

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

gauntlet

VOLUME 48 | ISSUE NO. 35 | APRIL 3 | 2008

THE JUNOS

COME TO CALGARY
MUSICIANS PLAY ON THE C-TRAIN
JUNOFEST HAS 120 BANDS PLAYING
THE AIRPORT HAS LIVE MUSIC

SEE THE JUNO PREVIEW

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT
OF THE JUNOS THIS WEEKEND
ENTERTAINMENT

STARTING ON **PAGE 20**





Calendar of Curiosities

www.su.ucalgary.ca

HOW TO GET YOUR WRISTBAND

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- Wristbands are available April 14 to 17 in the MSC North Courtyard, 9 am to 6 pm.
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ACADEMIC COMMISSIONER

Appointed Position

Term: Starts May 2008

Pay: Honoraria of up to \$400/month

The Academic Commissioner is responsible for representing students to SLC, SAA, and the Academic Commission, as well as working on various projects related to their Commission.

Duties include preparing for, attending, and participating in Commission, SAA, and SLC meetings; understanding Students' Union academic policies; working with the student clubs related to their commission; working directly with the VP Academic; working on Academic Commission projects, awareness campaigns; or personal projects related to the position; involvement with SU and University committees requiring student representation; being familiar with SU by-laws and procedures.

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE (SAA)

Appointed Position

Term: Starts May 2008

Pay: Honoraria of up to \$400/month

Faculty Reps are the main communication link between the SU and the faculty in which they are registered. They are responsible for representing and promoting the academic interests of the students in their faculty. Their role involves staying up-to-date and briefing SAA on

issues and concerns related to students in their faculty and the SU; and informing their faculty about SU policies, programs, and services.

Duties include preparing for, attending and participating in SAA and General Faculties Council (GFC) meetings; working with the student clubs in their faculty; attending Faculty Promotions Committee (FPC) meetings and acting as the student member on the faculty Student Appeal Committee; attending Faculty Council (FC) and any sub-committee meetings; and assisting in administering Teaching Excellence Awards in their faculty.

The following Faculty Rep positions are available: Humanities, Social Work, Science, Education and Nursing.

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER (CRO)

Term: Part-time, from August 2008 to March 2009

Pay: Honoraria of up to \$2,000 for the by-election and up to \$3,000 for the general election.

The CRO is responsible for the administration of the SU fall by-election and winter general election. Duties include hiring all election officials; supervising nominations and voting process; setting up voting stations; and ensuring compliance of the SU by-laws, policies, and procedures. Your work will be concentrated in Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb., and early March.

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

SPEAKER / MODERATOR

Term: Part-time, May 2008

Pay: \$45 per meeting

The Speaker/Moderator acts as Speaker for the Students' Legislative Council (SLC) and Moderator for the Students' Academic Assembly (SAA) ensuring the orderly flow of business in accordance with the Students' Union bylaws and SLC procedures.

You must be familiar with Roberts Rules of Order and not sit on any University or SU committees. You must be available every Tuesday from 6:30 pm until meeting ends and, every second Monday from 5:30 pm until the meeting ends (both undetermined time). Meetings are held bi-weekly during the summer months.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to the attention of

Susan Judd, Coordinator Executive Cabinet, Committees & Elections

Email: sejudd@ucalgary.ca

or in person to SU Main Office, 251 MacEwan Student Centre.

Deadline: 4:30 pm, Friday, April 11.

Newsy-news news

news page 5

How would you spend \$1.4 million? News writer Dan Pagan looked into different ways students have answered that question. In more depressing news, news editor elect Sarelle Azuelos interviewed experts who have not forgotten about our modern genocide in Darfur. Other news too!

No abortion at all!

opinions page 10

That's right! We don't have a single goddamn article about people trying to impose their rigid and ill-conceived world view on other people via fallacious reasoning and needlessly-graphic imagery in this section! It's business as usual in Opinions: get your weekly dose of pontification and self-affirmation starting page 10!

I'm gettin' all teary-eyed

sports page 13

This week in sports, we talk about all the happy things that happened at the Night of the Dino and reminisce about the year and all the accomplishments of our teams. Also, there's lots of fighting with bare hands and pointy things. Oh yeah!

Around the world in a lot of photos

photo page 18

It's just like that Daft Punk song. You know, the one that goes "around the world, around the world?" Yeah, Daft Punk's kinda repetitive...

Do you have Juno fever?

entertainment page 20

If yes, there's an ointment for that. Also, we preview the awards. If not, we're still chock-full of theatre, film and CD reviews to keep you from reading another publication. If you still feel the urge, though, everyone's covering the Junos. *Everyone.*

Wapta like an Egyptian

features page 28

Though the Wapta Traverse has nothing to do with Egyptians—mostly because they reside on different continents—it's a lot like the song "Walk like an Egyptian," or something. Read Chris Pedersen's photo journey along the Wapta Traverse.



photo to the editor

"Pure Hawksley" by Sarah Chidley (Canon S3IS)

Hawksley Workman played the Jack Singer on Mar. 25 with an amazing two and a half hour show with no openers or breaks—just pure, Hawksley goodness.

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

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On informed dissent

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Chris Pedersen, for writing a phenomenal feature plus
pretty photos.

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

Letter Policy

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

The Cover

photograph by Daniel J. Pagan,
design by Geoff MacIntosh



A flash of movement, a reflected gleam.

Out of the corner of an eye—youthful and unwrinkled, though its lid was stretched and beaming in a cheerful smile—the almost imperceptible bright spot shot down the nearby marble wall.

The victim began to turn, but it was too late.

At first, only on the semi-soft surface just below and inside from the shoulder blade, did the nerves register anything out of the ordinary. The following beat stretched on and punctuation became a silent phrase elongated. Period.

Pierced was the very core of his being. Cold, sharp and merciless, the steel tooth bit again and again, each time its removal leaving only brief emptiness, then the flood.

From his fingertips, he could feel the sticky wet pooling beneath him. Though there was naught but the sound of bubbly breath, alarm screamed from the man's eyes, projecting louder and clearer than any herald or sophist ever could.

Et tu, Caesar?

Despite a well-documented and working relationship between its administration and Students' Union, the University of Calgary received a swath of vocal reaction to the removal of credit cards as a method of paying tuition.

Amid the chaotic protests of students following the decision, with the su still reeling from the suddenness of the new policy, administration

attempted to persuade the student body that the benefits outweigh the inconveniences.

With the rejection announcement of the su's proposal to re-examine the issue with more student consultation, the administration has very successfully accumulated a hefty amount of disdain from students.

Though the issue seems to be incredibly muddled in the minds of U of C students—where they have focused on the shortsighted goal of reversing administration's credit card decision instead of trying to see the big picture—at least they've woken up and finally become dissatisfied enough with the state of their education to shed the thick coat of apathy and spring back with involved criticism of their academic environment.

The su should be congratulated for finally taking a stance and organizing what hopefully will be a very visible, very vocal rally at the Board of Governors meeting Friday, Apr. 11

Chris Tait
Editor-in-Chief

Editor, the *Gauntlet* A tribute to a fallen tribune

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,
First off, let me just say congratulations to Dr. Dube for getting out of the U of C. It is definitely a sad day for any student who was lucky enough to have him as a teacher.

Dr. Dube is a reflection of what is wrong with the U of C. Our school is not what it once was. In the five years that I have attended the U of C, I have, with some exceptions, witness the overall degradation of the institution. "Increasingly worse teachers" is a statement that many students must agree with. Our school is consistently ranked low in Maclean's' and all other surveys—ironically, one of our highest ratings has been service, which we will most likely lose after this tyrannical credit card decision—and because of this, prominent profs do not want to teach at our school. A certain East Asian Studies prof is still forced to teach about Japan: Japan is not his specialty, his specialty is China. Why? The school cannot find a prof specializing in Japan who wishes to teach at the U of C.

Students have lost any sense of community. No longer do students rally or unite to show their disgust with policy of the administration. The camp-outs have become smaller every year; the su did not even make a peep over raised tuition. This is a result of blackmail: students, most of

whom now come from the honour roll variety from high school, need school to achieve a career and life that they wish; the administration knows this and knows that we are powerless to do much. Back when I first started to work in Alberta, times were bad. If you complained about your job, the boss would take you in to his office and show you the 200 resumes on his desk and ask you, "are you going to keep complaining?" This is how students feel now; we need the job. Moreover, school is so expensive that increasingly, large amounts of students have to work more to pay for it, leaving little time to do extracurricular activities. I am not claiming that students have the roughest life, however, university is supposed to be a time when we can explore and can rebel—a liberal education is supposed to instill in us what it feels like to be free as an individual. Instead, U of C prepares us to be another brick.

The profs have no guts anymore. How many profs have spoken out
see LETTER, pg. 12

CORRECTION:

The piece in last week's *Gauntlet* Fiction Supplement entitled "Sisyphus' rocks" was incorrectly attributed to Tim Ford. The actual author was Greg Ramos. The *Gauntlet* apologizes for this error.



If I had \$1.4 million...

The U of C and the Students' Union look for proposals to spend Quality Money

Daniel Pagan
Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary and Students' Union are coming to paint the town red with millions of dollars thanks to the Quality Money Initiative. The collaboration between the Students' Union and university administration will see nine new projects, such as a campus bike initiative, a co-curricular transcript and an SU Wellness Centre being funded by \$1.4 million.

The campus saw a new media campaign by the SU and the U of C Communication Department displaying the success of the QMI with large television screens set outside the SU office in efforts to raise awareness.

SU president Julie Bogle explained SU presidents from other universities often question her about the quality money project and she felt the video was able to better promote it.

"We felt that it was necessary to show the greater community what can happen when students have the ability to put money behind the projects they feel essential to improve the student experience," said Bogle. "We're now in our fourth year of operations and are able to truly see the impact these initiatives have had on the student experience."

Vice-provost students Ann Tierney agreed.

"The Administration thinks both [the] Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association have made very valuable investments in the student experience on campus and we are very proud to be associ-



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

SU president Julie Bogle takes advantage of one of the many QMI projects.

ated with this initiative," said Tierney.

Tierney explained the \$1.4 million comes from the university budget, comprised of funds from government grants, tuition revenue, and donations.

"We build the quality money right into the budget," said Tierney.

Bogle explained that the Quality Money Committee and the SU used a set of formulas in making recommendations to determine whether a proposal gets funded or not. The decision is based on the proposal's universal

appeal, tangible benefits, responsiveness to students' needs, suitability and the results of plebiscites.

"A number of proposals were unsuccessful this year because we felt that they fell into university administration's role instead," said Bogle.

The nine projects being funded by the QMI include a campus bike initiative, Undergraduate Peer Mentorship, the Co-curricular Transcript Program and SU clubs awards.

Bogle said the Campus Bike Initiative proj-

ect—receiving \$35,503—would assist students in providing an on-campus bike co-operative which would allow students to borrow bikes and acquire repairing skills.

"The bike initiative would also help support the sustainability efforts the SU is undertaking on campus, as showcased during Enviropalooza," said Bogle.

Tierney stressed the importance of the co-curricular transcripts funded with \$239,014. It is based on a model used at Sir Wilfred Laurier University and would encourage more students to engage in extra-curricular activities.

"It improves the student's experience by providing recognition of importance of involvement, which is important when students apply for jobs," said Tierney.

The SU and university hope to encourage more student involvement through SU Club awards.

"The Students' Union will offer 10 annual scholarships of \$1,000 for a three-year period, based on the criteria which focus on students who have made significant contributions to SU-sanctioned clubs," said Bogle.

Both Bogle and Tierney are excited about building undergraduate peer mentoring into courses across the university.

"Mentorship funding would assist students as they go through university and provides additional support to those needing extra advising," noted Tierney.

Other projects, such as an SU Wellness Centre, MSC South Courtyard Renovation, MSC computer kiosks, Inter-Institutional Residence feasibility study and summer work experience would receive funding as well.

Race coming to Calgary

Christian Loudon
Production Editor

Solar-powered cars from all over the continent will again cruise across the finish line at the University of Calgary for the 2008 North American Solar Challenge this summer. With the race finishing in Calgary comes both a sense of having the home team advantage and pressure to perform well.

Mechanical manager Leo Marrero explained there is some pressure for the team to perform well this year with the finish line on home turf.

"We definitely feel some pressure," said Marrero. "We're the home [team], so we've got to try and do the best we can."

However, pressure to perform well is the least of the team's worries. A lot has changed since the race was last in Calgary in 2005. Stricter regulations

about how the driver must sit in the car means they will now have to sit upright rather than lay down.

While some were nervous, first-year mechanical team member Yani Tan remained steadfast and explained she does not feel there is a lot of pressure for the team because she gets to work alongside several experienced solar car team members.

"I get to work with second, third, fourth-years and even people who have graduated and come back to help us out," said Tan, who hopes to play a large role on the team in this year's race.

As a whole, the team was excited by a project that allows them to put classroom theory into practice. It gives them a unique opportunity to develop what could one day be the future of personal transportation. Marrero explained working on the solar car provides



John McDonald/the Gauntlet

Car co-chair operations manager Darshni Pillay with Schulich I.

team members with a realistic idea as to what sort of projects different members of the team will likely be in—working on deadlines

and purchasing parts for the car.

"We are building a car that doesn't use a drop of fuel and can race from

see SOLAR, page 8

SU plans rally

Katy Anderson
News Editor

The Students' Union is planning a protest at the University of Calgary Board of Governors meeting to express their disapproval of the university's handling of the recent decision to not accept credit cards to pay tuition.

"From the amount of student feedback we've received, we're confident this is a major student concern," said SU president Julie Bogle.

She had a meeting with university administration Tue. Apr. 1, but administration declined to give the issue any more thought.

"We've exhausted all diplomatic resources and avenues," said Bogle. "This is the straw that broke the camel's back."

The meeting will be 8:30 a.m. Fri., Apr. 11, in the Scurfield Hall 465.

If you had \$1.4 million for improvements to campus, what would you do?



"Not scholarships, that's for sure."
— Shahid Jiwani, fourth-year economics



"Three words: pimpin' BSD party."
— Cliff Kitchen, "enth"-year math



"Ponies would be great, but I'd settle for a merry-go-round."
— Leigh Blair, second-year economics



"Smaller class sizes for first year programs and more interactive classes."
— Christen Robertson, fifth-year finance

Discussing Darfur

Speakers gathered at the Glenbow for dialogue about the thousands killed in Sudan

Sarelle Azuelos
News Assistant

When the massive genocide termed the Holocaust occurred, it was followed by the promise of "never again." That promise was never kept.

The Glenbow Museum held an open forum accompanying the *Darfur/Darfur* exhibit to discuss the current genocide and international action—or lack thereof—Tue., Mar. 25. The four main speakers chose to focus on issues surrounding genocide including media, economics, general apathy and the struggle to define genocide.

CBC's *The National* reporter Carol Off started with the discussion of the public's consumption of war-time images.

"What was more interesting than the images from the exhibit of Darfur were the images of the people on the street looking at [them]," said Off. "We can regard these images and we see people suffer, die. We see rape victims, we see children starving and we just consume these."

Off explained that news media outlets find their source of income from selling products that contain these images. The majority of outlets refrain from printing the most violent of the images for fear of losing or offending readership. She argued that the images are tragic enough to warrant a response and yet fail to do so.

"What more do you need to know

about Darfur to know that this is an appalling situation, that this is a genocide and that this needs to be stopped," said Off. "We are part of a market for these images."

Many of the speakers stressed that the lack of action may be caused by the western public's ability to view the victims as less than human. University of Calgary associate professor Dr. Wisdom Tettey pointed to the vague definition of genocide as the reason for needless complications in the call for interference.

"The question is, why is there reluctance to name these things for what they are?" asked Tettey. "[During] the Darfur crisis, we talked about is it genocide, or is it not. At the time we were having these debates, people were dying. We are more concerned about our willingness, or lack thereof, to intervene, than the reality of what is going on."

