



iseeeeeee
UoFC *finally* **SEES**
PROVINCIAL MONEY

Stelmach's Stampede visit brought bucks for the U of C's ISEEE program, as well as for off-campus programs. This sudden spending spree sparked debate about whether the funds were well-spent.

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Steady Eddy launches Stampede spending spree

The Premier shined up his boots, came in to town, scraped up almost \$300 million and threw it around in what is beginning to look like a pre-election vote-shopping spree.

Taking advantage of the biggest hoedown in the province, Ed Stelmach supplemented his Stampede visit with substantial government spending, including \$260 million for the University of Calgary's Institute for Sustainability in Energy, Environment and Economy, \$15 million for Stampede grounds renovations and redevelopment, and \$5 million for the Meals on Wheels program.

On top of trying to hijack the Calgary Stampede for all of Alberta in a breakfast public address—not surprising, since the capital's measly Klondike Days (now renamed Capital EX) attracts half a million fewer than its super-successful southern equivalent—Stelmach's ride into town gained him unprecedented voter and critical support.

Why the Stampede should require such prominent provincial assistance when the federal government has already promised an immediate \$15 million for the Western Legacy Project, with a probable \$10 million on the way from the massive, decade-long

Building Canada program is puzzling. Even armchair analysts can add up that \$25 million of Ottawa's money plus that of the more than 1.2 million Stampede attendees would probably be able to cover the costs of the redevelopment.

In the meantime, while the long-awaited contribution to U of C is welcome, it's still less than two-thirds the amount predicted by ISEEE's former managing director Dr. Robert Mansell to be required for the institute's building plans.

It seems a bit of a misfire that sustainability in environment and energy—destined to be a major theme in provincial and federal politics for the next decade and a continuing center of the provincial economy—should backbench for tourism and local-level redevelopment.

If the university, falling clearly in the provincial government's funding jurisdiction, should be left to its own devices for private sector funding to finish its projects, the Stampede, which provides enormous promotional (among other) benefits to a Calgary corporate community that would eventually cough up the dough itself, should probably be forced to do the same.

It was beginning to seem like a recurring and unfortunate theme



in Stelmach's quiet western reign: a local-level guy running a regional office. If that were the case, though, there wouldn't be people complaining about his ineffective housing subsidies.

Disappointment with Alberta's rent subsidy program has been starting to make headlines throughout the province, as many claimed to see fractional changes and threatened to leave the province in search of pastures charging less green.

Stelmach gave a load of cash to an enormous organization that has the means to do more than just sustain itself when he could have almost tripled the \$9 million of assistance for low-cost housing given directly

to tenants and had a major positive impact for senior and student voters. He flicked his coin into the fine felt hat of the already plump Stampede project when he could have tossed a few elsewhere and fulfilled his promise to significantly curb the impact of Alberta's runaway real estate prices.

Instead of strutting into town as "Steady Eddy" the good, Stelmach made some bad decisions and stooped to make provincial funding look ugly.

Chris Tait
Editor-in-Chief

See gauntlet.ucalgary.ca for an additional Stampede opinion by Sara Hanson.

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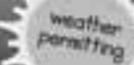


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\$260 million announced for ISEEE

Provincial donation falls short of requests

Katy Anderson
 News Editor

The University of Calgary's Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy finally secured the capital funding to build a home for the 1,000 students spaces that had been funded in March 2006.

The province announced Tue., Jul. 10 it would give the U of C \$260 million to build the Energy and Environment building, which will house the ISEEE and the Experiential Learning Centre. The building will be located at 32nd Ave. and Campus Drive NW, in front of the ICT building.

The university had initially asked for \$283 million but requested another \$40 million for the ELC, which would replace many existing biology and chemistry laboratories. The creation of the new labs would free up space in other faculties according to U of C president Dr. Harvey Weingarten.

Weingarten said he hoped ground will be broken by this fall, with an aim to get students in the classroom by mid-2010. However, the province has pledged the funding over a five-year period. Despite the discrepancy in the amount of funding and the timeline Weingarten was confident that the project could still go as planned.

"We work extremely well with



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

The planned Energy and Environment building will be located at 32 Ave. and Campus Drive NW.

the province in terms of how they can flow money and how we can use money in ways that gets projects done as quickly as we can," said Weingarten. "Frankly there's nothing unusual about this, this is a project that we and the province want to get up as quickly as possible, we'll figure out how to do it."

Premier Ed Stelmach said the ISEEE is crucial in dealing with fur-

ther energy development in Alberta and understanding what impact it will have on the future.

