

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

gauntlet

ISSUE 10

AUGUST 9, 2007



**"THE DEATH
OF J-BLO!"**

It's like *Red Dawn* all over again

Hold on tight, kids, the Russkies are coming!

Earlier this week, the Russian mini-submarines Mir-1 and Mir-2 completed their dangerous trek to the bottom of the Arctic Ocean to plant a rust-proof titanium flag beneath the North Pole. Russia has been claiming ownership of the region since 2001, and it's not just political posturing. Many are speculating global warming will not only open up the arctic as a trade route but also allow previously-untapped resources to be mined—according to the United States Geological Survey, 25 per cent of the world's unharvested oil and gas reserves lie in the arctic. Instead of being celebrated as a scientific first, however, politicians and news media are busy decrying the move as a 15th-century land grab.

Wait a second there, Mr. MacKay. If 15th century-style flag-dropping is unfashionable, why is Stephen Harper being sent to the region to not only announce the location of Canada's new northern military base, but also reassert Canadian sovereignty over that unfortunate chunk of land known as Hans Island, on which our country (albeit under the Liberals) planted a flag in 2005? If you remember, Canada's been in an on-again, off-again diplomatic battle with Denmark over the 1.3 square kilometre speck for ages, recently exacerbated when then-defense minister Bill Graham visited the island two years ago.

While it's incredibly entertaining to imagine Prime Minister Harper in arctic camouflage dropping from a Sea King helicopter onto a moving dog sled in his quest to secure Canada's arctic interests, what everyone is missing is the fact that Russia's involvement in the region is wholly justified from not only a scientific but also legal perspective.



Illustration by Paul Baker

We know far more about the farthest reaches of space than we do about the bottom of the ocean. Although it's difficult to deny the political implications of the Russian dive, the scientists involved are true modern-day explorers and the symbolism of the flags is less about claiming land in the name of a particular country and more about plotting the limits of human discovery. Furthermore, the primary purpose of the mission was not to plant flags but to collect mineral samples which Russia hopes will ultimately justify their 2001 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea claim that the Lomonosov and Mendeleev underwater mountain ranges are part of its continental shelf, enabling the country to extend its 320 km economic zone further into the arctic circle.

While it would obviously be rather unfortunate for Canada (as well as Denmark, the U.S., and a few other northern nations) if the UN sides with Russia, because we are a convention signatory, we would either have to abandon it and suffer the economic consequences or grumble a bit and agree.

That said, it's really unfortunate the symbolism of the flags has overshadowed the scientific achievement of the mission. In all seriousness, no world power or multilateral body seriously considers flag placement a legal way to claim territory. For instance, even though the U.S. placed the first flag on the moon (depending on who you talk to), nobody really recognizes their ownership of it.

The same should be done with

the North Pole as was done with the South: because no country really recognizes another's claim to Antarctica, the area is off-limits for military and commercial exploitation. While the arctic has far greater resource potential, it also has far greater potential for environmental calamity. The Exxon Valdez incident and the until-recent moratorium on drilling off Alaska's shore show just how vulnerable this area is. The Russian mission to beneath the pole, while politically tenuous, will hopefully instill a new interest in this region and enable the scientific community to better understand this unique and unknown part of the planet.

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Golden Spatula

Chris Beauchamp, 'cause he hasn't gotten one in something like two years. Not because he sucks or anything, just because he's old. Good photo!

Furor Arma Ministrat

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J-blows past SU politics

Vice-president events trades in checkered vans and goofy t-shirts for scrubs

Sara Hanson
News Assistant

While all good things eventually must come to the end, sometimes that end comes sooner than expected.

Such is true for former Students' Union vice-president events Eric Jablonski who resigned from his position Wed., Aug. 1, after receiving late admission to the University of Calgary faculty of medicine.

Jablonski applied to the medical school last October, at the time, however, he was not planning to run for a second term as VP events. When he was acclaimed to his position in February, he had not yet heard from the school. Two weeks after the election he was called for an interview and on Tue., Jul. 31 he was accepted abruptly.

"The timing just didn't match up," explained Jablonski. "I had to have a plan and I had to have a backup plan, and that's just how it worked out."

