

U of C BOMBS STUDENT SURVEYS

Calgary brings up the rear in the first *Maclean's* University Student Issue

The *Maclean's* University Student Issue began as a simple eight-question survey to ask recent graduates what they thought about their university experience. When half of the universities across Canada refused to participate, accusing *Maclean's* of inaccurate research methods, the simple survey turned ugly. *Maclean's* used the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to gather the information they needed to publish, with or without the universities' permission. On June 19, the University Student Issue hit newsstands across the country, and sent the U of C administration scrambling to explain why students rated the U of C last or second last in most of the categories.



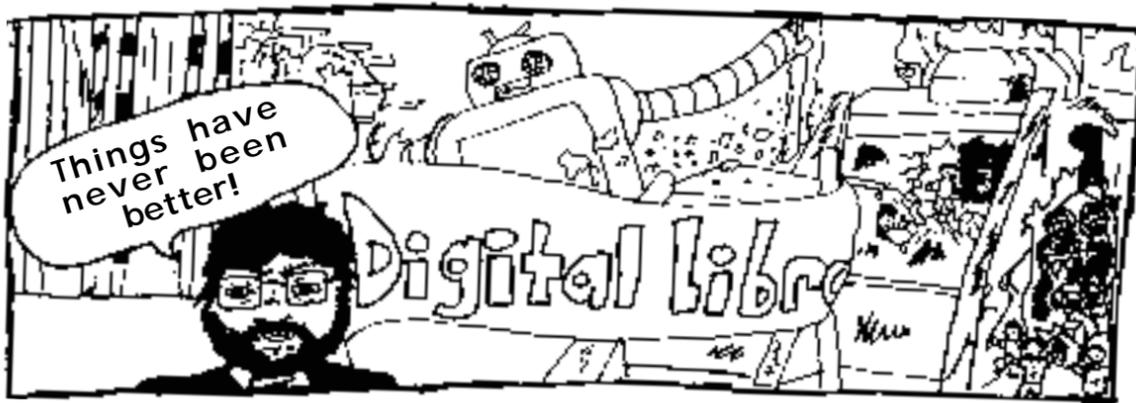
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Breaking news: U of C not the best

The University of Calgary has an embarrassing history with *Maclean's* magazine. We've been slipping in their annual university rankings for years. After peaking at 10th place in 1999 out of a field of 15 in our category, our track record has worsened each year, slipping to 12th in 2000 and bottoming out at 14th in 2002, where we've been ever since.

In 2004, we came in dead last in a survey asking graduates to rate their experience. It should be no surprise then that the U of C has kept up its tarnished reputation in the most recent *Maclean's* project—a special issue devoted to student feedback. *Maclean's* used data from three surveys to rank universities on the basis of student satisfaction. Two of these surveys were conducted by national organizations, with the third conducted by *Maclean's* itself. The U of C limped along at the bottom of both national surveys, sometimes dead last, sometimes beating out a handful of other schools.

Leading up to this outcome, the U of C joined a number of other institutions from across the country in choosing to forgo active participation in the *Maclean's* survey. *Maclean's* was seeking to survey graduates from 2002, 2003 and 2004, but the dissenting schools



felt that the results would not take into account recent improvements. In some ways they're right.

Here at the U of C, current students have more reasons to be hopeful than their counterparts of two or three years ago, and university administration officials never tire of reminding us of all the awesome projects underway here. Continued quality money to the su, a wireless campus and plans to build a digital library are all positive things that will improve the student experience, but the concern that consistently tops students' lists is the quality of teaching, and replacing teachers with websites and iPods does absolutely nothing to address that. The University of Calgary should be trying to improve existing programs and services before pushing for all kinds of new ones.

That said, Alberta is awash with cash and currently undergoing a post-secondary review (though no end is in sight). With pledges to limit tuition increases and ramp up university base operating budgets, there is plenty to be optimistic about. But the argument that the student experience has dramatically changed in the last two years is an empty one. Perhaps in two more years it will be true, but refusing to let recent grads fill out the *Maclean's* survey was wrong. Questions like "Would you recommend this university to a friend?" and "How would you rate your entire experience?" are good ones, and it's a no-brainer that prospective students would like a chance to ask recent graduates those very things.

Another point to remember is that no school—including the

U of C—got slammed in these surveys. Yes, comparatively we were among the lowest, but 74 per cent of U of C undergraduates agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with quality of teaching here in 2005. That's hardly a damning indictment, until you do what *Maclean's* is doing and put it up against Nipissing's 93 per cent satisfaction rate. The methodology employed by *Maclean's* is nowhere near perfect, but the U of C has been hammered over the same core issues literally for years: quality of teaching, class sizes and now, student satisfaction. It's possible there might just be something at the root of it all, and the solution might take a bit more work than pretending the problems have already been solved.