"This is an excellent location because it brings to Calgary, a city that's known for its oil and gas expertise, the whole issue of sustainable development and environment which is key to the continued economic sustainability of the province of Alberta," said Stelmach.

Liberal MLA Harry Chase said he was glad to see the province's surplus money directed to education but was disappointed the funding was not debated in legislature before the announcement.

"[ISEEE] is the priority of a \$1.5 billion needs-list of the university of Calgary," said Chase. "Because of the delay and inflation Dr. [Robert] Mansell, the former

director of ISEEE, has indicated that in order to fulfill the initial goal of 1,000 spaces [the project] would range in the area of \$400 million. Today we received \$260 million. As a representative for the University of Calgary I am happy that money has initially been invested but I want to see a guarantee that the project—as it was envisioned—will be fully funded."

Mansell went on academic leave Sat., Jun. 30. He declined to comment but sources said he had spent five years on the project and was now going to recharge his batteries. Mansell will stay on the project as a senior fellow. A new managing director has yet to be named.

Former dean of science Mike Boorman had led the planning for the ELC and has

been named the project manager for the E&E building. Boorman could not be reached by press time.

The ISEEE will be an interfaculty centre, housing professors, researchers and students from a number of different faculties. Students' Union president Julie Bogle said the range of faculties working together on a common problem would benefit students and Albertans in general.

"I hope that there will be more funding from external sources, may that be the government or private donations," said Bogle. "I would like to see the original plan fulfilled."

News briefs: university style

Jon Roe
 Features Editor

Stampede tragedy

A Stampede party was the scene of unfortunate accident as a University of Calgary student was killed after being struck by a



Shair.

mechanical horse. Twenty-two-year-old engineering student Nathan Shair was operating a calf-roping ride Thu., Jul. 13 at a party hosted by xiTechnologies. A spring-loaded lever

at the back of the machine hit Shair in the head while he was standing beside the machine. The blow knocked him unconscious and he later died at hospital.

Shair was in the middle of a work term at xi and was planning on returning to the U of C to finish up his final year in the fall. A memorial service will be held 10 a.m. Sat., Jul. 21 at the South Calgary Chinese Evangelical Free Church on 340 39th Ave. SE.

Administrators turfed after rape-murder cover-up

Three top-ranking administrators at Eastern Michigan University were fired after covering up the rape and murder of a student.

EMU student Laura Dickinson's body was discovered Dec. 15, 2006 in her dorm room naked from the waist down with her legs spread and a pillow over her face. University officials announced Dickinson's death the next day in a written statement noting, "At this point, there is no reason to suspect foul play."

In February, police arrested Orange Taylor III, a fellow EMU student, charging him with the rape and murder of Dickinson.

EMU president John Fallon, vice-president of student affairs Jim Vick and public safety director Cindy Hall were all fired Mon., Jul. 16 after they admitted lying to cover-up the circumstances of Dickinson's death.

All three administrators will receive a severance package equal to one year's salary, and Hall and Vick will be



Dickinson.

allowed to retire and collect their pension.

Taylor is scheduled for trial Mon., Oct. 15.

Zany Zhao zips into mayoral race



Zhao.

University of Calgary engineering student Jeremy Zhao has tossed his hat in the political arena again—this time in civic politics. Zhao announced his intention to run for the office of mayor

in Calgary Mon., Jul. 9. The race is already crowded, featuring incumbent and favourite Dave "Pie-face" Bronconnier, local business man and entrepreneur Alnoor Kassam and oil-patch engineer Sandy Jenkins.

Zhao last tested the political waters on campus in February 2007's Students' Union General Election where he ran for the position of Board of Governor's representative against former su president Emily Wyatt. Despite receiving three *Gauntlet* endorsements, and boasting a meaty resume featuring such highlights as holding a job working in the deli of a Superstore, Zhao finished a distant second with just 21 per cent of the vote.

Oxford fines Facebookers

Maybe turning on the "friends only" option for Facebook photo albums is a good idea after all.

University students at prestigious Oxford University in the U.K. learned this lesson the hard way after being fined for racy photos posted on their Facebook accounts. The photos show students dousing each other with food, alcoholic beverages and flour in celebration of completing exams. University officials apparently don't condone that type of celebration and are attempting to chase down the students and levy a few fines, ranging from \$80 to \$200 USD.



Polumbo.

This is only the latest in a string of recent Facebook follies making the news. Recently crowned Miss New Jersey and aspiring Miss America Amy Polumbo was blackmailed with compromising photos of her taken from her Facebook account. The photos included a picture of her boyfriend appearing to bite her breast through her shirt.