Jablonski stressed he is confident that one of his commissioners could easily take over his position, as three of the four—Richard Freeman, Josh Sandulak and Pamela Weatherbee—have served a previous term. While he was not concerned about the position being filled, he recognized a need to fill it as soon as possible.

"This is one of the busiest times for this job—between now and September," said Jablonski. "We're really hoping that we have a definitive answer, because we really need someone working in this office full-time planning for U of C 101, Kickoff, clubs week—there are a ton of things."



Chris Tait/the Gauntlet

Two-time VP events "J-blo" prepares a dose of fun for future patients.

Despite the critical timing, SU president Julie Bogle is not concerned about the VP events' job being carried out.

"The majority of upcoming events have already been planned," she said. "Some of the details just need ironing out."

The SU must now follow the appropriate by-laws to fill the vacant position, which is a two-step process, explained SU policy advi-

tor and governance coordinator Andrea Fugeman-Millar. An interim VP must first be chosen by the Students' Legislative Council from the current events commission. A permanent replacement will be then be chosen in the SU by-election, which all U of C students are eligible to run in.

Fugeman-Millar added that while the interim VP will be able to return to the posi-

tion of events commissioner, commissioners who run for the permanent position will not automatically be returned their title if they lose the election.

As the VP events position is a full-time job, both the interim and permanent replacement will only be allowed to take one class per semester. Fugeman-Millar noted this requirement may pose added risk to potential candidates who have already registered for the fall courses, and therefore, limit the electoral scope of the by-election.

Bogle stressed the solution to this problem lies within the ongoing re-examination of the SU's bylaws.

"What needs to be kept in mind is that the majority of the bylaws were written 10 years ago," noted Bogle. "We did a major overhaul last year, but when it comes to sticky situations like this, we realize there are still things that need to be examined."

According to Bogle, it is not yet known whether the replacement VP will have to follow Jablonski's platform. However, there is one particular weekly event that Jablonski hopes his successor will continue to put as much passion into as he has.

"[That Empty Space] was the most fun part of the job, and maybe that was just me personally, but it's always a good time," he said. "You have 100 people who are there every week, and it kind of proves that even if some of your little events bomb, you know you are doing something right because people are coming to that."

A name will be brought forward to be appointed as interim VP events at the Students' Legislative Council Tue., Aug. 21, noted Bogle. The SU by-election will be in mid-October.

Changes to U of C 101 raise criticism

Sara Hanson
News Assistant

This year's frosh will get an entirely new introduction to the University of Calgary when they arrive on campus in September.

Starting last fall, the Office of the Student Experience had been re-designing the university's fall orientation program—U of C 101—to ensure new students are equipped with the most essential information for surviving on campus.

Using feedback from past U of C 101 student surveys, a committee with representatives from faculty and student groups on campus, came up with a new two-day model for the orientation, explained U of C 101 organizer Michelle Clayton.

"We want students to be familiar with the resources they need to succeed academically, socially and personally," said Clayton. "[U of C 101] can't cover everything, but we want it to give them the tools to succeed on their own and start feeling a sense of pride in the U of C."

In previous years, students chose the sessions they wanted to attend however, Clayton noted the majority of them weren't choosing



John McDonald/the Gauntlet

Clayton thinks the changes will benefit frosh students.

the sessions that covered important information such as how to use the library or IT on campus. For the first time, this year's frosh will all attend a standard set of sessions taught by U of C staff and members of other campus groups.

"We're really focusing on information most critical to students' success in first semester," said Clayton. "[These sessions] will give them a bite-sized introduction to the university."

While the new model may provide students with important information about surviving their first semester

on campus, NUTV executive director Michelle Wong worried it will not provide students with enough exposure to other groups on campus, such as the TriMedia alliance, which used to have its own 101 session.

"This is really disappointing [for NUTV]," said Wong. "Without having access to the students, it makes it that much harder for them to know about us."

Clayton countered new students will be exposed to extra-curricular activities on campus through the session titled "Make a difference, get involved." She also noted students

will be encouraged to attend clubs week to find out about all the different opportunities to get involved.

Although clubs week has provided NUTV with some exposure, Wong said the 101 session was critical as it provided a tangible source of interaction with new students and a place to share the TriMedia video, which, in the past, allowed students to see exactly what NUTV does.

