

## SCARE AWAY HUNGER THIS HALLOWEEN

Annual BUSU Food Drive set for Oct 31

Graham Janz

AMIDST THE GHOSTLY, ghastly All Hallows' Eve excitement, BUSU and ACCSA will be hosting the annual Hallowe'en Food Drive. Students will scour the city, knocking on doors, asking inhabitants for generous donations of non-perishable, non-expired foods to raise money - 15 cents per pound of food - for their student clubs. Individuals who do not belong to a student club may gather food in order to compete for other rewards. A Samsung cell phone, an iPhone, and a set of computer speakers will be awarded to the best costumes, and there will be free pizza for everyone!

Rewarding participants 15 cents per pound of food is a recent improvement on the Food Drive. In previous years, the larger clubs had a greater advantage over smaller ones and would naturally walk away with prizes. This time around, instead of awarding clubs first, second, or third place prizes, all participants are given equal incentive to go forth and collect as much food as possible without walking away empty-handed.

Other than the Hallowe'en Food Drive and the generous donations following last year's suspicious KDC fire, the food bank doesn't receive very



many donations. This makes this particular event paramount for the survival of the food bank, which is an invaluable resource for students facing financial difficulties. Statistics show that only one in four individuals in need of nutritional assistance are likely to take advantage of services like food

banks, and the need for such assistance is on the rise. Many students may not be aware that this service exists at Brandon University. Others may be too proud to seek it out. This shouldn't be the case. The typical characteristics of a student are broke and hungry. The food bank at least helps alleviate the latter.

Raymond Thomson, Vice President Internal of BUSU, would discourage participants from thinking of the event as a fierce and bloody battle between BU and ACC. "This year," he said, "we're really trying to work with the ACC Student Association. It's not about BU or ACC, it's a Brandon-wide community-building event." When asked if it was still a competition, he replied, "It's a friendly competition. We don't want to lose to ACC and I'm optimistic that we will gather more food. It's all in good fun."

To enter you must sign your soul away to BUSU in their dungeon-office - or contact Raymond Thomson. All participants will be assigned to specific areas: BU will be collecting west of 18th Street. The food drive takes place during the regular trick-or-treating hours, beginning at 4:30 on Hallowe'en and ending at 8:30. Volunteers are welcome to stick around afterwards to help transport food to the food bank and eat pizza. §

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The Quill

## WORKSHOPS ON CAMPUS

The Academic Skills Centre is offering workshops all through the fall semester for any students interested. These workshops cover both learning skills and math skills.

The next workshop scheduled is:

### Memory Strategies

Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

12:40 pm–1:30 pm and 1:40 pm–2:30 pm

McKenzie 005

## CLUB FEATURE: BUSMEA

### The Brandon University Students Music Education Association

Taylor Coppicus

**ARE YOU A** Music Education student looking for some professional development? If so, the Brandon University Students Music Education Association is the group for you. This group organizes and hosts development opportunities for all interested members. The group executives meet every Wednesday at 5:00 pm in the School of Music Boardroom. The group does not hold regular meetings for group members, but all executive meetings are open to the public. There is a \$10 membership fee, and anyone is welcome to join.

The executive consists of Claire Powell (president), Erin Dodds (vice-president), Kelsey Brown (secretary/treasurer), Emma Gordon (corresponding officer), Lisa Van Mackelbergh (events chair), Janet Rankin (fundraising chair), Sara Bittner and Emily Turcott (student representatives), and Matthew May, Megan Pokrant and Madeline Lowe (media relations officers). BUSMEA has a variety of events planned for the first semester, like the BUSMEA Bake Sale that was held October 25, a Halloscreen Movie night October 30th (room 1-57 in the music school), a Chili/Soup sale November 2nd, and Lesson/Units: Planning for Success November 18th. The group also holds an annual conference, Da Capo, which is specifically for music education students. This year the conference will take place on January 19th, 2013. Any interested students can contact the group at busmea@brandonu.ca, or find them on Facebook, as well as on Twitter at @BUSMEA. §