Chris Beauchamp
Editor-in-Chief

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U of C at bottom of barrel

Emily Senger
News Editor

The University of Calgary upheld its predictable pattern of dismal *Maclean's* magazine university rankings this week, but this time, the poor review came from U of C students, rather than *Maclean's* staff.

In the University Student Issue—published Mon., June 19—*Maclean's* surveyed recent university graduates from across Canada, and asked them to rate their experiences. About half of the universities, including the U of C, declined to participate, citing inaccurate research methods.

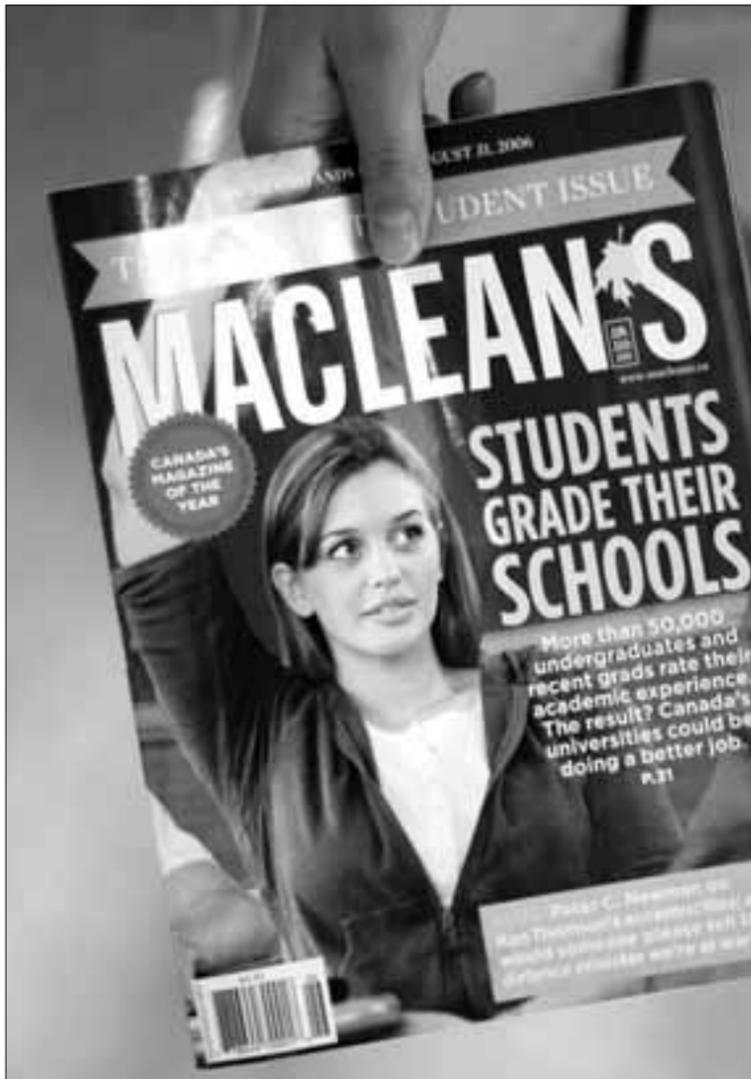
In response, *Maclean's* used the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to obtain results of national student surveys of current students, and published portions of that data in addition to their own survey to compare the student experience at Canadian universities.

U of C students rated their experience at or near the bottom of the list in the two national surveys: the National Survey of Student Engagement, conducted in 2004, and the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium, conducted in 2005.

The NSSE survey asked: "How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?" Even though 69 per cent of U of C senior-year students answered "excellent" or "good," this was the second lowest rating of the 15 schools included.

For Queen's—the top ranked university in the category—90 per cent of students said they would rate their entire educational experience as "excellent" or "good."

The U of C also scored last out of the 16 schools included in CUSC.



Chris Tait/the Gauntlet

Which university ranks consistently low in *Maclean's* magazine? This girl knows the answer. (hint: begins with Cal...)

When asked to respond to the statement: "I am satisfied with my decision to attend this university," only 14 per cent of U of C students responded "agree strongly," and 56 per cent responded "agree." At the top scoring university, Wilfrid Laurier, 51 per cent of students answered the same question with "agree strongly."

U of C vice-president external relations Roman Cooney said the data *Maclean's* published does not

give an accurate representation of the current student experience.

"It's no surprise in that we didn't expect *Maclean's* to create a survey that would accurately capture the things we've done over the last three to four years," said Cooney. "Every major university but two declined to participate. This isn't just an issue of U of C versus *Maclean's*."

Cooney said the NSSE in particular is outdated, and the U of C has been working to address issues first raised

"A consistently low score on many different rankings shows a need to put more focus on undergraduate students."

—Shannon O'Connor
SU VP Academic

by the survey in 2004.

"When I first saw [the NSSE results] three or four years ago, the university realized we have a long way to go to rebuild our relationship with students," said Cooney, mentioning current projects around campus, like the renovation of student space, prove administration's commitment to improving the student experience.

"It's a long process, but we're on our way," he said.

