

日本文化の発展



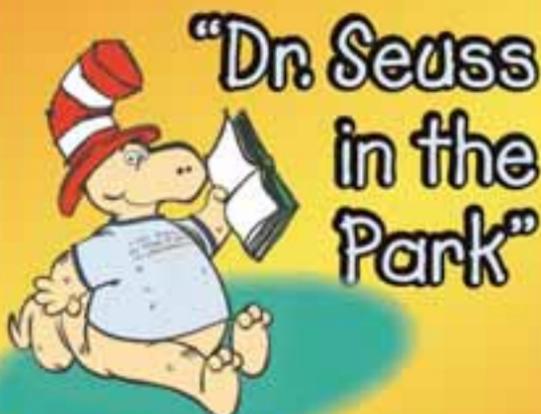


Calendar of Curiosities

www.su.ucalgary.ca



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Faculty Representative (SAA)

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May and September

Appointed Position, Term Starts May 2007
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Faculty Reps are the main communication link between the SU and the faculty in which they are registered. They are responsible for representing and promoting the academic interests of the students in their faculty. Their role involves staying up-to-date and briefing SAA on issues and concerns related to students in their faculty and the SU; and informing their faculty about SU policies, programs, and services. Duties include preparing for, attending and participating in SAA and General Faculties Council (GFC) meetings; working with the student clubs in their faculty; attending Faculty Promotions Committee (FPC)

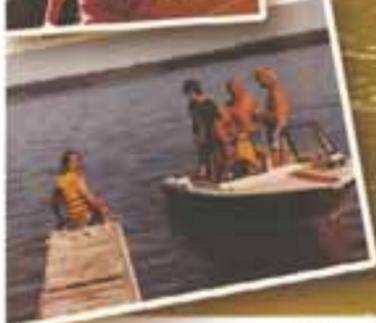
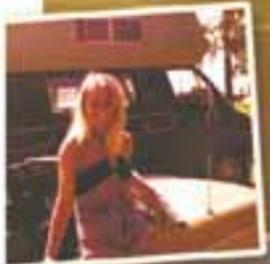
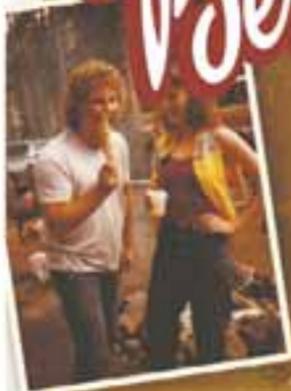
meetings and acting as the student member on the faculty Student Appeal Committee; attending Faculty Council (FC) and any sub-committee meetings; and assisting in administering Teaching Excellence Awards in their faculty.

The following Faculty Rep positions are available: Humanities and Law
Please submit cover letter and resume to the attention of:
Susan Judd, Coordinator, Executive Cabinet, Committees & Elections
E-mail: sjudd@ucalgary.ca or in person:
SU Main Office, 251 MacEwan Student Centre

Deadline: 4:30 pm, Thursday, April 19.

APRIL 13

Bermuda Shorts Day



Main Stage:
RUM RUNNER
JAH CUTTA
THE REMONES
SMALLTOWN DJ'S

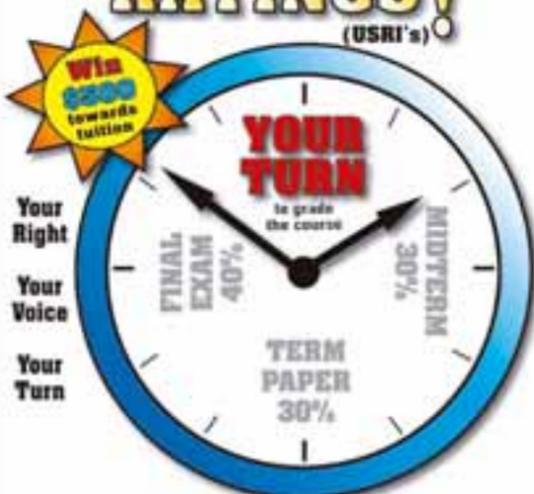
with emcee
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

Term: Part-time, from August 2007 to March 2008
Pay: Honoraria of up to \$2,000 for the by-election and up to \$3,000 for the general election.

The CRO is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the SU fall by-election and winter general election. Duties include hiring all election officials; supervising nominations and voting process; setting up voting stations; and ensuring SU by-laws, policies, and procedures are followed. Your work will be concentrated in September, October, January, February, and early March.

You must have completed one session of studies at U of C. Preference will be given to those with experience in student, civic, provincial, or federal election.

Please submit cover letter and resume to the attention of:
Susan Judd, Coordinator, Executive Cabinet, Committees & Elections
E-mail: sjudd@ucalgary.ca or in person:
SU Main Office, 251 MacEwan Student Centre

Deadline: 4:30 pm, Thursday, April 19.

photo to the editor

"Ballooning Plato" by Jon Roe

Plato may have balloons tied around his finger to celebrate the recently renovated place at the U of C, but I doubt he really cares. Good thing the U of C doesn't celebrate like the Greeks, or else Plato would have to get smashed! Hah, get it? Smashing. Platos. Plates. Yeah, you got it.

Anyone can submit an original photo to the editor. Drop off your high resolution photo along with your name, contact information and a brief description including type of camera (not exceeding 30 words) to room 319 MacEwan Student Centre or email photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca.



Last chance for Senger-style news

news page 5

In one final act of indulgence, news editor Emily Senger uses her name in a headline and the word dildo in at least four places before passing the torch to Katy Anderson. Read her final hurrah in pages five through 11.

WRC moves to Fiji this spring

opinions page 14

The last opinions section of the semester has drama, suspense, angry letters, pictures of rabbits humping, and the final hurrah of Eric Chris Beauchamp. Yay!

A Falun Gong Show

features page 15

This week in the illustrious features section, intrepid boy editor Garth Paulson ends his four-year *Gauntlet* reign of terror by half-heartedly editing a story by fellow retiring intrepid boy editor Kyle Francis. I'm 'bout to go golfing. I'm gonna go somewhere nice where no mosquitoes at. Holla at me. It's your boy.

Guns!

entertainment page 17

There are several photographs of guns in the entertainment section! I really hope that no one would ever shoot a hippo. That would be tragic.

Awards and profiles

sports page 26

To celebrate the end of the year, the Dinos handed out a bunch of awards including one for the top Dino of all time as voted by you, the viewer. Actually, probably not, you, specifically, because I don't know what percentage of people who read the *Gauntlet* contents page voted at godinos.com. Anyway, the sports section also includes a profile on Joanna Niemczewska and an NHL preview. Score!

Supplementacular!

Spoof 2007 — The *Calgary Horrid*: Spoof-sauce is back in full force, taste-free and crass-filled for your reading enjoyment. Also features bee-dogs.

Travel Supplement 2007: From Peshawar to Palestine, from Strasbourg to Jamaica, *the Gauntlet* returns with its second not-so-annual collection of travel writing from students and alumni around campus.

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The *Claire L'Heureux-Dubé Fund for Social Justice* is looking for proposals from women under the age of 30 who would like to organize a workshop on feminism of the future. The deadline for applications is May 31, 2007 and a grant of up to \$40,000 is available.

For details on how to apply, please see our web site:
www.commonlaw.uOttawa.ca/heureuxdube

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GAUNTLET ONLINE




GAUNTLET.UCALGARY.CA

Parting shots

Most writers strive for a certain ideal whenever they sit down to pen something for a mass audience. It should be poignant, relevant and peppered with a smattering of humour. It should open people's eyes, or at least make them nod their head in agreement.

Ironically, these ideals can sometimes coalesce into a crippling wall of inertia, a blockade of unrealized potential. Sometimes these words come *hard*—especially when it's your last crack at the bat, so to speak.

Although my profundity jar is running on empty, my pedantic vocabulary is going strong. Even if I can't quite get this old ball all the way out of the park, I'm going to at least make for one last line drive.

It's been four years for me at the U of C and almost the same amount of time at the *Gauntlet*. In that time, I've done my share of complaining about the way this university is run, I've passed judgment on the performances of more Students' Union executive members and candidates than I ever cared to, and I've had a chance to investigate stories on all sorts of topics.

It's been educational, to say the least.

It's also been stressful beyond anything I've ever experienced. But mostly it's taught me that things are never as simple as they seem. Motivations aren't black and white, but their consequences can be.

For instance, nobody in the U of C administration building is actually motivated by malice.

Shocking, I know.

Their plans aren't designed to derail the undergraduate experience, but sometimes they have. When massive budget cuts were proposed three years ago, it seemed the U of C was about to take an irreparable nose-dive at the end of an already long and gradual decline due to government underfunding. But then Klein saw the light, and it seemed the province might start taking the necessary steps to repair the damage their cuts had caused, or at least to abandon their decade-long stint at the controls of the wrecking ball. Base operating budgets have increased; there is reason to hope, but also much to be done.

Current developments on this campus revolve around \$1.5 billion in capital projects that will see four new landmark buildings for the U of C. Unfortunately, as is often the case when plans are fueled by a boom, there is a big chance that when the bust comes, the impact will be that much worse.

Before these current plans were dreamt up, the U of C's biggest period of growth occurred in a relatively short period in the late

'60s and early '70s. In a whirlwind of progress, new buildings popped up in response to increasing demand for space and an idealistic belief in the future.

Sound familiar? Unfortunately, not only did government funding fail to keep up with maintenance costs, but operating costs as well. Witness deteriorating infrastructure all over campus, from the preposterously leaky Earth Sciences roof to an Info Commons that's sinking into the ground.

The same period saw deterioration in the quality of education directly related to the dwindling resources available. Although this may finally be getting addressed through quality-money initiatives, class-size reduction and the like, it's not enough yet.

The administration is getting a new reputation for caring about the student experience, and it's deserved, to a point. The Take Your Place project, the wireless campus, excellent library resources, su quality money—these are all tangible positives for students, but they're also akin to painting over a hole in the wall.

Yes, growth is important, and yes, new buildings are likely necessary, but it's ridiculous to launch headlong into massive capital expansion without seriously addressing some of the longstanding issues with deferred maintenance and teaching quality.

For those paying attention, nothing I'm saying is new, but there is something to be said for repeating it. The administration has listened. They have made attempts, sometimes cursory, to address a lot of the issues found in *Gauntlet* tirades of the past. The su has voiced a lot of concern over this new age of progress too. That's good, but it's not enough from them either.

The Students' Union was founded—like all unions—on a desire to protect and serve its members. Unfortunately the bottom line has distorted this ideal, much like a piece of writing gone wrong. The su boasts one of the largest operating budgets of any in the country. It currently has some of the lowest student fees, yet charges exorbitant prices for the services students need the most.

Food in the Den/Black Lounge is comparable in price to almost any pub in the city. Prices in the student-run Stör are comparable to the local 7-11, including \$2 coffee that can't cost the su more than a handful of change per cup.

Yes, we have some of the lowest direct fees in the country, but we also pay high prices for everything from lunch to concert tickets.

The Graduate Students' Association provides an interesting juxtaposition. Did you know you can get an entrée in the grad



lounge for \$6? A similar meal at the Den is closer to \$10. Perhaps the su should consider two-tiered pricing, with one price for students and another for townies.

Not all student unions operate on the profit motive. They may charge higher fees, but they offer cheap services, or—gasp!—services at cost. The su does a lot of good work, but students should be thinking critically about what this organization really does for them on a daily basis.

Both administration and the su claim to champion students' interests. Sometimes they even do. But their motivations are never black and white, even if the results can be.

I've been privileged to have a soapbox to grumble about issues like these, and I hope the grumbling continues. It can actually be effective, even if you don't always bat a thousand.

Chris Beauchamp
Editor-in-chief

Editor, the *Gauntlet*

Does not compute

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,
[Re: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," Andrew Rininsland, April 5, 2007.]

The article asks "How much did this cost? What... has been gained?" The answer is that it's saving the university a great deal of money in terms of maintenance costs. InfoNet did not use a database, it worked off a flat file. And it didn't use sessions, because it tapped into the ancient dial-in phone service (that's why it begged you to log off when you were done). That also explains the cap on the number of users it can handle at any given time and the huge downtime for maintenance. Schedule data could not be changed when any users were online. But according to Mr. Rininsland, "functionality has actually decreased by several goddamned orders of magnitude." Personally, I hated getting kicked off or being told that I would only be able to log in at a specific time.

Again, I'm not saying I like PeopleSoft. I hate it, I think it's terribly designed from a usability standpoint. But I fully understand the reasons for the change, and Mr. Rininsland, finding these sorts of facts out before writing an article

about it is what journalism is supposed to be about.

Anonymous Coward

Jesus no joke

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,
I am just wondering how it is possible to publish something that is so incredibly offensive in a campus newspaper. Obviously, the person writing [the joke], "Why doesn't Jesus play hockey? Because he always gets nailed to the boards!" Has no moral or ethical compassion whatsoever.

How do you justify publishing something that offends more than three world religions?

The Crucifixion of Jesus is not something to be made light of. Truly, it is a cornerstone in the Christian faith and is a new beginning as well as the advent of the redemption of all mankind. Anyways, I'm sure this breaks some form of censorship law, considering that it states in your mandate that, "submissions judged to be sexist, racist, homophobic or attacks of a personal nature will not be printed."

My final question, what kind of judge deems such a comment NOT an attack on personal nature and/or faith?

T. Young

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Golden Spatula

Natalie Vacha all the way. Woot!

Furor Arma Ministrat

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The *Gauntlet* is the official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute. Opinions contained herein are those of individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire *Gauntlet* staff. Editorials are chosen by a majority of the editorial board. The *Gauntlet* is a forum open to all U of C students but may refuse any submission judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic, libelous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Grievances regarding the *Gauntlet* follow a three-step process which requires written decisions from the Editor, the GPS Board of Directors, and the Ombudsboard. The complete Grievance Policy is online at: <http://gauntlet.ucalgary.ca>. The *Gauntlet* is printed on recycled paper and uses shattered dream-based ink. We urge you to recycle/fail at the *Gauntlet*.

Letter Policy

Letters must be typed, double-spaced and received by Monday at 4 p.m., and must include the author's name, student ID number, telephone number and signature. Letters will not be printed if they include attacks of a strictly personal nature, statements that discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or sexual orientation, or libellous or defamatory material. All letters should be addressed to "Editor, the *Gauntlet*," and be no longer than 300 words. The *Gauntlet* retains the right to edit submissions. Letters can be delivered or mailed to the *Gauntlet* office, Room 319 MacEwan Student Centre, or sent by e-mail to gauntlet@ucalgary.ca.

The Cover
artwork by Danny Kirk



UWO paper under fire for satire issue

Angry students claim “rape joke” goes too far

Emily Senger
News Editor

What was intended as a joke about feminism in the University of Western Ontario students’ newspaper has outraged students who said they are left feeling violated by an article that supports a rapist culture.

The contentious article was a part of the *Gazette’s* annual spoof issue published for April Fool’s Day. The story describes an out-of-control “Take Back the Nightie” march, in which one of the protesters—a member of the uwo feminist group—is violated by London police chief Murray Faillkner’s lubed-up nightstick, to which she replies “I love it when a man in uniform takes control.”

Gazette editor-in-chief Ian Van Der Hurk admitted that the nightstick recipient, dubbed “Jennifer Ostrich” in the story, was intended to satirize uwo Women’s Issues Network member Jenna Owsiank, who has written letters to the *Gazette* criticizing their sexist content and has also criticized the *Gazette* in the *Grapevine*, a monthly uwo student-run magazine.

“I support freedom of speech and I even support their right to pub-



Emily Senger/the Gauntlet

Zombies attack! The *Gauntlet* has a copy of the *Gazette* spoof. What it lacks in funny, it makes up for in masturbation jokes.

lish the majority of these articles, but I don’t support an individual [being] violently raped in order to silence her,” said uwo fourth-year literary and cultural theory student Laurel Mitchell, who has organized a campaign calling for the immediate resignation of the *Gazette* editor-in-chief.

The protest group is urging anyone offended by the article, entitled “LABIA MAJORA CARNAGE,” to write letters to the uwo Students’ Council president, the university president, the uwo equality services, the *Gazette*, the London

police chief and local media.

Despite the demands, Van Der Hurk said he plans to retain his post until his term is up at the end of May.

“I’m not going to [resign],” said Van Der Hurk. “We can admit that we were wrong and that this isn’t how it was supposed to be interpreted and we’re sorry for that.”

According to Van Der Hurk, the article does not condone rape or sexual abuse and was meant to satirize both feminists and the false idea that “women want it anyways.”

Since the spoof printed, the *Gazette*

published two editorials in response. The first, published Tues., Apr. 4, told students who were offended to: “Get over yourself” since the spoof was meant as satire and not truth. The more recent editorial, published Tues., Apr. 10, stood by its original editorial, but also apologized to people who took the spoof article other than the way it was intended.

Van Den Hurk added that the spoof was not put online because the *Gazette* did not want specific articles taken out of context.

The uwo Students’ Council (usc), which funds the *Gazette* and acts as publisher, holds the power to fire Van Der Hurk, but usc president Fab Dolan said they likely won’t

use it. Since the article was satire, there was nothing legally wrong with what the *Gazette* printed.

“[Firing Van Der Hurk] would be me acting on moral grounds and it wouldn’t be professional,” said Dolan, noting that though the usc is publisher, they have never censored anything in the *Gazette* and do not see the paper before it goes to print.

“If I were ever in a position to be a censor it would bring into question the checks and balances on the things that I do,” said Dolan.

Dolan said the usc plans to work

with *Gazette* staff and students-at-large to study ways to make it a better and more accountable paper, including a possible revamp of the editor removal process.

The matter was discussed at the usc’s council meeting the evening of Wed., Apr. 11, but results of that meeting were not available before press time.

“I support freedom of speech... but I don’t support an individual [being] violently raped in order to silence her.”

—Laurel Mitchell,
University of Western Ontario student

The editorial apology isn’t good enough for WIN members, including third-year women’s studies major Kathryn Mitrow, who feels she also appeared in the article as “Katie Conservative.”

“The WIN is constantly complaining when they publish things like this,” said Mitrow. “This is probably the worst in my three years at Western. The *Gazette* [often] has jokes about feminists, homosexuals and violence against women.”

Mitrow said if she had her way, the *Gazette* would be suspended for a year.

“I want these individuals to know we don’t live in a consequence-free society,” she said.

The *Gauntlet* contains its very own spoof, the *Calgary Horrid*, in this issue. Check it out to judge our level of offensiveness for yourself.

Saving snow leopards in India and pandas in China

Zoo’s head of conservation outreach thinks outside the cage

Christina Lam
Gauntlet News

Dressed in a turtleneck and sport jacket, Brian Keating doesn’t strike one as the type to trek treacherous Nepalese mountains, hot on the tail of the elusive snow leopard. But as the full house drawn to his ‘Going Wild’ lecture Wed., Apr. 4 at the University of Calgary can attest to, when it comes to Keating, there is clearly more than meets the eye.

Only several minutes into his presentation, Keating quickly shed his mild-mannered exterior as images of grinning mountain guides,

enormous peaks and snow leopard urine flashed across the screen. Keating’s lecture revolved around his many travels as head of conservation outreach at the Calgary Zoo, and was sponsored by the Students’ Union and University of Calgary Ecoclub.

“I’ve been traveling the world now for 30 years and all of my focus has been on places where there’s some of the best wildlife-watching in the world,” said Keating. “When I come back, I come back with a story of hope. We have a huge problem facing us now with the disappearance of habitats, global climate change and so on, but I want to show people that there’s still a lot out there. What I want

to do is inspire people and get them excited about nature.”

After serving as the education director at the Calgary Zoo for 15 years, Keating entered his current position inspired by the progress being made internationally by other zoological societies.

“I realized then that there were lots of zoos doing amazing things, not just caging animals,” said Keating. “I realized that there was maybe something else I could do at the zoo, and ever since then it’s been a whirlwind. Zoos are starting to think of different ways of affecting the world. If you want to be a progressive zoo, it’s your duty

to be involved in conservation work.”

Keating went on to list the numerous partnerships the Calgary Zoo has developed since the inception of their conservation program, including a panda breeding centre in China, and more recently, a hippo sanctuary in West Africa.

The Calgary Zoo’s conservation program is also associated with a number of other conservation organizations and independent researchers.

“In the course of five years, the numbers of zoos involved in active conservation has doubled,” continued Keating. “It’s very

see CONSERVATION EFFORTS, page 6

campus quips



“Pharmacology. We got to learn about drugs.”
— Brandon Nicol, first-year nursing



“Organizational psychology. My prof created a very positive environment for the students.”
— Paula Turcasso, fourth-year psych



“General studies 300. My prof took a novel approach to learning.”
— Tammy Schwass, second-year communication studies



“Geography 599.01, sub-surface methods. It’s something I might actually use for a career.”
— Chris Graham, fourth-year geography

Ski club skating on thin ice

Sarelle Azuelos
Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary Ski Club has been having some fun lately—perhaps a little too much—putting the club in danger of being unsanctioned if they break the rules next year.

In October they violated university policy by holding a pub crawl for students, and recently took a *Gauntlet* feud public when they wrote “Fuck the Gauntlet” on the rock in front of MacEwan Student Centre. The possible consequences for their behaviour include community service, a loss of office space and even being unsanctioned.

Ski Club junior executive Dylan Heerema wasn't too worried.

“They keep saying that we're on our last legs, that we're this close to getting [un]sanctioned—we've been that way all year,” said Heerema.

The Ski Club executives have already performed community service for the Students' Union by dressing up in rabbit and turtle

costumes and handing out pens to promote the SU general election in February.

The typical punishment for an infraction like the pub crawl is suspension of privileges, but due to a previous blanket suspension over all clubs, an alternative was needed, said SU clubs committee chair Dan Nixon.

“I can speculate that they won't get an office next year because they've been such a pain in the butt, but there's no way of guaranteeing that,” said Nixon, noting next year's returning SU staff will influence the decision because they have experience with the clubs' behaviour.

No additional action will be taken this year.

“It's the last week and I don't really care anymore,” said Nixon, regarding the message on the rock. “I don't want to have to deal with it.”

According to Ski Club VP events Tom McCullam, the Ski Club planned an event and they wanted to advertise for it in the *Gauntlet*. They were refused because of an outstanding debt for previous advertising.

“So then someone said, ‘Screw

the *Gauntlet*, this is better publicity,’ but then we ran out of room so we just wrote ‘Fuck the Gauntlet,’” explained McCullam.

Nixon said he hopes the club will keep its nose clean next year.

“They've had their problems, but a lot of it's due to administration and staff at the start of the year,” said Nixon. “A lot of the clubs didn't get properly oriented.”

Nixon noted there was poor attendance at the survival seminars put on by the clubs committee in September, which meant many clubs didn't know the SU's basic rules. Pub crawls are prohibited by the university, not the SU, because of a bus policy placed in effect after damages to Cascade Hall, said Nixon.

Since painting the rock, the Ski Club has paid their three-year outstanding debt to the *Gauntlet*.