Academic freedom needs to come first

Canadian universities react to proposed academic boycott

Sara Hanson
News Assistant

Universities are meant to provide a safe place for students and academics to participate in the creation of new ideas without any restraints.

This was the view expressed by a number of Canadian universities in response to the British Union of Colleges and Universities' recent discussions surrounding an academic boycott of Israeli universities. The proposed boycott stemmed from the ongoing conflict between Israeli and Palestinian governments.

University of Toronto president David Naylor sent a letter to the UCU general secretary Sally Hunt Wed., Jun. 20, which expressed the U of T's opposition to academic boycotts of any kind, regardless of the political climate.

"Academic boycotts are antithetical to the university's most fundamental values," wrote Naylor. "We believe that universities can best protect and enhance human rights by steadfastly guarding and promoting academic freedom and freedom of expression."

A number of other Canadian universities have also expressed their opposition to the UCU's proposed

boycott against Israeli academics. University of Calgary president Dr. Harvey Weingarten issued a public statement Wed., Jun. 27 which expressed concerns similar to Naylor's.

"The role of universities is to promote, permit and enable the free exchange of ideas, debate and civil discourse," he stated. "If universities do not support these values, which societal institutions will? The proposed boycott runs counter to these values and must be opposed and condemned."

While the UCU has received criticisms from institutions around the world, the boycott has not yet been implemented. In an e-mail to *The Gauntlet*, UCU press officer Dan Ashley explained the formal discussions surrounding a possible boycott still need to take place.

"There has never been a boycott," said Ashley. "There has, however, been a fair amount of inaccurate reporting and confusion. UCU delegates voted for discussions around a boycott to take place locally [and] around the country. These debates will probably happen in the autumn term."

Although further discussions could make the boycott possible, U of C Canadian studies assistant



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Canadian universities agreed that academic freedom must be respected regardless of politics.

professor Dr. Paul Stortz explained academic boycotts are very rare due to the complex nature of a university. In order for a boycott to occur, the variety of communities which make up a university must take the same political standpoint, a factor which Stortz noted would be very difficult.

"Universities, idealistically, are

supposed to be politically free," said Stortz. "The university is all about freedom of thought and activity. It is designed to create ideas, research them, and deconstruct them for critical discussion, and therefore, must take a fairly non-political posture to try and understand ideas intellectually."

While Stortz could not name a

nation-wide boycott ever occurring within Canada's academic history, he explained that the Second World War was a unique time, as all Canadian universities were aligned with the same goal in mind: winning the war. Stortz also noted that during the war, it was not uncommon for professors to change to war-focused research topics.

Schulich School gets funding for new chair

Medha Subramani
Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary's Schulich School of Engineering received six million dollars this month to foster an innovative learning initiative.

The University matched a \$3 million donation from the Li

Ka Shing Foundation's to create an endowed chair that would oversee the development and implementation of applied educational techniques.

"Engineering students, like all university students, require unique learning experiences that offer an educational experience beyond the traditional classroom," said U of C

president Dr. Harvey Weingarten. "This chair will explore innovation in education, which will benefit engineering students at the University of Calgary, and ultimately a much broader audience when these students take their skills and knowledge into the workplace."

The Schulich School of Engineering is one of the most competitive engineering schools within Canada, with 35 per cent increase in undergraduate, and

70 per cent increase in graduate enrolments over the past five years.

"To get a gift of this magnitude is significant," said engineering dean Dr. Elizabeth Cannon. "It is testament to our high quality."

Cannon and Weingarten both stressed the importance of a chair in providing support and funding to pursue work in a specific direction, although Cannon noted the chair would not be a standard research chair, due to the additional aspect of innovation.

"[The funding] will help to recruit a top person for the position," said Cannon. "The chair will have a clear mandate of what the objectives are in the tenure of appointment and will pilot different programs and build new practices into our curriculum."

The U of C anticipates the position will encourage spin-offs

to other areas of the university, because development, analysis and implementation of engaging academic techniques are transferable between faculties.

"It will influence the teaching of every undergraduate student in the Schulich School. However, the research on pedagogical techniques extends beyond Schulich School," said Weingarten.

Students Union president Julie Bogle stressed the importance of funding to improving the quality of the university's academic programs, which in turn would increase enrolment.

"It's not uncommon for donations to be tied to a specific academic initiative," she said. "Any kind of funding is a positive step in the right direction."