## ANNUAL RECORD AND MUSIC SALE HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

### Park Community Centre taken over by music enthusiasts of all ages

Graham Janz

**I HAD NEVER** been to the Annual Fall Record and Music Sale – until now! On arrival I was surprised by the amount of vehicles surrounding the Park Community Centre. If I didn't ride my bike, there would be no place for me to park. Inside, the main floor room was filled wall to wall with tables covered in boxes and crates stuffed with records. Unsure of any appropriate mannerisms, I quickly took to thumbing through boxes to see what I might come across. I can't give an account of my findings here, the collection was far too vast.

I soon found myself mingling amongst a bunch of older men telling their tales of being 16 years old. "I remember buying this when I was sixteen," a visitor recalls. Upon hearing these words I thought of all the punk shows I had attended at the Park Community Centre when I was sixteen. Perhaps these individuals are veterans of the same tradition I took part in not so long ago. "I'm not a hoarder," one explained as he purchased some records, "but I can never have enough of these."

Vinyl records were not the only items being sold. CDs, cassettes, DVDs, shirts, guitars, and a violin were all up for grabs – and reasonably priced, too. Two cooks were busily preparing foods and drinks in the kitchen. A table for donations of non-perishable food items for the Samaritan House was placed near the front entrance, and it appeared to have successfully gathered a reasonably proportionate haul.

A long time ago, I somehow lost my copy of Close to the Edge, a Yes album. I mean I lost the record, but, strangely enough, I still have its case. Excitement took hold as I managed to find another copy for only eight dollars. I also found a copy of Fragile, another Yes album, for five dollars and the generous salesman said I could have it for four. I was well pleased.

Before I left I thought I'd take a look at the guitars and instruments in the front storage room. The salesman encouraged me to try the guitars, and I wasn't given the option not to. I played for about a minute or so on the two electric guitars while he recounted the tale of how he had acquired one of the guitars. - *continued on page 3*

## GET OUT AND VOTE!

### BUSU by-elections this Thursday and Friday

Brady Knight

Assistant

Editor-in-Chief

**IT'S TIME FOR** students to cast their ballots! The Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU) will be conducting by-elections this week, to fill the positions left vacant after the regular elections last spring.

The final nomination period came to a close on October 19th, and campaigning has been underway since October 22nd. Seven candidates will be contesting six different positions when students head to the polls later this week.

Returning officer Celina Tsang notes that polls will be open this Thursday and Friday (November 1st and 2nd) from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be three polling stations on campus, located in the mingling area, the Queen Elizabeth II music building and in front of the cafeteria.

To vote, all you have to do is visit the polling station of your choice, present your student ID card and fill out your ballot. In order to vote for faculty-specific positions, you must be enrolled in that faculty, while for constituency positions, you must self-identify as a member of that community.

The candidates up for election are as follows:

#### International Commissioner

Mohammed Taofiq

#### Residence Commissioner

Cameron Clifford Flamand  
Adham El-Emam

#### Racialised Commissioner

Manuel Godoy

#### Disability Commissioner

Kris Keen

#### Aboriginal Commissioner

Greg Monias

#### Music Senator

Greg Monias

# LAST-MINUTE HALLOWEEN COSTUMES IDEAS

Real on-the-fly outfits for today's university student

Tye Dandridge-Evancio

SO, IT'S THE WEEK of Halloween, folks! I bet y'all are just as excited as I am! I just can't wait to throw on my wig, glue on the nails, powder on a little blush, and pull on this skin tight leather... never mind. Ahem Moving on.

Really though, it is Halloween. And while there are many of you that are way too excited to get completely hammered during what is literally the middle of the week, some of us are much less enthusiastic. I mean, we all know that life can be hard when you have to budget for an entire term's worth of courses, food, living expenses, school supplies, and enough alcohol to take down an entire elephant family. When it comes to days like Halloween, it may seem so much easier to just turn a blind eye, stay home, and pretend to study while you really just watch You-Tube videos all day. I mean, who has enough money for a costume, let alone the creativity and enough expendable items in one's wardrobe to make one?

