to court
58. Proboscies
60. Tramp
61. Beeband
66. Actress Ryan
68. Common sangbird
70. Peter Pan paper

Down
71. Drives
75. Snowy Flower
77. Cereal grass
81. Vandyke, for ex.
83. State
87. Societal device
89. Epidemiologist's device
90.9's game
91.9's game
93. Nautical device
94. Take to court
96. Greenland
98. Duck's home
99. Puffin
100. Red Viking?

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sudoku

The OntarionWord #5

59. Witness
61. Above, to a bard
63. Indifferent
64. Picks up Trotsky
65. Encountured
67. Jackson accessory
69. Pen points
71. Show output
72. Unbridled speech
73. Signn
74. Lunch
76. Seven's line
80. School subject
82. Prepare wine

THE GATEWAY
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Tuesday, 6 March, 2007

u/do/ku
0 PUZZLES by Papcco
LOGIC PUZZLE by Scott C Bourgeois

You can't leave me, Sam! What incredible luck that job was yesterday! I can't just stay stuck here...)

Dude! Sam and I have been planning to meet up together for months. This isn't a surprise for you! It's not my fault you've procrastinated on finding new recommendations!

Look... There's still time to find someone else to move in with. You can still be around to visit.

I cleaned out the closet...

I got the groceries!

The End

LOGIC PUZZLE ©2004 - 2007

THE INSIPID MIND by Konrad Ilg

Our parents cannot know about this.

Oh Nigel! You're amazing.

A RARE FOSSIL OF A PREY VIOLENTLY ATTACKING A SPOOR
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SEXY GEEK by Vishal Rajan & Ross Lockwood

Man, I heard the terrible news...

Yeah, it's a significant downgrade.

- What happened?

I differentiated my houseboat!

RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin

Rent-A-Thug Presents Return For Career Success #104

Rent-A-Thug is one of the few companies that include hooker-related diseases in the medical coverage.

OUR DEAR LEADER by Adam Gaumont

“Hold on a sec, uh, Kim...

I got a call on the other line”

“Alright, guys; we have Mr. Kelly on the line. Time to do this thing.”

SYNAPSE by Liv S Vors

Steve Nash appears in a stupid comic.

Pepe unintentionally spoils his own surprise party.

STEVE NASH LIVING & LOVING by Braden Deane (CUP)
Cases of syphilis on the rise in Alberta

Once nearly eliminated, infection is making a comeback in the Edmonton area

CHLOÉ PEZDORF
Managing Editor

Syphilis has been called "the great imitator." For the tendency to misdiagnose it as simple skin rash, but as instances of the infection are rising in Alberta, with over 200 recorded cases in 2006, the need to be diligent about sexual health is increasingly important.

Syphilis, a sexually transmitted or congenital infection, has been a source of concern in Canada since the 1940s and is curable with antibiotics. Dr. Barbara Romanowski, a clinical professor at the University of Alberta who specializes in infectious diseases, said that the increase is a Canada-wide trend.

"The dramatic increase in cases of syphilis in Alberta is not isolated. It is reflected in other provinces," Romanowski said. "Sadly, syphilis is very much alive and well. It's not a disease of street people—it's an infection that can affect anyone who is sexually active."

"The dramatic increase in cases of syphilis in Alberta is not isolated. It is reflected in other provinces." DR. BARBARA ROMANOWSKI

According to a recent report published by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the rates of syphilis began declining in the early 1980s, and by 1997 Canada had met its goal of near elimination, as less than 0.5 people in every 100,000 had syphilis. But from 1997-2004, the national syphilis rate increased nine times, to 3.5 per 100,000 Canadians.

In particular, PHAC's report stated that significant increases in syphilis cases in Edmonton began in 2003, and each subsequent year has seen an increase. There were 106 reported cases of syphilis in Edmonton alone in 2005. Romanowski said that despite the concentration of reported syphilis cases in Edmonton, the city is not more susceptible to the infection than any other area.

"To date there's not much evidence that Edmonton is more susceptible to syphilis than any other area."