Li is also the founder of Shantou
See SHULICH, page 5

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Former SU president and philanthropist pleads guilty

Andrew Rininsland
Opinions Editor

Crime might not pay for University of Calgary fine arts students pending a Board of Governors decision this fall.

NETeller president, former Students' Union president and philanthropist John Lefebvre pleaded guilty to conspiracy to transfer funds with the intent to promote illegal gambling in the Federal District Court of Manhattan Tue., Jul. 10. Lefebvre is most well-known on campus for his \$1.25 million donation to the cash-strapped Faculty of Fine arts in 2005.

"Ultimately, it's the decision of the Board of Governors and they will decide what to do and when to do it, if anything," said U of C vice-president external Roman Cooney. According to Cooney, it is unlikely the Board of Governors will change any of the allocation already given to Lefebvre's donation, which is being used to provide scholarships to fine arts students. However, Cooney stressed the decision is up to the board and will likely take place in the fall after sentencing.

"There hasn't been any discussion yet because it only happened last week," he said. "The sentencing doesn't take place until the fall, so the board might wait to see what happens."

Lefebvre faces up to five years in prison. NETeller, the company in which Lefebvre had recently sold his shares, has already agreed to pay \$136 million in damages to the U.S. government, according to a Jul. 18 Financial Times article. He is joined by NETeller co-founder Stephen Lawrence, who plead guilty two weeks earlier. Due to the litiga-



Gauntlet file photo

Lefebvre used to busk on street corners before he made his millions, which may yet serve him in the future.

tion, all NETeller shares have been suspended and the majority of U.S. accounts still await payment.

The case itself is shrouded in controversy. Both Lefebvre and Lawrence are Canadians who broke no Canadian laws and are not American citizens. Furthermore, NETeller itself is based out of the Isle of Man in the United Kingdom. Lefebvre's arrest comes after the passing of the SAFE Port Act in Oct. 2006, which prohibits the transfer of funds to certain online gambling websites. The island of Antigua has already won a case against the U.S. under World Trade Organization treaty obligations and is filing for \$3.4 billion USD in trade sanctions according to a BBC news article.

Schulich, cont'd from page 5



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

A balanced education includes learning both in and outside of the classroom, according to U of C president Weingarten.

University in China and Cannon said she hopes the recent donation will provide collaboration opportunities between the two schools.

"The gift will also allow us to build on other investments that the foundation has already made," said Cannon.

Weingarten stressed the important historical association between the Li Ka Shing Foundation and the

U of C. Li is the chairman of Hutchinson Whampoa Limited, the group that owns Husky Energy, which has been a longtime supporter of the U of C over the past 30 years.

"[The donation] is quite consistent with the way they've been thinking," said Weingarten. "One of their big items has always been teaching innovation."

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photo by Ken Clarke



It was 1:47 a.m. when the drugs began to take hold...

Janus Jones
Gauntlet Opinions

Editor's Note: Jul. 18 marks the birthday of Hunter Stockton Thompson, who revolutionized journalism with his clever analysis and harebrained drug and alcohol-fueled antics and became a pop culture icon. To celebrate, this week's opinion piece has been written entirely by a seasoned volunteer under the influence of obscene quantities of alcohol, cannabis and hallucinogenic mushrooms. As such, the Gauntlet hopes readers will make allowances for any inconsistencies not removed as a result of (much heavy) editing.

"You know, I guess I'm like any other, you know, political figure - everybody wants to be loved."

-George W. Bush, during a White House news conference, Jul. 13, 2007.

"When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."

-Raoul Duke

Hallucinogens are not something to be taken lightly. There's a reason why the U.S. Government has deemed everything from LSD-25 to magic mushrooms threatening enough

to the very American way of life that it has put the entire family on Schedule 1, along with crack cocaine, crystal methamphetamine and that evil marihuana plant, which turns sons against their fathers and makes even the most decent women start listening to the devil Rock'n'Roll. Indeed, the upper echelons of power are utterly terrified of any ethenogen that could possibly make the population consider any reality other than the scary and depressing one which we inhabit...

The smart money has been following U.S. President George W. Bush's popularity rating recently, which dropped to a staggering 26 per cent as reported Jul. 3 by *Newsweek* before stabilizing at around 29 per cent. The lowest popularity rating ever attributed to a U.S. president was 23 per cent, which was Jimmy Carter in the eighties. Hunter S. himself followed Nixon, who resigned before achieving that dubious honour at 24 per cent. How far will Bush drop? Well, it's only July and Bush has well over a year to either redeem himself for probably the longest and most needless war in American history (Vietnam notwithstanding), or drop six points more and forever leave the oval office. Indeed, it seems Mr. Bush might choose the second route, as evidenced by his

melancholy, almost sad comments made a week ago.