Fear not, oh hard-working student! Here in this golden little article, I shall bestow upon you the secrets of costumes so easy to come by, you'll feel like you've been wearing them already.

**The bag-dress:** Oh aren't you clever! Your friends will think you to be quite humorous and fun-loving in this quirky ensemble! "OMG!" they will all screech. "That is so awesome, I wish I had thought of that!" You'll look like the life of the party, but like you also don't take Halloween all that seriously. You just threw on these bags that, like, you just had, like, lying around! If you were a girl, you threw on some totally rank lipstick. If you were a guy, you messed up your hair and cut holes around your midsection to highlight your six pack (or ironically highlight the lack there of). Yes, you will be so funny to look at so long as all this manages to make it through the night and remain on your body and not catch and tear on all the tables you pass. Little does anyone know you secretly had this as a backup plan the whole week before, while making lame efforts to find something or anything to wear that was an actual costume. Yes, clever you.

**The mooching friend:** The most cost-saving way to get that that ball in style: stealing Cinderella's dress. Yes, that's right. But it's not like you're stealing or anything. It's just that you're a really good friend, and they're your best friend, and you would really do anything if they asked you to (NOT, just kidding! lolz). Basically, you'll be wearing, half, if not more, of your BFF's costume. You'll probably both look a little half-baked, and pretty strange. Why is she wearing the make up and tiara while you're wearing the dress? Why are you only wearing one glove? Is that a donkey head? What was this costume supposed to be in the first place? But the important part is that you look somewhat like you belong, and now have that special person whose name you'll forget five years down the road to share the party with.

**The one who's trying too hard:** Congrats, you have money. Well – maybe your parents do, that's how the bills and groceries get paid, right? Aw, ok, pretend you're independent, that's cute. You really did hit the jackpot though. You found the fangs, the blood, the fur, or big glittery heels you wanted and now you look amazing. Your friends will be jealous, you may even win a costume party prize, and you'll certainly look like a boss in all those pictures. Just remember this when you spend the entire night protecting your overly expensive suit of one-time-only armor like it was your only child.

**The binder-full-of-women:** You're creative, you're witty, and you're smart. Hence this little number. Not just this reference from the latest chronicle of the debates, but any online meme, sitcom, or political happenings reference will do. Sure, only 50% (I'm being nice, more like 20%) of the people you see will know what this random inside joke you're making means. But much like the whiny and emotionally charged face book statuses go, the people that are really your friends will understand, like and repost.

**The sensibilities-to-the-wind approach:** Pamela Anderson, look out! Boy or girl, you look hot. You've been working out all last month because it all leads to this! You are the sex bomb! Boys, you've got the abs, sunglasses, and barely anything else. Girls, you've got the styled hair, big pouty lips, skimpy underwear, and thighs that

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could crack Mike Tyson's forearm in half. All you need is a group of plainer-looking friends, whose photos you will ruin by either poking your chest right into the lens or jumping in front and flexing your bicep, and you're good to go. What are you supposed to be again? Um, duh! You're Adam, because you glued a paper leaf to your underwear! Just because it's Halloween doesn't mean you can't look good too. Just make to yell and cuss at people that stare at you for longer than fifty seconds, and to call them a pervert really loudly. Those jerks are gross, and like, you're just trying to have fun for a night. Who are they to judge you?

**The trying-not-at-all:** You just want to have fun. You don't have much money to spend, other than drinking money, and you want to go out. Who cares if you don't dress up? I bet there's going to be, like, a million people out there who did the same as you. Calm down people, Halloween is for kids. Just go in your best party shirt and shoes, and you'll be fine. Maybe when you're there, you can not dance, not smile, not play any fun games, and not look like you belong in any group photos! You may even be mistaken for a staff member and, if you're really lucky, get handed a tray to clean tables with. Sounds like fun, right? You could even take some fun pictures of your own with a cheesy grin as you point at all your friends that could actually bother to give it a go. Look, maybe you won't look the best, but you'll definitely be the coolest person at that party. Trying is for chumps.