The new 101 model also means the SU will no longer have an entire session to introduce new students to its services. SU president Julie Bogle doesn't think the changes will hurt the SU's level of exposure.

"We don't have one session this year, but our information is spread out over all the sessions," she said. "So far [the changes] seem positive."

Bogle added that past clubs weeks have been very successful so she does not see a concern with new students' exposure to extra-curricular groups.

In addition to attending brand new 101 sessions, frosh will also be the first students to take a pledge upon entering the university at one of two induction ceremonies.

"We wanted to echo the convoca-

tion pledge with a promise students make upon entering the university," explained Clayton. "We are trying to get them to participate in a tradition together on campus."

U of C 101 runs Sep. 4-7, with students attending two of the days according to their faculty.

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Cursory chemicals

Katy Anderson
Gauntlet News

Mayor candidate Alnoor Kassam wants pesticides used for exclusively aesthetics banned.

"[The by-law] would ban unnecessary use of pesticides," said Kassam's policy advisor Kyle Olsen. "Necessary use would be to get rid of mosquitoes to combat West Nile virus, because that's a risk to human health, or to put chlorine in pools to get rid of E. coli. Unnecessary use would be to get rid of dandelions on a grass field."

Olsen noted the proposed by-law would have to be passed by city council, but could come into effect as early as next summer. He added that there are approximately 1,000 pesticide poisonings in Alberta every year, and half the cases are children.

"The most important thing is the safety of Calgarians," said Kassam. "Unnecessary pesticides are harmful to children and to pets, and we need to protect them."

Kassam explained that about 125 municipalities already have



Katy Anderson/the Gauntlet

Habibi says it's hard to assess limits for pesticides.

a similar by-law, including most major cities.

"It's definitely a good idea to have a by-law," said University of Calgary professor Hamid Habibi. "The problem is it's not easy to implement because we don't have enough data regarding risk assessment for many pesticides."

Currently there is extensive data regarding the effect of individual

chemicals on both humans and wildlife explained Habibi. However, pesticides in water systems are not isolated, but found in combinations. Habibi noted that Alberta Environment recently measured 40 chemicals within the province's river system. Initial research has shown that in combinations chemicals can have a significant effect on normal body functions by disrupting the endocrine system, which regulates the body's hormones. Because of this, he stressed that more research must be done on how combinations of chemicals can affect both humans and wildlife.

"We need to see from politicians more funding and support for research to make informed decisions," said Habibi.

Habibi noted the City of Calgary have partnered with the U of C to build an experimental test site at the Pine Creek sewage treatment plant to test chemicals in the water system. The federal government has pledged \$10.3 million, but in order to receive the funds the City and the university are awaiting funds from the province, which must match the federal donation.

Hockey hi-jinks



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

"It's not about winning, it's about looking good," Larson said.

Daniel Pagan
Gauntlet News

Better than the Stampede? If anyone can believe the cjsw festivals coordinator Rich Larson's bold statement, Slurpee Cup x will be this year's greatest outdoor show on Earth, with scenesters shining up both their hockey sticks and their jock straps in anticipation.

The shenanigans will commence at 11 a.m. Sat., Aug. 18 at the University of Calgary's tennis courts. This year's lineup will include 24 teams of local bars, bands and independent media. Each team adopts a charity to play for—raising the stakes above ball hockey glory.

"It's difficult to predict who will win, but I am confident that cjsw will do well this year," said Larson. "It's possible that I may even shave my beard off

if we win the playoffs."

Slurpee Cup is ten years old and Larson announced some special celebration plans for its anniversary.

There'll be potential celebrity referees, and a roller derby demonstration," said Larson. "The Roller Girls, from a new Calgary Roller Derby league in Calgary, are going to put on a roller derby demonstration for the tournament."

Along with anniversary celebrations, there will be the Captain's Meeting and a Wrap-up party. The Captain's Meeting will take place on the Broken City patio and offer a chance for team captains to renew rivalries Thu., Aug. 9. The Wrap-up party will be Sat. Aug. 18 at Broken City, where players can either drink away their shame or celebrate with Martin Fulton Overkill and other bands. The proceeds of these two parties are also going to charity, Larson noted.