Cooney added that CUSC wrote a letter to *Maclean's*, stating the CUSC survey is not designed for comparison to other universities.

Maclean's managing editor, special projects Tony Keller disagreed, claiming the universities use the CUSC and NCCS surveys for comparison, and *Maclean's* merely made public results the universities already know.

"Every school already used them for benchmarking, which is just another word for comparison," said Keller.

The U of C Students' Union agreed with administration, and issued a press release stating the data used by *Maclean's* is outdated, and doesn't reflect the U of C's injection of money for new projects since 2004. The SU cited quality dollars to support teaching, the digital library project and renovations

as ways the student experience is improving.

SU VP academic Shannon O'Connor admitted the results prove there is still a need to focus on undergraduate students.

"A consistently low score on many different rankings shows a need to put more focus on undergraduate students," said O'Connor. "We're starting to do it, but I think there's still a long way to go."

From the cumulative results of the three surveys, *Maclean's* concluded students at smaller universities were generally more satisfied with their experiences than students at larger research-focused universities.

As for the future of the *Maclean's* University Student Issue, Keller said it will be published again next spring, though he is unsure of the format it will take.

"Obviously, the goal is to give readers some feedback from current students or recent graduates," said Keller. "I like the idea of using a third party survey—no one can suggest it's *Maclean's* that torques the questions to create a particular outcome."

The University Student Issue is on stands until Aug. 31.

Full results of the *Maclean's* survey are available at www.macleans.ca/university.
The U of C surveys are available at www.ucalgary.ca/news/june06/macleans-update.html.

Bloated building costs put billion dollar project on hold

Rebecca Pfliger
Gauntlet News

Alberta has it all. With oil, beautiful prairies, the Rocky Mountains, and a booming economy, who could complain?

Apparently, you should, because a University of Calgary research facility is suffering from Alberta's thriving economy.

The Pine Creek Water Management Facility, a joint project between the U of C and the City of Calgary, is going ahead without the U of C due to highly inflated building costs. The City of Calgary is building the 130-acre water treatment facility on the south border of the city. The PCWMF is scheduled to be finished its first stage of development in 2007. It will produce 100

mega-litres of clean water a day.

The U of C applied for its own research facility on the land. The Pine Creek research centre was supposed to include research streams and ponds, a full-scale research wastewater treatment plant and analytical laboratories.

Between the time the plans were approved and the construction start-date, the Alberta economy

took off. Construction companies are difficult to contract and building materials have more than doubled in price in the last few months. As a result, the city had to cut the cost of the PCWMF, and did so by cutting the research centre.

"There was a really huge plan for [the research facility] that has not gone away, but has been greatly

reduced in scope," said Cora Collins of the Pine Creek facility. "We've diverted the water and research building." Collins noted that the research center has been diverted for at least another 10 years.

The PCWMF did grant the U of C some space in the operation and maintenance building of the regular facility. Students will have

SEE PINE CREEK, page 4

CAMPUS QUIPS Which World Cup team are you cheering for and why?



"Italy. I grew up beside an Italian family, my best friend was Italian—we grew up playing soccer."
— Jason Salter, PhD English literature



"I'm German, so it's not that hard to say. I'm here from Berlin on an exchange."
— Matei Leventer, fifth-year electrical engineering



"Portugal—that's my favourite team because of their skill and passion for soccer."
— Fei Yu, third-year social sciences



"I'm not cheering for a specific team, I just like soccer. I'd rather not get into the competitive crap."
— Barb Olorenshaw, fifth-year music

A bicycle built for U

Kris Schmidt
Gauntlet News

Tired of walking to class? Then put your legs to good use and pedal there instead.

The University of Calgary's U-bike program provides the campus with bicycles for public use. The bikes are scattered around campus and are available free of charge to ride on university grounds. Bikes are picked up from the racks, used and left at the destination.

"The idea is to ride from one building to another," said Eco Club president Stephanie Ferguson.

As the U-bike program approaches its first birthday, it has expanded its fleet to approximately 30 bikes from the original 10 thanks to community donations and bikes left on campus.

However, where things are



Chris Tait/the Gauntlet

No excuses for being late for class, unless your pants get caught in the chain.

free, people will abuse them.

"As far as security is concerned for these particular bikes, that's

rather difficult," said Campus Security manager Lanny Fritz.

"The whole program does

operate on an honour system."

Most involved in the program remain unconcerned about theft.

The bikes are not monitored, but according to soft landscaping supervisor Colleen Ramsay, they do keep an occasional eye out for them.

"I would hope that people respect and use them how they are meant to be used," said Ramsay.

To help combat theft, the bicycles are easily recognizable—painted in red and yellow stripes by Campus Recreation, Outdoor Education and the Eco Club.

"They want to try and make [the bicycles] as recognizable and unattractive as possible," said Ferguson. "You definitely would recognize a U-bike."

However, the primary objective is to promote health and the environment. The bikes are a reminder to live a healthy lifestyle and to give people a fun and fast way of traveling around campus, said Ferguson.

