

U N I V E R S I T Y O F C A L G A R Y

gauntlet

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CITY'S BOOM A BUST



HOMELESSNESS RAMPANT IN CANADA'S
FASTEST-GROWING CITY

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The Boom and the echo

For the better part of the past decade, Calgary politicians and business-leaders alike have trumpeted the Alberta Advantage, prompting many workers to flock to the city in search of a better life. This has not always proven to be the case, for as an oil boom has filled bank accounts province-wide, it has also had some staggeringly negative side-effects. The recent announcement of the second rise in the provincial minimum wage in the past three years does little to change the fortunes of the city's less fortunate.

Upon first glance, the bump of the minimum wage from \$7 to \$8 can be interpreted as a great victory for social spending advocates. Indeed, the bump brings Alberta up to par with Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia as the highest in the country, and is actually the highest when tax provisions are taken into account. What pundits seem to be forgetting is that the hike comes as Alberta is experiencing the highest inflation in the country, with the 5 per cent annual rise in prices measured in May being more than twice the 2.2 per cent national average.

The reasons for Alberta's inflation are plentiful, but most of the fingers

tend to get pointed at the boom. At a time when Alberta's economy is producing as many goods, services and houses as possible, an influx of workers and oil money only serve to drive up prices. In this context, the rise of the minimum wage can be interpreted as bumping up the price level even further, the last thing disadvantaged Albertans need.

Even worse, at a time when the costs of doing business in an economy revolving around oil—natural gas and gasoline among others—are sky-high, many businesses only have so much money to spend on employees. A rise in the minimum wage may only serve to crowd lower-wage earners out of the jobs they so desperately need.

Following their recent by-election victory in Ralph Klein's old Calgary Elbow riding, Liberals are hoping their good fortunes will continue in the inevitable general election. Given the only thing that will help their plight is a renewed commitment to social spending, Alberta's disadvantaged will probably turn up to the polls in droves to ensure that happens.

Ryan Pike
Entertainment Editor



Editor, the Gauntlet Benevolence!

Editor, the Gauntlet,

I was due to give a plenary address to the Student Conference of the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics at 1:40 p.m. Monday, May 27. I don't have a car, so I took a taxi over to the MacEwan conference Centre, arriving at 1:20 p.m.

Much to my horror, the site was practically deserted. Someone finally was able to tell me that while the main conference was starting at the MacEwan the next day, the student conference was being held

at the faculty of medicine, at the Foothills campus—back where I started! I had no time to walk there, and with only 15 minutes to go at this point, I had little hope for a taxi to collect and take me there in time either.

Now, you must understand, academics don't really ever have "emergencies." But I figured that not showing up for a plenary address for the first time in a 20-year career was one, so I had to do the only thing a half-crazed professor about-to-miss-their-talk could do: I flagged down a car and asked if they would help me!

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Editor-in-Chief: Chris Tait 220-7752
eit@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

News Editor: Katy Anderson 220-4318
news@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Entertainment: Ryan Pike 220-4376
entertainment@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Sports: Amanda Hu 220-4376
sports@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Opinions: Andrew Rininsland 220-4376
aendrew@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Features: Jon Roe 220-4376
features@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Photography: Geoff MacIntosh 220-4376
photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Production: Christian Loudon 220-4376
christian@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

News Assistant: Sara Hanson 220-4318
news@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Business Manager: Evelyn Cone 220-7380
evelyn.cone@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Advertising Manager: John Harbidge 220-7751
john.harbidge@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Graphic Artist: Ken Clarke 220-7755
kdcclarke@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Network Manager: Ben Li

Contributors
Garth Paulson • Janice Tran • Hoang-Mai Hong
Cam Cotton-O'Brien • Kristine Gick • Dan Pagan
Medha Subramani • Kendra Kusick

Golden Spatula
Kendra Kusick, for rockin' news and drawing a pretty picture. Good work!

Furor Arma Ministar
Room 319, MacEwan Students' Centre
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive, NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
General inquires: 220-7750
http://gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

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Calendar of Curiosities

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This is a two-year term with minimal time commitment. The Review Board meets only when an application is received.

Please submit a resume & letter of interest to the: **Student Rights Advisor**
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Volunteer Services Dr. Seuss in the Park is a University of Calgary Students' Union Volunteer Services program that promotes literacy for children in the Calgary community.

Boom leaves disadvantaged behind

Parkland Institute report outlines the shrinking of Alberta's middle class

Katy Anderson
News Editor

Only 10 per cent of Albertans have seen direct personal benefits from Alberta's boom, according to a Parkland Institute report.

The Calgary Drop-In and Rehabilitation Centre hosted a public discussion Thu., Jun. 14 sponsored by the Parkland Institute—a non-partisan public policy research centre—detailing a report by the institute's Diana Gibson, entitled *The Spoils of the Boom*, and included speakers from around Calgary that worked around homelessness.

"We have warned of impending crisis for years now," said drop-in centre representative Linda McLean. "There's a simple answer here. Create the housing. Create the housing now. It's not that complicated."

McLean said that people coming to the drop-in centre included those in taxis coming straight from the psych ward, those out of prison, and even individuals showing up fresh out of the hospital with IVs still in their arms.

"There's been a dramatic shift in values and attitudes in this city," said McLean. "What we're seeing is a whole class of people that are being cast out economically, people that are cast out socially because they have mental disabilities."

Another speaker, Vibrant Communities Calgary intern director Connie Johnson said there has been a 458 per cent increase in homelessness since 1996.

"The fact is that the boom is not good for everyone," said Johnson. "There are more and



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

McLean wants to see solutions to the province's homelessness. Now.

more people from the middle class joining the growing population of the just-getting-by."

On the same day as the discussion, Alberta's minimum wage increased from seven dollars and hour to eight. A spokesperson for the Albertan Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Industry Lorelei Fiset-Cassidy said that after taxes the increase made Alberta's minimum wage the highest of any of the Canadian provinces.

"It effects primarily a lot of young people in our province, many people who live in hospitality, accommodation and retail sectors,"

said Fiset-Cassidy. "There's 41,000 people in the province that currently earn less than the eight dollars an hour, so they can expect to see an increase in their wage on September first of this year."

Parkland Institute executive director Ricardo Acuña agreed that increasing minimum wage and indexing it were positive steps towards alleviating the homelessness crisis in Alberta but stressed the need for further action.

"There needs to be some immediate investment in affordable housing," said Acuña. "It's going to cost a lot more than it would have five

years ago but I think that needs to be done. I think there needs to be some rent controls implemented to make housing affordable for folks."

Acuña also said that according to the Statistics Canada information examined in *The Spoils of the Boom*, most of the benefits were disproportionately going to the top 10 per cent of income-earners in Alberta. Gibson, the report's author, was unavailable for comment.

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Ray Danyluk disagreed that the advantages of the boom were only felt by the top 10 per cent of Albertans, stating that benefits are felt throughout infrastructure, schools and health care.

"For the first time in the government history, we added \$285 million to affordable housing and homelessness initiatives," said Danyluk. "That has been shared to support municipalities to address the needs and challenges that they have with affordable housing. We have increased our funding with the homeless and are trying to encourage and make sure there are more units available for individuals."

Forty-year-old Peter Rice, currently residing at the drop-in centre said he has yet to see the result of the provincial government's initiative and like McLean, focused on the importance of an immediate solution.

"You could solve the homelessness problem in just one sentence, more affordable housing," said Rice. "Lower the prices for the rent of an apartment and stop changing everything into condos."

West Campus plans unveiled

Sara Hanson
News Assistant

The University of Calgary is expanding its frontiers westward.