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off the page



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photo by Ken Clarke



Damon's *Ultimatum* has licence to kill

The Bourne Ultimatum film review

Ryan Pike
 Entertainment Editor

In 2002, spy films were in dire straits. The once-benchmark Bond franchise had wasted away, delivering a horrid offering entitled *Die Another Day* to commemorate the series' 40th anniversary and 20th film. As the vultures seemingly circled over Bond's corpse, two heirs fought for Bond's throne: xxx was an invincible force with seemingly no plan, save for blowing shit up, while Jason Bourne was sly, resourceful and surprisingly human. Lucky for movie fans, the 007 franchise borrowed from Bourne's playbook and the comeback Bond film, *Casino Royale*, was a runaway hit.

Five years after bringing hope back to the genre, the Bourne trilogy concludes with *The Bourne Ultimatum*. Picking up about where



courtesy Universal Pictures/Getty Images

Jason Bourne gets ready to totally shoot somebody. Bad ass!

The Bourne Supremacy left off in 2004, *Ultimatum* opens with Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) searching for clues as to his true identity. His investigation leads him to British journalist Simon Ross (Paddy Considine), who quickly winds

up dead but also hands Bourne a juicy lead as to his origins and sends him on a mission straight into the heart of the CIA's New York offices.

While *Identity* focused on Bourne trying to stay alive and

Supremacy centered on Bourne's thirst for revenge, *Ultimatum's* goal is to answer the questions posed in the previous installments. Specifically, who is Jason Bourne and who turned him into a bad-ass killer? These questions are answered fairly concretely, making the *Ultimatum* a fairly conclusive end to the Bourne saga.

As the third episode retains the same director (Paul Greengrass), writer (Tony Gilroy) and crew as its predecessors, it also retains the same flaws. Many filmgoers criticized the shaky camerawork of the previous Bourne films—defended by some as providing a kinetic feel to the proceedings—and it returns for this film. The result is a bit disorienting, particularly during tight shots of fight scenes and car chases. The proceedings can also come off as a bit formulaic: Bourne flies somewhere, fights somebody, escapes narrowly and flies somewhere else. Rinse, repeat as needed. The ending is pretty damn satisfy-

ing, but the journey towards it can be a bit drab at times.

Regardless of filmmaking flaws, the cast is great. Matt Damon continues his hot streak by returning to the role that made him a star. Julia Stiles and Joan Allen reprise their roles from the earlier films and are joined by Albert Finney and David Strathairn. Beyond Damon, Allen and Strathairn are given the most to do and chew the scenery to great effect. Neither Finney or Stiles make long appearances, but Finney makes the most of his time.

Five years after giving the spy genre a well-needed shot in the arm, *The Bourne Ultimatum* takes the series out in much the same manner it came in—with an abundance of car chases, exotic locales, gunfights and narrow escapes. It's just a shame Paul Greengrass couldn't spend some money on a Steadicam, because motion sickness is the only negative by-product of this *Ultimatum*.

The Bourne Ultimatum is now playing in theatres everywhere.

Fringe Fest offers cutting-edge performances

Fringe Festival event preview

Stephanie Mamayson
 Gauntlet Entertainment

The city boasts a vibrant festival scene, ranging from the über-

country Calgary Stampede to the Dragon Boat Festival. However, for those who are looking to dabble in a little bit of everything, the Calgary Fringe Festival may be just the ticket. Fringe festivals occur all over the globe, with the inaugural event taking place in 1940s Edinburgh, Scotland. The

tradition of uncensored, non-juried theatre festivals continues to be at the fringe's foundation.

"Artists submit applications and then there's a draw, that way it's unbiased," says festival director Michele Gallant. "You never know what you get. It could be something for the kids, an artist that's pushing

the envelope or something wacky. There are so many different types and levels of art and performance that offer a wide range of experience."

