

# ΑΛΗΘΕΥΟΝΤΕΣ ΔΕ ΕΝ ΑΓΑΠΗ

It’s the time of year when everyone waxes poetic: run for the hills

Emily Diehl

Editor-in-Chief

**MADE YOU LOOK.** Clever, no? I am sure you are dying to know why I have put strange hieroglyphics at the top of your everyday student newspaper. Well, let me tell you...

For those who may not know, today’s headline (which is in Greek, if you’re curious) reads “Aletheuontes de en Agape”, or “Speaking the truth in Love”. This particular phrase (you may already know this) happens to be our university motto. It comes from the letter to the Ephesians, the tenth book of the New Testament. The quote which we use as our university motto refers to the need to “speak the truth in love” as we battle against “every wind of doctrine, [...] the trickery of men, [and] the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.” (New King James Version.)

I find this expression particularly fitting in a university setting. Surely it is here that we are meant to seek further knowledge and understanding of the world in which we live, that we might build better lives for ourselves and for others? And furthermore, should this not be a place of open discussion, where we can “speak the truth in love” so that we might avoid “the trickery of men” (and women too: trickery, I am certain, does not carry a gender bias)?

I know that my answer to these questions is an emphatic yes. That being said, it has been my intent this year to create a free and open forum within The Quill for all topics related to students and university life. (Ah, you say, finally she gets to the point. Yes, yes, but this would not be an interesting article without the cool headline, and if I had solely printed the headline without explanation, that would have been rather confusing, wouldn’t it...) This year, I believe we have made

significant strides in working towards becoming BU’s premier source of campus and local news: we went back to weekly issues, we launched our new website in November, and we expanded our staff to a dozen (amazing, hard-working) people.

This year, for me, has been incredible. I stepped into this position in August not at all

they stepped up to the plate to make sure there would be enough content online on a regular basis. They have tackled hard issues and tight deadlines while balancing schoolwork and the rest of their lives, and we would not have a paper without them. Thanks, guys. You seriously rock. And once it’s on the front page of The Quill, you know it must be true.

Naturally, the year has not been all sunshine and bunnies. (Perhaps this is true on many levels, as it is currently still snowing as I look out the office window.) Our biggest mistake was the first article we published about the BUSU election mishaps, where we truly and honestly did not get the information we needed. This is where you, my dear readers, come in. You have shown time and time again that not only are you reading the content we work hard to give you, but you care that we are accurate and fair, and you hold us to very high standards. We received several letters this year calling us to account for pieces we had published, and this continually reminded us of the responsibility we bear towards the BU population. Thank you for not letting us slack off: we are here for your benefit, and you have never let us forget it.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of The Quill this year. I have learned many a lesson about leadership, responsibility, and humility. In my opinion, this position exemplifies in many ways the necessity of “speaking the truth in love”, and I hope I have succeeded in that in some small way. Thank you for your readership this year, and I hope you will pick up the next issue of The Quill in September. In the meantime, I have talked enough: turn the page and read what we have for you today. §



sure how the next nine months would go, knowing from my previous work as Assistant Editor-in-Chief that the work came in large quantities and never stopped.

Within the first few weeks, our wonderful staff of reporters had completely blown me away with their enthusiasm and diligence. They have not ceased to work their hardest to fill the paper every week, and their writing has been excellent. Even when the website started up in November,



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The Quill

## BUSU COUNCIL BRIEFS

They came, they met, they talked

Brady Knight

Assistant  
Editor-in-Chief

**BUSU COUNCIL MET** on March 27<sup>th</sup> for the first time since early February, with a number of issues on the agenda.

BUSU is currently in the process of negotiating a new soft-drink agreement on campus. They are in talks with both Coke and Pepsi (Pepsi being the current provider). Neither company is particularly fond of the bottled water ban on campus, but the general consensus of council seemed to indicate the ban would remain in place.

Club funding was allocated to a number of groups. The Brandon University Gaming Association (BUGA) was granted \$300 towards "club development." The group is looking towards eventually creating a game design studio on campus.

Meanwhile, the BU Chemistry Club requested additional funding as well, in order to support sending two members to the Western Canadian Undergraduate Chemistry Conference in Saskatoon this May. They were awarded \$300, the maximum amount BUSU could allocate to the club. According to BUSU bylaws, clubs can receive a maximum of \$1,000 in funding each year, which the Chemistry Club has now reached.