Pine Creek, continued from page 3

access to office space and a shared lab area sometime next year, but it won't compare to the full-scale treatment plant originally planned, said Collins.

"This was an interim solution," explained Collins. "Once U of C gets more of it's funding in place, and the facility is complete, the research facilities will be back on the table."

The university is currently working on exactly that.

"Funding to date includes the

\$625,000 from the university, \$1,875,000 from Western Economic Development and approximately \$2 million of a \$5.3 million commitment from the city," explained Darrel Danyluk, project director of U of C Research Services. "Funds for the balance have been requested from Alberta Transportation and Infrastructure, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Alberta Science and Research Investments Program. Decisions of these are pending."



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

U of C students will have to wait until building costs go down before they can study the Bow River ecosystem and the migratory patterns of the majestic land gull.

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Happy Aboriginal Day!

Jon Roe
Sports Editor

Though the tipi raising to celebrate National Aboriginal Day on June 21 was cancelled, due to stormy skies, there are plenty of reasons to celebrate First Nations culture on and around the university campus.

"In 1971 we had one [First Nations] graduate," said Cheryl Chagnon-Greyeyes, administrative coordinator for the Native Centre on campus and a University of Calgary graduate herself. "This year we had 80. That's an 8,000 per cent increase."

The tipi raising was cancelled because of the danger posed by the slippery poles in the rain, but it will take place in September.

The ceremony will be put on by the Native Centre for the 300 self-confirmed First Nations students on campus, as well as anyone else interested in learning about First Nations culture.



Nathan Wood/the Gauntlet

Pow-wow dancers helped celebrate the 80 First Nations students who graduated this year.

"The Native Centre is not just for First Nations students," said Chagnon-Greyeyes. "It's for everyone in the community." The Native Centre serves as a meeting place for First Nations

students and provides them with financial, academic and cultural services. Throughout the school year, they hold pot lucks once a month, and bring in an elder to meet with the students.

The centre—located on the third floor of the MacEwan Student Centre—contains a prayer room, offices for its staff, several meeting rooms and computers with printers.

"Students bring in their own paper," said Chagnon-Greyeyes. "This can be hard, since some of our students are homeless. Paper is one of our major costs, and we're always looking for donations of paper."

National Aboriginal Day is officially in its 10th year, and with the progress being made towards reducing the barriers of bringing First Nations students into post secondary education there are plenty of reasons to celebrate, even if there are no tipis just yet.

sports

The travelling bandwagon moves up Hwy 2



Jon Roe
Sports Opinions

Numerous Edmonton Oilers car flags were visible on Calgary's roadways throughout the 2006 Stanley Cup playoffs. These flags weren't there before, and chances are they aren't around now that the Oilers are finished, raising the question of where all these Edmonton Oilers fans came from. Perhaps they were transplanted Edmontonians showing pride for the Chuck. More likely and far more sinister, they were Calgary Flames fans who changed colours to support the last Canadian team in the playoffs. If the latter is true, then Frank Sinatra must be right; life can be so sweet on the sunny side of the street.

The easiest team to cheer for is a winning team, and some of the loudest cries from Flames fans during their own march to the Stanley Cup Finals were the shouts of "Bandwagoners!" at fans who seemingly appeared out of nowhere. These fair-weather fans weren't cheering for the team when they finished in the bottom five of the conference with under .500 records year after year, nor when Theo Fleury was traded to the Colorado Avalanche. It's understandable that during the terrible times, these fans would want to disappear or start cheering for more successful teams. But fair-weather fans should make no claim as to being true fans, because any real fan would have supported their team, regardless of result.

Now these same fans have moved from the Flames to cheering for the next closest winning team, the

Edmonton Oilers. As fun as it is to cheer for a successful team, it's far more satisfying to experience both ends of the spectrum. When the Flames won their trip to the Stanley Cup Finals in 2004, it was much, much sweeter to savour when contrasted with past failures. However, these fair-weather fans are so desperate to be a part of a winning side, they will go and cheer for pretty much any team left, even Calgary's most despised rival.

After the Flames first round failure the Calgary bandwagon emptied onto the sunnier side of Highway 2. As a Calgary Flames fan, I find this to be the lowest form of treachery. One of the greatest aspects of sports is the rivalries. If you asked a New York Yankees fan if they'd ever cheer for the Boston Red Sox, or if a Green Bay Packers fan would cheer for the Chicago Bears, or if a Toronto Maple Leafs fan would cheer for the Montreal Canadiens, that answer would—and always should—be no. Edmonton and Calgary should be no different. It's fair to have a certain amount of reluctant respect for what the Oilers accomplished, but to swap the flaming C for the greasy oil drop is a heinous crime.

The argument spewed forth most by converts is that everyone should cheer for the last Canadian team in the playoffs. I don't buy that one bit. To call a single NHL team "Canada's team" is colonization of the worse kind. Toronto Maple Leafs fans do it all the time. Even when they aren't in the playoffs, they're still somehow Canada's team.