Off outlined a new policy proposal in the UN which she named *The Responsibility to Protect*, which she hoped might solve this problem.

"The *Responsibility to Protect* states that if a country is unwilling or unable to protect its citizens—as the government of Sudan is—then it is the responsibility of other countries like ours to step in and to protect them, even if it requires violence in order for us to do that," said Off.

She admitted that this type of policy may be impossible, but would increase international involvement in situations of genocide.

Le Devoir columnist Gil



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Dr. Wisdom Tettey stressed that genocide needs a solid definition to avoid inaction.

Courtemanche brought economics and the strive for monetary power into play during his speech.

"Countries are not equal, not only in size but in economic and political power," he said. "The international code of conduct, which in theory applies to everyone, never applies equally. Human rights must be respected by the poor and the feeble, not by the rich and the powerful."

He pointed out that laws in Canada and the United States charge people who do not help someone in need with a criminal offense, yet businesses within both

countries are guilty of standing by while operating in other nations suffering from genocide.

"Part of the many conflicts that are destroying the region [in Darfur]—called tribal wars by western media—have to do with the search for pasture," he said. "These wars are essentially fueled by the need for land that can produce food."

Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership president Janet Keeping was worried about the implications that our lack of action has regarding our moral capacity.

"I fear [the events in Darfur are] teaching us the futility of caring," said Keeping. "I fear that it is this combination of seeing and knowing, together with the not stopping, that is disempowering us."

Tettey warned the audience about the consequences of the lack of Western accountability.

"If the international community fails to act decisively, the brave language of the genocide convention and the UN charter—not to mention the avowed principals of our various governments—will once more ring false in our world," he said.

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Group asked to vacate campus

Katy Anderson
News Editor

The notorious anti-choice display put on by Campus Pro-Life every semester was asked to leave by the University of Calgary.

Despite being served with a notice to vacate, the CPL Genocide Awareness Campaign was displayed on the lawn between Science A, Science B and MacEwan Hall Mon., Mar 31 and Tue., Apr. 1. The signs depict images comparing abortion to the Holocaust and lynching of African Americans. The display has drawn vocal criticism from viewers—including a protest group camped in front of the display—the last five times it has been

on campus. The Women's Centre has also reported a significant spike in the number of visitors every time the display goes up.

Campus Security was on call but did not remove the group.

"They told us to turn our signs in because of complaints they had received because of the graphic images," said CPL treasurer Leah Hallman. "That was an attempt to censor us because we have not been required to do this in the past."

Hallman asserted that the university was denying them their freedom of expression under the Canadian Charter of Rights.

The group has been banned from any pro-life activity including the display, events and handout materials.



Paul Baker/the Gauntlet

U of C 101 set to change for next year

Daniel Pagan
Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary Students' Union, TriMedia and other campus groups may have a bigger role in next year's U of C 101. The Office of Student Experience is considering the su's proposals for changes to frosh week, such as the resurrection of the inter-faculty games, a clubs fair and an su-guided tour of MacEwan Students' Centre.

The su vice-president events Richard Freeman noted that last year's U of C 101 orientation was

insufficient in educating students about campus life, given that the campus community sessions were in lecture format.

"Campus life should be one of the most important and exciting topics for new students, but given the time constraints, presenters were forced to read off lists of campus activities and facilities with little or no explanation of the points themselves," he said.

Freeman pointed out that overwhelming students with lists in lectures was not helpful, making students anything but excited.

OSE associate director Heather Cummings

defended the U of C 101 program, pointing out that it was very successful last year. The new format changes helped minimize confusion and were useful in delivering the information to students in a timely manner.

"While we did make many changes, we continued to emphasize a small group, faculty-based, and an interactive experience for our new students," she said. "Feedback from students and our campus partners was positive."

Cummings asserted that the criticisms of U of C 101 not doing enough for the su and TriMedia were based on lingering mispercep-

tions about last year's orientation week.

"Information about TriMedia was included in the core session on campus involvement as well as the su presentation and we had felt that through these two exposures, we were supporting TriMedia," said Cummings.

NUTV executive director Michelle Wong strongly disagreed.

"Last year, U of C 101 gave us no exposure to new students, nothing," she said. "Last year's changes really hurt awareness and recruitment for NUTV. I would estimate that we experienced a 30 per cent drop in new volunteers."

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Breakthrough made with Norwalk virus

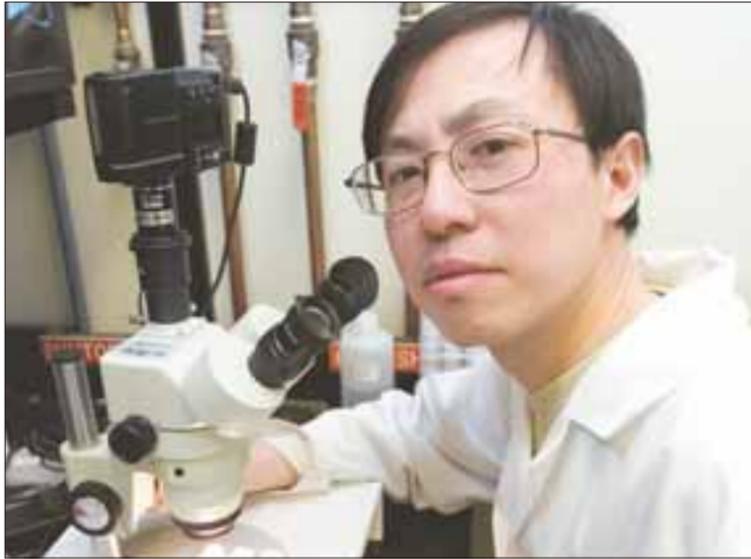
Sarelle Azuelos
News Assistant

A University of Calgary professor will soon find a cure for a common but serious stomach virus thanks to his breakthrough medical research.

Researcher Dr. Kenneth Ng has recently discovered the structure of an essential enzyme in the common Norwalk virus.

"We focus on the proteins that are important for reproduction of the virus," said Ng. "[They are] responsible for copying the genetic material of the [disease]. When the virus infects a cell, it needs to make copies of its genetic material so that they get released and can infect other cells."

Now that Ng and his team understands the structure of the protein, they are hoping to work with chemists to develop a compound which would inhibit it. Ng explained a similar approach was taken to



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Dr. Kenneth Ng hopes to find a cure for Norwalk.

combat viruses such as AIDS with positive results.

Research has been done at the University of Saskatoon Canadian Light Source facility. The facility opened 11 years ago and has

received over \$10 million in funding from provincial and federal governments.

"It's actually the biggest single investment of money into a science facility [in Canada]," said Ng. "What's

special about that facility is that they produce a lot of different kinds of light or electromagnetic radiation. For our technique, we need a very intense source of x-rays to determine the structures because they're very small. We have a machine in the lab here that will produce [radiographs] that we can do some analysis with, but the x-rays at the facility are something like 10,000 times the intensity of what we can get in the lab."

A permanent team at CLS worked with the U of C researchers to find the structure of the virus. The researchers also had help from the University of Kansas and the University of Oviedo in Spain. The Norwalk virus is highly contagious with short-lived yet severe side-effects. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and cramping.

"It's actually a serious concern because it's so easily transmitted," said Ng. "Something like one in five or one in 10 nursing homes will get a Norwalk outbreak every

year. It's so infectious, once it gets in, all the old people will get it."

While Norwalk isn't considered to be fatal, deaths can occur if patients have other health conditions or become severely dehydrated. Attention to food handling and hand washing are currently the most effective preventative measures.

Ng and the teams received funding from the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. AHFMR publications manager Janet Harvey explained the organization has been funding researchers across the province for over 20 years. Although Harvey was unable to disclose the amount of funding given to the Norwalk researchers, the years total amount of funding reached roughly \$59 million.

"The standards are very high here, so the people that the foundation funds are the best," stated Harvey. "We only fund excellence. We have several expert committees and they're the ones that review

Solar, cont'd from page 5

Texas to Calgary," said aerodynamicist Ravi Mani, a team veteran who took part in the race in the Panasonic World Solar Challenge held in Australia last fall.

Schulich-1, which can reach speeds of 70 kilometres per hour while consuming about the same amount of energy as a hair blow-dryer,

is expected to perform well this year after a successful tour Down Under, despite trouble.

During a test run prior to the race in Australia, Schulich-1 got its tail section caught in a guardrail, causing severe damage to the car. Mani explained the team learned a lot about working together after

having to rebuild the portion of the car.

"We learned a lot from the World Solar Challenge," said Mani. "We had to rebuild the whole tail section [to] pass scrutineering, remount our chassis, align our wheels and get the green light from the race organizers."

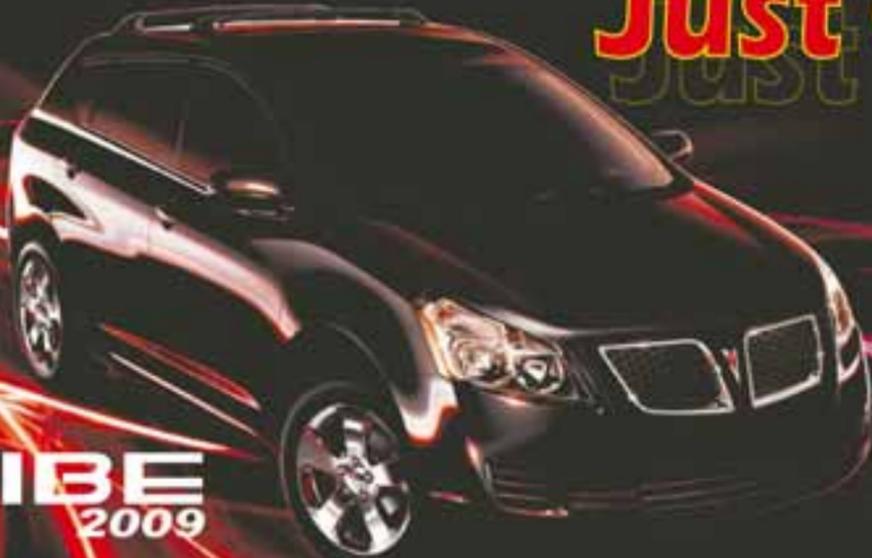
He stressed that, while classroom learning

enabled the team to build the car, the experience gained from the accident was valuable, teaching the team how to operate under pressure.

"The accident was the day before the big competition, and we basically had to pull an all-nighter to get the car safe to race," said Marrero, about their twelfth-place finish.

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The Albertan cost of the U.S. downturn

Raksha Vasudevan
Gauntlet News

The crumbling of America's economic health has made major headlines north of the 49th—which is not surprising given that the United States is Canada's largest trading ally.

The effects of what the Bank of Montreal's chief economist Dr. Sherry Cooper dubbed "the most pervasive financial crisis in a generation" has already made economic waves in Canada. Ontario's manufacturing industry cut 64,000 jobs last year, due largely to the devalued American dollar and a reduction in demand from U.S. customers, which some say begs the question of how Alberta—simultaneously the wealthiest and most expensive province—will be impacted by the American financial system.

"With all the investment that's lined up for the oilsands and [related] infrastructure, the Alberta boom will continue," said Fraser Institute senior economist Dr. Gerry Angevine.

CIBC World Market's senior economist Benjamin Tal agreed in a CanWest interview last week, stating Western Canada will be the least affected because prices for its oil and gas commodities are set in global markets, which are increasingly less influenced by the U.S.

With job growth still strong and retail spending for Jan. showing a 1.5 per cent jump over last year, the Canadian economy does not seem to be in decline. Some economists, however, warn Alberta will be more affected by the U.S.'s troubles than many of their peers think.

"As an open trading economy, Canada is not immune to the growing uncertainty in the United States and on global markets," said Federal Finance Department's spokesman David Gamble.

Scotiabank senior economist Adrienne Warren agreed.

"Consumer confidence is waning, a harbinger of a more cautious retail sales trend, particularly if employment growth and/or home price appreciation finally begins to slow as we expect," she said in a memo to clients last week.

Evidence suggests this is taking place in Alberta, as housing starts are expected to edge down in 2008, largely attributed to lower migration and declining housing affordability.

Complicating matters further is the U.S. Federal Reserve's recent interest rate cut—with the Bank of Canada expected to follow suit in Apr.

"An interest rate cut will help junior oil and gas companies in Alberta as their cost of finance debt will be lowered," said Angevine.

However, he expects to see a decline in housing prices over the next year as supply outpaces demand, in spite of any interest rate cuts.

"We've been flying on the back

of the elephant and if the elephant decides to sleep, Albertans' wealth will certainly be impacted," he said.

More evidence comes in the form of the most recent statistics for Alberta's \$11 billion forestry industry, the province's third-largest economic sector. Forestry exports fell more than \$446 million in 2007 from the previous year's, due to a high loonie and the downturn in the U.S. housing market.

"Alberta's forest industry is in crisis," said Alberta Forest Products Association executive director Brady Whittaker in a news release last week. "The situation is critical, not just for the economics of the forest products industry, or the 3,000 people that have lost their jobs in the past year, but also for the long-term sustainability and health of our province's forests."

Angevine explained the Alberta public had little to worry about.



Leya Russell/the Gauntlet

Experts fear southern economic trouble will hit Albertans hard.

"Overall, there may be a drag in the [Canadian] economy, but Albertans probably won't notice it too much," said Angevine. "We're a fairly wealthy province, and we'll probably stay that way for a while."

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Alberta

Legalize by 2010.

Why the War on Drugs must and will be ended within the next half decade



Andrew Rininsland
Damn Dirty Hippie

Here's a crazy idea that may sound a bit absurd, but follow me through on this:

Cannabis will be legalized in the United States of America by 2010.

"Totally absurd," you say, as you shuffle the pages and mutter something about illogical and idealistic hippies with no grounding in reality. Even those who would support such a concept would have an idealism tempered by decades of disappointment and be—rightly—cynical about any sort of far-reaching change like that. And geez, wouldn't legalization come after decriminalization?

Why on Earth would he think something so goddamn silly?

The prohibition of cannabis (and indeed, the entire orchestration of the U.S.-led "War On Drugs") is likely the single most-neglected social justice issue of the last two decades in North America. When people think of the term "drug abuser," they think of homeless crack cocaine-addicts spoiling the beauty of downtown or causing harm upon innocent citizens, not non-violent cannabis users, many of whom use cannabis in a legitimate medicinal fashion. Flipping through the pages of *Treating Yourself*, the closest the cannabis community has to a full-fledged academic journal, one quickly realizes that pot offenders aren't the problem.

So why have cannabis arrests in the United States skyrocketed in the last ten years?

Cannabis is actively being pursued as the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) drug of

choice, a development that's only taken place recently. In 2002, deputy director for state and local affairs Scott Burns was quoted in a letter to state prosecutors as saying that "no drug matches the threat posed by marijuana." A fantastic Rolling Stone article ("How America Lost the War on Drugs," Ben Wallace-Wells) quotes drug czar John Walters as equating cannabis growers to "terrorists who wouldn't hesitate to help other terrorists get into the country with the aim of causing mass casualties." The numbers are even scarier than the rhetoric. A study by a Harry Levine at Queens College in New York shows arrest rates for cannabis possession increased from 39,000 between 1987 and 1996 to 362,000 in the last decade. That's over nine times the rate of the decade prior.

While the less rational among us will argue such an increase is because of the inherently addictive and destructive nature of such a terrible, terrible drug, the more rationale (such as those among us who've read the dozens and dozens of medical reports stating that prior conclusion is most definitely not the case) will realize this is a politically- and ideologically-motivated attack on an incredibly intelligent and diverse community.

Obviously, a trend of increasing drug arrests is in no way indicative of a future trend of legalization. However, there is also a U.S. presidential election in the works and it's increasingly likely a young, mixed-race Democrat will take the vote.