Pop quiz: What do the years 1987 and 2007 have in common, besides the same trailing digits and the fact they were both the years before presidential races? That's right: both years, the Democrats, choosing nominees immediately following fairly disastrous GOP terms in office, thought they were shoe-ins for the presidency in 1988 and 2008, respectively. Yet, ironically enough, 1988 was the year that then-vice president George Bush (Sr.) ran successfully for the presidency of the United States of America. Granted, it's probably a bit disingenuous to compare the Iran-Contra affair, in which then-President Reagan was charged with evidence that his administration was selling weapons to Iran and illegally funneling funds to Nicaraguan guerrillas, to the current Iraq debacle. Irangate was still during the Cold War and at the time the enemy-du-jour was the USSR, not Iran. Hopefully I'm not the only one who can see the irony of the fact we're still talking about Iran. Regardless, while it's incredibly difficult to see Dick "Triggerhappy" Cheney as the Republican frontrunner in 2008, I wouldn't necessarily shit bricks were that the case.



Illustration by Gina Freeman

So we come to 2007 and the recent commutation of Lewis "Scooter" Libby's sentence by President Bush (now Jr.) as being "excessive." If you haven't been following the case, Libby was a senior White House official who was tried and convicted after releasing the identity of CIA agent Valerie Wilson. In fact, the sentence given to Libby—30 months in prison and a \$250,000 fine—is the lower end of the spectrum, which can be as high as 25 years and fines as high as a cool million. According to an article by Richard B. Schmitt and David G. Savage, the

sentence given by Judge Reggie B. Walton was at the very low end of the federal sentencing guidelines. Had Scooter been your average university-aged ethnic psychedelic user who somehow managed, in an unfortunate series of events, to rack up a count of obstruction of justice, two counts of perjury and one account of making false statements to federal investigators, he would have seen himself with an average stay in jail of 70 months.

Hunter S. was right. The world is just too goddamned scary for any sane person.

entertainment

Editor: Ryan Pike—entertainment@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Sled Island slides into our hearts

Inaugural festival delights the senses like warm mittens

Rachel Betts-Wilmott
Undercover Gauntlet

Most of the year, the rather senior staff of Calgary's #1 Legion contend with Bingo nights and retirement parties. However for four days in June, the Legion played host to as many Calgary scenesters as it could pack in its door as Sled Island 2007 took over.

There was a buzz of excitement surrounding Sled Island's inaugural year which didn't die out as the festival came to a close. Early Sunday morning, as the crowd spilled out of the #1 Legion, scarved boys and legged girls whispered and giggled about the shows they'd caught, while lamenting those they'd missed. Every person in the crowd had at least one great act they'd seen, one great story to tell.

It seems Sled Island's first year was a great success, with many near-sold-out shows and a slew of delighted artists. However, it was the ensemble of happily milling fans which truly signaled the festival's accomplishment.

"If you're going to call it a music festival, it should be about the bands and the music," said southern gent Eric Bachmann, of Crooked Fingers

and Archers of Loaf, who played solo at the Hi-fi. "It shouldn't be about a bunch of industry folks on vacation."

In its first year, Sled Island has earned the title of music festival with a soul. Although it harnessed the bustle of a weekend at Austin's South by Southwest, it was always about the music, rather than attendance. The four-day fest focused on showcasing the expanding Calgary indie scene while bringing some unlikely acts to the local audience.

In fact, audiences faced the dilemma of whether to support local acts or catch the rarer performances. There were, indeed, worries that some of the bigger names would overpower the Calgary artists—some Calgary devotees even going so far as to skip any and all out-of-towners. With acts like Miami's Cat Power and art school punks Les Savy Fav, it was a legitimate worry. In the end, Thursday evening saw droves of scenesters heading to a Calgary showcase at Cantos headed up by indie darlings Azeda Booth, while Montreal's newest exports Miracle Fortress and Hylozoists played to a rather desolate group at Quincy's.

"I'd like to see some of the lesser known bands," said Michael Hanson, half of Saskatchewan duo

These Hands. "Destroyer and Cat Power as well."

At an event where even the performers had long wishlist of shows they wanted to see, the real dilemma wasn't about local or foreign acts, but how to quickly make your way from venue to venue. For the prompt music fans, the extended weekend provided great experiences, some even unexpected.

