

## Pandas rehearse beats for beatdown of Clan

Alberta women's karaoke team preparing their 'A' game and jock-rock stylings for grudge match against rival SF-Wu Tang Clan

SPARROW ROW  
Sprouts Eater

If the last few weekends have been any indication, the University of Alberta Pandas karaoke team is well on its way to turning its season around. After an uneven start to the year, the Pandas (6-4-Bflat) are undefeated in their three most recent matches, and they hope they can keep that stone rolling as they prepare for their game against traditional rivals the SF-Wu Tang Clan (5-6-Fsharp) at home this weekend.

"We're going to put two strong performances on the mic," Pandas head coach Lemming Bishopric said. "You never know how the bouncing ball on top of the words is going to go after that, but if you take care of your own business, your own vocal range, often times the results follow."

The Clan were CIS silver medallists last year but graduated six of their starting vocalists—including 2007 CIS Rapper of the Year Ol' Dirty Bastard—and have struggled so far this year to regain their footing. Clan head coach Danny "Method" Mann acknowledged that it has been something of a rebuilding year for his team so far, but is pleased with the way his rookies have been performing.

"[They] raise me up, so I can stand on mountains; [they] raise me up, to walk on stormy seas," he explained. "I am strong when I am on [their] shoulders; [they] raise me up, to more than I can be."

Though not direct regional adversaries, the Pandas and Clan have nurtured a simmering rivalry since their showdown at the Canada West final four years ago. In the choral freestyle round tie-breaker, SF-Wu defeated Alberta by a single point with a stirring rendition of Mariah Carey's "Heartbreaker."

The Pandas protested the victory, claiming that the Clan had committed an illegal beat-boxing infraction, and there's been bad blood between the two teams since.

According to second-year Pandas soprano Shelby Dion, this acrimonious history just



KILLER FELONY

**WHOO, THERE IT IS** Though their cardio workouts vary in intensity, the karaoke Pandas are each fully dedicated to a win against the SF-Wu Tang Clan.

means extra motivation for her and her teammates.

"First I was afraid; I was petrified [at the prospect of trying to take the Clan on again]," she said. "But then I spent so many nights thinking how [they] did me wrong. I grew strong; I learned how to carry on."

Personal feelings aside, a victory against the Clan would be important for the Pandas' playoff

hopes. Currently tied for fourth place in Canada West, the Pandas need another win to be able to secure a spot in the division finals.

"I think the weekend is going to be big for the U of A/SF-Wu battle," Bishopric said. "But it would be especially huge for our mental preparation to be able to [clinch] now."

Key to a Pandas victory this weekend will be their 40-minute freestyle medley, which

kicks off with the 2Unlimited classic "Get Ready 4 This" and climaxes with a "Cotton-Eye Joe"/"Country Roads" remix.

"Defence in any league, in anything, wins championships. It's easy to play offence because you've got the lyrics, but defence is done through battling, position, and commitment," Bishopric said. "That's what it takes for us to be successful."



AUTO-EROTIC ASPHYXIATION

**IT TASTES LIKE WHALE** The Bears are having a hard time finding opponents willing to play them because of a 'fraidy-cat' epidemic sweeping Canada West.

## Bear-phobia benches Dinos roster

One by one, the Calgary team succumbed to highly contagious fear of losing

CRAWL BLOWIN  
Mushroom Eater

The home-and-home series between the Calgary Dinos and Alberta Golden Bears hockey teams scheduled for this weekend has been postponed after an outbreak of the willies at the University of Calgary.

Six Dinos have been diagnosed with the disease—also commonly known as the jitters, the heebie-jeebies, or lily-liveredness; and which is transferred through proximity to heights, real bears, snakes, a pregnant girlfriend, or physics midterms. Eight more are showing symptoms—which include profuse sweating, goose bumps, a slightly yellow tinge, vomiting, and potentially swollen testicles—prompting health officials to recommend that this weekend's games be rescheduled to prevent the spread of the disease.

"It came from the regional health board, and had nothing to do with us probably getting swept," said Calgary head coach Scott Atkinson, whose team has only beaten Alberta once in the past twenty-something years. "One of our players got the willies after watching game tape a month ago and realizing we were going to get our

asses handed to us. Once he talked to the rest of the team, players started coming into my office with excuses not to play this weekend. So the issue of us being able to field a team is one part of it, but probably the most important part is that we just don't want to feel the embarrassment of 2000 people seeing us wet ourselves up and down the ice all night."

**"You want fear? I'll show you—and the Students' Union—what fear looks like."**

STEVE KIRKHAM  
BEAR SCAT CREATOR/OWNER

In addition to the postponement of this weekend's games, the Dinos were forced to cancel their exhibition match against the Canadian World Junior Championships team on 13 December, fearing that many of the infected players won't have finished hiding under their beds by then.

Golden Bears head coach Eric Thurston expressed regret over not playing this weekend, as he felt his team was finishing a tough stretch of

their schedule and looking forward to "what feels like a second bye week" against Calgary.

"This may be clichéd to say, but I think they need to suck it up and take it like men," he said. "We could have really used the break in our schedule. We were going to rehab a couple of injured players; I was going to let my son's pee-wee team onto the ice for about 15 minutes in the second period; there was just a lot of excitement."

"I'm not saying that they were going to lose—because this is Canada West hockey, and any team can beat any other on any given night if they don't play at 110 per cent—but we were definitely going to win."

Make-up dates have not yet been announced, but both Atkinson and Thurston brought up the potential for mid-week rematches.

"Who cares if the guys miss a bunch of school? They're athletes. It's not like their teachers won't just fudge the numbers anyways."

Rescheduling will be a joint venture between both athletic departments in the coming weeks, which will probably begin after the Alberta side stops posting videos on YouTube depicting the Dinos clutching stuffed animals and calling for their mothers.