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Deal me out, Canada

Canadian spin-offs of TV shows like *Deal or No Deal* are shameful



RYAN
HEISE

to be Canadian knowing that Ben Mulroney is flaunting our nation's karaoke singers instead of Ryan Seacrest.

But it isn't even always as blatant as the same shows being repackaged for distribution above the 49th parallel. CTV's *Whistler* is essentially *The OC* with snow—same horrible acting, same melodrama and same overtly ridiculous storylines. I've got a few ideas for CTV: how about a *Desperate Housewives*-type show set in Peterborough, Ontario? There's nothing like the relaxing vibes of cottage country to make people commit adultery. Or how about a gritty, serialized crime-drama on the mean streets of Edmonton's inner city? That's got Gemini award written all over it.

We've already commercialized our identity through "patriotic" advertisements for shitty beer, Tim Hortons—which has been American-owned since 1995—and the fact that we're the only legitimate television market for professional hockey in the world. Canadians shouldn't feel the need to define themselves and their entertainment by adding a colon followed by *Canadian Edition* to everything that's popular south of the border.

It would be nice if television was as easy to break into as music, what with the Canadian music scene being as prominent—both nationally and internationally—as it is. However, we're slowly plodding along with shows such as *Corner Gas*, *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and *The Rick Mercer Report*. They may not be the greatest programs, but at least they're legitimately Canadian and getting some exposure.

We need to stop trying to keep up with the Jones' in regards to television. Canadian entertainment industries may not have the capital to produce first-rate shows, but re-branding American atrocities to give "the little guy," a chance to strike it rich or gain national fame for six months isn't something we should be proud of.

Howie, tell the banker to fuck off. No deal.

2007 EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS and UPASS REFERENDUM

ONLINE VOTING FROM FEBRUARY 8 - 15

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*Candidates are campaigning as a slate (aligned platform)

You will also have the opportunity to vote on whether or not to implement a Universal Transit Pass for graduate students.

If implemented, the UPASS would cost \$75 per semester, would provide unlimited regular access to ETS, St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit. The UPASS would be mandatory for all students except students with disabilities that make use of DATS, and students registered exclusively off-campus.

For more information, please contact gsaceo@ualberta.ca, and visit www.gsa.ualberta.ca to read about this year's candidates for executive positions

