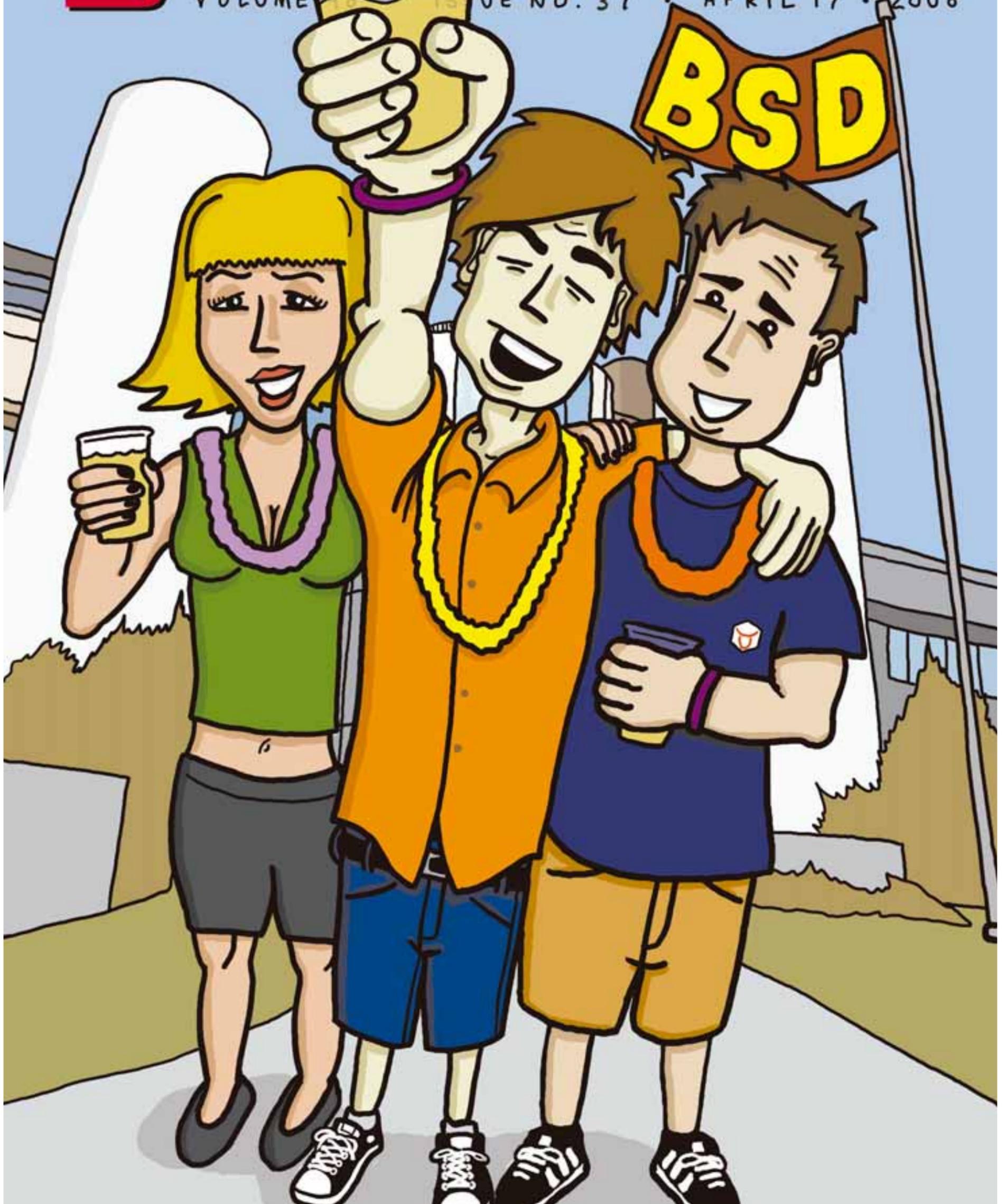


UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

# gambit

VOLUME 40 ISSUE NO. 37 • APRIL 17 • 2008





# Calendar of Curiosities

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## SMALLTOWN DJ'S

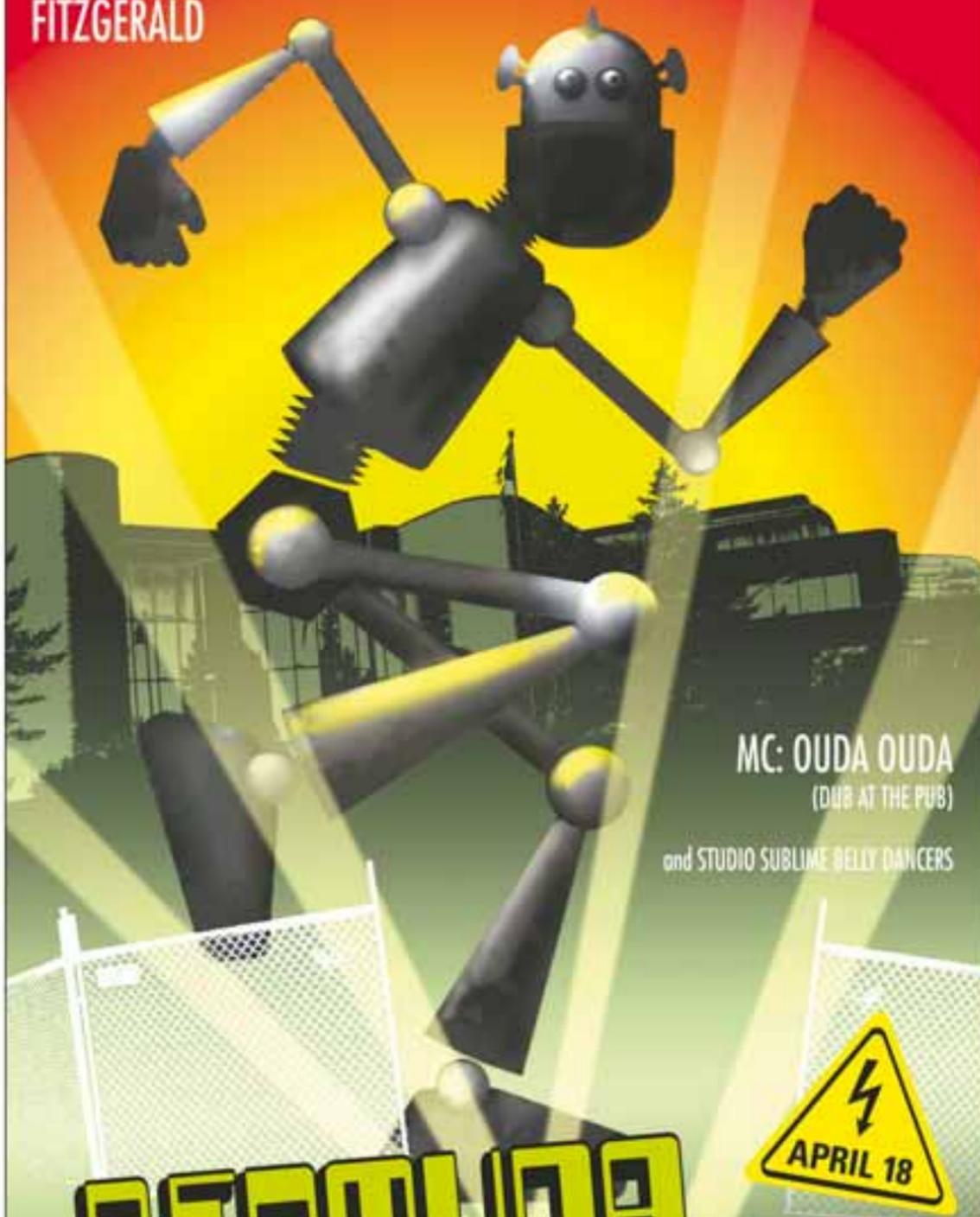
CURTIS SANTIAGO

MICHAEL  
BERNARD  
FITZGERALD

## JAH CUTTA

SIDESHOW SID

ROB FAUST



MC: OUDA OUDA  
(DUB AT THE PUB)

and STUDIO SUBLIME BELLY DANCERS



# BERMUDA SHORTS DAY

Wristbands Available April 14 to 17, North Courtyard, MSC, 9 am to 6 pm.

**U OF C STUDENTS ONLY.** Age and student ID required. One wristband per person. Please Drink Responsibly.



# BERMUDA SHORTS DAY

## BEER GARDEN RULES:

If you're trashed, you're tossed.

Violence and drunkenness will not be tolerated.

Alcohol brought on campus will be confiscated.

Police checks will be in effect.

If you've had a drink, do not drive.

No bags/knapsacks in the beer gardens.

\$50 and \$100 bills not accepted.

Age ID and your wristband must be on you at all times.

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use Calgary Transit on BSD: your wristband gets you on for free.

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If you do drive, get a Park'n Party Pass from Campus Security or any campus bartender and leave your car here.

### EAT AND DRINK WATER at

regular intervals throughout the day... and wear a hat.



## photo to the editor

“Deep Field” by NASA (Hubble Space Telescope)

The image to the right is a picture taken of the furthest depths of space by the Hubble Space Telescope in 1995. Every single point of light on that image is a separate galaxy, each containing millions of stars. And this is only half of the image, reproduced in low-fi grainy newsprint.

Now, realize that the entire Earth is unfathomably small when taken in the context of this entire image. Realize your personal problems are even smaller when taken in the context of the entire universe. Good luck with finals, everybody.

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 e-mail [photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca](mailto:photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca)



## Ze very last issue—of the year

news page 5

Back in Nov., Features editor Jon Roe wrote about the Friends of Science. This week, the audit was released. Read about some of its findings on page 5. As well, we look at the SU credit card rally, what's going on in the summer, the last two month's security reports and—gasp—BSD's move inside.

## So long, and thanks for all the fish.

opinions page 11

Dr. Allison Dube explains exactly what's wrong with the university in probably one of the most important articles ran by this section this year. Go. Read. Now.

## Musical digitization

features page 16

In part two of a somewhat ongoing series, Amanda Hu examines the digitization of music. Personally, I don't have an iPod because U2 is probably the douchiest band alive and I could never buy a product that they endorse.

## Lotsa cocks.

sports page 19

Turn to the last Amanda Hu-edited issue of sports for fun things like cocks, player profiles, MMA dudes and an article about how intrepid boy reporter Ryan Pike loves the NHL playoffs. Yep, cocks... No, the chicken type, you dirty-minded fuckers.

## The bitter end...of awesome!

entertainment page 26

Your wild ride with this year's Entertainment section concludes with another rivetting section! Join outgoing editor Ryan Pike as he complains about stuff and reviews the latest Movies That Matter. Make sure to come back in May for the debut of new Entertainment Editor Amanda Hu. In the meantime, courage.

## PLUS:

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SU STUDENTS' UNION UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### EVENTS COMMISSIONER

Appointed Position

Term: Starts May 2008

Pay: Honoraria of up to \$400/month

The Events Commission is responsible for much of the social life on campus. They plan and coordinate a large number of events and activities during the year. This includes awareness weeks, Cinemania, That Empty Space, and special parties such as Bermuda Shorts Day. They are also responsible for health and safety issues on campus, including acting as the liaison for the Safewalk program.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to the attention of:

Susan Judd, Coordinator Executive Cabinet, Committees & Elections

Email: [scjudd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:scjudd@ucalgary.ca) or in person to SU Main Office, 251 MacEwan Student Centre.



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**Golden Spatula**

Claire Fenton, for writing a really sweet last-minute,  
first-time story. Ballin'!

Honourable mention goes to Hoffman for being "such an  
awesome fucking volunteer all year." Yay.

**Furor Arma Ministrat**

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

**The Cover**

illustration by Paul Baker



# A little like sex...

Being the editor of an independent, weekly, student newspaper is a little like sex.

Most of the endeavours taken on are at all levels gratuitous and masturbatory (see this page and this week's Academic Probation on page 24), fulfilling an editorial equivalent of satyriasis or nymphomania, a fervour rooted in the absurd gratification of hours spent unfucking the common, murderous specimens of English language abuse and spreading self-import with unnecessarily wordy editorials.

Your first time's preceded by a peculiar mixture of anxiety and excitement. Sure, you're a bit naïve, but you've got potential. When it actually *does* start, it's kind of painful and you seem to fumble about awkwardly. After a while, hopefully, you start to learn the ins and outs and get a little more comfortable. You begin to work with others a little better. It's not long before you develop something that seems to satisfy most of the people involved.

You make out alright for a while, but inevitably start to get bored. People start mentioning "special projects" and "supplements" and, for the first time, you start to actually read obscure spam e-mails promising to fill in your gaps.

One day, you put out the first thing that actually makes you proud. The pressure rises and you feel the need to set the bar a little higher for next time, just to see if you can do it.

You discover both the blessings and side effects of chocolate and booze. After all, candy is dandy, but liquor is a quicker way to reward yourself at the end of a hard-fought week.

Looking back, some (sometimes related) choices that may have seemed fine at the time turn out to be glaring mistakes, but you're glad they're not quite as bad as they could have been (they make a cream for that).

Later in the lifetime of your short foray, you discover it's not really about the sex at all, but about life in general.

Eventually, you begin to accept that things sag and your flaws start to bother you less and you get a little less self-conscious.

"Screw it," you say. "I stopped caring what you all thought ages ago."

Then, one of three things happens. You either are found years later in a pile of your own filth, clutching what remains of that paper-clad forty, crawling slowly away from

an urban storm drain and muttering occasional nothings in the ears of the public about "white space." You might, in fact, go out there and convince someone else that you are somehow competent at this whole pseudo-journalism thing and actually get a job. Perhaps you choose the third option and decide to escape with what remains of sanity and self-respect.

Hopefully, at the end of it all, you're able to keep some semblance of a sense of humour and pass along a few shiny nuggets of truth to unpack from your tattered, felt memory sack, which you'd supposedly been stuffing over the course of your ridiculously prolonged degree: firstly, that getting involved in a club is probably one of the most rewarding experiences you could hope for in university. Next, selling your soul to that club without understanding that Ws are better than Fs will likely familiarize you with the wide array of academic policies on campus for better and worse. Finally, no matter how hard you try, there will always be someone unhappy with your work, even if your biggest critic is unavoidably yourself.

**Chris Tait**  
Editor-in-Chief



# Friends of Science audit released

## University looks into policies regarding research funding

Jon Roe  
Features Editor

The University of Calgary has discontinued its relationship with the controversial Friends of Science organization and, after the results of an internal audit released Mon., Apr. 14, the U of C will revise policies related to research funding. But the audit did not determine whether funding from two trust funds at the university for an anti-Kyoto ad campaign was in violation of the Canada Elections Act.

The Friends of Science is a Calgary-based organization that questions the science behind the Kyoto protocol and argues that the sun is the prime driver behind global warming.

The audit was released Mon., Apr. 14 after a request filed Feb., 12 by Canwest News Service under the Freedom of Information and Privacy act which asked to review the funding and expenditure of two U of C trust accounts.

The Friends were previously funded via two trust accounts set up at the U of C by political science professor Barry Cooper and the Science Education Fund, a fund set up at the Calgary Foundation under the University of Calgary's name.

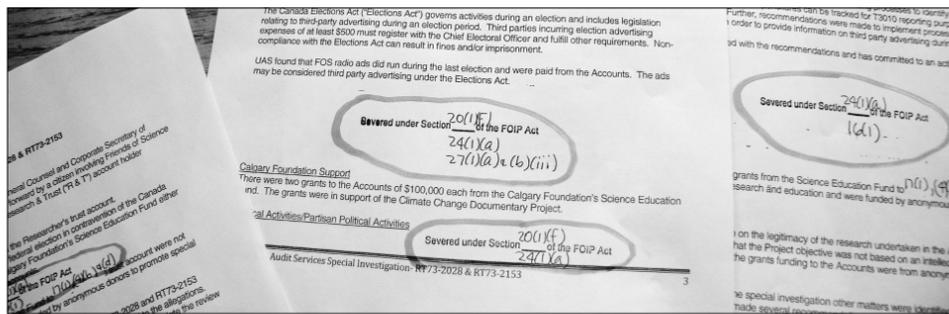
"We had sufficient concerns last year to sever any relationship with Friends of Science," said U of C provost Alan Harrison in a press release. "That decision has not changed."

The two accounts are now closed. Individuals can still make donations to the Science Education Fund through the Calgary Foundation's online donation form, but the Friends have removed any reference to the fund from their quarterly newsletters.

Funding to the two trust accounts totalled \$507,975, \$182,875 of which was from individuals and corporations who received tax-deductible donation receipts, according to the audit.

Cooper's name was removed from the audit under a section of the FOIP act designed to protect personal privacy, but in Nov., Friends vice-president Eric Loughead identified Cooper as the lead researcher with the video project.

According to the audit, Cooper was approached by representatives of the Friends who were interested in collaborating with



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

Despite the release, many parts of the audit were not disclosed.

him on a video research project about climate change. Cooper applied for two trust accounts in the fall of 2004 to fund the video project.

The first version of the Friends' video contained the U of C crest, which was removed after the university sent a letter requiring the Friends to discontinue use of the U of C's name or logo. According to the audit, the U of C was unaware that the logo would be used on the video, contrary to an assertion made by Loughead.

"That was our information from Barry Cooper, he said that he had clearance from the [U of C] legal people to do that," Loughead told the Gauntlet in Nov.

The University Audit Services started the audit after an unnamed private citizen brought concerns to the university about the U of C's involvement with the Friends. The audit focused on four allegations: that the U of C was a conduit for funding for the Friends via Cooper's trust accounts, that the Friends ran an anti-Kyoto radio ad campaign funded indirectly or directly through Cooper's trusts during the last federal election, which violated rules for third-party advertisers in the Canada Election Act and the activities of the Friends funded by the trusts were not legitimate scientific research and were funded by anonymous donors. The fourth allegation was severed from the released report under sections of the privacy act governing disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party and disclosure of advice or recommendations developed by the university.

Other parts of the released version of the audit were removed because they may inter-

fere with or harm an ongoing law enforcement investigation.

The audit was unable to determine whether the video called *Climate Catastrophe Cancelled* video was a legitimate project and that there was collaboration between Cooper and the Friends of Science because there wasn't an agreement between the U of C and the Friends outlining the terms of their relationship.

The audit also couldn't conclusively say that the research undertaken with funding from the two trust accounts set up by Cooper at the U of C was legitimate, but added that there is no evidence that the *Climate Catastrophe* video was "not based on an intellectually honest search for knowledge."

Cooper explained to the auditors that the video's objective was educational and not political. The original version of the *Climate Catastrophe Cancelled* video included archived footage from Canadian Parliament sessions featuring members of the Liberal and NDP party yelling about the dangers of climate change and according to Loughead, the Friends weren't too happy with this introduction.

"We admit the way it was structured originally—because the political science department at the U of C was behind it—there was a strong political element that we weren't too happy with," said Loughead.

The audit recommends several changes to the way the U of C funds research projects and identifies political activities. U of C management says they agree to all of the recommendations in the audit and has a set a timeline for implementation.