So there you are; some great outfits worthy of the best gritty reality/ horror movies in Hollywood you've ever seen. I really do implore you to get dressed up and go out. You did just finish midterms, right? So get out there and take the next few days off, champ. It'll be fun, trust me. Though if you do try any of the above suggestions, stay away from mirrors, I hear the unforgiving truth hurts just a little bit. §

## ANNUAL RECORD AND MUSIC SALE HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Continued from page 2

"I repair guitars," he said, "I repaired a lady's guitar and she couldn't afford to pay for the repairs, so she gave me this guitar instead. It can be yours for \$150." I said I didn't have enough money on me, but what I really meant was I'm not interested. Not that it wasn't a nice guitar – it had a warm tone and seemed to be in good condition. Still, I didn't plan on purchasing a new guitar this weekend. I think he might have been expecting my return half an hour later. Whoops.

If you didn't have a chance to check out The 12th Annual Fall Record Sale, be sure to stop by next year for a wide variety of vinyl records, and perhaps, if you are old enough, a trip down memory lane. For those who do not want to wait that long, be sure to attend Rockin' Richard's Record and CD Sale on March 17th, 2013 at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg. This is supposed to be one of the largest record sales in Canada. You can call Richard or Alex for more information or to rent a table, at 204-338-3655. §

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## TASTY TREATS FOR YOUR HALLOWEEN PARTY

Entertain your friends with Halloween-themed food and drink

**ARE YOU SEARCHING** for something different to serve up at your Halloween bash this year? Look no further than these simple and easy-to-make recipes!

### Candy Apple Martini

Surprise the ghouls and goblins at your Halloween party with these thirst-quenching martinis. Cranberry juice and sour apple liqueur makes them tart yet terrific!

#### Ingredients

- 1-1/2 to 2 cups ice cubes
- 2 ounces vodka
- 2 ounces sour apple liqueur
- 2 ounces cranberry juice
- 1/2 ounce butterscotch schnapps liqueur

#### Directions

- Fill a shaker three-fourths full with ice. Add the vodka, apple liqueur, cranberry juice and butterscotch schnapps.
- Cover and shake for 10-15 seconds or until condensation forms on outside of shaker. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

**Yield:** 1 serving.

### Halloween Caramel Apples

A chocolate drizzle sprinkled with crushed candy makes ordinary caramel apples especially yummy—like the fancy ones in some candy shops. Be sure to start with the apples at room temperature so the caramel won't slip off like it tends to on chilled apples.

#### Ingredients

- 1 package (11-1/2 ounces) milk chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons shortening
- 28 ounces chewy caramels
- 1/4 cup water
- 8 large tart apples, room temperature
- 8 Popsicle sticks
- 3 to 4 Butterfinger candy bars (2.1 ounces each), coarsely crushed

#### Directions

- In a microwave-safe bowl, melt chocolate chips and shortening; stir until smooth and set aside. In another microwave-safe bowl, microwave the caramels and water, uncovered, on high for 1 minute; stir. Heat 30-45 seconds longer or until caramels are melted; stir until smooth.
- Line a baking sheet with waxed paper and grease

the paper; set aside. Wash and thoroughly dry apples. Insert a Popsicle stick into each; dip into caramel mixture, turning to coat. Place on prepared pan. Drizzle with melted chocolate. Sprinkle with crushed candy bars. Refrigerate until set. Remove from the refrigerator 5 minutes before serving; cut into wedges.

**Yield:** 8 servings.

*Editor's Note: This recipe was tested in a 1,100-watt microwave. §*



Candy Apple Martini  
Photo credit TasteOfHome.com

# AND I PLEAD: NO MORE ZOMBIES

Just make them go away

Matt Berry

WE ALL KNOW about Christmas wishes, but am I allowed to have a Halloween wish? If I could, I know what it would be: that by this time next year, I would be able to read, watch, or listen to anything or go anywhere without being constantly bombarded by images of the living dead – because really, the whole zombie fad of the past half-decade has simply gone on long enough.