Knox United Church was host to an upset when Jane Vain and the Dark Matter played a nervous, but lovely set, before Cat Power's breathtaking but in the end underwhelming performance. Although Spoon's Mac Hall Ballroom show was a pleasure to attend, they were outshone by Vancouver's Mother Mother, who yodled and yelped their way through an amazing set.

Saturday night, both Les Savy Fav and Japan's the Boredoms delivered explosive performances. While both were inspired bits of lunacy, the Boredoms left hundreds with their minds blown.

"I just can't talk about it," said one wowed attendee. "It was too good. It makes me want to have sex with Japan, like on top of Mount Fuji."

And so the festival went out with a bang from Chicago's Bobby Conn,



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

leaving the many and varied festivalgoers to chat about a fun four days, conveniently omitting from memory the organizational snafoos,

which riddled the festival up until the first note was struck—and making the festival a resounding success.

Phoenix doesn't soar

Fifth Harry Potter film is
magically mediocre

Harry Potter
film review

Ryan Pike
Entertainment Editor

The adaptation of a popular story from one medium to another is often an arduous task, particularly if that property has a large and rabid fanbase. With the release of the fifth installment of the Harry Potter adaptations, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, the filmmakers are finally feeling the pinch of translating a highly-serialized story onto the silver screen.

In the four previous visits to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the major players have been firmly established. In year five, Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) has to deal with being shunned by the magical community when the Ministry of Magic (led by Cornelius Fudge, played by Robert Hardy) refuses to accept that Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) has returned, launching a smear campaign on Harry and Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore (Michael Gambon). With Voldemort and his followers gaining support, Harry is approached by Sirius Black (Gary Oldman) and his mysterious Order of the Phoenix. Further complicating matters is the appointment of the ministry's Dolores Umbridge (Imelda Staunton) as Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher at Hogwarts, especially when Umbridge begins to consolidate power and hinder Harry's efforts to prepare his classmates for battle.

The first four films introduced a cavalcade of interesting characters to the Potter universe and used them in complex and compelling ways. Just about every surviving character returns in *Order of the Phoenix*. The titular order features characters like Mad-Eye Moody (Brandon Gleeson), Sirius Black and Remus Lupin (David Thewlis) and the rest of the film is dotted with appearances from magical figures both major and minor. These appearances may be treats for fans of the books, but they make for a cluttered film. The serialization of the series also rears its head, as characters from earlier films show up but the audience is never told who they are or why they're there. Despite the glut of characters, the acting is uniformly

great. Newcomers Imelda Staunton and Evanna Lynch are exceptional as Dolores Umbridge and Luna Lovegood, respectively.

At just over two hours long, the fifth installment is the shortest film despite being adapted from the longest Harry Potter novel. Michael Goldenberg's resulting script is fairly straightforward, but cuts a ton of material from the novel in favour of keeping the film's pace brisk. Unfortunately, this removes a lot of contextual elements from the proceedings that probably should have been left in. Seemingly important parts of the magical universe are mentioned, but never really explained, leaving audience members who haven't memorized the books a bit out in the cold. While most of the climax of *Order of the Phoenix* surrounds the Ministry of Magic, the mechanics and logistics of the various after-hours visits to the ministry are never fully explained.

The first major feature film project for veteran television director David Yates—who'll also helm *the Half-Blood Prince—Order of the Phoenix* suffers slightly from Yates' inexperience. The lavish set pieces that have become a hallmark of the series, including the 200-foot-long Ministry of Magic set, are presented in a manner that strips them of their majesty. Perhaps linked to the more serious tone of the script, the wonder and whimsy surrounding the magical elements in earlier films has been replaced with a more clinical approach. It also hurts that very few spells are cast before the climax.

Casual fans of the series may deride this film for its lack of action. Indeed, audiences will be hard-pressed to list more than three major events that occurred over its duration. However, as the defacto middle chapter of the larger series, the film acts as the pivot point that shoves the story towards its eventual conclusion. Much like *the Empire Strikes Back* or *the Two Towers*, this middle chapter exists to flesh out some minor characters and storyline points that will probably be important later. While unlikely to be as highly regarded in hindsight as other middle chapters, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* is a fine film. Compared to the exceptional previous Harry Potter installments, though, it falls short of expectations.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix is now playing in theatres everywhere. The final novel debuts in bookstores Sat., Jul. 21.

All singing, all dancing!



courtesy Alliance Atlantis

These kids never burst into spontaneous song and dance until the cameras start filming.