Waste-bin fire singes Rutherford

SCOTT LidBAl\nDeputy News Editor

An unexplained fire in a garbage can outside of the Rutherford Library has left students a bit on the side of the building and completely destroyed the stone receptacle.

Deputy News Editor SCOTT LILWALL

Security received a call at around midnight on Tuesday, 27 March from a student reporting the fire. A number of students attempted to put out the fire by pouring water in it. The flames were under control by the time security arrived, and additional water was poured on the garbage can to make sure that the fire was out.

Belanger explained that Campus Security received a call around midnight on Tuesday, 27 March from a student reporting the fire. A number of students attempted to put out the fire by pouring water in it. The flames were under control by the time security arrived, and additional water was poured on the garbage can to make sure that the fire was out.

Belanger explained that the fire was set by a chemical reaction between the oxygen and plastic materials. "It was totally destroyed," said Al Belanger, Operations Manager for Campus Security. "It was a pretty intense fire, a pretty serious blaze."

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Start in May
Canada-US systems not comparable: Moore

Eighth grade students in Holtsville New York have been charged with serving their teacher and classmates Ex-Lax-laced doughnuts for April Fool’s day.

What’s the worst April Fool’s day prank to which you’ve been party?

I'd say putting a dry ice bomb in somebody else's locker. You get dry ice and then you put it in a water bottle, and then you put it in your friend's locker, so then it explodes and after she's just blown to pieces.

Emotion and Ex-Lax at the same time because one works higher up in the digestive system than the other, so you have to take a dump but you can't, I've done this to people. It's not that hard—you can put it in a midnight. You kind of have to do some head-up.

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Hate crimes rare on campus: EPS

MARIA KOTYCH
News Staff

What you can do to create a safer campus community. "Shannon said.

According to Gill, the Criminal Code of Canada recognizes a hate crime as an offence where the person who commits a crime is motivated by hatred or bias towards an identifiable group. The Community impact is significant, as hate crimes can have a wider impact on society. Gill stressed that hate crimes are intended to send a message to a particular community. They may have a much larger impact on the victim and on the community as a whole and are often not under-reported.

"One of the surprising things coming into the hate crimes unit is to see how many organized movements there are within Alberta and within Canada," Sergeant Robinder Gill said for this reason, statistics don't accurately measure hate crimes, Gill stressed.

In one set of Canadian statistics, Gill showed that ethnic/racial hate crimes were most common in Canada, followed by those targeting religion and subsequently by those targeting sexual orientation. Gill said the black community was the group most targeted for their ethnicity, and the Jewish community was the most targeted for their religion. He also noted that more recently, when Canada saw a debate over same-sex marriage, the marriage, the nation experienced a spike in the number of hate crimes committed towards gays and lesbians.

But hate crimes on campus are minimal, according to Al Belanger at Campus Security Services. Out of approximately 10 000 calls, Campus Security received last year, only four of those were hate crimes. Belanger said. He noted that since 2001, there have been 15 incidents on campus that have been considered hate crimes, but he stressed that these statistics only consider hate crimes that have been reported. Most of the hate crimes that do happen at the U of A are vandalism-related.

"99.9 per cent of the time it is graffiti-based incidents that degrade groups and/or individuals," Belanger said.

Belanger also noted that no specific group has been targeted on campus recently and there also hasn't been a repeated pattern of the same type of graffiti recurring. But while hate crimes are rare on campus, there are still numerous hate groups present in Alberta and across Canada, said Gill. "One of the surprising things coming into the hate crimes unit is to see how many organized movements there are within Alberta and within Canada," Gill said. "That is sad to say, but there's a fair amount."

Green groups cut into Logger Sports

Annual event celebrates vital industry, says organizer, but others up in arms

VICTOR VARGAS
News Staff

For the third consecutive year, the University of Alberta Forestry Society, an organization of undergraduate and graduate students with specific interest in forestry, ran Logger Sports in Quad on 30 March. But others worry that the event may not be educating students on forestry issues.