The master plan for the development of West Campus, was revealed at two open houses, held Thurs., Jun. 14 and Tue., Jun. 19. U of C vice-president external Roman Cooney explained the land was given to the university by the province in 1995, and the plans to develop a living community began prior to the building of the Alberta Children's Hospital, which is also situated on the West Campus. Cooney also explained the university began working with Sasaki Associates, an urban planning firm, and Kasian Architecture, one year ago to develop the current master plan.

Kasian principal architect Bill Chomik explained the West Campus will integrate a wide range of housing, composed of both general and student residences, as well as a variety of retail stores to create an urban development that will cater to both public and university communities.

"The general approach is pretty

fixed, but the detail is not fixed at all," said Chomik. "It will be very mixed-use—everything will be there and it will have the flavour of a university town."

Chomik also noted that while the West Campus master plan is an original design, university towns in the United States—specifically the one at MIT—were used as influences during the design process.

If the master plan is approved by the Board of Governors, Cooney explained an agreement must be reached with the City of Calgary before any requests for proposals from private developers can be put forward. While the current proposal does not include room for new student spaces, Cooney stressed there will be benefits for students.

"An immediate benefit is that about a third of residential has been set aside for students, so there will be a significant portion of it set aside for student housing," he said. "The key difference in the master plan being proposed is that it is much more residential in character—much more community-orientated. It is higher density than what was proposed



Courtesy of U of C media relations

The U of C's West Campus could end up looking a lot like MIT.

before, but very much more like a neighbourhood with a more seamless integration of the university and the surrounding communities and the West Campus."

While the university is confident the west campus development will benefit both students and the public, many residents from neighbouring communities expressed concern during Tuesday's open house.

"The density is too high, and there is hardly any planning, if any, for increased traffic in the rush hour,"

said Varsity Village resident Jack Alexander. "Nobody here really knows for sure what the impacts are going to be."

University Heights resident Penney Kome shared Alexander's concerns.

"It looks extremely dense to me and I'm very concerned that what they are calling [Research and Development] could become semi-industrial," said Kome. "Our concern is that the land is supposed to be used for educational purposes. We rallied [about 15 years ago] so

the province wouldn't sell it to developers."

Because the university already owns the land and the development will be funded by private developers, Cooney noted there is no financial risk for the university. While the West Campus development is expected to generate a significant amount of money for the university, Cooney stressed this new source of revenue will not replace provincial funding.

"Our major funder is always going to be the province and that's the way it should be," said Cooney. "But [the West Campus development] does give us another revenue stream so that we can move forward on some of the other projects that we think are important to the university. There is no direct link at this point between the revenue generated by West Campus and main campus, but at the end of the day, all of our university revenues wind up being re-invested in the university, so there's an impact on students one way or another."

The university is planning to begin the development in 2008, although the undertaking is expected to span over the next twenty years.

School of policy research announced

New dean has created large expectations for new U of C program

Amanda Hu
Sports Editor

Issues of public policy have been deliberated over by economists, political scientists, lawyers and many others since the dawn of time. With the announcement of the new school of policy studies at the University of Calgary, the debate will continue to rage here on campus.

The new program is hoped to become one of the foremost for the training of future policy-makers, civil servants and anyone interested in the public policy process and its effect on the affairs Canadians and others around the world. Also at the core of the school is a new outlet for extensive research and analysis of various government and public concerns. The school will build upon the already-strong economics, political science and many other programs at U of C.

At the reins of the new school is former president and CEO of the C. D. Howe Institute Dr. Jack Mintz. He will hold the



Courtesy U of C external relations

Dr. Mintz has taught at both NYU law school the U of T.

Palmer Chair in Public Policy upon taking over his position.

"Mintz is really high-profile," said U of C president Dr. Harvey Weingarten. "Not only is he well-known in academia, but in government and many think tanks. He's

a pre-eminent policy guy who's equally comfortable and respected in the strict academic world and in the rough-and-tumble world of government policy. He's navigated that world and, as a result, has a skill-set you don't often see."

Under Mintz's informed leadership, the U of C hopes to refine its role and make a name for itself in the public policy arena as well as attract great and promising minds.

"The role of universities is to do the research and scholarly analysis that informs good public policy and helps the government understand the consequences of policy decisions," said Weingarten. "When the government makes a decision, you want them to make as informed a decision as possible."

Weingarten added that the research will help to create a profile to recruit and promote scholars and students at the school.

Canada is on the forefront of many policy issues and changes. Mintz hopes the new school will cause an effect on these national issues.

"Climate change is always a huge issue, as [are] the governance of our country, allocation of tax powers and foreign policy and security," he said. "We can't just wear one lens when examining these issues. Analyzing the policy process brings to light what's feasible and

what we can achieve in these situations."

Mintz stressed the benefits of basing the new school out of the U of C. Among the most notable strengths are the qualified and experienced group in the departments of economics and political science.

"With that group of people working together and the fact that Calgary is such a dynamic city with a very entrepreneurial attitude, this school can go further and gain international recognition," he said.

Above all else, the school is slated to create a niche for those interested in studying government, as well as the huge impact policy has on the country.

"This school has the potential to become one of the most well-known policy studies programs in western Canada," said Students' Union vice-president academic Brittany Sargent. "New programs mean more opportunities for students, which is always a good thing."

Mintz will begin his new position Jan. 1, 2008.

Biking for a cause

Medha Subramani
Gauntlet News

Otesha means "reason to dream" in Swahili.

A 20-member bicycle tour team took this idea to heart and is addressing how everyday actions can and do affect positive change in the world. The team will make a presentation Fri., Jun. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Arusha Centre.

The Otesha project is an award-winning, youth-run, non-profit outfit that uses theatre, multi-media and storytelling to educate, empower and mobilize Canadians to affect both local and global change.

"We're cycling to kind of 'walk the talk' about what we're talking about, in terms of environmental sustainability," said Rocky Mountain tour coordinator Emi Do. "We're promoting lifestyle change by inspiring others through our message of hope."

Since its launch in 2003, Otesha has presented to over 60,000 youth, and biked over 22,000 km. Two young Canadian women came up with the idea when they returned from a trip to Kenya.

"They really saw the negative impacts that their lifestyle could have," said Do. "So their conclusion was that 'If my lifestyle could have such a negative impact, then I have a positive impact too by the changes I can make.'"

This year, Otesha planned to run a total of five regional, two-month long bike tours in Canada. In Calgary, the troop will perform a 45-minute play called "Morning Choices."

"[The play] really examines how

little changes can make a difference," said Do. "It highlights the different changes that everyone can incorporate in their everyday lives that can lessen their not-so-positive impact on the planet."

Otesha member Ashlie Ferguson, stressed the importance of community building in fostering knowledge on making positive choices.

"It's not just you, but 16 other people you know really well and that turns into thousands," said Ferguson. "What I've gotten out of it is all the knowledge and inspiration from being with such a group of like-minded individuals who are all working towards a similar goal."

Otesha has received more than 1,500 'postcards of hope' over the past five years, allowing them to measure their impact on audiences.

"After every presentation, we give out postcards, which are invitations for people to make a difference in the world," said Do. "What we ask is that people write down a sustainable action they hope to do after the presentation and once they have completed that action, they mail that postcard into our office."

Arusha Centre board member Steve Loo said that both Arusha and Otesha share the common goal of sustainable living.

"Arusha is always interested in collaborating with an organization that is also focused on social justice and environmentalism," said Loo. "We try to educate people on that through movies, books, workshops and by having this cross-pollination, we get an understanding of how to work towards that better environment."

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Apprehensions rise as registration approaches

Kendra Kusick
Gauntlet News

As fall registration dates approach, many people are apprehensive about Peoplesoft's ability to handle the large volume. Initially, the debut of Peoplesoft sparked unfavourable reactions amongst staff and students, a phenomenon to which the Facebook group "Peoplesoft Ruined My Life" owed its 509-strong following.