The only way Edmonton is Canada's team is by geographical location. The composition of the team is international, and even the Canadian players would probably play in the States given the chance of a bigger pay cheque. Changing the definition of Canada's team could easily make the Carolina Hurricanes the bearers of the red maple leaf. Captain Rod Brind'amour, Cam Ward, Eric Staal, and Glen Wesley are all Canadian exports, to name a few. In fact, the Hurricanes had nearly a dozen Canadian players on their roster for game 7 of the finals. If nothing else, at least the colours are more fitting. In the end, there is only one Team Canada and I cheer for them in every international competition.

If the Oilers had won the cup, they wouldn't remember the cheer-

ing of any of the Flames fans or the blue flags rippling down Deerfoot Trail in support. The Oilers fans would only have pushed it back in Calgary's face, grinding it in the open wounds of our failure in 2004.

It's hard to fly the flag of a sunken ship, but true fans support their team regardless of where they finish. When the NHL season is on, there is no "Alberta's team" or "Canada's team." There is only Calgary's team and Edmonton's team, and to be a true fan of either, you must honour the rivalries that come with each, bear the pains of every loss, and bitterly refuse to switch colours in any situation.

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Rocking out with the forces of evil



Chris Tait/the Gauntlet

Chris Yaholkosk is horns up all the way.

festivalPREVIEW: Bluessmyth

Kyle Francis
Entertainment Editor

Henry Smyth was a simple man. He'd often spend long days out in his shop, toiling over a steaming forge, creating horseshoes, armour, weapons and other accoutrements requiring the hand of a master blacksmith.

One day, the devil, disguised as a goat named Mendes, approached Henry and asked him to make some goat shoes. Clever Henry, sensing that something was amiss with a talking goat, made the shoes, but made them far too small, such that the devil was uncomfortable and grumpy whenever he wore them. This ancient-sounding contemporary myth was concocted by the local bluesrock band Bluesmyth to explain their name.

"Our self-titled song, called 'Bluessmyth' is a nine-minute epic that's kind of our story," says Chris Yaholkosk, vocalist, guitarist and songwriter for Bluesmyth. "It's about the character we created, Henry Smyth, and how he outsmarts the devil. Henry's not a saint, right? He's kind of on the fence, but he's not going to go down that road. He's not going to be tempted by the evils of the flesh."

The devil's temptation of the presumably unmarried Henry is indicative of the *modus operandi* for the group's latest, self-titled album. Rather than risk inaccessibility with an outlandish concept or ill-defined genre, Bluesmyth has decided to tell stories in the album's songs, spanning themes absolutely everyone can relate to: trying to find your place in the world, good, evil and injustice, to name a few.

"The MO is just to get the story out, and y'know, hopefully people will listen to it," says Yaholkosk. "Hopefully they'll be as interested as I am. The music has to help tell the story, so you've got to have emotions in the music. I don't know where you are in your life, right? The place where you are in your life. Or even where the world is or what's happening—it's kind of symbolic of what we're doing."

On top of their other progressive themes, Bluesmyth has included songs dealing with racism and suicide. Sure, these themes have been dealt with by many other bands, but Yaholkosk insists that the Bluesmyth spin is not to be missed. Like many writers, the new, darker, storytelling is born of Yaholkosk's love of reading, and the influences he found in books.

"I try to stay positive," asserts Yaholkosk. "I read a lot of true crime, like all that stuff about serial killers. Really dark stuff like cannibalism and all that. I'm reading about the ВТК guy in Wichita right now—bind, torture, kill. [Our music is about] taking those influences and redirecting them, taking them somewhere else."

Apart from his literary influences, he cites Black Sabbath and Greg Allman as having a profound impact on the sound of Bluesmyth. While most bands would stop there, Yaholkosk also credits his hard-rocking blues style to one other source: the forces of darkness.

"I think that's me becoming more evil," ponders Yaholkosk. "It was just an evolution in a way of thinking about things. Being good is so boring."

A handful of Aesop fables and a pinch of pure, elemental evil—a recipe for Bluesmyth. The tale of Henry Smyth culminates the band's diverse set of influences, a representation of the challenges the band faced on their way to relative success. The moral? Stay the hell away from talking goats.