Snowboard Club communications executive Jenna Rogers said their club has many dedicated skiers and would gladly allow others to join and come on their trips, should anything happen to the Ski Club.



Emily Senger/the Gauntlet

As part of their punishment, members of the ski club dressed up in bunny costumes to promote the SU general election.

Conservation efforts, continued from page 5

exciting because collectively, if you look at the total budget money those zoos invest, it's huge. It's millions and millions of dollars, so zoos now are doing effective work.”

Keating's presentation chronicled his many adventures, including his

recent outing to Northern India in search of the world's most mysterious carnivore: the snow leopard.

Accompanied by renowned field biologist and photographer George Schaller, Keating journeyed to remote mountain villages

to learn about the peaceful coexistence between snow leopards and the mountain range's indigenous population, despite the obvious threat posed to their livestock.

“These are people that live with snow leopards,” Keating said. “They

are actually living with them, not killing them. It can actually be done. People are realizing that now is the time to start changing. If we don't, we're going to lose a lot of the wildlife and areas that we hold special to our hearts.”

In addition to his current role as head of conservation outreach at the Calgary Zoo, a position he noted was created for him, Keating has also become a prominent figure in the conservation community.

Coupled with his extensive travels, Keating has worked with CBC Radio, the Discovery Channel and

published several books, all advocating protection of the world's remaining wild spaces.

“We have 6.5 billion people on the planet,” said Keating. “If we don't get our collective act together and try to find a way to live with wild creatures that are still on this planet, we're going to lose them. I think zoos can have a very powerful voice in getting public attention focused towards doing good conservation work. If we use that effectively and carefully, it gives us an amazing opportunity to talk to a lot of people.”

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Al Gore coming to Calgary

Katy Anderson
News Assistant

A former American vice-president and rumored presidential candidate is coming to Calgary.

Al Gore will be speaking at the Jack Singer Concert Hall about issues affecting climate change, focusing on information presented in his award-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. The Calgary Chamber of Commerce and the University of Calgary are sponsoring the event, which will be held Mon., April 23.

"Bringing Al Gore to Calgary has been very controversial," said U of C director of community relations Allison MacKenzie. "Many companies won't even touch this one. But the university is a place to discuss different ideas, and climate change is a hugely important issue."

Tickets sold out in three days, but the university is holding a contest to give away 20 tickets to students who come up with ideas on how to make the U of C campus more sustainable.

"Campus infrastructure and campus planning are looking at different initiatives at greening campus," said Allison Mackenzie. "We want to be a leader in terms of being a green campus."

Winners will be picked at random and all ideas will go to campus planning and infrastructure to be evaluated and possibly implemented.

As well as making tickets accessible through the contest, the U of C put funding towards 100 tickets, making them available to students at a discounted rate of \$29.95 from the regular rate of \$159.

Campus crime, one last time

Cam Cotton-O'Brien
Gauntlet News

Random nonsense added to the usual theft on campus after a non-student was encouraged by friends/booze to plunge into the pool fully-clothed, a man attempted to propose marriage to an athlete training in the Olympic Oval and a motorist took down a barricade erected two years ago by crashing into it.

In January, a non-student who was staying in residence ran into the Aquatic Centre, climbed up to the seven-metre diving board and jumped into the water, all without bothering to remove his socks.

Campus Security responded and the man was banned from the university for the night and escorted off campus.

A man who had become infatuated with an athlete in the Oval was also dealt with by security as he loitered around watching a practice.

"It was somebody struggling with mental health issues," said Campus Security director Lanny Fritz. "So we talked to him and indicated where he might want to go for help and assistance and he left."

In another mental-health related issue, Campus Infrastructure staff found an unknown person living in a locked electrical room in the Science Theatres.

A number of items, including clothing, food, reading material and drug paraphernalia were found in the room, which had been forcibly entered. This is not the first time that security has dealt with an instance such as this.

"We come across these situations a couple of times throughout the year," said Fritz. "Most of the time we learn that they are people of no fixed address who have accessed the university [via] the LRT from the



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

They're watching you...

downtown area. We've [found] used syringes and used needles in the past."

The motorist who attempted to drive north on Collegiate Road from 24 Ave NW—a route that has been inaccessible for two years—ran into the heavy metal gate that was barring the way, damaging the gate and vehicle in the process. The motorist escaped without injury, but was

charged by police with careless driving.

Campus Security responded to an email tip about a 'gang turf war,' and found an assault had taken place in the Information Commons. The assault involved numerous people, resulting in three persons being banned from campus.

There was also a theft in the

McMahon Stadium parking lot. A routine patrol by Campus Security resulted in the apprehension of an individual caught inside a car with a broken rear-side window and a gym bag set on the ground next to the vehicle. Campus Security turned the man over to city police.

The January/February security update also showed a substantial reduction in alcohol-related incidents from levels three years ago. This statistic was compiled using data from the first semester of each of those school years.

"We had something like a 49 per cent reduction in alcohol-related incidences over a period of four years, [measured] from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, each of those years," said Fritz. "That's pretty significant. We attribute it to the good management practices of the Student's Union. In particular, we give a lot of credit to the [Den] identification scanner that flags people that have caused problems in the bar in the past."

Fritz also warned students to guard their belongings closely when studying. Laptops are particularly vulnerable to theft.

Thank you 2006/07 Gauntlet volunteers.

The Gauntlet is a volunteer-driven organization and we literally couldn't have done it without you. Whether you guys proofread a single flat or wrote 40 stories, we appreciate all your help. Thank you!

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The Gauntlet reviews your SU executive

Emily Wyatt has had a successful year as Students' Union president, though how much of that is due directly to Wyatt herself, is questionable. She was lucky to have strong vps and a strong su bureaucracy behind her every move.

Launching her year on a platform that included the goals of increasing su communication with students, the usual lobbying promises of increased post-secondary funding and a distinct focus on campus life, Wyatt had a lofty agenda and delivered on a lot of it.

One of her big ideas was to garner direct student input, and the plan eventually morphed into the su's traveling office hours. It can be lonely at the top, and for too long the su executive has been discon-

President



Emily Wyatt

nected from a lot of direct student input. At a campus as famous for its apathy as it is for its research focus, getting students to offer input can be like asking an engineer for a lesson in French-kissing. Bringing the su to the masses was a success.

Wyatt also injected new life into the Student Advisory Council, bringing students together in a focus group to discuss various issues. The

sac helped develop student-made solutions, notably a revamped clubs policy to target clubs not fulfilling their student focus. Wyatt was ready to stand up to these abuses of clubs funding, pissing off a few people for the sake of quite a few more.

On the lobbying front, the su was predictably "successful," with the usual methods and culprits present. Wyatt and vp external Julie

Labonte spent a week in Fredricton for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations annual general meeting, and another in Edmonton for the Council of Alberta University Students lobby conference. The results were positive, with a new federal focus on PSE—including a transfer payment to the provincial vault for education—and meetings with provincial big-wigs. Wyatt was unsurprising in her role as the head of the U of C's lobby front, acting competently, if uninspired. She was blessed with an excellent vp external in Labonte, as she was in her other exec underlings.

By most accounts her dealings with administration were professional. She took a decidedly cooperative approach on most issues,

something Wyatt noted corresponds with admin's new-found commitment to the "student experience."

Wyatt is known for being present most Thursdays at the Den and knockin' 'em back with the best of 'em. Though some su members have noted her affinity for the good times has hurt her professionalism, some also said this chumminess has helped her keep the su cohesive. Her executive is a close-knit group and she deserves much credit for keeping them that way.

Wyatt's presidential year wasn't phenomenal, but it wasn't a meltdown either. All things considered, she did a good job with what she had, and was lucky to be surrounded by competent people.

..Chris Beauchamp

Eric Jablonski has a large, blue vibrating dildo in a pint glass on the edge of his desk. The pint glass is much like the one on my desk, except for the contents. Mine contains pens. Jablonski's contains a dildo.

While the plastic (or rather silicone) penis would be inappropriate in any other office, the eclectic mix of band posters, the comfy couch and a constant stream of Students' Union staffers and friends dropping in to say hi makes Mr. Blue right at home. Everything about Jablonski's office indicates a man who likes to have a good time, and perhaps this is why he has had such an excellent

run as vice-president events.

As drummer for the local punk band Knucklehead, Jablonski and music go together like dog's pee and fire hydrants. As a result, this year's That Empty Space has arguably been the best so far—if the indie kids packing the space each Friday afternoon are any indication.

Aside from music, Jablonski has kept other weekly events like Cinemania going strong, also adding some new ones like the increasingly popular Indie Rock Bingo. His bigger events like Enviropalooza and International Week have been mainly successful, and when

events were not a smashing success he noted it in order to improve the next time around.

On top of fun and games, Jablonski is not too shabby at the important stuff. Along with fellow vp operations and finance Cody Wagner, Jablonski was able to make headway in the ongoing CJSW/SU space dispute and CJSW is the closest they've been to their new space in at least seven years. For this he should be proud.

If there is criticism to be found in Jablonski's term, it is that some of his events came together last minute, making promotion difficult. Some commissioners also complained that



VP events

Eric Jablonski

he wasn't the best communicator and didn't always let others know of all the events in the works, but these criticisms are small in comparison to overwhelming praise.

Jablonski and his dildo are return-

ing for a second term as vp events next year, and if he can keep his enthusiasm for the job as high as it is now, students can be assured good times will continue.

..Emily Senger

VP external



Julie Labonte

All in all, vice-president external Julie Labonte had a good year. Her strongest qualities were

in lobbying, which is good as it is the number one priority for the external position.

While Labonte fulfilled her job description, she also took on extra projects that may not have been beneficial for the Students' Union as a whole.

The most obvious example of Labonte's over-ambition was a planned leadership conference. From the beginning many su members voiced concerns about the amount of time needed to hold a conference in relation to the small number of individuals who would

benefit from it. Even her strongest supporters said it would have benefited the su had she cut her losses earlier and mentioned she felt tied to the conference because it was in her platform.

Commissioners across the board were quick to point out Labonte's strong leadership skills in the form of being both easily accessible and supportive. Although Labonte was known for her general level-headedness and maturity, she was also

criticized for lacking composure when decisions were made other than what she had planned for.

Labonte played a key role in the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations as the western regional director, and pushed for a travel cost-sharing policy to allow smaller schools to gain access to national lobbying. Her strong national and provincial lobbying presence also meant much time spent off campus and both her and su president Emily Wyatt's frequent travel expenses went over budget by almost 30 per cent.

Some of Labonte's accomplishments include two relatively successful political action weeks, strengthening the What'SUp space and a sustainability policy for Mac Hall in partnership with vp operations and finance Cody Wagner.

Despite her strong start, Labonte was criticized for losing steam near the end of the year. Since she put in so many extra hours initially, she banked much of her vacation time until the end. Though she cannot be faulted for taking time off, it meant a weaker finish to an otherwise strong year for both Labonte and her commissioners.

Although Labonte did not accomplish all her platform goals, she fulfilled her job description and her signature dedication and passion for student issues was appreciated by all who worked with her over her term.

..Katy Anderson

Students' Union Volunteer Services (SUVS) is looking to hire talented, mature and open-minded undergraduate students who possess a minimum of one year volunteer experience. All program positions involve the following volunteer and program management skills:

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All positions \$10 - \$10.25 per hour, approximately 12.5 to 15 hours per week.
Deadline for all positions: Monday, April 16, 2007. For more information, visit the SUVS office in MSC 225 or visit our website at www.su.ucalgary.ca/volunteer.
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Vice-president operations and finance Cody Wagner was not properly interviewed for this review. While this might seem unfair, it also seems unfair that Wagner banked his vacation time and took five days off at the end of the semester when all of his commissioners were trying to finish up their projects, annoying many in the process.

Despite this, the rest of Wagner's term should not be judged by five poorly-timed vacation days. Wagner was a hard working VP and was always plugging away in his office, labeled by co-workers as approachable, professional and friendly.

It was interesting to see Wagner grow as a leader throughout his

term. When he first stepped into office, Wagner's manner was a bit awkward. He often seemed unsure of himself and his portfolio and needed to defer to Students' Union staff to answer many questions. As the year progressed, Wagner worked hard to gain the knowledge needed to effectively run MacEwan Students' Centre. His confidence visibly increased, and by the middle of fall semester he could usually answer questions without running to SU staff first.

As his confidence increased, Wagner made better use of his strong commission, allowing each commissioner to develop their own projects and this approach worked

to create tangible results.

The most notable commissioner project was redressing environmental issues in Mac Hall, including installing recycling bins. Wagner and crew were also responsible for breathing new life into the defunct campus recycling board. Though adding recycling bins was only a simple first step, it will hopefully set the stage for future greening of Mac Hall under the eye of incoming VP op-fi Fraser Stuart.

His commissioners also designed a survey to tackle an issue near and dear to the hearts of many students—Den service and quality.

Wagner's calm, laid-back style smoothed previous feuds. Notably,



VP
op-fi

Cody
Wagner

signing a three-year deal with the Muslim Students' Association and making headway on the CJSW/SU space dispute for the first time since their new operating agreement was signed two years ago. This is a big deal and Wagner should be proud. Wagner also maintained mostly positive club relations, not an easy

task with more than 150 clubs.

The position of VP op-fi is not a glamorous one and requires a level-headed, agreeable leader to deal with numbers, building issues and multiple requests for money. Wagner was all of these, and students should be satisfied with his term.

.. Emily Senger



VP
academic

Shannon
O'Connor

As vice-president academic, Shannon O'Connor is in charge of four academic commissioners as well as the 13 faculty representatives who make up the Students' Academic Assembly. Although O'Connor claims her greatest weakness this year was taking on too many projects, she used her commissioners and faculty reps effectively for support.

O'Connor's focus on teaching improvement in undergraduate courses was commendable. Her efforts to strengthen relationships with the Teaching and Learning Centre served as a notable step towards this goal. Using her commissioners and faculty reps, O'Connor

also spearheaded proposals to create a teacher preparedness program, which she hopes will eventually be mandatory for every instructor at the university.

In addition to her proposals for improving instruction, O'Connor worked hard to improve the general student experience. Like many of her predecessors, O'Connor promised an online exam bank and, like many of her predecessors, she failed. This time around, the failure could be blamed on the university's review of its intellectual property policy. Despite this, O'Connor managed to draft a policy, which is further along than anyone else has got.

She also lobbied for improve-

ments to the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction online format to make the course rating system more accessible and relevant. The online response rates remain lower than the previous paper response rates, though it is not for lack of effort on her part.

Though much of the VP academic's work takes place in committees, O'Connor was able to pull off two visible events for students successfully. O'Connor should be commended for the first quality of education "Discussion Deli" to facilitate dialogue between students, staff and administration.

Last semester she also organized the first SU Undergraduate Research Symposium, giving more than 70 students the chance to share their hard work with the campus community.

Also on the research front, O'Connor consolidated internal undergraduate research opportunities, allowing students to prepare a single application for multiple research positions. Although the

consolidation process is not yet complete, the groundwork is laid for incoming VP academic Brittany Sargent to finish the job.

Criticism of O'Connor's term is difficult to come by, and SU members are quick to commend her professionalism, dedication and ability to keep things together while managing a ridiculously large number of commitments. The only critique

is that her communication within her commission was poor at times, though if this is indeed the case, it didn't result in any visible issues.

While the goal of making the academic experience more enjoyable, or at least manageable, is a challenging one, O'Connor has successfully balanced multiple obligations and done so with a smile.

..Sara Hanson

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A year's worth of news in review

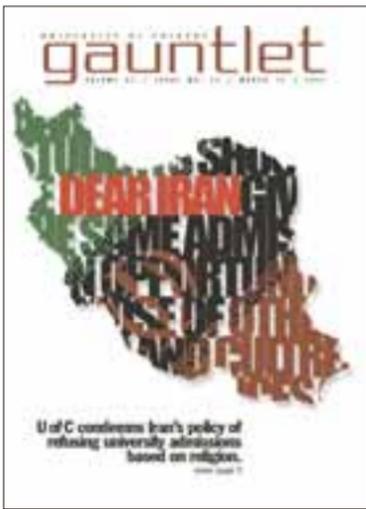
Natalie Vacha
Gauntlet News

Federal budget good for students

A \$3.2 billion government-spending package to create a "knowledge advantage," was announced Tues., March 20, and included an additional \$800 million in funding for post-secondary education.

The package included increased funding to graduate programs, elimination of limits on education savings plans, millions in research money and support for international students.

However, schools will not see the cash until the 2008/09 academic year.



U of C condemns denial of education to Bahá'ís

Several Bahá'í professors at the U of C made a push for action in May when they petitioned president Dr. Harvey Weingarten to take up the cause of Bahá'ís in Iran.

In February the U of C General Faculties Council sent a letter to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and to the United Nations. The letters stated that "access to knowledge is a fundamental human right," and,

"there is evidence that persons of the Bahá'í faith are being denied access to higher education in Iran."

Rez students to lead SU next year

Students voted in new Students' Union leaders in a tight race at the end of February. Three of the five executive elected in the SU general election are members of the Residence Students' Association, including president-elect Julie Bogle, who edged out her nearest competitor by a mere 20 votes.

The vice-president operations and finance was an even tighter race than president, with Fraser Stuart edging out Kyle Olsen by just 16 votes.

Current SU external commissioner and RSA external manager Mike Selnes garnered 55 per cent of the vote to come out on top of Teale Phelps Bondaroff in the VP external race while Brittany Sargent took VP academic and current VP events Eric Jablonski was acclaimed for another term.

Pepsi contract extended

Although the U of C is preparing to accept bids for a new cold-beverage exclusivity contract, the current 10-year contract held by Pepsi was extended from its original expiry date of September 2007 until at least December 2007.

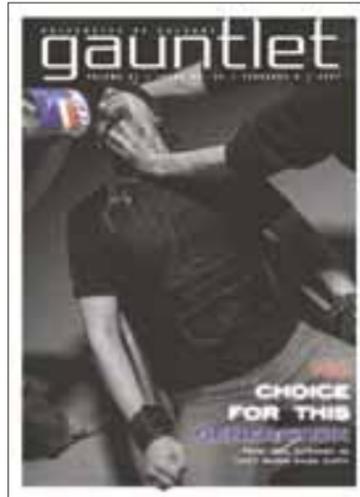
SU VP operations and finance Cody Wagner noted the SU's decision to sign a new contract with the university will be dependent upon the share of money they receive in relation to the volume of sales that come from MacEwan Student Centre.

Ancillary Services director Peter Fraser noted scholarships are among the list of priorities supported by money from U of C's contract with Pepsi, which has also been used to support the recent expansion of MSC, as well as Dinos athletic teams.

PeopleSoft launches

The Infonet was replaced in February by new software designed by PeopleSoft. The transition was plagued by a host of problems such as misreported pay cheques and numerous crashes.

Changes include reducing or



eliminating wait times, adding course waiting lists and a course swap function where students can switch one course for another, rather than having to drop their class first. The new system will also be up all the time, rather than shutting down at 11 p.m.

Board of Governors votes for 3.3 per cent tuition hike

In what has become a yearly occurrence, the U of C board of governors raised tuition by 3.3 per cent for all undergraduate and graduate students in January. The final vote was 12 in favour of the increase and four against.

The increase was limited by a new government policy which ties increases to the rate of inflation, but this is the first time in three years students will notice an increase in tuition of \$15 per half course. In 2005 and 2006 the provincial government paid for the increase of \$62 per half course, meaning students still paid the 2004/05 rate

of approximately \$5,100 per year for a full course load.

Presidential review process draws criticism

U of C president Dr. Harvey Weingarten's five-year contract was up for review last December, but faculty and students felt they were being left out of the process.

Traditionally, presidential terms are extended following the formation of a presidential review committee, which is composed of all stakeholders. However, for Weingarten's extension a committee was not formed or consulted.

Instead the board of governors—the U of C's highest governing body—bypassed this step and worked with the senior compensation committee, which

usually determines compensation for senior officials and does not examine or review term extensions.

The board announced their decision to extend Weingarten's term for five years January 29.



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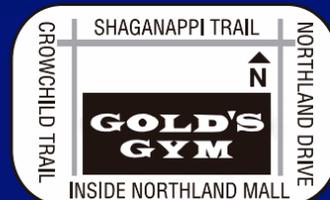


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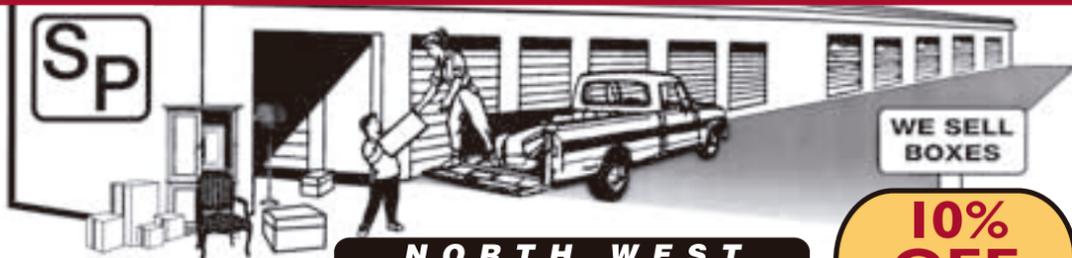


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Bringing back the best of news



U of C announces nursing school in Qatar

The U of C announced plans to open a nursing faculty in Qatar, an oil-rich state in the Persian Gulf. The project is expected to top \$1 billion, and will be funded by the Qatari government.

The program will begin with 40 Qatari students in September 2007 with plans to expand to 100 students annually and will offer both master's and doctorate programs within 10 years. Expansion to other faculties is also likely.

U of C president Dr. Harvey Weingarten admitted the international branch will be an expensive undertaking, but explained that Qatar will provide both the physical and financial resources to do it.

Women's Resource Centre opens

The U of C Women's Resource Centre celebrated its official opening Wed., Oct. 18.

The centre, which is located on the third floor of MSC, opened with a buffet lunch, tours of the new space and a keynote speech delivered by Global television anchor Nirmala Naidoo.

"This has been the most rewarding experience and project I have ever worked on," said Georgia Houston, who led the team of environmental

design students who created the new space. "It is an incredible sense of fulfillment to know I contributed to such an important space for women on campus."

Professor wins suit against U of C

In January 2005, professor Peter Bowal filed a lawsuit against the U of C, accusing the institution of wrongfully withholding salary and of breach of contract as a consequence of "arbitrary abuse of power and discretion." Bowal won the suit in court this September 2006.

"The judge found that the university was negligent in payroll and that there was a breach of contract," said Bowal.

A statement from U of C vice-president external relations Roman Cooney read: "Contrary to Dr. Bowal's position, the court expressly stated that there had been

no breach of trust and no acts of bad faith by the university."

Bowal's lawsuit stemmed from an incident in the 2001/2002 academic



term when he was on sabbatical to take fellowship with the United States Supreme Court. The U of C told him he was required to return to

campus in July, but Bowal remained in Washington until August to complete his fellowship.

The dispute led the U of C to terminate Bowal's employment for failing to return to campus without approved leave, and issued an assessment for almost \$50,000 in salary owing.

\$2 million donated to new rez

Dr. Henry Fok Ying Tung, a philanthropist and entrepreneur, donated \$2 million to create a new residence building for international students near the end of September.