Registration will begin Mon., Jun. 25 at 8 a.m. In preparation, the office of the Registrar formed a partnership with the University of Calgary Information Technologies and tripled the amount of support staff on call. They also hope to maintain communication with the student body through the website, which will post problems and their solutions as they arise.

"I hate every second of using Peoplesoft," said third-year geography student Allison Cully. "It seems



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

Doubts remain as to whether the switch to Peoplesoft will relieve pressures on the registrar.

like a very generic program that does an adequate job at best."

Peoplesoft will be experiencing a full volume of students for the first time since its inception in February, 2007 as the university's new registration interface. Project Emerge director Pam Decker said she's aware that the student body

will require some time to adjust.

"The biggest challenge is that the continuing students are familiar with [using] Infonet in the past," said Decker. "It's not that it's a problem, but we fully expect the change to be unsettling."

Since the changeover, attitudes have mellowed towards the inter-

face. Third-year business major Kevin Westigaard agreed with Decker's prediction about the program's popularity.

"At first I hated it because I had no idea how it worked," said Westigaard. "Once I figured it out, it was pretty good—I have no real complaints."

Assistant vice-president enrol-

ment & registrars Kathleen Massey acknowledged there may be some unforeseen difficulties, but remained confident the largest hurdle will be user confusion.

"We're focusing all our energies on being responsive to student problems as they arise," she said. "We've been very methodical [and] we've got a plan in place."

Despite concerns, former Project Emerge director Grant Watterworth shared Massey's hopeful expectations of the system's performance. Similar anxieties and frustrations were voiced before the original launch of Peoplesoft, but Watterworth said the system's launch went smoother than expected.

"Our experience to date has been very, very good," he said. "The service has been running virtually without interruption."

Watterworth said he expected the interface to handle any problems that arise.

The office of the registrar's website is www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/students.

Are company Stampede par-tays out of control?

Kristine Gick
Gauntlet News

To booby-shoot, or not to booby-shoot? That is the question being posed by a group of Calgary researchers.

The Sheldon Chumer Foundation for Ethics in Leadership set out to investigate the underlying issues behind rowdy corporate gatherings at Stampede time on Tue., Jun. 19. The discussion was based around whether or not this is becoming a serious issue.

"The problem is a lack of clarity on the expectations of employees to participate in events that they are not

necessarily comfortable with," said SCFEL president Janet Keeping.

All three scenarios described popular stampede behaviour, consisting of alcohol abuse and over-sexualized behaviour. The concern was that the behaviour had often taken place at a workplace function.

"It's as if party time means the ordinary rules don't apply, but it makes a difference when it's someone's livelihood," said Keeping.

With most of the companies being large and professional, ideas like intimidation, gender issues, and power struggles were brought up during the discussion.

"These are careers that people

work towards for years, with a lot of time and money invested," said Keeping. "The question of how much choice one feels they have is a vague area that needs to be addressed."

The first scenario involved a 23 year-old asked to do a "booby shot" by an intoxicated fellow employee. On one hand she was unsure if she should comply to fit in or on the other if it is inappropriate.

"If peer pressure is still an issue at 23 perhaps it is a personal maturity problem, but not the fault of her company" said Ravenwood Energy Corp. president and CEO David Beckwermert.

There was general agreement

amongst the discussion's participants that a procedure to address employee concerns would reduce the chances of anyone feeling uncomfortable. The participants also agreed that there are some serious issues in terms of liability potential.

"Dignity and respect to workers should be twenty-four-seven, not just nine-to-five," said a participant, who wished to remain anonymous.

The Chumer Foundation is organized to nurture the public demand for ethical leadership through events such as this one. Keeping said it is up to companies to ensure that they have a clear an ethical standard.



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

This cowboy had too much fun.

Digital Library construction begins...sort of

Christian Loudon
Production Editor

After countless sign changes, the Taylor Family Digital Library has been moved one step closer to completion—construction fencing has been up for several weeks, despite an absence of construction.

While the fencing around the MacKimmie Library's east entrance seems to indicate that construction of the digital library is imminent, it has not yet been decided how it will be integrated into the current arrangement of buildings in the area.

"We have to land on a configuration before we can start [construction]," said U of C vice-president external relations Roman Cooney. "The fencing is a signal to the students and staff that construction will soon be underway. If it is at all possible to break ground before the



Christian Loudon/the Gauntlet

This fencing is for...wait. What is it for?

fall semester, that's exactly what's going to happen."

The the fencing came into question during the Students' Legislative Council question period on Tue., Jun. 19, when it was pointed out that no construction or demolition had been planned for the location

that it had been placed in.

"It's somewhat of a marketing strategy to raise awareness around getting people prepared for the demolition of the [link to Murray Fraser Hall]," said Students' Union president Julie Bogle during SLC.

With the proposed completion

date set for fall 2009 and no concrete plans on when construction will begin, speculation has arisen as to whether or not the digital library can be completed by the target date, currently posted on the sign outside the library.

"The Taylor Family Digital Library probably will not be completed for the next five years," said fine arts faculty representative Teri Cameron during SLC.

The digital library has already endured many setbacks, including name changes, postponement of the previous fall 2008 completion date and an ever-increasing price tag, leaving some students skeptical as to what message administration is trying to convey with the fencing.

"I think that this fence is a testament to the bureaucracy and stupidity of our university," said fourth-year chemistry student Chris Sveen.

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The wrath of grapes



Cam Cotton-O'Brien
Gauntlet Opinions

France is facing a strange terrorist threat as disgruntled wine farmers decide to get heavy.

The wine farmers have organised themselves into a group known as the Crav with the express purpose of forcing newly-elected French president Nicholas Sarkozy to raise the price of wine. They claim the current cost of wine is too low to live on. One wine producer from the Languedoc region—where the group is based—said plummeting prices have resulted in a 40–50 per cent decrease in income. It has been recorded that a number of wine farmers have been forced to rely on social security for their livelihood, with some even being said to have committed suicide.

Because of a lack of attention this issue has received through normal political processes, the Crav have

sent an ultimatum to the president threatening violent action if a solution is not rapidly enacted. These are not idle threats, either: the group has already used small explosive devices against supermarkets selling foreign wine, vandalised a number of other supermarkets, and even highjacked a truck transporting imported wine. So far, they have not been responsible for any harm to a person, but have threatened that if the government fails to raise prices, “blood will flow.”

The farmers do have a valid contention with the government. It is unreasonable for the government to sit idly by while the wine farmers are forced to suffer through a period which, judging by what the farmers in the region are saying, is effectively crippling their livelihood. It is negligent for the government to fail to act on an issue of such importance to a segment of its citizenry.

Having said that, it is impossible to support the particularly craven method the Crav has adopted to solve the problem. Is it even possible that they think this is a good idea? It was already bad enough when they

were damaging property to try and make their point, but sending the president a video message expressing an ultimatum that he fix the problem or people will be hurt, perhaps killed, is utterly preposterous. They have backed the government into a corner and made it impossible for Sarkozy, even if he wanted to, to comply with their demands. If he did so, he would be expressing to everyone in France who has some gripe with the government that the best way to get what they want is to engage in acts of terror. Of course he won't do this.

Perhaps the most unfortunate aspect of the whole ordeal is the timing. The Crav has issued their ultimatum to coincide with the hundred-year anniversary of the last wine farmer uprising, which resulted in six wine farmers being shot. Sarkozy was only elected to the presidency in May and the parliamentary elections were held even more recently. As such, the Crav did not allow any time for the government to act on the issue before issuing its threat. They should have tried to deal with the govern-



ment through legitimate channels before resorting to this obviously ill-advised and desperate ploy.