The Students for Life group submitted a revised constitution and application for club status to council. After discussion, the issue was referred to next year's council, set to take office on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The rationale explained the group would have to re-apply for club status in the fall anyway, which would occur under the new council and executive. Therefore, it would make more sense for that particular group of individuals to make the decision, as the switchover to the new council will

## IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

**Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Second Term and Both Term courses end.

**Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Senior Students' Colloquium  
9:30 am – 4:00 pm, Louis Riel Room.

**Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop for employees and students wanting to learn about Aboriginal people and how to be more effective working together. 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. Contact Erica at browne@brandonu.ca or ext. 494. Space is limited.

**Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

BU Budget Sessions  
Learn about next year's budget. Hot topics: provincial funding, pension liability.

occur soon.

An updated budget was also presented to council. The regular election last month cost approximately \$1,600. While this is a larger figure than usual due to the extended campaigning period, it pales in comparison to the almost \$3,000 spent on the by-elections this fall.

Finally, the results from the regular elections were officially ratified, ending a campaign riddled by accusations, complaints, and appeals. After ratification of the results, there was a discussion about re-writing the election bylaws. Members of the ERDIE (Elections and Referenda Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement) Board, who met many times during the election, expressed grave concerns over contradicting clauses and a general lack of information or direction. A number of potential options were discussed and the executive indicated an appointment had already been made with their lawyer to discuss the situation. Changes to the bylaws would have to be approved at an AGM. §

## NEW UNION ON CAMPUS FOR STUDENT EMPLOYEES

PSAC Local 55601 created to represent markers, assistants

Brady Knight

Assistant  
Editor-in-Chief

**THERE IS A NEW UNION** on the Brandon University campus.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Local 55601 represents approximately 400 employees at BU, including student assistants and research assistants.

"I believe we are the only members on campus that weren't previously unionized," says President Corey DeGagné. "But not only that, being a marker and a lab assistant, and someone who actually works for the university [...] we felt there was a need to unionize just for more security and for more benefits and stuff like that."

DeGagné says they are looking for several different provisions within their collective agreement, including job security, how jobs are advertised and posted on campus, and wages. "Also, just making sure that our job description is the only thing we have to do. So, for example, if I'm a marker, I don't get asked to take out dry cleaning for my supervisor, because that's just not in my job description."

"A lot of the times though, what puts our employees in an awkward situation is that our supervisors are our professors," explains DeGagné. He says with a union now in place, it takes the onus off individuals, and allows them to refuse unreasonable tasks, without fear

of academic penalty.

DeGagné says PSAC deals with many public sectors, including numerous universities. He notes the vast majority of student and research assistants from Manitoba east are represented by PSAC, including university employees in Quebec and Ontario, as well as the University of Winnipeg.

"We're all part of the same union, so it's nice that we have PSAC representatives that work with all the locals in Manitoba," he says. "They're working with U of W [and] they're working with us. There's similar issues, and they know exactly what's in a collective agreement [and how to] get things started."

While there will be some changes introduced for employees, DeGagné says they will not dramatically alter every situation. "For those [who feel] that their job on campus is going really well, that's not going to change. We're trying to maintain what's good for our employees, and change what is bad for the employees."

The union is currently bargaining with the university, and DeGagné expects ratification of the new collective agreement to occur sometime in the next couple of months.

PSAC was formed in 1966 and currently represents more than 180,000 people across the country, including over 22,000 from the Prairie Provinces. §

## PRAYER ROOM OPEN ON CAMPUS

Supporting specific needs for students, says Racialized Commissioner Godoy

Holly Kalyniuk

**MUSLIM STUDENTS** now have the opportunity to worship on campus.

For several weeks now, students have been using a vacant room on the third floor of the Knowles-Douglas Building as meditation space, after World University Service Canada (WUSC) ceased to occupy it and offered the unit to other clubs on campus. With several ideas on the table, BUSU temporarily opted to make the room a multipurpose area for use as a storage facility and place of prayer.

“I know right now that the room is being used very much and very well for praying purposes by religious students,” said BUSU’s Racialized Commissioner Manuel Godoy. “I think this is amazing given the fact that there hasn’t been a designated place for prayer rituals, and given the fact that we have a growing Muslim presence on campus.”

This has helped students who pray throughout the day for religious purposes [to] be able to do so on-campus, instead of having to commute to their place of residence, and then back to school again,” continued Godoy. “It is important to support these specific needs from students to



Photo credit Abbeywood/Wikimedia Commons.

ensure they feel comfortable and don’t have to worry about discrepancies, to know that we care

and understand what’s important to them to ensure academic and social success.”