But so what? Potheads have been wanting to legalize cannabis for ages, and neither Kerry nor Gore hinted at even decriminalization when they ran. Add to the fact the sheep-like mainstream voter is deathly afraid at the devil *merry-ju-wanna* and it looks like the second verse will be the same as the first.

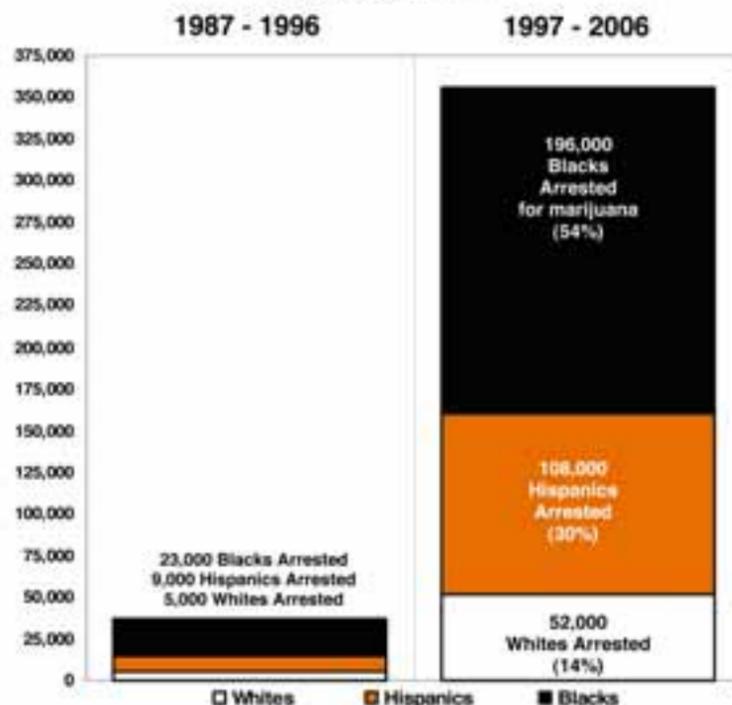
Obama, however, is significantly different from both Kerry and Gore. U.S. political culture has also dramatically changed since 2004. Bush's rhetoric of fear was entirely effective due to not only a mediocre Democratic nominee but also prevailing worries about Iraq and the War on Terror. There's also the trend of Americans generally not voting out the incumbent during a time of war.

How Obama also differs is that even if you discount his mixed-heritage he's—to use probably the understatement of the year—probably at least a little bit more sensitive to black issues than Bush. This is significant because the War on Pot is heinously discriminatory towards minorities. In the Levine study, 85 per cent of the people jailed for marijuana possession were either black or hispanic. The rate of incarceration in New York for blacks is nearly 3.8 times that of whites. Taken to a national level, the rate is two and a half times greater. Worse, in some parts like Syracuse, the rate is nearly ten times that of whites.

Regardless of how you interpret this, the fact of the matter is that



New York City Marijuana Possession Arrests of Whites, Hispanics and Blacks in Two Decades



there is an immense number of non-violent black drug offenders in prison. In fact, according to an International Herald Tribune article, 2008 marked the first time in history when more than one in every hundred Americans was in prison. The total U.S. prison population is in the neighbourhood of 1.6 million. According to a separate source, an estimated 80 per cent are non-violent drug offenders. How is this sustainable in any capacity? If you look at the graph of incarceration rates, it's an exponential curve. One would think it would level out, however, it hasn't. Furthermore, states spend almost 7 per cent of their entire budget on corrections, behind only the three big ones: health care, education and transportation.

Consequently, there's both a financial and social aspect to the

situation. It is quite likely the black community will pressure Obama to do something about the fact they're being unfairly discriminated against (whether this is true or not, though I tend to veer towards the latter), and if not, then the obscene cost of the U.S. prison state will result in at least some sort of leniency towards drug offenders by necessity alone. The average cost to imprison a single person for a year in the U.S. is \$23,876. This doesn't even begin to touch upon the lost income tax revenue potentially generated if those jailed for cannabis sale or production were able to legitimately make their living. The British Columbia marijuana industry is worth over \$8 billion according to a Fraiser Institute study—and that's in a country of 33 million. Were cannabis legalized in the States, a country of 230 million, the money made from taxes would be enough to fund either the War on Terror or something like health

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care ad infinitum. It doesn't matter which end of the political spectrum you lean towards, legalization makes brilliant financial sense.

I also believe that if the Democrats are smart and want to dismantle the Republican party for the next two decades, they will try to differentiate themselves from the Bush administration as much as humanly possible. What better way to do this than to legalize an innocuous substance that has been demonized by conservatives since time immemorial? The near-fascist detention of cannabis users can easily be coupled with the near-fascist manner in which Obama's predecessor has done everything. Were the Democrats and media to historically paint the Bush administration as fascist, the notion of President Jeb Bush will seem utterly farcical come 2012.

None of this will ever come to fruition if the cannabis-using population of the U.S. remains silent. If there is to be change in the manner I've described, it has to come from massive grass-roots pressure—no pun intended. If cannabis prohibition in the United States ends, it will end everywhere. How utterly bizarre would a news story about Canadians trying to extradite U.S. pot seed dealers sound? Canada is economically pressured by the U.S. in the bulk of our domestic policy and this is just another instance where we'd follow—and this time, it would even cause us national queasiness.

Freedom's coming in 2010. Spread the word.

All graphs taken from H.G. Levine's NY state testimony, located at soc.qc.cuny.edu/Staff/levine/Marijuana-Arrests/HGLEvine-graphs-and-testimony-NYState-Assembly-May31-07.pdf

The heavy cost of happiness



Cam Cotton-O'Brien
Pidgeon Talk

Food is not the only thing that one can swallow to get fat. In a society reeling from both rampant depression and obesity, the news that the medicines used to treat the former can exacerbate the latter is cruel comedy.

Tucked to the side of the front page on the Mon., Mar. 31 edition of the *Calgary Herald* was a small headline that read "Depression drugs make patients fat." The article reported that many individuals who take psychiatric medicine to treat depression can experience large weight gains. The *Herald* article quoted a doctor saying these gains could be anywhere from 10 to 40 pounds—an unseemly amount, for sure. Some months ago, however, while researching for another story, a worker at the Calgary Health Region informed me that the number could be in excess of 70 pounds.

This problem cannot be viewed clearly without realizing that recent studies have found medicinal treatment may only be effective for the severely depressed, a point also made by the *Herald*. This is a disturbing idea when one considers that medication is currently the standard form of treatment for many types of psychiatric disorders, ranging from severe cases of depression to far less drastic problems. Medication, except in the case of the severely



Illustration by Paul Baker

depressed, may be wholly unnecessary and ineffectual.

Another interesting point to consider is that recent research suggests that there are a few, non-medicinal treatment programs that may be as effective as the pill-taking variety—even for the severely depressed. These new treatments include a few different methods of psychotherapy.

If these alternative treatments are able to help individuals suffering from depression without recourse to drug therapy, then they scream to be carefully examined and put into practice if proven successful. Indeed, if they are at least as efficacious as medicine, then they should take over from the happy-pills as the primary method of treatment for all individuals. There is absolutely no reason to put people

on meds if they do not need it.

The problem is that these new treatments requires more patient-therapist contact, which is difficult to do in a mental health industry plagued by chronic staffing shortages, as is the case in Alberta. It is simply much easier and less time-consuming to prescribe a pill and some blood tests every once in a while than to engage in regular and potentially-intensive therapy with a patient. There is hope, though. The government recently passed Bill 31 to amend the Mental Health Act and move treatment out into the community. It is purportedly recognized that this bill cannot be implemented without an expansion of services, so this lack of capacity could become less of an issue in the near future. It needs to be addressed, especially if it will help move people into

treatment programs without the side-effects.

Certainly there are cases where medication will be a necessary treatment, but the current practice of prescribing pills as the first step to treating depression is likely unnecessary, possibly ineffective and obviously vulnerable to instigating a massive over-medication of society. It can be argued that this is clearly the road our culture has taken, with the explosion of antidepressants and other psychiatric drugs over the last decade or two demonstrating a dubious cultural dependence on little pills.

The ongoing concerns of both depression and obesity are, at least in some ways, related. Society owes itself on two counts to pursue new, non-medicinal psychiatric treatment options.

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Letter, cont'd from pg. 4

The profs have no guts anymore. How many profs have spoken out for Dr. Dube? Zero. The administration and department of political science shun him. "Do not give him attention and he will go away." How many years, just in Canada, have profs had to fight for academic freedom? And why—so that profs can be too afraid to use it?

The administration is a heartless corporate machine. Harvey claims we are a business because \$900 million go through the school. Using that logic, I guess health care is a business. I guess elementary schools

are businesses. Money goes through it, there it is a business. It is an interesting rhetorical note. I believe the school is a public service—a public right no different from our streets, the police or street lights: society needs all these things. A university education (should) promote the creation of better citizens for our cities, provinces, country and world. The best example is the recent Credit Cardgate fiasco. What numbnut decided that was a good idea? No student who ever had to wait in line for a year would agree with that. How about putting the

extra money towards tuition, even that is somewhat better. It is a foolish decision done in complete ignorance of the people it effects the most.

Hey Harvey! Can't you at least pretend to give a shit about us—like you do when you seek our consultation on tuition increases? We should get to vote if you should get a raise (interesting results most likely). But, I digress.

Goodbye Dr. Dube. Know that you changed the lives of many.

Anonymous fifth-year Pleb

SU View: SU protests credit card issue



Richard Freeman
SU VP Events

University administration is focused on the future, the student experience of 2012. However, many current students are unsatisfied with their U of C education. In its drive for the future, the university has lost communication with the current student body. The university is here to serve students—understanding how its decisions effect students must not be an afterthought. The

credit card withdrawal decision was made without consulting students on how this would effect their ability to pay, what is being done with the saved money and how service is effected.

Current students need to work together to send the message to the university that we still matter. The Students' Union met this week with senior administration to demand a reversal of the credit card withdrawal decision.

We at the su have that spot at the table with the administration. What gives us power at the table is you—students emailing the administration, signing petitions, telling

their story of how the credit card withdrawal decision affects them. We all want the same thing, and through diplomacy and action we can make it happen. Be it meetings with Harvey, the Board of Governors, petitions, emails, demonstrations, *et cetera*, the student voice will be heard. Get your message out, email creditcardfeedback@su.ucalgary.ca. For updates on current action visit www.su.ucalgary.ca.

The SU View and its corresponding headline are provided by the Students' Union and published without *Gauntlet* editorial revision.

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Changing the face of mixed martial arts

m m a feature

Amanda Hu
Sports Editor

“After a night in fight club, everything in the real world gets the volume turned down,” writes Chuck Palahniuk in his cult novel, *Fight Club*.

This sentiment rings true for the real-life mixed martial arts fighters who face opponents in head-to-head battles that test will and resolve to an extreme degree.

Mixed martial arts emerged in the early '90s as a way to compare various different fighting disciplines in the competitive arena. The sport's popularity peaked, in part, due to organizations like Ultimate Fighting Championship, which premiered in 1993.

Though its origins stem from the comparison of different martial arts, MMA has melded into its own sport, combining the best of all worlds of fighting. There are two main categories of technique, striking and grappling, which encompass all the tools a fighter should need to attack and subdue their opponent. Fighters, themselves, come from all fields and backgrounds of combat and work with various specialists to hone their technique and create a well-rounded knowledge and ability.

Calgary is home to a young-but-flourishing MMA community that hopes to produce a new crop of well-rounded fighters. Those involved in the sport say that the city provides many unique opportunities for improvement.

“I think Calgary and Alberta have been good for mixed martial arts because there's a fairly hands-off approach to other people's conducts,” says Beamer Comfort, MMA coach and a former Dinos wrestler. “In the earlier days, mixed martial arts was more taboo and people weren't jumping to sanction [the sport]. Alberta and the other governments had a kind of *laissez-faire* attitude and said, ‘If they want to fight, we'll make it as safe as possible so they can do it.’ It had a chance to get a head start in things.”

As an attempt to move away from the dark, underground connotation that has, to a certain extent, stigmatized MMA, the sport has been working with municipal and state governments in Canada and the U.S. to regulate and sanction the fights, similar to wrestling and boxing. This results in fully legal and safe



Chris Beauchamp/the Gauntlet

Max Dalsin prepares to knock out the competition.

fights, contrary to how they are sometimes portrayed in mainstream media.

Calgary is home to two main organizations, Hardcore Fighting Championships and Legacy Fighting Championships, who take on the responsibility of hosting and promoting fights throughout the year. While able to take hold of the MMA community in the west, LFC owner Scott Birkby says that the tough regulations make the city a challenge to work in, despite making the sport more safe for fighters.

“The reason I started in Calgary is because no one else was doing it and the rules are so tough and the commission is so tough on promoters,” he explains. “As far as the fighting in Calgary, the rules fall under the Nevada state commission, so there are a tonne of [them] for the sport. There's a lot of preparation that goes into it by the fighter before they even let them fight, so they screen out a lot of people. They don't have amateurs going in there.”

Throughout all the organization and regu-

lations, the Calgary MMA scene is propelled by fighters' continued interest in the sport. U of C student Max Dalsin is preparing for the second professional fight of his career Apr. 5. Strongly based in jujitsu, Dalsin, who transplanted himself from Victoria to Calgary a few years ago, sees his involvement in MMA as something that just made sense.

“I used to fight a lot in hockey and everything else,” he says. “I was pretty good and played at a high level, but I found that, whatever sport it was, I was fighting at the end, so I might as well just stick with the fighting.”

He moved to Calgary to attend university and hone his kickboxing skills with coaches Dan Miller and Don Boswell, accomplished fighters in that discipline, as well as further his ground fighting skills, training with the wrestling community and athletes like Comfort.

What probably seems surprising to the unassuming onlooker is Dalsin's priority to finish his degree before pursuing his sport at

a higher level. He and a new generation of athletes are hoping to change the stereotypical image of MMA fighters.

“We have guys who are university students, master's students and they fight,” says Comfort. “It's not just about violence. It's one of the purest ways to test your will and what you're made of.”

But despite the changing connotations, the realities of being a non-varsity athlete still make training and recognition harder for many university students involved in activities like MMA.

“The off-campus student athlete has a lot of obstacles in the way because they don't get the same kind of leeway that the varsity athletes get in some cases,” Comfort adds. “Make no mistake, the varsity athletes don't get a lot of leeway, but you don't get to train on campus very much other than your random workout, doing weights and cardio.”

In attempts to enrich the MMA community at U of C, Comfort says they are working with campus recreation to formalize a mixed martial arts program on campus. The Students' Union even sanctioned a club for the sport, which was, unfortunately, disbanded this year.

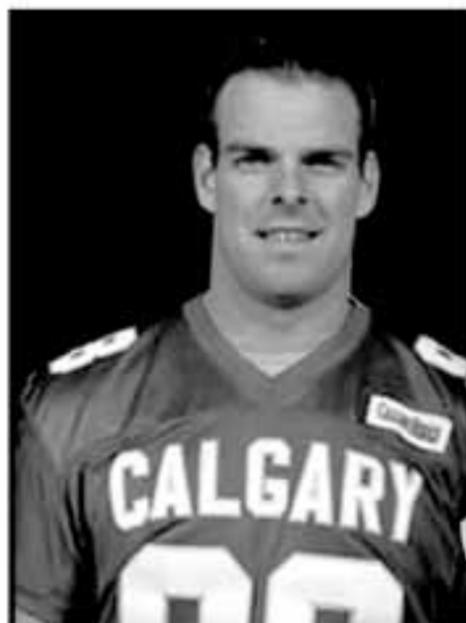
With the changing face of MMA, the community is trying to find the happy balance between its original marketing style, touting fights as utterly brutal and, alternately, trying to appeal to fans who want to see a plain, old beating and setting a new tone for its perception, one that includes an appreciation for the fighters' finesse and talent.

