

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

gauntlet

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from the
street

to the
gallery

CUPS gives local homeless the

chance to show their artistic talent

p. 6

Pumps hardly hosing Canadians

Stop the presses, Canadians are getting hosed at the pump. At least that's what a Canwest News Service investigation found. Five per cent of gas pumps tested in Canada failed government inspections by pumping out less gas than they should have, most of them between 30 and 60 cents less.

As gas prices skyrocket, everything surrounding the oil industry, gas stations and their gas pumps will be under a microscope as people try to save money. This issue has gotten some play down in the U.S. as well as similar investigations examined gas pumps and their inspection procedures. The complaints in both Canada and the U.S. centred on people not getting their money's worth. If the issue is how much money you're spending at the pumps, then instead of focusing on the loose change that you might be losing if you happen to hit a faulty pump, focus on behavioural decisions that lower gas consumption and save money—such as driving one day less a week or carpooling.

Inaccurate pumps are a minor problem that can easily be addressed by increasing inspections, something federal Industry Minister Jim Prentice already ordered earlier this week. Unfortunately, this minor problem has been inflated. The NDP have taken on this issue as another corporations are shafting hard-working, honest, tax-paying Canadians issue.

"This confirms the suspicion that millions of Canadians have had," federal NDP leader Jack Layton told Canwest News Service. "That they are being hosed at the pump."

The words are strong, but if a Canadian loses



60 cents each time they fill their tank, and they fill it up once every two weeks, it would cost \$15.60 a year—assuming they fill up at the same pump for the entire year, which may be a stretch.

A year ago, the NDP introduced a private member's bill to establish an ombudsman to field complaints and protect consumers from "unfair gas pricing," which likely means prices the NDP felt were too high for consumers. For a party trying to attack the Conservatives on their terrible environmental record, aiming to lower gas prices for consumers and getting them more

gas for their money is hypocritical.

A *Calgary Herald* reader suggested a simple cost-saving measure in a letter published Sunday. Drive 10 kilometres per hour slower and take an extra few minutes to do a long drive. Gas pump inspections should, and will, happen, but this issue was portrayed as larger than it is. People should make more behavioural decisions to save money on gas, rather than looking for others to help them.

Jon Roe

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Golden Spatula

Ryan Pike for writing a last-minute movie review a scant hour after the credits had finished rolling. Good work!

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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 summer funtime-based ink. We urge you to recycle/roll up the Gauntlet.

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SU Volunteer Services

Dr. Seuss in the Park is a University of Calgary Students' Union Volunteer Services program that promotes literacy for children in the Calgary community.

To volunteer, go to www.su.calgary.ca or stop by the SUVS office in MSC 225. Deadline to apply is June 6, 2008.

No end in sight for urban campus

Daniel Pagan
Gauntlet News

While the University of Calgary is still dreaming of an extended campus, progress continues at a snail's pace.

Four years ago, the U of C introduced the idea of building an urban campus to allow students to study in downtown Calgary and to help revitalize the East Village. The U of C is currently negotiating with EnCana Corporation to develop a satellite campus in the new EnCana tower. The urban campus partnership is also in discussions with the Alberta College of Art & Design to see if space can be found for ACAD's relocation. However, the urban campus is still a long way from completion and the provincial Advanced Education and Technology Minister Doug Horner questioned its need.

The urban campus partnership consists of the U of C, the University of Lethbridge, SAIT, Athabasca University, Bow Valley College and the Calgary Board of Education. The proposed urban campus site is in Calgary's East Village, a block east of City Hall. No official date for completion has been set. U of C vice president external relations Roman Cooney explained the EnCana partnership would allow the U of C to respond quickly to tremendous pressures from the lack of space on the main campus.

"We think it is a very good fit for some programs such as Haskayne School of Business, continuing education and fine arts because the EnCana tower is in the heart of the city's cultural district," explained Cooney.

He also pointed out that the new campus would allow the U of C to reach its current growth target.

"We felt that new spaces for 4,000 students are needed in Calgary and, if anything, may be low given the tremendous pressure on post-secondary education and health care," said Cooney.

He added the urban campus partnership needs \$5 to \$10 million for planning detailed costs, desired programs and negotiations with ACAD.

"There are many questions that need to be answered in the planning stage before we can proceed," said Cooney. "How many students



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

The urban campus project is shaping up to be another slow endeavour, spending the last four years in planning.

in what programs would attend the urban campus? How much space do we need? What space do we need to share with other partners? Differences between the urban campus and main campus and how would the urban campus be run?"