Bluessmyth will be playing the Beltline Blues Festival Fri., June 23 at 3 p.m. Check out some evil-saturated mp3s at www.bluessmyth.com.

cjsw on air guide

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	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
Morning Jazz	6 am morning joy	6 am working man's jazz show	6 am lush life	6 am cold smoke jazz	6 am pussycat dues	6 am late night continued	6 am late night continued
			7 am BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS weekday mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am			7 am democracy now!	7 am alternative radio
						8 am bunte welle german	8 am counterspin
							8 am eritrean radio
	9 am tangential workout	9 am canadian music centre presents	9 am bella musica	9 am airport bison radio	9 am the two and a half hour coffee break		9 am hvratski radio croatian
		10 am stick it to the man					10 am bagong pagasa filipino
							10:30 buscando america latin america
	11 am democracy now!	11 am writer's block	11 am alternative radio	11 am cjsw news counterspin	11 am who shakes city calendar		11 am the good word project
							12 pm level the vibes
	12 pm el moustacheo mysterio	12 pm red squares sponsored by the drum & monkey	12 pm a house fell on my sister	12 pm the mutton chop record hop / pillage the village	12 pm punk up the volume sponsored by beat route magazine	12 pm fantastic plastic sponsored by bird dog video	1 pm the good word project
							1:30 level the vibes
							2 pm mental illness
	1:30 cloud pleaser	1:30 meow mix sponsored by the coup	1:30 nerd beat / strange and beautiful	1:30 the audible smile	1:30 my allergy to the fans sponsored by lubby dog	1:30 bikesheviks sponsored by cadence coffee	2 pm mental illness
							2:30 mental illness
							3 pm mental illness
							3:30 mental illness
	4 pm welcome to flava country sponsored by the hi fi club	4 pm jane & tasya's guide to everything sponsored by broken city	4 pm full disclosure sponsored by liberty lounge	4 pm alternative to what? sponsored by palomino smokehouse	4 pm road pops sponsored by fwd weekly	4 pm caribbean link-up sponsored by fwd weekly	4 pm riddim and weep
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							5 pm riddim and weep
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	6 pm french transe en danse	6 pm off the page gauntlet artlink	6 pm so SU me students' union the blues witness with reverend ron sponsored by calgary dollars	6 pm mezza l'una	6 pm folkcetera	6 pm voice of ethiopia	6 pm riddim and weep
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A Starr named Kinnie



Chris Tait/the Gauntlet

of a wide-eyed, naïve Albertan. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth, as evidenced by her latest album *Anything*. On top of recording five albums, Starr has lived and worked everywhere from Vancouver to New York to Las Vegas.

"I've always traveled," she explains. "I was living hand-to-mouth, traveling around selling stickers I silk-screened myself. I'd sell a stack of them to a bookstore for \$40 and that would last me for ages, I was living really cheaply. I'd dumpster-dive and hitch-hike."

In our era of high oil prices and over-consumption, more of us are settling down to a mediocre education at the U of C and a house in the suburbs. Long before *Anything*, her fourth release, Starr was taking the road less traveled. Sick and tired of Calgary, of boys, of the same, she became an activist.

"My cause was anger—just furiousness at the world," she laughs as she sips her beer. "But I realized putting out art is more compelling than protesting. More people listen if you aren't yelling."

In 1993 she quieted down and started playing music to get her point across. Starr has since gained a reputation as a songstress in the same musical echelon as Ani DiFranco, thanks to her powerful lyrics, impressive voice and—in part—her sexuality. She believes her music is a combination of everything and anything—specifically citing metal and old school hip-hop—but Starr's style does more than combine genres, it transcends them. Her music is "soundy," eschewing the pigeon-holing tendencies of today's music scene, focusing instead on the sonic effect and idealistic significance of the lyrics. This defiance of classification makes the current tour with Buck 65 perfect.

"He made that happen," she says. "We've known each other on and

off for a while. And he's been really good to us. The music industry is still such a boys club that it's easier for a man. Buck 65 ushered us in, I wish he didn't have to, but I'm grateful he did."

Tuesday night the audience packed into The Grand, a venue which hadn't hosted music in 60 years, to absorb Starr and Buck 65's bass-thumping genre-bender. The audience varied from university students to age'd yuppies, however there was little variation in their reception of Starr. All were excited to hear her new material as well as their old favourites.

"I still find it hard to be on stage," she admits, though she plucked up enough courage to play a couple of her songs in an acoustic encore. "I've always played acoustic, but I'm still really afraid to play that stuff. Hip-hop has more bravado I can stand behind."

She claims her nerves aren't the only thing which have stayed the same. As Starr tells it she's just the same old Kinnie, rapping and rhyming about family, loss, honour and the like. Still moving from city to city playing music and selling the t-shirts she silk-screened herself. But it appears there's something different about her—this charming and easy-going woman is content.

"I'm happily in love," she confides, a coy smile illuminating her face, admitting the evening's songs of heartbreak and tears were not referencing her current situation. As she heads off to catch the rest of the show it becomes clear she's not the same angry teenager who left Calgary, no matter the stylistic consistency of her music or the recurring themes, Starr has changed. But all for the best.

Go to www.kinniestarr.com to check out some Kinnie mp3s and read her blog. Visit any grocery store for the necessary cardboard to make a hitching sign.