The audit was unable to determine whether

the ads ran during the 2005 federal election campaign are considered third-party advertising, but noted that participation in political activities must be identified on a tax form by the university. Currently there is no process to identify and track expenditures on political activities at the U of C for tax-reporting purposes.

Elections Canada has been asked by contributors to the website sourcewatch.org and the DeSmogBlog to investigate the third-party election campaign allegations. Elections Canada requires advertisers who promote or oppose candidates or issues associated with specific parties during an election campaign to register with the Chief Electoral Officer for that election. The Friends did not register during the 2006 election campaign and maintain that they did not need to register because the ads were booked before the election was called.

Liberal member of Parliament for Ottawa South David McGuinty raised the Friends of Science and the third-party election campaign funding issue in the House of Commons during question period Tue., Apr. 15.

McGuinty noted that Cooper is a good friend of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and of another U of C political science professor, Tom Flanagan, who was Harper's campaign manager during the 2006 election.

"Mr. Cooper was the head of the Friends of Science, a group being investigating for defrauding the University of Calgary by circulating anti-Kyoto ads during the last election campaign," McGuinty said. "What did the government offer in exchange for Barry Cooper's help during the last election campaign?"

Minister of the environment John Baird dismissed McGuinty's question as part of a made-up scandal. McGuinty alleged that the Friends are now advising Baird on his climate change policy and that Baird oversaw the Friends' ad campaign that ran during the election.

"Mr. Speaker, blah, blah, blah," said Baird. "The member for Ottawa Centre puts on his tinfoil hat and develops these great theories. There are two reasons why this government is in office. One is the leadership of the Prime Minister of Canada and the other is because of the support of the Liberal Party of Canada."

# SU organizes rally to protest credit card decision

Daniel Pagan  
Gauntlet News

Shaking off their notorious Thursden hangovers, students got up at 8 a.m. to protest against the University of Calgary's controversial credit card decision at the university's Board of Governors meeting. The Students' Union served

free pancakes and protest signs to the students who came out to the rally which was held outside the BOG meeting in the Haskayne Building. The credit card rally drew attention from local and national media such as Global National and the CBC.

Over 600 students signed a petition, 550 letters were sent to university administration in an SU

letter-writing protest campaign, as well as the 3,334 students who joined the "Allow U of C Students To Pay Tuition With Credit Cards" Facebook protest group.

Despite student uproar, the university is standing firm on its credit card policy.

"The university's position remains, as stated in my memo to

the SU president and the GSA president," said U of C vice-president academic Dr. Alan Harrison.

Harrison explained the university would not change its mind on the new policy because no credit card payments would help the university save money by avoiding transaction fees.

"I believe in the correctness of

the decision to redirect money from banks in the form of credit card fees, to students via student scholarships," he said.

Harrison explained the university is happy to work with students to ensure full preparation for the phrasing out of credit cards by Jul. 1.

see SU RALLY, page 7

Should university-affiliated research groups be required to disclose the sources of their funding?

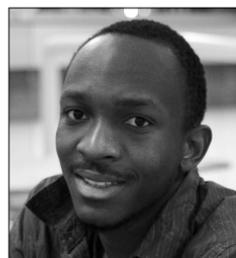
## campus quips



"I think I agree with that. More people can access that information if they disclose it."  
— Sean Koo, third-year bio-chemistry.



"It's important to know where the money is coming from."  
— Lindsay Rizkalla, second-year business



"Generally, information like that should be open. It depends if somebody wants it."  
— Kingsley Nze, second-year biochemistry



"I'm not sure it really matters. If they want to disclose it, it's their prerogative."  
— Amber Caulfield, third-year psychology

# Culture and cycling

## professor profile

Claire Fenton  
Gauntlet News

From athlete to amputee, academic to food culture expert, Lisa Stowe has proved herself to be one of the university's hottest instructors, so much so she merits a chili pepper from ratemyprof.com.

A University of Calgary communication and culture instructor for nine years, Stowe's interests are vast and reflect the department in which she works—interdisciplinary. Her research is in rhetoric, experiential learning, travel study and sport culture. Her most successful research interest has brought a unique flavour to the university, especially seen in her COMS 401 course on food culture, introduced in 2001.

"[Dr. Dawn Johnston] and I were both quite interested in Food TV and food writing, and back in 2001, we proposed a new course in food culture," said Stowe. "It won a Special Sessions Innovation award and has become a regular course offering in C&C."

Because she comes from an academic background, an intermingling of English literature, theatre and education, Stowe wanted to teach in a place which would help her draw from those

areas, as well as developing new ones.

"The C&C faculty values energy and innovation," she said. "[It] helps me stay fresh in my work."

Last year, Stowe internationalized the food culture course by leading a food culture travel study to Spain.

"[Spain] is simultaneously the most innovative culinary centre in Europe and one of the most traditional," said Stowe. "It relies heavily on traditional local ingredients and flavours, but also on innovative modes of preparation. It's a very cool place to eat."

By combining her areas of research—food culture and travel study—the trip showed that food is an important part of everyday life and combining it with the study of culture of a place is a great way to understand a culture as a whole. Even at home in Calgary, the study of food as a cultural activity interests Stowe. Her research takes her to multiple restaurants to sample the food which keeps her current on what's happening in restaurant culture.

Her international travel to study the culture of food may only be dimmed by another international highlight of her life, competing for Canada as a Paralympic cyclist. Outside of her success as a university researcher, her perseverance in athletics took her to the national championships in 2005 and 2006.

"I've been cycling recreationally for years, but



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Lisa Stowe is not only an acclaimed prof, but a Paralympian.

was recruited to train more seriously when the coach of the national Paralympics cycling team approached me on the bike path one day," she said. "He was looking for folks with disabilities who were fairly serious about athletics."

As Stowe is a congenital right-hand amputee, she is no stranger to overcoming obstacles. Congenital amputees are faced with coping with a disability from birth. She noted that training heavily for the Paralympics team was harder

than any of her other involvement in sports, but was also the largest accomplishment of her life.

"I represented Canada at the World Championships in Switzerland in September 2006—one of the proudest moments of my life," said Stowe. "Cycling is the hardest thing I've ever done, physically and mentally. It's really helped me set goals and fulfill them, in all aspects of my life."

## SU rally, cont'd from page 5

"We shall endeavour to ensure that the effects on students are minimized," he noted.

SU president Julie Bogle is disappointed with the university's stand, but was pleased with the rally.

"About 80 students who participated in the march were very loud, very passionate and were effective at

making the students' presence strong at the board meeting," she said.

Bogle explained the Board of Governors acknowledged the students' feelings and discussed amending the agenda to add the SU motion to discuss credit cards during the session.

"However, as this motion

involved the board's mandate, board members felt that it was more appropriate to discuss behind closed doors, not in a public session, which was a disappointing move," said Bogle.

She explained the felt this policy should undergo a one-year review to address students' concerns and

needed more consultation with students to see if this policy really was the best decision.

"We would appreciate if the university took the time to respond to the student outcry and we would like to see a compromise at least," said Bogle.

She pointed out that the university still did not provide answers for students' concerns.

"We still do not have details surrounding the entrance scholarships, no details surrounding equally convenient payment options or how financially challenged students would be able to pay," said Bogle.

Harrison noted the students' protest reminded the administration that it needs to communicate with the student body to avoid further misunderstandings.

"We need to communicate more widely our existing policies with respect to deferred payment plans to students concerned about missing their payments," he said.

Harrison stressed the university is taking steps in reducing the impact, such as proposing a joint student/administration task force to ensure that the Jul. 1 transition goes smoothly.

"I have complete confidence in the task force members—those appointed by the SU, the GSA and the university—to address adequately the issues students have raised," he said.

Harrison explained the administration is confident about the policy and does not expect any problems.

First-year biochemistry student Dalia Aydin disagreed with

Harrison's confidence on the credit card policy. She attended last Friday's rally to show that many students are concerned about this issue and willing to take action.

"With tuition high, even with credit cards, it is sometimes hard to pay off, and now the administration took this option away," said Aydin. "The officials should realize that [students] do not earn as much as they do, and we do not have that much cash in our accounts."

Aydin pointed out some students would not be angry about the policy change, if the university gave them an warning further in advance.

"Because they made a decision and stated the [change would occur] in three months—without giving any other options for payments—they forced us to protest," she said.

Aydin felt the rally was successful at demonstrating the passion this issue inflamed in students.

"Many people thought it was too early, but I think it is worth it to wake up early to show students' powers," said Aydin.

Fourth-year sociology student Shawn Trainor, another protester, agreed with Aydin's motivation for attending the rally, stressing that the university failed to talk with students before making the changes.

"What really grinds my gears is the fact that students were in no way consulted before this decision was made," said Trainor. "This action shows that the Board of Governors does not value student input. The Board of Governors is an oligarchy, a small group that makes decisions for a greater population without representation of public opinion."

# School's not out for summer

Andrew Barbero  
Gauntlet News

With Bermuda Shorts Day right around the corner, most students are getting ready to reject all things academic for four months. For the many U of C undergrads doing research projects over the spring and summer, the work is just beginning.

Whether students have won awards or grants, been lucky enough to land a position under a professor's funding or were simply accepted overseas, a myriad of opportunities exist for undergrads looking to broaden their research base over the vacation months.

"Anything people want to do that is academic, but not necessarily for credit, would be considered research," said Students' Union vice-president academic Brittany Sargent, who also explained that funding options are available for these projects.

"Research Services is the resource students would want to get in touch with for money and support for academic projects over the summer," explained Sargent, noting most deadlines for grant applications have passed.

Awards and grants often facilitate research, such as the Programs for Undergraduate



John McDonald/the Gauntlet

Vanderzwan will be at the Bow River researching ecology this summer.

Research Experience awards. The winners get funding to research alongside U of C professors during the summer months.

"If I want to have a career in archeology, then the summers are when I need to visit the actual digs," said fifth-year archeology major and PURE award-recipient Julie Martindale, who was happy to snag the honour. "The PURE awards give me the opportunity to do that. [The award] was being advertised around and

I just had to explain what my research would entail and what I would get out of it."

Martindale will travel to Latin America to do primary research alongside professors and graduate students from the archeology department to study possible pre-Hispanic trade routes between Ecuador and Nicaragua by looking for a particular sea-shell that was used as currency.

"If I can identify where these routes are, I'll be able to establish whether there was contact or not," explained Martindale, who will be working alongside U of C archeology professor Geoffrey McCafferty in the previously untouched site of Tepetate, in Nicaragua.

Asked if she'd rather be sipping drinks on a Calgary patio this summer, Martindale stressed that in her discipline, on-site work never loses interest.

Other students will be focusing their research closer to home.

"My summer job plans fell through and I was looking all over the place for a research job," said second-year biological sciences major Stevi Vanderzwan, whose specialty in ecology granted her a spot as the sole research assistant of a graduate student doing work on the Bow River.

For Vanderzwan, the rewards extend

much further than fulfilling academic curiosity.

"It's not really school for me; it's more research on 'do I really want to do this for the rest of my life,'" she said. "I did the office thing last year and it's just so boring. I didn't feel like I'd accomplished anything at the end of the summer, whereas this, even though it's half the money, is going to be a good experience."

Vanderzwan admitted getting funding for summer research projects can be difficult.

"The awards you can get that offer funding are pretty competitive," she said. "I was lucky that I found someone who had the funding to hire somebody."

If students would like their research to include travel, the best on-campus resource is the International Centre, It helps students coordinate internships, overseas academic exchanges and programs that involve students in the developing world.

Of course, students just looking to continue their programs of study can take advantage of the full gamut of spring and summer classes being offered. The SU will also remain an asset for students over the summer months.

"All our resources are available," said Sargent. "All the executive and staff will be here."

## Going to court without paying a dime

Gina Loitz  
Gauntlet News

It's not a kissing booth, but it's the next best thing. The Court of Queen's Bench in downtown Calgary will be setting up an "Ask a Lawyer Booth," among other displays and events, as part of their 26th annual Law Day.

The event promises a free, activity-filled day dedicated to introducing the general public to key people in

the judicial system, while promoting access to justice and challenging some myths around current Alberta law.

While stressing that the event promotes access to justice, Law Day committee co-chair Wayne Barkauskas wants one message to be clear.

"We want to illustrate how the courts are not accessible to the average person," he said. "You do

require a special pass to be a part of the legal system."

"There will be approximately 40 different booths set up by organizations around the city where one can seek legal assistance outside the courts—including the University of Calgary's law booth," Barkauskas said. "However, if you are in a situation where you need to go to court, Law Day offers insight and information as to what can be expected, illus-

trative through the mock trials and demonstrations."

Several high school students will take to the bench for the annual Mock Trial Tournament. There will also be the opportunity to witness 150 new Canadians as they are sworn in at the Citizenship Court. Serious court proceedings are made informal and entertaining, such as a family law trail starring Calgary community mascots and "The Case of the Pirate

Princess," a mock trial presentation for the youngsters.

The Court of Queen's Bench was revamped last year, ensuring the event will be more accessible.

"[The courthouse] is designed with ease of use in mind, like walking into an airport where you can gather information easily on where you need to go," said Barkauskas. Law Day is free for all and runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat., Apr. 19.



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# Students' Union

## End of the year reviews

### Operations and Finance

Most of the work done by the Students' Union vice-president operations and finance is done behind closed doors and this year, Fraser Stuart has done a fine job accomplishing that closeted work. The CJSW space issue, the potential relocation of the loading docks and clubs all fell under the op-fi portfolio and Stuart did an admirable job addressing them. CJSW's new space is on track, and progress has been made, which, at this point, is all you can ask for, given the stagnation of the project. The MacEwan Student Centre docks aren't moving—and given the ridiculous cost of relocating them, that is the right decision. Stuart has also done work towards preparing for the dissolution of the Clubs Committee Chair role and Alex Judd, the vp op-fi elect, should have the tools she needs to take on the added responsibility. Stuart also headed up the su Sustainability Board this year and completed the waste audit of MacHall, which will be ready to report to next year's Student Legislative Council. He felt that the profile of susb could be raised, but a waste audit is a good place to start. Stuart completed his behind the scenes work and provided a strong voice of reason to the many committees and boards he sat on, even ones involving U of C's administration with the loading docks issue. Given the progress or resolution of the issues he faced, his work this year is commendable.

..Jon Roe

### Academic

Students' Union vice-president academic Brittany Sargent has completed many projects with little praise this past year. Her position requires many private meetings which also lead to her lack of recognition, but her work has been very beneficial to students. Sargent began her term by re-working the Students' Academic Association policy framework, making it easier and clearer for future members to initiate action. SAA consists of Sargent and 13 other members, meaning she has the largest number of elected officials to manage all the portfolios. She also increased accessibility of su resources to students through the superbook which explained the appeal process as well as registration and exams.

Sargent helped with events such as the Undergraduate Research Symposium and DeStress Days for both semesters. The Research Symposium displayed the efforts of young students while teaching them the skills to present their research later on.

Despite Sargent's efforts, the Online Exam Bank was not set up this year. She is hoping to see it up and running for Fall 2008, but the struggles for clubs hoping to sell the exams for income kept the bank from opening up earlier. The University of Calgary Faculty Association may have helped to see this project completed sooner.

Sargent was successful in maintaining student rights and delegating the responsibilities of so many people.

..Sarelle Azuelos

### Events

Richard Freeman took over as vice-president events last Aug. when then vp events Eric Jablonski left for medical school. From there, he kept things rolling until he was able to follow his own platform when elected in the Oct. byelection. Despite having big shoes to fill, Freeman proved himself up to the challenge.

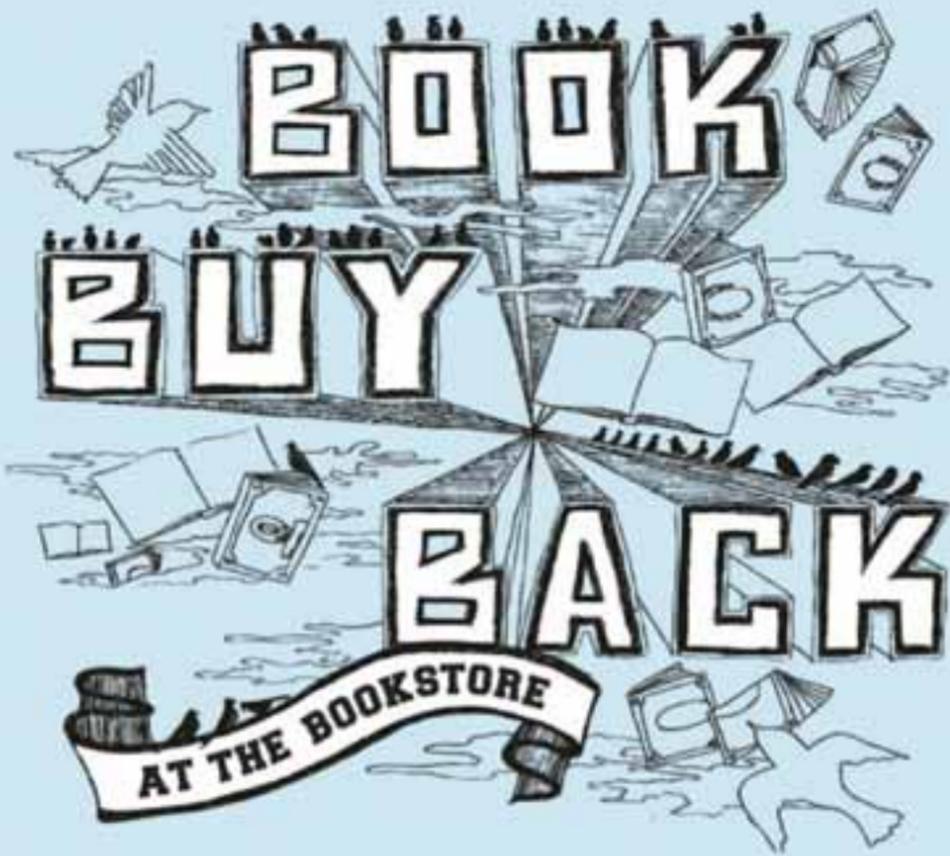
He was adept at planning attention-grabbing spectacles for the su awareness weeks. Fine Arts Awareness Week saw many installations around MacEwan Hall, Black History Month featured an array of performers with a live graffiti demonstration that has become a permanent part of That Empty Space and Oil Sands Awareness Week featured an eye-catching display and a Toxic Alberta documentary screening. Freeman also worked on winter events—Nog Fest and Whiteout—which were quite successful and may become annual traditions.

Arguably the centrepieces of Freeman's year were That Empty Space and the credit card protest. That Empty Space was filled to the brim with people keen to hear good music from a wide array of artists representing many different genres. The su also held a well attended (for so early in the morning) credit card protest, which he organized.

If there's a complaint to be had about Freeman, it's that sometimes he seemed to be fighting the wrong battle. Despite a heavy push for students to head down to the Den on Fri. nights, bolstered by cheap drinks and DJs, the night still remains hidden in Thursden's shadow. The heavy promotional effort for the credit card rally is also commendable, but an event held so early in the morning seemed destined to only be so successful.

Regardless of criticisms, Freeman delivered the goods as vp events. His events were typically well planned and well promoted.