Since around the time of the 2004 Dawn of the Dead remake, zombies have become ubiquitous: zombies are the big thing on television with *The Walking Dead*; “zombie walks” are taking place all over; and conversations about the “zombie apocalypse” are omnipresent in real life and online. Even *KX96* has been getting in on the zombie thing recently. So, if you’re someone who finds the whole thing deadly dull, there’s no escape. It’s a nightmare scenario scarier than any zombie movie.

I can understand the appeal of zombies as a Halloween costume – and it’s pretty much the

same appeal they have for Hollywood movie producers. They’re just about the cheapest costume you can have without looking too cheap – just throw some fake blood and gore on your face, maybe get some tattered clothes, and voilà. Easy, allows enough room for creative interpretation, and appropriate for the season.

But as a wider cultural phenomenon? Talk about stretching a thin premise way past the breaking point. Zombies are probably the least interesting monster in our greater popular culture – neither a misunderstood beast like the Creature from the Black Lagoon, nor a villainous schemer like Dracula: just a vague threatening presence. With all the cultural specifics of their West African and Caribbean origins long since scrubbed out, as Western civilization is wont to do with traditions coming in from outside Western Europe, zombies are a bore: a blank slate. This is why they were perfect for filmmakers like George Romero to turn into vehicles for social metaphor. They were simply things to project meaning onto, not things with

any meaning themselves.

But what meaning do zombies have these days, aside from “zombies are cool”? It seems that most people interested in zombies only really want to see what was already done in *Night of the Living Dead*, with no new ideas or interpretations. And they want to see it over and over and over again. Familiarity is said to breed contempt, but it can breed complacency as well, something that marketing has taught us well. People know the post-Romero zombie clichés, and they’ve enjoyed them before, so they repeat them in hopes of getting that enjoyment again. Like a drug addiction, however, they will need more and more zombie things in order to attain that high – and the process will continue ad infinitum. And since zombies are a cool thing now, they are given license to go through that process publicly, subjecting the rest of us to the zombie fervour.

So please, Great Spirit of Samhain, make the zombies go away. §

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## YOUR 2012 HALLOWEEN COSTUME GUIDE

No costume? No problem!

Katie Driedger

WITH WORK, MIDTERMS, and the chilly fall temperatures that make you want to never leave your bed, it can be hard to even remember what day of the week it is. For those who don’t know, Halloween is right around the corner. It is a festival of chaos, with children invading the jack-o’lantern-lit

streets in search of sweet, sugary delight: the youngsters adorned from head-to-toe as their favorite superheroes or scoundrels; the flowing gowns with tangled pearl chains and sparkling tiaras bobbing up and down the sidewalk, echoing the rustling of chainmail and swords, complete with the flashing of red and blue lightsabers. But, really, kids shouldn’t be the only ones having fun on October 31st. Whether you are handing out candy, taking the kids trick-or-treating, or partying at the bar, you should at least dress up a little for Halloween.

Finding a good costume can be difficult. Finding a great costume is nearly impossible. It might be easy to dress up as a ghost, a

witch, or a cowboy, but that is why so many people wear the same old costumes every year. Every store that sells costumes is bursting at the seams with comic book heroes, angels, devils, and ninja costumes. Year after year the socials are overflowing with sexy nurses, cheerleaders, half naked firefighters, and cops. This year, take the initiative to separate yourself from the mediocre. Some of the top Halloween costumes for this fall won’t be available in your local retailer. However, inspiration for several of these ideas might be found in your own closet while other costumes might leave you up all night with glitter and a glue gun like a seventh-grade science project.