The area was designated to “accommodate religious expression,” said BUSU Vice President Internal Raymond Thomson. “An on-campus space for Muslim students to pray is an initiative that embraces cultural and religious diversity at Brandon University.”

Since becoming a quiet place on-campus, the room has hosted ceremonies, and while the space is open to use by all BU students from Monday to Friday anywhere between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, frequent visitors have been given ID card access for use outside these hours.

Brandon University is not the first post-secondary institution to have a prayer room. Similar endeavours have occurred at schools including the University of Aberdeen, Stellenbosch University and Georgetown University, to name a few.

As the decision is only temporary, the room will be up for bidding for clubs wishing to apply for the space for the next school year. §

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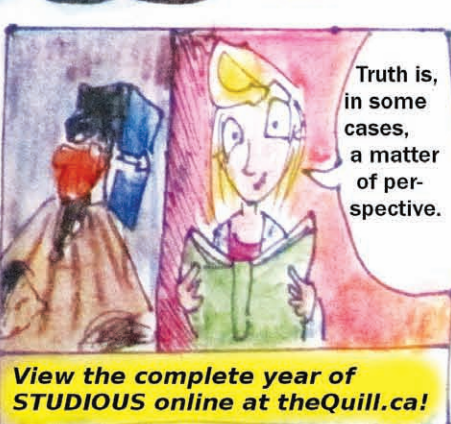
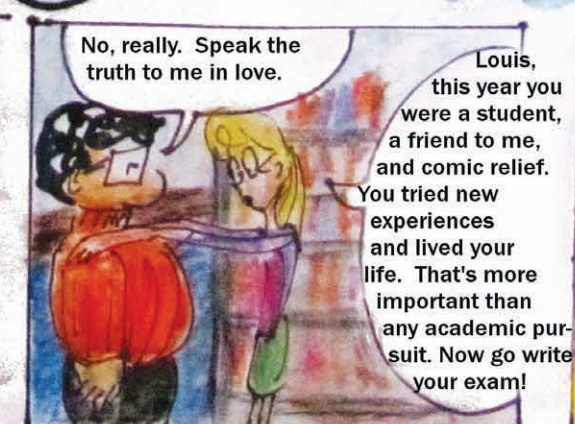
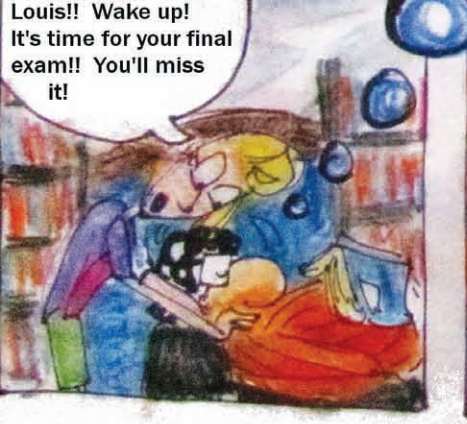
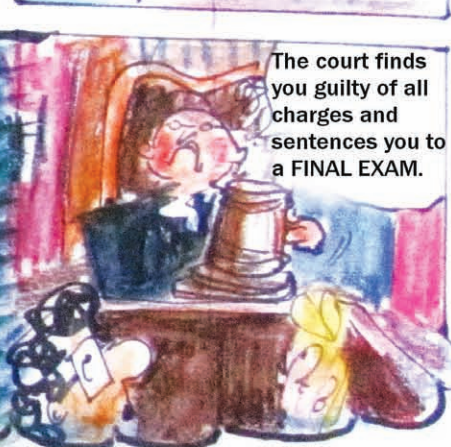
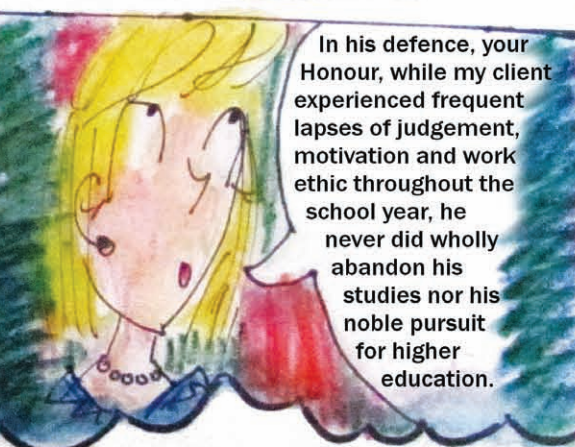
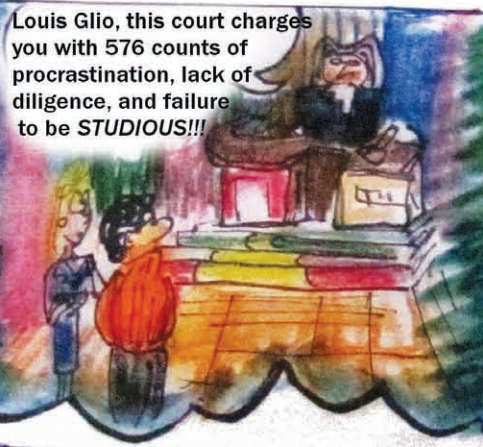
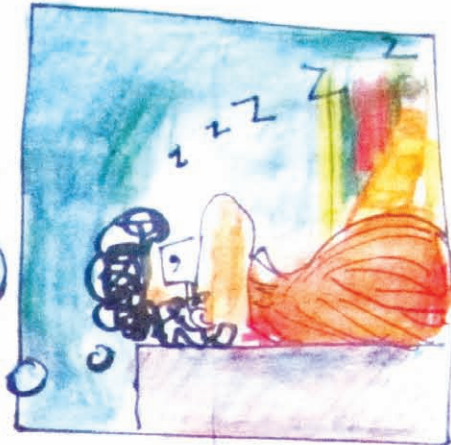
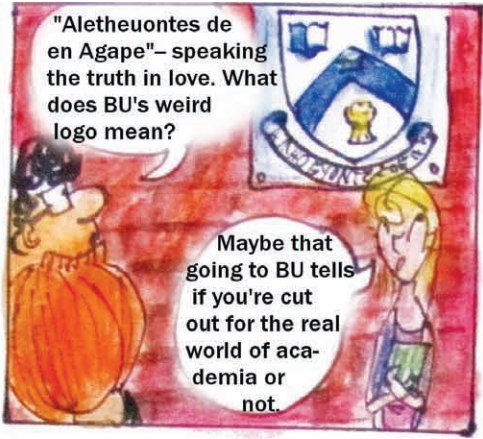
# stu·di·ous