..Ryan Pike

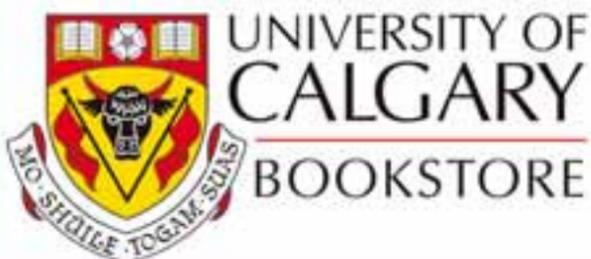


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**President**

Julie Bogle has done a proper job leading the Students' Union as president. She managed a cohesive team, updated many inconspicuous but important policy changes and introduced a much needed affordable housing paper. Over the last month, university administration announced the decision not to allow the option to pay tuition via credit card. Although personally I would have rather seen a protest over the \$230 tuition hike in Dec., students were up in arms over the decision and the SU did the right thing by representing their constituents concerns in the form of organizing a protest and a letter-writing campaign.

With the position of being president comes the benefit—or bane—of privileged knowledge. Bogle sat on many closed-door sessions with high-level administration, making her privy to information that would be beneficial to students if shared. That, paired with the SU replacing their longtime communications manager this year, makes for a frustrating limbo between confidence and representation. However, towards the end of the term, with the credit card issue, Bogle was more willing to loosen up her words. Many minor, but substantial changes were made to SU policy including the Roles and Responsibilities of each portfolio, changes to the Students' Academic Association policy framework and creation of the position of Government Relations Advisor.

Good job aside, Bogle's professionalism may have hurt the SU as a whole. The close relationship with administration distanced the SU from students and didn't pay off, as admin didn't disclose their plans over the credit card decision, arguably the biggest issue for students this year.

..Katy Anderson

**External**

Students' Union vice-president external Mike Selnes has run a good year and will soon be sitting on the Board of Governors to continue his involvement on campus. His accomplishments this past year have included work with the Council of Alberta University Students and the Canadian Alliance of Students' Association. With these organizations, he got the Alberta Advanced Education minister Doug Horner to promise to lower interest rates on student loans and change the Roles and Mandates Policy Framework by the government to include a focus on instruction instead of research. Selnes also helped form the Calgary Student Caucus to increase communication between the University of Calgary, Mount Royal College, SAIT and ACAD.

At the beginning of his term, Selnes worked to raise awareness of the lack of affordable student housing. The university then promised to build a new residence and \$100,000 was raised for an inter-institutional residence study to be conducted. Despite his hard work, Selnes was unable to convince Affordable Housing and Urban Development associate minister Yvonne Fritz and Ward One Alderman Dale Hodges to change secondary housing zoning laws. Selnes' commissioners were very pleased with his work. Although they would have liked to see him delegate tasks to complete more on-campus while he was travelling, they feel the CAUS, CASA and textbook conferences were necessary. They also noted they would have liked to see more on-campus presence during the Political Awareness Week. Overall, Selnes has completed many of his major goals he set out to do, laying out essential groundwork for future SU cabinets.

..Sarelle Azuelos



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# Campus security report: thievin' and BSD prep

Cam Cotton-O'Brien  
TLF Editor

Campus Security braced for the imminent nonsense of Bermuda Shorts Day and thievery was abundant in this special, two-month Campus Security report.

The university, which holds a liquor licence that is split between five groups including the Students' Union, is setting up the 2,300 capacity beer gardens in MacEwan Hall and has distributed roughly 9,000 wristbands to students this week. Eleven campus security officers and 12 pay-duty Calgary Police will be patrolling BSD this year, on the lookout for the usual low-grade criminality of open alcohol, as well as the biggest concern of drinking and driving. In order to deal with this, the SU advertises against such activity and the Calgary Police will set up checkstops after the event and park

a checkstop bus on campus for the event's duration, as well as a large banner to advertise this.

"The whole purpose is to prevent people from drinking and driving as opposed to catch people drinking and driving," said Campus Security director Lanny Fritz.

This year, no guests will be allowed to attend the annual party. It is expected this will significantly reduce the potential for problems.

"Our past experience with assaults and disturbances during Bermuda Shorts Day would indicate that the majority involve people from off campus," said Fritz.

Fritz noted there had not been too many major concerns over the last few years and that the most persistent problem associated with BSD is excessive alcohol consumption. He explained that Campus Security's protocol for dealing with such a situation is to contact EMS and let them determine if the individual can

be left in the care of a sober friend or if a hospital visit is required.

While the preparations for BSD were underway, the usual campus crime continued to occur.

In Feb., an employee of one of the food outlets on campus got into trouble for sending threatening e-mails to a major TV network based in Toronto. The individual identified themselves and their place of work to the network, which then contacted Campus Security. The individual failed to comply with Campus Security's demand to cease the inappropriate correspondence and the matter was turned over to Calgary Police.

"He e-mailed just to remind them that he was the rightful owner of the television network," said Fritz.

In accordance with standard security issues around campus, a number of laptops were stolen in the last two months. One such incident occurred in the MacKimmie Library Tower,

where the victim left his belongings to get a coffee, during which time his laptop was stolen. Fritz noted that these thefts are extremely common on campus.

"The campus has experienced laptop thefts every month of this past year," he said. "The method of operation continues to be [thieves] watching students who leave their work area or study area for, typically, a coffee break or a washroom break, at which time the thieves will run off with their computer. These thefts usually take place in a matter of seconds after students leave the area."

Fritz suggested students should not leave their laptops unattended.

An engineering student suffered the theft of \$1,700 from his locker in Feb. Fritz explained the man had taken the money out of the bank and placed it in his backpack, which he then placed in his locker, from which both bag and money were stolen.

Another theft involved multiple

individuals breaking into a contractor's van and running away with cash from the van when the contractor confronted them.

During Mar., Campus Security witnessed, via closed circuit television, two individuals acting suspiciously near a car parked in a residence parking lot. When they arrived to investigate, the individuals fled and Campus Security saw that the air had been let out of the car's tires. The owner of the car was contacted but had no idea who would have committed the act. Fritz suggested that such an occurrence wouldn't necessarily result in action being taken against the perpetrators if it was deemed a joke, and no damage was done.

Mar. hosted an additional prank as someone discharged a fire extinguisher in Kananaskis Hall. Residents of the building thought that the chemical released was smoke and pulled the fire alarm.

"It really is an inconvenience when you think of the degree of contamination that results from this fire extinguisher that gets circulated through the air," said Fritz.

There were 14 motor vehicle collisions on campus during the past two months—not surprising, he noted.

"We have 8,000 motor vehicles parked on campus on a regular academic day," he said. "We probably have two or three dozen crashes a year."

In most cases, no one is hurt.

Total losses were \$31,055 for Feb. and \$23,818 for Mar.

## BSD inside

Katy Anderson  
News Editor

If you want to get into Bermuda Shorts Day this year, you better plan to come early. Due to a forecast calling for sleet, BSD will be inside.

"The reason that the weather affects us is because all the PA and band equipment—like generators, speakers, amps and subs—can't actually be put out if there's a 30 per cent chance of precipitation," said Students' Union vice-president events Richard Freeman, noting that's the policy of Allstar, the company supplying the equipment.

Instead, the event will be held in the Den/Black Lounge, MacEwan Hall and MacEwan Hall Ballroom.

According to Campus Security, 9,000 wristbands were given away. The original capacity of BSD was 4,400 but the move inside means a change to 2,300.

Freeman lamented that the change wasn't ideal, but is looking forward to the big day.

"The lineup we have this year is really wicked," he said. "With the three venues open, there will be three vibes and atmospheres [meaning we] can cater to a lot of people's wants."

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Alberta

# Lifting up mine eyes—finally



Allison Dube  
Seasoned Sessional

Previously, I argued that though we sessional instructors give great service and commitment to the University of Calgary, the unfairness of our working conditions has grown to a situation that is now laughable. Every experience is an opportunity to learn, however, and though sessional issues may remain a subtext here, the purpose is to tell my students and their colleagues some things I feel I have learned from this one.

## A Seven Year Experiment

In *Fire With Water*, I argued that a rift in approaches to life had widened in my generation. Building on Jean Baker Miller's analysis of gender roles, traits traditionally assigned to subordinated women were losing a battle to the characteristics generally inherited by dominant men. Behaviours, such as participating in the development of others and truly valuing connections to them, were losing credence to pursuing self-oriented goals and to proclaiming "I did it my way."

Seven years here have confirmed two hypotheses. First, as Baker Miller states, "the characteristics... perhaps most essential to human beings are the very characteristics that are specifically dysfunctional for success in the world as it is." That, in spite of fostering the development of others through their teaching, sessional instructors receive neither a livable salary nor security shows this endeavor is indeed "specifically dysfunctional" for success—certainly at the U of C.

Second, traits such as self-enhancement have flourished. Worse, an overt concern for appearances over reality has clouded our ability to see this. To quote myself (as I ask my students, is there a more pretentious phrase on earth than "I quote myself?"), now it is

"only the appearance of women's strengths that is permitted and it is only because these capacities have the blessing of a profit that even this appearance is rendered acceptable." Two parts of this relate to academe. Research is increasingly about the self, specifically career advancement. Also, as an institution fosters these aspects and thus serves itself above all, it increasingly invokes a covering facade of "we do it all for you," the students.

## Some Publish, Many Perish

The equation of academic success with self-enhancement may seem unfair. The myth is instructors balance teaching and research—indeed some actually do! More, students understand that individuals pursuing knowledge make a contribution to the common stock of wisdom. For several reasons, students should look closely at the research that is often their instructors' priority.

As Frank Furedi has noted, what academics produce for advancement is usually not "scholarship," but "research." Camille Paglia explains, "A scholar's real audience is not yet born." But why take years to write something reflective, lasting and profound when you need to publish now to get a promotion? Thus "the profession is addicted to the present, to contemporary figures, contemporary terminology, contemporary concerns." Students should be warned also that as new instructors are recruited, they especially must so "produce" to secure positions.

Secondly, often the "professional" elements of academe do not solve problems, but ride on them. Louise Armstrong's afterword for a later edition of her work on incest, *Kiss Daddy Goodnight*, illustrates. She saw an "incest

industry" form at her first academic convention. "You could hear the gears of specialization grinding, the carving-up of victim populations, the negotiations for turf, the vying for funding, for prestige, for place... the sound of people professionalizing." After 10 years of this she concludes, "I hate to say we [survivors and those truly caring] made things worse. I guess we didn't, but I think things are worse."

Another problem is just which "contemporary concerns" take up the researcher's time are increasingly determined by, simply, who pays. Our own Professor John Mueller has argued that as "universities have become dependent on federal grants, academics find their promotion and merit reviews depend on buying into the predefined areas of research." The funded "cause de jour" may well be a fashion, or fashionable support for systems in place only. If this is the case for "arm's length" funding—wait until you see the effects of money from private sources such as corporations!

Thus, much "research" is less idealistic, more mercenary, more self-enhancing in terms of career

and more serving of interests that students cannot see than is generally understood. Real learning would often oppose the very interests served by the research; and at times the research itself capitalizes on or exacerbates the problems students would wish to solve. These problems are not new; thousands of years ago, variants of them caused Lao Tzu to write "exterminate the sage, discard the wise," and to equate the works that result from self-enhancing pontification to "useless excrescences."

Students do benefit from the scholarship of faculty members, but they have excellent reasons not to automatically accept a sacrifice of instructor time to the gods of research. Students in classes of 300, who have not yet been greeted by name by an instructor, may be surprised that the first core principle in the U of C's Academic plan heralds this as a "learning-centred university," where "the programs and experience we offer must be appropriate to the needs, aspirations, and futures of our students." As above, whatever the actual practice, the language covering it is beautifully nurturing!

## "Not a Partnership"

In Mar. 2007, *On Campus* reported that Shell Canada announced it would invest \$1.15 million with the U of C. On first blush this seems generous. After all, with oil barely up to a measly \$110 a barrel, energy companies are clearly having a tough time making ends meet. The money is to support "enhanced learning opportunities for students," and...oh yeah, to "develop future workforce capacity and advance research innovation critical to industry success." Quoth President Harvey Weingarten, "this type of relationship is a win-win for schools

and industry. Our students get access to industry and real-world experience, while Shell benefits from top-notch research and the best and the brightest that universities have to offer."

Yet the article contains clues as to who is winning the most. The President of Shell Canada remarks, "we're working to promote technical education, research and innovation—it is at the heart of what we need as a company, as an industry and as a society." It can be no surprise if the technical education fostered is good for the company and industry. After all, the goal of most of the money is "to develop a more effective in situ recovery process to extract oilsands deposits that are too deep to be mined from the surface." But just as "what's good for General Motors is good for America," this result is also now deemed what is needed most for society. As Dr. Weingarten has proudly proclaimed, we are offering up our "best and the brightest" to serve this cause.

This story echoes a common theme in U of C press releases: the partnership between business and the school. On a profound level it illustrates, as one of the truly brilliant people I know (my massage therapist, Lola) asserts, "it's not a partnership, it's a codependent relationship." The relationship between corporations and the U of C has become symbiotic, with negative behaviours of each realm exchanged and reinforced.

What corporations get is the artificial credibility that comes with an academic aura. Plato wrote about the "creature who has proved his cleverness in some mechanical craft," who "is glad to break out of the prison of his paltry trade and take sanctuary in the shrine of philosophy." They get something far more practical, though. As well as having tax benefits, offloading research and development to the shrine of philosophy truly makes it look like the endeavors served

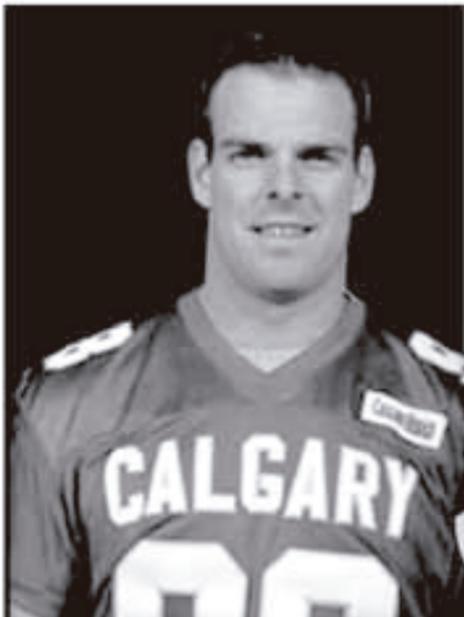
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# Research, cont'd from pg. 11

should be at the helm of academic and societal concern.

The university would not want to stay aloof from the real world. Some students benefit from the training they receive while all this is going on, but it becomes clear that the U of C is now a place where (as the President of Shell Canada remarks) "technical education" is king. A look at the U of C's "priority" areas confirms this: as here, engineering and resource development, and elsewhere, the likes of the business faculty.

The result of all this is of questionable value. The point of an education worthy of the adjective derived from Plato's Academy is to learn how to question the priorities of the business world, not to receive on-the-job training for it and such "technical" training is often shortsighted. For corporate funding—and the corporate vision itself—often serve only presently perceived needs and are destined to produce cogs, not leaders.

Proust notes that often people engaged in practical affairs laugh at those learning non-practical things. The "disinterested culture" of, for example, a real liberal education "seems to them a comic pastime of idle people." But ironically, it is so often the very knowledge they dismissed which "brings to the fore men who may not be better judges or administrators than themselves, but before whose rapid advancement they bow their heads, saying: 'It appears he's extremely well-read, a most distinguished individual.'"

## Learning the wrong corporate games

One might think that being so intimate with the business world, the U of C might learn how to treat employees or the prime consumers (students) with respect, but often it is the worst elements of business the school has absorbed: a sense of entitlement, a cult of the executive, mistreatment of staff, a tendency to forget that the customer—the student—if not always right, at least deserves to be heard and honoured and a reliance on spin to cover things that are wrong.

This school's treatment of the quarter of its academic staff who are sessionals is not up to the minimum standards a corporation downtown could get away with and from my experience, whether the student consumer is heard *at all* is an open question.

That the students who organized the "Save Dube" campaign were told that their concerns—not just about a particular instructor but sessionals in general—were off limits to discussion as it was a "personnel issue" was true to form. Through the years, many of my students have written to administrators here. What is disconcerting is not that such letters had no real effect, but that as far as I know, not one has ever been answered.

Students are often shocked that teaching and commitment to them—at least from sessionals—means nothing to the administration. It gets worse. In spite of good student survey results, four SU Teaching Excellence Awards, and an SU Presidential Citation in recent years, how often has an administrator commended me spontaneously for good work? Beyond a rare comment in the hall, encouraging words have come only as reactions to SU awards. Once, I even got a letter of congratulation from the "Executive Suite." (I kid you not; that was on the address. I still think "I quote myself" wins, but it is a contender!)

More students are questioning the juxtaposition of, on the one hand, the barrage of "we do it all for you" signs and shining happy reports in *On Campus* and, on the other, utterly dismal results for the school in surveys of student engagement and an experience so isolating that a quarter drop out after one year.

Instead of actually taking obvious steps to improve the student experience such as reducing class size, the administration's answers are to hire another vice-president and to make students buy "clickers" to give instant survey results in classes—thus providing the appearance their views count, almost as if adding another layer of technology to students' lives would reduce their sense of alienation.

Then there is the spin. In a Sep. 2006 *Gauntlet* article, the U of C's vice president external wrote that "a student who graduated from the U of C even two years ago would be unaware of the 40 student spaces now opening on campus." Speaking as a student who graduated in 1974, I delight in telling my students just how many of those "new" spaces I happily hung around in avoiding classes before they were born.

Once one sees how much of the rhetoric is a kind of spin echoing

the worst of the corporate world, everything makes sense. You know those entry "scholarships" you got from the U of C for good marks in high school? Teaser rates for a sub-prime education.

## "Representation"

Students are not alone in being told that the word of great service provision may be taken for the deed—what one might call the Harold Skimpole theory of management. Many have asked: "aren't sessionals represented by a union?" The answer depends on what one means by "represented." We are members of the Faculty Association; we pay dues for the privilege and are told people are working on "incremental progress" for us.

An illustration will serve here. Prior to the last collective agreement, we were all sent forms inviting input on issues at stake. There were eleven pages for comment on things, from salary and merit increases to leaves and sabbaticals. On the last page "for sessionals only," there was an invitation to comment on our salary rates and "other," with half a page to "explain as fully as you can." Sessionals constitute a quarter of the membership, yet about 90 per cent of the document concerned things we have little or no part in. The tenor was "how many more thousands of dollars can we award to the best roosters—and oh, as an afterthought, should we increase the prize for best duck from \$5 to \$6?"

The results of the bargaining con-

firmed this picture. One reason I had held on as a sessional was I believed the new collective agreement might improve things enough so I could afford to stay. No dice. I hasten to add that I truly admire the officers of the Faculty Association, but as to whether sessionals have been "represented" by the Association in total—as Mr. Spock might say, "it's representation Jim, but not as we know it."