Jeron Sivinley, organizer of the event, explained that Logger Sports featured things like log burling, axe throwing, and chain saw demonstrations. However, Jeane Shannon, coordinator of the environmental group Klercut, said that the event doesn't show students the big picture. She cautioned that, while students may benefit from information on the industry's management practices received from organizations like Logger Sports, they should seek a well-rounded understanding of all the environmental issues facing the industry.

"We need to look at the information we receive from people and events like Logger Sports to make sure that we are forming our own judgments on the nature concerns," Shannon said.

"Education on [the] management practices, [that are] facing society today is always good, it helps in forming our own opinions, like whether or not our endangered foothills are worth flushing down the toilet," Shannon believes it's important to celebrate traditions like Logger Sports, but students should also recognize that the industry has made some mistakes in the management of natural resources. Sivinley acknowledged that some people have had problems with the industry, but he also believes the forestry industry is an essential part of our world. "A lot of people pass and point out that cut-blocks (areas of forest that are cut down) are because they don't like to see them. [You've] got heavy machinery in the bush, you're wrecking stuff and leaving everything up. But... everybody needs wood products. Everyone uses wood products," Sivinley said.

He believes that the forestry industry has listened to processes and has realized that previous practices were wrong. He said that there have now been major strides in technology and cold, more harmful techniques are being replaced by ecologically friendly methods. Sivinley also noted that the government has restrictions that keep forestry companies in check.

"They have limitations and restrictions on what they can do and what they can't do," Sivinley said.

But Curtis Wesolowsky is convinced that these restrictions aren't enough. A graduate in biology with a focus in conservation he thinks that the government needs to do more.

"The current legislation gives the forestry corporation a large degree of powers and latitude over their forest management zones. I would like to see the legislation strengthened to ensure that in the long run, the forest industry remains as viable as possible for the province," Wesolowsky said.

He believes that people and students need to have a general awareness of the industry because it's so large in Alberta. He also said events like Logger Sports are useful as long as it's no more than just an excuse for recreation, and aims to educate.

"I certainly hope that it will get students involved more with the forestry industry. I also hope that students become more aware of forestry issues and have fun doing it at the same time," Wesolowsky said.
Syphilis is checked with a blood test. Although syphilis hasn't been an increased demand recently, there are still many cases. And while maintaining a healthy sex life is important, it's also important to be aware of the risks.

University students are particularly susceptible to syphilis, as individuals in this age group tend to be more sexually active. The incidence of infections is highest in women 20-24 years old, while infections in men tend to be older, between 35-39 years old. And while maintaining a healthy sex life is important, it's also important to be aware of the risks.

The Student Awards Office at the University of Alberta has several scholarship competitions running over the summer. Each competition has its own set of criteria and eligibility requirements as outlined in the following descriptions.

Undergraduate Student Awards
The Student Awards Office has several scholarship competitions running over the summer. Each competition has its own set of criteria and eligibility requirements as outlined in the following descriptions.

For more information on these and other competitions please visit our website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards or the Student Awards Office at 1-80 Students’ Union Building.
New tech confuses old users: study

Industry expert says that simple tweaks could make computers easier to use

VICTOR VARGAS
News Staff

A study done at the University of Alberta found that older adults feel less confident about their computer knowledge than their younger counterparts. Older adults worry about how specialized these machines, such as memory, may inhibit their performance and as a result lowers their confidence.

Dr Dennis Rich of the Faculty of Extension along with Dr Patricia Boechler, both from the Department of Psychology, studied computer use and proficiency in a group of approximately 40 adults, aged 50 and older. The results of the study, which were all members of the Edmonton Lifelong Learners’ Association (ELLA), were announced against the results of under-graduates students.

The research found that problems associated with old age, such as Parkinson’s disease and other cognitive defects, would affect older adults’ confidence and ability to use computers, Boechler said. She suggested that one solution for the loss in confidence would be for different younger people to tutor the elderly in using computers and help build on their knowledge.

“If we could provide classes through community centres, through senior associations and organizations, seniors who are open-minded about having technology in their lives would feel more comfortable about taking part in it,” Boechler stated.