Instead, having acted rashly they

have put themselves and the French government into an uncomfortable situation which it will be impossible to amicably resolve.

Letters, cont'd from pg. 2

So a big thank you to the student in the english department who was driving a Honda Civic sedan and kindly agreed to drive me across to my conference. I got there in time, loaded my Powerpoint talk, and all went well.

I am sorry that I fled before I got her name, but I want to thank her for her willingness to help a stranger. It's a kindness I won't forget.

Dr. Penny Hawe
Department of
Community Health
Sciences

Climatolicious!

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,

Kudos to Mr. Sieppert for engaging in the climate change discussion and providing his views on university education [Bruce Sieppert, “*Fact or Fiction?*” Apr. 6, 2007]. We believe that both are of critical importance. As H.G. Wells said, “human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.”

Mr. Sieppert's letter comments on a guest lecture, delivered in our Geophysics 375 Natural Disasters class by Dr. R. Spencer, that showed

some of the factors associated with climate: solar output, geothermal heat flux, atmospheric water, and human-generated carbon dioxide. Dr. Spencer also presented some interesting correlations of Earth's temperature with the Sun's variations over the last 35,000 years as well as data, over 400,000 years of a Vostok ice core, allowing that rising temperatures may precede carbon dioxide elevation. Mr. Sieppert found the lecture's evaluation of data different than that expressed by some of his other sources, like the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Fortunately, there is considerable measuring, modeling, and debating underway in attempt to understand Earth's climate and its drivers and there are varying opinions attached to all of the above. Much as some would like us to believe, climate change science is not over and fossilized quite yet.

Mr. Sieppert wants to know “who's correct?” on climate change, what's “Fact or fiction.” However, this is a bit like asking whether it will rain next week. Fair questions—actually, I'd like to know too! But, he seems to suggest that it's “irresponsible” to allow differing viewpoints on the subject. Furthermore, he imagines that “there *must* be an explanation for the differences in interpreting scientific data on climate change. Maybe it has something to do with living in Alberta. Maybe there's a link between what's professed here and those who gain from such professions.”

I'd suggest that in Alberta—home to thousands of bright geoscientists and engineers who work most days with the geologic results of sea-level variation and climate change—professionals are educated to be cautious about correlations and look for a range of explanations and interpretations of our environment.

Nonetheless, both geo-people and historians would probably agree that assembling the past is essential, but difficult, while predicting the future is crucial, but harder. Let's see much more effort dedicated to understanding climate change and mediating its vagaries.

Dr. Rob Stewart
Professor of Geophysics

More climate fun!

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,

[Re: “*Fact or Fiction?*”, Bruce Sieppert, Apr. 6, 2007]

Earlier this semester I was invited by one of my colleagues to give a lecture on the topic of climate change in Geophysics 375. Prior to this lecture there had been an opportunity for students in the class to view the movie *An Inconvenient Truth*. I had discussed this movie with the professor teaching the course and told him that I felt the movie was highly biased. I have conducted research on geologic records of climate for the past 33 years and offered to give a lecture focused on the other side of the scientific debate.

I made it clear to the class at the beginning of my lecture that I would not present a balanced argument on climate change but rather

point out why there are some of us in the scientific community who see carbon dioxide as a minor, not a major contributor to climate change. This lecture prompted a letter to the editor.

I commend Mr. Sieppert for his well thought-out and extremely articulate letter. I whole-heartedly agree with his concluding sentence, “look into it, use your critical thinking, and decide for yourself.” That is exactly the point I tried to make in the lecture! However, I strongly disagree with the preceding sentence, “evidence for both sides of the climate change debate is also easy to find.”

We are bombarded with media reports presenting only one side of this issue, declaring that anthropogenic carbon dioxide is responsible for an unprecedented increase in global temperature over the last century. During my lecture I presented a large amount of data indicating this is not so. Most of the students I talked with are not aware of the data used to interpret global warming, as these data are seldom reported to the public. When they are, I believe they are highly distorted, as in the case of *An Inconvenient Truth*. I find it interesting that Mr. Sieppert chose not to challenge any of the data presented in the lecture, which I believe to be solid, only the interpretation of those data, which I believe flows logically from the data.

Dr. Ronald J. Spencer
Department of
Geology and Geophysics

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Not the face of Canadian identity



Sara Hanson
News Assistant

In anticipation of Canada's 140th birthday on Jul. 1, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation decided to find out what Canadians would like to change about their nation. Rather than using traditional journalistic techniques—such as going out and interviewing random samples of Canadians—Canada's public broadcaster decided to experiment with new technology and create a group on Facebook, arguably the Internet's most popular social networking site.

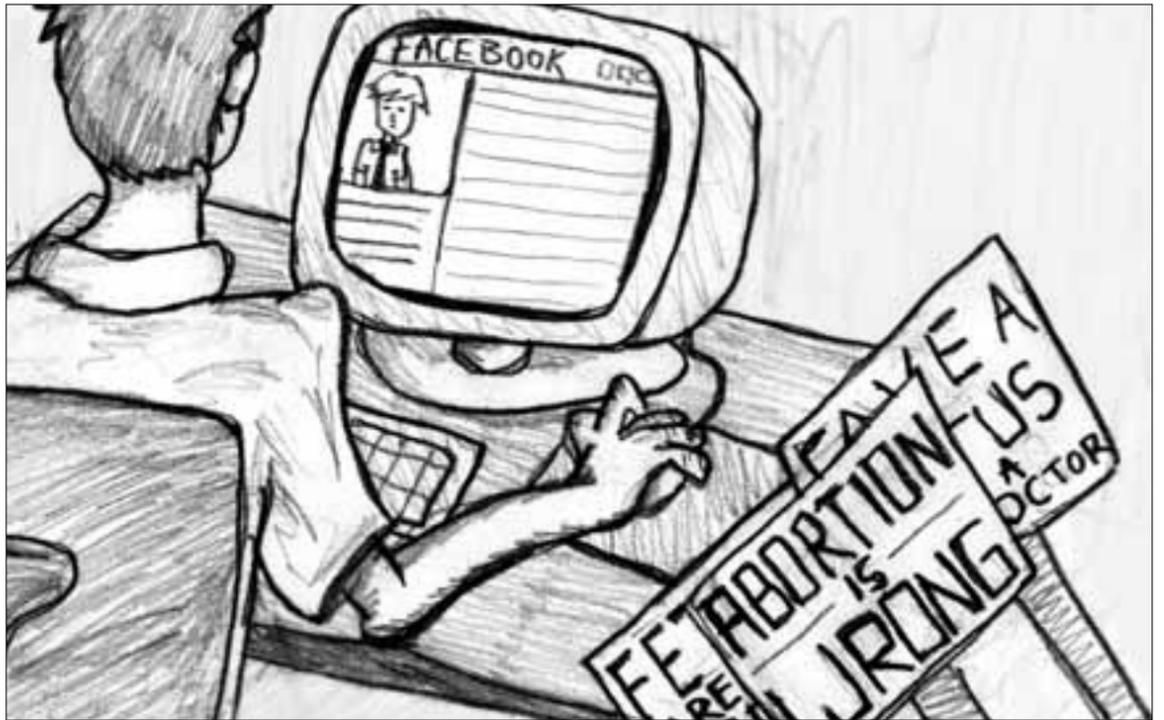
The group, titled "The Great Canadian Wish List," currently has 13,914 members, and includes almost 800 different wishes for which members vote. If none of the current wishes seem appealing, members are also given the option to create a new wish for Canada's future. The group includes a number of optimistically progressive goals, such as making Canada a greener nation and keeping same-sex marriage. However, many of the wishes

are also surprisingly conservative.