/'st(y)oodēəs

**Adjective**  
 1. given to study  
 2. of a serious, thoughtful, and hard-working character  
 3. showing deliberation, care, or precision



by Sarah Usick #25 (Apr. 13)



View the complete year of **STUDIOUS** online at [theQuill.ca](http://theQuill.ca)!

## REALITY TV SHOULD NOT BE A GOVERNMENT PUBLIC RELATIONS PROJECT

State-funded border services reality show needs to go back where it came from

Joseph Leivdal  
 The Peak  
 (Simon Fraser University)

**BURNABY (CUP)** — In a political climate where the Conservative government has implemented numerous xenophobic (often racist) immigration and refugee policies, including the mandatory detention of “suspicious” asylum seekers for up to one full year with no guarantee for refugee status, we should be highly suspicious of a government-funded reality show featuring the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).  
 On March 13<sup>th</sup>, dozens of CBSA officers, accompanied by cameras from Force Four Entertainment, raided a Vancouver construction site, arresting dozens of migrant workers despite the stated intention of the CBSA to detain one particular man with a lengthy criminal record. Eight remain in custody and are facing hearings and deportation.  
 The cameras were collecting footage for the television show *Border Security: Canada's Front Line*, a production of Force Four Entertainment and National Geographic, and recorded the arrests. More disturbing is the complicity and aid of the government in the show's produc-

tion.  
 A document signed by public safety minister Vic Toews back in May of 2011 recommends that Toews supports filming a pilot and teaming up with Force Four. The line stating how much government funding the show received is, unsurprisingly, whitened out.  
 Furthermore, The Globe and Mail stated that the show “received funding through the Canadian film or video production tax credit, a federal program run through Canadian Heritage, and the B.C. produc-



Illustration credit Ben Buckley/The Peak.

tion services tax credit.”  
 Given the forces behind the development of this show, it is worth considering the effects it will have on the public's recognition of the harsh realities faced by — *continued on opposite page*

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## STUDENT ISSUES ON BACKBURNER FOR TWEED?