2012 served as a year for many pop-culture inspired costumes. You may take inspiration from part-time beauty pageant contestant, and full-time country hick Alana “Honey Boo Boo Child” Thompson, from the troop of male exotic dancers from the motion picture *Magic Mike*, or from Patricia Krentcil, the New Jersey woman who is pseudo-affectionately known as the “Tanning Mom” after allegedly allowing her five-year-old daughter into a tanning booth. Other costume inspirations could come from PSY, the Korean musician known for his hit *Gangnam Style*, or from the Coachella hologram of deceased rapper Tupac Shakur. Two popular costume ideas for couples could include



reality television star Kim Kardashian and her latest beau, rapper Kanye West, or Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele from the erotic novel, *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

The U.S. national election has also provided plenty of inspiration for Halloween, for the most part courtesy of the statements made by Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney during the presidential debates. Two of the easiest costumes to replicate from Mr. Romney’s controversial quotes sure to make a political statement are an unemployed Big Bird, or a woman in a binder. With either costume idea you will fit right in with the election only a couple of weeks away.

No matter what you decide to wear, have fun this Halloween! §

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# THE GRIDIRON CLOSET

How the homophobic culture of university sport is slowly changing

Darren Sharp

The Fulcrum  
(University of  
Ottawa)

OTTAWA (CUP) — As I wait for my interview with a closeted bisexual football player to begin, I consider how awkward this conversation will probably be. I don't know anything about John (name has been changed to protect anonymity). I know that he played football for a Canadian university team, I know that he's bisexual, and I know that he's told just a select few about his same-sex attraction. Only through a couple of twists of fate did I find out about him and convince him to agree to an interview. Closeted people, in my experience, are very guarded and evasive when it comes to discussing their sexuality. I expect the next half hour to be like pulling teeth.

Around 1:30 p.m., John strolls into the building. At first glance, he's your typical jock — a brick house of a man, gym bag hanging off one shoulder. There are people littered around, but no one knows what he's here to discuss. I usher him into my office and shut the door for maximum privacy. As we sit down and exchange hellos, I notice that the timid, sheepish guy I expected to be talking to is nowhere to be found. Instead, John has a million dollar smile plastered on his face and an eagerness to get the interview started.

"I'm very comfortable with my personality and my sexuality," he would tell me later. "No subject is taboo to me."

## The Final Frontier

Most gay men can pinpoint exactly when they began to realize they were attracted to other men. Even though his bisexuality was a recent revelation, John's memory is a bit foggy.

"I don't even know how it started," he says. "One day I kind of wanted to try sex with the same sex."

John's laid back attitude toward his sexuality baffles me, especially given his position as an athlete. I expected to hear tortured stories about not being able to sleep at night because he was so consumed by fear and shame; instead, my interviewee acts as though it's the least important thing on his mind.

"I'm new at this too, but slowly I'm telling more people," he says. "I think that at some point I'll have to tell everybody. It's not like a, 'Hey, I'm bi!' It's more like, 'Yeah, I'm bi. Sure, let's talk

about it.'"

His comfort level begs the question: If it's such a non-issue, why isn't he completely out of the closet? He has his reasons — very legitimate reasons, which he's asked me not to share — but very few of them have to do with being a football player.

Unfortunately, not all athletes are able to feel as comfortable as John does. Until just over a month ago, Jamie Kuntz was a bruising linebacker at the North Dakota State College of Science. Over Labour Day weekend, Kuntz was caught kissing his boyfriend in the press box at one of his team's games. He was swiftly removed from the squad after the incident. School officials maintain that Kuntz's dismissal had nothing to do with his sexuality — he was supposed to be filming the game, which



Photo credit DoubleBlue, Wikipedia.

he failed to do, and afterward he lied about the events that occurred — but Kuntz is convinced they're not telling the whole truth.

"In my opinion, I think my sexuality had 100 per cent to do with the school's deci-

sion," he said.

Unlike John, Kuntz's story is what you might expect to hear from a once-closeted gay athlete. He can recount times where he was made to feel very uncomfortable on the field.