"[My father] was very impressed with Calgary, the fastest growing city in Canada," said Dr. Fok's son Ian Fok. "[He] thought it was a good idea for more international housing, to encourage more exchanges."

The donation doesn't cover the

entire cost of the building, but will provide seed capital needed to move the project forward.

Dr. Fok passed away in October.

7,000 new spaces by 2010

The U of C announced an ambitious plan to add 7,000 new student spaces by 2010 at a groundbreaking ceremony on the first day of classes, Sept. 11, 2006.

Many of the new spaces will come through four capital projects: the Calgary Campus Digital Library, the Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy, the Experiential Learning Centre and the Urban Campus, said U of C president Dr. Harvey Weingarten.

To date, construction has not begun on any of the projects and only the digital library has partial government funding.

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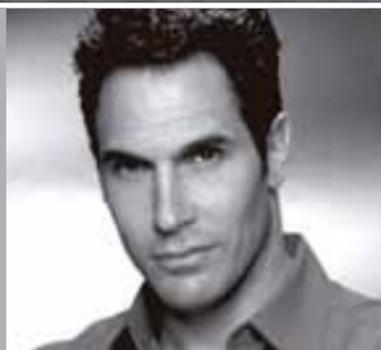


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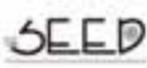


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Spring is chock-full of awesome!



Andrew Barbero
Gauntlet Opinions

Psst. You there. Yeah you! Put that pencil down and close that book! It's daydreaming time.

That's right. I want you to imagine a happy place, a wonderful land of freedom and adequate sleep, a magical realm know as 'spring.' And spring starts soon, although not soon enough.

Now, I know a bunch of egg-head science types are going to try and convince you the first day of spring already came and went, but don't listen to those pencil-neck geeks. Spring starts the day of your last exam or essay. Yep, it's right around the corner!

No doubt there's a lot to do between now and then, and honestly, you should get off your ass and get to work instead of reading this article. But since we're daydreaming and you're coming along for the ride, let's take a look at why spring will rock.

First off, the basics. BSD is drawing near. Start counting the hours. For others reading this, it's already happened. Treasure the memories.

Then, the snow melts and the sun returns to prominence. While everyone appreciates the boost in vitamin D, all warm-blooded people can't wait to see the opposite (or



same) sex start taking off the layers. *Vive la* mini skirt and tank top! *Vive la* bare chest and shorts!

Spring means we can reclaim our backyards and fire up the barbecues. Just imagine how much better a steak on the patio will taste compared to eating your 247th

ham sandwich of the year in the MacKimmie Library.

And while we're dreaming about things you'll never see on campus, why don't we talk about a successful sports team? The Calgary Flames are back in the playoffs for the third straight season and have a

puncher's chance against the Detroit Red Wings. Red Mile anyone? Plus the CFL's Calgary Stampeders open training camp in June.

While you may be experimenting with font sizes to pad your term papers, this spring you can experiment with some exciting

conventions, festivals and people. Like the Calgary Underground Film Festival in April. You can also go check out Dog the Bounty Hunter, or head to Calgary Women's Show. Or better, my personal favourite, the Calgary Comic Expo, featuring the original Hulk, Lou Ferrigno!

Like comedy? Jeff Foxworthy, John Pinette and Bill Cosby are all slated to appear this spring, along with Funnyfest, the Calgary comedy festival.

Don't like spending money? The Lilac festival is free. Well, pretty much free. Unless you want to eat or drink or have fun. That stuff costs money, but you can walk around for free. Besides, you'll be making money by then with your lucrative summer job. The festivals don't end there. How about Calgary Beerfest in June, or Carifest that same week?

Plus Calgary will be home to some of the greatest musical talent in the world this spring, with names like Willie Nelson, B.B. King and the Tragically Hip appearing. On an unrelated note, The Killers, Gretchen Wilson and Gwen Stefani will be here too.

How about movies? *Spiderman 3*, *Pirates of the Caribbean 3*, *Shrek the Third*, *Transformers*, *Live Free or Die Hard*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* and *the Simpsons Movie* all hit theatres this spring and summer. The best idea is to pay for one ticket and then just sneak into other movies for the rest of the day.

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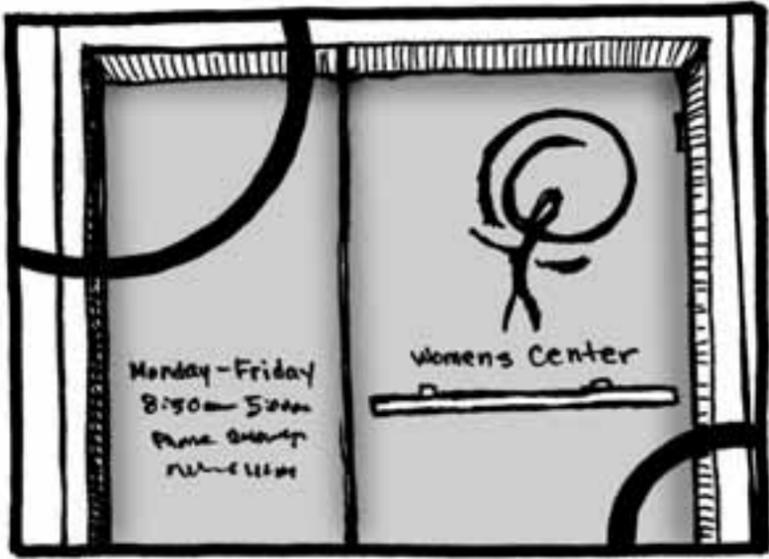
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IT'S ABOUT FAMILY FUN!



The WRC is the place to be



Joëlle Robichaud
Gauntlet Opinions

In today's society, feminists are criticized for living in the past and fighting a lost cause. Suffragettes originally fought for equality and voting, and now that those battles have been won, feminism no longer has meaning. The opening of the Women's Resource Centre at the University of Calgary has garnered attention from critics—who need to know why it's needed—and supporters, who feel they don't need to answer.

The main misunderstanding critics have about feminism stems from their own pre-judgement of what being a feminist entails. Feminism is complex and multifaceted, but in the most general sense, it is about equality for groups marginalized not only for their gender but religion, sexual preference, age, disabilities and so on. This is not, despite common belief, an ideal that women are victim to men and society, although their main focus is with women.

Another reason feminists still fight to regain equality is due to figures. Statistically, women are still paid less than men for the same positions, are more likely to be abused by their heterosexual partner, and are more likely to be raped—or at least are more likely to

be targeted for sexual harassment. This is not to say that these things do not happen to men, and places like the WRC strive to provide resources for both men and women regarding these issues.

Inequalities are not only a disadvantage to women. Men, for example, are stereotypically disinclined to show emotion or ask for help. Males are not really taught what menstruation involves, although in reality they should know so they can further protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies. Females, despite knowing the facts, are still shamed into thinking that periods are inconvenient, dirty and the culprit behind mood swings, even though men are also subject to mood swings due to hormones.

The WRC primarily serves women, but it isn't restricted to women. In fact, men are allowed to go there during off-peak times which are designated by staff and volunteers as open to all, and some of the programs offered in fall 2007 will be open to both men and women. The WRC is there to educate—not to attack or to judge. We need it in order to teach women to detect situations which, statistically, have caused the need for preventative measures to be in place.

By having a safe place for victims of such circumstances, more women can be helped and more of these incidences can be prevented. Perhaps that in itself is a good enough reason to give women a safe haven on campus.

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- by Claudia Dey -

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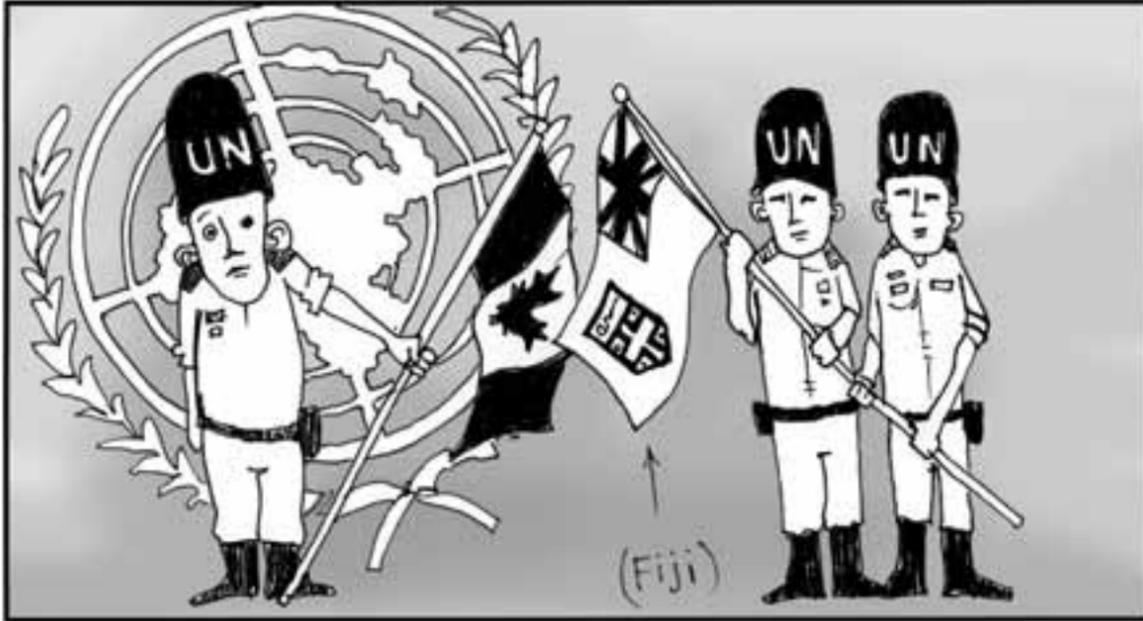
Canada: worse than Fiji



Ryan Pike
Couch Potato

Ninety years ago, Canada's victory at Vimy Ridge seemingly solidified the role of the Canadian military in the world. The recent announcement of six more fatalities in Afghanistan, bringing the death toll to 51, has caused many Canadians to question that role. The questions raised when Canada committed troops to the mission in 2002 have resurfaced: why are Canadian troops there and when are they leaving? Once again, the Canadian government is offering plenty of rhetoric and few answers.

In a statement, National Defense Minister Gordon O'Connor noted that Canadian troops are increasingly under attack in southern Afghanistan because they're suc-



ceeding in making the country a more secure and stable place. The justification for Canadian involvement in the UN-sanctioned, NATO-led mission was that clearing out the Taliban government would allow Afghanistan to become

stable, secure and democratic.

Five years later, insurgencies continue and Canadian fatalities continue to chug along at the same torrid pace—36 Canadian troops died in Afghanistan in 2006 and the 2007 figures are on par so far. Assuming fatalities continue at the same pace, approximately 78 troops will have perished by the sixth anniversary of Canadian

involvement in Afghanistan early next year, and well cross into three digits next summer.

This leads to the other question: when does the Harper government decide to pull out? The short answer is likely never. With the recent budget allocating more for military spending, the Conservative government has made it clear that Canada's role on the international

stage—as a peacekeeper and military role model—is one they intend to maintain. The irony is that Canada's increased presence in Afghanistan has seemingly come at the price of its other commitments. According to UN reports, Canada only has 139 active peacekeepers, placing its commitment below that of Fiji, Zimbabwe and Cameroon. To contrast, Ghana has committed nearly 3,000 troops to peacekeeping duties.

Ever since Vimy Ridge, Canada has been an international role model when it comes to military activity. Former prime minister Lester B. Pearson is regarded as the father of modern peacekeeping, winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957. Canada has been a staunch supporter of UN efforts around the globe ever since. Now we're being beaten at our own game by Fiji. The Conservative government has made their bed, stating that the 2,500 troops stationed in Afghanistan will likely remain there for the foreseeable future. Thankfully for Canadian troops, how long the Conservative government stays in power is still up for debate.

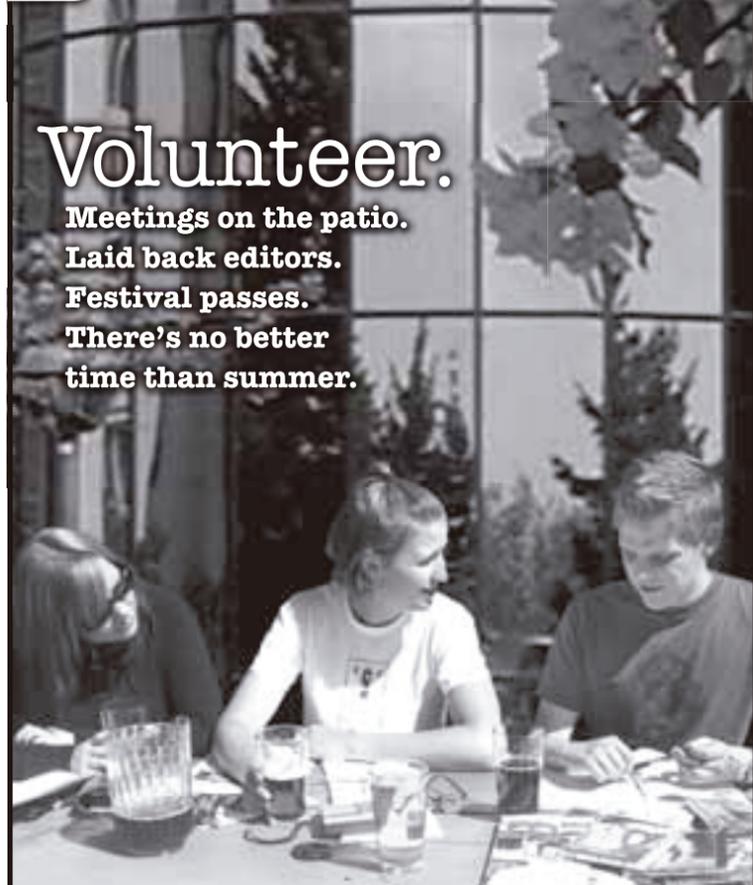
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The Falun Gong

A religion, a cult or a business? by Kyle Francis

While it might drop a couple heads toward the crawler on CNN, human rights abuse isn't exactly a fresh news item. Since human beings have been smart enough to realize we could exploit each other, we have. With genocide and mass murders appearing as bullet points on Google news as often as Paris Hilton inadvertently flashes the paparazzi, suffering just isn't as salable as it used to be.

Advocates of the Falun Gong in the People's Republic of China both domestically and abroad have run into this bulwark of the corporate media. Since Chinese legislation deemed the religion illegal in 1999, countless FLG practitioners have come forward claiming heinous abuse at the hands of the government and accusations of religious inquisition abound. Naturally, the PRC denies everything and refuses investigation by human rights organizations. Ostensibly, it all seems rather cut-and-dried.

Unfortunately, much of the evidence supporting the human rights crimes remains fuzzy and circumstantial. In addition, the politics of the case are more complicated than the tempting, but over-simplified black and white labeling scheme. U.S. based human rights advocate Harry Wu has publicly questioned the legitimacy of the FLG's claims, and much of the world media remains equally skeptical. FLG founder and current leader Li Hongzhi has been likened to a cult leader by some scholars and refuses interviews by the media. It doesn't help that many of the FLG's most incriminating statistics are hyperbolic at best nor that the organization itself began as something closer to a business than a religion.

There's an old cliché about a book and its cover.

From aerobics instructor to deity

Like much of the dialog surrounding the FLG controversy, using "aerobics instructor"

to describe Li Hongzhi is over-simplified to the point of inaccuracy, but it does make one hell of a bullet point. Before it was the enormous, incredibly well-organized religious and cultural force that scared the wrong people in the PRC, the FLG was part of what's best described as a "pop spirituality" movement called *qigong*.

Historically, *qigong* finds its roots in a predominantly Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian religious tradition. "Qi" is often used to describe intangible substances that exist within humanity and universe, while "gong" refers to the cultivation of such vital energies with the goal of staying healthy, healing illness and improving oneself. Though each master's methods differed subtly, it was widely believed practicing *qigong* led to greatly improved immunity, flexibility and overall good-health. Several official studies by the government have backed this up empirically. Though it was outlawed along with everything else vaguely spiritual when the Chinese Communist Party took power in 1949, *qigong* experienced a revival in the '50s when a high-ranking party official appeared to be cured of his terminal tuberculosis through its use. After this, it was accepted as a legitimate medical technology by the CCP.

When *qigong* was at the height of its popularity in the '80s, Li emerged from his job as menial worker and insinuated himself into a few of the more prominent *qigong* circles. Before long, Li produced his own system, the FLG, and began its propagation in May of 1992.

While Li's engineered enigma might

prevent anyone from discerning his true initial aims, *qigong* was a business and he was forced to run it like one. When the FLG began to take on its more obviously religious trappings in the mid-'90s, Li publicly refused to offer any kind of healing services, but early on, it's clear that this was vitally important to him.

"I have just come into public and enjoy little popularity," he printed in an official organization document. "People are not likely to attend the class I hold to impart my cultivation system if we can't convince them of the efficacy of our system by treating diseases and giving advice."

At first, Li was enormously successful. He

received several government awards for his incredible talents, one of which included the prestigious "Advancing Marginal Sciences" award. He quickly became one of the most popular *qigong* masters in the country, according to a number of *qigong* expo coordinators. Until 1994, the FLG was just an immensely popular *qigong* system with a charismatic leader who was very proud of his talent for improving people's health.

book, *Zhuan Falun* (roughly "Turning the Wheel of Dharma"), which later became FLG practitioners' holy book.

"A few years ago, there were many *qigong* masters who taught *qigong*," he wrote. "All of what they taught belonged to the level of healing and fitness... I do not talk about healing illness here, and neither will we heal illness."

Li spends much of *Zhuan Falun* discussing the differences between "high levels" and "low levels" of self-cultivation—healing illness being one of the "low levels." He makes it clear early he no longer intends to concern himself with the lower levels and so his followers are forbidden to do so as well. The high levels, the

"Think about it everyone: What matter is it to teach *qigong* toward high levels? Isn't this offering salvation to humankind? Offering salvation to humankind means that you will truly be practicing self-cultivation, and not just healing illness and keeping fit."

—Li Hongzhi in *Zhuan Falun*

FLG's bedrock principles, are directly tied to the *Dafa* (literally: Great Law), which strongly implies that Li's teachings should be followed unquestioningly.

"At present, I am the only person teaching *qigong* at high levels at home and abroad," he writes. "Think about it everyone: What matter is it to teach *qigong* toward high levels? Isn't this offering salvation to humankind? Offering salvation to humankind means that you will truly be practicing self-cultivation, and not just healing illness and keeping fit."

In this way, Li offers a blanket justification for his sudden shift towards spirituality.

Gong vs Dafa

In 1994 Li began subtly nudging the FLG toward "religion" status. The first definite indication came with the publication of his

Falun Gong continued from page 15

If practitioners follow the *Dafa*, cultivating themselves with no other end than salvation, they'll still receive the physical benefits by divergence. Li's later claims of having supernatural powers—invisibility, telekinesis, mind reading—and implications of his own divinity supported the wisdom of his words and offered immediate proof of his loftier claims.

At this point, a number of religious scholars noted Li's clever utilization of "religious economy." Not only was he able to differentiate himself from other *qigong* masters through the religious aspect of the FLG, but his promise of otherworldly rewards reached far beyond anything offered by other *qigong* masters who simply taught stretching and meditation.

The politics of persecution

"I think the crackdown [against the Falun Gong] was due to two reasons," says Ian Johnson, a *Wall Street Journal* and *Baltimore Sun* reporter with over 10 years experience in the PRC, and author of *Wild Grass: Three Stories of Change in Modern China*. "One [was] long term and one [was] an immediate catalyst. One, Falun

Gong was spreading rapidly and growing in popularity. Critics of Falun Gong were under attack by the group—and critical newspapers were besieged by adherents demanding apologies. In the long run this couldn't go on. The second reason was the catalyst: the group miscalculated and organized a 10,000 person sit-down protest in downtown Beijing. This obviously attracted government attention, to put it mildly."

After the Beijing protest, the FLG was outlawed and a propaganda campaign was set into motion with the aim of completely grinding out the religion from Chinese culture. Allegations of human rights abuse have been leveled against the PRC by FLG practitioners. The most notorious of these allegations deal with the harvesting of organs from live people and the erection of a prison camp in the Sujiatun district of Shenyang, Liaoning province. Though former MP David Kilgour—recognized for his private human rights investigations in Darfur, Zimbabwe and Burma—and his contemporary, David Matas, uncovered a great deal of circumstantial evidence supporting the FLG's claims, China has yet to allow a United Nations-sanctioned investigation to take place, limiting any kind of action by outside forces and any kind of serious media attention.

"China has a 19th century view of sovereignty," says Johnson. "In other words, it's absolute. When they say that they don't want countries 'interfering in the internal affairs of China,' they mean it. That is how they see international relations. They don't fully buy into the post-World War II view that international organizations can limit sovereignty. In some areas, like trade, they certainly do, but in social policy they're more suspicious. I think this is one big reason why they don't want inspection tours."

Harry Wu, the respected human rights activist responsible for first uncovering the PRC's practice of harvesting the organs of executed prisoners to sell to foreign nationals, is also suspicious of the FLG's claims. Despite Kilgour and Matas' interviews with second-party witnesses and the testimonials of the *Epoch Times*—an FLG-linked newspaper—Wu claims he was unable to speak with anyone to validate the statements, nor was he able to find any evidence of a Sujiatun prison camp. The witnesses interviewed by Kilgour and Matas have refused to

meet with any international organizations to give more detailed information.

"A lot of people are skeptical of FLG because they think it has low credibility," says Johnson. "[It] is no longer a purely apolitical religious group, if such organizations can be said to exist at all. It runs newspapers and a television station and advocates for political change."

Though an implication that Li might have a more insidious endgame than running a peaceful religious organization verges on the outrageous given the current evidence, seeing some of the FLG's claims as exaggerated certainly isn't a stretch. Still, Kilgour and Matas' report can't be completely written-off, despite its lack of concrete evidence. If there's a possibility of gross human rights violations taking place in one of the world's fastest-rising powers, there's a communal global responsibility to pay it a little closer attention, at the very least. Unfortunately, the very people who are waving banners emblazoned with atrocities above their heads are the same who are stifling a reasoned, legitimate investigation capable of affecting real change. Ultimately, anyone who could provide a springboard for human rights organizations to leap off of is either unable—or unwilling, for whatever reason—to do so. This responsibility falls twice as hard on Li.

"First, I think public figures have a duty to answer for their actions," says Johnson. "His actions have not been clear or fully understandable, and I think he should make himself available [for interviews]. Second, FLG has a credibility problem in Western countries. A lot of people say, 'Yes, it's terrible what happened to them,' but then roll their eyes and say/imply that they're lunatics. No one can really understand what the group's goals are or what they mean by some of their claims. For example, they claim that thousands are leaving the communist party every day. If this were true, the CCP would have no members left. So what do they mean by this? Only Li Hongzhi can answer."

The Epoch Times is available online at en.epochtimes.com.