“People sort of sell it as something that's really barbaric, because that's what sells tickets,” says Dalsin. “On the other hand, it takes a lot more brute strength to do this. You have to be a complete athlete and I don't think that people get enough credit for the training and athleticism that goes into it. They think we're going into it to smash each other's faces in and stuff. There's just so much going on that the untrained eye can't see.”

Comfort agrees.

“Honestly, that market is still out there and people will want to come watch mixed martial arts because it's always going to be violent,” he says. “But ultimately, mixed martial arts is now moving on from being a spectacle to being a sport.”

Max faces off against Chris Enns at the Victoria Pavilion at Stampede Park Apr. 5. The fight starts at 7 p.m.



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Getting to know the National League

baseballpreview

Joshua Goard-Baker
Gauntlet Sports

What a difference one week makes. Last week, this preview projected Scott Rolen for a huge year, making the difference in the Toronto Blue Jays lineup. Now, Rolen will be out of that Jays lineup until late Apr., at the very least. This still gives him five or so months to shine in the “centre of the Canadian universe.” Sunday marked the beginning of a new era in the U.S. capital, with a brand-new national’s park. The stadium might boost attendance in Washington D.C., which would in turn boost payroll. That payroll jump might, just maybe, alter the landscape in the National League in the future, but for now, the nationals are going to be playing mediocre baseball in

their \$611 million stadium.

There’s other interesting news, if you’re a Blue Jays fan. Despite the disappointment of the rainout yesterday, it might have given the Jays’ brass more time to negotiate with budding young star Alex Rios on a new \$65 million contract that would lock him up through to 2014. Despite the heftiness of the contract, it might not be enough if Rios continues to develop the way he has.

Now, the National League—or the “lesser” league, as some call it—is in a sad state of affairs that it can barely put up a fight against American League clubs when Oct. hits. This year will probably be no different, as the world championship will most certainly be won by one of the powerful AL clubs this year. The NL boasts some spectacular talent, and some of the best superstars in the game. The two most powerful first basemen play on NL clubs are both under the age of 30—Albert Pujols of

St. Louis Cardinals and Ryan Howard with the Philadelphia Phillies, while one of the best young third basemen can be found in David Wright of the New York Mets, a player some general managers might choose to build a team around.

New York Mets: They are probably the team to beat in the NL after picking up Johan Santana from the Minnesota Twins in the off-season and maybe the best left side of the infield in all of baseball with Wright and José Reyes at third base and short stop, respectively. The Mets rotation is spectacular at the top with Santana and Pedro Martinez who is apparently healthy. After that, things get a little dicey. John Maine, Oliver Perez and Mike Pelfrey are definitely not the three most would choose to round out their rotation and the bullpen is thin as well with Billy Wagner holding the clubs closing duties. The Mets,

like their New York counterparts, the Yankees, will score a ton runs and they drew the lucky card of not having to play in the tough AL east, or even the AL for that matter.

Biggest surprise prediction of ’08: John Maine wins 12 games or less.

No surprise prediction of ’08: It’s getting to that time where Carlos Delgado might need to think about donning an AL jersey so he can get off the field and focus on his role as designated hitter.

Philadelphia Phillies: The best team in the NL is the Phillies. From top to bottom, their batting lineup is littered with players who can hit the ball out of the park at any given time. They have the best first basemen in the league in Howard, the best second basemen with Chase Utley and last year’s NL MVP at short in Jimmy Rollins. Shane Victorino and Pat Burrell offer good options for any team in the outfield, while Jayson Werth and Geoff Jenkins are a comparable platoon pairing in right field. The rotation has Cole Hamels and Brett Myers at the top as two young pitchers who might be on the verge of stardom, while bionic 45-year-old man Jamie Moyer rounds out the top three. The bullpen is thin and lost the services of Brad Lidge for the time being while he recovers from injury.

Biggest surprise prediction of ’08: Howard strikes out less than 150 times during the season.

No surprise prediction of ’08: Hamels wins 18 games and the Phillies win the NL east.

Those are the two teams that might pose any sort of threat to AL supremacy this year, but everything changes over a 162-game season. The Los Angeles Dodgers, with new skipper Joe Torre, could very well turn some heads this year and end their underachieving ways. Meanwhile, the Chicago Cubs and Milwaukee Brewers are set to duke it out all summer for the NL central title and the last remaining playoff spot. At this point, the safe bet is on the Brewers, since the Cubs always seem to find a way to lose from either fan interference or player miscues. Last year’s Cinderella teams, the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies, won’t be able to sneak up on anyone this year. Out of the two, the Diamondbacks are the most likely to return to the post-season if they can halt any Dodger uprising. Luckily for NL west teams, the Dodgers, Diamondbacks, Rockies and Padres, they will have the pleasure of destroying the San Francisco Giants all season. The Giants are in for an awful year and might rival the Baltimore Orioles in losses.

The four NL playoff teams will be the Mets, Phillies, Brewers and Diamondbacks. Enjoy the season!

Individual and miscellaneous predictions

NL Cy Young: Johan Santana

NL MVP: Mark Teixeira

NL rookie of the year: Cameron Maybin

Surprise play-off pick: Atlanta Braves

NLCS champion: Milwaukee Brewers. No, seriously. Yeah, the Brewers.

Let’s play some physical chess

fencingfeature

Amanda Hu
Sports Editor

“En garde!”

While the epic cry of d’Artagnan and others who ventured into sword-fighting duels seems like an echo of the past, modern fencers are strongly continuing the finessed Renaissance

combat art to this very day.

Fencing involves the use of three different implements—foil, épée and sabre—to battle one-on-one with an opponent. The weapons all vary in size, shape, weight and in rules regarding valid hit points on the body during a match. The sport’s movements are more equated to strategic placements rather than spontaneous slashes or pokes.

“People call it physical chess,” says

Epic Fencing Club president and University of Calgary student Brita Goldie. “It’s very pre-planned. It’s like, ‘I’ll do this and they’ll do that and then I’ll do this to counter it.’ Before you do anything, especially in épée, you figure out what you’re going to do and what the other person’s going to do in return.”

Points are awarded based on an athlete scoring a touch on their

see FENCING, page 16

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Start on April 28 (3rd floor MacEwan Hall, U of C)
6:30 pm: SWING • 8 pm: RUMBA
Start on May 26 (Our Lady of Grace Church, 1714 14 Ave. NE.)
6:30 pm: QUICKSTEP • 8 pm: SAMBA

Tuesday (3 week) Workshops by Nino Acosta
Start on April 8 (3rd floor MacEwan Hall, U of C)
6:30 pm SALSA LEVEL 1 • 8 pm: BACHATA
Start on April 29 (3rd floor MacEwan Hall, U of C)
6:30 pm SALSA LEVEL 2 • 8 pm: CUMBIA

Wednesday (3 week) Workshops by Lisa Senn (McIntyre)
Start on May 28 (Varsity Community Centre, 4303 Varsity Dr. NW)
6:30 pm: W.C SWING • 8 pm: TWO-STEP

Thursday (3 week) Workshops by Bryan Senn
Start on May 29 (Varsity Community Centre, 4303 Varsity Dr. NW)
6:30 pm TANGO • 8 pm: MAMBO



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Austin Paladeau
Sports Columnist

The other night, I was over at my buddy Adin's house enjoying a beer and the cinematic gem *No Country For Old Men*, when he turned to me and asked me who I thought was the most valuable player in the NBA this season. I stared at him in disbelief, partially because everyone knows Chris Paul of the New Orleans Hornets deserves the award and partially because he interrupted a scene in the movie involving Javier Bardem and Woody Harrelson that was pretty intense—if you have seen the movie, you know which part I'm referring to. Without answering him, I silently turned my attention back to the movie and attempted to immerse myself back into the story. Unfortunately, my dear friend had planted what I refer to as the "sports hypothetical" bug in my head and, as you would know if you have ever had this particular affliction, there was no getting it out.

As my mind wandered through Paul highlights from this past season, I began to concede that maybe I had accepted the conventional wisdom too easily and perhaps Paul was not the runaway MVP as many talking heads would have you believe. Contemplating it more in depth, one could argue that each team in the playoff picture in the western conference has an MVP candidate on their roster, with names such as Kobe Bryant, Baron Davis and Steve Nash leading the way. This is not to mention what the green giant, Kevin Garnett, has done for the Celtics in the east. As I stared blankly at the television watching images of Mexican drug runners, sawed off shotguns and really bad hair cuts dance across the screen, something occurred to me: *No Country For Old Men* could easily be construed as a metaphor for the race for the MVP award in the NBA.

Thinking about it, each potential MVP fits rather neatly into the character archetypes portrayed by Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem and Josh Brolin. Chris Paul is the—somewhat—loveable Llewelyn Moss, a man who finds himself in the apparently enviable

position of having found \$2 million lying on the ground after a horrific drug deal gone wrong. Likewise, Paul finds himself in the enviable position of being the forerunner in the MVP race after enduring two years on a very bad team in a very bad situation (New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina). In the movie, Anton Chigurh is charged with the task of retrieving the ill-begotten loot from Moss. Enter Bryant, the main antagonist to Paul's aspirations of adding the MVP hardware to his collection. The man often referred to as "The Black Mamba" has set his sights on taking what he views as rightfully his, all on his way to leading the Lakers back to championship glory. Like Chigurh in *No Country*, Bryant will not rest until he accomplishes his goals.

Finally, we have the character portrayed by Jones, Ed Tom Bell. An old-west Texas sheriff on his way out the door, Bell most accurately resembles Nash, although perhaps not in the way you would think. Nash is neither old, relatively speaking, nor really all that close to retirement. What he represents, though, is the old guard: the class of men who have been around the game for a long time, have had success—in Nash's case, back-to-back MVP titles—and are in the hunt for more. Unfortunately, much like Bell, Nash is doomed to always be a step behind Paul and Bryant this year and possibly for the remainder of his days in the league. He will eventually fade into the sunset, having never fully realized how close he came to catching the two men who were so near his grasp.

Turning back to my friend, I offered my thesis to him regarding the MVP race and *No Country*. Having never seen the movie previous to this viewing, I think my theory was completely lost on him, although he did offer a rather sage insight after I was done explaining.

"Well, that may be true, but I suppose I won't know who comes out on top until the movie is over," he said.

He was correct with this assessment.

Until the final buzzer rings on the NBA season, there will be no definitive answer. All we can do is sit back and enjoy watching the cat-and-mouse game unfold.

movies that matter

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Fencing, cont'd from page 14

opponent that is within the valid hit areas for each specific discipline. Within the strategy lies the push-and-pull between taking advantage of openings the opponent makes and maintaining one's own defence.

In Calgary, fencing has a strong following with clubs like Epic and the University of Calgary fencing club that provide a place for those with an interest in the sport to learn the skills, train and be involved in a community. The Alberta Fencing Association also plays a large role in promoting athletes that are trying to move to national and Olympic levels.

"There's a very strong community aspect," says Goldie. "Once you're in it, you're our friend for life. We also have a lot more competitions than the east does. A lot goes on in Calgary. You're able to compete within the city if you want to compete, so you don't have to travel as much."

Most fencers train rigorously throughout the year under a regime of mixed disciplines to strengthen the many aspects of their technique. Epic member and junior nationals champion Anthony Prymack says that even the nature of their tournament arenas and training grounds can be injury-causing, leaving him to resort to unexpected recuperation methods.

"It's really hard on your body, because you're fencing in these competitions that have cement floors, almost like the Calgary Round-up Centre," he says. "I'd be pulling my [gluteus medius] and my lower back was going out of wack, so I started doing some yoga to become more flexible and those problems went away."

In addition to injuries, young

athletes involved in fencing face challenges in balancing schoolwork and training. Most view moving over to Europe, where the sport got its start and the best of the world can be found, as the logical step when considering the Olympics, while those who choose to remain in Calgary while working towards high-level goals face lots of travelling.

As Calgary fights to gain attention as a fencing centre in Canada and in North America, the community is struggling to keep afloat, to the detriment of the athletes that pour so much of their time into being involved. Prymack cites lack of funding and attention as a made deficit for the sport in Calgary.

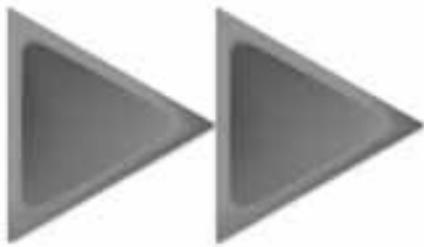
"I wouldn't say [fencing] is a dying sport," he says. "There is a super-strong community. If you stay in the sport, you usually end up volunteering with the organization, or being a coach or referee for tournaments. The Alberta Fencing Association works hard to develop athletes. The fencing community here is trying really hard."

Goldie agrees, saying that while, priority is often placed on the high-level athletes, the community needs to be fostered in order to keep help those that want to learn more in the sport and eventually advance.

"I think there needs to be more publicity because people don't even know there are fencing clubs in Calgary or even fencing in Canada," she says. "Before we can start getting more support, we need people to realize that there are more communities available for fencing opportunities. Sport Canada only funds the best of the best, like the top-eight in the world. A lot of our funding comes from people joining and taking the classes."



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Paul Baker/the Gauntlet

Anthony Prymack (r) faces off against his opponent.

We're all winners, really

Night of the Dino honours U of C athletes

nigh to the dino

Amanda Hu
Sports Editor

The 41st Annual Night of the Dino commandeered MacEwan Hall for a night of shiny awards and smiling faces Tue., Apr. 1.

The Dinos celebrated their various achievements this year, including CIS gold and silver in men's and women's swimming, CIS bronze in women's volleyball, CW gold in cross country, ACAC silver in women's hockey, CIS silver and CW gold for men's and women's track and field and CIS silver in women's wrestling.

Graduating athletes and fifth-years were honoured for their continued dedication to Dinos athletics and continued success in balancing their varsity careers and scholastic endeavours. In addition to the teams' laurels, the athletes came together to recognize their peers' various individual achievements.

Awards of merit were given to outstanding Dinos athletes Jared Aulin for men's hockey, Justine Bouchard for women's wrestling, Courtney Coyle for women's basketball Mark Dewit for football and men's wrestling, Sam Effah for men's track and field, Chad Hankewich for men's swimming, Amonn Nelson for women's track and field, Anthony Woodson for football and Julie Young for women's volleyball. All of these Dinos were also considered for the Dr. Dennis Kadatz athletes of the year.

Tyler Fidler from men's basketball and Breanna Hendriks from women's swimming took home Bill Popplewell rookie of the year honours. Fidler made a much-noticed contribution to his team averaging 22 minutes of play and 9.9 points per game and was considered the sixth man for most of the year. In addition to his newly awarded title, he was named to the CIS all-rookie team and holds CW rookie of the year. Hendriks followed the tradition of female swimmers named as CIS rookie of the year, following teammates Katy Murdoch and Kevyn Peterson. She was awarded two CIS silver medals and made the CIS second all-Canadian team.

Another honour was given on behalf of the Calgary Booster Club to give credit to students who excel both athletically and academically. Dewit made another appearance accepting this award after playing double-duty on the football and wrestling teams. His involvement garnered him both a trip to the CFL combine in Mar. as well as capturing the CIS heavyweight title. Tessa Gray represented the women's side for the scholarship when she was



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Omar Langford accepts his *Gauntlet* extra effort award.

recognized after her participation in the CIS gold medal-achieving 4x400 metre relay team as well as CW bronze individual medal.

The Dinos also took time in the ceremony to honour some individuals and groups that, while not athletes, heartily contributed to the teams' success this season.