This year's festival goes from Aug. 10–19, with indoor theatre events, film festivals, outdoor events and exhibits spread

throughout the city. The kick-off Community Arts Festival event takes place at Municipal Plaza in the downtown core from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

"The outdoor events are a bit smaller this year," notes Gallant. "The Community Arts Festival see FRINGE, pg. 6

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Fringe, continued from pg. 5

on [Fri., Aug. 10] will feature three aldermen racing on bouncy balls attached to bungee tethers, competing for their communities to have the festival next year. For those who miss the Friday celebration, the community of Inglewood with play host

to the event the next day.” The festival is concentrated in the downtown core area and there are up to half a dozen shows a day, each about an hour long. Add that to the street performers, vendors, photography and body art, and Gallant encourages people to

catch as much as they can. The Fringe Festival’s unique Film Festival also returns this year at the Legion along with the debuting Bare Bones Theatre. Bare Bones is an alternative creation that gives those with smaller production values a chance to perform.

Rather than having full-blown lights and the traditional theatre production values, there is a room with chairs and a light that can be turned on and off. The openness to everything along with the support of all levels of art is what the fringe is all about.

“A hundred per cent of the profit from ticket revenue goes back to the artists,” Gallant boasts. “We really encourage everyone to get involved and check it out.”

More information on the Calgary Fringe Festival, including a full schedule and ticket info, can be found at www.calgaryfringe.ca

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ALBUM REVIEWS



The White Stripes
Icky Thump
(Third Man/Warner)

It's awfully difficult to follow up a great album. Expectations are sky-high and oftentimes the next album is nowhere near as good. The White Stripes' past two albums—2003's *Elephant* and 2005's *Get Behind Me Satan*—won Grammys. The band's sixth full-length, *Icky Thump*, took the longest of any White Stripes album to record—three whole weeks—but ultimately lives up to the band's pedigree.

Consisting of Jack and Meg White, the White Stripes are a two-piece, but don't sound like one. They keep finding ways to make it fresh, adding in distortion, wild guitar riffs and musical guests. The duo incorporate other instruments into their repertoire for a trio of songs—trumpets on "Conquest" and bagpipes on "Prickly Thorn, But Secretly Worn" and "St. Andrew"—and the additions work well. It's not as if

they shoe-horned them into existing White Stripes fare, but rather used them to create something different. It's as if the duo took a bunch of styles, threw them in a blender and thrashed it all together. Some songs contain more of one style than another, but the entire thing feels like a continuous and fresh creation.

For a decade and six albums, the White Stripes have continually churned out eccentric and expressive albums. Since their debut, fans and critics alike have been waiting for them to make a misstep. Combining elements of folksy twang, blues guitar and full-steam-ahead rock with their usual fare, *Icky Thump* is yet another triumph for Detroit's dynamic duo and raises the bar yet again for their eventual follow-up project.

..Ryan Pike



Interpol
Our Love to Admire
(Capitol)

Interpol seemingly became a big deal out of nowhere, emerging from the glut of sound-alike New York bands by merging the post-punk influences of bands like Joy Division and the Happy Mondays with modern equipment and production techniques along with a fresh indie sound. Their latest, *Our Love to Admire*, continues the band's slow and steady progression from 2004's *Antics* and 2002's *Turn on the Bright Lights* with a very refined and complex listening experience.

Paul Banks' lonely and dispassionate vocals blend immaculately with the sombre melo-

dies of album openers "Pioneer to the Falls," "No I in Threesome" and "The Scale." Single "The Heinrich Maneuver" changes the pace to a faster post-punk effect before going back to the very slow and melancholy pace of the prior three. It emerges again towards the end with "Who Do You Think" before totally giving way to the lethargic and beautiful soundscapes of "Wrecking Ball" and "The Lighthouse." The result is an overall feel which is much more symphonic and darkwave-esque than *Antics*.

That said, if there's one issue with the album,

it's how similar many of songs sound. On one hand, it gives the disc a single coherentness often lost in modern rock albums, while on the other, it makes for fairly monotonous listening. Clocking in at 46 minutes of pure minor chords, it also makes The Cure look like happy hardcore and isn't recommended if you're on medications for depression. Bonus marks: the insert art kicks serious ass.

...Andrew Rininsland



Hot Little Rocket
How To Lose Everything
(File Under: Music)

Being in a band in Calgary hasn't always been the greatest career choice. The city's music scene isn't as well-known as Montreal's or Vancouver's and as a result many bands have to leave town to get their big breaks. Now that the Calgary scene is starting to get more attention, local bands like Hot Little Rocket are finally getting noticed. It also helps that the band's latest album, *How To Lose Everything*, is quite good.