Hairspray
film review

Hoang-Mai Hong
Gauntlet Entertainment

The summer movie season is full of heavy-handed, thrills-by-the-nano-second, common-denominator fun-fairs, for many of which brains and inclinations to heave must be checked at the door. It's what is expected of the typical summer blockbuster, simple entertainment. But when a summer blockbuster such as *Hairspray*—with its big-name cast and bankability, given the success of both its former incarnations—veers away from the Michael Bay-esque two-second shot format while administering the big doses of fun and heart lacking in most summer fare, the respite is more than welcome.

The story, driven by catchy-as-hell and darkly funny Broadway show tunes and dance numbers, tells of eternal optimist and chubby high

schooler Tracy Turnblad (Nikki Blonsky), whose dearest dream in 1960s-era Baltimore is to dance on the Corny Collins show and make out with the show's sweet, hot guy (Zac Efron). With both these dreams conquered half an hour into the movie thanks to her sick dancing skills learnt from falling in with the black kids in detention (a.k.a. dance class), Tracy sets her sights on integrating black dancers onto the show after the monthly Negro Day is cancelled and on changing a predominantly white Baltimore's feelings on civil rights.

The performances are extremely charming, ranging from John Travolta's much-touted role in drag as Tracy's mom Edna, to newcomer Blonsky, whose spirited performance arguably equals that of Jennifer Hudson in the much-too-serious *Dreamgirls*. Travolta, an old hand at musicals, makes a surprisingly convincing woman and steals every scene with his sparkly

mummuus and amusing Baltimore accent. Christopher Walken tones down his Christopher Walkenness and gives a very endearing and touching turn as Tracy's supportive father and smitten husband of Travolta's Edna. Tracy's friends, played by Elijah Kelley and Amanda Bynes, and love interest Efron, will attract the Disney Channel tweeners, but also prove their talents, delivering breakthrough worthy performances—especially for the lesser-known Kelley, whose voice and dance moves are as smooth as butter.

Like most summer crowd-pleasers, *Hairspray* may not be the deepest movie ever, but it makes up for it in heart and entertainment value. It's a hell of a lot of fun and manages to have substance. With *Hairspray*, audiences can walk out feeling not only avoid motion sickness, but also be entertained and satisfied.

Hairspray opens in theatres Fri., Jul. 20.

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Howard Hello & Greeness (Sick Room)
 - 2 **CARBON DATING SERVICE***
Polyentendrii (Teargas)
 - 3 **WAX MANNEQUIN***
Orchard And Ire (Infinite Heat)
 - 4 **BOAT**
Let's Drag Our Feet! (Magic Marker)
 - 5 **BLACK COFFEE COWBOYS****
Hot Like Fire (Southern Dandy)
 - 6 **THEY SHOOT HORSES DON'T THEY***
Pick Up Sticks (Kill Rock Stars)
 - 7 **SAID THE WHALE***
Taking Abaalonja (indie)
 - 8 **STARS***
Do You Trust Your Friends (Arts & Crafts)
 - 9 **DIRTY TRICKS***
Sauve Qui Peut (Blue Skies Turn Black)
 - 10 **HOLOSECENE***
Nothing Is The End Of Everything (Son)
 - 11 **LOVE AND MATHEMATICS***
Love And Mathematics (indie)
 - 12 **PIANO MAGIC**
Part Monster (Important)
 - 13 **SPOON**
Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga (Merge)
 - 14 **SHIT DISCO**
Kingdom Of Fear (Fierce Panda)
 - 15 **ARKS**
International (Highwheel)
 - 16 **MOONEY SUZUKI**
Have Mercy (Elixia)
 - 17 **ARCHITECTURE IN HELSINKI**
Heart Races (Polyvinyl)
 - 18 **A CHILD BUT IN LIFE**
Magic Bullets (Words On Music)
 - 19 **BLACK MOTH SUPER RAINBOW**
Dandelion Gum (Graveface)
 - 20 **PARTS AND LABOR**
Mapmaker (Jagjaguwar/Brah)
- JAZZ**
- 1 **MICHAEL McCLENNAN**
Sing In Me Muse (indie)
 - 2 **BARRY ROMBERG'S RANDOM ACCESS***
Big Giant Head (Romhog)
 - 3 **JENNIFER SCOTT QUARTET***
Live At The Cellar (Cellar Live)
 - 4 **RAFI MALKIEL**
My Island (Raftone)
 - 5 **WAVERLY SEVEN**
Yo! Bobby (Anzic)
- FOLK**
- 1 **CAROLYN MARK***
Nothing Is Free (Mint)
 - 2 **HAYSEED DIXIE**
Weapons Of Grass Destruction (Cooking Vinyl)
 - 3 **BLACK DIAMOND HEAVIES**
Every Damn Time (Alive)
 - 4 **PORTER WAGONER**
Wagonmaster (Anti)
 - 5 **CONSUMER GOODS***
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- MYKE'S PICKS**
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Only the strong will survive