The Murray Fraser student volunteer awards, given in the name of the former university president, were presented to event volunteer Shubham Tiwari and the NUTV Live! crew for their work during Dinos events and promoting awareness for the program. The Dr. Lou Goodwin award was presented to Tony Spoletini and Spolumbo's Deli for their continued support and hosting of Dinos football hour every week during the team's season. CIS 2008 wrestling championships volunteer chair Irene Buchan received the Marg Southern award, recognizing her achievements in bringing attention and acclaim to the tournament, held at the U of C Feb. 28 to Mar. 1. The Vereburn Athletic Therapy awards were bestowed upon Sarah Robinson and Tiffany Toombs for the excellent care and physical therapy they provided for Dinos athletes all year in the field and clinically.

Gauntlet sports editor Amanda Hu had the pleasure of presenting this year's *Gauntlet* extra effort award to women's soccer player Morena Ianniello and men's volleyballer Omar Langford. The extra effort award is given to one male and female athlete to recognize their perseverance and dedication to the pursuit of athletic excellence for the Dinos.

The last awards of the night,

the Dr. Dennis Kadatz athletes of the year, found themselves in the hands of Young and Effah. Young captained the women's volleyball team to another CIS bronze even in the wake of their coach, Kevin Boyles, taking on the role of interim athletic director. Individually, she tackled the roles of left side and libero and was named a first-team Canada West all-star and second-team all-Canadian. Young was surprised by the award and cited her win as a team and coaching triumph. Looking towards next year, with Boyles' role as IAD taking up all his time and the team working with a new coach, she sees the transition as a positive thing for the team.

"We really don't want to see Kevin leave, but we know it's the perfect opportunity for him," she said. "We're really happy with the new coach that's coming in, so I think it's going to be a really good and smooth transition."

Effah blew everyone away at CW and CIS this year, grabbing four gold medals at nationals and taking the titles of CIS championship MVP, CIS track athlete of the year and CW track athlete of the year. Though caught off-guard by the honour as well, he said that he sees next year as having even greater potential for individual and team success.

"It's been sort of a down year and it's been sort of competitive because a lot of fifth-year athletes graduated and then it was just me and the younger athletes," he said. "The team came second at Canada West championships [this year], so definitely going for the gold [is a goal]. We just need a lot more field guys. [On an individual level,] I'd just like to break a record or two."

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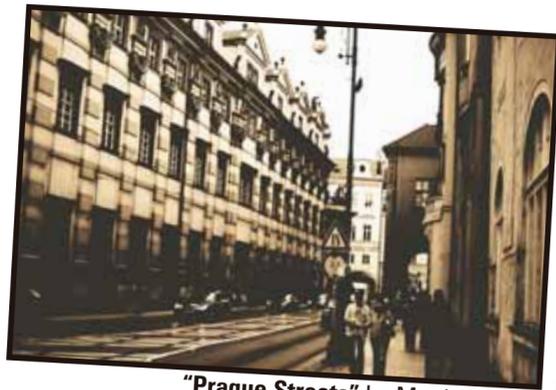
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"The View" by Paul Baker
Dover, England, 2007



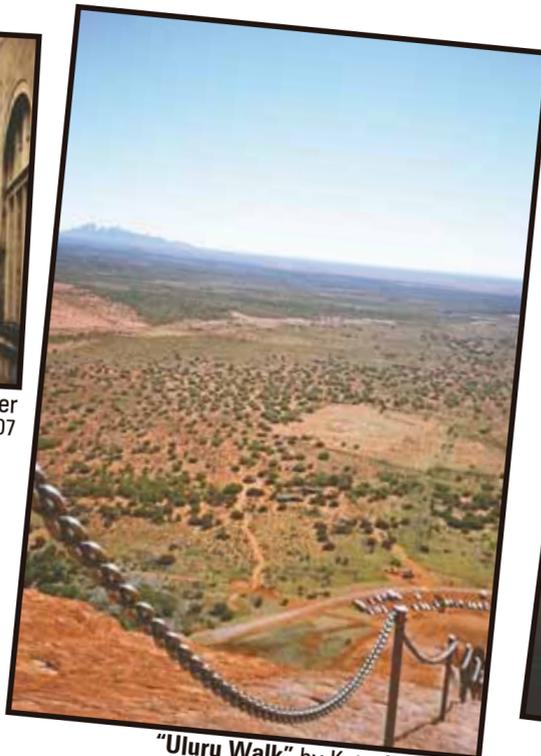
"Single Track" by Geoff MacIntosh
Maui, Hawaii, 2006



"Prague Streets" by Martin Lussier
Prague, The Czech Republic, 2007



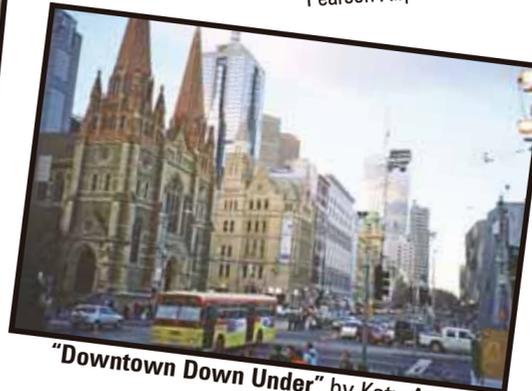
"Sweaters" by Jon Roe
Veradero, Cuba, 2007



"Uluru Walk" by Katy Anderson
Ayers Rock, Australia, 2005



"Anticipation" by John McDonald
Pearson Airport, Toronto, 2007



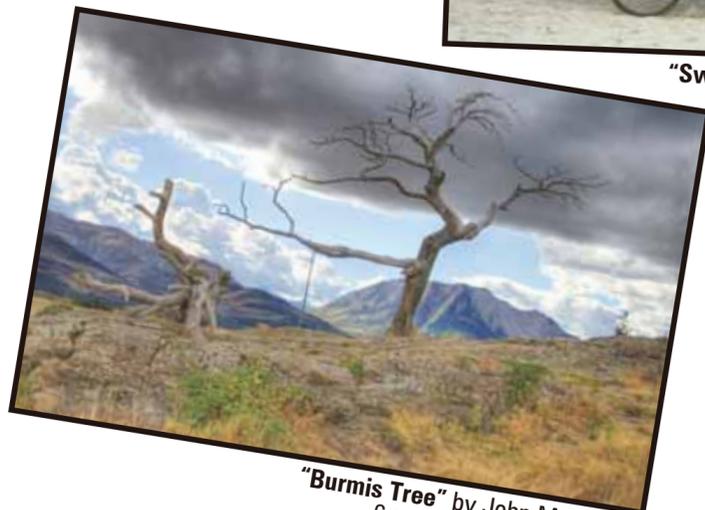
"Downtown Down Under" by Katy Anderson
Melbourne, Australia, 2005



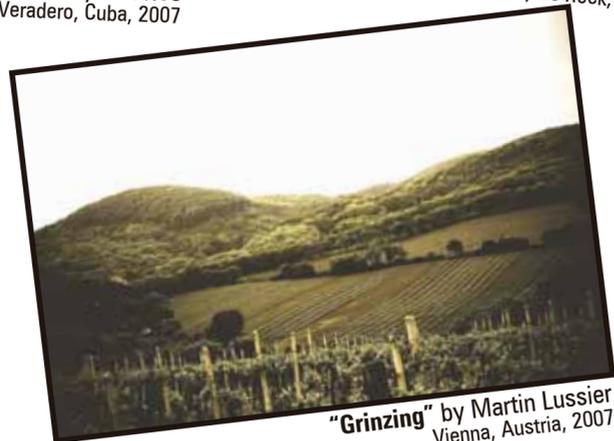
"Limited" by Leya Russell
Darjeeling, India, 2006



"Casa Loma" by Ryan May
Toronto, Ontario, 2007



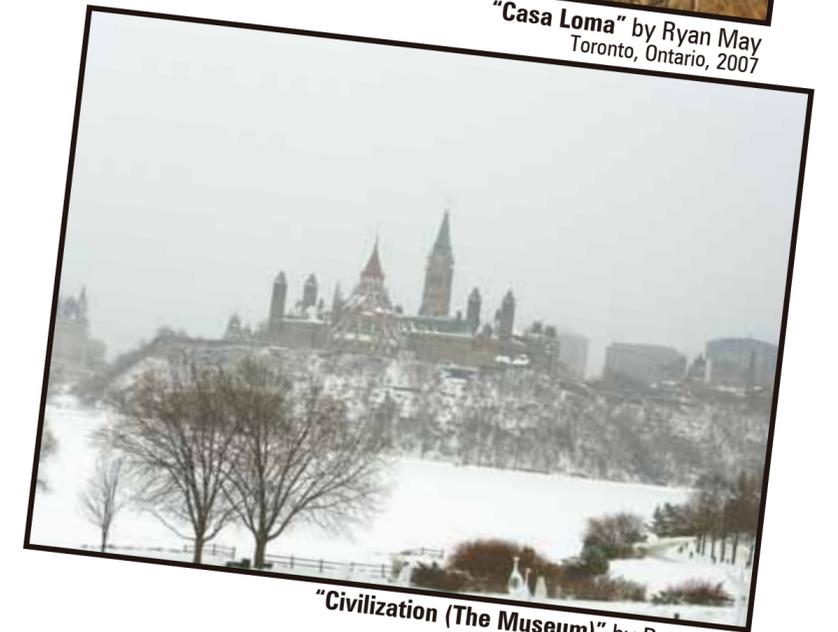
"Burmis Tree" by John McDonald
Crownsnest Pass, Alberta, 2007



"Grinzing" by Martin Lussier
Vienna, Austria, 2007



"Waterside" by Leya Russell
Galloway, Ireland, 2007



"Civilization (The Museum)" by Ryan May
Ottawa, Ontario, 2006



THE JUNO INVASION

CANADA'S MUSIC AWARDS COME TO TOWN

2008 Juno Awards event preview

Ryan Pike
Entertainment Editor

In Roman mythology, Juno was best known as the patron goddess of Rome and protector of the state. In popular culture, *Juno* is an indie film. However, Canadians typically associate Juno with the Juno Awards, held annually to honour the best of our nation's music.

The Juno Awards were first held in Toronto in 1970—then known as the Gold Leaf Awards—organized by record label head Stan Klees and *RPM Magazine* founder Walt Grealis. The awards were renamed the Junos in 1971, a shortened homage to inaugural CRTC head Pierre Juneau, and became a Canadian cultural staple. The ceremony left the cozy confines of Toronto in 1991 to travel the nation and this year have arrived in Calgary. Calgary Arts Development president/CEO Terry Rock sits on the

host committee and says the push to bring the awards to town began several years ago.

"It was in 2005 that we originally started and the pitch committee started meeting," remembers Rock. "We put the team together and took a bunch of people just kind of pitching in to see what was happening. From there, everyone who was interested got together and we invited a few more people who knew big events. We had some planning sessions and then scoped out a budget and had some key events that we were going to undertake and sort of built a team from there."

Historically, Calgary is known as a city with a great deal of volunteer spirit, with the 1988 Olympics being famed for its many volunteers. Not unexpectedly, the Juno Awards have also had tremendous community support.

"There was a group of about 20 people with our total planning committee," notes Rock. "That committee then grew with sub-committees to between 50 and 80 at various points. Now we've got over 1,000 volunteers

all engaged this weekend. We actually had double or more the number of volunteers [we needed.] Some people were disappointed because they weren't able to participate as volunteers."

Similar to how the Calgary Stampede captures the city in cowboy spirit, Rock says the organizers hope the Junos energizes Calgarians about Canadian music. To that end, the city will be transformed over the awards weekend into a musical wonderland. The centrepiece of the effort is Junofest.

"Junofest is a Juno Awards event," says Rock. "They actually hired a local producer, Greg Curtis from the U of C, [who] put a team together and a committee to pick artists and those kinds of things. He was also on the host committee as an advisor, so he's been involved in all of the planning. It was a good link between us and the Juno Awards in terms of having our vision be part of Junofest. If you look at the lineup for Junofest, it's so good. Calgary's really showing up in it as well."

The rest of Juno Awards weekend features a wide array of events span-

ning Calgary's various music venues as well as more unique settings, such as the airport. The festivities surrounding over the weekend are aimed at ensuring that the average Calgarian's Juno experience isn't limited to watching the show on CTV, but rather getting them to enjoy as much music as they can.

"Our number-one objective was to engage as many people as possible," states Rock. "This is the biggest city that's hosted the Juno Awards since it left Toronto. We've got a lot of people to let know what's happening and get excited about Canadian music. Right now it starts when you fly into Calgary; as part of the awards, there's live music at the airport and has been for the whole month of March. We're having surprise concerts this week on C-Trains, so you're going to be able to go on the train and have a ride with good music. We're just doing whatever we can to get as many people engaged as possible."

The 2008 Juno Awards air Sun., Apr. 6 beginning at 6 p.m. on CTV. The eTalk Daily at the Junos special begins at 5 p.m. The ceremony's at the Saddledome.

THE FESTIVITIES

sidebars by Jordyn Marcellus

Musicians in Motion—Fri., Apr. 5 and Sat., Apr. 6 from 12–2 p.m.

Juno fever has even infected public transit. Local musicians like Michael Bernard Fitzgerald will be playing 45-minute acoustic sets on the C-Train, a great opportunity to take out the headphones and be entertained by live music. At the very least it will definitely add a new dynamic to those crowded moments on the C-Train. Granted, the C-Train isn't especially crowded at 1:15 p.m. on a Saturday.

Free outdoor concert at Olympic Plaza—Thu., Apr. 3 from 5–11 p.m.

Free concerts are a pretty sweet deal. This free Thu. concert is the perfect way to start out the rockiest weekend in Calgary. Starting at 5 p.m. bands like the Dudes and Sloan will take to the stage at Olympic Plaza for a free show. Other acts include lesser known upstarts like Finger Eleven and Bedouin Soundclash.

Juno Cup—Fri., Apr. 5 starting at 7:30 p.m.

Hockey greats and music geeks fight it out on at the 2008 Juno Cup in the Stampede Corral. On the side of the hockey vets are Doug Gilmour and Paul Coffey against music mavericks

like Aaron Lines and Shout Out Out Out's Gravy—yes folks, that's what his jersey will say—on the side of the Rockers. Tickets only cost \$15 at Ticketmaster.

Juno Fan Fare—Sat., Apr. 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hob-nob with your favourite musicians at the Olympic Oval. With bands like illScarlett and Hedley, as well as singers like Joel Plaskett and rapper Belly, every fan of every genre will be quite pleased. It's free to attend and the doors open at 9 a.m. It's on a first-come, first-served basis—so be sure to get there

early to avoid long lineups.

Songwriter's Circle—Sun., Apr. 7 from noon to 2 p.m.

The lights go down in the Jack Singer Concert Hall at EPCOR Centre Sun. at noon as numerous Canadian songwriters, including Alberta's own Corb Lund and Tegan Quinn (of Tegan and Sara fame), tell stories and sing songs about their experience as singer-songwriters. After the two nights of drinking and partying at Junofest, the more intimate setting of the Songwriter's Circle is a rare treat indeed. \$35–40 at Ticketmaster.



far left photo by Daniel Pagan/The Gauntlet, rest by Ken Clarke/The Gauntlet

JUNO FEST

Even though most of the buzz about the Junos is devoted to big name celebrities, it's all about the music man. Pick up a wristband if you want to traipse around downtown to check out the greatest bands that Canada has to offer, or if an individual show tickles your fancy you can hit that venue up for \$10. Here are some of the best acts to check out.

Hip-Hop Show—Fri., Apr. 5, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

While the Underground is the place for the rockers, the DJs and rappers ride into the Undergrot for an epic night of hip-hop. Featuring local acts like Dragon Fli Empire and Skratch Bastid as well as DJ Alie and Deezuz, take a moment out of watching the wanky indie kids to check out this show.

