



this monkey is riding a dog. that's just crazy.

Know what else is crazy? Our lack of female opinion writers. Alright, fine, I'll take a goddamn shower. But now that I'm clean you should come out to our **4pm Thursday meetings in SUB 3-04.**

Gateway Opinion
Getting straight to the punch since 1910



Choosing body art shouldn't be a life or death decision.

Tattoos and body piercing can put you at risk for contracting hepatitis C or hepatitis B. Both are serious liver diseases that can be spread through improperly sterilized tattooing or piercing equipment or through contaminated inks.

To find out how you can protect yourself, talk to your doctor or public health nurse.

Funds raised by LISA support liver research, education & support programs in Northern Alberta.

LISA is the official UofA voluntary chapter of the Canadian Liver Foundation.
www.liverinfo.ca

Online study groups no different from working together in library



SAM BROOKS

"The faculty should be applauding Avenir for recognizing the need for students to work collaboratively and providing a medium for them to do so, rather than hanging him out to dry. After all, in the careers we students are training for, we'll be constantly working with our colleagues."

It's no secret that, as students, we often employ the help of friends to make it through some tough assignments. This is something most students do, but when they're bouncing ideas off of friends, few give any thought as to whether or not this could be considered cheating. So how far do you have to go before you're stretching the boundaries of academic integrity?

Apparently Chris Avenir, a student at Ryerson University, stretched them a little too far, and it whipped back at him like a snapped rubber band: he was failed in his class and recommended for expulsion. This was all due to his involvement in a Facebook group created with the intention of lending a helping hand when needed, which demonstrates how seriously misguided the current system that wants to hang Avenir is. We should be singing his praises for endorsing co-operative learning, not punishing him—because he didn't do anything wrong.

I can't claim to know all of the details in Avenir's case, but it's safe to say that you would have to screw up pretty badly to face the onslaught of charges that are being thrown at him. And what did he do to deserve this? Nothing other than having "group administrator" stamped

beside his name. If he was actually cheating, I could see how maybe one charge could be laid against him, but there were 146 members of that group, and hanging one person for not one or two but nearly 150 counts of alleged cheating is completely absurd.

Avenir's collaboration with his peers is a far cry from dropping your pen during an exam to look up the answers written on a note tucked into your shoe, which is the sort of act that most of us would picture when we think of cheating. The faculty should be applauding Avenir for recognizing the need for students to work collaboratively and providing a medium for them to do so rather than hanging him out to dry. After all, in the careers we students are training for, we'll be constantly working with our colleagues. Anyone who thinks that they have to work alone won't be very successful.

When I first began working towards an engineering degree, I received two pieces of advice from friends and family who knew the trade: the first year is the hardest and you can't do it alone. Up until recently, engineering students at the U of A had a similar Facebook study group that had well over 400 members, and it was a good support group

for getting through that difficult first year. After this story broke, our group was terminated. However, while this group was in use, the dealings online weren't any different to what you'd find in a library.

If a member of the faculty were to see students working together at a table, they wouldn't give it any further thought, so co-operating online shouldn't be treated any differently. Sure, there were solutions posted to the questions, but they were used the same way that you'd glance at a solution guide to see if you're on the right track. Anyone foolish enough to blindly copy from the site would be shooting themselves in the foot because they wouldn't have any mastery of the concepts needed to pass the course. In fact, there are some professors right here at the U of A who set up their own online forums specifically for the benefit of their students—all that he did was take that same initiative upon himself.

Students everywhere should be cheering him on and hoping that he wins his fight because Avenir stands for every student that's ever asked a buddy for help with his homework. As for me, I'm still looking for a library with a table that can fit 400.

In US, race overshadows gender issues



GARY ALLEN

Obama seems to have courted. Finally, I must note that while racism is indeed an important issue, it shouldn't overshadow others, and it shouldn't be a central reason for voting.

But if the US presidential race is the political equivalent of the Oscars, then Barack is my *Crash*. He's a strong contender that deals with a pertinent issue, but ultimately doesn't force his audience to really deal with any of their deep-rooted prejudices because, by-and-large, they think that they've already dealt with them.

Many outside the US have been outraged at the treatment of Hillary Clinton by the American media, which seems to be completely enamoured with Obama. The media also spends a lot of time focused on Obama overcoming racism and uniting a nation that's looking for change while undermining Clinton's fight to become the first female president. Underlying it all is the fact that though many Americans would prefer a black man to any woman as president, there are few willing to admit it.

In a recent *New York Times* piece, another noted feminist, Gloria Steinem, questioned whether a woman with the same upbringing and credentials as Barack Obama, including only one term in the US Senate, would ever be considered for the nomination—and she's totally right. No woman with Obama's credentials would ever be considered for the nomination. The American public unfairly characterizes her struggle as less important or difficult than his.

You may ask how this political clash affects us in Canada, but there are three reasons why you should be passionate about the forthcoming nominations and elections south of the border. First of all, the American president is one of the most powerful positions in the Western world. Secondly, the Canadian economy is intrinsically linked to the fate of the US. Lastly, fighting for human rights should be a cause that we can all unite for, and fighting sexism is something that we have to examine in our own country as well as in that of our neighbours. Unfortunately, on this historic occasion, signs are pointing to another win for *Crash*—but hopefully, it's all just media spin.

No woman with Obama's credentials would ever be considered for the nomination.

Hillary, on the other hand, is this year's *Brokeback Mountain*: she's expressive, strong, and contradicts our expectations. In choosing Hillary, Americans would be forced to examine the entrenched but rarely examined sexism that continues to pervade their society.

Robin Morgan recently wrote an article for the *Guardian* questioning how the American public would have responded to a heckler shouting "Shine my shoes" at Obama, and the answer is quite obvious: there would be public outrage and indignation that anyone could still hold such an opinion, let alone express it in public. However, someone did shout "Iron my shirt" at Clinton, and the reaction was much more subdued. Few in the American media treated it as more than a joke.

As this year's Oscars came and went, I couldn't help but remember the 2006 Academy Awards in which *Crash* beat out *Brokeback Mountain* for Best Picture. While the latter was favoured to win, the race really came down to a battle between two causes: racism and homophobia.

In the battle for causes in America, racism is always top dog, as Americans can reflect on how far they've come as a people and reimagine the struggle for human rights as a fight that all Americans fought and won together. This nostalgic look at race equality fails not only to take into account current race issues—it also takes focus away from other pressing matters.

There's no better example of this than the current Democratic presidential nomination process in the United States. In Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, we essentially have two candidates running largely on the basis of their respective causes, and it looks as though racism is set to win out again—this time over gender equality.

The candidates obviously do have platforms. Obama claims to represent change, while Clinton claims to have shown experience through past decisions. I should also point out that I support Clinton over Obama due to her years of political service and her move away from the fanaticism that

CRA Tax Clinic

Location: U of A Tory Atrium

Tax Clinic Limits* Per Family

<p>(1) Person - \$30,000 (2) People - \$37,000 (3) People - \$40,500 (4) People - \$43,500 (5) People - \$47,000</p>	<p>Also: we cannot complete returns for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deceased persons - Bankrupt individuals - Individuals with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capital gains/losses - employment expenses, - business/rental income Interest income over \$1000
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Tax Clinic Operating Hours

Week 1: (M - F) March 10 - 14 10 - 4pm
 Week 2: (M - F) March 17 - 21 10 - 4pm
 Week 3: (M - F) March 24 - 28 10 - 7pm

For more information, please visit:
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