Circa Survive
 music interview

Janice Tran
 Gauntlet Entertainment

It doesn't seem very often that rock stars who grace the cover of trendy rock magazines take the time to contemplate philosophical issues, like the nature of art and the human condition. Some might be too busy drinking and screwing to care. But hidden somewhere amidst the glam rockers living out their indulgent lifestyles, there exist a rare breed that actually do, like singer Anthony Green from the popular Philadelphia alternative band Circa Survive.

Green is the poster boy of self-empowerment. He believes that human potential is limitless and encourages individuals to break out of that downward spiral of self-hatred many of us fall into.

"There's no right or wrong way to be, [you] just have to be," says Green. "I think that everyone is always making such an effort and that's where the problem is. You don't have to try, you just are. We're already okay, no matter what happens, everything is fine. Everybody in their life everyday has the capability of being anything, of changing anything, like changing anything about themselves that they don't like. You just have to believe that you can do it, and actually do it."

Green actively lives this philosophy and praises its effectiveness. He tells a success story about a friend of his that was madly in love with a girl but was too shy to talk to her. He would dream about her and think about her all the time, and sure enough, when the friend got the courage to ask her out, the two hit off. To his knowledge,



courtesy Equal Vision Records/Chris Crisman

The fine lads of Circa Survive reach out to their fans.

both are still dating today.

Green himself is a success story in a way. It was from his own will power that he escaped a potentially abusive crisis early in his life that could have ended his musical career. Rather than self-medicating and relying on drugs, it was art and his passion for music that offered him the escape and focus to leave it all behind.

"When you're a junkie, that's all your life is," says Green. "Getting drunk, getting out of reality and getting spaced out. I found something I really liked to do and I knew I couldn't do it fucked up. It just wouldn't work."

Green's band, Circa Survive released their second album in May, *On Letting Go*. The new record casts the band in a more artistic light than ever before. Critics will, like always, find it nearly impossible to pigeonhole Circa Survive into any music genre. The songs are creative and unconventional. There aren't any three-chord song progressions and the lyrics are as approachable as quantum physics, if taken liter-

ally. The album is, without a doubt, something the collaborative minds of Circa Survive invested a lot of energy into and evidently care about.

"I would be really bummed if I found out everybody really hated the record but I really like it and I'm just really happy for it to be out," says Green. "I haven't really heard bad things. So I think it has been good. My mom and dad really like it and everyone in my family has said it sounded really good. The things that I've heard from my circle of friends have also been really positive. But I don't really know what the public thinks."

The album peaked at number 24 on the Billboard 200 chart. The album's success and creativity is partly due to the band's philosophy and appreciation for art. The members are all individually very talented artists that believe in not only art's beauty, but also of its power.

"I think art is all around us and it is unmistakable," says Green. "It's everywhere. It's not just in conven-

tional forms like music, painting and writing. Art is in life. It is in the way you treat people. It's in the way you treat yourself."

The members of Circa Survive are strong supporters of artistic freedom. So it is no surprise that the band also openly supports downloading music. Last month on the band's website, guitarist Brendan Eckstrom posted a blog that encouraged the fans that couldn't afford the CD to download it.

"Art and music—it's free," says Green. "There's always been the option of downloading, like even with records there was bootlegging. People will always find a way. [Music] should be free anyway. You make your money off of touring. I mean selling records is cool, and it's definitely cool for all that materialistic shower bullshit. We really don't care. No matter what happens we all have to care about each other and love each other, and that's it."

Circa Survive's new album *On Letting Go* is available where fine music is sold. Quantum physics is surprisingly reliable.

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This week on Full Frontal...

For news, Randy takes a look at how Calgarians celebrated Canada Day, Katya investigates Mount Royal Collage's degree-granting possibilities, and Susan explores mounting energy crisis concerns. In arts, Taylor corners a member of the British monarchy, Alex talks to Lou Pride about Jazz, and Katya interviews the first female Muslim chaplain to ever work in a Canadian university. Last but not least, Justin talks to Olympic hopeful Jessica Zelinka about the 2008 games, and Taylor tells us why you should wear your helmet while biking.

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