Veterans of Calgary's music venues, Hot Little Rocket has hooked up with producer Steve Albini (also known for his work with locals

The Cape May) for their sixth album. The result is a polished sound, but not a manufactured one. The band's sound isn't overly complex, but the four-piece uses their tools effectively, creating a simplistic yet full sound anchored by Andrew Wedderburn's vocals. From the toe-tapping opener "Like Killers" straight through to the very end, the album is tremendously well-paced and doesn't scuttle its momentum with any bizarre experiments. That's not to say that the quartet don't mix things up, but songs like "This Decade," "Call the Wedding Off" and "Sleep Today"

play to their strengths rather than search for new ones.

On the whole, *How to Lose Everything* works because it's a series of well-constructed, catchy three-to-four minute songs. Hot Little Rocket seems to have perfected this model and, at worst, may be destined to create more fun, light albums. If they challenge themselves, they could get even better. Either way, *How to Lose Everything* showcases that there's no reason why a band can't be both Calgarian and successful.

..Ryan Pike

NUTV.CA



This week on Full Frontal...

This week Suzanne takes a close look at nanotechnology and artificial intelligence, Ashok explores the minds of poker players, Katya sorts through the U of C's change in waste disposal policy, Taylor speaks to the masses about the latest Harry Potter novel, Danny Cox checks out some BMXing, and Justin delves into locker room etiquette.

Also, tune in to see Alex, Justin, and Randy cover the 29th annual Calgary Folk Music Festival!

About Us...

NUTV is one of the oldest university based television production societies in Canada. Based at the U of C, we offer an invaluable opportunity explore the medium of television by learning all the stages of production. **No prior experience is required to join!**

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TOP OF THE VOX

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TOP 20 for the week of AUGUST 6.07

- * Denotes Canadian Artist
** Denotes Local Artist
- HOT LITTLE ROCKET****
How To Lose Everything
(File Under Music)
 - A TEAM****
Rebirth Of Rock Therapy (indie)
 - THEY SHOOT HORSES
DON'T THEY?***
Pick Up Sticks (Kill Rock Stars)
 - 1990s**
Cookies (Rough Trade)
 - OXBOW**
Narcotic Story (Vice)
 - SPOON**
Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga (Merge)
 - JOHN DOE**
A Year In The Wilderness (Yep Roc)
 - RAISING THE FAWN***
Sleight Of Hand (Sonic Unyon)
 - VARIOUS**
Ska Is Dead (Stomp)
 - ATTACK IN BLACK***
Marriage (Dine Alone)
 - BLACK COFFEE COWBOYS****
Hot Like Fire (Southern Dandy)
 - FUCKED UP**
Year Of The Pig (What's Your Rapture?)
 - GHOST HOUSE***
These Are Ghost House (Reluctant)
 - MOSTLY BEARS**
Only Child (Funzalo)
 - BODIES OF WATER**
Ears Will Pop & Eyes Will Blink
(Thousand Tongues)
 - SWEETWATER ABILENE**
Giant Ate The Rainbow (Co-Opt)
 - BOTTOM OF THE HUDSON**
Fantastic Hawk (Absolutely Kosher)
 - DISPOSABLE CARS****
Drawstrings Swinging (indie)
 - WAX MANNEQUIN***
Orchard And Ire (Infinite Heat)
 - ILLFIT OUTFIT***
Illfit Outfit (indie)

WORLD

- DELE SOSIMI**
Identity (Helico)
- VARIOUS**
World Circuit Presents (Nonesuch)
- FEMI ABOSEDE***
No Compromise (Culture Force)
- VARIOUS**
Roots, Rock, Remixed (Tuff Gang)
- VARIOUS**
Latin Jazz (Putumayo)

JAZZ

- PAPA MAMBO***
Crooked Cha (Uncontrollable)
- BARRY ROMBERG'S
RANDOM ACCESS***
Big Giant Head (Romhog)
- BOB MINTZER BIG BAND**
Old School: New Lessons
(Manchester Craftsmen's)
- HILARIO DURAN
AND HIS LATIN BIG BAND**
From The Heart (Alma)
- VARIOUS**
Yesterday's Universe (Stones Throw)