David Kilgour and David Matas' full report is available at <http://organharvestinvestigation.net/>.

The Falun Dafa website is available at www.falundafa.org.

Wild Grass: Three Stories of Change in Modern China is available in bookstores.



T R A V E L



S U P P L E M E N T





PASSU BRIDGE, PAKISTAN, PHILIP FUST

“Sorry, but we don’t sell tanks anymore... there’s always problems when the local tribes get tanks.”

This was the answer I received from my new best friend and self-appointed guide in what is perhaps the last true arms bazaar of the world, Darra Adam Khel.

Even though I was unable to purchase my dream off-road vehicle, there was still a plethora of AK-47s and other ordinance to test. The recent war on terror has not taken away the charm of this small village located just outside of Peshawar in the North West Frontier

Province, Pakistan. The main street is littered with small shops selling everything from handguns to squad support weapons. Though Darra is not just an arms market, this small village has been making and replicating weapons for nearly 200 years. It has supported, among others, Mujahideen fighters who used Darra to repair weapons they had captured while fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan.

After several hours on the improvised gun range I drank tea with my new friends, while examining some

of the better examples of the local produce. Soon after seeing that a sale was not forthcoming, my guide packed me on the next bus back to Peshawar with a smile and a wave to drop by again.

Though my time in Darra was brief, I have to say it was one of the most memorable experiences of my overland journey from Mongolia to Afghanistan in the summer of 2006. Even with such sights as the Gobi Desert in Mongolia or the Terra Cotta Warriors in China, Pakistan, with its cultural diversity and picturesque mountains,

was simply breathtaking.

I originally came into Pakistan through the infamous Khunjerab Pass, the highest paved border crossing in the world with an elevation of 4,693 m and named after the raiders that used to prey on this caravan crossing long ago.

The crossing involved eight hours of old Bollywood movies and singing with other passengers as they were overjoyed to be on their way home to Pakistan. After clearing customs, my new friends not only bought me dinner but also dropped me off in the sleepy village of Passu, where I spent a week hiking through mountain valleys reminiscent of the Swiss Alps.

Locals there were extremely friendly, always offering advice on the proper trails or an invitation for a cup of tea. Also this area is a gem for backpackers as prices are affordable even for the poorest students. If you enjoy your hot showers, nearby Karimabad has all the modern facilities, and—an inside tip—the Hunza Café with amazing cakes and “special” coffee.

After Karimabad, it was off to Peshawar and the aforementioned arms market. While in Peshawar I purchased a Shalwar Kameez (a prayer cap), a definite must for any traveler wanting to blend in with the locals and a great way to deal with the hot climate.

The trip to the arms market was more of a side trip as I waited for my Afghan visa to clear. Amazingly, it was processed within one day!

Setting out, my mode of transportation was a small tin can of a bus used by most locals to cross the border. It was great for keeping in the heat and smell of the other 20 people crammed in something the size of a mini-van.

This seemed like a great way to avoid the attention of local insurgents and save some hard-earned cash. With the exception of some fast talking at the border, the trip from Peshawar to Jalalabad cost me roughly eight Canadian dollars.

I was in Afghanistan for less than two weeks, but it was an experience I will never forget. The famous quote, “While in Rome do as the Romans,” helped me get an inside view of how the people of Afghanistan are trying to rebuild their country.

The most startling realization was how amazed the locals were that a foreigner was walking the streets unescorted. My thick beard and local dress helped in blending in with the crowd, but even after finding out I was neither Pashtun nor Muslim I was still treated with friendliness no different than what I encountered in Pakistan.

While many locals have returned to Afghanistan in hopes of rebuilding their country after the fall of the Taliban, much work is also being done by foreign individuals, putting their own lives in danger in the hope of providing a secure future for Afghanistan’s people.

I brushed briefly with some of the dangers faced everyday by these individuals, as there were several rocket attacks shortly after my arrival in Kabul.

Also, traveling back to Jalalabad, only a few hours separated me from a car bomb that detonated on the relatively new road, usually referred to as Jalalabad road. The streets were nearly empty due to the curfew in effect from the night before, and only a few hours later a Toyota Carolla packed with explosives added another crater to this lifeline between Kabul and Jalalabad. I was later told by UN security personnel to never travel before 9 a.m. and have the locals “clear” the road.

The new road may be an amazing piece of work in such a war-torn country, but it is mostly reserved for official traffic which makes it of little consequence to the locals. Most transport and civilians still travel the old road system from Kabul to Jalalabad taking nearly double the time.

Coming and going as I did, my only true souvenir from Afghanistan is the realization that one must enjoy life while it lasts and that there’s a huge world to explore outside our quiet and snowy city.

I left early on the Jalalabad Road, and the sun rose, barely breaking through a haze that covered everything.

I FEATURE BY PHILIP FUST I



Making weapons by hand has been a tradition handed down from father to son for nearly 200 years in the small village of Darra Adam Khel just outside of Peshawar, Pakistan. Using only hand tools, these smiths are able to produce an exact replica of any weapon within a week’s time, provided you have a working sample. The sound of gunfire is always present in Darra, not due to war but due to customers test-firing their new purchases.



A destroyed Russian bus tells a part of the story of Kabul, as it lays discarded under an old watchtower. This is still one of the favourite sites for journalists to visit as the surrounding destruction always makes a good story. Just after beginning to explore the back alleys, I was warned not to go further due to the high incidence of stabbings within these slums.



Western Kabul remains a desolate landscape pocked with craters and bullet holes from decades of fighting. Even with the signs of war around them, children fly home-made kites to pass the time. Across the street, an old man gave me a tour of a bombed-out movie theater, where, from the roof, the run-down sections of Western Kabul spread out as far as the eye could see.



TREASURE BEACH, JAMAICA, KATY ANDERSON

I had nearly a month of free time and close to \$2,000. I was going somewhere.

Of all the places I could go, Jamaica kept coming to mind. I remembered a story from a lady I'd worked a shift with once about helping at a school in a little town. I tracked down her number, reintroduced myself and called the family she stayed with. A week later I was in Jamaica.

Descending in Montego Bay you get an instant sense why so many resorts have set up shop. In a country rife with internal poverty and violence, the coastal white sand and crystal blue waters draw in many rich, high-profile tourists.

When customs stopped me at the airport I wasn't surprised. A young, single girl with a backpack and a nose ring always seems to unnerve airport security. But Jamaican customs officials were especially mean. I needed a visa? Apparently, I did. When I finally stumbled through customs I set off to get my luggage. Right.

After I finished filling out the forms for my missing luggage, I went in search of a white woman. She was right when she had said that was all the information I needed to find her.

The ride from Montego Bay to Treasure Beach, a small town on the bottom of the island, was diverse. It was pouring

rain when Steph, my American, dreadlocked, Patwa-speaking, station-wagon-driving host prepared me in the event the dirt road flooded out. We stopped to eat at a shack on the side of the road. They cooked jerk-chicken on one of their mismatched barbecues and handed me a Red Stripe before we were on our way again.

It was pitch black when we got to Treasure Beach with only the sound of creaking toads and crashing waves to tell me where I was. When I woke up the next morning I groggily stumbled through the clouds of butterflies and scooped a kitty off my chair to sit down.

Really, kittens and butterflies!

The whole family was awake and curious to find out about their new visitor. There was Viking, who I'd met in the night when he woke me up to sign for my luggage. This was Viking's land, he'd built his house beside his five brothers and his parents. Steph said she moved in when she fell in love with Jamaica. The couple had three girls—a blonde, a brunette and a redhead—and a little guy who suffered from severe brain damage after being misdiagnosed when he had malaria. The American doctor Steph later took him to see said he was lucky just to be alive.

The summer school I was going to help out with was cancelled, so I had the day to wander. Treasure Beach isn't exactly a hub of activity, but luckily there was an empty patio three doors over with an open three-by-three foot shop attached.

Sidi, Viking's 11-year-old niece, wandered over and sold me a beer. Tiny bars are everywhere in Jamaica; the country is known for having the highest amount of bars and churches per square kilometre in the world.

When I was talking to the kids in the area they told me about a summer camp Auntie Jean was putting on. She wouldn't be too hard to find either; she lived next door to the bar.

Auntie Jean seemed a bit curious about my motives, but said I could get the snacks ready for breaks.

Jean was an old hippy from Cambridge, Massachusetts, and moved to Jamaica to escape the inherent discrimination within the United States. It was the second year she'd had the camp, and an old protestor friend from the States was coming to teach drama and was bringing her old student to teach the kids hip-hop dance.

The camp didn't start for a few days, so I strayed from my patio bar to help out on an organic farm. Everyone in Jamaica, especially the Rastas, are very concerned about keeping everything *ital*—natural—from their food to their hair. Growing your own food is ideal, and farmers are revered. From what little experience I have, I can say that although farming is incredibly hard work, there is a certain charm in eating food you've grown yourself.

At night, I spent my time hanging out on Viking's patio, either reading or reasoning with Viking or whoever wandered into the yard. Rastas don't just talk, they reason, and they do it with a large Rizla-wrapped conner in their hand. They don't waste their time on small talk either. Nobody's afraid to talk about politics, religion, or, most commonly, the lasting effects of imperialism.

Rastafarians follow a religion that traces itself through the line of Abraham. It is bible-based and followers hope for salvation from worldly oppression through the old Ethiopian emperor, Haile Selassie. Rastas spend a lot of their time meditating and use sleep deprivation and marijuana to help fuzz-out the little stuff. *Alllllll right.*

I spent a lot of time hanging out with Jimbo, Viking's brother, and his friend Striker. Striker took over Shongo's—another brother's—farm when Shongo hurt his leg and couldn't make the trek into the hills and over the many fences it took to get to the farm. Despite the country's reputation, both smoking and growing pot are illegal and dealt with harshly. Striker's farm not only had a large field of pot, but banana trees, melons, an outdoor kitchen and a tiny little shack Striker used to dry his pot and sleep in. When the tall, dreadlocked, green-eyed Rasta asked me to stay there with him I can't say I didn't think twice about my Canadian life as a cog in the wheel.

Despite spending the majority of my time smoking pot with Rastas and singing, dancing and doing crafts at the camp, I managed to make a couple side trips to Black Current, the biggest town near Treasure Beach. The town's on the coast and, as the name would imply, has an inky, crocodile-infested river running through it.

On the south side of the island tourists are hard to come by—walking down the main street a group of kids actually chanted, “White-girl! White-girl!” at me—but shops were still filled with Bob Marley paraphernalia. Marley, stereotypically enough, is the biggest national hero, not because of his music, but because of the light he's shed on Jamaica's struggle—a country that was founded as a slave colony and still resides in the third world—to free themselves of oppression.



Treasure Beach is a close-knit community and a large part of its vibrance comes from the neighbourhood kids. The opportunity to work with children through Auntie Jean's camp gave me the chance to experience completely unguarded Jamaican culture, which is much different from the resort culture foreigners usually get to see. Even more so than the adults, the kids were respectful but especially bold and never afraid to speak their mind.



It's amazing that so many seniors are able to get around in Treasure Beach. There are some sketchy makeshift driveways that lead to selected houses but other than that, it's a mainly pedestrian community. Gates litter the countryside, and you can't go anywhere without jumping over many, many fences.



The gates are used to keep the goats from wandering into people's yards and eating grass. This can be quite a problem because goats are everywhere. You can't catch them though. Surprisingly, goats can run pretty fast and, also surprisingly, goats taste good too. Not quite steak, or even kangaroo, but good. Real good.



NORTH OKLAHOMA, CHRIS TAIT

In July 1997, my family and I set off on what became a two-week journey from Calgary to Corpus Christi Texas, where we would remain for the following three years until July 2000.

The expedition took two weeks because, of course, we were driving with all our stuff loaded into two vans and a 20-foot trailer. It was the ultimate road trip; over 2,500 kilometres with no one to talk to except my parents and my brother and sister. Along the way, we passed through several states, making stops at local attractions in order to quench our insatiable thirst for something more interesting and exciting than watching cows and bales of hay go by our windows.

Early in the trip we stopped over at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, wound our way down to Montana and then Wyoming by way of Yellowstone National Park (of Old Faithful fame), passed through Colorado, into the excruciatingly hot New Mexico desert (where the temperature approached 50°C) and then finally into Texas. Uncertain as to whether we wanted

to establish the new family homestead in Austin or Corpus Christi, we camped in the state capital for a few days to help make our decision. Austin was unimpressive—we decided to venture onward to Corpus Christi after all.

Upon arriving, we didn't know anyone or have a place to stay. On our first night, we found ourselves camped out on the beach. This proved to be a very bad idea when we tried to drive our heavily-loaded vans out of the loose sand the next day. Much of the night involved hiding in our tents from the nocturnal hermit crabs that were scuttling about on the beach while trying to avoid getting sand in every crevice of our bodies. Sand taught me a lot about myself that night.

From there, we settled down in a trailer park until we could get settled and find a house. As you might expect, there was barefoot redneck trailer trash all over the place.

Due to extreme heat, it proved to be a rather bad idea to sleep inside our vans. My siblings and I found it was a lot less

disgusting and hot to sleep out under the stars. However, in the morning, we awoke to discover that we had been made into meals for the thousands of fire ants that were crawling all over our bodies. I'd definitely recommend not sleeping outside anywhere in Texas or the southern United States for this very reason.

According to local tall tales, fire ants contain the same sort of venom as a cobra, except such tiny amounts of it that all it does is give you a nasty, itchy rash. Thankfully, just in time for the rainy season to get real bad in late August, we found ourselves a house, and so gone were the days of sleeping with fire ants and the poisonous spiders that wandered about.

One of the exciting features of eastern Texas is that you're right on the coast, with the Gulf of Mexico to swim in. Unfortunately, due to the way the tides flow, the Gulf is usually polluted with all the crap that gets put into the Atlantic Ocean. Old naval mines from World War II have even been known to wash up on the

beach from time to time. During much of the year, the beach is also covered in Portuguese man-o-war, a jelly fish-like sea creature that will sting the hell out of your foot if you're unlucky enough to step on one. It's not all bad, though. About two days out of the year, the beach is clear and beautiful enough that you can see the fish swimming in the ocean.

It became a sort of routine; every fall shortly before school started and well into the first couple of months, the rainy hurricane season would hit Corpus Christi. In the three years I lived there, I got used to seeing flood waters rise in our backyard canal so much that small fish swam on our lawn. Tropical depressions were common that time of year and sometimes the floods got so bad that you'd even see people taking rubber rafts down the streets.

By August 1999, I knew the drill. The school bus would probably be late, and I'd probably end up staying home, or if not, by lunch time I'd be taking shelter in the hallways from potential tornadoes caused by strong winds. This time around, though, it was entirely unnecessary for me to shut off an annoying alarm clock alerting me that it was time to go to school. My mom woke me up at around 2 a.m. and told me to pack up my stuff; Hurricane Bret was expected to make landfall within 24 hours, and we had to evacuate the city.

When we returned a few days later, we assessed the damage to our house. There was none. In fact, the only thing that had changed, as far as we could tell, was the gigantic tree in our backyard that had fallen over. This came as little surprise, because the tree had been infested with carpenter ants that had greatly weakened its ability to stand up straight.

Although hurricane season technically lasts from June 1 until November 30, the greatest threat typically lies between mid-August and late October.

There are many things I'll look back on and miss from living in Texas: warm weather, a beach that was fun to swim in sometimes, delicious chili...

But I'll never miss those pesky fire ants or the hurricane season.

| FEATURE BY CHRISTIAN LOUDEN |



Aside from being the state capital, Austin is also the most left-leaning city in the state of Texas. This is what a conversation in Austin may sound like: "What a beautiful representation of the Lone Star State." "Lone Star State?! It's a commie star. It's made of steel. Freaking, Stalin, man." "Silence, heathen! The brave men of the Alamo fought and died for their independence from despots like Stalin."

AUSTIN, TEXAS, CHRIS TAIT | OPPOSITE PAGE, ABANDONED FARM EQUIPMENT, NORTH OKLAHOMA, CHRIS TAIT

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Ramallah lies 10 km north of Jerusalem and is one of the main commercial cities in the West Bank. All roads lead to the *Hisba*, where the heckling between the merchants and buyers can be heard for miles. Originally a fruit and vegetable market, it is now home to merchants who sell everything, ranging from clothing and toys for little kids to electronics and jewellery.



This highway, just outside of Jerusalem, lies in a valley between a Palestinian settlement on one side, and a Jewish neighbourhood on the other. Currently open only to Israeli traffic, the road is encased in a concrete barrier that protects motorists from small arms fire that has been known to brake out at this spot during tense times. The road below is an old service road open to Israeli Defence Forces who frequently patrol the area.



A Palestinian holds a plough overlooking a Jewish settlement from his house. Settlements, especially on territory claimed by both sides of the Jewish-Palestinian conflict, have been a sore point during peace negotiations. Generally, although not in all cases, the armistice line of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War is treated as a *de facto* border by both sides.

Like any Canadian, I packed my oversized backpack, sewed the Canadian flag on it and boarded Air Canada *en route* to Amman, Jordan, via London Heathrow.

In London, I exchanged some opinions on Canadian identity with a psychology professor from Los Angeles. After a long conversation I had concluded that the one thing that's certain about Canadian identity is that "we are not Americans" and thus we don't want to be mistaken as such when traveling.

"Hence the flag on my bag," I smiled.

"Some of my American students do the same thing," he smiled back.

Maybe it's because Canada is known for respecting diversity and strangers rather than trying to melt them all into one.

I landed in Amman and then, after an excruciating and long journey to cross into Palestine, I finally arrived in the West Bank.

As a Canadian in the Middle East I was awarded extra respect, something about being *Ajnabi* (Arabic for foreigner). I later discovered that part of the Palestinians' collectivist culture is that all foreigners are considered respected guests, "even Americans." This level of respect and courtesy was awarded to me by all Palestinians who knew I was not a local.

For example, the normal way of traveling to Ramallah from my village is via shared cabs. Every time someone from our village would coincidentally get in the cab with me he would adamantly insist on paying the fare. In one case, my benefactor was unemployed and suffered many hardships due to the occupation; however, despite my continuous objection to his courtesy he happily paid the fare.

Although Palestinians suffer many hardships, they disguise it very well. Upon arriving in Ramallah, I could hear a great deal of songs, chants and I felt a sense of comfort in the hullabaloo from the fruit and vegetable marketplace, called the *Hisba*. This was no ordinary marketplace—it had an indescribable flavour to it, and I don't mean the fruits. Even with the ongoing turmoil in the region, the people still find it possible to joke, laugh and go the extra mile to make a stranger feel welcome.

Everywhere I turned people would greet me in their broken English, trying really hard to start a conversation. When successful they would usually make reference to World Cup soccer; Brazil being the majority's favourite.



To be honest, I was expecting to see the famous violent riots and young men full of rage with guns. I expected the anti-Zionist slogans that we see so often in the news, but instead I saw a people who enjoy a great deal of love, courtesy and happiness in the face of oppression.

Leaving Ramallah, I almost forgot there was any turmoil in the region. Nevertheless, on my way to Jerusalem the massive barrier, checkpoints and swarms of soldiers quickly refreshed my memory.

My trip to Jerusalem was phenomenal, I had the honour of visiting the three religious sites, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Wailing Wall and al-Aqsa Mosque. I had no problems entering the former two, but entering al-Aqsa for Friday prayer proved difficult as it turned out only Muslims over the age of 45 were allowed entry that day. As a Canadian Muslim I thought that maybe they would make an exception, but I was wrong. I was told, "Only Muslims allowed today," by the Israeli soldier at one of the many gates. When I responded "I am a Muslim," he countered with, "Only over the age of 45." When I asked to see the documentation supporting his statement he yelled, "We are in Israel, we don't need papers." I was so shocked I stood there dumbfounded and was told to leave and come back after the prayer was over.

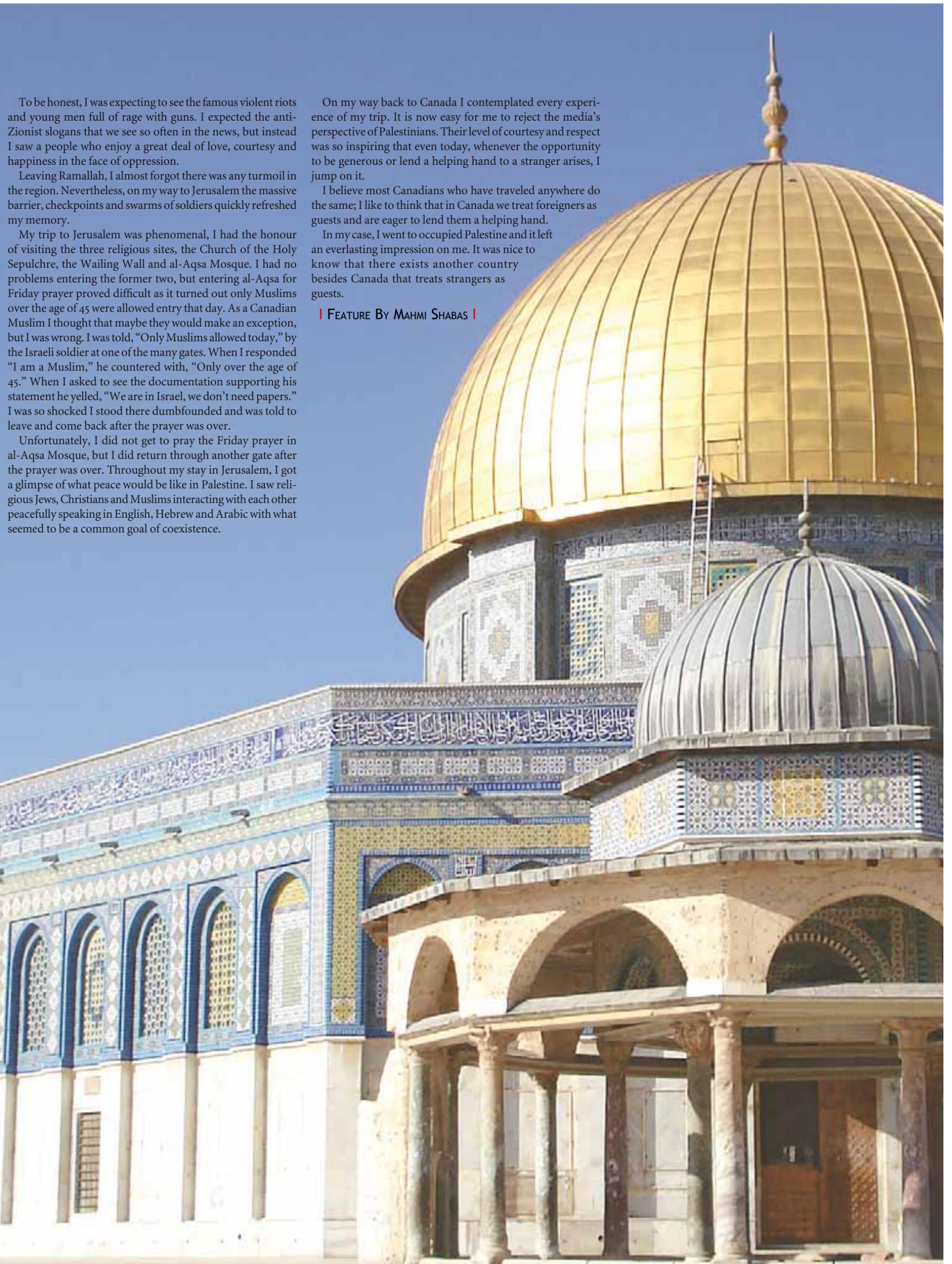
Unfortunately, I did not get to pray the Friday prayer in al-Aqsa Mosque, but I did return through another gate after the prayer was over. Throughout my stay in Jerusalem, I got a glimpse of what peace would be like in Palestine. I saw religious Jews, Christians and Muslims interacting with each other peacefully speaking in English, Hebrew and Arabic with what seemed to be a common goal of coexistence.