The study had other recommendations on assisting seniors in learning computers, such as increasing font sizes, ensure computer mouse are easy to manipulate and to give simple and direct instructions that give no room for multiple interpretations.

However, Nathan Palovick, a freelance computer consultant who has worked with several elderly people, believes that there’s more the industry can do to accommodate older adults.

While Palovick acknowledges that part of the problem is that computer users are constantly changing because of the nature of the field, he also believes that if software companies were to establish standards that all programs would follow, older people would have a much easier time adapting to computers.

For example, he said that if the process of running off a computer was the same for all operating systems, elderly people wouldn’t have to learn a slightly different method for every new system. “Once you are familiar with the principles of the software, it is a lot easier to understand how those changes go out from there. Because really, fundamentally, Windows or Macintosh hasn’t changed all that much in the past 20 years,” Palovick said.

He did note that several systems actually do have ways of maintaining the same interface (the way people interact with a computer), but people are either unaware of these options or don’t know how to access them.

“These are really simple [techniques], but for somebody who isn’t really familiar with the technology, they aren’t going to be able to find it,” Palovick said.

DANCE CLUB STILL WALTZING AT 50

As the University of Alberta’s dancing boom—swung in popularity in the 50s, so did dance at the University of Alberta. However, while the swing best may be lost to today’s students, dance is still going strong.

In the fall of 1957, a group of around 20 students approached a local dance studio in hopes of setting up an informal gathering for those that wanted to know how to ballroom dance. The following year, the Students’ Union made the club an official student group. This year, the Dance Club celebrated its 50th year at the University of Alberta.

“It’s incredible to have such a wonderful group of people together with one common goal: it’s ballroom dancing. It’s actually quite a beautiful thing to be a part of,” said Darin Yesmaniski, Vice-President (Internal) of the Dance Club.

According to Yesmaniski, the club’s annual membership of 1700 includes students, alumni and community members. To celebrate half a century of dance instruction, the club held a number of events through the month of March, including a volunteer training week to give club members, old and new, a chance to show off their foxtrots, Flamencos and fox-trots, as well as to thank volunteers who made it possible. Everyone from the nine executive members to DJs, to the dance instructors themselves are involved in the volunteer base.

The Byers were members 18 years ago, while they were dating, and just rejoined the club this year.

“What’s really nice about the socials is you don’t feel threatened if you’re a beginner. There are people of all abilities.”

DOING THE LATEST RAG

The U of A Dance Club celebrates its big Winter Ball.

THE GATEWAY is hiring!

The Gateway is looking for a Sports Editor

• The Online Coordinator will be responsible for keeping the Gateway’s new website slick, sexy and not libellous. Hours are flexible, but free Monday and Wednesday nights are a must. Remuneration is $3296.60 per month.

• Two Circulation PALs will deliver the Gateway to campus and beyond. Free Tuesday and Thursday mornings and afternoons are a must as a driver’s licence and clean driver’s abstract. Remuneration is $3296.60 per month.

Sound fun? Want to join the deathship?

Then please submit a resume and cover letter, to Business Manager Steve Smith or Editor-in-Chief Matt Frehner by noon Thursday, 5 April. Applications can be submitted by e-mail to gateway.ualberta.ca or by hardcopy (Room 3-04 Students’ Union Building).

* For information and rundown of the complete job descriptions (subject to change) visit www.gateway.ualberta.ca

Additionally...

The Gateway is holding a special general meeting to choose its two (2) 2007/08 volunteer-staff board of directors representatives.

• The meeting will take place on Thursday, 12 April at 4pm. All volunteer staff are asked to attend if possible.

* If you’re interested in running, you must have had five (5) contributions to the Gateway in the last year and have opted-in as a staff member to Editor-in-Chief Matt Frehner. You can opt-in at any point before the meeting.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

You can help make a difference by volunteering; it’s as easy as picking up your phone and calling Carmen at 780-444-1547. Or by email to cb.liver@shaw.ca.