Our escapades in attempting to reach the reclusive MP

Katie Driedger

IN THIS NEW AGE of social media and technology, the ease with which we communicate has increased dramatically, as messages can be sent through email, Facebook, and Twitter instantaneously as opposed to through the post, or by fax.

As a result, it has become easier to communicate directly with public figures, including politicians. Many prominent political figures in Canada have become highly accessible through social media, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Liberal Party leadership candidate and MP Justin Trudeau, MP Denis Coderre, and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May.

Of the three hundred and seven Members of Parliament in Canada, there are two hundred and forty-five MPs who have active accounts on the micro-blogging social network, Twitter. Nearly all of those two hundred and forty-five MPs have public Facebook profiles, with many more having YouTube, Flickr, and Google Plus accounts.

Although it is true that many Canadian political figures have their social media accounts operated by government staffers, the accessibility they gain through their social presence is invaluable.

Trudeau has gained immense popularity through his availability on Twitter (@JustinTrudeau) as he regularly connects direct-

ly with his constituents, supporters, members of the media, and the general public. Social media has been instrumental in Trudeau's campaign for leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada, as it has given him the platform to express his political views and personality to his nearly two hundred thousand twitter followers and nearly seventy-five thousand fans on Facebook.

Here in Brandon, our representative in Parliament is Merv Tweed, a Conservative backbencher. Mr. Tweed is arguably one of the least-accessible Members of Parliament, as he is absent from all forms of public social media, in addition to having all lines of email and telephone funnel through his staffers before they even have the opportunity to reach Tweed directly.

Miss Carissa Taylor, BUSU President, stated in a blog entry in October 2012 (<http://busupres.wordpress.com/2012/10/14>) that Mr. Tweed, a Brandon University graduate, had said "he doesn't come to BU because he feels that as a Conservative, he is not welcome on campus."

Several reporters for The Quill made attempts to reach out to Tweed in order to setup an interview to speak about issues relating to students and young adults, in addition to the reasons in which he does not feel comfortable on campus.

In the fall of 2012, one reporter called Tweed's office and was told by an assistant that they would have to wait until Tweed was back in

Brandon (being in session in Parliament at the time) so that they could schedule a meeting to decide if they could setup an interview. Many attempts were made to check on the status of that meeting, but little progress was made.

In January, additional attempts were made to schedule an interview with Tweed via email due to the lack of development in previous months. It took over two weeks for an office assistant to reply by phone, and an additional two weeks until a formal request for an interview could be completed.

It has now been six months since the initial inquiry for an interview, and three months since the secondary request for an interview. It is unknown whether each request was actually processed, or whether they were dismissed by the assistants.

In April, further contact was made with Tweed's Brandon office and the statuses of the requests for interview were unknown.

Efforts are continuing to be made to schedule an interview for the fall of 2013. Hopefully, there will be progress. As our national representative, surely it is important for us to be able to speak with Mr. Tweed. We at The Quill will continue to contact Mr. Tweed to set up an interview. Who knows - perhaps someday the @MervTweed Twitter account will have tweets... §

## REALITY TV SHOULD NOT BE A GOVERNMENT PUBLIC RELATIONS PROJECT

Continued from previous page

migrant workers and refugees. The show consists of the portrayal of CBSA officers on the job, often accompanied by fast-paced music and quick cuts, implying a sense of urgency.

By focusing on the actions of the CBSA, the audience is encouraged to identify with the CBSA agents, who are given air time to justify themselves with embarrassing mistakes edited out. Thus, the show positions itself on the side of an authority that is exercised in highly controversial ways, removing the original context of the controversy.

Furthermore, by following the typical framework of conflict leading to a resolution, the show establishes a narrative framework of protagonist (CBSA agent) versus antagonist (the person of suspicion), who raises a conflict that must be resolved with the use of the law, portrayed as justice. This creates a binary that misrepresents both parties.

In fact, it perpetuates xenophobic tendencies and racism by obscuring the social, political and economic realities of the people portrayed on the show. It values entertainment over human dignity, and promotes government policies, doing the government's dirty work for it.

In defence of the show, Toews stated that "it is important to remember that illegal immigrants cost law-abiding Canadian taxpayers tens of millions of dollars per year, and it costs our constituents thousands of jobs".

Far from costing taxpayers millions of dollars, migrant workers (legal and otherwise) are doing jobs that

no one else wants to do, are consistently paid less and are subjected to abusive employers and a nearly impossible visa application process.