## A Great Opportunity to Learn

On Apr. 2, I got a call asking me to donate money to the U of C. My first reaction was that the universe was out of kilter—a day late for April Fools'. Why would I donate to support a system that has treated us as I have described? Why would anyone? I feel now the universe, like all of us, just got screwed up a bit more by the time change this year and is unfolding as it should. That call was a punctuating mark in time. Before, it made sense to essentially pay to work here to give heart and soul to my students. The mark itself reminded me that after doing a decent job for years, far from getting a golden, or bronze handshake, or even the time of day as I leave, I could not be mentioned by name as students found when they tried to speak about me to administrators. After, it became clear that the best way to change the world was to eliminate the high-priced middleman—the school. I will continue to love and support my students, but the U of C has now become as much a part of the problems they

face as it is of any solutions.

One might think that my conclusion to all of this would have a negative tone—not so. Lifting up mine eyes has entailed looking at those at the top. This university has, as it claims, assumed a leadership role, but too often what it leads in are negative things. Outside, the same problems noted within the institution pervade the world: a devaluation of good human qualities and glorification of self-serving ones, a growing codependent relationship between institutions—universities or governments—and corporations, and an increasing provision of an appearance of good things over their reality. The tenured versus sessional gap echoes a widening division between rich and poor and—as for how well the bottom quarter of the world's people are represented by those who are responsible for them—well, we lead the way there, too.

Just as I hope I have learned something here, I guarantee my students have and if anyone out there feels that all these developments are appropriate, I have some advice for you: enjoy them while you can. My students are simply not going to put up with this situation. They are too good to think that all these trends and conditions are right; they are too bright not to see through the corporate rhetoric that supports them and they are too politically savvy to be stopped as they begin to make changes—in our country, in our world and even in the university.

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# Berlusconi: Prime Minister or Media Mogul?



**Daniel J. Pagan**  
Gauntlet Opinions

From an empire that once ruled Europe to an instable republic, Italy is Europe's sick man. The Italian economy is faltering behind other European economic powerhouses such as Spain, Parliament is full of corrupt and squabbling politicians and senators. Even a former prime minister who ordered a Mafia hit on an Italian journalist is allowed to serve in the Parliament. Italy has seen sixty-two governments for the previous sixty-three years. Its free media is being gutted and left for dead in the back alleys, thanks to the controversial Italian media mogul, Silvio Berlusconi. However, you know Italy is in big trouble when it re-elects the same man, Berlusconi, for the position of Prime Minister.

Prime minister-elect Silvio Berlusconi is Italy's richest man, estimated to be worth \$12 billion according to *Forbes* magazine. He is a media mogul and founder of the biggest Italian private television network, Mediaset, with the three largest private television networks approximating half of the Italian

national viewing audience. He also runs a business empire that spans advertising, insurance, food and construction. To top it off, he is the owner of AC Milan, the successful Italian football club.

If he is a successful business tycoon, would it not mean he could be successful at reforming the Italian economy and cutting down on bureaucracy in the government? That is a reason his supporters used for voting for him in previous elections. Yet, it is hard to say that Silvio Berlusconi is the right man for Italy, given his poor record with the economy and civil liberties. When he becomes the prime minister this summer, it will be his third time; Berlusconi led in 1994 and between 2001 and 2006. During these times, his government failed to work on necessary economic reforms. Instead, he wasted his time by squabbling with the judiciary, accusing them of being tools of the Left—perhaps as a result of them investigating Berlusconi's business practices. While Silvio argued, the public debt rose quickly and the Italian Gross domestic product grew very slowly—0.3 per cent in 2003, compared to 1.4 per cent in 2000.

Media communication is where Silvio made his wealth, like the Asper family and Conrad Black in Canada. Even with his resignation from Mediaset, his family



illustration by Gina Freeman

still controls the company. As the prime minister of Italy, he has control over the Italian public service broadcaster Radiotelevisione Italiana because his government can approve allies to the positions of RAI president and board of directors. Essentially, he has influence over 90 per cent of all national television broadcasting.

In Canada, a few conservative bloggers and partisans accused the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation of being a propaganda tool of the

Liberal Party of Canada while some Liberal partisans charge Canwest Global Communications Corp. with being biased towards the Conservative Party.

If any Canadian politician had the same influence on the media as Berlusconi, the aforementioned partisans would shit bricks. Yet, in Italy, his control is just accepted as a fact of life. Yes, the Italian Left and magazines such as *The Economist* have constantly criticized him for gross conflict of interest and con-

trol, but the Italian population just accepts it as the way it is. Imagine if Izzer Asper, CanWest Global Communications Corporation founder, became the Prime Minister of Canada while retaining his media company and using his influence on the CBC to silence critics. That sums up Berlusconi's powers in Italy.

The scary thing about Berlusconi is that there are real examples of him using his influence to shut down criticism. In 2002, NGO Reporters

see BERLUSCONI, pg. 14

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# Berlusconi, cont'd from pg. 13

Without Borders reported that Berlusconi's government pressured the State television broadcaster RAI to drop the political TV show, "Sciuscia," and fire two journalists—Michele Santoro and Enzo Biagi—after they criticized Berlusconi. In reaction, Berlusconi accused these journalists of using television "as a criminal means of communication" and asked for their removal. Even comedians get fired for poking fun at Berlusconi's media empire.

During the 2006 Italian elec-

tion, there were complaints of blanket coverage favourable to Berlusconi. He received three hours and 16 minutes of airtime in one 15-day period compared to just eight minutes for Mr. Prodi, his rival—a clear violation of Italian electoral laws, which stated candidates should have equal airtime. With Berlusconi's control over the private and public TV networks, journalists who report criticisms of Berlusconi and his friends' find themselves at risk of losing their job—just for reporting the truth.

The only positive aspects of the Italian media are the big Italian newspapers, independent of Berlusconi and his media empire. Due to their independence, they have the freedom to be critical of him, such as *La Repubblica* pointing out Berlusconi's many economic failures. However, more Italian people watch the television compared to newspapers, and news reports critical of Berlusconi are few and far between, thanks to his government pressures and libel lawsuits, such as Berlusconi threatening *The Economist* after it

published reports of corruption.

His victory in the Italian elections last Mon. is mostly due to his influence over Italian TV and radio. The previous government's failure to set up clear electoral rules to regulate the conflict of interest between media ownership and the holding political offices had worsened the situation. Berlusconi has succeeded in turning Italian media into a "his own reality show," with multiple talk show appearances and journalists avoiding reporting on his friendship with the Costa Nostra

mafia. Berlusconi controls what he wants the Italians to know. The state of Italian media and democracy should serve as a warning sign for journalists and politicians in other countries, such as Canada and United States of America. No matter what one man or a company's intentions may be, ownership of media should not be concentrated in one hand. A democratic state's health relies on the healthy of its free media. The alternatives, such as in Italy are too ugly to consider.

# SU View: It's the final countdown...



Julie Bogle  
SU President

This past year, your Students' Union has been through it all. We've played nice, we've protested, we've had elections, we've financially supported a tonne of students and now we're prepping for one of the best days of the year—BSD!

Your SU exists to serve and represent students. We've advocated on your behalf by attending national

conferences to help get better deals on textbooks. We campaigned the federal government to renew the \$350 million it allocates for financial aid each year. We've fought hard on the affordable housing front, making headway with a new residence being built in the next few years and potential for an off-campus inter-institutional residence. We worked with university administration to ensure the quality of your education improves. We made the student body's voice heard and created a media buzz as we protested the decision to no longer accept credit cards for tuition payments.

We've also worked hard to ensure that you have money in your pockets. We've given out numerous scholarships based on leadership and involvement, supported clubs with free space and event funding, as well as financially supporting students as they head off to conferences.

We continue to expand on these financial investments. This year, we created 10 new scholarships for club members! Next year, we'll have "co-curricular records," which will supplement your academic transcript by recognizing the extra work so many students manage while attending school.

We've listened to you through the Student Advisory Council and the SU Survey and have allocated our Quality Money based on your needs. This year, \$1.5 million was distributed to nine projects that will enhance your student experience. The MacEwan student centre south courtyard should be completed shortly, providing more comfortable seating and a stage to assist student groups with their events. We're helping re-vamp U of C 101 to include more Trimedia and club interaction with frosh students. A free online exam bank is just around the corner to help prepare for finals.

As well, our SU Sustainability Board conducted a waste audit to identify what really goes on in Mac Hall and to see what we can do to help green our actions.

I could go on, but I'm sure you're all busy prepping for the last few weeks before summer. It's been an incredible year for the 65th SU and I gotta give a shout out to my exec crew...WFTDL?

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

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# The quest to be lucrative—not illegal



**Cam Cotton O'Brien**  
Pidgeon Talk

As the student population preps to get wildly—though with luck not criminally—drunk on Bermuda Shorts Day, a similar situation presents itself as a new private health clinic in Calgary aims to be lucrative, not illegal.

The Copeman Healthcare Centre is set to open its doors in Calgary this coming fall. The clinic will cater to the moneyed of Calgary, charging a yearly fee for its services—which will be a team-based approach to, supposedly, preventative health care. The legality of their services are tentative, but an inquiry into two of the company's other ventures—both located in Vancouver—deemed that the clinic wasn't in violation of Canadian law.

The reason that the clinic is able to offer health care services privately, which seems, on initial prevue, to be the precise opposite of Canada's legally-enforced Medicare system, is because they are not charging individuals for necessary treatment. Rather, their clientele pays a yearly fee, for which they receive the aforementioned preventative health care (visits to a dietician, *et cetera*) as well as having access to a number of physicians for proper medical needs.

This is the sketchy part. Because it would be against the law to charge individuals for these services, the company bills the government. Thus, it is only the ability to access the services from those particular doctors that people are paying for, not the services themselves, and so it is legal in the same way a 45-year-old man can date an 18-year-old girl.

The opening of these clinics has caused considerable controversy in Vancouver and it will likely

do the same in Calgary. Already, there are groups worried that it will further exacerbate the doctor shortage by staffing the new clinic with some eight doctors from around the city. Responding to these claims, the owner of the company, Don Copeman, has argued that opening the clinic will in fact serve to ease the burden of Calgary's health care system by introducing preventative medicine and thereby increasing the health of Calgarians. An interesting argument, perhaps, until one considers that the clinic is initially inviting only 500 of this city's most upright residents to join.

The greatest problem with this tidy little profit maker isn't the minutiae of legal technicalities that are exposed by it. The real concern is what is at stake—the much lauded, often decried, universal health care system. While certainly there are problems with the system and numerous detractors to point them out, it remains a bad idea to begin to privatize medicine—even to let the sneaky little system creep in—as this clinic so brilliantly exemplifies.

The notion that the clinic is not in contravention of the Medicare system because it isn't charging clients for specific medical treatments is bogus. They pay to access the system, and therefore are paying for those services. This method of providing health care is clearly contrary to the idea of equal access for all and thus the philosophical basis of medicine in Canada—allowing this clinic to open elevates 500 citizens above the rest in terms of access to health care.

Opening this clinic also distracts us from what should be the focus of health care in this province—an expansion of capacity and services so that there are enough medical personnel and hospital beds to adequately treat everyone. If a concerted effort were made towards this goal, the question of a private health clinic should never arise. If all citizens were provided with adequate, timely health care, then a private clinic would become an expensive redundancy.

Certainly, the accusations of opening a private clinic being contrary to Medicare are legitimate, but it is also the case that failing to provide adequate services in the first place is also in violation of the lofty tradition.

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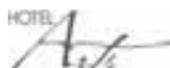
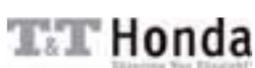
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CALGARY HERALD



# Spinning hard drives

A look at the digitization of music story by Amanda Hu, photos by Geoff MacIntosh and John McDonald

Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

**T**he world of music is like a revolving door. No other form of media has seen such radical changes in the way it is conceived, produced, delivered and experienced. Even within many of our lifetimes, music has surfaced in the forms of vinyl records, eight-track tape players, cassette tapes and compact discs. With the advent of digital music, a fundamental and undeniable shift is occurring in the concept of music itself.

As with any change, apprehension often follows. As MP3 downloads become the norm for many music listeners, the pros of this technology (ease of access to more music) are fighting with the cons (losing out on quality of sound and fears of the marginalization of music.) Many are painting the music industry as going into a state of panic about their longevity in the overwhelming digital age. With the inevitable transformation going on, the question arises: should we fight the change or adapt to the new way of doing things? Recent developments suggest that we may be able to do both.

## The history of music delivery

The pursuit of music has not always been an easy one. Prior to the invention of the tape recorder during World War II—it was created originally for espionage purposes—the music people listened to and how they acquired it was an issue of social and financial concern. Art music, a category devoted to endeavours classified as structurally and theoretically advanced, was reserved for a chosen few.

“Before 1945, if you wanted to hear this music, you had to either go to a concert or learn how to play it yourself on a piano,” says University of Calgary musicologist Dr. Friedemann Sallis. “If you wanted to go to a concert on the east coast of North America or Europe, you had to dress in a certain way, you had to have money to get those clothes and you had to be used to associating with those people who dressed up in ties and tails to go to a concert.”

Sallis says that the sheer amount of discomfort associated with these outings was enough to deter the masses from attending concerts for performances or pursuing this intellectual music. Most people also had no interest in media above their social class.

Tape recorder technology was quickly applied radio station transmissions as well as adapted by French and German composers, ushering in the age of electro-acoustic composition and avant-garde sounds. With the advent of

the LP as well as the quickly decreasing costs of technology, people of every class gained access to more music, especially in the western world.

The 21st century is home to innovations that startled and confused many social conservatives of the music world. New digital elements bring attention to the unavoidable fact that music is evolving to the point where it can't even be conceived of through conventional means, like laptop bands that operate using too many tones to be recorded on a normal music staff.

## The stratification of music listeners and the quality debate

Living in a time when people have the opportunity to choose what music they listen to and what medium to project that music with has set the stage for an inevitable battle regarding what medium is ultimately the best. Some

“Sound quality is a big thing. Even a casual listener should be able to notice that vinyl is not as thin-sounding.”

Some of the music world is more generous to acknowledge the virtues of many media, digital included.

“I understand that vinyl and analogical technology has certain advantages over digital technology because of the range of frequencies that you can achieve,” says Sallis. “On the other hand, digital technology has a crispness of rhythm that you can't get with analogical technology. I can still hear Bach on a CD and if there are a few frequencies missing on the top and the bottom, it doesn't really change the view.”

The debate over music medium even goes past the sounds themselves and concerns the intellectual content and how actively people are experiencing their music.

“Today, anyone can buy a walkman or a CD player and go into a store online,” says Sallis. “You don't need an education, you don't need to know anything at all. You just push

**“Before 1945, if you wanted to hear [art] music, you had to either go to a concert or learn how to play it yourself on a piano. [At concerts,] you had to dress in a certain way, you had to have money to get those clothes and you had to be used to associating with those people who dressed up in ties and tails to go to a concert.”**

— Dr. Friedemann Sallis, *U of C musicologist*

say that the way we listen to music is simply a result of our fast-paced lifestyle and, while a lot of choices are the product of necessity or obliviousness, others are conscious decisions made as a declaration of knowledge.

The proponents of vinyl have made a strong case for the medium's audio superiority over CD and, especially, MP3 formats, citing records' place as an activity rather than just a background soundtrack to every day life, as well as a way to enjoy music in a truer form.

“Vinyl is a political statement,” says Dawn Loucks, co-founder of Calgary's Saved By Radio/Saved By Vinyl label. “It's a different experience to sit down and listen to a record than to put it on your iPod. This is why we do the downloads with the records: people can still have stuff on their iPod, but we want you to sit down and actually listen to the record start to end, looking at the artwork for more of a spiritual experience. That's the kind of musical experience that we want to be associated with.”

Danny Vascarelli an employee of Calgary record store Melodiya Records agrees.

“There are always enough people that want the whole tangible thing and I think people appreciate that,” he says.

a button. Now, this has meant that this music is now out there and is being listened to, but with no prior knowledge. This music was not composed for this public. What people are getting out of this music is now the question.”

Sallis adds that when music was associated with social status outright, it was implicitly accompanied with the need to engage.

“The music was written in such a way that it demands active listening and intellectual engagement and concentration,” he says. “Of course, this was not available to most people in the 19th century and it's not really available to most people in the 21st century either. I think that, in many cases, the people that purchase this music are not aware of how rich it is and sometimes, it's used as musical wallpaper. A lot of people today, because of the lack of information, are not able to distinguish music that is commercially produced as wallpaper and is really nothing more than that and highly sophisticated pieces that should not be listened to as just wallpaper.”

What most people can agree on is that music created conscientiously needs more attention in order to be appreciated fully, but that only a small sector of the population has the means to cultivate the appreciative skill. While social class

is not necessarily a determining factor in what music people listen to, society is creating a new, more subversive, caste system centred around the music itself, solidifying the "discrimination factor" as an inevitability.

#### The impending death of the music industry or how digital music saved vinyl

The Canadian Recording Industry Association is one of the strongest voices in the highly-publicized battle between the record industry and the impending digital era. Their website is host to various articles detailing sharp decreases in sales—35 per cent in 2007's first quarter—as well as pages trying to dispel myths about digital downloading and urge people to keep buying to support the industry.

Most notably, the CRIA is part of the music sector that is looking to reams of copyright reforms as the main way to protect the industry and the artists. Though their doom-and-gloom forecast for the future of the music industry may be a little hasty, there are those who concede that some things definitely need to be restructured.

"In the next five years, there will be no physical representations of music anymore," says Rollie Pemberton, who performs as the rap artist Cadence Weapon. "No CDs or records or whatever. There will be no record stores anymore and everything will be online."

Those in the thick of underground, independent and art music have taken a different approach to the issue of industry sustainability, citing the move to digital as something that could help them flourish as well as noting that CDs are likely what will become obsolete.

"I observe that the popular music business is in a crisis because everyone's downloading," says Sallis. "On the other hand, art music is just chugging right along. People who want that music also want a little booklet because they

want to know about it and they usually have a little bit of money to spend on it, so spending that money isn't a problem."

Smaller labels are actually reaping benefits because they can adapt to changes more quickly as they focus more of their attention on vinyl for the specialty listener and, as a result, fostering a strong consumer base that doesn't possess the fickle tendencies of digital listeners. The stores that specialize in vinyl are also making the shift successfully, riding the storm better than those who are catering to the CD crowd.

Loucks says that accepting change is key, rather than trying to be a stick in the mud.

"I would say, don't even try [to stop leaks] because it's like fighting a losing battle," says Loucks. "Bootlegs and all that stuff, those are things that add mystique and value to musicians. We would stop making CDs if we didn't have to do them for mail-outs for campus radio and CBC, because that's the format they're accepting stuff in."

While the changes in the industry are more and more favouring the underdog when it comes to small labels and record stores, many think that up-and-coming artists will suffer from lack of profits. The artists themselves, though, are taking up new attitudes about that reality.

"If you want to make money, I guess that's how you have to do it, but you're not going to make much," says Ladyhawk's Duffy Driediger. "It might be a good thing, because it might force people to play music more for the love of it than to try to make money. It's not a viable career option."

Pemberton agrees.

"The age of blingin' out and selling a million records is not going on anymore," he says.