Kinnie Starr... uhm... well... yeah.

showREV-INTERVIEW:
Kinnie Starr

Rachel Betts-Wilmott
Late copy award-winner

Despite what she may say to the contrary, there's something more to Kinnie Starr's music than the indie/trip-hop/jazz/whatever it's often described as. A Calgary native who cites her brothers' friends and her father's clients as influences, whose lyrics are not only a mish-mash of themes

but languages as well, Starr's speech is about as hard to decrypt as her broad palette of inspiration would suggest.

"My music's just for people to interpret," says Starr, still a little out of breath after her set Tuesday night.

The raven-haired singer-poetess glances around, eager to return to the stage where she can catch Buck 65's performance. It's their first night of a seven-date tour together and her excitement is apparent. While notable, her fervor isn't that

TOP OF THE VOX

CALGARY 90.9 FM
cjsw
106.9 CABLE

TOP 20 FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 19.06

* Denotes Canadian Artist
** Denotes Local Artist

1. **LYNN OLAGUNDOYE****
Africa Violet
Absurd Machine
2. **GNARLS BARKLEY**
St. Elsewhere
Downtown/Atlantic
3. **FEIST***
Open Season
Arts & Crafts
4. **VARIOUS****
The Unkindness Of Ravens: A Vulpine Records Compilation
Vulpine
5. **AFI**
December Underground
Interscope
6. **CAMERA OBSCURA**
Let's Get Out Of This Country
Merge
7. **DON CABALLERO**
World Class Listening Problem
Relapse
8. **HYLOZOISTS***
La Fin Du Monde
Boomp
9. **DUDLEY PERKINS**
Expressions
Stones Throw
10. **HOT CHIP**
The Warning
EMI
11. **JUANA MOLINA**
Son
Domino
12. **THE YEAR OF SLOW DAYS**
Morr
13. **VANCOUGAR***
Losin' It!
Scratch
14. **PRESSURE KILL COMMON STYLE****
Sad Animal
Rectangle
15. **THE MARTYR INDEX****
It's Called Rock And Roll
Meter
16. **KILBOURNE****
Fashion Police Brutality
No List
17. **TOKYO POLICE CLUB***
A Lesson In Crime
Paper Bag
18. **MURDER BY DEATH**
In Bocca Al Lupo
Tent Show
19. **THE PAPER CRANES***
The Paper Cranes
Unfamiliar
20. **TWILIGHT HOTEL***
Bethune
Independent

LOUD

1. **LACUNA COIL**
Karmacode
Century Media
2. **CANNIBAL CORPSE**
Kill
Metal Blade
3. **DRAGONFORCE**
Inhuman Rampage
Noise
4. **ENSLAVED**
Ruun
Candlelight
5. **SODOM**
Sodom
Steamhammer

ELECTRONIC

1. **HOT CHIP**
The Warning
EMI
2. **BLACK TURTLENECK***
Musical Chairs
NRMLS/CM
3. **PHONOTACTIC****
Use Your Talent (If You Can)
Independent
4. **ZERO 7**
The Garden
Atlantic
5. **THIEVERY CORPORATION**
Versions
ESL



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Mon Full Frontal 1999/Full Frontal 0606

Tue Full Frontal 1999/Full Frontal 0606

Wed Full Frontal 1999/Full Frontal 0606

THIS WEEK

Full Frontal 1999

Full Frontal NUTV from 1999:
Join us as NUTV goes back in time to the very last Full Frontal episode of the previous millenium, when everyone thought that the world was coming to an end! It's time to party...like it's 1999!!

Full Frontal NUTV:
By popular demand, we bring back one of the greatest episodes of Full Frontal NUTV ever! David Suzuki, Tommy Chong, hot bikini-clad models, Jessica Zelinka, and a deadly modern-day Ninja, all in one, stunning show!!

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THE SPEAKTANK QUESTION IS:
Which country are you cheering for in the 2006 World Cup of soccer, and why?

HELP WANTED!!

The Student's Union, University of Calgary owns and operates the Stör, a convenience store located in the north courtyard of MacEwan Student Centre. We are currently recruiting for part-time cashiers.

The Job: Cashier duties (including working the till, receiving money, make change, & cashing in and out at start & end of shift); some shelf stocking, light cleaning, and plenty of smiling :-)

The Wage & Hours of Work: 20-30 hours per week; day, evening and weekend shifts required (we can be flexible around class schedules!)

- The Perks:**
- Staff discount (20%)
 - Free slurpees/coffee
 - Meet lots of students and staff

The Requirements: Some cashier or customer service experience is preferred. Please apply in person at the Stör, and **bring a current resume and class schedule.**



stör

off the page



See you at the Trimedia Stampede Breakfast on Wednesday, July 12, from 9 am to 11 am, south lawn of the MacEwan Student Centre.

radio gauntlet | TUESDAYS | 6 pm
 INTERVIEWS—COMMENTARY—ANALYSIS 
 Hosted by Chris Beauchamp and Dale Miller.
 Email: offthepage@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca or steal the mar-juh-reen.

LOST in SPACE

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The **Lost and Found** for MacEwan Student Centre is located in the Information Centre near the food court (between the two elevator doors) and is open daily from 10 am to 2 pm.