At one point, 5,122 members had voted for "abolishing abortion in Canada," making it the number one wish for the group. While keeping Canada pro-choice was the second-most wished for with 4,794 votes, 2,382 wished for the spiritual revival of Canada. Eliminating or reducing tuition fees was the fourth-most popular wish, and restoring the traditional definition of marriage was number five.

While three of the top five wishes appeared to belong to a group sponsored by Republican-Americans, they were not all that surprising, as Canada is currently a conservative nation, at least in political representation. What was shocking was that after a quick glance through the multiple pages of wishing members, it became apparent that the majority are young Canadians, a group typically thought to be composed of more liberal-minded members of Canadian society.

As Canada's youth will be the leaders of tomorrow, it is hard to believe that any of them would place taking away a women's right to choice over her own body above making Canada a leader in green-politics. However, what must be kept in mind is that the CBC-sponsored



Facebook group cannot provide an accurate representation of what the majority of Canadians—of any age—believe would make Canada a better country.

Although a large number of Canadian youth have Facebook accounts, many may not know about the group, or simply choose to ignore it. Keeping this fact in mind, the CBC should think twice

before they choose to reveal the top wishes on Canada Day—a day which is historically reserved for celebrating Canada's birth as a nation, as well as the impressive achievements of its citizens. When today's youth looks back twenty years from now, they may not want to remember the day when their nation's public broadcaster and a Facebook group revealed that

there were Canadians who wished to take a step backward and abolish a woman's right to choose.

While it may be popular, and while Prime Minister Stephen Harper may even have his own profile, an internet site originally created to make it easier for friends to connect should not be used by the CBC to determine the next phase of Canada's national identity.

CJSW ON 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					democracy now!	alternative radio	
7:30									
8 am						bunte welle <i>german</i>	counterspin eritrean radio	ROOTS MIX	
8:30							hvratski radio <i>croatian</i>		
9 am	this side of the blue	canadian music centre presents	bella musica	airport bison radio	the two and a half hour coffee break				
9:30									
10 am		tangential workout				calgary vietnamese radio	bagong pagasa <i>filipino</i>		
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>	helenic melodies <i>greek radio</i>	let's get baked with mat & dave <i>vegan baking from ckdu</i>		
11:30							level the vibes		
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>			
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>	halfway home <i>sponsored by liberty lounge</i>	alternative to what?	road pops <i>sponsored by fwwd weekly</i>	caribbean link-up <i>sponsored by fwwd 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</i>	voice of ethiopia oh africa!	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 funkalcious <i>the latest & greatest in breaks & house</i>		desi vibes		
7:30		tombstone after dark							
8 pm	reverb	yeah, what she said <i>sponsored by the palomino smokehouse & social club</i>	lift the bandstand	film clips	the nocturntable		speaking in tongues <i>world music</i>		
8:30									
9 pm	aubrey's shindig!	honey, i punk the kids	speak sebastian / urban sex	noise <i>experimental music</i>	dirty needles <i>the best in funk, soul & hip hop</i>		the chit chat		
9:30									
10 pm	katharsis	rack power	good character requirement / turing radio	fat beat diet	remote emissions <i>hard hitting jungle & drum n bass</i>	megawatt mayhem <i>metal</i>	tokyo eye patch		
10:30									
11 pm		what would the neighbors think?	charlie / don't throw your marmalade						
11:30									
12 am	bass ackwards	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					sound champion showcase		the corduroy couch		
1:30									
2 am	yes, someday	into the deep	national telegram	rage cage					
2:30									
3 am									
3:30					sunlight theory / 31 flavours	mental brain thoughts / scrumdiddlyumptious	straight on 'til morning		
4:00									
4:30									
5:00									
5:30									

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And that's a real mixed blessing

Keenan named Flames head coach



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet



Ryan Pike
Gauntlet Sportspinions

The summer months are usually dull for Flames fans, full of solemn reflection on the past season and hopes for the upcoming entry draft. The announcement of the Flames relocating their farm team—transforming the Omaha Ak-Sar-Ben Knights into the Quad City Flames—would normally be the biggest news in a typical June and the biggest Flames news to be mentioned on message boards and the back pages of the

Calgary Herald sports pages. This year was different.

After a single season behind the bench, Flames head coach Jim Playfair was replaced by Mike Keenan Thu., Jun. 14. Keenan comes to Calgary with a fair bit of infamy attached to his name, causing many Flames fans to declare Keenan's hiring as signalling the end of the world. Though the past has seen precedents, these prognostications may be a bit overblown.

Rumour has it that Jim Playfair had to be replaced behind the bench. Despite posting a regular season-winning percentage second only to Stanley Cup-winning coach Terry Crisp, Playfair had "lost the room," so to speak. Local media following the team reported that while conducting end-of-season interviews with the players, Flames general manager Darryl Sutter repeatedly heard the same message: Playfair just wasn't the guy to coach the team. As assistant coach, Playfair had to be the approachable guy the players

could vent to about how much of a hard-ass Sutter was as head coach. Playfair couldn't simply turn a switch and go from "approachable" to "feared." The previous three assistant coaches that became head coaches—Doug Risebrough, Guy Charron and Greg Gilbert—lasted an average of 94 games as bench boss. Outside hires have lasted an average of 213 games.

Accepting that Playfair had to go in order for the Flames to be successful is one thing, but why in Heaven's name did Darryl Sutter hire Mike Keenan? The answers, again, are fairly self-explanatory. Mike Keenan is the closest facsimile of Darryl Sutter the Flames could hire. A veteran of 1,014 games coached over 17 seasons, Keenan is the guy that took the New York Rangers to their first Stanley Cup in 54 years way back in 1994. Sutter was also an assistant coach under Keenan in Chicago for two years, so he knows how the guy thinks. Sutter's tendency to bring in familiar faces was successful for

the Flames in the cases of Miikka Kiprusoff and Kristian Huselius, but he may be due for a failure.

Giving the reigns of a team to Mike Keenan has often been a recipe for disaster. While often cited as a brilliant hockey mind, Keenan has been characterized as brash, off-putting and downright crazy by many former players. He was blamed for turning then-brilliant Panthers rookie Huselius into a head-case player that nobody wanted. He's notorious for pulling goaltenders seemingly at random, even pulling his goalie five times in a single 1987 playoff game. Most alarmingly, Keenan has repeatedly clashed with his bosses—his stops in Chicago, New York and Florida were all cut short after Keenan lost power struggles—and fans fear that Keenan will eventually clash with good buddy Darryl Sutter the way he did with longtime pal Jacques Martin in Florida.

Thankfully though, the Calgary Flames are blessed with two things that Mike Keenan's previous teams

did not have: Darryl Sutter and an ownership group that will not tolerate any crap from their coaches. Dave King was unceremoniously let go by the Flames in 1995, despite coaching the team to two division crowns, because his teams couldn't win in the playoffs. Highly touted coaching prospect Don Hay was cut loose 68 mediocre games into the 2000/01 season. The ownership even replaced then-general manager Craig Button with Sutter in the spring of 2003 because Sutter's no-nonsense approach seemed more likely to produce results than Button's.

Mike Keenan has proven time and time again that he can be a fantastic head coach. He has also proven that he's a horrific general manager. That said, as long as the Flames ownership and Darryl Sutter keep Keenan on a tight leash, there's no reason the Flames can't learn from past mistakes and find a way to bring the Stanley Cup to Calgary this season. At the very least, they could win a playoff round.