Renata Kobek, an immigration consultant and representative of one of the workers, stated "As a matter of fact, there are Filipino nurses working as food vendors, East Indian engineers driving taxis and doctors working as janitors."

The activist group No One is Illegal held an emergency rally shortly after the raids, protesting this gross violation of rights and privacy. A petition has also been circulated through social media channels from the "Change" organization, calling for a cancellation of the show, and for the CBSA to cease their involvement and to end violent deportations. The petition has gathered nearly 20,000 signatures at the time of writing.

Stephen Collis, professor of English at

SFU, sums it up well: "It's hard to see this as anything other than ideology. This show presumes guilt, demonizes immigrants, and encourages xenophobia and racism. I hope all Canadians can see through this, and condemn the Conservatives' actions here."

So do I. §

"A STRONG CUP"  
A BUSINESS DRAGON BY: DAKOTA BICKLMEIER



## DOCUMENTARY ON GENDERCIDE HITS HARD

*It's A Girl: looking at sex-specific discrimination in India and China*

Holly Kalyniuk

ON APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup>, *It's a Girl* was screened in the Elephant Room on the third floor of the Knowles-Douglas Building. Shot in India and China, the documentary focused on the systemic killing of individuals of a specific sex, or “gendercide,” through the stories of men and women whose lives were drastically impacted by local cultural practices and political systems adhering to patriarchal agenda.

In countries around the world, women at every stage of life are devalued. In countries like India and China, women fall victim to “gendercide”, dowry death, and sex-selective abortion, all of which are encouraged and enforced through deeply ingrained cultural traditions and government policies. Although this may sound like an issue best discussed among feminist circles and women’s rights groups, it is much more.

In Indian society, family status, wealth and lineage are passed down through generations via sons, while daughters are viewed as burdens for their inability to do so. Local villagers in the film, including one woman who had killed more than five of her own children because of their gender, expressed anxiety over raising female children, citing struggles with managing and protecting their household and securing income, especially when it comes to marriage dowries.

At marriage, men inherit a generous marriage dowry from the bride’s family, sometimes forcing the bride’s family to sell land and other possessions to provide a lavish enough sum. However, some men who have been dissatisfied with their dowry have killed their wives out of anger, resulting in a rising number of all-female “dowry deaths” throughout the country. Unfortunately, most dowry deaths are frequently ignored in Indian court, and perpetrators are released with very minimal jail time and still receive custody of their children.

With greed at the core of the “social machinery” that professes ideologies of son-preference and discriminates against girls and women, areas with similar practices face potentially disastrous

population distortions.

In China, the male to female ratio is immensely skewed due to the implementation of the one-child policy. With children essentially becoming a couple’s retirement plan, plus a son’s ability to carry on family tradition and the family name, daughters are less than desirable offspring. Some unwanted newborn girls are even deserted in boxes alongside riverbanks. Subsequently, there are 37 million more males than females in the country, effectively and severely unbalancing the ratio for marriage. This gives rise to the abduction and trafficking of nearly 70,000 children per year, with families kidnapping young girls to ensure a wife for their sons.

To add to the extremely gender-biased atmosphere, female children are being killed prior to birth through sex-selective abortions. By way of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act adopted by India in 1994, parents can legally abort their child if their gender displeases them. In China, the Chinese National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) was responsible (until it was disbanded in March 2013) for ensuring the one-child limit was not breached, utilizing their authority to apprehend couples suspected of violating the law and execute abortions without the mother’s consent.

Pressured by family to obey the law, or feeling otherwise incapable of caring for a daughter, some women freely choose to have their unborn babies aborted.

“It’s heartbreaking to learn about groups of



Students discuss after the showing of the documentary. Photo credit Holly Kalyniuk.

people who have dehumanized females so drastically that they can easily kill their own children because the child is deemed a burden for being a girl,” said BU nursing student Cindy Didych, who attended the documentary screening. “Actions [like sex-selective abortion] make me wonder how, and at what point, our moral conscience is pushed to the side to justify our own ‘value’ of human life.”

Thought-provoking and frightening, *It's a Girl* provides a glimpse into a culture quite dissimilar to our own. It instills a fresh sense of respect and appreciation for life in all forms, and inspires one to take action to ensure that the right to life, and respect throughout all stages of life, remain uncontested. Unpacking gendercide, the film revealed issues commonly blanketed under umbrellas of feminism and controversial pro-life groups to be worth discussion within every nook and cranny of society as a whole.