LOCATION: MSC INFO CENTRE • HOURS: 10 AM - 2 PM
24 HOUR DROP BOX

s p u n

ALBUM REVIEWS



The Charlatans UK
Simpatico
 (Sanctuary Records)

After almost two decades of making music together, one would expect The Charlatans UK to have firmly carved out a musical niche. Though their sound remained constant for the better part of a dozen years, 2004's *up At The Lake* signalled a shift in direction for the English quintet, sounding more like dance music than straightforward rock. With the release of their latest album, *Simpatico*, The Charlatans have continued on that path, to the same great success.

Simpatico kicks off with "Blackened Blue Eyes," a driving rock number which takes its cues from The Smiths. The song has tremendous intensity, which lasts from the first crunchy piano chord until the last repetition of "blackened blue eyes!" rings out over a cymbal crash.

Having the tone set by the first track, the next ten are laced with the same type of dance-pop and a healthy dose of California ska. The ska influence is especially evident on "For Your Entertainment," "City of the Dead," and "The Architect," with the latter being a particularly standout cut. "The Architect" is a prime example of why the Charlatans have enjoyed success for so many years even with limited mainstream exposure.

Put simply, *Simpatico* is an essential Charlatans album. Despite the amount of change the Charlatans have had to go through to achieve such a diverse collection of songs, the effort was well worth it. If the Charlatans have not yet found their way into your CD library, then *Simpatico* would be an ideal start.

..Darren Young



Elefant
The Black Magic Show
 (Hollywood Records)

In 1986 they would have been in their element, in 1996 they would have been passé, and in 2006 they're destined to be one of the hottest retro '80s bands of the new millennium. Elefant has joined the ranks of several new bands in a revolution bent on reminding the world why '80s music kicked ass. One spin of *The Black Magic Show* and it's obvious Elefant has learned much from their forefathers. The influence of '80s synth-pop bands such as Duran Duran, Tears for Fears and A-Ha is counterbalanced by the moody soundscapes that recall Depeche Mode's darker moments.

But Elefant is by no means a rip-off band.

The Black Magic Show proves that the group has exceptional songwriting talent, musical ability and an indelible mystique that makes their melodies waft through the air long after the record has stopped. It's difficult not to get drawn-in by the harrowing vocal cries and reckless guitars that paint pictures of heartbreak in "My Apology," or the mean bass riff and infectious chorus of the sinful "Lolita." *The Black Magic Show* might have stolen all its tricks from the '80s, but it doesn't matter since we're still dazed, amazed and left yearning for more.

...Trenton Shaw



Katie Melua
Piece By Piece
 (Dramatico)

England's Katie Melua has become a huge success in Europe with her debut album *Call off the Search* selling millions of copies in several countries. Her latest attempt, *Piece By Piece* is a commercially calculated follow-up release which debuted at number one in the UK album charts, proving once again that there's just no accounting for taste.

The disc starts out with deceiving promise. "Shy Boy" is a nice little jazzy number with sultry vocals and tasteful guitar licks courtesy of Chris Spedding. Other jazz-tinged tunes work well, as do the bluesier pieces. Canned Heat's "On The Road Again" is given a rather sugary remake, and although it's one of Melua's better choices

in covers, her singing is too light and sweet for the blues classic to be convincing.

Melua's voice is undeniably beautiful. Unfortunately her luscious vocals can't save the bulk of *Piece By Piece* from being embarrassingly predictable pop drivel. A large part of the problem is her producer, arranger and conductor, Mike Batt. Too much mediocre material is wrapped in syrupy string arrangements provided by The Irish Film Orchestra.

What Melua needs is to hook up with a real blues or jazz band, ditch her producer and find a more interesting writing partner. Yes—tamper with success for art's sake.

..Ken Clarke



Mint Royale
See you in the Morning
 (Faith & Hope Records)

The aptly-named Mint Royale creates music that is fresh, innovative and beautifully refined. *See you in the Morning* has the effect of a warm bath—it leaves you feeling clean, rejuvenated and refreshed. Spanning the palette of dance, electronica and acid jazz, the album is positively uplifting, though overbearing at times. Listeners that aren't ready for the non-stop journey through poppy loops, exuberant vocals and upbeat dance grooves should be warned that *See you in the Morning* can be a lot to swallow, especially for those with a weak stomach for cheese.

To their credit, the band has managed to hit some remarkable musical milestones. Each

song yields a specific vibe, and no track sounds out of place in the mix. *See you in the Morning* steps beyond typical albums in its genre with inventive use of samples and varied vocal contributions. From the soulful singing of "The Effect on Me" to the pristine raps of "Something New," there is never a dull moment. "Rest Your Head" is the perfect outro, as it slows down the momentum and sends you out with sweet humming and spoken apologies. You'll want to go to sleep, not because you're bored, but because you're perfectly relaxed.

..Trenton Shaw