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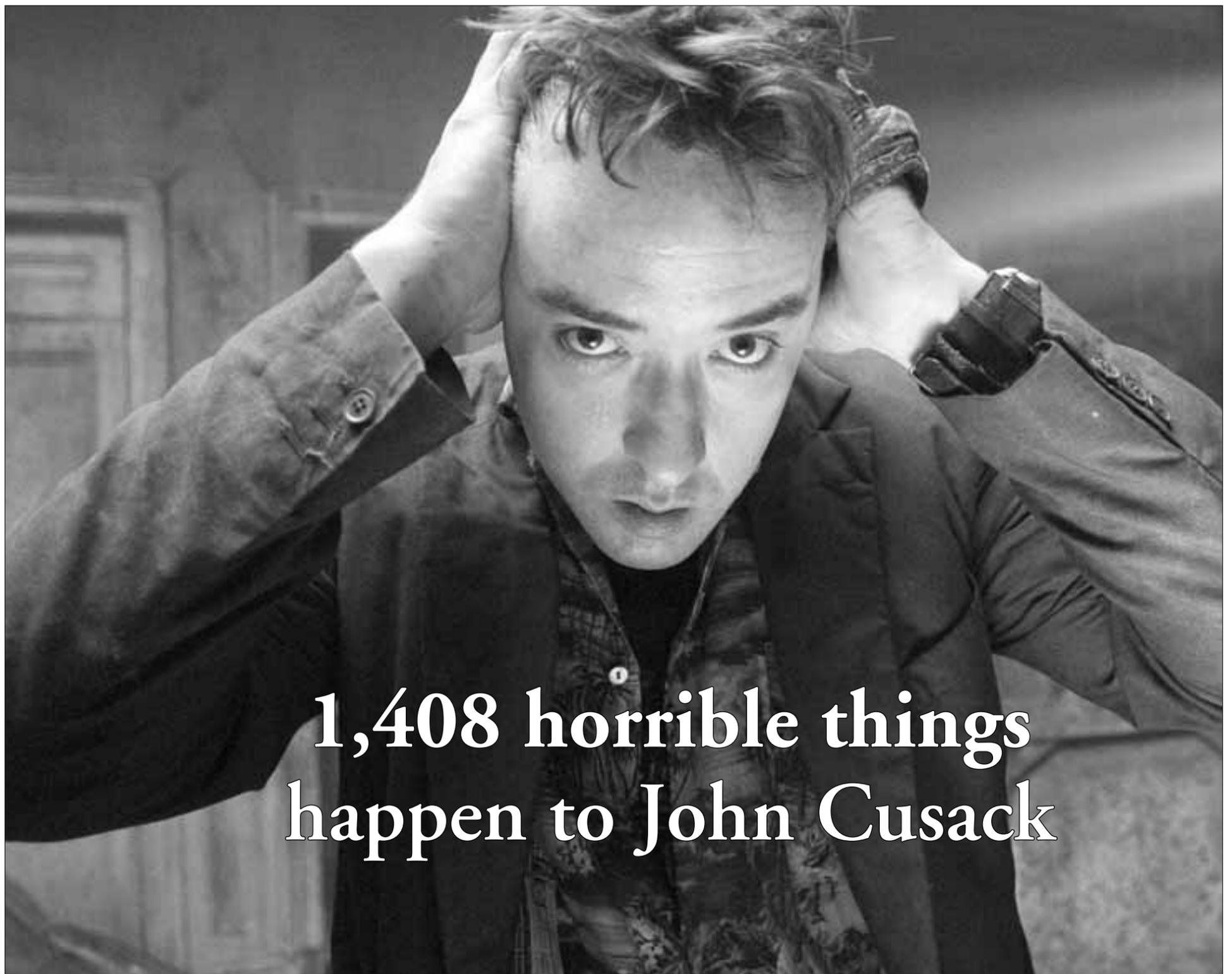
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1,408 horrible things happen to John Cusack

courtesy Alliance Atlantis

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 f i l m r e v i e w

Ryan Pike
 Entertainment Editor

John Cusack is the consummate everyman. He's not Brad Pitt-statuesque, but he's not Steve Buscemi-ugly. This trait makes him especially good at playing characters like *Say Anything's* Lloyd Dobler or *High Fidelity's* Rob Gordon who are, as Gordon puts it, "middleweights." As Cusack has aged, so have his characters, which means now that he's turned 40, he's playing older everymen with wives, children and the associated headaches.

In *1408*, Cusack plays writer Mike Enslin. Once a talented novelist and devoted father, he'd left his wife and lost his faith after the death of their young daughter. As a result, he's now the overtly cynical writer of mediocre books about haunted places throughout the United States whose fanbase could travel to his book signings in a single car. Despite documenting

countless places that were reputed to be haunted, Enslin remains convinced that the paranormal doesn't exist. When he receives a mysterious postcard from New York's Dolphin Hotel warning him not to enter room 1408, Enslin sees an opportunity to pad out his latest book. Despite hotel manager Mr. Olin's (Samuel L. Jackson) warnings that none of the room's 56 previous occupants has ever lasted more than an hour inside, Enslin eagerly checks in. Since this is a film based on a Stephen King story, horrible things befall him.

Above all else, *1408* is the John Cusack show. Nearly the entire film features Cusack in a hotel room. Fans of the actor will be overjoyed, since he's given the chance to run the gamut of emotions. Witness overjoyed Cusack, sad Cusack, freezing-cold Cusack and Cusack overcome with rage. Beyond Cusack, the supporting cast is virtually non-existent. Samuel L. Jackson appears in two scenes and Tony Shalhoub appears in one short scene, neither are really given a chance to do anything but recite their lines and disappear.

One question likely to divide audiences is whether the events in the titular hotel room are real or imaginary. A scene early in the film between Cusack and Jackson plants the seed that the hotel manager may have drugged a bottle of cognac he gives to Enslin. Later, when spooky things begin occurring in room 1408, Enslin wonders aloud whether he's been drugged. Despite being the most intriguing element of the story, it's quickly dropped right after being mentioned.

The second American effort for Swedish director Mikael Håfström after 2005's *Derailed*, *1408* is an effective thriller full of jump scenes and clever elements. Håfström seems to be borrowing pages from Alfred Hitchcock's playbook, lifting some storytelling devices directly from *Rear Window* and *Vertigo*, but he does so effectively. While the script goes off the rails towards the ending of the film, *1408's* atmosphere is immersive enough to keep audiences waiting for more bad things to happen to John Cusack.

1408 opens Fri., Jun. 22 in theatres everywhere.

THE BEST OF CUSACK

John Cusack celebrates his 41st birthday Thu., Jun. 28. While his fans cannot commemorate the occasion with a brand-new issue of the *Gauntlet*, they can construct their own Cusack-themed movie marathon. Here are some choice cuts to choose from.

***Sixteen Candles* [1984]**

Cusack is Anthony Michael Hall's geeky friend. He's only in a few scenes, but they all revolve around women's underpants.

***Better Off Dead...* [1985]**

Cusack is a high school student who gets dumped and decides the only way to get over his ensuing depression is via suicide, but he keeps failing at it. The climactic ski chase is parodied endlessly.

***Say Anything...* [1989]**

Cusack is a teenage slacker who falls for the smart girl at his school. Featuring an iconic scene with Cusack holding a boom box above his head at night, the film has become one of the most acclaimed teen romances of the past two decades.

***Grosse Pointe Blank* [1997]**

Cusack is a hitman who goes back to his hometown for his 10-year high school reunion (and to do one last hit).

***Being John Malkovich* [1999]**

Cusack is an eccentric puppeteer who finds a portal into the mind of actor John Malkovich. This film earned three Oscar nominations and catapulted writer Charlie Kaufman into the A-list.

***High Fidelity* [2000]**

Cusack is a neurotic Chicago record store owner getting over his latest break-up. The second film co-written by Cusack also earned him his first (and only) Golden Globe acting nomination and launched Jack Black's acting career.