Horner is skeptical of the urban campus' price tag and told the *Calgary Herald* in an April 30 article that he would not invest any more money until the U of C convinced him that the project is the best answer to Calgary's post-secondary accessibility issues.

"Students and taxpayers want us to be prudent with how we allocate limited resources for space," said Horner.

Cooney was concerned with Horner's comments, but he admitted Horner's question is a fair one.

"The University has already invested at least \$1 million in this project," said Cooney. "We're asking the Minister to give us the resources to get to the level of detail he wants. It's a shared responsibility."

He warned that a lack of money from the provincial government could slow progress.

"Certainly we will need to see a decision on EnCana sooner than later because of the con-

struction being underway," said Cooney.

The urban campus partnership is also in discussions with ACAD to see if they can accommodate a new space for the college in a stand alone building on the campus.

ACAD president Lance Carlson pointed out that ACAD is hoping to find a new permanent site for its campus given its ill-suited current location on the SAIT campus.

"Our current building was designed to service approximately 750 art and design students," said Carlson. "Now, we presently have 1,150 students in our baccalaureate degree programs so we require space to grow—especially with our new authority to offer graduate degrees."

Carlson noted that there would be benefits for ACAD to work closely on the urban campus project, such as relocating to city centre with its arts community and collaboration with other post-secondary partners. However, Carlson is afraid that the 490,000 square feet available for the urban campus project might not be enough for ACAD's needs.

"Because this is our entire campus rather than a small splinter initiative from a larger campus, ACAD must be vigilant in making certain our needs are provided for in any move, so

we are exploring all options," said Carlson.

Bow Valley College campus expansion vice-president Bernard Benning is more optimistic.

"I think the concept is a great idea for a great city and, without the U of C leadership, this project would not happen," said Benning.

He explained that BVC got involved in this project because a "learning village" allows students more opportunities to learn in a new educational neighbourhood.

Ward 7 Alderman Druh Farrell is looking forward to the completion of the urban campus as a catalyst project that would inject vitality into the East Village.

"A true campus brings youth and ideas, in addition with restaurants, live music, student housing, meeting places and other aspects of student life," added Farrell.

Despite the cost, Cooney is still confident in the project going ahead because students told him they are learning things in downtown pilot programs that they would not learn on the main campus.

"This is not about a building, but it's about adding new dimensions to the educational experience," said Cooney. "I wish it were easier, but new things rarely are."

Solar Car picks up speed for the long haul

John McDonald
Gauntlet News

When was the last time you saw a solar powered vehicle racing at 100 kilometres per hour in the city of Calgary? The University of Calgary's solar car team was at Race City Motorsport Park on Tuesday testing out their car, *Schulich I*, in preparation for the North American Solar Car Challenge.

"We brought the solar car to Race City because we wanted to test the performance of our vehicle and let our drivers experience speeds which they will be facing in the race," said project co-chair operations manager Darshni Pillay.

The team, consisting of roughly 20 students from the faculties of business, engineering, science and social science, is preparing for the



John McDonald/the Gauntlet

Schulich I will travel over 4,000 kilometres in nine days.

race starting in Dallas, Texas on July 13.

"One thing that sets us apart from other universities is our interdisciplinary team," said Pillay. "It makes us unique and gives us the edge that we need to succeed. Our team accounts for many different

variables that we might face while on the race."

Pillay believes they have an advantage in the race due to their attention to strategy, adding most teams devote less time to the issue.

The engineering teams are pre-

paring the car for the race until July 1 when the team will depart for Dallas. The race will last nine days—with stops in Canadian and American cities including Winnipeg and Medicine Hat—and is over 4,000 kilometres long. The team will be facing 25 other universities and colleges in this year's race.

In addition to the test at Race City Motorsport Park, the team plans on more trials and training on secondary highways leading up to the race. The drivers will need to endure five-hour shifts in the car during the race, which has no air conditioning, heating, power steering or cruise control.

The North American Solar Car Challenge will be held from July 13–22, starting in Dallas and ending in Calgary.

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Awards given to super-profs

Katy Anderson
Features Editor

Life as a university student can be hectic. Between exams, term papers and making it to work on time, class can be a low priority.

But there are some classes you never miss. It could be the impending terror of missing content, but it is normally because you enjoy time spent there.