Positions Include:

• Planning Committee Members
  (fundraising & educational events)
• On-site Event Volunteers
  (next event - STROLL FOR LIVER)
• Awareness Campaign Volunteers
  (traveling provided)
• Office Assistance
  (projects throughout the year)
• Material Distribution
  (events and educational material)

For more information on liver health, please call 1-780-444-1547 or visit www.liver.ca. Please live responsibly.

The Canadian Liver Foundation is committed to reducing the incidence and impact of all forms of liver disease.

THE GATEWAY • volume XCVII number 45

EIC @ gateway.ualberta.ca
Old age ought to be (gently) embraced

GENERALLY, WHEN I THINK OF THE FUTURE, I think in terms of the next five years—or at the very most, ten years. However, the recent aging symptom, held this weekend at the U of A hospital, tried to get people pondering life a little further down the line.

But after hearing Dr Daniel Callahan, international program director of The Hastings Center (a bioethics think-tank), I for one am not convinced that the baby boomers are the only ones who can look forward to a long life. Callahan asks: who would have access to them? Only the wealthy? And what would the effects be of having people live longer on our already overpopulated planet? Why bother with keening to lengthen our lives at all?

The cost of developing new technologies is huge—and there are plenty of illnesses that could use a cure before aging Cancer, AIDS and multiple sclerosis come to mind, just to name a few. Enhancing our quality of life—that is, making the time we have better rather than longer—makes no more sense. In fact, I find it difficult to call aging a disease at all. After all, it's a natural process to which we are all subjected.

The University has extended its policy of mandating retirement at the age of 65. In light of possible developments in anti-aging technology, one wonders whether the average retirement age can be pushed back further yet. Given improved health, we can even expect to continue working well into our 70's. Although some people do already and are happy for it, I would be disappointed not to have the choice, the same way I would be upset if I were forced to quit just because I had gone past my statistical prime.

All things considered, the prospect of extending my life by six or ten years or so is not really appealing—not necessarily for personal reasons, but for the impact that it would have on those around me. Who would be expected to take care of me for another decade? Even if I am lucky enough to be in good health, I would still need support and assistance. And if I were lucky enough to have a family around, this might get very costly. In fact, this effect is already evident today, as many long-term care facilities are being privatized and charging huge sums for often questionable care. That is, there simply aren't enough beds or health-care professionals to meet the demand.

Already, we can hardly accommodate the aging population—and this is just the beginning of the boom. When I picture myself 45 years from now, I don't see a woman giving up on life or thinking that it's over at 60 or 70, I see someone who's still pleased with her accomplishments in youth and eager to experience a new age. Growing older is a beautiful process that allows us to change and develop. It's this graceful process of aging that we should focus on instead of just worrying about our time up.

When it comes to choosing between living an extra few years or having a healthier and happier life, I don't think it's an either/or situation. Although aging implies—this is just the beginning of the boom. When I picture myself 45 years from now, I don't see a woman giving up on life or thinking that it's over at 60 or 70, I see someone who's still pleased with her accomplishments in youth and eager to experience a new age. Growing older is a beautiful process that allows us to change and develop. It's this graceful process of aging that we should focus on instead of just worrying about our time up.

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Metro a rather pedestrian effort

This latest commuter rag only adds to Edmonton's glutted newsprint market

Matt Frehner

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With the inaugural issue of Metro hitting the stands yesterday, yet another commuter rag is competing with the already glutted Edmonton market, competing for sidewalk space with CanWest's Edmonton Bulletin and the rest. The proliferation of newspaper boxes around campus over the last few months is so concerning that the last 1.17 entrance has become completely empty: no less than ten newspapers are stationed there, along with a giant ugly black box that seems to be advertising something about contraceptives. Among these primarily published by the newspaper shi-kibori are Mother Earth, City Councilor Michael Phair and defenders of good taste and decency. Phair called it a "clutter of ugliness" in last Friday's Edmonton Journal, and is working to ensure the newspaper quibblers before we find ourselves swimming in a pulp mush of cookies—scatter journalism. But mares of paper later aside, the way print media is delivered currently isn't very appealing to younger readers. Bill McDonald, Metro's English-Canada publisher, has noted as much. The truth is, daily newspaper readership is down pretty much across the board. Those who read the newspaper on a daily basis are slowly dying off and the rest don't care. Money is being lost both in subscription and ad revenue. But the free format doesn't fix the problem inherent in print media.