On my way back to Canada I contemplated every experience of my trip. It is now easy for me to reject the media's perspective of Palestinians. Their level of courtesy and respect was so inspiring that even today, whenever the opportunity to be generous or lend a helping hand to a stranger arises, I jump on it.

I believe most Canadians who have traveled anywhere do the same; I like to think that in Canada we treat foreigners as guests and are eager to lend them a helping hand.

In my case, I went to occupied Palestine and it left an everlasting impression on me. It was nice to know that there exists another country besides Canada that treats strangers as guests.

| FEATURE BY MAHMI SHABAS |



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STRASBOURG, NATALIE VACHA

I FEATURE BY NATALIE VACHA I

I taught English in France, or rather I taught English in Alsace, which, while technically part of France, seems like its own separate country. Alsace is right on the border of eastern France, which means it has been tossed back and forth between Germany and France for the past 400 years and the people there are a strange Franco-German mix. Think French arrogance combined with German cuisine.

Not that I am knocking Alsatian food—it's delicious and fattening. Pork is a main feature, so is "choucroute" (pronounced "shoe-kroot") which is sauerkraut. Julia Child had no idea.

After the move there was a lot to adapt to, like 4€ cappuccinos, 8 p.m. closing times and the fact that no one I knew had a car. I rented a bike instead and rode it all winter long. It gets cold and it snows, but riding a bike is still better than driving in a town where the streets looked like they were designed for very small mules.

Everyone in Strasbourg biked everywhere all the time. You could see women in skirts and heels riding to work, toddlers peddling to the park, hunched octogenarians heading to the market, and even people riding to the train station, one person would pedal while the other would sit on the rear rack pulling the suitcase that was rolling along behind. The cyclists were worse than the drivers too. I saw Strasbourgers biking while simultaneously smoking, talking on cell phones and eating sandwiches.

Despite my rented bike, it was still easy to tell I was a foreigner. I was the only cyclist over the age of 10 who wore a helmet, and people literally laughed at me. I guess a Frenchman—sorry, Alsatian—would rather risk splattering his brains all over the sidewalk than look ridiculous.

Aside from my bizarre propensity for bike helmets, I was getting used to life in Strasbourg, but once in a while a new experience would come along and trip me up. For example,

the first time I tried to go to the doctor.

I had no idea where I was going or how to find the office. It didn't help that doctors' offices in France are in residential buildings. The only way to find them is by reading the very small plaques they put on the door to discreetly announce their presence. I walked past the building three times before I saw it.

Once I got to the office there was already a small group of the sick and ailing huddled outside. We had to wait a while since for some reason the doctor's consulting hours were 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. I was completely lost so I just followed the rest of the group when we eventually filed inside. We all shook the doctor's hand at the door and said "bonjour." I relaxed a bit because she had curly red hair and instead of a white coat she was wearing a flowing muumuu ensemble.



LAGOS, PORTUGAL, CAM COTTON-O'BRIEN

We were ready to move on. After drinking ourselves so psychologically raw that we had trouble looking at bright lights, a change of locale was desperately needed. We were in Malaga, Spain, and by this point we had been hearing people opining for days about how great Lagos, Portugal, is. Since our plan to go to Morocco was already scuttled by poor timing, we decided this was the next stop on our trip. It didn't hurt that it was described as the quintessential beach paradise, either.

The logistics of getting to Lagos were troublesome. The train from the southern tip of Spain to a spot seemingly only a short way west along the coast turned out to involve going through both Madrid and Lisbon because of archaic border

control considerations. As this lovely little jaunt was to take a good 26 hours, we need a new plan. We considered our options and the most attractive one was a cheap flight.

For the uninitiated, Europe is full of airliners that will fly you around the continent for obscenely small fees, but sadly, none of these could take us to Lagos. We were becoming frantic, so it was with immense joy/relief/elation that we listened to a fellow guest at our hostel, (Picasso's Corner—Malaga is the P-man's home town) tell us of a bus that runs each day from nearby Seville to Lagos.

The next morning, up bright and early (too bright and early, when I look back on it some months later), we went to the train station and a few short hours later found ourselves in

Seville. The only thing I remember about this train ride was dropping a piece of food into my friend's shoe. Strangely enough, I remember that it was the right shoe.

In Seville we walked around for a bit, stumbled on the bus station, and found out what time our ride would depart. At this point we noticed—rather unfortunately, as you will see—that it would be cheaper to take a train further along our route to the Spanish town of Huelva. We decided to catch the bus from there. As we were pinching every penny so we could afford to drink the 1€ wine instead of the 0€67 variety, there was no question we would pursue this option.

So again we found ourselves on a train. Huelva, then, sticks out in my memory as the first time that life really

kicked me in the balls.

When we got off the train, we set about looking for directions to the bus station—basically, my friend and I wandered around muttering, “Autobus?” to anyone who came within earshot. Eventually we happened upon a young man who spoke a little English. He was kind enough to point us in the right direction, but since a point is never enough, we did get lost for a little while.

Once there, after some frustrating minutes arguing with the man at the information desk about whether or not the bus we had been promised actually existed, it became clear that it did not. Fighting back the tears welling up in my eyes I vaguely interpreted his gesticulations as he explained that we could catch another bus to Lagos the next morning at 11:45 a.m. There was nothing more to do for that night (it was maybe 7 or 8 p.m.) so we put all our stuff—repeat: all our stuff—in a locker and set out to wander the town for a couple of hours.

When we returned to the station at half past midnight, the doors were locked. There was also no one inside to heed our distressed calls and let us in (or they were being bastards and having a good laugh at our expense). Once again, everything, including money and passports, was in the locker. There was no point looking for a hostel as we would be unable to pay, so it was pretty damn obvious we would be spending the night on the street.

We once again took to wandering the streets—this time with our collective thought-process seriously impeded by the irate and irrational curses directed at the Spanish bus system. Eventually, we noticed that there were numerous cardboard boxes stacked outside each store. It seemed to be garbage day.

As every six-year-old boy will know, boxes can be used to construct a fantastic shelter (excepting the contingency of rain). Indeed, we spent many minutes in discussion about the construction of a fort, but, as I have mentioned, we were in an extremely fragile mental state, and therefore did not relish anything even remotely resembling labour. Thus, our fort was condemned to remain uncompleted (curses on the 1€ wine!).

At this point, my travelling companion, who likes climbing things, suggested to me, who does not like climbing things, that we spend the night on the roof of a building. He was right to suggest this (as we later discovered), but at the time I just figured he thought it would be fun to climb something, and so I staunchly refused.

Quite tired by now (we really did talk about the fort for a long time) we decided to sleep in the next place that looked even vaguely suitable—a patch of grass near the waterfront that was nestled between shrubs on either side. We figured this would allow for a reasonable sleep as it would be soft (it was not, Spanish grass is hard), sheltered from the wind (can’t remember, but given our luck, gusts can be assumed), and secure from the prying eyes of other people (don’t want to follow this thought through). Indeed, after this find we congratulated ourselves on being such adept hobos.

After a few hours of disjointed sleep spent mostly in transition from one side to the other, I woke up at roughly 6 a.m. and panicked as I saw two police officers dismount from their motorcycles and walk in our direction. I jostled my friend awake and we ran off through the park across the street from where we had slept. The police didn’t follow; in fact, I doubt they even noticed us. It turned out that we had slept on the lawn of the police station.

Returning to the bus terminal, I went to the bathroom and quickly discovered that my lip was fat, and my face was pocked in a way I haven’t seen since I had my major acne breakout in junior high. Sleeping on higher ground was a good idea after all—the bugs at water-level killed us.

Of course, the 11:45 a.m. bus was sold out.

We discovered another bus six hours later, bought our tickets immediately and spent the rest of the day wandering around the town. I think that it probably was a nice town, but the haggard psychological state I was in only allowed a vague sense of shame and defeat to be encoded in my memory.

Late that night we finally arrived in Lagos. It lived up to expectations and then some, and I think I would be hard-pressed to find a more content period in my life. I strongly encourage you to go (stay at the Carlos House, but get a t-shirt from the Rising Cock hostel), but really, just take the train.



The southern coasts of Spain and Portugal are home to some of the finest beaches in all of Europe. Portugal’s stunning Algarve region, which is home to Lagos and Faro, is among the premier tourist destinations on the old continent, and remains affordable for backpackers and weekend warriors alike.



Beautifully decorated ceramic tiles are a very common sight on Portuguese streets. Brought in from Brazil where they were used to shield homes from the rain, the tiles adorn both streets and homes. In old Lisbon, entire neighbourhoods are decorated with such tiles, giving Portugal an unmistakable feel.



Cars, as we all know, are basically too small to sleep in. Throw in the problem of seat belts, and the fact that a great many cars have bench seats that crest in the middle like a scarcely-surfable wave, and you are sure to feel a kinship to the little wooden man in the Robaxaset ads by morning.



PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC, SHERRI SHERGILL

I cannot begin to explain what has happened since I returned home in early January from my semester abroad in Prague, Czech Republic. Although I have now been back longer than I was away, I am still waiting for life in Calgary to feel normal.

In September 2006, I left for four-and-a-half months to travel and study in Europe through the International Students' Association at the University of Calgary. I attended the University of Economics in Prague where the classes were taught in English for international students. I lived in an international dorm with students and teachers from all over the world.

Prague is an astoundingly charismatic city. The crooked cobblestone streets twist into each other and around a limitless

number of historical statues and churches. At the top of Prague is its castle; once the seat of royalty, it now houses the Czech government. Below, hundreds of red roof tops peek out through the usual midday fog. Prague is one of the top tourist destinations in Europe and is bursting with travelers every weekend. Although it is known for its night life, Prague has so much else to offer it seems a waste that many Europeans appreciate it only in terms of its extravagant night clubs.

The first few weeks of living in Prague, we used it as most tourists did; drinking, sight-seeing and shopping around. I fell head over heels for the city and believed it held endless possibilities. But reality sunk in and I began to understand that visiting and

living in a place were two completely different experiences.

After the first month had passed and I adjusted to living in Prague, my view on the city altered. Instead of seeing Prague as a playground, it became a poignant historical lesson in politics and society.

I had never learnt so much in such a little time. Although academically, this semester was comparable to the disgrace of my first months in university, I began to realize that the streets I walked on were older than Canada and the main square I shopped in was the same place deadly demonstrations had occurred only a few decades before. My trip took on a whole new meaning when I began to meet Czech professors who endured the oppression



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GAUNTLET TRAVEL SUPPLEMENT



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COVER PHOTOS

TOP: JALALABAD ROAD, AFGHANISTAN, PHILIP FUST
MIDDLE: DIRECTIONS, GOLAN HEIGHTS, FABIO AVELLA
BOTTOM: RIP FROG, TEXAS, CHRIS TAIT

of the communist regime, who fought against the Soviet Union and who lived through the Velvet Revolution and the division of Czechoslovakia.

There was not a single Czech person, young or old, that I met that was not affected by the struggle. The people valued their country and government and appreciated their history.

There is no part of central Prague that lacks charm and history. Although it is one of the oldest cities in Europe, Prague seems to be going through a rebirth as it struggles to fuse together the old with the modern and the East with the West of Europe. Studying in a different country, especially one with an abundant history like the Czech Republic, allowed me to realize the lack of diverse influences in my life.

Last year, when studying in another country became a possibility, I began to question if there was much more to the world than my friends, family and the issues that surrounded us. I began to feel that the world was much bigger than the life I was living. I truly wanted to open my eyes.

This is how I found myself in Prague. I had left my home, my parents and my friends and saw things I've only ever heard about. From the Colosseum, to the Eiffel Tower, to the United Nations building in Vienna; I have seen more than I had ever dreamed possible. What I saw was only half the experience. Living with someone new, meeting individuals from all around the world challenged me in various ways. The people I met, good or bad, completed my trip. During my term abroad, everything was not always entertaining and exciting; however, even the frustrating days and bad weekend trips made Prague life changing.

My experience in Prague exceeded my expectations and made it difficult for me to want to come home. After extending my ticket by over two weeks, I finally had to come back to Calgary. Coming home has been and continues to be by far a harder transition than was adjusting to life in Prague.

I FEATURE BY SHERRI SHERGILL I

I STRASBOURG, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11 I

As she greeted us she spoke in Alsatian to a few of the older patients. Alsatian is the native language of Alsace. It's closely related to Swiss German and sounds like a mix of German and Dutch being played in reverse. The fact that she even knew Alsatian was surprising because the language is disappearing. Most people under 70 don't speak it at home, and most Alsatians under 30 don't understand it at all.

After the hand-shaking the others made a b-line for the waiting room. I couldn't see the receptionist and no one gave me any forms to fill out, so I tagged along behind everyone else, feeling nervous.

Then we sat and waited. And waited, and waited...

Some things never change.

Like all waiting rooms everywhere in the universe, this one was deathly quiet. The silence was broken only by the rustle of magazines and an old man wheezing gently in a corner.

The only time anyone spoke was to perform the ritual "bonjour" when a new patient entered the waiting room. He or she would say "bonjour" to which we would all mumble "bonjour" and then the room would sink back into silence.

I personally spent the next 18 hours (rough estimate) trying to read my copy of *Le Journal de Bridget Jones*, but I couldn't help staring at the free pamphlets instead: "Tap water and your health!" "Intimate hygiene! What you need to know..." "Herpes: YES! It's time to talk about it" and "Cakes and cookies—Do they make you fat?"

I was also nervously eyeing up the other patients, trying to figure out what unspoken system they had in place to decide who got to go next. Did the doctor just know the order by heart and make eye contact with the chosen one? Was that the point of all the hand shaking? Was it all based on where we were sitting? Or were we all on the honour system? The

last idea seemed unlikely, as, in my experience, the French were avid line bidders. I was eyeing up the angelic-looking old lady across from me. She definitely had "queue-jumper" written all over her.

Finally my turn came.

I went through the door.

I expected an examining table but it was an office, complete with a tasteful painting and tasteless souvenir doodads on the desk. We had a little chat across the desk, (I was born the same year she got married) and she told me I spoke French very well. I knew I liked her!

I tried to explain what was wrong with me, but it wasn't easy in French.

"I am bad in the chest," I said. "I have pains in my lungs and the difficulties with breathing. Sometimes my heart starts to fight very quickly."

She laughed. I had meant to say that it started to *beat* very quickly.

Only then did we make a brief stop in what I recognized as an examining room, and that was it.

Whatever else I might have grumbled about, I have to admit that French medical insurance is great. Sure I had to pay 2€ for the visit, but all my various syrups and pastilles were only 1€85.

Finally something that was actually worth getting the triple-copied, translated, notarized copies of every document I've ever had issued to me. I'm not exaggerating, French bureaucrats mean business.

I know I probably shouldn't have complained so much about Strasbourg. It's a thoroughly modern European city that's home to the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Ombudsman, the Eurocorps, the European Audiovisual Observatory, and even the European Parliament. But I still couldn't find a decent salad anywhere, or at least one without cabbage in it.

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VIETNAM, MIKE LEUNG

I shot an AK-47 assault rifle today. I won't lie, I've always wanted to know what it felt like, yet I've felt a bit perverted by that feeling at the same time.

It was at the Cu Chi Tunnels near Saigon. The Viet Cong used the tunnels during the Vietnam War to attack American positions in and around Saigon and at one point even built a base right on top of a part of the 250km tunnel network. Despite bombings, gassings, floodings, defoliations and dogs, the Americans were never completely successful at flushing the Viet Cong out of the tunnels as they were being supplied from the rear via the "Ho Chi Minh Trail," as it snaked

through Cambodia. Today, tourists can visit the site, and for \$6 you can squeeze off five rounds out of your choice of gun: American M-16s, Russian Kalashnikovs, or perhaps a machine gun might suit your fancy.

Mostly the rifle was terribly loud—a small squeeze of the trigger made a sound louder than thunder. They gave me a feeble pair of stereo DJ earphones to cover my ears, but after the first round my ears were ringing and I was amazed at how accurate the weapon was. The kickback wasn't as stiff as I imagined it would be, and dirt flared up behind the targets.

I don't know why I've always wanted to fire a gun, but I can only guess it comes from a childhood fascination with the violence we're all exposed to as youngsters. I've seen it in the movies, I've played paintball, but I've never been close to the real thing. In truth, I don't want to ever know what it would really be like to be a soldier, where you put your life on the line for the politics of your nation.

Nope, I'll be satisfied with the tourist experience on that count...

| FEATURE BY MIKE LEUNG |

Still rocking after all these years

Legendary band set to kick off fourth decade of touring

Social Distortion

music interview

Kevin De Vlaming

Gauntlet Entertainment

The name Social Distortion resonates with many scene-savvy North American punks as a legendary act to which many punk artists today owe their sound. The California-based four-piece has been around since 1978, with frontman and legacy-unto-himself Mike Ness being the only original member still making music with the band. Despite being several generations removed from the kids who are now discovering punk rock through MTV and contemporary bands like Fall Out Boy and Good Charlotte, Social Distortion still headlines sold-out tours, and remains relevant in today's changing musical landscape.

"The modern punk music scene has sort of become the new Fleetwood Mac, you know?" says drummer Charlie Quintana. "There's just so much out there that claims to be punk. There's power punk, there's emo punk, I don't know, I'm not even familiar with all of the terms. It's so highly commercial now and much more single-oriented."

Social Distortion's prolific career, which has been credited with being the reason for the formation of such bands as Goldfinger and the Offspring, has seen them through several eras in the evolution of punk rock. From the early '80s punk resurgence—which they spearheaded along with acts like D.O.A. and the Dead Kennedys—through to the current musical climate, they have always been a band with a message.

"The message back then was to change things," says Quintana. "We have changed things. Now there are whole shows dedicated to punk rock, when back then it was such a struggle to get a gig, let alone get any airplay or be able to sustain yourself financially."



courtesy Time Bomb Recordings

When they're not reaching for the sky, the members of Social Distortion enjoy staring menacingly into the distance.

Now, Quintana maintains, the message is to keep the music constantly evolving and not fall into the trap of producing stagnant, regurgitated sounds. This is a difficult task for a band such as Social Distortion because of the fan tendency to inseparably associate them with the early punk rock/punkabilly movement. Social Distortion has also developed a sort of mythos which carries over into their lives outside of the band.

"Everybody thinks that every night's a party for us," says Quintana. "It's not. The party happens onstage. Most of us have families and Mike and I have kids. We've got other interests as well. For instance, Mike loves cars, and tinkering around with hot rods and motorcycles. You can't be

24 hours-a-day punk rock. What would that be?"

The crowds attending Social Distortion shows reflect the band's adaptability to the industry's modern interpretation of punk rock. While diehard fans from the band's outset still come to the shows and watch from a moderate distance, fresh, young faces keep the mosh pits electric with energy.

"We even get little kids coming to

our shows often," says Quintana. "Like really little kids. We bring them up on stage on occasion—six-, seven-, eight-, nine-year-olds—with the little mohawks and their parents in the back just beaming."

As further testament to the epic musical career enjoyed by the band, the guys in Social Distortion have announced that this year will see the

release of a greatest hits album. While the exact date hasn't been confirmed, it will be sometime in 2007 and will feature one new unreleased studio recording. The band hopes it won't be long after that before they start recording a full LP of new material to follow up 2004's *Sex, Love, and Rock 'n' Roll*.

Social Distortion takes to the stage in MacEwan Hall April 20–21. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.

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courtesy Alliance Atlantis

H o t F u z z
f i l m r e v i e w

Hoang-Mai Hong
Gauntlet Entertainment

It seems that it takes foreigners to re-invigorate the sad-sack American parody film, and then make it decidedly British. Makers of the *Movie* movies take heed: as long as there are Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright—the people who brought us the brilliant zombie romantic-comedy *Shaun of the Dead*—your

soulless, money-grubbing, laugh-free fare looks all the more tawdry and superfluous. Before you hastily make another horrible movie with the Wayans in bad make-up, why not make like the Brits and actually put some thought into it?

Pegg and Wright prove that parodies needn't be formless and devoid of plot with their latest, the action/buddy-cop movie parody, *Hot Fuzz*. While the movie is extremely entertaining in the usual ways (violence, special effects, physical comedy) it doesn't render these devices pointless, and

ties them down to a well-plotted, gripping thriller. In fact, the story is so brilliantly paced that it actually makes drop-kicking an old lady in the face seem not as gratuitous as it might be somewhere else.

Introducing us to the perfect cop, Nicholas Angel (Pegg), in a montage of his past superheroism, the film starts out deceptively light. Eventually, Angel is re-assigned to Sandford, a little town that happens to be in the running for “best little town” in England for two years in a row. He believes he is doomed to spend his days chasing after the missing town swan and settling disputes between neighbours over trimming hedgerows with

his bumbling, overweight sidekick and action-movie devotee, PC Buttermen (Nick Frost). That is, until he discovers that the town of Sandford has more of an insidious underbelly than can possibly be imagined. If you've seen *Shaun of the Dead*, take its level of gore, its incredulity, and add to that a crazy arsenal of Kalashnikovs, car chases and blood-thirsty Agatha Christie septuagenarians, and you've got a pretty good idea of what *Hot Fuzz* is all about.

Hot Fuzz also pulls off the standard parody tropes better than most. The homoerotic buddy cop relationship is extremely natural, recalling *Office*-level uncomfortable humour. There's also a necessary compliment

of celebrity cameos—a must in these kinds of movies—that includes English heavy-hitters like Bill Nighy, Martin Freeman, Steve Coogan, Timothy Dalton and Cate Blanchett. Fans of *Shaun of the Dead* will also delight in the plethora of Pegg-Wright recurring bits, notably their proclivity for destroying fences and an endearing reliance on the pub as a narrative device.

A hilarious, intelligent movie filled with classic one-liners and a grand level of violence, *Hot Fuzz* is a masterpiece of a parody—one that actually entertains people rather than fellates the egos of its overrated creators.

Hot Fuzz opens in theatres Fri., Apr. 20.



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The Prince returns

Now on a smaller platform, with bigger problems

Prince of Persia

preview

Kevin De Vlaming

Gauntlet Entertainment

Prince of Persia: Rival Swords is the ideal game for anyone who's ever wondered what it would be like to be a stealth ninja with mad monkey-like agility. *Rival Swords*, for the PlayStation Portable, is a port of *Prince of Persia: the Two Thrones*, previously released for Xbox, PS2, PC, and GameCube. The game draws heavily from the platforming elements which the *Prince of Persia* franchise originally set precedent for back in the days of the NES, though it is in full 3D, and also features several unique new twists to the combat system not present in its predecessors.