"My decision [to not come out earlier] was made because of multiple actions by the coaches and players," he said. "I would hear gay jokes everywhere I turned. One of the players that I got along best with there told me, 'My uncle is gay and I don't like him for it.' One of the coaches would take time out of practice to make fun of a player for how he stood with his hands on his hips, and talk in a girly voice mimicking his name."

With North American society sprinting toward equality for the LGBT community, sports culture has moved at more of a crawl. Locker rooms are one of the last places where homophobia occurs

largely unchallenged. This is nothing new; sport is almost always one of the final dams to break when equality is rushing through the rest of society. One need only to look at how long it took for sports to move past the race barrier to see that it's often the final frontier for social change.

Eric Anderson is a professor from the University of Winchester in the UK who's done extensive research on homosexuality in university sport. He believes that sport adjusts so slowly because all of the power is concentrated in one place.

"Sport is what I call a 'near-total institution,'" he said. "A total institution, like a prison or the military, is one that controls every move one makes, all day long."

"Sport is similar. In order to excel up the rapidly decreasing opportunity structure, you must not only be a good athlete, but your mentality must conform to the orders of the lead: The coach. If you don't meet (usually his) expectations, then you don't get selected for the next round. Thus, the nature of competitive team sports is that one learns not to be a team player, but to be complicit to the authority of an individual who is normally given far too much power."

The problem is that homosexuality doesn't fit into the small box that the sport institution tries to slot each athlete into. The pressure to conform to what an athlete is supposed to be — strong, fearless, masculine — remains very present. §

*This article is the first part of a three-part series. The next part will be published on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.*

*"I'm very comfortable with my personality and my sexuality"*

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?  
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## STUDENT GROUPS: BUASC

### Getting to know the Aboriginal Student Council

Suz Duff

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President  
External

STUDENT GROUPS ARE an essential part of student culture here at Brandon University. Many groups and clubs provide services, events and other activities that help to contribute to campus life and student fulfillment. The Brandon University Aboriginal Student Council (BUASC) is a very active group on campus that is dedicated to helping Aboriginal students excel during their time here at Brandon University. I had the privilege of talking to BUASC President Julea Stoneman and BUASC Vice President Adrienne Thomas about their council and what they are doing for students.

**Suz Duff:** How many members of council does BUASC have?

**Julea Stoneman:** There are five members currently and we just held elections to fill two more positions.

**SD:** As the president of BUASC and as a student, how has being a member of BUASC been beneficial to you?

**JS:** It gives me a support group with people who are focused. It helps me to find an identity within the university while keeping my culture as an Aboriginal person.

**SD:** What kinds of services does your group provide for Aboriginal Students on Campus?

**JS:** We have cultural workshops and monthly

activities to give people support and a sense of community. We also have people from Student Services and the writing center come to the IPC (Indigenous Peoples Centre) on a weekly basis for help with learning skills. We also have a bi-weekly visits from DOCFS (Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services) where they bring in young Aboriginal girls for us to provide mentorship for. The program is really successful and it's nice for these young girls to see women who are just like them doing well in university and enjoying it.

**SD:** What events have you already put on this year and what are your plans for future events?

**Adrienne Thomas:** We started with Aboriginal Student Orientation, which included a meet & greet with students, faculty and alumni. We also had a feast for students, and had an Aboriginal artist come in and do cultural workshops. Sweats were also made available for interested students during this week. Another event that we recently held was on Friday October 19th and it was our Halloween Social, which went well.

In terms of future events, this year we are planning to have the IPC Re-Opening on October 30th at 5:30pm. It is a potluck and all students are welcome and encouraged to attend. At the end of January we are planning a Round Dance as part of the Healthy Living Centre opening, then we are having our 2nd Annual Elders Gathering in the spring. Finally we will hold our annual Gradu-

ation Powwow in June.

**SD:** What services would you like to see be made available for Aboriginal students at Brandon University?

**JS:** Currently we are working on reestablishing an Elders Council on campus. An Elders Council used to exist and we would really appreciate the assistance of the university with this process.