#### The future

History is notorious for housing social con-

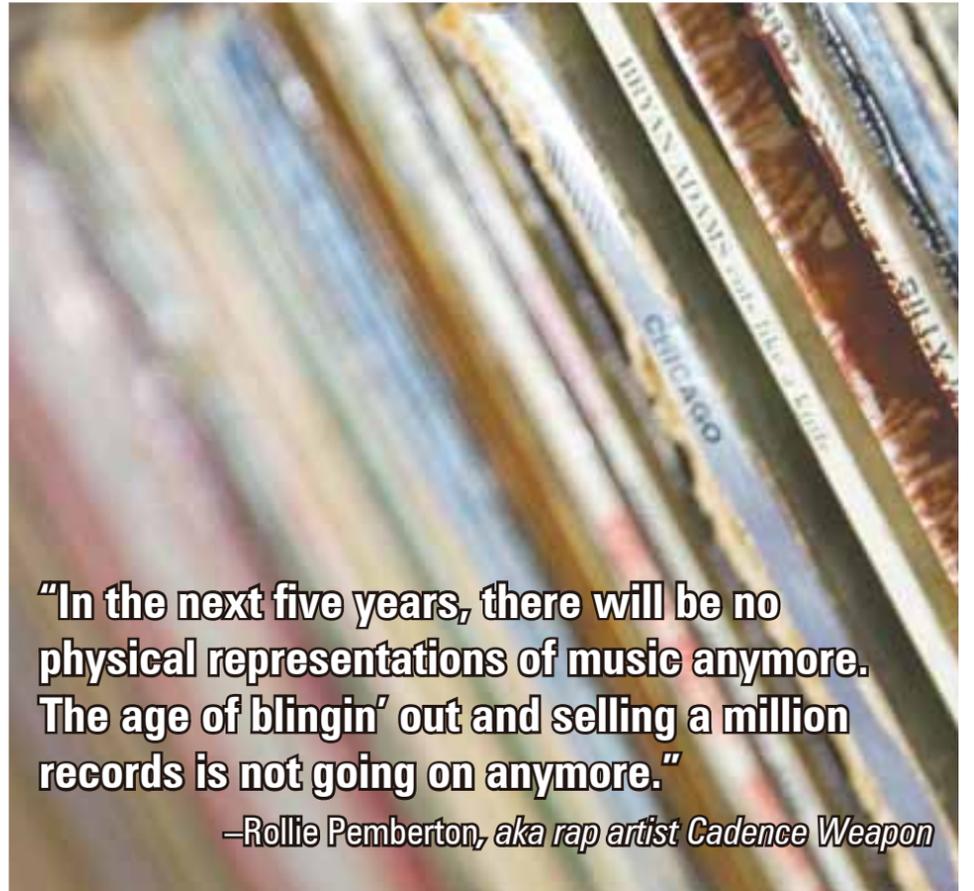
servatives who claim the end of the musical world like clockwork and 2008 is no different. The re-emergence of vinyl will give life to a certain sector of music that few thought would be around in the 21st century.

Radiohead's initial self-release of their latest album, *In Rainbows*—the band offered the MP3 files on their website for as much as listeners were willing to pay—was a thought-provoking exercise for the industry. When the hard-copy release came along, Vascarelli says that, surprisingly, the sales were even higher than normal.

"Even though everyone and their dog downloaded it for a dollar and everyone has it—I heard those MP3s and they didn't sound that great—when *In Rainbows* finally came out in hard copy, we got a lot of it on vinyl and I think we sold more of that than we had of anything in a long time," he says. "Having that little download on your computer as opposed to having the whole package, you're getting more for your money. Some people still appreciate that."

Technology is also fostering new ways to

*Continued on page 18*

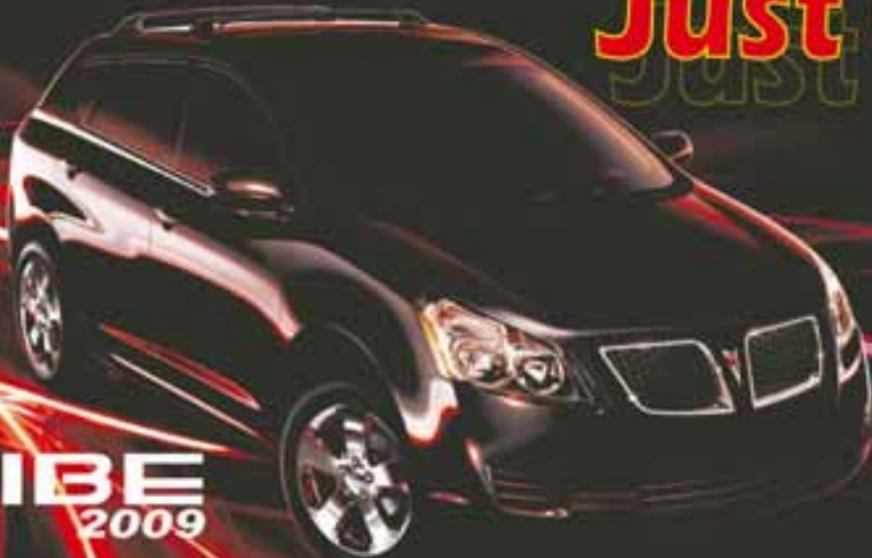


**"In the next five years, there will be no physical representations of music anymore. The age of blingin' out and selling a million records is not going on anymore."**

*—Rollie Pemberton, aka rap artist Cadence Weapon*

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experience the media that already exists. The trend of including MP3 downloads with vinyl albums gives record aficionados the sound they want with the portability that has become a necessity. Turntables that connect to computers via USB cables are also on the horizon, giving those same vinyl lovers an option for having their own version of the music they already embrace in a digital format.

People will always struggle with what to keep around and what is functional in ever-changing societies. As we progress further into a digital future, though, most musical pundits are welcome and embrace the change.

"I don't think that the transmission of music via digital means will cease and it's going to increase," says Sallis. "It's not necessarily a zero-sum game, though. The

increase of the transmission of knowledge via screens has not led to a decrease in books. I think these things evolve and it's not that one crosses out the other. On the other hand, it's true that the whole media that we use to transmit what we do with sound are historical objects and if they are, they came into existence one day and will cease to exist in another."

**"Even though everyone and their dog downloaded it for a dollar and everyone has it, when *In Rainbows* finally came out in hard copy, we got a lot of it on vinyl and I think we sold more of that than we had of anything in a long time."**

— Danny Vascarelli, *Melodiya Records* employee



John McDonald/the Gauntlet

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# Knowing the Price of being a captain

Amanda Hu  
Sports Editor

With great power comes great responsibility. No one knows this better than Dinos men's volleyball captain, Scott Price.

Price made his start in the sport in his hometown of Whitehorse when, after playing hockey, basketball and golf for a number of years, he went to high school and spent time in a newly formed territorial league. After a timely growth spurt and rampant success in his various volleyball endeavours, a contact at Grant MacEwan College arranged an invitation to practice with the Alberta provincial team and a spot on the school's team, where he spent three years.

Price cites the relationships he acquired as a large reason why he got hooked on volleyball.

"I just enjoyed playing and it was a lot of fun," he says. "I really enjoyed the team aspect and I got along really well with the guys I was playing with."

The lanky English major made the jump to CIS after being recruited to the Dinos for the 2006-07 season where he experienced a lot of personal success, finishing fourth in the Canada West conference in



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

Scott Price takes aim at volleyball victory.

kills, averaging 3.52 in 73 games, and second in total points.

Though not his first experience with the team, becoming captain this season presented Price a bit of a learning curve. Not only did he take on a new leadership role, but

went from being one of the youngest players on the team to one of the oldest.

"At first, it took a little bit of getting used to because I went from looking after what I was doing on the court and listening to what

other people said," he explains. "The expectation kind of changed and I had to be more concerned with what the whole team was doing. People were looking to me for more insight, answers and comments. I enjoyed filling that role."

His initial uncertainty didn't show as the team set a new standard for themselves, opening their season with a split against the University of British Columbia—who was ranked third in the country at the time—and taking on some post-season action, making it into the playoffs for the first time since 2003. In numbers alone, the volleysaurs made great strides, finishing 8-10 compared to the previous season's 4-14 showing.

With Price's CIS eligibility finished this season, he looks back on his last Dinos run with high praise for their coach, Rod Durrant, and his work with the team.

"He's been around it for a lot of years and coached at many different

levels," he explains. "He knows a lot about the technical side of volleyball from passing to serving and he's always looking to improve on your performance technically. So, if you're doing something wrong on your serve receive, he'll tell you and show you how to fix it. He's very competitive, which I think is a good thing to have in a coach."

Price says Durrant also took some unconventional focuses for the team's success that were very beneficial.

"He's also very interested in the psychology of sport," says Price. "He brought in a sports psych guy to help the players work on their mental states and coping mechanisms and the best way with dealing with pressure, how to make everything feel as possible when you're playing."

The captain's closing thoughts on the season also involve a lot of reflection on how the team can improve their showing for next year.

"There are always things that people can improve on," he says. "To be really successful at this level, you need to be able to serve consistently and aggressively and I think that's one thing our team was really missing. We had guys who could hit really good spin serves but we didn't always necessarily do it game in, game out. When our serve receive got into trouble, that's when we had the most problems, because it makes it hard to run an offence."

As for Price himself, he has put a great emphasis on the importance of volleyball in his life and hopes to play professionally in Europe or South America next year. Barring that, he says that the Dinos will always be a priority in his life.

"If the pro thing doesn't work, I'll be back here in the fall finishing my degree, so I'd like to help out at practice and be around the team a little bit," he says. "A lot of the guys on the team will be around for three or four more years. Knowing that many guys on the team means that it will still mean a lot to be a part of it next year."

## Sportspinions: yay playoffs!



Ryan Pike  
Entertainment Editor

Springtime in Calgary is a great time of year. It typically features sunshine, the end of school and slightly less snow than usual. It also signals the onset of the National Hockey League's playoffs, which have featured the Calgary Flames for 19 of

their 27 seasons in the NHL. Even during the years the Flames miss the playoffs, though, the NHL's post-season stands as the best in professional sports.

The NHL playoffs have grown in size as the league has grown in teams, but settled at 16 teams in 1980 and has stayed that size even as the league added nine more teams. The current playoff format, seeding the top-eight teams in each conference based on division winners and the best regular season records, was

adopted in 1994. The benefit of the system, as opposed to the previous division-centric system, is that it has provided a much wider variety of first-round playoff matchups. Under the divisional system, the Flames played such teams as Vancouver (four times), Winnipeg (three times), and Los Angeles (three times) in the first round. The results of the new system are skewed a bit due to the Flames' inability to make the playoffs throughout the late '90s, see NHL POST-SEASON, page 22

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# When feathers fly

## A look at the world of cockfighting



**Cam Cotton-O'Brien**  
TLF Editor

Prominent in the history of many nations, cockfighting has largely been outlawed in western countries, with only a few localities refusing to outlaw the much reviled bloodsport. In Canada, participating in this dubious sport could land you some serious time in the pen.

Cockfighting is a gaming institution in much of the world. It is commonly practiced in many areas, notably throughout parts of Asia and South America. The tradition stretches back hundreds of years, even in the United States and Britain and is sometimes referenced in literature and makes appearances in popular culture, such as the "Little Jerry" episode of *Seinfeld*.

The sport typically involves two cocks that are placed in a ring—called a cockpit—where they are forced into contact with one another. The game thrives on cocks' natural tendency to be aggressive with one another, so when they are placed in a confined area the fight is inevitable. To aid in this process, the cocks are specifically bred to be extremely aggressive and receive a strict training regime from the time they are young so in order to be powerful enough to overcome other

cocks. Exacerbating the ferocity of the sport is the typical practice of filing the cock's spurs into sharp edges or fixing blades or spikes to the feet and legs. The birds can sustain many injuries from a fight, including broken bones and punctured eyes but the mortality rate is very high—often at least one of the birds perishes, sometimes both. Should a cockfighting operation be uncovered, the cocks are most often euthanized.

"Animals bred for animal fighting are often trained to be aggressive to other animals, so rehabilitation for these animals is generally not an option," says Humane Society of the United States public relations specialist Nadya Vera. "The training methods are absolutely horrific. These animals are trained to be the worst they can be and it's not their fault. It's humans and they're doing it for gambling and entertainment."

Cockfighting is illegal throughout most of the U.S., where in some states it is a felony offence and others a misdemeanour. It remains legal in Louisiana, where it will not be criminalized until Aug. 2008.

"At the same time, gambling is illegal and with cockfighting, the reason people do it now is gambling," says Vera. "Technically, you can have cockfighting in Louisiana, but if so much as a single dollar

exchanges hands [the activity has become criminal]."

Despite the penalties threatened, cockfighting remains a common occurrence. Vera noted that estimates place the number of Americans engaging in the activity in the tens of thousands.

"Because there are illegal operations, there are no real statistics," said Vera. "People who go to these often pay a fee to get in and gamble."

Cockfighting is also associated with other crimes, largely due to the gambling aspect. Because of the amount of money changing hands at the events, the appearance of handguns at events is common. Drug offences, too, are a serious concern—the cockfighting fact sheet on the Humane Society of the United States' website suggests that many cockfighting operations are uncovered through narcotics investigations. The popularity of the sport in the U.S. is still so rampant that there are magazines devoted to it, though these are no longer distributed freely.

"Early last year, there was a federal law that was passed and in essence it made animal fighting a federal offence," said Vera. "Because that law passed, [the Humane Society of the United States was] able to get many companies that sold magazines and

see COCKS, page 22

## VARSIITY PHARMACY PRESENTS DINOS ROOKIES OF THE YEAR



### BREANNA HENDRIKS Women's Swimming

A freshman Open Studies student from Cochrane, Alta., Breanna won a pair of silver medals at the CIS championships in the 200 and 400 metre freestyle events, along with two silver and one bronze at the Canada West championships.

A second team all-Canadian, she was the third straight Dinos woman to be named CIS rookie of the year in swimming following Katy Murdoch (2006) and Kevyn Peterson (2007).



### TYLER FIDLER Men's Basketball

Tyler made an immediate contribution to the Dinos basketball team, which posted its best season since 1976 at 18-4. The sixth man for much of the year, he averaged 22 minutes and 9.9 points per game off the bench. Tyler was the first Dino in a decade to be named the Canada West rookie of the year in men's basketball, and he also landed a spot on the CIS all-rookie team.

The 6'9" shooting guard studies in the Faculty of Communication and Culture.

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# Going from fan to fighter

Ryan Pike  
Entertainment Editor

The sport of mixed martial arts has grown in popularity in the United States for the past several years, to the point where pundits have touted organizations like the Ultimate Fighting Championship as more popular than boxing. That popularity has spread to Canada, where groups like the Maximum Fighting Championship, Hardcore Championship Fighting and TKO Championship Fighting have become prominent. Some of the sport's rabid fanbase, like Red Deer-based UFC middleweight Jason MacDonald, have become fighters themselves.

"I was playing volleyball for Mount Royal College and we used to watch the UFC on the bus trips," said MacDonald. "It kind of sparked my interest. After I graduated from Mount Royal in criminology, obviously I wasn't playing volleyball anymore and I was looking to get into a sport, get into something new."

A curious MacDonald went online and Googled mixed martial arts, trying to find a way to get into the sport. He found a training centre in San Jose run by former UFC light heavyweight Champion Frank Shamrock and decided to try it out.

"I drove down there, tried out

[and] made the team," recalled MacDonald. "Then I travelled home, got my affairs in order and I travelled back down there, stayed down there for a couple months and learned the basics of mixed martial arts. Then I came back to Canada and continued to learn as much stuff as I could. The sport was in its infant stages and there weren't any gyms where you go and specifically train mixed martial arts, so I fooled around with a little of kickboxing and boxing and jiu-jitsu."

Eventually, mixed martial arts became popular in Canada and MacDonald was able to convert his training into a career as a fighter. After debuting in a pair of amateur fights, MacDonald fought and defeated UFC veteran Bill Mahood in his professional debut. This served as a wakeup call for MacDonald, who decided to commit himself to fighting professionally. Eight years and 26 fights later, MacDonald will be competing at UFC's first Canadian show in Montreal against a fellow UFC veteran and former opponent, Joe Doerksen. MacDonald says he doesn't tailor his training for a specific opponent.

"As far as training goes, I train six days a week," he said. "I don't really change up my training too much for a specific opponent. I tweak it a little bit, but we're involved in mixed martial arts.

see UFC, page 23



courtesy UFC

MacDonald pummels his competitor. Ouch.

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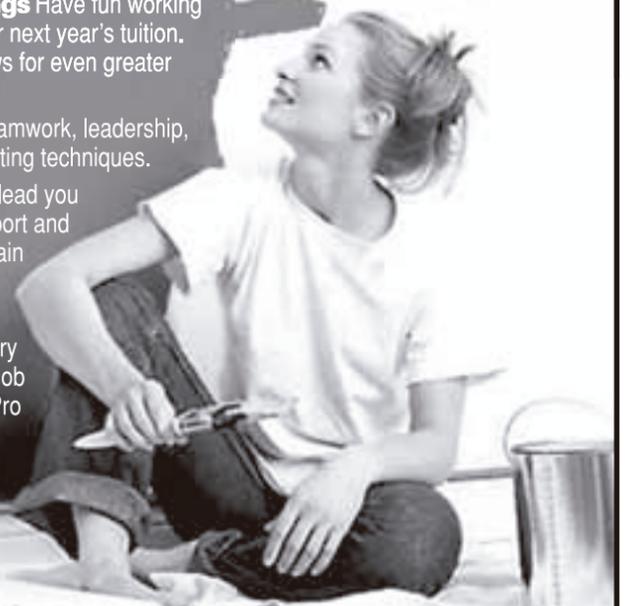
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# NHL, cont'd from page 19



but they've never played the same team more than twice in the first round.

Hockey's playoffs are also noteworthy for the fact that there are no byes into subsequent rounds. Unlike the National Football League and Canadian Football League post-seasons, everybody has to win the same amount of rounds and games to win the championship. Regular season standings are still important, but they're used to pit the best teams against the weaker playoff qualifiers.

Most of all, the winner of the

NHL playoffs win the oldest trophy in major professional sports, the Stanley Cup. Competed for annually for over 110 years, the Stanley Cup has grown in prestige over the years due to the history of the trophy and the sheer difficulty involved in winning it. It should also be noted that the champions of the NBA and Major League Baseball receive a new trophy every year, while the Stanley Cup has been carted around for over a century—albeit with a pair of duplicates created to tour and appear at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

The NHL is far from perfect: some of the rules don't make sense, there are too many teams in areas that probably shouldn't have hockey teams, the season is too long and the playoffs end in Jun. Nevertheless, the league has all-but-perfected how to run the post-season. By the end of four rounds of pulse-pounding playoff action, there's little doubt in the minds of fans that, regardless of skates in creases or disallowed goals, the team that wins the Stanley Cup is definitely the best team in hockey. The other major sports leagues in North America should be so lucky.

# Cocks, cont'd from page 20

videos to stop selling dog fighting and cockfighting magazines."