A back for a commuter isn't all that problematic, in fact.

What makes traditional daily newspapers worthless, if I can sumptuously package in my entire generation, is that anyone who gives a shit about the news will soon be reading it online (if free, and that they have a subscription). The Internet will then allow for faster, cheaper, timelier and more diverse than anything that can be found in print.

As far as it's possible to remain relevant in a world of instantly accessible media, 300-word mini-stories isn't the way to do it. Reaching the Internet with a couple hundred thousand 16-page pamphlets will be about as successful as trying to end sequestration by bombarding a bunch of random Middle Eastern countries: the optics might be good in the short term, but in the long run we'll be facing huge deficits and a Democratic rebellion in Congress.

The existence that these dailies are successful in large cities, it's because they're free and easily available: the boxes sit on every corner and transit hubs. Simply put, they're real because they're there, and because flipping through a couple of pages of trash is slightly more exciting than scratching one's private parts.

The Internet and its assorted paraphernalia are, after all, usually based on knowledge exchange: forums, blogs, article databases, online newspapers—all are revised hourly and all give the public instantaneous access to a virtually infinite and ever-expanding supply of knowledge. So what's my problem with this type of learning then? Why am I writing this essay and not profit be scooping up STIR for some new sources to use in my latest research paper? Well, largely I've been wondering no more how big the benefits, if it's always true that a new invention replaces an old one, and that therefore every innovation must carry some drawback, while, if anything, are we losing from good, old-fashioned book-learning?

As the process is repeated, students risk believing that they have become well-read, while in fact they're only well-argued.

Consider the context in which much of our education occurs. Most of our classes, no matter what faculty, have some kind of opinion-formation as their goal; classes are intended to provide an overview, while the real, in-depth knowledge is expected to come from assignments and research papers. Implanted in the research process is an expectation that students will immediately expose themselves to the different perspectives opining on the selected issue. And largely, if the dynasty-process is your chosen one, then this is something you can't avoid—hours of skimming indexes and articles even slightly related to your subject heading on the screen, reading more ease, comfort and flexibility: namely, making use of online databases, which are acquiring increasingly refined search capacities.

But this development means that students now have the option of basically deporting a thesis into the subject heading on the screen, reading whatever is cracked out, and assuming this is so to be a definitive exploration of said thesis, even if major sides of the argument surrounding it have been omitted. If you're looking for a particular opinion, in other words, you're going to find it, however extreme. But that doesn't make it definitive.

As the process is repeated, students risk believing that they have become well-read, while in fact they're only well-argued, having lost the opportunity of exposure not only to the other discussion surrounding their chosen subjects, but also to the kind of seminal opinions knowledge—ballmark of the truly well-read person—that can only be acquired by reading.

It's not my suggestion that we turn back the clock, that shut down the super-computers, or make Donie From Navigation 101 a required course. I just believe that we need to recognize that these systems are more fragile and less organic than most of us would like to believe. It's a world of computers, however, simple and durable it may appear, remains world completely apart from tangible, physical reality. If it should suddenly disappear—and our ability to think along with—a then just how advanced will we have become?
Students’ futures uncertain as Quebec gov’t enters new era

“The three major parties in the province—the Liberals, the PQ, and ADQ (Action Démocratique du Québec)—have come to expect that in Quebec politics, there are winners and losers. And until last week, Charest and PQ leader André Boisclair each expected to win in a landslide.”

Ottawa (CUP)—The last time Quebecers elected a minority government was in 1878—and the education system in the province was vastly different than it is today. That moment was nearly a century away from creating the Université du Québec network, and McGill University had hardly stopped an enrollment of 1000.