***Grace is Gone* [2007]**

Cusack is a bereaved father who takes his kids on a road trip after their mother is killed in Iraq. Opened to huge acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival, winning the audience award and writing prize. Scheduled for release and a big Oscar push this fall.



courtesy Zak Pashak/Sled Island

Sled Island Festival Director Zak Pashak takes time out from his day to smile...sort of.

The secrets of Island living

Inaugural Sled Island festival puts spotlight on Calgary's music scene

S l e d I s l a n d
f e s t i v a l p r e v i e w

Sara Hanson
Gauntlet Newsertainment

Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Whenever Canada's independent musical identity is placed on a map, these are the three cities that first come to mind. Toronto is home to indie-rock veterans Broken Social Scene, Montreal is where the members of the Arcade Fire first got together and Vancouver gave the New Pornographers their radio-friendly start. Calgary, however, is typically more famous for being the home of ginger beef than as a nurturing environment for aspiring musicians. While the majority of Canadians, including many Calgarians, may believe city musicians are only capable of producing honky-tonk love songs, this stereotype is false, at least according to Sled Island Festival Director Zak Pashak, who also owns the Broken City Social Club.

"People in New York love the fact that they are from New York and they are going to like a band more because it's from New York," says Pashak. "It seems like there's a lot of people in Calgary that would rather go see a band from New York than from Calgary and that's kind of a shame to me. I think it would be great if people from Calgary wanted to see a band from Calgary."

Pashak began planning Calgary's first indie-rock music festival six months ago, and despite any negative stereotype surrounding Calgary's music scene, he has managed to attract an impressive lineup featuring Miami's Cat Power, Austin's Spoon, Vancouver's Destroyer and Brooklyn's Les Savy Fav as headliners. If the endeavour is as successful as is anticipated, it could become the next big music festival—next to Austin's South by Southwest and Toronto's North by Northeast—to which music lovers flock, hoping to be amongst the first to hear an up-and-coming band's innovative sounds.

"I think the line-up this year is as interesting and diverse and there are enough interesting names there that [Sled Island] is already on par with those other festivals," says Pashak. "We just need to get the fan base kind of used to it and different people getting excited about it year by year."

Although each of the headlining

shows feature out-of-town artists, they all feature local bands as openers. Of the more than 50 bands playing throughout the four-day festival, many of them are from Calgary and the Thursday night line-up at Broken City is also specifically reserved to showcase some of Calgary's hidden talents. While festivals such as this could potentially become scoping grounds for record label executives hoping to capitalize on the growing popularity of independent music, Pashak maintains that is not the objective of Sled Island.

"The music industry is pretty soul-destroying," he says. "I think it's pretty bad in a lot of ways, so it's certainly not my goal to try and expose local bands to the music industry. They can chase those things down and many of them are very capable of doing that on their own. I just think it's important for there to be a sense of community. It's better if a local band is known by a bunch of people in the city. Then at least they can play gigs and draw a bunch of people out who are more focused on that than watching a music video on tv. I think it's important for people to get out and congregate and figure out what's happening in their local community."

The plethora of homegrown musicians will be performing at a number of interesting venues around town, including Cantos, a music museum featuring a unique collection of keyboards. In addition to checking out local acts, Pashak encourages festival-goers to attend the rare performance by Japan's The Boredoms, whose noise-rock has wowed underground music fans for two decades.

"South by Southwest happens in Austin every year and people [who] live in that city are driving up to see [The Boredoms]," he says. "It would be great if people from Calgary realized that and took the opportunity to see that one."

Having an epic band like The Boredoms perform at Sled Island could provide the boost Calgary's burgeoning music scene needs. Once folks begin to realize that Calgarians are capable of appreciating music other than country and people begin to see that Calgary is home to an impressive array of independent artists, then perhaps Calgary can finally earn its place on Canada's music map.

Sled Island runs from Jun. 27-30 at various venues around town. Tickets and the full line-up are available at www.sledisland.com.

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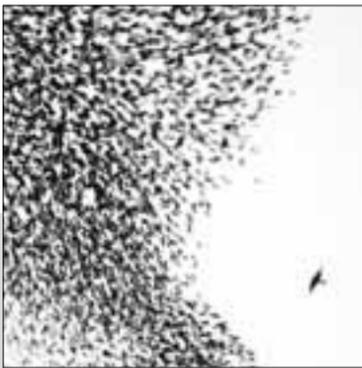
Stars
Do you Trust your Friends?
(Arts & Crafts)

The last few years have seen an interesting trend develop in indie rock: the remix album. Remixes are common territory for hip hop and dance music, but rock remixes are still largely in their first steps, complete with all the awkwardness and stumbles one would expect. The latest band to receive the remix treatment is Toronto's Stars and their winsome, sometimes overly sentimental 2005 album, *Set Yourself on Fire*.

The resultant, *Do you Trust your Friends?*, is a confusing, unnecessary album full of track-by-track remixes by a bunch of artists who shouldn't be making remixes. The album begins with Final Fantasy's attempt at *Fire* standout "Your Ex-Lover is Dead." The cut is a muddled affair that removes the propulsive elements of the original and replaces them with random violin scribbles. The rest of the album largely follows this example. The Most Serene Republic take the lush, wall-of-sound on "Ageless Beauty" and turn it into a sparse honky-tonk backdrop, but leave Amy Millan's heavily filtered vocals intact. The Dears mercilessly chop up "What I'm Trying to Say" into two parts, neither of which have a point. The Russian Futurists turn the chic, metropolitan pop of "The First Five Times" into a stadium-ready, power chord-filled mess. The list goes on and on.

In the end, *Do you Trust your Friends?* is an interesting album, but not because it acts as a successful companion piece to its source material. No, *Trust's* only real value is to remind listeners that sometimes it's best not to trust their friends.

..Garth Paulson



Wilco
Sky Blue Sky
(Nonesuch)

Wilco has always embraced change. Since their inception, Jeff Tweedy and company have undergone a near-constant evolution, both in terms of band members and musical leanings. During this time they've moved from their country origins to summery pop fiends to rock deconstructionists to brazen experimentalists. On their latest release, *Sky Blue Sky*, Wilco continue their metamorphosis, but this time the move isn't necessarily in the right direction.

Sky Blue Sky mainly explores a folk-rock landscape similar to their 1996 double album, *Being There*, along with the blistering guitar theatrics of 2004's *A Ghost is Born*. Sometimes this contrast of gentle and explosive produces engrossing results like on album opener "Either Way" and "Impossible Germany," but too often the guitar freak-outs detract from the quiet nature of the songs.

Sky Blue Sky's flaws don't end here. About halfway through the album Wilco dive into "Shake it Off," a confused mess of a song that comes far too close to jam band status for comfort. Roughly half of the material after "Shake it Off" adopts a similar approach of loose jams, pointlessly big guitars and insipid lyrics. These songs will sound great at a summer festival, but as album cuts they're forgettable at best.

Wilco shouldn't be chastised for moving away from the more experimental elements of their last few albums—change is what they do, after all—but the sound they've chosen to explore on *Sky Blue Sky* is rarely interesting and at times downright annoying. Fortunately, the band is too talented to wallow in mediocrity for long. Hopefully their next reinvention will be more successful.

..Garth Paulson



An Angle
The Truth Is That You Are Alive
(Drive-Thru Records)

Drive-Thru Records is legendary for introducing the world to pop-punk bands like New Found Glory and Hello Goodbye. The label has been breeding practically the same strain of music for nearly a decade. At least that was the case until now. With the addition of An Angle to its roster, Drive-Thru either made a major error in genre classification, or more likely, is attempting to jump on the indie bandwagon. Whatever the case may be, listeners will be glad for it. An Angle's third release, *The Truth Is That You Are Alive* is more an alt-country album than anything else.