Rival Swords follows the ongoing adventures of the Prince as he returns to Babylon following his journey to the Island of Time, which took place in the conceptually-darker *Warrior Within*. The Prince finds his actions on the island have undone his deeds from the previous

games, effectively throwing the city into chaos and leaving his kingdom scarred by the ravages of war. The player is required to battle through the armies of the Prince's fallen arch-enemy, the now-resurrected Vizier, all the while attempting to rescue the Empress of Time.

The gameplay largely consists of running along walls, hopping around poles, and making unlikely leaps from platform to platform. Seriously Prince, there's a door right beside you. Is it really necessary to leap from wall to wall to reach the other side? In a 3D environment with only the one analog controller present on the PSP, this creates some problems with camera movement. It doesn't render the game unplayable, but being forced to constantly stop to readjust the camera angle disrupts the flow.

When the Prince isn't balancing on beams or skipping across rooftops, he's patrolling the streets, tactfully murdering the emissaries of the Vizier. In most encounters, the player will have the opportunity to sneak up behind the enemy and perform a stealth kill by precisely timing a couple of button presses.

This looks cool the first few times, but lacks the variety to really sate the casual gamer's typical lust for gore. If the stealth kill fails, or the player encounters the enemy head on, an imperfect battle sequence ensues which mostly consists of the Prince deftly hopping around like a strung-out circus clown while slashing randomly in the direction of enemies. With the aforementioned camera issues, it would have been more practical to have some sort of lock-on system in place to supplement close combat in narrow quarters, though the nature of the game as a port means this probably wouldn't have been considered.

Stealth kills aside, the other twist in *Rival Swords* emerges later in the game, as the Prince develops a sort of alter-ego. Without spoiling anything, when the Prince is in this form he goes up at least 10 points on the badass scale. Not that it isn't cool to watch the Prince prance about in a flurry of acrobatic swordsmanship, but tearing through the ranks of the Vizier's armies as his alter-ego lends a far more satisfying feel to battle.

Graphically, the game middles

by PSP standards. The exotic Eastern architecture is inspired at times, but the limitations of the port prevent such visuals from being properly conveyed to the player. True-to-form with other recent *Prince of Persia* games, the plot is well-woven and maintains a steady flow. Clocking in at just over 10 hours worth of gameplay, however, the length of the game isn't among its strong points.

Prince of Persia: Rival Swords for the PlayStation Portable isn't a bad game. Players nostalgic for classic platform action will enjoy the difficulty level presented by the wall-climbing, column-shimmying antics of the Prince. The immersive storyline and lure of the franchise also contribute to its selling points. It is the mediocrity which is prevalent throughout the game mechanics and visuals which prevents it from being a truly great game. While the PSP port has its moments, PlayStation 2 owners would be better off simply purchasing *The Two Thrones*.

Prince of Persia: Rival Swords is available now.

courtesy UbiSoft

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Chiodos' great escape

C h i o d o s
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Janice Tran
Gauntlet Entertainment

Sex life getting a little boring? Spice it up by dressing up like a friendly woodland creature and nailing a swinger! 'Furries' are topping the list of new, ultra-weird fetishes that have recently caught the world's attention with their strange, adorable, attire.

"I saw an MTV True Life on Furries," says Matt Goddard, basist of Chiodos. "People are *really* fucking weird, I'll tell you that. They dress up in animal costumes and they have dicks and shit. They have a hole that you can have sex through... and then they have sex in these costumes."

It is not hard for any of Chiodos' sex-crazed fans to distinguish a connection between the band and the furry fetish. The band's attraction to animal costumes is fairly obvious, albeit in a much more innocent way.

Take, for instance, Chiodos' latest video, which features two people in a rat and bird costume, battling each other by a dumpster. During their live performances, their guitar tech dresses up in an animal costume and runs around on stage. Even their band name is related in some sense, taken from the Chiodos Brothers, who directed the film *Critters*, amongst other cheesy horror flicks. Of course, the members of the band will quickly deny any sexual attraction to anthropomorphic animals.

"There's really no relation to costumes," Goddard laughs. "And

we really don't have any fetishes or anything."

Spending even five minutes with the guys in Chiodos will make it painfully obvious they don't take themselves too seriously. But this isn't a surprise considering they spend their time surrounded by a myriad of 15-year-olds that may care more about their hair and tight jeans than the music, not to mention being lumped with a music scene where every part of it is injected with commercialism. Altogether, there really is no reason why Chiodos *shouldn't* take everything with a certain amount of sarcasm and humour.

"We have our serious moments here and there, but it's very rare, almost like steak," keyboardist Bradley Bell jokes. "People don't know how to take it either. They think we're assholes but the only thing we're trying to do is have a good time."

"[Having a good time] is my life goal," adds Goddard. "If it's not fun I don't do it. I get people on my ass about doing the dishes when I'm home. They'll say, 'Clean stuff, do the bed, you're home all day sitting in your underwear.' But I don't want any part of it. Doing stuff you don't want to do, like cook and clean, any of that non-fun stuff, I just don't do."

The band's desire to be obnoxious and immature likely stems from where the members grew up. To them, home is a small rural town called Davidson, Michigan, with a population of less than 5,000 people. For Chiodos, the rustic environment was not exactly a breeding ground for ingenuity or musical tolerance.

"I love the hicktown!" says Goddard. "I love going to this bar

called the Davidson Hotel. You know, walking in and getting called an emo faggot, it's like my favourite thing. It's what I look forward to when I go home. Just going there and being made fun of."

"[Growing up in Davidson] pushed us a little bit harder to get out of there," comments Bell. "Plus we didn't have the utilities that other bands have, like being able to open up shows all over the place. We definitely had to work from the ground up, and that took a long time, but now things seem to be working out okay."

In 2004, the band inked a deal with New York-based indie label Equal Vision Records. Since then, Chiodos released a debut album, *All's Well That Ends Well*, that has gathered a strong underground following and is recently gaining some mainstream exposure.

"It's weird going on tour and being in all these big cities," says Bell. "Seeing how the rest of the country works compared to our hicktown Davidson, where everyone drives a truck."

More recently, the band has been on the Taste of Chaos Tour, opening for bands like The Used and 30 Seconds to Mars. The tour has dragged the band across the U.S. and Canada in a period of two months, nearly non-stop. The Calgary show marks the end of the grueling tour.

"[The] last day of tour is like the last day of school," says Goddard. "You know how you like, get your notebook and you're like, 'Wazooo, I'm going to drive off in my shitty car and take off and go home!' Yeah, that's us."

Chiodos comes back to Calgary this July with the Warped tour.

Reasonably successful

T h e R e a s o n
m u s i c i n t e r v i e w

Nicole Scarbossa and Marina Foo
Gauntlet Entertainment

Their songs spewing discontent and misery, most screamo bands are left unnoticed by the masses, but continue to drudge on hoping that one day success will come. Most quit, others toil in obscurity, while a select few actually make it. The Reason are one of these bands, but the only way they could really get noticed was by breaking genre stereotypes; they gave up the angst.

Their first album, *Ravenna*, fit the mould of what every screamo band has done before. Three years older and considerably more mature, the Reason have released their biggest accomplishment, their second album, *Things Couldn't Be Better*.

The album is a big departure from their previous endeavors, complimented by keyboards and catchy, upbeat tracks, contrasting their previous, darker, morose tones.

"When we were writing stuff for the record, we wanted to write what naturally came out of how we were feeling and stuff like that," says lead singer Adam White. "As for the lack of screaming, it was just more not being upset about anything [and] being really positive about everything."

Leaving the scream behind, the Reason's new album is looking promising. In the countless bulletins and blogs on their site, fans are enamoured with the idea that they can download the album.

"I think it's great," says White. "It's just going to get your stuff out to more people. You can't force everybody to go and buy it when it's so easy to download stuff.

I mean, I download stuff. The music industry needs to figure out a new way to make money, I guess. I'm not going to stop someone from wanting to hear our band."

With hundreds of thousands of hits on MySpace, the band is far from going unheard or unseen. Their new video for "This is just the beginning," directed by Canadian music video mogul Michael Turell, is circulating on YouTube, much to the band's elation. With acts like Billy Talent and Alexisonfire on his resumé, White and the rest of the band are proud to have Turell in their corner.

"We called him and sent him a song and he really wanted to do it, no matter what it took," says White. "That's kind of how we were for everything for this record. Just people wanted to work with us. People who cared about it as much as us."

See REASON, page 39

Wild Weather is Changing Your World

Hear Dr. Reese Halter talk about how we affect weather during his national book tour for **Wild Weather: The Truth Behind Global Warming**

Monday, April 16th | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Earth Sciences Building E5162

spun

ALBUM REVIEWS



Watermelon Slim and The Workers
The Wheel Man
(NorthernBlues)

Calgary Folk Festival fans are in for a bluesy treat this summer. American Watermelon Slim and his band The Workers are scheduled to appear, and judging from their latest release, these guys will set the joint a-jumpin'.

Although Slim's been playing the blues for over 30 years, *The Wheel Man* is only his fourth release to date. Slim spent his post-Vietnam years as a truck driver, watermelon farmer, journalist and member of the MENSAs Society. Not until 2003 was Slim able to focus full-time on the blues, and *The Wheel Man* is a lyrical testament to his diverse past.

The title track jump-starts the disc thanks to Slim's hot dobro-slide guitar chops and gritty vocals. Chicago guitar slinger Magic Slim adds some nasty guest solos and some brief Howlin' Wolf-style vocals.

The session shifts into the more up-tempo shuffle, "I've Got News," which showcases Slim's expert harp blowing and guest piano player David Maxwell's nimble fingers. Other highlights are the *a cappella*, "Jimmy Bell," and the vocal/slide-only, "Judge Harsh Blues," which prove that Slim is capable of handling affairs alone.

While Slim's style is rooted in the Mississippi Delta school, his Chicago buddies and seasoned band contribute to an interesting blues mix that defies categorization. *The Wheel Man* is the perfect primer to what should be one hell of a set at Folk Fest.

..Ken Clarke



Hunter Valentine
The Impatient Romantic
(High Romance)

Nobody really knows what the heck Hunter Valentine means. The explanation on the band's website creates more ambiguity than it dispels. Despite the confusion surrounding their nomenclature, Hunter Valentine's full-length debut, *The Impatient Romantic*, is a remarkably defined first effort.

Bolstered by superb vocals from singer/guitarist Kiyomi McCloskey and music as competent as a three-piece can get, Hunter Valentine establish themselves as a solid addition to the ranks of all-girl rock groups. However, despite opening the album with the line, "let's not be typical," Hunter Valentine sort of is. McCloskey and her pals bust out

a series of energetic songs, none of them particularly distinct from those that come before. The notable exception is the album-closer, "Judy," in which the trio slows things down and softens up, allowing McCloskey the rare opportunity to sing rather than shout over the music.

Produced by Julius Betty, architect of albums by Alexisonfire and City and Colour, *The Impatient Romantic* is a strong first showing. What remains to be seen is if Hunter Valentine can follow up on it.

..Ryan Pike



DAAATH
The Hinderers
(Roadrunner)

Ambition in the music industry is a good thing. It can help keep a band going through the lowest of lows and give bands the courage to push music in new directions or explore new sounds and ideas. Every once in a while a band comes along that is far too ambitious for its own good. DAAATH is a shining example of ambition elevated to delusional levels.

Named after the Hebrew word for knowledge, DAAATH claims their purpose is to explore the esoteric and mystical concept of the Tree of Life, a spiritual diagram originating from the ancient Mesopotamian civilization. The Tree of Life has 13 nodes in it and as such DAAATH will release 13 albums, each with 13 songs on it.

Placing this grandiose concept in the hands of a death-metal band may sound like a recipe for disaster, but somehow DAAATH manages to pull it off.

DAAATH take the traditional death-metal formula of machine gun drumming and Cookie Monster vocals and change it up, infusing hooks, catchy choruses and even touches of electronica into their songs.

DAAATH may fail in realizing their stupendously ambitious concept, but it does little to detract from the fun.

..Robin Ianson



Musiq Soulchild
Lovanmusiq
(Atlantic)

"Sorry if I come off disrespectful or my convo is a little bit too sexual," sings Musiq Soulchild on "b.u.d.y.," the first track on his album *Lovanmusiq*. A line like this *has* to be intended ironically. The sexual innuendo in R&B singer Musiq's lyrics is so mild and the devotion to women so strong, it's hard to believe anyone could be offended by it. Belonging to a genre often subject to lewdness and misogyny, Musiq could likely win the approval of both the National Organization of Women and the Christian Coalition—a somewhat refreshing change from the norm. But that doesn't make *Lovanmusiq* a great album.

The very title of the song, "Lullaby," is an apt description of the album, most of which is so gentle and homogenous it could put any

listener to sleep. Songs like "Betterman" have good beats, but are all too rare, and have the same lack of lyrical edge. Doesn't Musiq ever wish he could remain the same man he's always been? Does he not feel a twinge of doubt that he'll still love the same woman when they're "old and gray," or at least a little apprehensive about becoming old and gray?

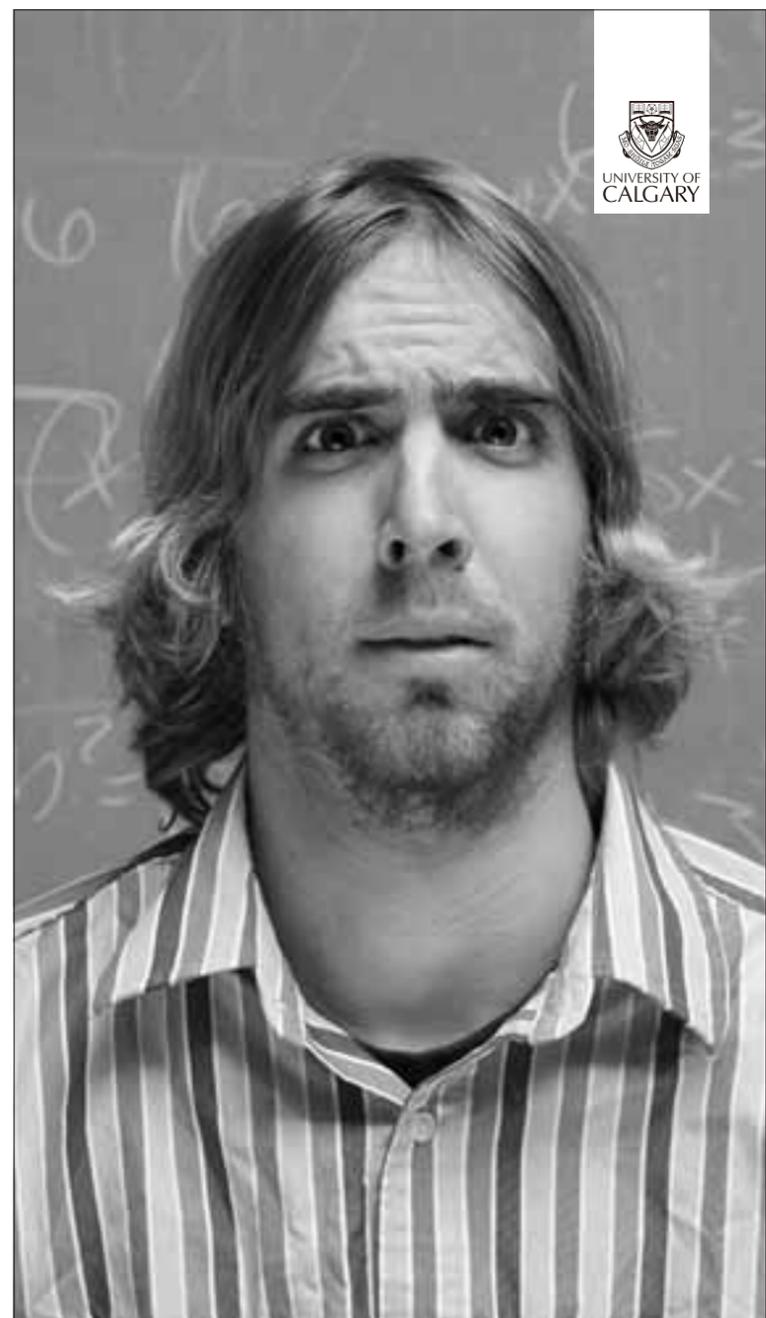
Truly soulful music requires a greater mix of emotions than those on display here. Kudos to Musiq Soulchild for not copying the crassness of his peers, but a sense of emotional conflict is an asset for a musician of his kind, rather than a drawback.

..Kenzie Love

off the page



radio gauntlet | TUESDAYS | 6 pm
INTERVIEWS | COMMENTARY | ANALYSIS
Hosted by
Chris Beauchamp and Jon Roe
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offthepage@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca
CJ5W
106.9 CABLE



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THIS IS NOW

THINGS TO DO

- Bermuda Shorts Day is on Friday.** Unless you wish to be branded some sort of social outcast, you must attend. Even if you don't drink, you must attend. Shorts are to be worn, weather-permitting.
- Forget finals, the Stanley Cup playoffs have begun!** As a show of solidarity with the Flames, wear red on game days. If you don't, they might lose.
- Once finals are done, there's plenty of great music hitting town.** You've worked hard, so go listen to a kickass band.
- This is the last issue of the Gauntlet until May,** so you'll have to read a different newspaper in the meantime. *[Editor's Note: Do not read a different newspaper.]*

THEATRE

Theatre Calgary's *the Overcoat* covers Max Bell Theatre April 12–15, 17–22. Tickets are \$25.80 to \$69.50 at Ticketmaster.

U of C Dance's master's dancers perform *Thoughts Lives Dreams* in the University Theatre April 12–13 at 8 p.m. Pay what you can at the door.

Unbound prances in the Grand Theatre April 12–14 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at theatrejunction.com

CONCERTS

The City Streets, the JRs and Michael Bernard Fitzgerald present an all-star evening at Broken City Thur., April 12 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

Black Label Society unleashes musical fury upon MacEwan Hall Thur., April 12 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$36 at Ticketmaster.

Hellogoodbye, Boys Like Girls and the Hush Sound greet MacEwan Ballroom Thur., April 12 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18.50 at Ticketmaster.

The SU presents Bermuda Shorts Day festivities Fri., April 13 featuring music from Rum Runner, the Re-Mones, Jah Cutta, Smalltown DJs and more. Rain or shine, BSD will be bringing free fun.

Broken City presents **Metal Fest** Fri., April 13 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

Econoline Crush and the Cliks hit the Liberty Lounge Sat., April 14 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at Ticketmaster.

Andrew WK and Beatroute's Glenn Alderson spin at Broken City Sun., April 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

Edvard Grieg performs in the Scandinavian Centre Sun., April 15 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at door.

The Freestylers style and profile inside the Hi-Fi Club Sun., April 15.

Kris Demenor and Erin Ross perform at Broken City's Climate Change Forum Mon., April 16 at 7 p.m. Free.

Alex XXXchange and All Good Funk Alliance at Thai Karate dropkick the Hi-Fi Club Thur., April 19.

Broadway Calls and the Madcowboys gallop into Broken City Thur., April 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

Hot Little Rocket, Hot Blood Bombers and Hot Panda heat up Broken City Fri., April 20 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

Social Distortion and the Black Halos overpower MacEwan Hall April 20–21 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$37.50 at Ticketmaster.

DJ John Howard spins music for you to dance to inside the Hi-Fi Club Sat., April 21.

Interpol taps into MacEwan Hall Sun., April 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$24.50 at Ticketmaster.

Kaz Yakazumi performs a free show inside Broken City Mon., April 23 at 8 p.m.

Zuckerbaby, Star Collector and Beldens Wall illuminate Broken City Thur., April 26 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

The Raveonettes Electric Duo and Manraygun shoot up Broken City Fri., April 27 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

The Epoxies, Let's Dance and S.I.D.S. groove throughout the Hi-Fi Club Sat., April 28.

John Mayer croons in the 'Dome Sun., April 29 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45.50 to \$65.50 at Ticketmaster.

Hey Ocean! breezes into Broken City for a free show Mon., April 30 at 8 p.m.

SPORTS

The Flames face the Detroit Red Wings in exciting playoff action Tues., April 16 at 8 p.m., Thur., April 19 at 7 p.m. and (if necessary) Sun., April 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 to \$290 at Ticketmaster.

HSBC Stars on Ice prances through the Saddledome Mon., April 16 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 to \$110 at Ticketmaster.

MISC.

Attend the art department's annual open house showcasing student work on the sixth and seventh floors of the Art Parkade Thur., April 12 from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. Free.

The Calgary Underground Film Festival runs Thur., April 12 and Sat., April 14 at the Hi-Fi Club and Sun., April 15 at Broken City. A full line-up is available at calgaryundergroundfilm.org.

Dr. Beverly Murphy discusses hormones in Health Sciences Centre Sat., April 14 at 2 p.m. Free.

Check out the used equipment sale at the Outdoor Centre Sat., April 14 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Free to attend, but bring money to buy stuff.

Dr. Renee Halter talks about *Wild Weather: the Truth Behind Global Warming* inside Earth Sciences 162 Mon., April 16 at 11:30 p.m. Free.