A problem developed, however. One major retailer continued to sell cockfighting magazines, so the Humane Society filed a suit against them. While the legal process is underway, the retailer continues to offer these products.

Cockfighting is also illegal throughout Canada. The criminal code has two separate provisions outlawing the practice. The first is section 446, which deals with cruelty to animals, and the second is section 447, which specifically addresses the operation of a cockpit. There is also an Alberta statute criminalizing the brutal undertaking. Recently, though, a major operation was uncovered in Surrey, British Columbia, resulting in the termination of 1,270 birds. Cockfighting rings are often found in rural areas, where it is easier to hide the spectacle from law enforcement officers, making such a large operation in an urban area strange.

Luckily, there has not been a reported case of cockfighting in Alberta since 1993. At the time, a man residing on the outskirts of

Calgary was charged with violating the criminal code when what appeared to be a cockpit was discovered on his property.

"We were investigating a chicken hoarding case [where there were numerous chickens living in the house], but we found cockfighting paraphernalia in an out building," said Calgary Humane Society spokesperson Cheryl Wallach. "The challenge we had was getting enough evidence of the cockfighting actually happening."

The barn in which the alleged cockpit was located also housed numerous cocks, one of which was necessarily destroyed due to injuries. The defendant—who admitted to admiring cockfighting but denied participating in it—was found not guilty due to reasonable doubt.

Despite its illegality in much of the developed world, cockfighting continues to be a strong and legal entertainment option in many other countries. In Puerto Rico, for example, it is regulated by the government and there are official arenas. This type of acceptance is, surprisingly, still rampant across the globe.

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## UFC, cont'd from pg. 21

You have to be proficient at each aspect of your fighting—you have to be decent at standup, you have to be a decent wrestler and you have to be decent on the ground. If you let any one of those areas lack or you focus too much on any one area, then obviously you get weaker somewhere else. We try to just continue to build on our skills and get better.”

MacDonald notes that, eight weeks before a fight, he and his trainers come up with an extensive training regimen that he commits himself to. To prepare for his meeting with Doerksen, he's working with longtime trainer Mark Pavelich and jiu-jitsu specialist Josh Russell as well as training with wrestlers from the University of Calgary. He believes that a commitment to all aspects of mixed martial arts make him a well-rounded fighter, but also admits that his familiarity with the UFC's octagonal cage helps him utilize his ground skills.

“The cage plays in really well for me because I'm able to put my opponent against the fence, work positions and submissions and then work punches and elbows,” said MacDonald. “It's hard for those fighters who rely on their standup and rely on the ring to corner their opponents, to be as successful. The octagon's a big adjustment for them.”

The UFC's middleweight division has been ruled over by Brazilian standout—and UFC Middleweight Champion—Anderson Silva since his arrival in the company in 2006 with a 49-second knockout victory over *Ultimate Fighter* reality show star Chris Leben. MacDonald is no stranger to success against former *Ultimate Fighter* competitors, as he's beaten three of them and hopes that a victory in Montreal against

Joe Doerksen will put him right in the thick of the middleweight title hunt.

“My goal is to go out there and win every time,” he said. “It doesn't matter who they put in front of me or where they came from. I was fortunate to come into the UFC and make a big name for myself with a win against Ed Herman, who was an Ultimate Fighter veteran. My two losses in the octagon are to Rich Franklin and Yushin Okami, two fighters that are ranked in the top 10 in the world. Regardless of if they're from the TUF show or where they're from, on any given day I can compete with the best middleweights in that division and walk away the winner.”

MacDonald has cemented himself as a fan favourite in UFC and he's been rewarded with plum spots on many of their biggest shows—their highest grossing show in Dec. 2006, their first show in Northern Ireland in Jun. 2007 and their most-attended show in Columbus in Mar. 2007. The Columbus attendance record has since been broken by advance ticket sales in Montreal. MacDonald, who recently signed a new four-fight control, aims to reward the fans and the UFC brass for their continued support by posting some high-profile wins.

“I definitely think there are some good opportunities for myself in the middleweight division to really step up, put together some quality wins and become that number-one contender,” said MacDonald hopefully. “From a fighter standpoint, I want to be the middleweight champion. I'm happy that I'm fighting the UFC and it's a dream come true for me. But at the end of the day, whether it's a year from now or two years from now, I want to be wearing that middleweight title.”

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# Chaos in Kosovo

## Documentary sheds light on tumultuous political situation

### View From The Bridge

film review

Ryan Pike

Entertainment Editor

For the majority of the past decade, cable news shows have provided periodic updates on the chaotic political situation in the Balkans. Despite the best efforts of the news media, the average person on the street has been continually befuddled by the continuing boundary changes and strife in the former Yugoslavia. *View from the Bridge: Stories from Kosovo* sheds some light on Kosovo and its tumultuous political standing in the world.

After the death of Josip Broz Tito in 1980 and the ascension of Slobodan Milosevic to power, four decades of political stability in Yugoslavia abruptly fell apart. The breakup of the Yugoslavian state into a series of smaller states led to violent flare-ups in certain regions, particularly in the autonomous Serbian province of Kosovo. Historically populated by a mixture of Serbs and Albanians, the province saw outbursts of violence culminating in outright civil war beginning in 1999. Following the outbreak of war, the United Nations and NATO attempted to restore peace and stability, but their involvement hasn't been welcomed by all Kosovans.

Directors Laura Bialis and John Ealer tackle the complexities of Kosovo systematically, first recounting the region's history and then delving into the more recent events. *View from the Bridge's* lynchpin is the titular bridge in the town of Mitrovica, linking the Serbian north side with the



courtesy Sirena Films

The titular bridge in *View from the Bridge*, dividing the north side of Mitrovica, Kosovo from the south.

Albanian south. Using the divided town as a frame of reference, the film delves into the complexities of Kosovo via interviews with many citizens of the region.

Arguably the biggest strength of *View from the Bridge* is the balance of varying voices and perspectives. The film features a wide array of interviews that provide a great deal of insight into the conflict. We meet Serbs living in the Serb-dominated north and Albanians living in the Albanian-dominated south, but also Serbs living in the Albanian region and Albanians living in the Serb region. In addition, the film-

makers speak with Roma gypsies living in a UN refugee camp near a lead mine and a unique married couple—one's Serbian, the other's Albanian.

In stark opposition with the strong editorial slant of recent documentaries, *View from the Bridge* presents a wide array of viewpoints without much of a bias. That's not to say that the film is bereft of any and all bias—in fact, each and every speaker brings a strong stance to the table. However, there are enough different viewpoints presented that the biases all seem to cancel each other out.

If there's a criticism of the film, though, it's the lack of a clear message. The film's message seems to be, "Kosovo sure is messed up" but the wide array of messages presented can, at times, dissolve into a whole lot of finger-pointing. The disarray in Kosovo is blamed on Slobodan Milosevic, the UN, NATO, the Serbs, the Albanians, the Roma gypsies, the U.S. and even multi-national corporations. The balanced approach taken by the filmmakers is commendable, especially in light of the complexities of the region, but also muddles the effectiveness of the film in

conveying a clear message.

Nevertheless, *View from the Bridge: Stories from Kosovo* is a fascinating look at a politically tumultuous place in the world that manages to dispel myths and provide a great deal of information on the hows and whys of Kosovo. More importantly, the film provides an opportunity for the wide array of Kosovan peoples to have their voices heard and their perspectives understood.

*View from the Bridge: Tales from Kosovo* screens Thu., Apr. 24 at Craigie Hall F 119. Admission is \$5 for student/seniors and \$10 for adults.

# Woodpigeon soars around the world

### Woodpigeon

music interview

Jordyn Marcellus

E&P Editor

In the Calgary music community, you can't throw a rock at a concert without hitting someone who knows someone in the band Woodpigeon. The eight-member group, lead by local music journalist and general man-in-the-know Mark Hamilton, has begun to break out of Calgary and gain some international notoriety.

With a new album on the horizon and only moths flying out of

their pockets after the recording process, the group takes to the stage at Emmedia Fri., Apr. 18 to play a show to help pay off the record with local luminaries like the Consonant C and Honey Bear. Woodpigeon has been a boon to many local acts, playing shows with lesser-known bands, helping to increase their exposure.

"I like to be a really active listener, so I try to go to as many local shows as I can," says Hamilton. "We were really lucky when we started out because we had a lot of support [from] the people we admire. If there's something that I like in town, I try to get to play with them."

Hamilton, a writer for *FFWD* and

*Swerve Magazine*, is one of the most well known members of the ostensible Calgary music "scene." Having played a ton of shows, and seeing even more, Hamilton reminisces about some of his favourite shows that he has played with his musical compatriots.

"One of my favourite shows that I ever did was when we played with Azeda Booth and the Consonant C at Broken City," says Hamilton. "*Exclaim! Magazine* was there to review the concert and it was the first time in a long time that people were lining down the street to see a group of Calgary bands."

Hamilton was the go-to blogger

for the CBC's Junos coverage. His reporting was marked by a tongue-in-cheek sense of humour toward the pomp and circumstance of the award show, laughing about how he remembered his first show being with the lovely Leslie Feist at the Carpenter's Hall in Kensington when she played with her punk band Placebo. As a musician, he got to see some of the more inane organizational aspects of the big-music industry that the group has yet to worry about.

"The CBC has been really good to us, so when they come knocking you don't really say no," laughs Hamilton. "I'm not really an award show kind of guy, but it was really

interesting. You sometimes get glimpses of what the machine is like and whether or not you want to jump into that machine. You look at someone like Triumph and you see that they have all these handlers around them. We saw that a little bit playing with Broken Social Scene, but I saw a lot of it at the Junos for sure. It just affirms the way you want to do things."

Like the CBC, when bands like Broken Social Scene come knocking, a band like Woodpigeon doesn't really say no to playing a couple of shows with them. Not only did they play in MacEwan Hall but another date with  
see WOODPIGEON, pg. 27

movies that matter

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

stories from kosovo

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courtesy Woodpigeon

Woodpigeon tours a lot. Good for them!

# Woodpigeon, cont. from pg. 26

the band in Edmonton. "Kevin Drew just asked us," admits Hamilton. "Somehow he found us and wanted us to play with them. It was a pretty great experience. It's pretty interesting to be on [the MacEwan Hall] stage—you always think about the other people who have played on that stage like the Pixies. It's nice. It's a very 'mom' word for it, but it's nice."

The band isn't wanting when it comes to touring opportunities, but the logistics themselves cause the group to be very discriminating. With eight people, who all need to work to pay their bills; and a whole lot of equipment, it's not always the easiest thing to do an international tour. Unless you find yourselves in England.

"We've been really selective in terms of touring," explains Hamilton. "Our only American show was sxsw. When we tour in England, it's really easy—you can do it in 10 days. It's only a 45-minute drive to each place. The thing for our band is, because everyone works, our priority is choosing the best adventure for everyone."

Hamilton himself leaves in late Apr. to play a few shows on his lonesome for the U.K. release of their newest single *That Was Good But You Can Do Better* with the entire group coming in Aug. Needless to say, Hamilton seems very excited for his band's next big adventure come the summer.

"The festival we get to play when we get there in Aug. is really beautiful—the location is only 10 minutes away from Stonehenge," says Hamilton. "There's nothing like playing a really big stage full of people, then driving 10 minutes and seeing Stonehenge and the beautiful English countryside. Not many

people get to do that." While it's easy to tour in the United Kingdom, Hamilton admits to having difficulties while touring in Canada. While it may seem unpatriotic, he echoes a common sentiment that many Canadian bands feel: frustration at the long distance between shows that often put bands in debt after all of their expenses have been accounted for.

"No disrespect to Canada, but if it's a 15-hour drive between cities to play Canada, it's so much easier to have an enjoyable time in England where everything is so close," sighs Hamilton. "What do you pick between Paris and Winnipeg? It's pretty obvious where you'd pick to play a show."

The frustration about playing live in Canada is further compounded by the warm reception that the band receives in England. Not only do the crowds seem to be into it, but organizationally, it's far easier for the group to play shows that attract an audience.

"Canada's music industry is a strange thing," says Hamilton. "It seems like we have a much easier time in England. Over there, we have a booking agent, one of the top booking agents in all of England, who also books for Beirut, Yo La Tengo and Calexico. The shows and venues that we get to play there are in these really beautiful halls with bands that we really like."

If you find yourself disgusted with the beer gardens and general debauchery of BSD, go to Emmedia at 8 p.m. for a night of roots-pop that'll be the perfect end to a stressful school year. Tickets are \$7 at the door.

Woodpigeon plays Emmedia Fri., Apr. 18 at 8 p.m.

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## TOP 20 for the week of APR 14.08

- \* Denotes Canadian Artist  
 \*\* Denotes Local Artist
- 1 **CONSTANTINES\***  
*Kensington Heights* (Arts & Crafts)
- 2 **ATLAS SOUND**  
*Let The Blind Lead Those Who Can See But Cannot Feel* (Kranky)
- 3 **THE OH SEES**  
*The Master's Bedroom Is Worth Spending A Night In* (Tomlab)
- 4 **FOXHOLE**  
*We The Wintering Tree* (Burnt Toast)
- 5 **THE DIRTBOMBS**  
*We Have You Surrounded* (In The Red)
- 6 **CLINIC**  
*Do It!* (Domino)
- 7 **THE BLACK KEYS**  
*Attack & Release* (Nonesuch)
- 8 **CURSED\***  
*Three Architects Of Troubled Sleep* (Goodfellow)
- 9 **JONATHAN RICHMAN**  
*Because Her Beauty Is Raw And Wild* (Vapor)
- 10 **THE BREEDERS**  
*Mountain Battles* (4AD)
- 11 **THE KILLS**  
*Midnight Boom* (Domino)
- 12 **THE DODOS**  
*Visitor* (Frenchkiss)
- 13 **REMOTE KID\*\***  
*Don't Make Me Quote Kennedy* (Cardboard Box)
- 14 **LAURA BARRETT\***  
*Earth Sciences* (Paperbag)
- 15 **MONOTONIX**  
*Body Language* (Drag City)
- 16 **SIMPLY SAUCER\***  
*Half Human / Half Live* (Sonic Unyon)
- 17 **SUPERGRASS**  
*Diamond Hoo Ha* (Parlophone)
- 18 **VARIOUS\***  
*Living Bridge* (Rare Book Room)
- 19 **NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS**  
*Dig, Lazarus, Dig!* (Mute)
- 20 **MAHOGANY FROG\***  
*DO5* (indie)

### JAZZ

- 1 **ROB BROWN ENSEMBLE**  
*Crown Trunk Root Funk* (Aum Fidelity)
- 2 **THE CHRIS TARRY GROUP**  
*Almost Certainly Dreaming* (indie)
- 3 **THE ROY CAMPBELL ENSEMBLE**  
*Akhenaten Suite* (Aum Fidelity)
- 4 **CARIBBEAN JAZZ PROJECT FEATURING DAVE SAMUELS**  
*Afro Bop Alliance* (Heads Up)
- 5 **CHRIS MCGREGOR'S BROTHERHOOD OF BREATH**  
*Eclipse At Dawn* (Cuneiform)

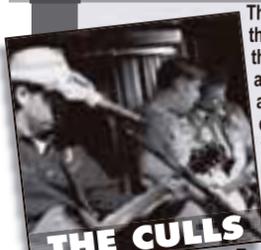
### FOLK/ROOTS/BLUES

- 1 **THE WACO BROTHERS**  
*Live And Kickin' At Schubas Tavern* (Bloodshot)
- 2 **JUSTIN RUTLEDGE\***  
*Man Descending* (Six Shooter)
- 3 **JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE**  
*The Good Life* (Bloodshot)
- 4 **MORELAND & ARBUCKLE**  
*1861* (Northern Blues)
- 5 **SAMUEL JAMES**  
*Songs Famed For Sorrow And Joy* (Northern Blues)

### MYKE'S PICKS

- 1 **CJSR'S GET OUT OF YOUR BASEMENT**
- 2 **GUILTY SIMPSON**
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- 4 **HILLS LIKE WHITE ELEPHANTS**
- 5 **FOALS**

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# Everybody was kung fu fighting

## The Forbidden Kingdom

film review

Jordyn Marcellus  
 E&P Editor

Hollywood has a long and eventful history with the martial arts. From the 90-minute Sega Genesis commercial *Surf Ninja* to the "classic" *Three Ninjas*, there's a long pedigree of insultingly-bad films that attempt to bring martial arts to the mainstream audience. Despite trying so hard to escape from these problems in an attempt to honour the classic Shaw Brothers-era films, ultimately *The Forbidden Kingdom* fails so spectacularly. Depressingly, the film is closer to *Three Ninjas: High Noon at Mega Mountain* than *Master of the Flying Guillotine*.

Like any kung fu film, the setup is pretty simple. It begins with Jason Tripitikas (Michael Angaro), a geek who likes Shaw Brothers films, going to go buy some bootlegs at a Chinese pawn shop. After meeting up with some Italian stereotypes who are in a gang, they all collectively rob the store—Jason doesn't want to, but the leader kicks him in the chest and off they go! A few more kicks to the chest later, Jason grabs a magical staff and is transported to a mystical version of China. There he meets the Jack Sparrow-like Drunken Immortal played by Jackie Chan. A "rip-roaring" adventure to kill off some scenery-chewing, meany-pants warlord and save Son Wukong, the Monkey King, ensues.

Needless to say, the plot is pretty weak. It's an unabashed love letter to all the deliciously cheesy kung fu films and unintentionally ends up being the highest-budget bad kung fu film in all of creation.



courtesy Maple Pictures

Jet Li and Jackie Chan kung fu fight each other (and other people) in *The Forbidden Kingdom*.

The characters are paper-thin, the story is all but an afterthought to keep fight sequences chugging along and Angaro's character is abysmal. It seems like director Robert Minkoff's roots in films like *The Lion King*, *Haunted Mansion* and *Stuart Little* followed over to *Kingdom*. He makes Angaro act like Shia LeBeouf in *Transformers*, but Angaro cannot replicate the easy charm of LeBeouf's character. Instead, you want to see him get his ass whooped in every way possible. It's not a good thing when the audience actively desires to see the protagonist killed, but that's what happens with this film.

The film is being promoted as the

first time that Jackie Chan and Jet Li meet up with one another in a film. Unfortunately this is the worst way for them to meet, as neither of them end up being all that good within the film. Li plays the Silent Monk, with Chan playing the Lu Yan, the Drunken Immortal. The depressing thing about this, though, is that there's only one fight between the two. While it's one of the most exciting scenes in the film by far, it only happens within the first half of the film and then they play nicey-nice with each other for the rest of the film.

For a film that will have most people filling seats to see these two actors fight, the filmmakers definitely needed to indulge the

audience's desire a little more. The other fight scenes outside of the one battle between Chan and Li are only adequate; it seems that fight choreographer Yuen Woo-Ping phoned it in. It's not that they're bad, it's just that there's nothing that stands out in these sequences.

People will enjoy *The Forbidden Kingdom*. It's the first of the 2008 summer popcorn flicks and it's easy to enjoy. Kung fu connoisseurs, though, should run far, far away from this film like a colt, lest they get their tum-tums hurt.

*The Forbidden Kingdom* opens Fri., Apr. 18 in theatres everywhere. Hi-yah!