Times have clearly changed. During the 1995 referendum, the political landscape exploded, and young Quebecers benefited greatly. McGill students now total over 33,000, and there are over a dozen universities in Quebec, and after a Parti Québécois (PQ) election win in 1994, tuition fees were frozen, making them the cheapest in Canada.

Enter the 2002 provincial election, which brought forward a Liberal minority government. The reigning Liberals under Jean Charest promised that, if elected, they would increase tuition fees by $50 a year until 2012. To win their platform, the party used the 14-year-old freeze “interferes with recruiting and retaining the best professors and researchers, and handicaps the competitive development of research infrastructure.”

Charest says that Quebec residents pay, on average, over $1000 less than most of Canada’s provinces, including increased tuition fees.

Pundits claim the results of the 26 March election affirm the importance of “the issues” to Quebecers—those social issues that have made Quebec unique in Canada. But that rhetoric is beside the point now: that every issue has the power to destabilize the fragile legislature in Quebec City; parties need to control the 48 seats of the National Assembly. In such a climate, postsecondary education remains on the politicians’ radar. Will prominence stall the consideration of the three major parties.

It was a departure from the recent trend toward a sovereignist-Federalist divide to the right. Now that every issue has the power to destabilize the fragile legislature in Quebec City, parties need to control the 48 seats of the National Assembly. In such a climate, postsecondary education remains on the politicians’ radar. Will prominence stall the consideration of the three major parties.

It’s in these cases that I feel frustrated, not, there isn’t time for explanation—

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Scientologists are the same ones

KELSEY TANASIUK

In our modern, civilized and politically correct world, discrimination on the basis of religion is frowned upon, to say the least. In fact, voicing prejudicial thoughts tends to bring upon the reaction of an uproar, and multiple students love to gossip about. If this were the case with any other religion, voicing prejudicial thoughts tends to bring up Katie Holmes or coo about the tabloid reader of your group will mention Scientology's sci-fi novel, L Ron Hubbard. Perhaps the titled reader of your group will bring up Katie Holmes or coo about how adorable Suri Cruise is, but other people may mention Scientology's sci-fi novel, L Ron Hubbard. Perhaps the titled reader of your group will bring up Katie Holmes or coo about how adorable Suri Cruise is, but other Scientologists hold themselves to lofty standards—do you?

Could this be a religion that attempts to actually practice what it preaches?

Scientology preaches about knowledge and understanding. One of the first things you are told when you start to read about it is, don't pass by something you don't understand. Learn what it is and understand it before continuing on your way. If you're reading a book and say a word you've never seen, find out what it means before you keep reading. That way you'll completely understand its implications in the sentence. Already it seems we can learn something from our friends the Scientologists: understanding things before we talk about them. What a revolutionary concept.

Scientologists say there are three things you have to attend to in your life and in this order: Being, Doing and Having. Being is your person—your soul, really. The first thing you need to do is determine who you are. Being is being aware and knowledgeable about yourself and your surroundings. Doing is your actions: once you have yourself under control you have to look at your actions and how they're affecting the world around you. Finally there's Having: that's where you get to look at your material possessions and their place in this world. Know about your surroundings before you do anything to affect the world? You guys are probably right, these people are crazy.

One of the major criticisms of Scientology is that there are mandatory fees for members of the church. It's clearly a scam since you have to pay to get in, right? But let's not forget that organized religions need funds to keep their churches afloat—they just rely on donations. Scientology are no different: they just happen to be straightforward about their financial needs. I'd prefer that over the guilt-inducing glares of senior citizens when the donation basket is passed around.

So let's take stock: be knowledgeable, know yourself, know the consequences of your actions and put your mental self before your material one. Lessons we should all take to heart. The bottom line is, if a religion is working to help people better themselves the rest of us are in no place to judge it, regardless of what crazy celebrities happen to follow it. L Ron Hubbard calls Scientology a battle against idiocy. So congratulations to all those of you who just love to talk about this scam religion; you guys get to be the opposing army.

Photo Illustration: Krystinasulatycki