MYKE'S PICKS

- EARTHLESS**
Rhythms From A Cosmic Sky
- THE CONSONANT C**
Capes And Crowns
- PATTON OSWALT**
Werewolves And Lollipops
- TITAN**
*A Raining Sun Of Light & Love
For You & You & You*
- NICOLE WILLIS
AND THE SOUL INVESTIGATORS**
Keep Reachin' Up

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY

HOT LITTLE ROCKET
They've been around for years, and their new Steve Albini produced record has definitely made waves at CJSW (so many DJs played them the ticks on my tracking sheets were going off the page). This band rules and this record captures that rulingness. Yes that is a word, but only when you're talking about Hot Little Rocket.
www.hotlittlerocket.com

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Dinos Footballers gear up for the new season

Jon Roe
Features Editor

University of Calgary Dinos head football coach Blake Nill sees a winning team in this year's roster.

Though the Dinos finished 2-6 last season, there were some highlights, including a surprising 30-27 victory over the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds and quarterback Dalin Tollestrup winning the Peter Gorman trophy as rookie-of-the-year in Canadian Interuniversity Sport football. The team, however, hit a roadblock in their 2007-08 plans when Tollestrup announced his two-year leave to go on a Mormon mission.

Nill, who knew Tollestrup's departure was a possibility from the get-go, made use of his time in the off-season and picked up a well-traveled quarterback, leaving the coach positive about the upcoming season.

"I think we're a playoff team," said Nill. "I'm not being cocky when I say that. We just have to go in with the confidence that we can compete in this conference."

The Dinos will have to win with a new quarterback picking up the reins of the offence for a second year in a row. Though no choices have been finalized going into the camp

Fri., Aug. 17, American transfer Casey Brown is currently at the front of the pack.

Brown comes to the Dinos after spending three years at three different U.S. schools. Nill cautions that he will have to adjust to the Canadian game to be the go-to guy.

"The big concern is with the extra guy on defence," said Nill. "It's not uncommon for quarterbacks to have a problem with that extra guy. You see it in B.C. a lot where the high school kids play U.S. rules."

Nill feels Brown has a fairly good grasp of the Canadian game after being in Calgary for spring camp in April. Brown hasn't started a game since high school, when he earned first-team all-state honours, finished with 2,100 yards and 21 touchdowns and led the team to an 8-4 record.

Though Tollestrup was a shining star in an otherwise dismal season for the Dinos last year, Nill dismissed the idea that the team solely relies on their quarterback.

"My experience has basically told me we're bigger, we're faster, we're stronger, we're more mature," said Nill. "Now, we have to start gelling as a team."

The team starts the season on the road in B.C. Aug. 31 against the Simon Fraser University Clan, a team that finished last season winless in eight



Chris Beauchamp/the Gauntlet

Nill (left, screaming) runs a tight ship, but this attitude could push the Dinos to victory.

games. Last year, the team started the season with a loss and went on to lose a total of six in a row. Nill prefers starting on the road and wants his senior players to take on a leadership role.

"Last year when we started at UBC, we played very well for 56 minutes," said Nill. The team lost that initial game 22-16. "It's just a matter of being confident."

In the off-season, Nill brought in eight players from his former team, the Saint Mary's University Huskies, resulting in a competitive camp and a multifaceted squad. Nill's hope to breed a competitive team was apparent

after the Dinos went through 16 weeks of 6 a.m. workouts this winter.

"I've made it clear from the moment I came here that this is going to be a competitive environment and the culture here is going to change," said Nill. "You're going to have to compete 365 days a year to play on the field. [That attitude is] something that I believe was missing, that I'm going to install here right away, the same as we had at Saint Mary's."

Despite Nill's high expectations, he is still hopeful. The team is only in its second year under him, meaning it may still take a few more years to

bring the program to the level Nill left behind at SMU, where he won two Vanier Cups and six straight Atlantic University Sport Championships.

"I'll be disappointed if the playoffs aren't attained," Nill admitted. "Last year we played one poor game against Saskatchewan here where we lost before we even stepped on the field. I think we were intimidated. I don't think that's going to be the case anymore."

The Dinos host last year's Vanier Cup finalists, the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Sat., Sep. 8. For tickets and more info, visit www.godinos.com.

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7	18	31	56	70

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