Wintersleep—Fri., Apr. 5 at midnight

The great Halifax band comes back to Calgary, coming to the indie of venues—the Republik—Fri. at midnight. If you want to stay the night, you can check out local act Jane Vain and the Dark Matter afterward.

Pride Tiger—Fri., Apr. 5 at midnight

Sometimes, you just want to rock the fuck out. With their midnight show at the Warehouse, prepare your best rock-out face and get ready to pump your fist in the air as the Vancouver hard-rockers come out to see the Calgary crowd-surfing scene.

Indie Rock Night—Sat., Apr. 6, 10 p.m. at 1 a.m.

If you find yourself clad in the latest American Apparel couture Pitchfork Media pack into the Republik on Sat. for the indie night at the Junos. Local groups like Remote Kid, Axis of Conversation play at 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. with Most Serene Republic rocking the Republik at midnight. Then screw off to go see the Sadies.

The Sadies—Sat., Apr. 6 at 1 a.m.

Everything at the Junos tends to be a little bit rock 'n' roll, even though Calgary is a bit of a cowboy town. Worry not, square-dancers! The Sadies alt-country crooning is perfect for the second show at Broken City on Sat.

THE NOMINEES

Album of the Year

Avril Lavigne—*The Best Damn Thing*
Celine Dion—*D'elles*
Celine Dion—*Taking Chances*
Feist—*The Reminder*
Michael Bublé—*Call Me Irresponsible*
Anne Murray—*Duets: Friends and Legends*

Alternative Album of the Year

Arcade Fire—*Neon Bible*
Holy Fuck—*LP*
Patrick Watson—*Close to Paradise*

Tegan and Sara—*The Con*
Wintersleep—*Welcome to the Night Sky*

Group of the Year

Arcade Fire
Blue Rodeo
Finger Eleven
Hedley
Kain

International Album of the Year

Bon Jovi—*Lost Highway*
Fergie—*The Dutchess*
Josh Groban—*Noel*
Rihanna—*Good Girl Gone Bad*
Timbaland—*Timbaland Presents Shock Value*

For a rundown of all the nominees, head to junoawards.ca. 500 additional tickets for the Sun. awards ceremony will be made available Sat. morning at 10 a.m. at Ticketmaster.

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TOP 20 for the week of MAR 31.08

- * Denotes Canadian Artist
- ** Denotes Local Artist
- 1 **THESE HANDS***
He, Himself & Him (indie)
- 2 **LADYHAWK***
Shots (Jagjaguwar)
- 3 **BEIJA FLOR****
The American (Indie)
- 4 **NEPTUNE**
Gong Lake (Radium)
- 5 **SHE & HIM**
Volume One (Merge)
- 6 **THE BREEDERS**
Mountain Battles (4AD)
- 7 **DEVOTCHKA**
A Mad & Faithful Telling (Anti)
- 8 **THE SWORD**
Gods Of The Earth (Kemado)
- 9 **DESTROYER***
Trouble In Dreams (Merge)
- 10 **REMOTE KID****
Don't Make Me Quote Kennedy (Cardboard Box)
- 11 **BORN RUFFIANS***
Red Yellow & Blue (Warp)
- 12 **THE RAVEONETTES**
Lust Lust Lust (Vice)
- 13 **JASON COLLETT***
Here's To Being Here (Arts & Crafts)
- 14 **ALUN PIGGINS***
At War With The Elephants (Moldy Floor)
- 15 **GHOST HOUSE***
The Old Ghost House (Reluctant)
- 16 **GHOST HOUSE***
The Good Ghost House (Reluctant)
- 17 **HILOTRONS***
Happymatic (Kelp)
- 18 **EARTH**
The Bee Made Honey In The Lion's Skull (Southernlord)
- 19 **PAS CHIC CHIC!**
Au Contraire (Semprini)
- 20 **VARIOUS**
Love And Circuits: A Cardboard Records Compilation (Cardboard)

ELECTRONIC

- 1 **WOODHANDS***
Heart Attack (Paper Bag)
- 2 **BOYS NOIZE**
Oi Oi Oi Remixed (Last Gang)
- 3 **CRYSTAL CASTLES***
Crystal Castles (Last Gang)
- 4 **AMON TOBIN**
Kitchen Sink: Remix EP (Ninja Tune)
- 5 **THE TEENAGERS**
Reality Check (XL)

EXPERIMENTAL

- 1 **BERNARD FALAISE***
Clic (Actuelle)
- 2 **GANESH ANANDAN & JOHN GZOWSKI***
Shruti Project (Actuelle)
- 3 **POWER PILL FIST**
Kongmanivong (Gravface)
- 4 **MENACE RUINE***
Cult Of Ruins (Alien 8)
- 5 **BITCRUSH**
Epilogue In Waves (NSMD)

MYKE'S PICKS

- 1 **FUCK BUTTONS**
- 2 **ATLAS SOUND**
- 3 **THE HEAVY**
- 4 **THE OH SEES**
- 5 **LIVING BRIDGE**

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Second *Tree* time's the charm

Syringa Tree
 theatre preview

Ryan Pike
 Entertainment Editor

"You can never go home again." Sometimes you wouldn't want to bother, as home is often a horrible place filled with hardships that nobody really wants to go back to. However, it can be a pleasant place, chock full of happy memories that one longs to revisit. Alberta Theatre Projects now revisits a happy memory as they remount *The Syringa Tree*.

Originally debuting at ATP in Oct. 2005, *The Syringa Tree* (pronounced "sigh-ring-uh") tells the tale of Elizabeth Grace, from her childhood in South Africa onward. The inaugural Calgary performance was well received, to say the least, earning four Betty Mitchell Award nominations for excellence in theatre. Director Vanessa Porteous was nominated for her direction of the first mounting of *The Syringa Tree* and is back to try it all again.

"There were a lot of things about the play that made me fall in love with it," says Porteous. "The one thing I may say I thought it was an amazing expression of South Africa, which is such a fascinating country. More profoundly, the play has a very emotional impact. It's very moving. I think that the relationship between the daughter and the father and the sense of recalling your childhood and all of its joy and horror, those two aspects really touched me."

The first run of *The Syringa Tree* was met with a great deal of critical acclaim, particularly singled around actress Meg Roe. In one of the more challenging roles in Calgary theatre, Roe played 23 characters and won her second Betty Mitchell Award for her efforts. Porteous had previously directed Roe to her first award win



courtesy Alberta Theatre Projects

Meg Roe stars in *The Syringa Tree* and plays 23 roles. Some actors struggle to play just one.

for ATP's production of *Proof* several years previous and knew she was up to the challenge.

"Meg's a beautiful young actress who's played a lot of what we call *ingénue* roles in theatre," shares Porteous. "She's played Anne Frank, Juliet—young girls. She seems younger than she is on stage, but I'd seen her at Theatre Junction playing what we'd describe as character roles, where she plays the wacky secretary or the maid or a crazy old lady or a tough-as-nails journalist. I'd seen her do those roles, so I knew she had extraordinary range as a performer."

The return of such a beloved play to the stage of the Martha Cohen Theatre has led to some speculation: will the remount be anywhere near as good as the original run? When asked if the team feels any pressure to top themselves, Porteous feels they have to approach the play the way they did initially.

"Of course you do feel pressure, anyone would," she shares. "It's partly because you want to provide

the right experience for the audience, the experience you know that they can have. You don't want to cheat them. You know what the potential impact of the show is. You don't want to cheat them and disappoint them but, basically, you can't think about that. You have to go at the production with courage and faith and trust, the way you did the first time."

Porteous feels the remount will be improved from the first run-through in a few subtle ways. The first-time audience member may not notice the differences, but those who caught the play in 2005 will see a few minor tweaks.

"The person who's coming to see the show for the second time, they'll notice it's the same set, the same costumes, the same sound cues, the same actress and, of course, the same script," says Porteous. "The lighting is quite similar, although I think we've had the chance this time around to finesse the lighting so that it's richer and deeper. I would say the same thing about the produc-

tion as a whole. We didn't go out of our way to approach it differently, just to keep it fresh, but because it's our second time through and we're a little bit older as people, I think we're bringing just a little more experience to this situation."

In creative endeavours, including the theatre, it's rare that a production is remounted with much of the initial cast and crew intact. Porteous feels very fortunate to have been brought back by ATP to revisit such a successful show.

"I think it's really exciting to be having a chance to do this production again and to work with this extraordinary team of people," she says. "It's not just Meg; it's the designers and the stage management team. It's a rare privilege in the theatre to a chance to have another go at a project that you felt like you accomplished quite a bit [with] on the first go around and you're asked back to do it again."

Syringa Tree runs Apr. 1-20 in Martha Cohen Theatre.

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Superman's bane: lawyers and Kryptonite

California court ruling calls ownership of Man of Steel into question



Ryan Pike
Entertainment Editor

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... a bunch of lawyers? In a landmark ruling, a California judge ruled the heirs of Superman co-creator Jerry Siegel have had, since 1999, a valid legal claim to the copyright to the first Superman story, 1938's *Action Comics #1*. The ruling is the latest chapter in a long story rife with intrigue, suspense and litigation.

Created in 1932 by writer Jerry Siegel and Canadian artist Joel Shuster, the character remained unpublished until it was sold to National Allied Publications (the precursor to DC Comics) in 1938 for \$130 and a contract to write stories for the character at \$10 a page. According to comic book historian Jamie Coville, a 1941 magazine article stated that the entire team producing Superman comics made \$75,000 at the time—of which \$59,000 was to be split between the creators—when the licensing alone from the char-

acter made \$1.5 million for the company. The unhappy Siegel and Shuster soon sued National for ownership. In 1948, the New York Supreme Court ruled they owned the copyright for the less popular Superboy and granted them each a \$60,000 settlement. The pair sold Superboy back to National and left the company.

DC Comics filed Superman's trademark in 1938 for a term of 28 years, according to a 1973 lawsuit by the co-creators citing the copyright act of 1909. The copyright was renewed in 1966 for an additional 28 years and again in 1994 for 19 years. However, a copyright act passed in 1976 granted the creators or their heirs the ability to reclaim the copyright anytime from 1994 to 1999. Though he passed away in 1996, Siegel's estate filed to terminate the copyright in 1999 and Shuster's estate filed to reclaim the copyright following the end of DC's current claim in 2013. The Siegel claim was immediately appealed and has been in court ever since.

Last week, California Federal District Court Judge Stephen G. Larson not only ruled the Siegel estate claim was valid, but that it was valid retroactively to 1999. In



Paul Baker/The Gauntlet

an interview with Comic Book Resources, copyright lawyer Brendan McFeely clarified the ruling's implications: the Siegels only regained a share of the copyright within the United States, not internationally, and it's unclear

what the ruling really means in terms of proportion. The court noted that many major elements of the Superman stories were created well after his first appearance.

"It's very likely that DC and Time Warner will have to cough

up a very, very large amount of money to the Siegels," McFeely concluded.

The case goes to trial in May and is expected to be tied up in courts for a while. *Superman Returns* grossed \$200 million in the U.S. and the five comic series regularly featuring the character sold 268,000 copies in Jan. 2008, a fairly typical month for sales. The Siegels regained the rights to Superboy via a ruling in Apr. 2006 (retroactive to Nov. 2004) and subsequently DC has restricted use of the Superboy name in print while the case is under appeal.

Superman appears monthly in *Action Comics*, *Superman*, *Superman Confidential*, *Superman/Batman* and *Justice League of America* and the adventures of a young Superman can be seen on TV's *Smallville*. As yet, little is known regarding the implications the Superman case will have on the various properties the character is involved in.

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Murderous husbands with good intentions

M a r r i e d L i f e
f i l m r e v i e w

Hoang-Mai Hong
Gauntlet Entertainment

So you say you'd like to murder your wife to run off with a (much, much younger) platinum-blond war widow? This turns out to be the rather dark place Harry Allen finds himself in *Married Life*. It all becomes much more complex than this, of course. This smart and entertaining homage to '40s noir-comedy, with traces of Hitchcock, surprises by fleshing out not only the besotted and confused Harry (Chris Cooper), but also the "vic-

tim" wife, the lothario best friend and the bottle-blond with bright red lips.

Set in the late '40s, *Married Life* plays with the complexities of love and what it may constitute, both in marriage and out of it. Pat (Patricia Clarkson) is Harry's straightforward wife who maintains that love to her is sex. Harry is a sentimental creature, though, whose solid marriage built on sex and companionship is not enough. Romantic love is what he wants. He confesses this to his best friend, the smooth, womanizing Rich (Pierce Brosnan) over martinis and cigars before he introduces him to his new gal, Kay (Rachel McAdams). As soon as she walks into the room, Rich falls hard for her, too.

The stunning and far-from-innocent Kay is exactly the kind of woman a guy would do anything to be with. Before we know it, the hasty Harry jumps to the terrible but weirdly thoughtful conclusion that his wife—who he wouldn't want to put through a divorce and the subsequent loneliness—would be better off dead. This strange turn toys with the audience and starkly contrasts with what up until that point was a light period picture of manners. The suspense is tautly held by whether or not Harry will do the deed, and how. Ingeniously, it's genuinely believable that he really has affection for his wife and that he really wants to kill her for somewhat noble (though still selfish) reasons. Caught between it

all is Rich, who could alleviate it all by just revealing what he knows, if only he weren't successfully wooing and falling for Kay himself.

Aside from the fact that Cooper and Brosnan are probably a decade too old for their roles, they are a hell of a lot of fun to watch. Cooper, who is probably a little typecast in those rough corrupt federal agent/spy roles, is surprising as the respectable and sensitive husband. His scenes with the sublime Clarkson show a marriage still full of compassion. It's completely understood why they really don't want to leave each other, while at the same time lies are swapped between the two of them with complete nonchalance. Brosnan is an old hand at playing the smooth

guy with a martini in hand and it is a comfortable role, though he's given more to expand on this time around. Emerging from the Bond movies, he's somehow re-invented himself and this role is in the long line of films (like *The Matador*) that have rebuffed the whole Bond veneer to great effect.

The movie keeps you guessing and doesn't under-use its talented actors. It hands each of them surprising and thankfully complex characters that are more than the sum of their stereotypes. Overall, *Married Life* is compelling entertainment: complex, thoughtful and darkly funny.

Married Life opens Fri., Apr. 4.

A barrage of singing, dancing Nazis

Ilsa Nazi Love Camp
t h e a t r e p r e v i e w

Jordyn Marcellus
E&P Editor

Even though it's 20 years old, *Ilsa, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp* is still relevant. While people deride the supposedly politically correct sphere we currently live in, one look at *Ilsa* now shows that our society hasn't really come that far. With the Calgary-based Aryan Guard spreading their hate speech, *Ilsa's* message about the horrifying and disturbed nature of denying history

and reality is still needed.

Originally created by local theatre company One Yellow Rabbit as a satirical reaction to the then-ongoing James Keegstra trials, the play features a trifecta of comical characters. Andy Curtis plays Keegstra as a doofus with a Howdy Doody streak and a self-righteous side a mile long. OYR ensemble member Denise Clark plays the Teutonic Temptress—the titular Ilsa—to pitch perfection. Her German accent doesn't detract from her performance, something that can't always be said for some theatre companies. Lastly is Michael Green, co-artistic director of OYR as

the Colonel, a Nazi military officer who escaped to Uruguay after the war. Green's performance is the most varied. In some parts, he plays a maniacal, over-the-top Nazi who can make a mockery of Hitler and then suddenly get deadly serious.

Even though there are three main characters, the actors slip into other roles from time to time to help drive the story along. Many of these characters come with hyper-kinetic physicalities and it's impressive to see the three sing, dance and move with such force over the play's 90 minutes.

Ilsa is a musical and where most musicals are extravagant

affairs featuring intricate song and dance numbers with an entire orchestra, *Ilsa* instead features two musicians, both of whom performed the music in the play's original run. Karl Roth's violin work is exquisite and heartfelt with composer/pianist David Rhymer's music is evocative when necessary and light and airy when the comedy is needed.