“Human rights are women’s rights and women’s rights are human rights,” remarked American politician Hillary Clinton about the United Nation’s 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women Plenary Session, and she couldn’t have been more right.

For more information on *It's a Girl*, visit the official website (<http://www.itsagirlmovie.com/>).§

## SERC 101: GETTING BETTER IN THE BEDROOM

Some things to ponder if your sex life just isn't doing it for you

Glenda G.

Sexuality  
Education  
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I JUST STARTED a new relationship and really like my partner. Unfortunately, sex has been awkward and disappointing so far. What can I try to improve things in the bedroom?

First of all, it’s important to remember that sex isn’t great every time, especially when you are just starting out and both of you are getting to know your partner’s likes and responses. Also, if you are newly sexually active, are you personally familiar with what is good for you – where and what kind of touches feel good to you and increase your sexual excitement? You might want to explore questions such as whether intercourse will bring you to orgasm, or if manual clitoral stimulation or oral stimulation works better? Masturbation (self-stimulation) is a good way to

find out what turns you on, so that you can help your partner do the same for you.

Are there other things you are concerned about which may make sex less pleasurable? For instance, are you worried about pregnancy, or STIs? If this is the case, it is important to use birth control with which you feel comfortable, and which is reliable. Using a condom as dual protection to prevent STIs will give you further peace of mind. Furthermore, make sure you are comfortable with where you are having sex, so that you are relaxed (and not worried about someone walking in on you).

Sex improves when you and your partner are able to communicate your thoughts, feelings and desires. Start with a few simple things that you know work for you, and ask your partner

what works for them. Sex will also improve with practice if you and your partner are willing and thoughtful about it.

Good luck in the boudoir! §

Do you have questions about sexuality? Send them to [thefactsoflife@serc.mb.ca](mailto:thefactsoflife@serc.mb.ca)

Information provided by the Sexuality Education Resource Centre. Please visit [serc.mb.ca](http://serc.mb.ca) to get more information.

The information provided in this article is not intended as medical advice. Should you have any questions, please contact your health care provider.

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW: THOUGHTS FROM MISS TAYLOR

Outgoing BUSU President Carissa Taylor talks about the good, the bad, and the future

Carissa Taylor

BUSU  
President

**THIS IS MY LAST** article for The Quill as BUSU President, so I think now would be a good time to reflect on this year, as well as share with you my thoughts on some of the things that need to happen in the future to ensure the success of BUSU. I am proud of a lot of the things that we have done this year, but we could have done a lot more.

One of the things that is essential for our organization, and which I believe would have helped us to function better this year is to have long-term office staff. This year, we had a lot of staff turnover, and failed to find a replacement for our General Manager who left in August. This meant that her job responsibilities had to be divided among those of us left in the office.

We were able to pick those responsibilities up, but it was also detrimental to our work. For me, it meant that I wasn't able to spend as much time outside of the office connecting with students as I would have liked. It also meant that our staff were not utilized to their full capacity, as they did not have one person to whom they could go or who assigned and created tasks for them.

I have been lucky to have been involved in BUSU for the last few years, and to have friends who had been involved for many years before me, so I was able to gather a lot of organizational knowledge, which was hugely beneficial. We currently have a Financial and Administrative Coordinator, Ashley, who has been an incredible asset to us. She is our only full time staff member. Ashley is leaving in August for bigger and better things, so that will leave a huge hole that BUSU will need to find someone to fill.

We have had some huge successes this year. SUDS is likely going to break even, which is actually an incredible accomplishment given the difficulties it has had in the past. We had the most successful Rock the Block ever, both financially and in the number of attendees. We brought in Wab Kinew to speak, our first Aboriginal speaker.

The first Campus Christmas was held, which received great reviews and a good turnout, and which brought people from across BU together for the holidays. Both the first orientation in Septem-



The Quill's favourite picture of Miss Taylor: karaoke night at SUDS with BU President Dr. Deborah Poff, during Snowientation. Photo credit Jenna Clinton.

ber and the second in January were well-attended. Karaoke and trivia have both been surprisingly successful this year, and it was great to see faculty, staff, and admin in attendance at both. This speaks to the relationships that we have strengthened between all stakeholders in Brandon University, of which I am incredibly proud. We have been very well supported throughout the year. We have built relationships with community members with whom we didn't previously have relationships.