CJSW ONLINE AIR GUIDE

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
6 am	morning joy	breaking the tethers	lush life	cold smoke jazz	jazz for quantum cats	late night continued	late night continued	MORNING JAZZ
6:30								
7 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS weekday mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am							
7:30						democracy now!	alternative radio	
8 am						bunte welle <i>german</i>	counterspin	
8:30							eritrean radio	
9 am	this side of the blue	canadian music centre presents	bella musica	airport bison radio	the two and a half hour coffee break		hrvatski radio <i>croatian</i>	
9:30								
10 am		tangential workout				calgary vietnamese radio	bagong pagasa <i>filipino</i>	ROOTS MIX
10:30							buscando america <i>latin america</i>	
11 am	democracy now!	so SU me <i>students' union</i>	alternative radio	cjsw news counterspin	who shakes <i>city calendar</i>	heliac melodies <i>greek radio</i>	let's get baked with mat & dave <i>vegan baking from ckdu</i>	
11:30								
12 pm	el moustacheo mysterio	red squares / mutton chop record hop <i>sponsored by the drum & monkey</i>	the anti-parent culture sound	radcore / pillage the village	punk up the volume <i>sponsored by beat route magazine</i>	fantastic plastic <i>sponsored by bird dog video</i>	level the vibes	
12:30								
1 pm								
1:30								
2 pm	down time	electric company <i>sponsored by the inner sleeve</i>	static land	the audible smile <i>sponsored by melodiya records</i>	my allergy to the fans <i>sponsored by tubby dog</i>	bikesheviks <i>sponsored by cadence coffee</i>	mental illness	AFTERNOON MIX
2:30								
3 pm								
3:30								
4 pm	pop beats and cigarettes	jane & tasya's guide to everything <i>sponsored by broken city</i>	the bad arts <i>sponsored by liberty lounge</i>	alternative to what?	road pops <i>sponsored by fivd weekly</i>	caribbean link-up <i>sponsored by fivd weekly</i>		
4:30								
5 pm								
5:30								
6 pm	french transe en danse	off the page <i>gauntlet</i>	mezza l'una <i>italian</i>	writer's block	musiquarium <i>everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45</i>	voice of ethiopia	beti-cola	
6:30								
7 pm	south louisiana gumbo	artslink	the blues witness <i>sponsored by calgary dollars</i>	folkcetera <i>sponsored by liberty lounge</i>	full moon funkalicious <i>the latest & greatest in breaks & house</i>	oh africa!	desi vibes	
7:30								
8 pm	reverb	tombstone after dark <i>sponsored by the palomino smokehouse & social club</i>	lift the bandstand	film clips	dirty needles <i>the best in funk, soul & hip hop</i>	the nocturntable	speaking in tongues <i>world music</i>	
8:30	yeah, what she said <i>women's programming</i>		speak sebastian / urban sex	noise <i>experimental music</i>			the chit chat	
9 pm	aubrey's shindig!	honey, i punk the kids	good character requirement / turing radio	fat beat diet	remote emissions <i>hard hitting jungle & drum 'n bass</i>			
9:30								
10 pm	katharsis	rack power	charlie / don't throw your marmalade			megawatt mayhem <i>metal</i>	tokyo eye patch	
10:30								
11 pm								
11:30								
12 am	bass backwards	dead air	incidental tracks	post-everything	dna <i>hardcore techno</i>	the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder	translucent dreams <i>ambient, trance etc.</i>	LATE NIGHT MIX
12:30								
1 am								
1:30								
2 am	yes, someday	into the deep	national telegram	rage cage	sound champion showcase	mental brain thoughts / scrumdiddlyumptious	the corduroy couch	
2:30								
3 am								
3:30								
4:00								
4:30								
5:00								
5:30								

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Reporting off the beaten path

V B S . t v
television interview

Robin Ianson
Gauntlet Entertainment

Watching the news on television can be a frustrating experience. In a world where media conglomerates have a death grip on the medium, it can be hard to get the real message. However, *VICE Magazine* has come up with a novel solution: taking TV out of the hands of mainstream media by moving TV to the land of blogs, email and pornography. That's right. They put it on the Internet, in the form of vbs.

Currently publishing out of New York City, *VICE Magazine* started out in Montreal in 1994 and slowly evolved into the mag that scenesters know and love today. Never one to shy away from fun topics like sex, drugs and rock 'n roll, past *VICE* stories have included lists of the best party universities, hangin' with heroin-dealing gangs and entire issues devoted to sex. The genesis of vbs can be traced back to an innocent comment made by Oscar-nominated director and *VICE* fan Spike Jonze, who has since signed on as creative director for vbs.

"The whole thing started because Spike Jonze said to me one day, 'You shoot all your articles in the mag right?'" explains *VICE* and vbs co-founder Shane Smith. "I was like,

'Uh yeah.' How do we shoot? How do we do this? We started out with the travel DVD and a lot of times when things happened we wouldn't turn on the camera. It would be like 'Wow this is amazing! Who's shooting this?' Nobody."

VICE learned from their mistakes making the travel DVD—they turn on the camera now—and used what they learned to launch their brand new network and website vbs.tv. Only a month after launch they are up to 26 shows and a million unique visitors.

"I think mainstream media has failed," says Smith. "I have 1,000 channels with Time Warner down here and I don't watch any of them. Four major media companies own everything and consequently the news is very conservative and status quo. I think that the 'net is a great tool for democracy. Millions of people see your stuff and it's totally done free from mainstream media."

Being one of the little guys has proved to be an interesting experience for vbs. For their *Heavy Metal in Baghdad* show they weren't allowed to enter Iraq because they weren't affiliated with any of the major news networks. So they snuck in instead.

"Sometimes we get in through the front door and if not we get in through the back door," says Smith. "I think that frees us up a lot. Major news companies couldn't get into Darfur and we did. We snuck in.



courtesy VBS

When VBS was denied entry into Iraq, they did the only sensible thing: they snuck in.

No regular TV show is gonna let you sneak into Darfur because you can get thrown in jail for life. We definitely take the back door more than the front door. Although, I did just get invited to go to North Korea for Kim Jong Il's birthday celebration."

Being outside of mainstream media has provided vbs with the opportunity to highlight social issues largely ignored by the mainstream, such as the terrible conflict in Sudan and the devastation of

the Appalachian mountain range by strip-mining firms. That isn't to say vbs is serious all the time. Viewers can watch all sorts of content from investigative journalism to music videos to *The Cute Show*, which stars fuzzy animals doing cute things for the entirety of each episode. *VICE Magazine's* most popular feature, *Dos and Don'ts*, has been expanded for vbs with minor cultural icons taking over the duties of bashing on the poorly dressed and worshipping *fashionistas*.

"We try to do a little bit of everything," says Smith. "Just because we're serious doesn't mean we're serious all the time or doesn't mean we don't like music. We're pissed off about the environment and with politics we're like, 'What the fuck is going on with politics these days?,' but we still like music and we still like to laugh. We never make anything for any perceived demographic. The litmus test is: 'Do we like it and is it good?'"

Check out VBS at vbs.tv. As far as we know, the acronym doesn't stand for anything.

Reason, continued from pg. 36

With a new video in hand, a new album and an Internet fanbase, the Reason have grown considerably in the past four years. They view the period as a learning experience.

"A lot of people we had grown up with had done university now and have careers and families and stuff like that," says White. "We've been working just as long to do this as those people did with their careers and this album is like our university degree in a way."

Things Couldn't Be Better seems like an audacious title for a sophomore album, but White concludes it's more a comment on where the band is at the moment.

"It's like a question: 'Hi, how are you doing?'" explains White. "Great. Things couldn't be better."

The Reason joins Anberlin at the Warehouse
Thur., April 19.

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<http://conted.mtroyal.ca>

MOUNT ROYAL COLLEGE
Faculty of Continuing Education & Extension

It's a survey! It's an iPod!



Step #1: Tell us what you think about this rag we call a paper. Step #2: Enter for the chance to win a free iPod. Step #3: Profit!

Chris Tait/the Gauntlet

The *Gauntlet* wants to know how you think we did this year and how we can improve for next year. Your comments will be used by the *Gauntlet's* editorial board to make the paper better. Circle the applicable answers, fill in the appropriate blanks and submit your survey to MSC 319. You could be one iPod richer.

Sex: Male/Female _____

Age: 17-19 20-23 24-26 27-29 30+ _____

Faculty: _____

Year of study: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th+ _____

How often do you read the *Gauntlet*? _____

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Do you visit gauntlet.ucalgary.ca? Yes/No _____

How often, if yes? _____

Do you think the *Gauntlet* accurately represents students' views? Yes/No _____

If no, why not? _____

Do you think the *Gauntlet* is a credible source for information? Yes/No _____

If no, why not? _____

Do you think the *Gauntlet* is representative of most groups on campus? Yes/No _____

If no, why not, and which groups are under-represented? _____

What first draws your attention on the cover of the *Gauntlet*?
a. Headline story
b. The image
c. A combination of the two
d. I always pick up the *Gauntlet*, regardless of cover

When reading the *Gauntlet*, do you?
a. Skim through every section and read a few of the articles
b. Thoroughly read every article
c. Flip to one section and only read the articles in that section
d. Read the TLFs only

Which sections do you regularly read? _____

Do you think the *Gauntlet* should focus on more off-campus issues? Yes/No _____

If yes, which ones? _____

What is your favourite section in the *Gauntlet* and why? _____

What is your second-favourite section in the *Gauntlet* and why? _____

What, in your opinion, is the worst section in the *Gauntlet* and what can we do to make it better? _____

What do you want to see more of in the *Gauntlet*? _____

Other comments (Please attach further comments or email gauntlet@ucalgary.ca): _____

E-mail (for contest purposes only): _____

The iPod draw will be held on May 20. Results will be published in the following issue. Only fully-completed surveys will be entered into the contest.

TLFs are done for another school year, and my reign of terror has come to an end. Next year there will be someone new cutting your long, boring PSA TLFs in half, or, perish the thought, letting them run! Thanks for the chocolate, but if any of you who promised me candy and never delivered would like to make it up to me, I'd like a puppy or a high-paying job that makes use of my Fine Arts education.

To my super-cool bestest clubbing buddy: I'm gonna miss you soo much this summer!!!

-Muffin

Kwanner wants everyone to get faced on BSD or else his granny will kick his ass.

Lost: White Cord Roxy wallet, left in MS washroom. Return for reward.

-mcmunro@ucalgary.ca

IVCF exec, Thanks for a great year! 7 a.m. was H-core, but you made it worth it.

-SuperGuru

Marshall, I hope your BSD partying skills are up to par to keep up with this Crew. And Bermuda Shorts better be you...

[Edited for length, for old time's sake.]

-Bagel Ed]

Hey ladies, for a good time meet me on friday... In the beer gardens... I'll be the dude that is really drunk.

-Bbaj

Eco Club, we kicked your ass (In a good way)!

-KB and LF

Dear Keith Richards. Dude, you're crazy! Snorting your dads ashes?! What the hell were you thinking?!?!

-Ozzy Osborne snorting ants off a popsicle stick

What's with the Nordiques jerseys popping up lately? Your team died over a decade ago

-Go Habs Go

Pretty 05/06 QCA girl with the eyes Tuesday morning in SB. I would love to meet you.

-jphe6@hotmail.com

[As opposed to the pretty girl without eyes...?]

-BaldEd]

Ryan: That's what you get for not being on Facebook. Garth: I also get self-respect. Ryan: What's that like? Is it like getting into a hot tub?

-A hungry winner

Dreamer, thank you for everything.

-Miss DM

Searching for cute bussiness major who I worked with at Crowchild hockey challenge on Saturday, I can't remember your name...

-B.

Dash, Although there weren't many, I enjoyed all the train rides! See you in the beer gardens!

-Elastigirl

KyDa! I miss the powers of possibly the best lab duo in the world. I need a date with you and chocolate-covered espresso beans.

-Ky

OMG I hate PeopleSoft. DIE DIE DIE!

-Disgruntled PeopleSoft user
[Now term is over, you can put off using PeopleSoft for a while— unless, that is, you need to get on to drop classes.]

-Bagel Ed]

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To the curly-haired guy who works at Coffee Co. on Sat., my friend thinks you are really cute, I think you two should date.

-my.friend.has.a.crush.on.you@hotmail.com

Meghan, you need to start using tampons so I can borrow one. Your pad feels like a diaper.

-PMS'ing

My heart hurts everytime I see you

-l.k.n for love

Dear Dinos: I already have to pay good tuition money so you can continue your predictable losing streak, but now I am barred from the Den on a Thursday so you bums can hog the entire thing?

[Insert impolite obscenities of choice here. Thank you.]

-BaldEd]

Engineering turns off nice.

-kiwi-bird and littlefoot

Earth, Air, Fire, Water, it's been an awesome year! Can't wait for the future.

-Love Fire

Get a wristband for BSD and wait in line for hours so you can stand inside the ropes laughing at those outside. Who is the loser now ha ha ha.

-thedrewskii

JM wears dresses

To KNES 253 brunette near the back, let's study anatomy together.

-guyofyourdreams

Damn you snow... girls are puttin' back on the layers now.

-peeker432

"I fell into a burning ring of fire, I went down, down and the flames went higher." Sorry about your house dead man :(

I love you, Rachel.

-Kate

Delicious graduating knucklebag: I'll be waiting for you at HH today at 4:30 p.m. to make all of your wildest dreams come true. don't be late.

Kim, this is your last TLF of the year. I'll miss your mess. Lots of love, Em



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Crowning the King

Basketball player “King” Karl Tilleman named top Dino

Jon Roe
Sports Editor

Canadian university basketball royalty has been named the greatest Dino of all time. “King” Karl Tilleman, who started his Dinos career in 1978 and retired in 1984, earned the most votes in a six-month-long poll on the Dinos’ website. Tilleman received 26 per cent of the votes cast in a pool of 40 of the greatest athletes to don a Dinos jersey.

“When they told me that, you can’t really say that you expect something like that, or it’s even deserved,” said Tilleman. “There’s too many great athletes at the university. The only way I can express [my gratitude is to] share it with all the other former athletes as well as all my teammates.”

Tilleman’s remarkable career included four first team all-Canadian recognitions and two Canadian Interuniversity Sport player-of-the-year awards, in 1982 and 1983. In both of those years he led the nation in scoring. Tilleman was also acknowledged as the City of Calgary athlete of the year with the Scott-Mamini award in 1982 and as the University of Calgary’s male athlete of the year in 1981 and 1983.

Tilleman believes his Dinos experience greatly bolstered his confidence.

“I honestly believe the feeling that we got when we played here that



Gauntlet file photos

Tilleman’s #30 was retired in his final year.

we could compete with anybody in the world, literally, and that we could accomplish anything in life,” Tilleman said. “I still believe that. The quality of the programs at the university, as I said tonight, is second-to-none.”

The U of C’s men’s basketball team record book is filled with Tilleman’s name. He averaged 26.4 points per game in an era before the three-point line, and finished with 2,090 points in 79 games—81 points behind Richard Bohne on the

school’s all-time scoring list. Bohne played from 1993–96.

During his time, Tilleman was a fan favourite and a hated rival. The night Tilleman’s jersey was to be retired, his final game as a Dino, the opposing team refused to play after a dispute about officiating. The Red Gym was packed with 2,000 disappointed fans.

“My final game when [the University of] Saskatchewan [Huskies] refused to play was something I never heard of,” said Tilleman. “There was a packed house with everyone waiting for the final game. But I think we enjoyed ourselves even though there was no game.”

Tilleman’s dominance drew the ire of opposing schools’ fans. Tilleman remembers a sign a University of Lethbridge Pronghorn fan made depicting him getting nailed in the backside by a ram.

“We were very competitive,” said Tilleman. “There was no question that when we went into somebody else’s gym, they were very vocal about expressing their displeasure with our being there. As the years have gone

on, those competitions turn into great respect.”

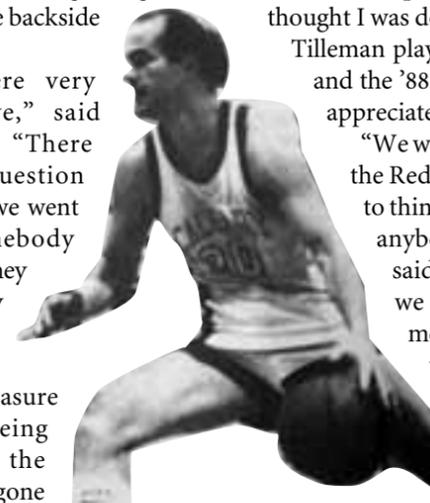
After retiring from the university, Tilleman went on to be the first and only Dino drafted by an NBA team. He was drafted by the Denver Nuggets in the fourth round of the 1984 NBA draft, 79th overall. Tilleman was cut right before the season started, but did dress for the Nuggets in the pre-season. Luckily, that was not the end of his basketball career. While on a mission for his church, Tilleman got a call from Canadian men’s team coach Jack Donahue.

“Jack Donahue from the Olympic team literally phoned me when I was on my mission,” said Tilleman. “He said, ‘If they put in the three-point shot, would you come back and play?’ So I came back out of retirement and played in ’86, ’87 and the ’88 Olympics [in Seoul, Korea]. It was a real surprise for me because I thought I was done after college.”

Tilleman played in both the ’84 and the ’88 Olympics and still appreciates his experience.

“We went from playing at the Red Gym at the U of C to thinking we could beat anybody in the world,” said Tilleman. “In ’84 we lost in the bronze medal by three points to Yugoslavia. We were as good as any team in the world. I look back

See KING, page 29



Awards night brings metal, wood, marble



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

Zelinka (l) and Kerr were named Dinos athletes of the year.

Jon Roe
Sporting Good Looks Editor

The Dinos 40th anniversary season is over, and there were plenty of team and individual performances to celebrate at the 40th annual Night of the Dino.

The Dinos won four Canada West titles and two Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships, all in individual sports. The women’s teams were particularly successful—the lady Dinos took away Canada West title wins in track and field, wrestling and cross country and both of this season’s Dino CIS championships in track and field and wrestling. The men’s team won the Canada West swimming title for the first time since 2003.

With such a successful year for individual sports, it was no surprise to see players from the wrestling and track and field teams take three-quarters of the major

awards. Both athletes of the year, Geoff Kerr on the men’s side and Jessica Zelinka on the women’s, came from the track team, and the women’s rookie of the year, Gen Haley, came from the wrestling team. Rookie quarterback Dalin Tollestrup won the men’s rookie-of-the-year award.

Kerr took home the Dr. Dennis Kadatz award as the Dinos male athlete of the year after topping off an amazing distance-running season at the CIS track and field championships in Montreal by taking away the 1,500 and 3,000 metre gold medals and the track athlete-of-the-year award. He also won male cross country athlete of the year after winning the men’s individual race in Quebec City in November. Chad Hankewich of the men’s swimming team was also nominated for the award. Kerr also took home the Calgary Booster Club scholar-athlete award for maintaining a

3.5 GPA in the Haskayne School of Business.

Zelinka won the Dr. Dennis Kadatz award as Dinos female athlete of the year after rounding out her fifth year of eligibility and final season as a Dino by leading the women’s track and field team to Canada West and CIS titles. She set a CIS record by winning five gold medals at the CIS championships, and set the CIS pentathlon record with a 4,380-point performance. Zelinka was named both field athlete of the year and CIS track and field athlete of the year for her accomplishments. Her track and field achievements this year have earned her a nomination for a BLG award for CIS athlete of the year. The winner of the BLG awards will be named Mon., April 30 in a gala at the Jack Singer Concert Hall in Calgary. Holly Ratzlaff, also from the track and field team, and women’s wrestler Andrea Ross

See AWARDS, page 29

The '00s

Remembering the legacy of the Dinos

In conjunction with the Dinos' 40th anniversary, the Gauntlet is profiling influential athletes from five decades of Dinos history.

Amanda Hu
Birthday Girl/Future Jon Roe Sports Editor

The last seven years has been a significant time for sports at the University of Calgary. In the volleyball world, several athletes have emerged as star players. Among these is Dino Joanna Niemczewska.

Niemczewska became a shining star in the world of Dinos volleyball, competing in four consecutive Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships, winning a gold, silver and bronze medal during that time. In addition, she was a first-team Canada West all-star, first-team all-Canadian, and Canada West and CIS player-of-the-year in

both 2004 and 2005. The CIS player of the year honors were accompanied by the BLG award in 2004.

In the 2006/07 season, Niemczewska averaged 3.54 kills per game and had a kill efficiency of 22.6 per cent, recording 276 kills. This record had her standing in second place in Canada West.

The volleyballer extraordinaire considers her university volleyball career, coming to a close this year, as a great time in her life.

"I think the greatest thing I got out of my time here were the friends," said Niemczewska. "I was so lucky to be with a great group of people the whole time and the relationships were just so good."

Niemczewska went through a rough patch during the 2005/06 season after suffering a crippling knee injury.

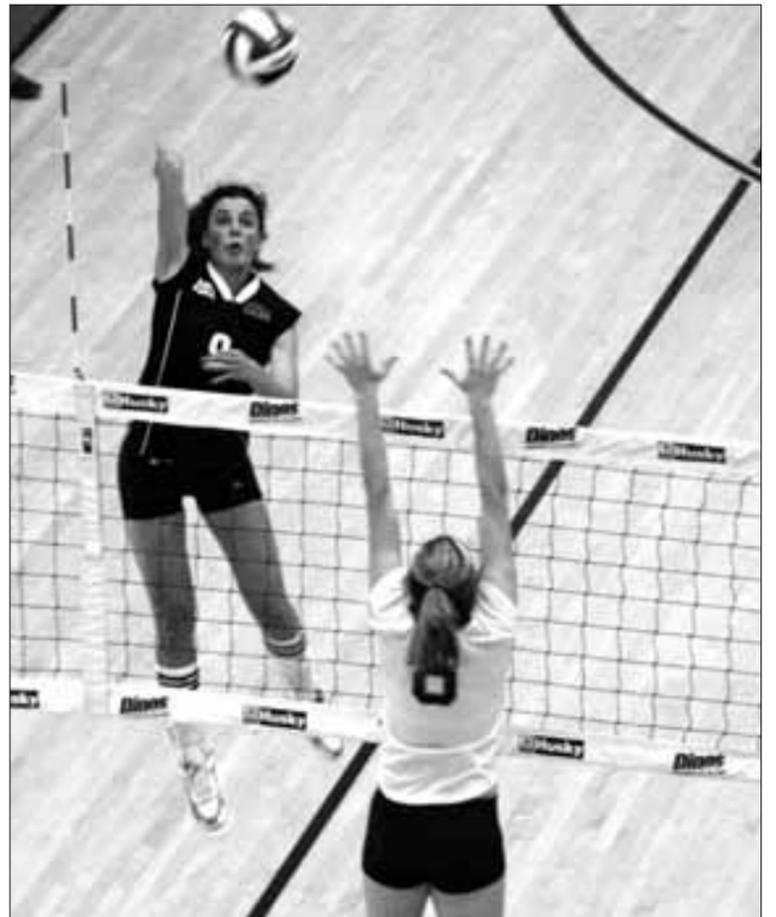
"I wasn't coping well at first," Niemczewska said. "At first, they

said I'd be out for a few weeks, which turned into three months. Six months later, I was still feeling horrible and it was just really frustrating. I had planned school around playing and then all my plans were changed. I found that really hard to cope with. I had really good support though. My family and friends were there for me through it."

She rebounded and came back with a bang in her final season in 2006/07.

After juggling her sport, school and life for five years, Niemczewska has gained a healthy perspective on balancing priorities.

"Try not to do everything and take in everything," she said. "I think that I learned to balance things really well. You always want to put the sport first, because that's what you're there for, but you don't want to sacrifice your life and the university experience."



Gauntlet file photo

Niemczewska (#9) volleys to the win.

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GEN HALEY
WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Wrestler Gen Haley was named the female rookie of the year after winning both the conference and national championships in her 51kg weight class. The Canada West and CIS rookie of the year, Gen was part of the Dinos national championship team that brought the CIS women's wrestling title back to Calgary for the first time since 2001 with a convincing performance. One of two Dinos to win her weight class at the CIS championships, Gen is a native of Campbell's Bay, Que. and a first year student in the Haskayne School of Business.



DALIN TOLLESTRUP
FOOTBALL

Dalin started all eight regular season games for the Dinos directly from Raymond High in Raymond, AB. He set a school record for the most yards passed by a pure freshman, finishing fourth in Canada West in yards passed with 1941. Dalin added 258 rushing yards, accounting for 2199 yards in total offense, second highest in Canada West. Nationally he finished seventh in total passing yards, earned Canada West Freshman of the Year and was named Freshman of the Year in Canadian college football. Dalin is a first year Sciences student.