As a celebration of One Yellow Rabbit's 25th anniversary, there's a lot to consider when watching the play. Originally produced for \$500 in 1987, it still retains its original time period and set. Tires litter the stage, and the only major set piece is a bed frame with a truck's rusting hood attached. The play isn't a technical *tour de force* with expansive sets and gorgeous pyrotechnics. The more intimate setting of the Big Secret Theatre and the simple set help to drive home the play's point: that it's impossible to deny a well documented event without looking like a foolish dunce.

Throughout the play, there is an interplay between Keegstra's anti-Semitic rants to his class and the disregard given to him by the community. In the beginning, he comes across as a lovable crackpot—who then opens his mouth about the Jews and loses any real sympathy. This is contrasted to the Colonel and Ilsa, who are very much proud of their work in Nazi Germany. It shows how deluded Keegstra really is when he talks

about how the Nazis were really secret Jews to the Colonel's grimacing shock and dismay.

Conversely, listening to the absurdity of some of the Nazis more carnal indulgences are a treat. For example, in the play, Ilsa boils down the core of the Nazi's sex camps in one simple statement: "I had to whack Hitler off."

This little bit of comedy is a nice little indulgence for the audience, but at times the play switches gears suddenly into super-serious mode. After nearly 90 minutes of laughing at the incredibly stupid shtick of two Nazis and a Holocaust-denier, the play suddenly gets sombre with the final musical number "Sun Goes Down Over Auschwitz." It's a gut-punch *par excellence*, one that makes the audience member suddenly realize that while it's fun to laugh at the incredible ignorance of Keegstra, what he was denying in the first place was an absolute atrocity.

Even though *Ilsa, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp* is a comedy, the deeper message is still very much out there. This isn't some play that attempts to make you think about its themes. When you have people still spouting the same uninformed tripe even 20 years later, you don't need to couch your theme in a subtle manner.

Ilsa, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp runs at Big Secret Theatre until Sun., Apr. 12. Tickets at Ticketmaster.

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ALBUM REVIEWS



Gnarl Barkley
The Odd Couple
(Atlantic Records)

Does anyone actually know the title of the Baha Men's follow-up to *Move It Like This*—known best for “Who Let the Dogs Out”? Not really. They had one huge hit single and then faded into obscurity. While *the Odd Couple* may not have the single great track that freshman album *St. Elsewhere* had, it's overall a much better album. Which means there won't be any fading into obscurity for the two American neo-sousters known as Gnarl Barkley anytime soon.

Overall, the songs on *the Odd Couple* are much snappier, with producer Danger Mouse's instrumentation reaching new levels of sonic lushness. With jungle drumming and birds chirping in the background, “Open Book” is evocative of Tarzan swinging on vines, pining for his Jane. Moving away from jungle rhythms to a song for the geeks, second single “Whatever” channels the basement-dwelling *Dungeons and Dragon* kid's nerd-longing for a normal life.

More than anything, *the Odd Couple* proves that *St. Elsewhere* wasn't a one-off success. There's nothing that really blows the listener away, which is the closest thing to a criticism about the record. Conversely, the tracks are overall much more consistent and fun. Danger Mouse provides a wide variety of instrumentation and singer Cee-Lo Green's voice helps keep a cohesive soul flavour to the tracks. While their two wildly differing styles may be a bit strange, this couple has now finally proven that they can keep making the highest quality albums with enough diversity for everyone.

..Jordyn Marcellus



Man Man
Rabbit Habits
(Anti- Records)

We've all wondered at some point what Tom Waits would sound like if he was born 30 years later and wore a viking helmet. We can finally find out with *Rabbit Habits*. Two years after their sophomore album, *Six Demon Bag*, Man Man return with another collection foot-tapping, fist-fighting gypsy-pop.

Known for wearing war paint and playing rambunctious, over-the-top live shows, the songs contained on this CD make you feel like there's a bunch of drunk guys performing in front of you. Not to say the music is sloppy, but the recordings have an energy usually only found at a dance party or a punk show.

Ranging from deranged rock to gypsy folk to American swing, *Rabbit Habits* delivers

across the spectrum. From the first note, one can tell the album is going to be a different experience with strange noises, gypsy chanting and vocalist Honus Honus' gruff voice. The band incorporates different instruments throughout and every track on the album is a new concept to wrap your head around.

With bizarre lyrics such as “you look bodacious/ in a guillotine/ when you look right through me, girl/ it sucks me down the street,” it's at times difficult to understand just what they are trying to convey. That's fine. Who really listens to lyrics when they're jitterbugging the night away?

..Jordan Fritz



The Kills
Midnight Boom
(Domino Records)

Midnight Boom is like the incredibly hot guy or girl that you just can't quite get a read on—it's coy, a little sexy but with just a hint of guile to it. While the Kills have never been about creating an all-out sonic boom meant to blow their listeners away, this is the closest thing to it.

The Kills have been most famous for their two-person minimalist blues-infused rock sound that still remains a centrepiece on the album. Instead of phoning it in, they try to introduce new elements—like the marching band drumline of lead single “Cheap and Cheerful”—definitely a new indulgence for a band that continues to use a drum machine for most of their songs. While it's still very much a blues-rock-oriented album,

tracks like “Alphabet Pony” feature dark and fuzzy guitars with a drum beat straight from playground clapping games.

The Kills were started as a reaction to the pomp and pretension of big-name bands and their major labels. While *Midnight Boom* is still very much a Kills album with sharp guitar riffs and V.V. Mosshart's smoke-filled crooning, this album can only lead to ruin for the act, as they have slowly begun to take part in the things they once hated. Still, *Midnight Boom* clocks in at a tight 34 minutes with enough good tracks to cover the price of admission—something that still can't be said for a majority of major-label records.

..Jordyn Marcellus



Dearly Beloved
RepoRepo
(Warner)

In the two years since the release of their debut album, *You Are the Jaguar*, Dearly Beloved has been touring and preparing their follow-up. While not suffering from the dreaded sophomore slump, the strangely-titled *RepoRepo* doesn't have much to say.

From opener “Candy Coated,” Dearly Beloved unabashedly shows off all their strengths and weaknesses. The majority of songs on the album are all fast, energetic and short. The musical arrangements are clean and clear, allowing the band to effectively showcase their vocals. This poses a problem, as the music is toe-tapping fun, but the lyrics themselves are devoid of meaning. The album's scant,

35-minute duration breezes by and Dearly Beloved seem to be in a hurry to get somewhere, but can't seem to figure out where that actually is. As it stands, many of the song titles are much cleverer than the songs themselves, with smirk-inducing “Slow is the New Fast” ends up being one of many analogous songs. None of the songs are bad by any stretch but none stand out from the others. Generally catchy and fun, Dearly Beloved's latest is the musical equivalent of cotton candy; it's enjoyable and runs its course fairly quickly, but leaves the listener wishing for something more filling.

..Ryan Pike

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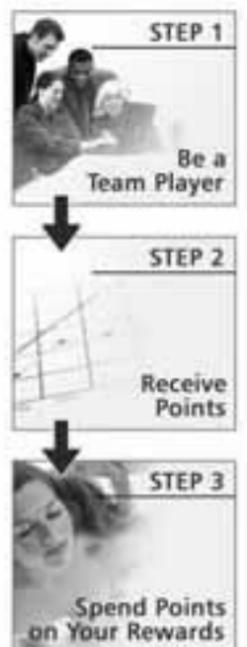
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THEATRE

Beauty and the Beast invites you to be their guests in the Max Bell Theatre Apr. 3–20 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$43–\$56 at Ticketmaster.

Ilsa, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp dances into the Big Secret Theatre Apr. 3–6 at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. show on Sun. Theatre dark on Mon. Tickets are \$14–\$30 at Ticketmaster.

Alberta Theatre Projects' **the Syringa Tree** roots itself in the Martha Cohen Theatre Apr. 3–13 at 7:30 p.m. with a 2 p.m. show on Sun. Theatre dark on Mon. Tickets are \$22.50–\$78 at Ticketmaster.

Stage combat is awesome. **Cry Havoc**, a play combining an award-winning fight choreographer and 10 short plays from local playwrights, will be even more awesome. Tickets are \$15 regularly priced, \$10 for students at the door. Show runs from Apr. 10–12 in the Pumphouse Theatre.

Check out Loose Moose's **Gorilla Theatre** at the Crossroads Market Sat., Apr. 5 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at the door, \$10 for students.

Loose Moose performs the **Ultimate Improv Championship**, an evening of stand-up comedy, improv and theatre sports every Mon. at 9 p.m. in Broken City. Cover at the door.

CONCERTS

To celebrate Randy Gibson's art gallery opening, **Blissed, Tetrax** and **Gary Powers** play a set in the Marquee Room Thu., Apr. 3 at 8 p.m. Tickets at the door.

Ill Scarlett and **Faber Drive** slink into the Back Alley to rock Thu., Apr. 3 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at Sloth Records, Megatunes and Ticketmaster.

The **Heather Blush Trio** and **Kris Ellestad** hit up That Empty Space Fri., Apr. 4 from 3–6 p.m. Free.

Juno nominees **Keith and Renee, Samantha Schultz** and **Justin Rutledge** play with non-Juno nominee **Luke Doucet** at the Palomino Smokehouse Fri., Apr. 4 at 8 p.m. \$10 at the door.

Key to the City, Michael Bernard Fitzgerald, Lions Tigers and Bears and **the Superfantastics** play in the Marquee Room Fri., Apr. 4 at 9 p.m. \$10 at the door.

Alannah Myles takes to the Deerfoot Inn & Casino's stage Fri., Apr. 4 at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$42 at Ticketmaster.

There's also **Junofest** going on at Broken City Fri. and Sat. night at 8 p.m., but it's secret mystery. Could be cool. \$10 at the door.

Sammy Bananas, Krames, Skratz Bastid and **Fordinho** hit up the HiFi Club Sat., Apr. 5 at 8 p.m. to put on set. \$10 at the door.

The Cult play their first of two shows at Flames Central Fri., Apr. 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$42.50–\$59.50 at Ticketmaster.

Eve Hell and the Razors, Lorrie Matheson, Cam Penner and **Matt Masters** are going to be a little bit country and a little bit rock 'n' roll in the Palomino Smokehouse Sat., Apr. 5 at 8 p.m. \$10 at the door.

Anne Loree, Kara Keith, LJX and **the Consonant C** participate as part of the Junofest festivities in the Marquee Room Sat., Apr. 5 at 9 p.m. \$10 at the door.

The **Songwriters Circle** in the Jack Singer Concert Hall Sun. at noon is a rare opportunity for fans to see these talented songwriters intimately. Tickets are \$35–\$40 at Ticketmaster.

The Cult play their last of two shows at Flames Central Fri., Apr. 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$42.50–\$59.50 at Ticketmaster.

Imagine having hands made of wood. It's be hard to play music, so you wonder how **Woodhands** could put on a show at the Gateway on SAIT campus. Tickets are \$8 at Ticketmaster and at the door.

THINGS TO DO

- 1 **Junofest.** It's the time where all the little indie kids come out of the woodworks to check out their newly favourite acts. The festival is all around town this weekend with single tickets priced \$10 a show, with wristbands for \$30.
- 2 **Watch the Juno Awards.** Well, everyone and their mother is going ga-ga over all the big name celebrities coming to our fair city. Check it out on CTV Sun., Apr. 6.
- 3 **Cry Havoc and let slip the dogs of war.** Even though it's at the Pumphouse, which is a million miles away, this play features tons of awesome stage combat.
- 4 **Act Like a T-Rex Day.** Our school sports teams are called the Dinos. Why not act like the mightiest dino in their honour Fri., Apr. 4?

SPORTS

People often think that musicians and hockey players are too different from one another. Well, the **2008 Juno Cup** will be simple proof about how wrong that misconception is. Puck drops in the Stampede Corral at 7:30 p.m. on Fri, Apr. 15. Tickets are \$15 at Ticketmaster.

Mixed Martial Arts is all the rage, so fans of MMA fighting can check out **Legacy Fighting Championship Three—Punishment** Sat., Apr. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Victoria Pavillion in Stampede Park. Tickets are \$25–\$70 for seats in the stands, while floor seating will set you back \$70–\$150. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.

MISC.

This all-day event on Fri., Apr. 4 will change your life. That's right, Apr. 4 is **Act Like a T-Rex Day**. You know what to do.

Dance the Apr. sadness away at the Den with the **Friday Night Dance Party** Fri., Apr. 5 starting at 7 p.m. Free.

Charlie Wilson's War plays as part of the Cinemania series Mon., Apr. 7 at 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. in ST 148. Free with student I.D.

Check out the **Electro-Rama multimedia festival** Sat., Apr. 5 from 2–9 p.m. at the Soda. Free for all.

cjsw on-air guide

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
6 am	her royal opinion	breaking the tethers	lush life	morning joy	jazz for quantum cats	late night continued	late night continued	6 am
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The Mighty Wapta

photos and story by Chris Pedersen

As with many great adventures, this one was born in a corner booth, under dimmed lights, in a local Irish pub. Many ideas are often formed when there is beer in hand, but almost as many fail to become reality. It takes two people who desire adventure for ideas to be realized. Mike Lemmon and I were two such people.

One night, we downed two or three pints of Grasshopper and discussed recent ski adventures. After recounting glorious stories from past trips, the topic of the Wapta territory was brought up. The Wapta Traverse draws in many skiers for its challenging and unforgiving environment as well as its potential for pure back-country bliss. We decided, less than two hours later, that we needed to ski the Wapta this year. I immediately thought we needed a third person, so I called the first person to come to my mind, Mitch Dion, an experienced snowboarder and backcountry aficionado with a penchant for all things lightweight. He agreed to come along and we picked dates.

The classic Wapta Traverse is a backcountry ski tour that begins at Peyto Lake one hour past Banff, along the Ice Fields Parkway. The Wapta involves skiing across a glacier and has numerous uphill sections, crevasses, falling ice, snowy conditions and icy slopes.

The traverse is mentally rough. Potential skiers must be prepared for long, tough days of skiing. Almost the entire length of the trip, our group was surrounded by nothing but snow and rock. The snow is windblown and very hard, making skiing difficult. Many days during the trip involved snowy conditions causing reduced visibility and navigation problems.

Because of the scenery and adventure, the trip is extremely popular and has been mentioned in *Explore Magazine* as one of the top 25 trips to complete in Canada. The glacier route that our group skied is roughly 45 kilometres long and encompasses the Wapta and Waputik Glaciers. Along the way, you can stay at four huts (Peyto, Balfour, Scott Duncan and Bow) or set up your own campsite. The huts are run by the Alpine Club of Canada, and skiers must book them in advance. The coordinates for the huts are provided by the club and skiers use maps and a compass to find them. The majority of skiers rely on their own knowledge to make their way across the Wapta.