**SD:** How can BUSU contribute to the success of your council?

**JS:** We were promised that your council would fight for dedicated funding for BUASC in your budget. Dedicated funding would make a huge difference for our council because it would mean that we could have a reliable budget each year. We do a lot of fundraising ourselves, but we never know if we are going to be financially stable enough to put on our events and have our services available.

I would like to thank both Julea and Adrienne for allowing me to conduct this interview. I feel it is really important for all students to know what resources are available for them on campus.

If you are a student and are interested in learning more about BUASC or if you are wanting to get involved, you can contact Julea Stoneman at [buasc@brandonu.ca](mailto:buasc@brandonu.ca). §

## THE NEW THEQUILL.CA – LAUNCHING FALL 2012!



## B.C. GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SOME TEXTBOOKS AVAILABLE FOR FREE ONLINE

### Ministry of Advanced Education looking to offer textbooks for most popular post-secondary courses

Veronika  
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The Ubysey  
(University of  
British Columbia)

VANCOUVER (CUP) – The B.C. government wants to offer online textbooks for free to university students, but there's still a fair bit of homework to do before the project becomes a reality.

The B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education plans to commission textbook authors or developers to put together online textbooks for popular undergraduate courses. As a condition of funding, they'll be available through a Creative Commons license that makes them free for anyone to use, reuse and revise. A nonprofit called BCcampus, acting as an agent of the government, will store the textbooks online.

The ministry has promised to offer free online textbooks for 40 of the most popular post-secondary courses in the province, but it's up to professors to decide what textbooks are assigned within specific courses.

If all goes according to plan, some of the books will be available by September 2013.

After looking at data from B.C. schools and similar projects in Washington and California, the

ministry will decide which courses will get free books. They expect to commission books for first-year courses like English, psychology and calculus.

The BCcampus organization, a 10-year-old publicly funded group, exists to create online shared services and resources for universities and colleges in B.C. CUPE locals across B.C. have railed against any "shared services" plans promoted by the province, arguing that they may result in lost jobs.

The government argues that the free textbooks will save over 200,000 students hundreds of dollars per year, but Debbie Harvie, managing director of the UBC Bookstore, said she'll wait and see whether this plan will cut into Bookstore sales.

"We don't yet know the effect of this announcement, except to say that there are not a lot of 'free' materials available at this point," said Harvie.

"I am waiting to hear more specifics so that I can understand how this could affect the Book-

store. In the meantime, we are, of course, selling e-textbooks when we can get them, as well as new [and] used [textbooks], custom course packs and renting books too."

Kiran Mahal, vice-president academic and university affairs of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) at UBC, agreed that free access to online textbooks would help make post-secondary education cheaper.

he same broad subject matter," said Mahal. "The exact textbook choice is up to the professor [...] This is why collaboration and coordination with post-secondary institutions is essential to the success of this system."

Mahal also stressed that the quest to make higher education more affordable should not end at textbooks.

"More needs to be done around funding of higher education in a more consistent and holistic way, from student loan reform to increasing the block grant provided to public institutions like UBC," Mahal said. §

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## ASK MISS Q

Q:

Dear Miss Q,

*I'm super bummed that Halloween is on Wednesday. I like to go out with my friends and party on Halloween, but I have a class Thursday morning that I really can't miss. What do I do?*

Sincerely,  
Midweek Blues

A:

Dear Blues,

An excellent question. Since Halloween is in the middle of the week this year, a lot of events that may or may not include alcohol are being held this upcoming Friday, or may have been held earlier. I would suggest you get dressed up and maybe go out on Halloween night, but if you have a class in the morning, don't overdo it! Save your stamina for the weekend. There are also lots of fall-related activities that go on even beyond Halloween, like corn mazes. I'm sure you can find something to do!

Best wishes,  
Miss Q

*Do you have a question for Miss Q? Email it to us at missq@thequill.ca.*

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