In contrast to our successes, we also had things this year that didn't work out as well as we had hoped. There were basically no events held throughout the second term this year, as the speaker series we wanted to hold never came to fruition. We didn't see a student rights document go through to Senate, nor did we end up with a final strike policy. We wanted to build a stronger relationship with the ACC Student Association, which was never fully realized.

There were things which created negative publicity for BUSU, both with a poorly worded article and an embarrassing mess of an election. I truly hope that the good things that we did outweigh the bad, but I suppose only students can tell us whether or not that is the case.

Moving forward, I believe there are major

things that need doing. Firm decisions should be made about staffing, and I believe the incoming BUSU members will hire good people to help sustain BUSU, and to support the new executive and recently-hired staff, all of whom are building their organizational knowledge.

Furthermore, I believe that our bylaws need major revisions, especially those that deal with elections. In my opinion, it would help if the elections officer should be someone from outside the organization, and the Elections, Referenda, Dis-

cipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (ERDIE) Board should be composed primarily of students not currently on BUSU council and representing a variety of different faculties.

Also, there need to be provisions made for cases where the majority of council is either re-running or is in a conflict of interest, as it is not feasible to run the organization without being able to meet frequently over the election period. This is especially pertinent when, according to our current bylaws, the Board is the only body who can remove our elections officer. If all three executive members decided to run for re-election in the same year, would the BUSU office basically shut down? These all need to be considered.

Finally, I believe we need to make more of an effort to connect our students with the broader voice of education. There exists a world outside of Brandon University which impacts us - and whether that is the government, our community, or other universities and student unions, it is important to keep students connected with what is going on.

In closing, thank you to all who helped make this year successful. I wish the incoming BUSU executive all the best of luck next year. There will be huge barriers to overcome, as there are every year, but I believe that they can succeed. §

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## ASK MISS Q

Q:

Dear Miss Q,

*I joined the Navy to see the world. I've seen it. Now, how do I get out?*

Sincerely,  
Sea Sick

A:

Dear Sea Sick,

The simplest and most honest route is to finish your service. Other, less on-the-level ways could have serious repercussions. Leaving without permission or lying about health problems could lead to a dishonourable discharge, monetary penalties, or even jail time. I doubt you want that.

Have you considered speaking to your commanding officer about a transfer? Perhaps your current assignment just isn't sitting well. Alternatively, you could explore options in fields other than active service, such as recruiting, the reserves, or instruction.

Your best option at this point is to speak with your commanding officer about your options. Whether you're considering a transfer to another unit, or to a different career, you're far better off completing your service. Spend your remaining time researching what you want to do when you are finished your service; who knows, your connections in the Navy might serve you well.

In the end, I would suspect that dissatisfaction in the Navy is like dissatisfaction in any other job, with a few more strings attached: re-evaluate, look at your options, talk to someone who knows more than you, and move on from there. There are always options, and usually there are better options than dropping everything and walking away.

My best,  
Miss Q

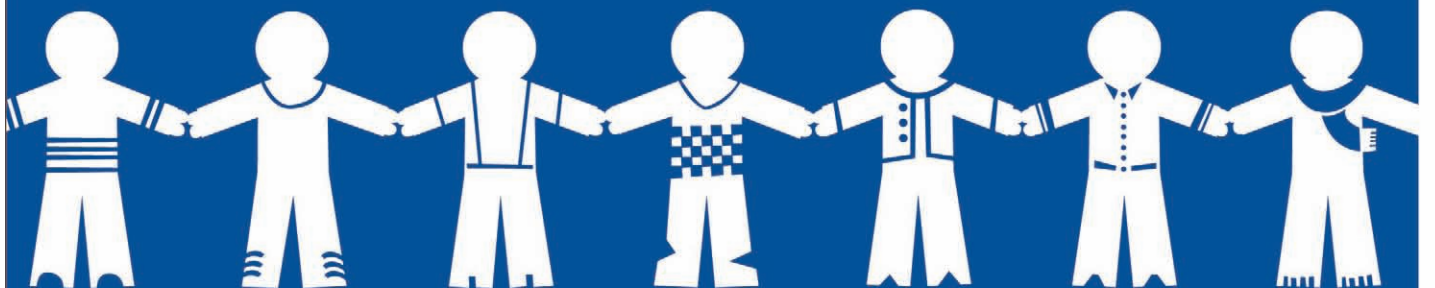
**Do you have a question for Miss Q?**  
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