People can start at one of either Peyto, Bow or Sherbrooke Lakes and can stay at one of three huts on the first day. Many skiers will stay in only one hut and do day trips from the hut, while others will make their own campsite on the glacier. There are no signs

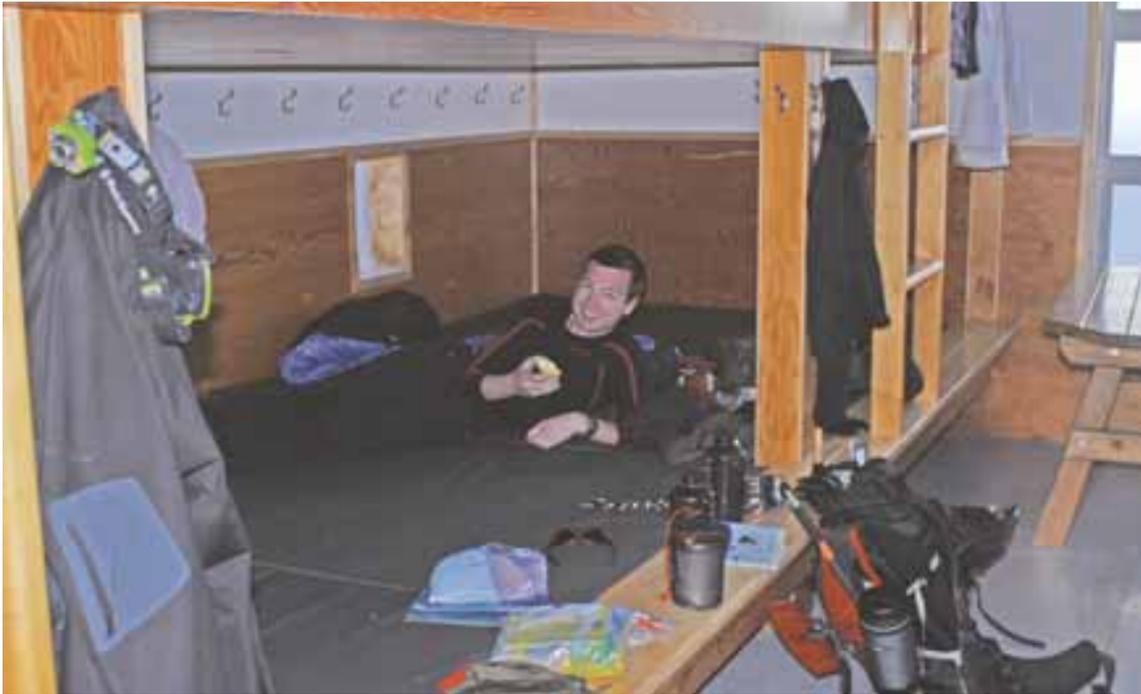
to guide skiers in the right direction, but you can hire guides to lead you over the traverse for about \$2,000. For a knowledgeable backcountry skier, or a poor student, the guides aren't worth the expense.

Day one: the best outhouse in the world

Our adventure began in Canmore where we woke up at 4:30 a.m. to annoying sound of alarm tones violating our ears. Mike slammed his hand down on the snooze button several times in an effort to stop the pain. After 20 more minutes of restless sleep, we woke up and set off for our Wapta adventure.

We arrived at the Peyto Lake trailhead around 7 a.m., took some quick pictures, forced down a quick drink and finally started skiing. The first part of the ski across the lake became a monotonous, wind-ravished race towards the sun, which was shining on the far side of the lake. Soon after crossing the lake, we fought a river, skied across some rocks and came to the base of the moraine that would be our path to the Wapta Glacier. Once the lake is crossed, the path to the glacier veers right and skiers must climb a long snow slope. Thankfully, Mike provided comic relief doing a face plant into a snow bank. Better to get the falls out of the way early.

After the snow slope, the skis came off and we started



Mike Lemmon munching on an apple while lounging on the communal bunks in the Peyto hut.

45 minutes of climbing a steep, icy rock slope. This is the lower part of Peyto Peak and brings travellers to a long rocky ridge. After coming over the ridge, I set down my pack, grabbed a Snickers and some water and sat down. I was exhausted; my legs were burning and my lungs felt like exploding. Then I looked up and saw the Wapta Glacier. It was massive and beautiful, with mountains rising out of it everywhere.

After a lengthy rest, we reattached our skis and snowploughed down icy slopes on the other side of the ridge to the toe of the glacier. We refreshed ourselves on rope techniques before stepping onto the glacier. The rope is connected to each skier—one person is tied into the middle of the rope and two people to each end—and is used to pull people out of crevasses. When a person falls into a crevasse, the others on the rope hold the fall, then use snow stakes as anchors and set up a pulley system to haul the skier out. After our short refresher, it took two more hours of monotonous, slow skiing without crevasses to reach the hut. Our hard day was rewarded when we arrived at the Peyto Hut. The hut has a fantastic view, as it sits high above the glacier.

The Alpine Club-maintained huts along the Wapta Ski Tour are one-room buildings. On the left side of the room is one long bunk bed, with two levels. Each hut can sleep 12–16 people. The right side of the hut has a kitchen counter that contains propane stoves, sinks, cupboards with dishes, shelves for supplies and all the utensils and cooking equipment a group needs. Beyond the bed and the kitchen, the huts are sparsely decorated with a six-person dinner table, benches and propane lanterns. Visitors can enjoy the view through windows on all sides.

The view from the Peyto hut was awe-inspiring. There were mountains in every direction. That day, the sun was playing among the peaks creating amazing colours in the sky. Our group decided that we had found the most outstanding outhouse in the world—as you are sitting on the toilet, a perfectly placed window frames the colours of the sky and the beauty of the mountains. Night brought millions of stars, and standing on the

porch watching them, holding warm mugs of Tang made for a perfect end to a tiring day.

Day two: slogging over crevasse fields

We woke to cloudy weather and a white-shrouded glacier on the second day. This made our travel more dangerous: heading in the wrong direction and falling into crevasses or off a rock cliff were all potential dangers. Right in front of the hut, the glacier rises substantially, making for an exciting first hour of slogging uphill, against the wind and snow blowing in our faces.

Glacier travel on the Wapta requires plenty of mental acuteness because of the hours of tedious, slow, and cautious travel. Crevasses are always a concern. They can be partly covered in snow, making them nearly invisible. Navigation is easy when there is clear visibility, as there are plenty of landmarks. In whiteout conditions navigation gets tricky. That day, we could still slightly see prominent landmarks.

When you are skiing on the glacier, you always have to understand where the rope is and note how fast the others are moving while watching the weather and looking for crevasses. After several hours of slow moving, the group came to the pass between Mount Gordon and Mount Olive. From here, it was a quick ski down through crevasses and rocks to the Balfour Hut. That night, the only night on our trip that we had to share a hut, we roomed with four other people. A sense of camaraderie develops when you share an enclosed space with strangers; food and stories are freely swapped. Stories about New Zealand bike trips, and previous trips to the Wapta were told with fierce excitement. After pleasant conversation and even hotter Tang, we all went to bed with the tunes of an iPod drifting through the hut.

Day three: Balfour Pass and Burt Reynolds' hair

Described by guide books and Wapta veterans as the hardest and most dangerous part of the trip, Balfour Pass was challenging for our group. The route continues

Continued on page 30



A sunset view from the porch of the Peyto hut.

off the page

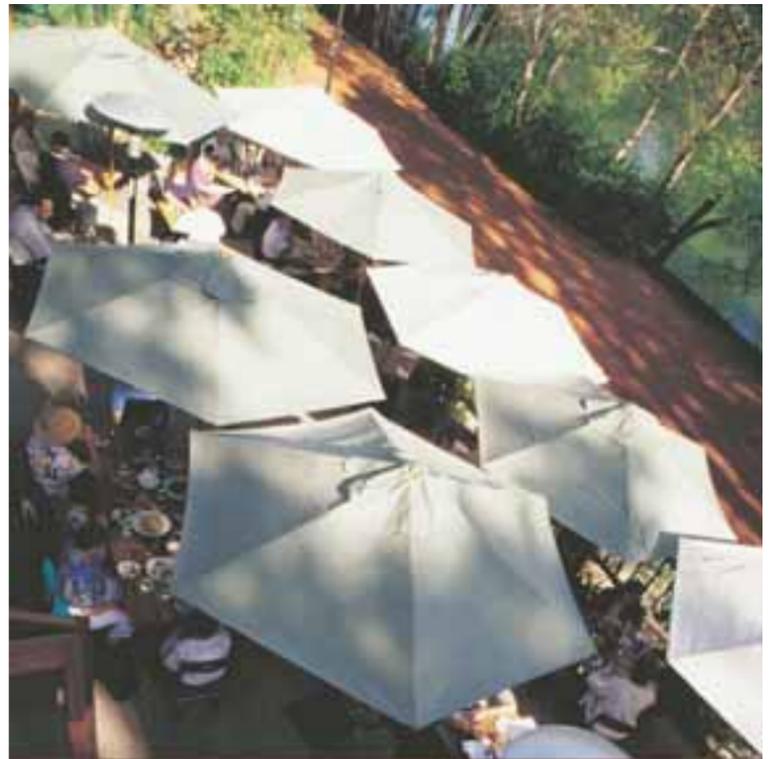
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The Peyto hut under the blanket of darkness.

uphill the whole way until the pass is reached. For two hours, the trail took us through a narrow pass under hanging ice chunks called seracs and against 70 kilometre per hour winds. With every step, I felt like I was going to be pushed backwards down the slope and several times the wind almost blew our group back down the glacier. Travellers cannot stop on this part of the trail, in case of serac collapses, thus making the physical expenditure enormous. Every step took a Herculean effort.

After the perilous beginning leg of day three, we hit the better half of Balfour Pass. Getting to the top of the pass was fantastic. The wind died down and the sun came out. The views were postcard-worthy with mountains in every direction. The slopes in front of us were crevasse-free and perfect for skiing. For the next hour we skied the glorious snow under the pass. During the previous two days on the traverse, the snow

had been crusty and windblown, not allowing for nice turns. It was time to make up for that. Once the fun was over, we slogged for another hour and a half through flat glacier and another crevasse field, with thoughts of tea and chocolate filling our heads.

Arriving at Scott Duncan hut, we were welcomed by a risqué centre-fold of Burt Reynolds peering at us over the table at the back of the hut—creepy and hilarious, though mostly creepy. Our last night in a Wapta hut was pleasant, with the small hut warming up quickly. We drank huge amounts of Earl Grey and hot Tang and ate a supper of rice and chocolate. We went to bed with Burt Reynolds and all his hair standing watch over us, protecting us from whatever lurks on the glacier.

Day four: snowed-in with Tori Prayer

I woke up on the fourth morning



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with a sense of depression. We were heading back to reality and away from the mountains. Even worse, the hut was snowed-in. Through the hut's windows, we saw only a blanket of white and were worried that we might have to spend an extra night in the hut waiting for the weather to clear. Our parents and Mitch's wife would soon become worried. We packed up and readied for a quick departure should the weather clear. After we took a food inventory, we waited. And waited. Burt watched over us as we played cards and meticulously pored over the 2007 *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit edition. For the next several hours, our routine involved playing cards, commenting on the hotness of Tori Praver and looking out the window every 10 minutes, hoping that an opening would finally come. During one of our routine glances, miraculously, part of the glacier became visible. Now visible, we could see five skiers skiing right through the middle of a crevasse field. They were oblivious to the danger and lucky that the weather cleared when it did. Mitch, Mike and I debated about how long the weather would be clear, and we decided to ski out.

After we exchanged pleasantries with our fellow travellers once we caught up, we skied without stopping for the next two

hours, while worrying about the weather closing in. When we got off the glacier, the trouble was not over. For the next kilometre, we had to travel under a big slope of snow which could avalanche at any moment. There had been reports of this slope avalanching in the past and we were tense as we skied off the glacier and into the trees. I had never been so happy to see trees. The feeling didn't last long. The journey through the trees down to the trail was perilous and had bone-breaking potential. I snow ploughed as much as a four-year-old learning on the slopes of Lake Louise and Sunshine.

We skied a winding path, side stepped down an icy slope and negotiated a steep gully before we finally made it to the trail. Then Mike lost a ski. He took a head-over-heels tumble and face planted in the snow, much like his face-first dive on day one. But as Mike was attempting to reattach his skis to his feet this time, he let one go and it took a ride down the gully. Luckily, the ski nose mimicked its owner and dived into a snow bank, preventing a long walk for Mike. We snow-ploughed through the trees down the rest of the trail, where one slip could easily break a leg. Mitch took an accidental one hour detour, and I nearly missed bashing my right leg

into a tree. One-by-one, the group emerged from the forest to meet Mike's parents only three hours after our stated time of arrival—not bad for being snowed in, skiing perilous slopes and through an icy trail dodging trees. Burt Reynolds, Tori Praver and ski bums everywhere would be proud.

The Wapta Traverse is a trip that should be done at least once, if not more, in a lifetime. I left many undiscovered elements of Wapta. There is an ice cave to see, significant mountains to climb and great ski runs to conquer. Wapta holds unlimited knowledge for a person and even the weather teaches lessons freely. From getting snowed-in to seeing a group of skiers move blindly through crevasses, the Wapta weather can be frightful and dangerous. I now feel, however, that I am better prepared to deal with various weather conditions in the future. Never before had I experienced so much white in one place and now, not even three weeks after my first journey, I'm already planning to head back and learn more from the Wapta Traverse.

Check out gauntlet.ucalgary.ca for more of Chris Pedersen's Wapta photos.



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Real Skills, Real Results, Real Experience. The things future employers are looking for.

Consider being part of our team and build your resume at the same time.



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three lines free

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"Oh God it was pathetic; I hope it gets better, hope it gets better, I hope it gets better."
- www.ChrisGheran.com



[These lyrics scream of hurt. Like getting a nipple twist.
- ScreechEd]

Fight no credit: pay tuition with a wheelbarrow full of rolled coins.
- disgruntled

Minor Threat is hardcore, Salad Days is the best song, Out of that genre.
- Fritz

"Come to me all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest."
- Jesus

I'm a robot. I've got beep bop boop in my brain.

2002 BMW M3 For Sale With DINAN Upgrades. Deal for U of C Students e-mail indygerry@shaw.ca.

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Washboard I came last Thu. to wash my thong on ur abs but instead found nothing but an empty shaker cup and a naked guy with a piss boner. sincerely,
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In Vegas for \$1.5 billion they built one of the greatest hotel-casinos in the world with +3500 luxury rooms. All we get is a library with no books. Fuck.
- whysoshitty

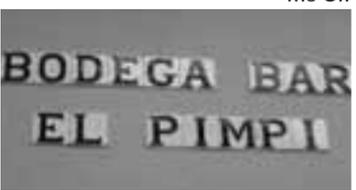
Can't use your credit card? CRY ME A RIVER! Riot only if the UofC doesn't show us the money saved.
- wo3 de ming2zi jiao4 An1Da2



[Riot! Ahhhhhhhh, call the police!
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[The thinking man of the TLFs. You will be missed, glorious content provider.
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Every protein shake you take, Every bench rep you make, every single day I'll be watching you. I love you Washboard #5. Yours truly,
- PissBoner #13

Prof. M. Giovanni: You have very gneiss slaty cleavage let's megathrust?
- GLGY 209 enthusiast.

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- R. Pike

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THERE YOU ARE! I WAS STARTING TO WONDER IF YOU'D PASSED OUT IN THE BATHROOM OR SOMETHING.

HAH... I WAS JUST TALKING TO JOLENE IN THE BACK ROOM.

SHE WAS PRETTY PISSED AT YOU, DEZ...

SHE'LL GET OVER IT.

SO WHAT ELSE DID YOU GUYS TALK ABOUT? YOU WERE BACK THERE FOR A WHILE.

UHM... NOTHING MUCH. Y'KNOW, MOVIES AND STUFF...

NEXT WEEK'S NEW CD RELEASES...

SO YOU ASKED HER OUT AGAIN?

DANIEL, YOU'VE ASKED JOLENE OUT EVERY WEEK FOR, LIKE, THE PAST FOUR MONTHS, AND SHE'S SHOT YOU DOWN EVERY SINGLE TIME.

YOU'RE BASICALLY A NICE ENOUGH GUY, EVEN IF YOU ARE A BIT OF A SKETCHY BAG SOMETIMES, BUT YOU'RE NOT REALLY HER TYPE.

UHM... MAYBE?

I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

YOU WANT MY ADVICE? FORGET ABOUT JOLENE AND MOVE ON!

SO, UH, DEZ...

YEAH...

DON'T EVEN FINISH THINKING IT, DANIEL.

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