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# The Lightning Round



**Ryan Pike**  
Entertainment Editor

**Jordyn Marcellus**  
E&P Editor

Sometimes, you just run out of time. The Gauntlet's pair of opinionated geeks had another month of columns planned, then realized they only had an issue left. In the interest of getting everything covered, we now present *The Lightning Round*, where as many topics are covered as time and space will allow. Enjoy!

## MTV to debut reality show, *The Paper*

**JM:** This reality show, about a high school student newspaper in Southern Cali, is probably the worst reality show concept ever. Here's a hint: the only thing student journalists really do is drink, do illicit drugs and fancy themselves to be like Hunter S. Thompson. This does not make compelling television at all.

**RP:** Remember that YTV show, *Student Bodies*? It was fun because it was only a half-hour and it was scripted. Combining the cheesy fun of that show with the reality show aspects of something like *Big Brother* sounds like a terrible idea. It's also worth noting that MTV hasn't made a good reality show since the first season of *The Real World*, which aired 16 years ago.

## Why buy DVDs when I can download stuff?

**JM:** The recent release of *Juno* begins to slowly move into digital download territory, with the option of having an additional digital download copy of the film, in addition to buying the DVD. The only reason why I want to buy DVDs anymore is because of the special features. If there aren't any special features for the DVD, why should I unload \$20 or more for something that I can rent it from a Blockbuster for \$5 or download? Why bother getting the \$20 DVD when the \$30 one has all sorts of interesting and insightful DVD commentary.

**RP:** I love owning DVDs, mostly because I hate commercials and I love video quality. The growing popularity of TiVo and other DVR technologies show more and more that we're living in an "on demand" society. Appointment TV is rapidly dying, being replaced by folks recording shows, as is the willingness of the average movie-goer to head to the multiplex, at least judging by ticket sales. If the production companies can quickly

churn out good quality DVDs of their programs, offering just a handful of cool bonus features, the incentive to download things will be gone.

## 1980s Cartoons Are Now Movies

**JM:** *Speed Racer*, *G.I. Joe* and *Dragonball Z* are all in production. A live-action adaptation of a cartoon is almost always a bad idea. Why are these properties any better? They're just a way to cash in on an entire generation of disaffected 20-somethings with a disposable income by re-interpreting their favourite television shows from their youth into a new package. The *Transformers* cartoon was really terrible, same with *G.I. Joe* and *Dragonball Z*. They won't make good movie properties.

**RP:** The live-action *Transformers* movie was awesome, mostly because it was a film entirely about robots and explosions. Movie studios love pre-existing properties like video games, comic books or old cartoons or TV shows because they have a built-in audience and nobody has to try very hard to write the first movie. The *Transformers* movie and the first *Spider-Man* film lifted much of their stories from earlier material and made insane amounts of money. In business terms, it doesn't matter if the films are good as long as they make back their budgets.

## Jet Li or Jackie Chan?

**JM:** With *Forbidden Kingdom* coming up, it's time to pick sides: Jet Li is a much more versatile actor who has also managed to shy away from more embarrassing choices—Li didn't act in *Around the World in 80 Days*—as well as show off martial arts prowess. Films like *Hero* show Li's karate chops in both fighting and acting. Chan hasn't proven himself in recent history, while Li is still showing tremendous skill.

**RP:** Jackie Chan became a legend in Hong Kong in his 20s for being a charismatic leading man who did amazing stunts. He transitioned to North America in his 40s with *Rumble in the Bronx* and continued to make films, but the wear and tear on his body slowed him down over time. Chan has never been touted as an amazing actor and many of his more recent films have been laughably bad, but they're still entertaining. The worst Jet Li films, like *Cradle 2 the Grave*, have been utterly unenjoyable affairs.

**Do people listen to indie music because they're pretentious? Or are they pretentious because they listen to indie music?**

**JM:** Like anyone who spends their time actively searching out

something unique and different from mainstream culture, there is an inherent level of pretension involved. The belief of being unique and separate from conventional society through film or clothing tastes is a shallow way of identifying yourself. This shallow identity creation causes people to end up being pretentious against those they view as lesser. So, listening to indie music invariably is the product of pretension.

**RP:** Neko Case and Kelly Clarkson share space with Metallica and Matthew Good on my CD shelves, so perhaps my complete and utter lack of musical taste is a kind of pretension. The rise of the "indie" faction is more of a result of the search for good anything—music, films or other art—being easier thanks to the internet. There's always been a bit of elitism surrounding who found the hottest new thing first, but now that everyone can do it there's a larger contingent of them.

## Are DJs musicians?

**JM:** Most DJs that you see, the ones who play weddings and in some backwater dance club, aren't musicians. A real DJ, one who can on the fly create an entire new track out of completely separate elements. An artist can use other media to create his own form of art—Andy Warhol painted a can of soup and it was art. Why can't a DJ use other kinds of musical media to create his own form of music?

**RP:** I'm leaning towards, "No," mostly because I see a good DJ as being more in line with a film editor. They arrange things, but they cannot say that they're the one who created it.

## Which Calgary summer music festival is best?

**JM:** Sled Island, despite the hipster wankery, is the best festival in Calgary. The atmosphere in Folk Fest is much more inviting but the sheer range of bands at Sled Island—including the local ones that many people may not know about—allows for a much more exciting festival. With the addition of an art gallery as well, the Sled Island music festival will only prove to be a much more exciting experience for music fans.

**RP:** The Calgary Folk Music Festival is held on an island in the middle of a city, where a community forms over a period of several days. As somebody who hates having to run from venue to venue, I'd much rather relax and spend a weekend in flip-flops listening to mellow music than run around town like I do during the week.



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# s p u n ALBUM REVIEWS



Everclear  
*The Vegas Years*  
 (Capitol)

Anyone who listened to music or watched MuchMusic in the 1990s likely remembers Everclear. The Portland-based rock group rose to prominence thanks to fun, energetic songs like their 1995 smash-hit "Santa Monica." The years since haven't been quite so kind to the band, which has seen several original members replaced by new people. The latest Everclear release, *The Vegas Years*, takes the listener on a trip through the group's history. The most peculiar aspect of *The Vegas Years* is the composition. Comprised of a series of concert-only offerings, covers and B-sides, the album serves almost as a retrospective of when the group was popular. A lot of the songs chosen for the album—Hall and Oates' "Rich Girl" and the theme songs for *Speed Racer* and *Land of the Lost*—just sound really strange performed by Everclear. Not that the songs are *bad*, they're likely refugees from past performances, but they seem strange presented in a standalone manner. That said, the songs that fit into Everclear's current guitar-driven style work very well—their renditions of "The Boys Are Back in Town" and Tommy Tutone's "867-5309" are great. *The Vegas Years* is a bizarre album to experience. Many of the songs seem out of place and the presentation of the album—dominated by songs written by other people—makes the band seem like a bunch of friends playing Rock Band. It's not a bad experience on the whole, but it makes you wish that your friends would get back to making their own music rather than screwing around with covers.

..Ryan Pike



Duchess Says  
*Anthologie Des 3 Perchoirs*  
 (Alien8 Recordings)

Whatever is going on in Quebec needs to start filtering westward. Montreal band Duchess Says is just one of the many acts that have come from Quebec in the past years that blur the line between dance-punk and 1980s no-wave rock into a glorious mess of squawking synths, curb-stomping guitars and balls-meet-wall vocals. *Anthologie* isn't for everyone. While the first half has some safer tunes, the entire last half of the album is much different from most people's comfort zones. On songs like "Ch.O.B," Duchess Says evoke classic no-wave band Teenage Jesus and the Jerks, but with added keytar. What does that mean? There's no melody or consistent sense of rhythm, only a horror-show wave of sonic density. Even though you wouldn't think

it, the last half of the album is still oddly danceable, in a fucked-up-on-ketamine kind of way. Singer A-Claude doesn't so much as sing on the album as she yells into the mike. On tunes like "A Century Old" you get the closest thing to singing, but that's pretty much the exception—the rule being lyrics spat at a fierce and fiery pace or alternatively screeching out the speaker. If you can't handle the heat, get out of the kitchen. If you can't handle this music, then go purchase the latest Sarah Slean or cutesy folk-rock album. You will not enjoy Duchess Says. If dancing to music that's got some balls to it is what you want, then go purchase *Anthologie*. There will be no disappointment. Only dancing.

..Jordyn Marcellus



The Ramblin' Ambassadors  
*Vista Cruiser Country Squire*  
 (Mint Records)

The buzz about the booming Calgary music scene has discounted some of the better bands that have spent their years playing in our fair city. While people are freaking out over bands like Azeda Booth and Woodpigeon, they forget their roots. Groups like Huevos Rancheros, who spent their time playing instrumental surf-rock all over town, have fallen by the wayside in favour of hot, new indie acts. Sadly, the Rancheros have gone on a hiatus—they haven't released an album since 1999—but lead guitarist Brent Cooper still brings cool Dick Dale-esque '50s doo-wop to Calgary with the Ramblin' Ambassadors. *Vista Cruiser Country Squire* is reminiscent

of the time that the social conservatives want us to return to: the 1950s. Easy going tunes like "Kamikaze" and "Besa Me Bottom Turn" evokes the simpler time of breaking out the great red Cadillac shark and driving along the highway, trying to out-race the captain of the football team to the coast for a nifty beach party with your high school honey. The only bad thing about the album is that because of its instrumental nature, the entire CD can run together. There's not a whole lot of distinction between the tracks—which isn't such a big deal, really, but nothing really sticks out from the greater album.

..Jordyn Marcellus



Wet Secrets  
*Rock Fantasy*  
 (Independent)

In the summer of 2007, Edmonton declared themselves the "Cultural Capital of Canada" to a series of eye-rolls and sarcastic smirks around our fair country. With bands like Shout Out Out Out Out, Dietzche V. and the Abominable and the Wet Secrets all pumping out tunes, a much more fitting label for good ol' Deadmonton would be the "Party Capital of Canada." Let's say one thing right off the bat: these guys will rock your fucking balls off. Songs like "Easy Prey vs. Sex Maniac" and "Grow Your Own Fucking Moustache, Asshole" feature relentlessly driving synthesizers, handclaps and a snarling Lyle Bell (who is also a member of Whitey Houston) distilling the very

essence of rock and roll—moustaches and rape—into songs that loosen up the uptight, too-serious crowd who enjoy post-rock. The standout track on the album is the five-minute-long "Secret March," the only song that can make you do the indie-rock-flail with trumpets and trombones. Many people may feel that songs like these are strange indulgences, but considering their live shows feature the group dressed up to the nines in full marching band regalia, it's just the mystique of the band. Seriously, they have a song called "I Teabagged Myself." Don't ask, just listen and dance.

..Jordyn Marcellus

## THEATRE

**Ilsa, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp** dances into the Big Secret Theatre Apr. 17–20 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. 17–20 at 7:30 p.m. with a 2 p.m. show on Sun. Theatre dark on Mon. Tickets are \$22.50–\$78 at Ticketmaster.

**Beauty and the Beast** invites you to be their guests in the Max Bell Theatre Apr. 17–29 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$43–\$56 at Ticketmaster.

Suddenly, cocks everywhere. **Puppetry of the Penis** dangles into the Jack Singer Concert Hall Apr. 25–26. Tickets are \$45 at Ticketmaster.

## CONCERTS

**Lyle Lovett** saunters into the Knox United Church Thu., Apr. 17 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$87 at Ticketmaster.

**The D'urbervilles and the Frosted Tipz** play at Broken City Thu., Apr. 17 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Sloth Records, Megatunes and Broken City.

Check out Brewster Hall at 3 p.m. on Fri., Apr. 18 for a free **mystery show**.

**Woodpigeon, the Consonant C, Honey Bear and Sea Level Rise** create a tidal wave of pop glory at Emmedia Fri., Apr. 18 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7 at the door, or \$5 with a CJSW card and as your favourite storybook character.

**Ghostkeeper** has their CD and vinyl release party with **Chris Vail** Fri., Apr. 18 at 8 p.m. in Broken City. Tickets are available at Sloth Records, Megatunes and Broken City.

**Silo, Super Charger Buffalo, Karma Cirkus and the Drednoughts** drift into the Stetson Fri., Apr. 18 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at the door.

**Beija Flor, F&M and The Darby and Joan Club** hold a musical potluck in the Palomino Fri., Apr. 18 at 8 p.m. Tickets at the door.

**Stonehocker, Stab.Twist.Pull and the Hours** play battleship at the Palomino Sat., Apr. 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets at the door.

**DJ Switch** plays a part of the celebratory wrap up gala for the Calgary Underground Film Festival Sat., Apr. 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets at the door.

**Life Like Cobra, The Loaded Dice and Miesha Louie** find the meaning of life in the Marquee Room Sat., Apr. 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets at the door.

Lyke, OMG, this show will be 100% totally fucking metal! **Avenged Sevenfold, Atreyu, Bullet for My Valentine, Bless the Fall and Idiot Pilot** are going to show off their tats in the Stampede Corral at 5 p.m. on Sat., Apr. 15! Tickets are \$40 at Ticketmaster.

**The Trews** gets their love on at Mac Hall Mon. Apr. 21 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at Ticketmaster.

**Devoid and A Trophy Life** play irritating emo jams at the Stetson Tue., Apr. 22 at 8 p.m. Tickets at the door.

**Default** comes back to Calgary Tue., Apr. 22 at 8 p.m. to hug their woes in the Back Alley. Tickets are \$20 at Ticketmaster.

**The Handsome Furs** get red paint thrown at them by angry PETA members in the Republik Tue., Apr. 22 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$17 at Ticketmaster.

**Petur Ben and Bil Heltherington and the Asian Tigers** fly in from their native Iceland for a show in Broken City Sat., Apr. 26 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Sloth Records, Megatunes and Broken City.

**Dietzche V and the Abominable Snowman** come to the HiFi to make all the hipsters dance and sway Sat., Apr. 26 at 8 p.m. Tickets at the door.

## THINGS TO DO

- 1 BSD.** It's one of the few chances that you get to get ridiculously drunk at the university. It'll be indoors this year, so head to the Black Lounge and the Den to go get your alcoholism on.
- 2. Woodpigeon.** Come on, they're awesome. It's cheap too, so you can stumble over to Emmedia Fri., Apr. 18 after the festivities and watch soulful music for only \$7.
- 3. Go play outside.** Now that the sun's starting to peek out and the wind is getting warmer, bust out the childhood Slip n' Slide for some fun times.
- 4. Get 'er done.** It doesn't matter what you need get donning, just get 'er done. You will thank yourself later.

## SPORTS

The **Calgary Roughnecks** take on the **Toronto Rock** Sat., Apr. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pengrowth Saddledome. Tickets are \$23–\$59 at Ticketmaster.

The **Dinos golf team** has the **UC Skills Competition** Sat., Apr. 19 all day. Check out [www.godinos.com](http://www.godinos.com) for more information.

Watch grown men beat each other until they bleed and cry Sat., Apr. 26 with **Urban Conflict** in the Stampede Corral. Floor tickets are a pricey \$80–\$230, with stands seats costing a more reasonable \$40. All tickets can be bought at Ticketmaster.

## MISC.

Check out the **Calgary Underground Film Festival** at the Plaza Apr. 17–20. It's a rare chance to see the indie of Calgary independent cinema.

Fri., Apr. 18 is the social event of the season for the University of Calgary—**BSD**. If you don't have your wristband by Thu., Apr. 17 at 6 p.m. you're screwed. Go grab it. You want to be belligerent and sinful.

Check out Tinu Sinha's short film **CITADEL** at the Plaza Sun., Apr. 20 at 5 p.m. Although it's free, there be a champ and donate one or two non-perishable food item for the Calgary Food Bank. It's just nice.

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	Sun
MORNING JAZZ	her royal opinion	breaking the tethers	lush life	morning joy	jazz for quantum cats	late night continued	late night continued
	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS weekday mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am					democracy now!	alternative radio
ROOTS MIX	cold smoke jazz	canadian music centre presents	bella musica	the soap box derby	the two and a half hour coffee break	bunte welle german	counterspin eritrean radio
	democracy now!	cloud pleaser	alternative radio	cjsw news	who shakes city calendar	calgary vietnamese radio	hvratski radio croatian
AFTERNOON MIX	this side of blue	so SU me students' union	absolute beginners	pillage the village / failed pilot	fantastic plastic sponsored by beat route	helenic melodies greek radio	buscando america latin & south america
	the banshee beat	electric company sponsored by the inner sleeve	the ok ship lights	the audible smile sponsored by melodiya records	my allergy to the fans sponsored by tubby dog	audio verse sponsored by bird dog video	let's get baked with mat & dave vegan baking from cidu
LATE NIGHT MIX	pop beats and cigarettes	jane & tasya's guide to everything sponsored by broken city	halfway home the liberty lounge	alternative to what? sponsored by kerfmusic.com	road pops sponsored by fivd weekly	bikesheviks sponsored by cadence coffee	level the vibes
	french transe en danse	off the page gauntlet	mezza l'una italian	writer's block	musiquarium everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45	caribbean link-up sponsored by fivd weekly	mental illness sponsored by the coup
	south louisiana gumbo	artslink	the blues witness with reverend ron sponsored by calgary dollars	folkcetera sponsored by the marquee room	full moon funkalicious the latest & greatest in breaks & house	voice of ethiopia oh africa!	breaking techniques
	reverb	tombstone after dark	lift the bandstand	film clips	the nocturntable	the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder	desi vibes
	yeah, what she said womyn's programming	sponsored by the palomino smokehouse & social club	queertopia / urban sex lesbian / bisexual / gay	noise experimental music	remote emissions hard hitting jungle & drum 'n bass	the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder	speaking in tongues world music
	aubrey's shindig!	staticland	good character requirement / turing radio	fat beat diet	dna hardcore techno	the nocturntable	the chit chat
	katharsis	rack power	don't throw your marmalade	post-everything	sound champion showcase	mental brain thoughts	tokyo eye patch
	what will the neighbors think	fuzzbox special	hello pretty city / blue collar bravado	hello pretty city / blue collar bravado	sunlight theory	straight on 'til morning	translucent dreams ambient, trance etc.
	bass ackwards	twilight banter	make it happen cap'n	rage cage			international telegram
	too late mix tape						

# CJSW

## ON-AIR GUIDE

**CJSW** is Calgary's only campus community radio station. We broadcast 24 hours a day, all year. Our signal can be heard as far as Banff on the FM frequency, at 106.9 cable FM, and on Real Audio at [www.cjsw.com](http://www.cjsw.com). • We offer: • A choice to choose: Music and ideas that can't be heard on commercial radio — Music of all genres — radical not recognizable • Spoken Word Programs: social, political, environmental • A&E programming • Women's Issues & Music Programming • Gay / Lesbian / Bisexual Programming • Over 12 different multicultural programs • To volunteer at CJSW, come down to our offices in MacEwan Student Centre at the U of C (room 127). Fill out a volunteer application form. Ask Office Coordinator, ADRIENNE LEE, when the next training session begins. Learn about the ins and outs of how CJSW works. You don't have to be a student to join. For more info call 220-3902.