Vocalist Kris Anaya has been tirelessly compared to Connor Oberst of Bright Eyes, and it is no surprise since they sound nearly identical. They both share the same distinctive half-sung vocal style with shaky undertones

and both write about relationships in conjunction with happiness and heartbreak.

But there are also many differences that make it possible for Anaya to hold his own. The songs are mostly upbeat with a strong swingy, folk feel. Songs like "Ghost in the Mirror" and "Clean and Gold" have a driving rhythm that any hipster could get freaky to. Other songs like "On My Way" and "Even if I..." show a softer side that feature mostly vocals and acoustic guitar. The most creative song on the album would be "The Red River" which consists of Anaya's vocals accompanied with a renaissance-style string quartet.

The Truth Is That You Are Alive is an album that any fan of Bright Eyes or alt-country would thoroughly enjoy.

..Janice Tran



Handsome Furs
Plague Park
(Sub-Pop)

As a genre, indie rock isn't known for its subtlety. Instead, it usually goes straight for the jugular in a desperate attempt to leave an impression and move a few units. A prime example of the approach is Wolf Parade's 2005 debut album, *Apologies to the Queen Mary*, which was ferocious in its immediacy. A few years have passed since *Apologies* got the blood of scenesters across the world pumping and now the side projects are starting to emerge. Last year it was Spencer Krug's *Shut Up, I am Dreaming* from his other band, Sunset Rubdown, and now it's Dan Boeckner's turn with Handsome Furs' debut, *Plague Park*.

Comprised of Boeckner and fiancée Alexei Perry, *Plague Park* is certainly a very different beast than Boeckner's usual wolf. Where *Apologies* rushed at listeners with

its pedal to the floor, *Plague Park* opts for a more restrained, understated and, yes, even subtle approach. Building sparse frames out Boeckner's simple guitar work, background synth atmospherics and understated drums, these songs are more concerned with nurturing a melancholy mood than taking over listeners' heads.

This approach turns out to be both *Plague Park's* greatest strength and weakness. On the one hand, the reserved nature of the recordings allows the songs' emotive core to take precedence, resulting in some truly chilling moments. It's just hard to remember when they occur because of how nondescript every song is. What this combination inevitably creates is an impressive album that's entirely too easy to forget.

..Garth Paulson

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TOP 20 for the week of June 18.07

- * Denotes Canadian Artist
 ** Denotes Local Artist
- 1 **STARS***
Do You Trust Your Friends?
 (Arts & Crafts)
- 2 **PEOPLE FOR AUDIO***
New Ancients (Storyboard)
- 3 **FROG EYES***
Tears Of The Valedictorian
 (Absolutely Kosher)
- 4 **BLONDE REDHEAD**
23 (4AD)
- 5 **GRIM BEAT****
Isle Of Man (indie)
- 6 **NATIONAL**
Boxer (Beggars Banquet)
- 7 **BJÖRK**
Volta (Atlantic)
- 8 **MICE PARADE**
Mice Parade (FatCat)
- 9 **MONTAG***
Going Places (Carpark)
- 10 **IMMACULATE MACHINE***
Fables (Mint)
- 11 **TIGER ARMY**
Music From Regions Beyond
 (Hellcat)
- 12 **MOTHERFUCKERS****
Mother Of All Fuckers (Handsome Dan)
- 13 **NEINS CIRCA***
Sleeves And Wigs (Copperspine)
- 14 **MIRACLE FORTRESS***
Five Roses (Secret City)
- 15 **BATTLES**
Mirrored (Warp)
- 16 **DATAROCK**
Datarock Datarock (Nettwerk)
- 17 **PIERCES**
Thirteen Tales Of Love And Revenge (Lizard King)
- 18 **KIDS ON TV***
Mixing Business With Pleasure
 (Blocks)
- 19 **SAID THE WHALE***
Taking Abalonia (indie)
- 20 **PARKAS***
Put Your Head In The Lion's Mouth (Saved By Radio)

HIP HOP

- 1 **ELKANO BROWNING CREAM**
Elkano Browning Cream (Mamusik)
- 2 **ABDOMINAL***
Escape From The Pigeon Hole
 (Do Right!)
- 3 **MARCO POLO**
Port Authority (Soulspazm)
- 4 **MOKA ONLY***
Vermillion (Urbnet)
- 5 **SEAN ONE***
Full Of It (Dead Beat)

WORLD

- 1 **VARIOUS**
20 Ways To Float Through Walls
 (Crammed Disc)
- 2 **VARIOUS**
World Circuit Presents (Nonesuch)
- 3 **GOV'T MAJIK**
Reality (ShineNola)
- 4 **IBRAHIM FERRER**
Mi Sueno (World Circuit)
- 5 **MOTHERS**
Township Sessions (Mr. Bongo)

MYKE'S PICKS

- 1 **PELICAN**
City Of Echoes
- 2 **DESTROYER DESTROYER**
Littered With Errors
- 3 **MEG BAIRD**
Dear Companion
- 4 **CINEMATIC ORCHESTRA**
Ma Fleur
- 5 **BLITZEN TRAPPER**
Wild Mountain Nation

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A Rose-coloured catastrophe



Bruno Calvo/Picturehouse

Marcel Cerdan (Martin) is married, but not to Edith Piaf (Cotillard). But don't worry, famous people are allowed to be adulterous.

La Vie En Rose film review

Ryan Pike
 Entertainment Editor

In recent years, most film biographies have followed a fairly tried-and-true formula: begin with a brief look at the subject's childhood, then jump ahead to when their life got interesting, chronicling the subject's rise, fall and death. The past several years have seen award-winning depictions of the lives of mathematician John Nash, business mogul Howard Hughes, boxer James Braddock and musicians Johnny Cash and Ray Charles. The popularity of bio-pics has spread to Europe, prompting French filmmakers to

tackle the life of famed singer Edith Piaf. In diverting from the familiar formula, though, the filmmakers have made *La Vie en Rose* much less than it could've been had they stuck to it.

Born in Paris in 1915 to a street singer and an acrobat, Piaf spends the better part of her childhood in a Normandy warehouse run by her paternal grandmother. An eye infection causes her to lose her vision for a period of several years, until she regains it after visiting a statue of St. Therese de Lisieux. Following a time working as a street performer alongside her father, Piaf is discovered singing on a street corner by nightclub owner Louis Leplée. The rest, as they say, is history.

Despite having a tremendously interesting life—including being a beloved performer throughout

much of the world and a torrid love affair with champion boxer Marcel Cerdan—*La Vie en Rose* falls short in its disorganized, scattershot presentation. Director Olivier Dahan's approach is reminiscent of Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's *21 Grams*, but the earlier film used disorganization to drive the narrative, rather than hinder it. Had Piaf's life been presented in a linear manner, the film would have been much more compelling. Some story elements are mishandled, presenting Piaf's relationships with Cerdan, mentor Raymond Atto and her two husbands in a disjointed, confusing manner. Some audience members may also be confounded by Cerdan's nonchalant attitude about having a wife and kids while carrying on the affair. Whether co-writers Dahan and Isabelle Sobelman intended for

Cerdan and Piaf to seem so callous is unclear.

Regardless of its illogical composition, the rest of the film is flawlessly presented. The life of Edith Piaf is showcased by utilizing recordings of Piaf entwined with the exceptional performance of Marion Cotillard and the flawless make-up work used to age her throughout the film. The result is a series of scenes that, while placed in a bizarre order, are tremendous dramatic pieces on their own.

Edith Piaf led a fascinating life and *La Vie en Rose's* 140-minute runtime is filled to the brim with great performances. It's a shame that audiences have to sit through the film's patchwork editing abomination to experience them.

La Vie en Rose opens Fri., Jun. 22 at the Uptown.



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