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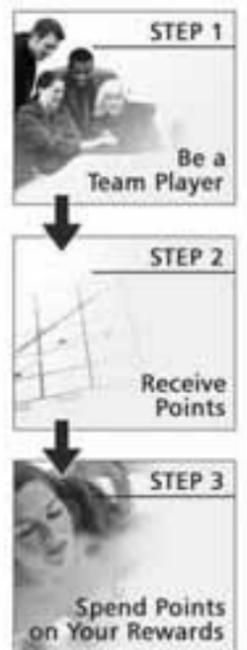
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Stanley Cup playoffs preview

The East by Jon Roe

[1] Buffalo vs. [8] New York Islanders

The New York Islanders snuck into the playoffs on the last day of the season and earned themselves the toughest first round match up in the east against the Buffalo Sabres. The Sabres are the deepest and most talented team in the NHL and if the Islanders take this series to six or seven games, it would be shocking. The Islanders don't have the depth on defence or on offence to keep up with the Sabres, and with top netminder/indentured servant Rick DiPietro out for at least the first game, their chances are slim.

[2] New Jersey vs. [7] Tampa Bay

After a year, nothing much has changed. The Lightning go into the playoffs as a low seed with questionable goaltending against a top eastern conference team. The Devils have the fourth best goals-against average in the NHL and boast Martin Brodeur, the best playoff goaltender. Though the Lightning have two of the best offensive players in the NHL, Martin St. Louis and Vincent Lecavalier, and a playoff performer in Conn Smythe winner Brad Richards, those players' big contracts have made for a pretty slim line-up elsewhere. There are questions about the Devils' offence, but defence is king in the playoffs, and the Devils have plenty of that.

[3] Atlanta vs. [6] New York Rangers

The Thrashers have finally earned their first playoff berth, but unfortunately they're matching up with one of the hottest teams in the NHL in the Rangers. Jaromir Jagr was a non-factor in last year's sweep by the Devils, but is healthier this year, and barring another major playoff injury, should be key for the Rangers in this series. Though Atlanta has plenty of offensive fire power, only the Tampa Bay Lightning have a worse goals-against average of the 16 teams who made the playoffs.

[4] Ottawa vs. [5] Pittsburgh

Many thought Sidney Crosby couldn't step into the league and become as regular of a point producer as he has been over the last two years, and many were surprised by his Art Ross winning season this year. Again critics will question if Sid the Kid can perform in the playoffs, having never played a post season game at the NHL level, but he'll prove everyone wrong with a solid offensive series. Beyond the Sabres, the Senators are probably the deepest team in the NHL, but they still lack the playoff grit to put them over the top. The Sens made a mistake in not pursuing Gary Roberts at the trade deadline, and it's going to cost them in this series.

The Picks

Ryan Pike:

West:

Calgary over Detroit
Anaheim over Minnesota
Vancouver over Dallas
Nashville over San Jose

East:

Buffalo over NY Islanders
New Jersey over Tampa Bay
NY Rangers over Atlanta
Pittsburgh over Ottawa

Jon Roe:

West:

Calgary over Detroit
Minnesota over Anaheim
Vancouver over Dallas
San Jose over Nashville

East:

Buffalo over NY Islanders
New Jersey over Tampa Bay
NY Rangers over Atlanta
Pittsburgh over Ottawa

The West by Ryan Pike

[1] Detroit vs. [8] Calgary

Seemingly every year Detroit finishes high in the standings and gets knocked out in the early rounds of the playoffs. The Wings will have to overcome their injury woes and stigma as playoff choke artists. Meanwhile, the Flames are continually stuck in the shadow of the miracle 2004 Cup run, toiling under expectations they cannot possibly reach. While the '04 team failed due to lack of healthy bodies, and the '06 version fell due to lack of scoring, the latest edition seems to have filled both those holes. A full-time farm team has allowed minor-leaguers to step in for injured players, and the addition of Alex Tanguay has re-ignited the Flames' offence.

[2] Anaheim vs. [7] Minnesota

Last year's conference final runner-ups, the Ducks were already good. Then they improved by trading for Chris Pronger. Last year, Ilya Bryzgalov stepped in when goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere under-performed. This year, both goalies are standing tall. Factor in a seemingly-ageless Teemu Selanne head-manning the offence and the Ducks look like a Stanley Cup-calibre team. The Wild rebounded from a disappointing 2006 season by posting their best season ever. This year's Wild are much more balanced than past squads, and received stellar goaltending from rookie Niklas Backstrom when starter Manny Fernandez got injured. It's yet to be seen how Backstrom responds to the pressure cooker that is the Stanley Cup playoffs.

[3] Vancouver vs. [6] Dallas

The Canucks haven't gotten past the second round since their run to the Cup Finals in 1994. None of those Canucks teams, however, have boasted a goaltender as good as Roberto Luongo or an offence featuring the likes of the Sedin twins, and Markus Naslund. While they have been derided as a team with a hot goalie and little else, much like the 2004 Flames, the Canucks will go far as long as Luongo can keep it up. Dallas isn't as good as in past years. Mike Modano is a year slower, older and closer to retirement, and the mix of young and old on the team has created a strange dichotomy. Once the younger players step up, Dallas will be a very good team.

[4] Nashville vs. [5] San Jose

The Predators look to avenge their early exit at the hands of the Sharks last year. This year, Nashville has a healthy Thomas Vokoun and Peter Forsberg, who can dominate a series. Forsberg hasn't played a full 82 games in the NHL since 1996, though. San Jose's offence boasts Joe Thornton, Patrick Marleau and Jonathan Cheechoo who provide them with plenty of opportunities to put the biscuit in the basket. The Sharks defencemen aren't the greatest, but they give the netminding tandem of Evgeni Nabokov and Vesa Toskala enough support to keep them in every game.

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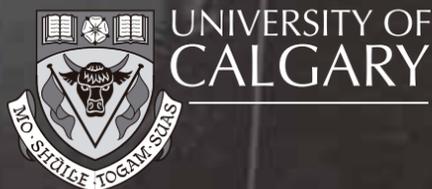
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Awards, continued from page 26

were nominated for the award. Tollestrup won the Bill Popplewell award as male Dino rookie of the year after being one of the few bright spots on a Dinos football team that finished 2-6. He made the team as a freshman and started every game for the Dinos this year, finishing fourth in Canada West in yards passed with 1,941. Tollestrup rushed for 258 yards, racking up a Canada West second highest offence total with 2,199 yards. He won the Peter Gorman Trophy as freshman of the year in Canadian college football.

Track and field athlete Sam Effah was also nominated for the award after winning a CIS medal and three Canada West medals. Haley won her weight class in both the Canada West and CIS championships, earning the Bill Popplewell award for female rookie of the year. Her two golds helped the women's wrestling team take home the Canada West and the CIS championships, the first CIS title for the U of C since 2001. Basketball player Ashley Hill and swimmer Kevyn Peterson were also nominated for the award.

King, cont'd from pg. 26

on both the '84 and '88 Olympics with great fondness. Those were very, very special times." Being recognized as the top athlete at a university with 40 years of great athletes a quarter century since the last day he played as a Dino is an honour not lost on Tilleman. He still appreciates his time spent at the U of C. "I think the U of C gave us a great experience [as athletes]," said Tilleman. "I'm just very honoured to be associated with the university, it's a privilege." The top 10 Dinos of all time were named at the Night of Dino, Thur., April 5. Rounding out the list

after Tilleman were men's hockey player Paul Geddes (1984-87), women's soccer player and recent hall of fame inductee Kathy Ranheim (1986-93), women's basketball player Janis McDonald (1977-82), recently retired women's volleyball player Joanna Niemczewska (2001-07), wrestler and football player Lutz Keller (1970-74), women's basketball player Leighann (Doan) Reimer (1996-2001), men's volleyball player Andy Cameron (1988-93), women's soccer player Stephanie O'Neill (1994-98) and women's field hockey player Michelle Conn (1981-85).



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet
Current Dinos b-ball coach Dan Vanhooren (l) with Tilleman.

Gauntlet awards doled out



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

Roe (l) and Talbot.

Jon Roe
Sports Car Editor

How does one define greatness? Four words—*Gauntlet* extra effort award.

The most anticipated award of the Dinos' season was handed out by dashing handsome sports editor, Jon Roe sports editor, at the 40th annual Night of the Dino to women's volleyball player Holly Harper and men's hockey goaltender Scott Talbot.

Harper overcame a knee injury to help the women's volleyball team win Canadian Interuniversity Sport bronze in March at home in Calgary.

Talbot, after a difficult second half of the season with the men's hockey team, came through in the playoffs and took the Canada West athlete-of-the-week award for helping the Dinos upset the University of Regina Cougars in the first round.

The extra effort award is given out annually by the *Gauntlet's* sexy sports editor—though some years he or she is too sexy—to two Dinos who overcome adversity and display perseverance and dedication in pursuit of excellence in Dinos athletics. The two athletes were awarded with an amazing marble and glass plaque hand-picked by Jon Roe sports editor. The awards will likely be cherished for generations.



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THIS WEEK ON THE INTERNET

BSD survival guide



Andrew Rininsland
Production Editor

In the "About damn time" department, Bermuda Shorts Day will be less than 48 hours away by the time this article goes to print. That's not much time to get ready, but thanks to everyone's favourite technological marvel, preparing for the best and most drunken day of the year is easier than ever.

Find some wicked tunes

A couple columns ago, I mentioned Filtermusic, which is a list of ad-free online radio stations. This is perfect for those with decent connections and a tiny library of music as the stations are all super high quality and professionally DJ'd. Particularly good are the techno/trance and drum 'n' bass lists. For those of us with obscenely huge MP3 libraries, Mixxx is a cross-platform turn-table simulator with pretty decent beat-matching capabilities. Pretending

to be Oakenfold was never easier. Cranking it to 11 is highly recommended.

filtermusic.net
mixxx.sourceforge.net

Get a good excuse

While most profs know BSD is a total gong-show and don't bother doing anything significant in class, some are less understanding and make everything due the last day of class. Furthermore, most part-time jobs aren't conducive to a day of drunken debauchery. As such, a handy excuse is one of the most effective tools in the Bermuda Shorts Day arsenal, and with the multitude of excuse generators on the Intarwebs, your beer-addled brain doesn't even have to come up with one.

zompist.com/excuse.html
shanemcdonald.com/laughs/~l-make-sick-note-generator.html
getodd.com/raz/sickday/~sickday.html

Double the drunkenness

For the engineers in the crowd, theultimatebeerbong.com lists what

is, by far, the most complex four-person beer bong in the history of human existence. Also on that site is a \$20 five-stage alcohol filter that can ostensibly make Russian Prince taste like Grey Goose. The lazier among us can use Expert Village's six part video series on beer bongs to scavenge Home Depot for tubing. **Caveat emptor:** beer bongs can lead to violent drunkenness and are often a bad idea. They're also not allowed on campus.

theultimatebeerbong.com
expertvillage.com/interviews/~beer-bong.htm

Learn some cool party tricks

The Intertubes are rife with wicked-cool tricks you can use at parties to look totally badass. One of the coolest is using a five dollar bill to open beer bottles. For those who want to get seriously creative, "1,000 Arten ein Bier zu öffnen" gives 1,001 different ways to open a beer bottle, albeit in German. Who'd've thunk?

neatorama.com/2007/03/10/open-a-beer-bottle-with-a-dollar-bill/stuff.twoday.net



source: dropline.net/cats/

Read tips on curing hangovers

To quote Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, "Everything in moderation including moderation." Unfortunately, BSD is largely a festival of excess and thus the morning after is deadly. To limit the extent of your hangover, drink plenty of water, toss back a few Ibuprofen and Tums and prepare one of the hangover remedies from the following sites before heading out.

soyouwanna.com/site/syws/hangover/hangover5.html
blurofinsanity.com/~hangover.html
rupised.com/hangovercures.html

That's it for this week. Note that *the Gauntlet* takes absolutely no

responsibility for any problems caused by following the preceding advice. Don't sue us when your boss fires you for trying to get off work with the excuse, "My grandmother overdosed on ephedrine and I have to visit her in the hospital," or you bong six beers in a row and end up streaking down 17th avenue à la *Old School*.

Other than that, from us here at Web, have a great summer, a kick-ass BSD and good luck with finals.

(Technical note: due to the lengths of some addresses this week, some are two lines.

The ~ means the address continues.)

Have a crucial tech question? A wicked-cool website to share? Is your cat in your PC, eating your megahutz? Email aandrew@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

movies that matter



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Whitney Keller
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Fall '05, UofA
Winter '06, RDC

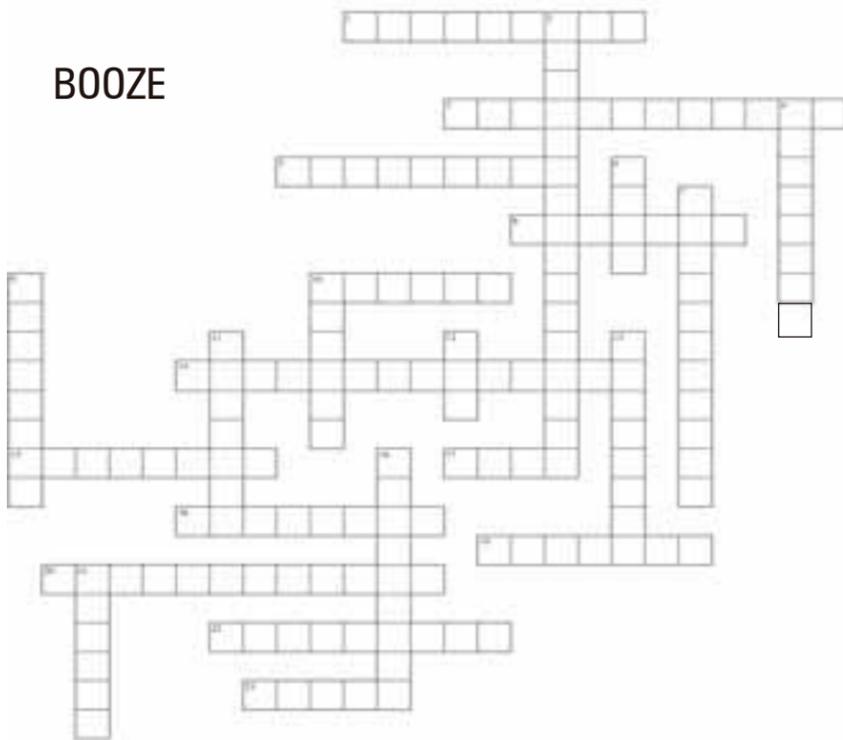
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Procrastinations

by: Erla Low and Jeff Clemens

BOOZE



Last week's answers



For those of you that tried to complete last week's crossword...you could probably tell that I had...

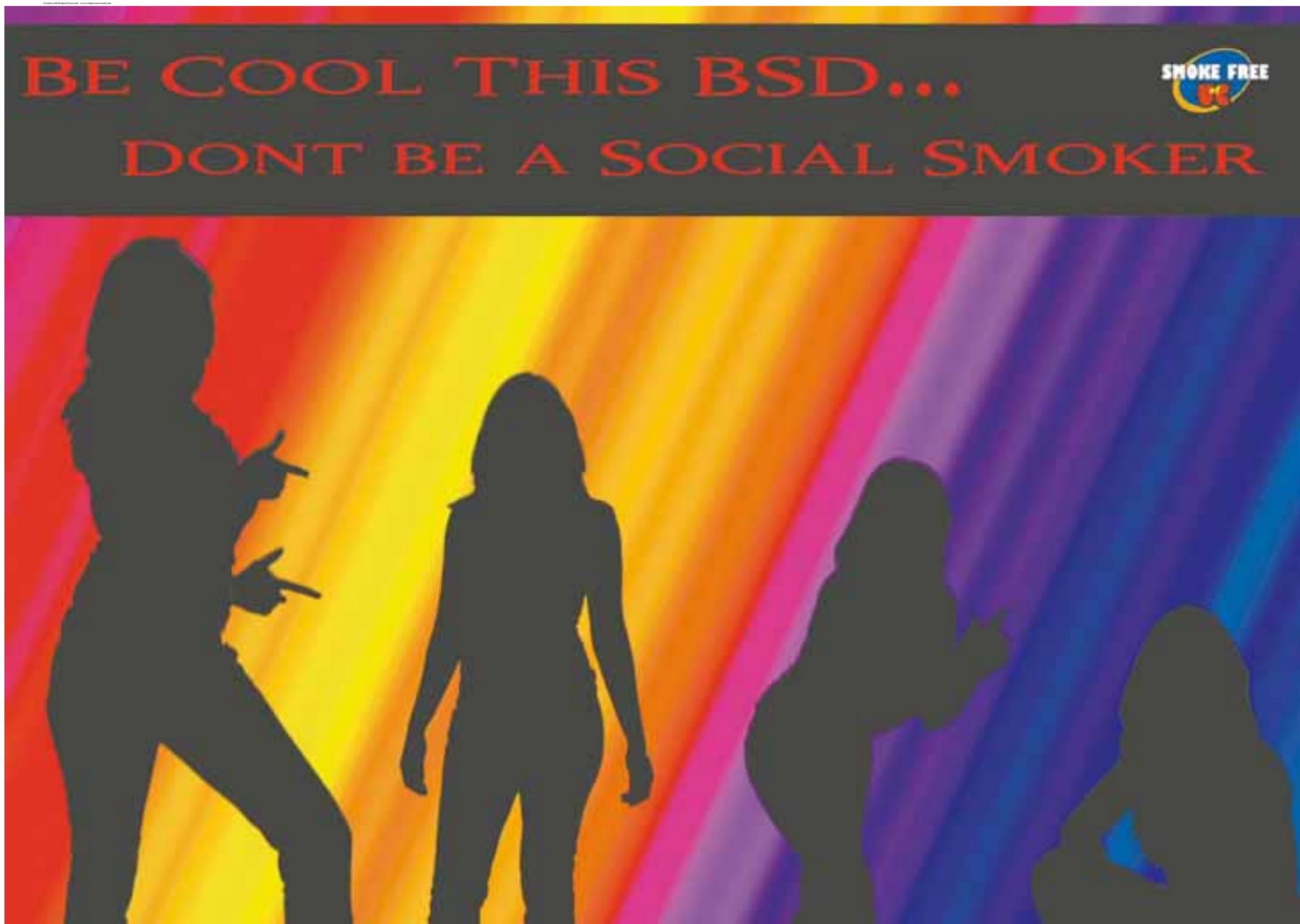


Across

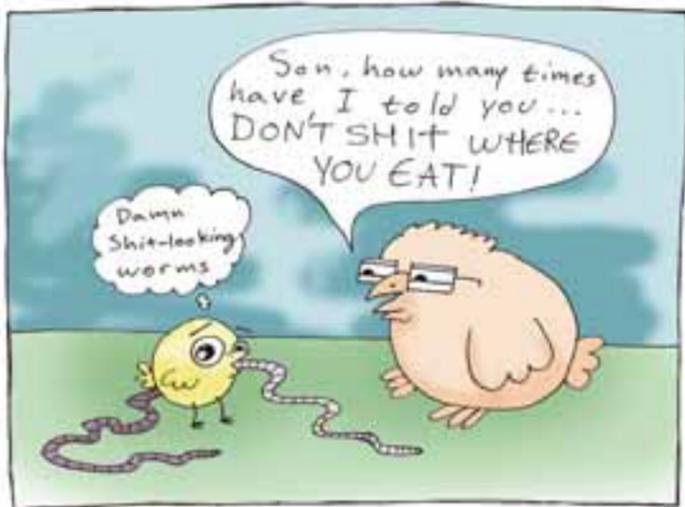
1. Tastes like rubbing alcohol and rat poison and is just about as good for ya.
3. A drink made with vodka and kahlua.
5. One version of the drink is made with tequila, vodka, kahlua, light cream and Coke (the drink not the drug). It is also the name of a Finger Eleven song.
8. Newfie alcohol
10. A drink made with champagne and orange juice.
14. A tasty drink that mixes tequila, orange juice, and grenadine.
15. A style of mixed drink that encompasses martinis, and any other drink that contains more than one alcohol, and various flavorings.
17. The sophisticated drink of choice.
18. Another slushy drink, with rum as the main ingredient. Comes in an assortment of flavors.
19. A slushy drink that usually contains peach schnapps as the main ingredient.
20. A drink made with vodka, kahlua and milk.
22. A favourite birthday shot. Makes a huge mess, and sucks if you are lactose intolerant.
23. And they said nothing good came from Russia.

Down

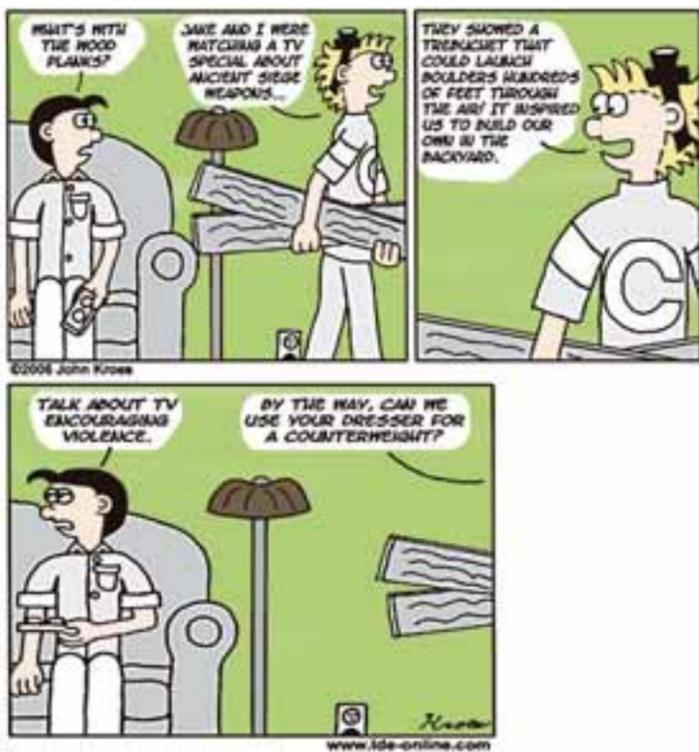
2. A drink made with melon liqueur, blue curacao and 7-up. It's electric.
4. Hallucinogenic alcohol.
6. Everybodies favorite drink for the game.
7. A drink made with vodka and orange juice.
9. A shot that mixes sour puss and Jack Daniels.
10. Drink made with spearmint, rum, sugar, lime and club soda, popular summer drink.
11. A favourite for shots, it is a Mexican import.
12. The drink of choice for pirates.
13. A shot that mixes peppermint schnapps with Jaggermeister.
16. A vacation favourite. Slushy drink with tequila as the main ingredient. Served in a glass with a salted rim
21. A type of drink usually made up of a hard alcohol (rum, vodka, whiskey) and a carbonated beverage.



Little Birdie by: Kaveh Shojaei



Last-Ditch Effort by: John Kroes



Illustrations Editor Wanted

Your duties will include coordinating volunteers to create illustrations and editorial cartoons on a weekly deadline. You'll have your original artwork published while being paid \$200 per month. Time commitment is minimal and it's an interesting work environment. Come up to MSC 319 or phone Chris Beauchamp at 226-7752 for more information. Applicants must submit a portfolio.

Illustration by Ken Clarke / the Gauntlet

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