► station manager: CHAD SAUNDERS  
 ► interim program director: SONJA BLOOMER  
 ► music director: MYKE ATKINSON  
 ► ph: 220.3902 ► fax: 289.8212  
 ► email: [cjswfm@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cjswfm@ucalgary.ca) ► online: [www.cjsw.com](http://www.cjsw.com)  
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# T H E L A S T

**Garth Paulson**  
AP Editor

Everyone knows that masturbation is pretty alright. Well, except for maybe a few Christians with exceptionally good vision, but it's a pretty widely held fact within the rest of population. Thing is, it's a little hard to unabashedly whack it in a room full of people, unless you're a homeless exhibitionist. Then anything goes. I mean, hell, you could have been clandestinely taking the goat for a trot in everyone's presence for years, but it's a different story when you're standing there, looking into their disapproving eyes that are aimed squarely at your truly amazing groin, wondering when the last time you trimmed your pubes was and if they now bear a resemblance to the Amazon.

Oh my god, it's a metaphor! Do you get it? I'm all, like, grade 10 Englishing all over your chest. Or maybe not, if you think about it. Or actually, yeah, grade 10 English is perfect because, you see, I'm using masturbation as a metaphor for

masturbation so give me a B+ and lets get on to watching *10 Things I Hate About You* because there ain't no way anyone's going to be able to understand Shakespeare unless it's put in a modern context and rendered mediocre.

But you don't get it. "Why's this guy jabbering on about wanking and Ms. Thompson?" you're undoubtedly asking yourself. The answer is that I'm masturbating right now, or at least I'm furiously trying to. Why you're reading it probably has something to do with that truly amazing groin I mentioned earlier. Who doesn't love a really well composed, confident groin, after all? If I could just get it going you'd all be impressed. Passionately, overpoweringly impressed.

Unfortunately, it just isn't working when it's actually called for. It's not like I haven't been implicitly spraying my life force all over these pages since day one (not as much as Kyle 'Fucking' Francis, mind you, but his balls are always no more than a second away from going Chernobyl), it's just the

explicit part I'm having trouble with. OR AM I? Whoa, keep on your fucking sausage toes, anonymous reader. Hell, if the AP section has accomplished one thing this year—and that notion is pushing its way out of the stratosphere—it's creating the most insular, inaccessible, widely distributed circle jerk that I can be bothered to find and I keep these type of things in a heavily visited bookmarks folder. You, of course, love it. And that's not because I'm delusional enough to think anyone reads the stupid thing, it's that I'm creating you, the reader, so you'll do whatever I want.

But in the end, I've forgotten what I intended to say. I do, however, know two indisputable truths: 1) No matter what I do, no matter how hard I try, nothing I ever write will be anywhere near as funny as a horse just being a horse. 2) I just spent this entire article talking about absolutely nothing and my genitals, and there is no more fitting summation of my time at the *Gauntlet* than that.

**Ben Hoffman**  
AP Editor

They tell me part of being a grownup is eventually settling down, becoming less boisterous, less bombastic. Actually, only one person has ever explicitly told me that, but the sheer number of times I've been deserted mid-sentence certainly seems to validate the hypothesis that this is what most of you assholes are thinking. Well, I've got something to say to that particular philosophy: fuck that. Fuck the shit out of it. Like, seriously, don't stop until it has eight, nine, ten rip-roaring, lung buster orgasms and is in agony from the chafe of it all.

Because, really, the world works on loud, not reason, nor novelty, morality, good sense or fashion, basically just LOUD. You probably don't have a sense of how true this is because you are dumb and I am smart. See, though: IF I WRITE THIS IN CAPITAL LETTERS, YOU WILL ASSUME IT'S IMPORTANT. Don't get sick with worry, you haven't missed out on the secret salient point of why, because it isn't. How could it be when both the person writing and the person reading it aren't?

## THE BACK ALLEY NIGHTCLUB PRESENTS

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I know, I just called you stupid and unimportant, but don't get angry. I actually love you little meat robots and it's not like it's your fault you don't understand how important the little "n" tick on your personal volume knob is. Consider where you are: the vile guts of the academic institution, where students are put on "mute," bullshit flows like...uh, shit...and everyone is conditioned to walk around with their heads so far up their asses they can lick their throats and allow themselves to toil under the remarkably inane delusion that they matter or one day might.

And in that delightfully colonic paragraph lies the rub, one which I will now endeavour to rub out into *this* paragraph, which is shaping up to be masturbation themed. Academia: if you're going to jerk off so goddamned much, I'm going to stop allowing myself to be the resultant jar of cum in your refridgerator marked "for propriety's sake." Sheath your throbbing pork swords and listen up for a second: nothing you say actually matters. It's funny, because despite continuing to make new circle-jerk stains on a crusty, yellowed glamour-shot of Descartes, you don't seem to realize that's what

he was talking about. *Four hundred years ago.*

My whole dazed and angry trip through higher learning has essentially been spent quietly listening to people who figured out how to YELL STUPIDLY LOUD IN A NON-OBVIOUS WAY and—here's the fucking clincher—feeling *superior* because of it. But I am not. I am a pullstring doll who can render uninteresting points about photons and dialectic materialism even less interesting with obfuscatory language. I am a hypocrite, a silent voice foisted on the loud, by the loud. I am pointless.

That wasn't an invitation to mourn me. I know, you weren't, but please promise me you won't decide it's a good idea to start. Instead, start ignoring your professors. Start running around naked and yelling. Make Dadaist art and write unintelligible graffiti in bathroom stalls, punch whoever you want and download all the gay porn on the Internet. Just don't forget to be a *person* in the midst of the screams telling you not to be. As for me—and maybe you picked up on some subtle, indicative hints—I am going to practice saying *my* stupid, pointless shit as loudly as technology will allow me. Thank you, the *Gauntlet*.

**Kyle Francis**

AP Editor

If I had to have a swan song, it would be "Blame It on the Rain" by Milli Vanilli off of their album *Girl, You Know It's True*, because if everyone around me is slightly uncomfortable and confused when I die, I can maybe go out with a smirk on my face like I've always wanted.

(If this was an audio/visual medium, there would be a record scratching sound right here, as though we were in an early nineties dance hall, and I had just stepped up to the burly downrock champion with my slick new uprock style.)

You see what I did there? I took the idea of the swan song—which everyone is familiar with—transposed it with an accessible pop culture reference and then invited you into my humorist's ethos by explaining one of the possible implications of the connection, while still leaving it open enough for you to make your own connections. Secret of comedy. Well, it's either that, or just blatantly ripping off Something Awful.

Since this will probably be the only opportunity I have to address you directly, student body, I'm really trying to get angry with you (like the

two gentlemen sitting on either side of me at this moment). You've made me so furious over the years. You hipsters with your hilariously ham-fisted irony and Pitchfork evangelism: I make no distinction between you and the emo movement, save for the fact that most of you are old enough to know better. You chongos who talk loudly about what area of your beefcake torso you'll be working out after class: your life is a joke and your fourteen dollar haircut's the punchline. You pseudo-intellectual keeners who sit in the front of class and relate every point the professor makes to a pedestrian life story: die. Being in university does not justify you or your bullshit.

But—make no mistake—writing for a university paper's mediocre humor section does.

And because I have to come to some kind of a conclusion with all of this, I suppose you could say this article represents my experience at the *Gauntlet* in miniature. Feeling inarticulately misanthropic, realizing how petty that makes me and then venting that out by making pop culture references and seductively whispering poop jokes into Ben's ear while he tries to finish his work. Yeah, I'm *so* much better than you.

summertime  
GAUNTLET

WE HAVE ISSUES in the summer, so come on up and help us out. Meetings on the patio. Laid back editors. Festival passes. Write, shoot or draw. There's no better time than summer.



...and so my reign ends. After months of heavy drinking, frequent inanity and occasional incendiary comments, I have completed my term in the glorious role of TLF Editor. Next year the torch will be passed and a new TLF Editor will take the reigns. Maybe you can give him some beer, sadly I never got any. Well, it's time for my work to be sent to the printers...

"Well the music taught me till I was insane and the drugs fueled me till I broke my brain."

- www.ChrisGheran.com

28,000 students, half pay with a credit card. \$750,000 in transaction costs. That works out to \$53.57 in transaction fees per student each year. Yeah right Harvey, either you are exaggerating or you fucked up.

*[Some estimates put the costs at a million. As well, you have to factor in all of the students who only attend part-time, but still pay. You fucked up TLFer. - MiscalculatEd]*

Tell me the truth, nobody leaves here alive. In the black core of doubt, trying to get out in the light. Sometimes you can't see anything. Everyone is changed, everyone is still the same. They can't get out of the game. Wrong is wrong and right is right. Nothing changes overnight. I'll believe it when I see it in BLACK AND WHITE.

- Todd Rundgren

K,  
Contrary to what you truly believe, Todd never was, is, or ever shall be God!

- D

*[I hear you saw me play at Cowboy's in 2006. - Todd]*

A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it's not open.

- Frank Zappa

If U of C needs more funding, there's always money in the banana stand.

- ADmovie2009

piss - beer  
fit - attractive  
reckon' - think  
winge - whining  
bourbon - whiskey  
yarn - conversation  
smoke-o - break at work  
winning? - having a good day  
footy - Australian "football"  
tailor made - rolled cigarette  
caravan park - camp site  
stubbie - beer bottle  
blind - really drunk  
spewin' - pissed off  
ripcurl - current  
avo - afternoon  
ring - phone  
skull - chug

*[Check out the travel supp in this issue. Sadly, this boomerang got cut. - WanderEd]*

It's hard to imagine that for many of us this is our last week of classes at the U of C. A moment that we have longed for, yet it is heartbreaking to know that we will be leaving this place. Thanks to everyone on campus for all the laughter, friendship and smiles you've shared with me. These last couple years are some that I will never forget.

- McCracken

Last semester of my undergrad, and I've finally snapped. People who underline and draw all over library books piss me off and pencil is no less annoying than pen. You book defacers should all be stripped, covered in papier-mâché made from the books you've ruined and ran out of town by monkeys with paintball guns.

*[You almost made it out safe and sound. This fuckin place... - Fuckin placEd]*

NUTV loves students! On B.S.D. we will be giving out free movie passes for Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay...Look for the men in orange!

You are to me what the scarf is to the sceenster, the beard is to beard guy and the peanut is to the M & M. T.G.I.F. is forever.

To everyone who is so upset about the P.U.A and sarging comments: We are "the scopers" from a few weeks back in the TLFs. We are GIRLS. Girls can read "The Game" too. In fact, we probably have more game than you ever will. We could and we will, out-sarge you any night. We f-close consistently.

- The Original Scopers

Dear Campus Cakeface your true identity will never be revealed due to your carefully applied layers and layers which compensate for your lack of self esteem, which was probably strategic. I sit near you in [\_\_\_\_], your self tanner is streaky and your eyelashes are as fake as your personality. What about you is real? This is not professional.

- from all of us in Haskayne School of Business

K: I'm pretty sure that it's a Dodo bird.

C: They're extinct.

K: Really?

C: Yep.

To the cute red-headed girl in CHEM 355: You're the photon to my electron, our collisions get me excited. Wanna be my coupling partner and form a doublet sometime?

- TIMmy's coffee soon?

Housing available:

Five mins. from U of C, next to train station. Available for a 16-month sublet starting A.S.A.P. Cheap rent. E-mail for more info.

- pruhrich@ucalgary.ca

Lost, Canon SD450 digi. cam., Fri. Apr. 11 between 7:30 and 8 p.m. somewhere between Math Sciences and Uni. C-Train Station. Has huge sentimental value. If found please contact lauren@telus.net.

Sgt. Spanky says,  
Put your right and/or left arms and/or various limbs out for your B.S.D. 2008 wristbands! Woot, sweaty assorted appendages for all!

- Sgt. Spanky.

Three hurrahs to the Red Bull guy who brought the magic liquid to the office tonight.

- Crazy Dan

*[Goddamit. As soon as this TLF made it into the section Crazy Dan went totally fucking nuts on the "Magic Liquid" and after an incident with a fire extinguisher got so loopy that we had to force him to drink three bottles of wine to calm the fuck down. Make sure you've got a bit of a tolerance for caffeine before you deal with this stuff folks, it can get pretty heavy. - BuzzEd]*

Dear 100-pound virgin:

The first time we locked eyes over Robert's rules of order, I knew I was ready to have you disarm me.

Mystery electric freak out kool-aid test at brewdizzles Fri. at 3 p.m. on B.S.D.

Graduates, your graduation is an important rite of passage. For all you have learned here at the University of Calgary, for all of the stimulation of the university experience and the growth it has triggered in you, it is time now—you are ready for—the next stage of your life. We are very proud of you.

- U of C Senate

Do engineers get some sort of plaque for scoring with an attractive business student? Or maybe just for scoring at all?

Dash, congratulations on making it out of here in four years! I'll miss our lunches at the Den and out train rides together. Good luck!!!

- Elastigirl

Dreamer, best of luck dealing with me when the crazy from exams kicks in. No matter how psychotic I may get, I still love you

- Rooster

Jader, one last TLF. Good luck with the interview. You'll rock it.

Sic transit L.C.T.

I can't say anything in front of Cam cause he'll put it in the TLFs.

- Personal Best

*[Yep. But fortunately for you this is my last turn at the TLFs. - Quoted]*

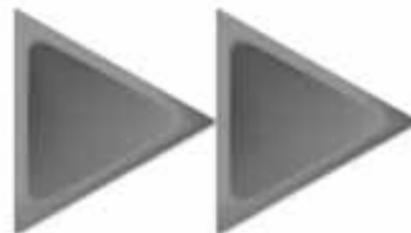
Brewster. 3 p.m. You'll hear it. Be there for it.

*[Months of work producing this fantastic nonsense and insight. Perhaps you have learned something, perhaps you have not. All I know is that I got no beer. This I cannot forgive]*

# three lines free



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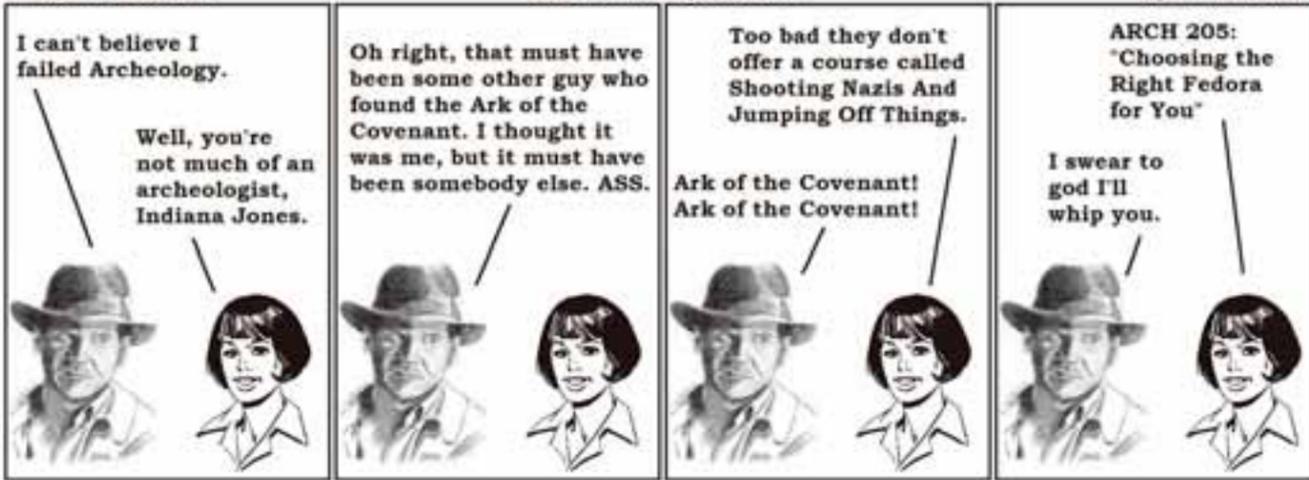
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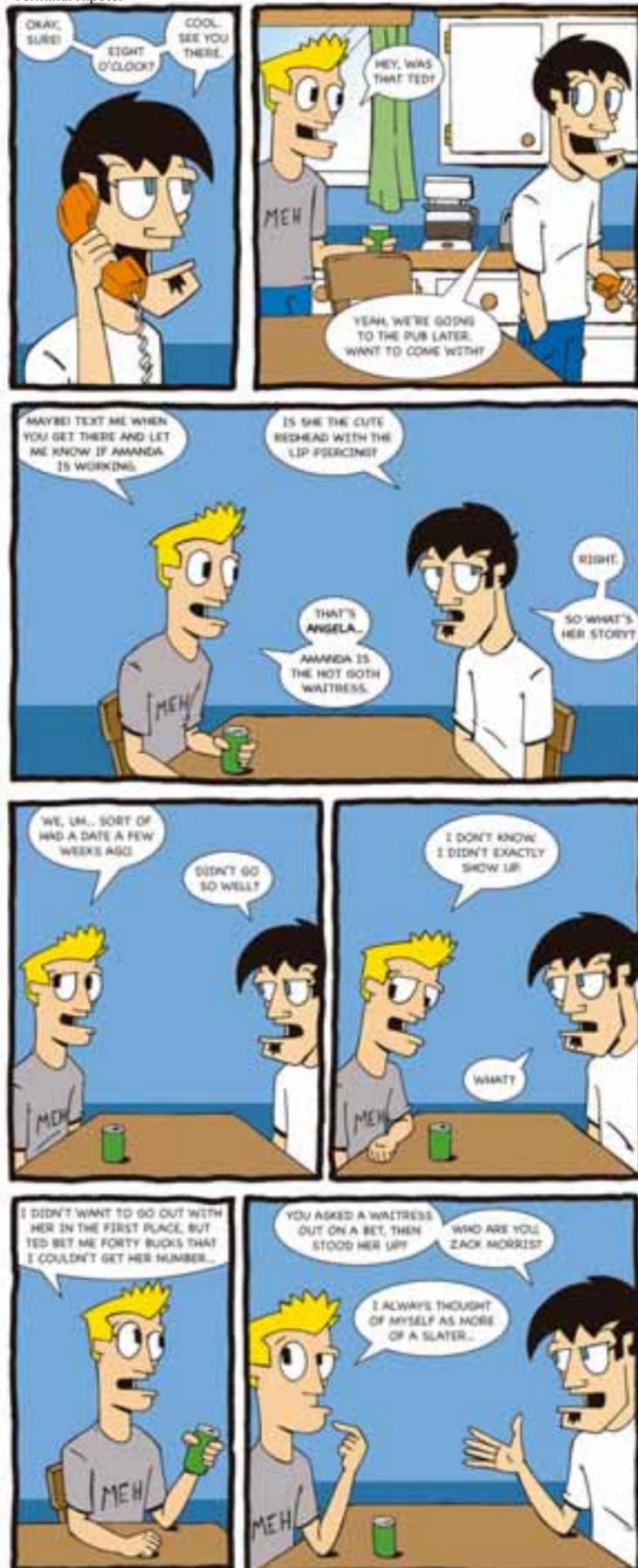
Back to School

btscomic.blogspot.com

by Chris Brown



Terminal Hipster



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