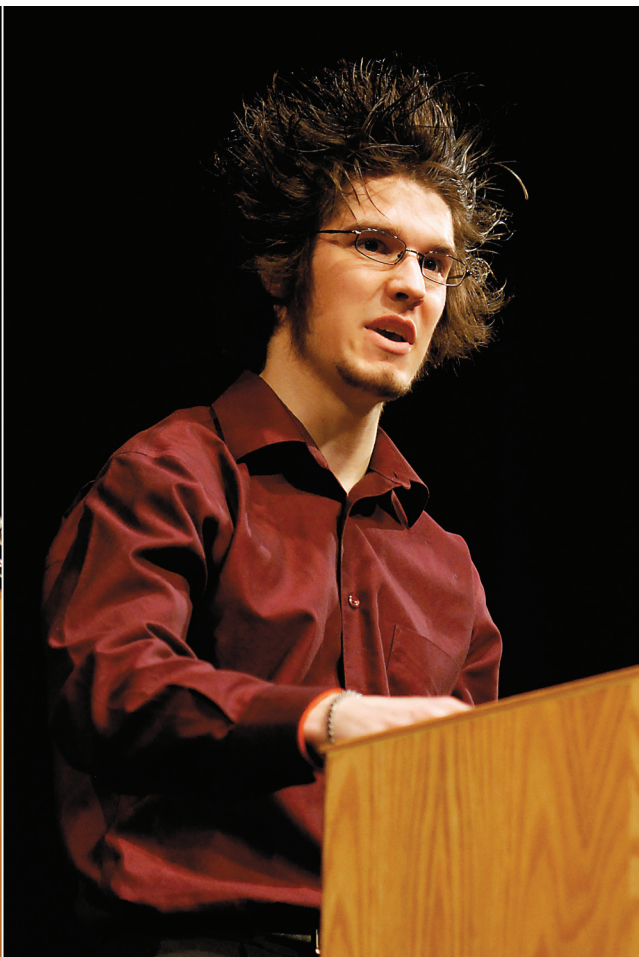


THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 37 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, 6 march, 2007



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

SMELLS LIKE SU ELECTION Presidential hopefuls Michael Janz, Cody Lawrence and Amanda Henry sound off during the candidates' forum at Myer Horowitz yesterday afternoon. Candidates running for all positions, as well as the referendum and plebiscite campaigns, spelled out their platforms and took questions from potential voters in preparation for the election, which takes place on 7-8 March. If you're hankering for more election coverage, you can find the candidate Q&As starting on page five, as well as a special, by-the-experts guide to the candidates and their platforms on page 13.

SU joke candidates not kidding around: CRO

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

On March 7 and 8, Soundwave, Chubby Puff Ball, Ursa Minor, Chuck Norris and George Rho will offer undergraduate students voting in the Students' Union elections some creative alternatives.

The five joke candidates are running for a variety of SU Executive positions. This year, any position that has a joke candidate vying for it is matched by an equal number of real candidates—and before a sixth joke candidate, Facebook, dropped out of the race, there had actually been more joke presidential candidates than real ones.

"It's really hard to predict the number of joke candidates we get each year," Chief Returning Officer Rachel Woynorowski said. "I think part of what might have helped encourage joke candidates to run this year is that joke candidates have a slightly increased budget."

She explained that while regular candidates receive \$550 per campaign, joke candidates had their funding raised up from half of that to two-thirds.

Woynorowski added that while some feel spending money on joke candidate campaigns is a waste of student dollars, in terms of advertising value, they play a significant role in attracting voters.

"It's a debate that was actually held in Students' Council earlier this year, and the reason why Council decided to continue to fund joke candidates and more so increase their budget is because joke candidates engage a portion of the population, which is normally not involved in the SU," she said.

"I think part of what might have helped encourage joke candidates to run this year is that joke candidates have a slightly increased budget."

**RACHEL WOYNOROWSKI,
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER**

"The payoff for us spending a couple hundred dollars to fund a joke candidate campaign to engage hundreds more students is a much more effective way than if we were to spend, let's say, the same amount of money on a Gateway ad."

PLEASE SEE **JOKE** ♦ PAGE 4
PLEASE SEE **SMITH** ♦ PAGE 11

Pandas win Nationals banner

Women's volleyball overcome first-seed curse to capture CIS championship

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

CALGARY—Though the first-seed has been anathema in the CIS women's volleyball championships for the past six seasons, the Pandas rode their top ranking to victory in Saturday's gold medal match in the Jack Simpson Gym at the University of Calgary. The 3-1 win over the Laval Rouge et Or—the defending champions—was the first time a favourite had won the Red River Trophy since 1999/2000, when Alberta took its last title.

"There's no feeling that matches this one in sport," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said. "Being able to play at their very best when it's most difficult to do it is the [mark] of a champion, and they were certainly able to do it today."

CIS Player of the Year and tournament MVP Tiffany Dodds carried Alberta all weekend—including a 32-kill, .509 hitting percentage performance in Friday's five-set semifinal victory over Calgary. Dinos coach Kevin Boyles called "the best individual performance from a women's volleyball I've ever seen." But, it was the rest of the Pandas offence that led the to victory on Saturday. Dodds still had 17 kills, but Jocelyn Blair and Samantha Wojtkiw added a dozen each, while outside hitter



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

BANNER YEAR The volleyball Pandas celebrate their first-place win in Calgary.

Tiffany Proudfoot had six and middle Alexa Berton finished with seven. Wojtkiw's pair of aces with the score 22-19 in the fourth set put the game out of reach before Dodds finished off the Rouge et Or.

"I looked at the board and saw it was 24, and I got really excited and could barely jump on the last serve," said Wojtkiw, a third-year middle in

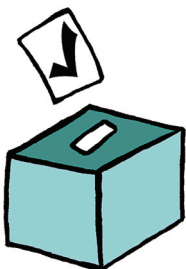
her first season with the Pandas after transferring from Grant MacEwan.

While all-Canadians Dodds and Blair were both named as tournament all-stars—along with setter Daryll Roper—the Pandas displayed versatility throughout the tournament.

PLEASE SEE **PANDAS** ♦ PAGE 30
ALSO READ **RENFREE** ON PAGE 28

Inside

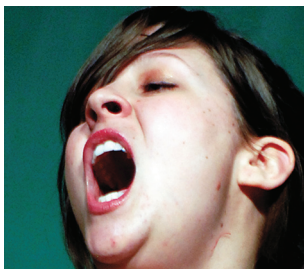
News	1-7
Opinion	9-12
Feature	13-15
A&E	24-27
Sports	28-31
Classifieds	34
Comics	35



Hacking the ballot

What do you get when you mix an ex-president with SU hacks and student activists? A really long conversation.

FEATURE, PAGE 13



Going downtown

As always, *The Vagina Monologues* hope to inform audiences about the everyday violence women experience.

A&E, PAGE 24