University of Calgary professors who found a way to make their lectures both interesting and relevant were honored at the Students' Union's annual teaching excellence awards April 30. Twenty-four teachers—13 winners and 11 honourable mentions—and four teaching assistants were chosen from social work to engineering.

SU vice-president Pam Weatherbee said the awards are held to emphasize the importance of recognizing professors who do a little extra to interact with students.

"When students respond to the way their professors are engaging them, that's really cool," said Weatherbee. "It's something we really like to see."

Candidates for the award receive

multiple nominations from students. Once entries are in, the nominee's class fills out a detailed, anonymous form explaining how they felt about their professor's performance. The information is then passed on to a committee consisting of students-at-large and SU elected officials who make the final decisions.

All 28 winners were invited to a formal celebration dinner put on by the SU, where they were presented a scroll with selected comments from their student evaluations on it.

A popular sessional instructor, who announced he's leaving the university due to low pay, received the honour for his fifth time. Dr. Allison Dube teaches political theory and consistently tries to learn the name of every one of his students.

"[Dube] has won four years in a row, he is obviously doing something right," said Weatherbee. "That's something faculty that work with him or know of him should recognize. He can be someone that our faculty looks to because he's been so successful with students."

Dr. Jack MacIntosh was also recognized for engaging students. The modest philosophy professor said he's chalking his win up



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Jack MacIntosh finds teaching rewarding and would even do it for free.

to chance, noting that there are many good teachers that could have been chosen.

"The nice thing about my department is that it's just a great subject, so you can't help enjoy teaching," he said. "We have a lot of good teachers in the department and I've learned a lot from them."

MacIntosh said his job is not only rewarding, but also "pretty easy." He explained teachers naturally want students to think rigorously about important questions and noted how nice it is when students present clear arguments to back up their point of view.

"[Teaching] is the sort of thing

that we all do because, if we had enough money, we'd probably do it, if we were being paid or not—though maybe we wouldn't do quite so much of it," said MacIntosh.

For a complete list of the winners visit su.ucalgary.ca

Students find nuclear energy is a safe option for Alberta

Sarelle Azuelos
News Editor

A group of University of Calgary students are causing a stir over their recent conclusion that nuclear energy is a safe and viable option for Alberta. The fourth-year environmental science students com-

pleted their comprehensive research project which studied site selection, background radiation, media perception, modeling worst case scenarios, comparing technology sources and risk assessment.

U of C fourth-year environment science student Ola Kowalewski explained that the project was

unique because it attempted to survey the social aspects of nuclear energy with a scientific approach.

"When it comes to technical feasibility and the Alberta landscape, nuclear is a competitive option," said Kowalewski. "The biggest limitation for what we looked at was the actual feasibility of the Peace River [site] that is currently proposed, based on soil stability, proximity to vaults and water balance issues."

She noted that other locations within the province might better meet the geographic needs of a nuclear facility.

Pembina Institute senior policy analyst Mary Griffiths was concerned with the group's findings.

"We don't think it's appropriate for Alberta, certainly not at the present time because there are so many issues which are yet to be resolved with nuclear energy," said Griffiths. "We still don't have a solution for the waste of nuclear energy, so we're creating a problem for future generations."

She added that while nuclear energy is often heralded as a clean energy source, it does have negative effects on the environment. Uranium mining creates huge amounts of waste and CO₂ pollution while other processes aren't much better. Griffiths explained

the newer in-situ method requires vast amounts of water to wash the uranium out of the ground and can cause problems with water tables.

"[Once the plant is completed,] it also uses a large amount of water," she said. "We are becoming a water short province. We have had some problems in Ontario at least with discharges of tritium. It is much more serious than previously thought."

Griffiths explained the regulatory drinking water limit for tritium in Ontario is roughly ten times that of the United States and 70 times that of the European Union. Tritium is a radioactive isotope of hydrogen that acts like water within the body.

Kowalewski argued the health risks associated with a nuclear facility are still less harmful than a traditional coal power plant.

"The everyday operation of a nuclear plant is negligible compared to the other radiation you're exposed to on an everyday basis," she said. "When you compare it to driving a car or smoking a cigarette, it's absolutely nothing. Right now, in Alberta, we get about 60 per cent of our electricity from coal and coal is extremely destructive to the environment in terms of CO₂ emissions."

Kowalewski maintained that

important questions for the public were how the energy would be used and if it was necessary.

"Right now we're in the economic growth paradigm attitude where we constantly want to grow and constantly want more," she said, stating that nuclear energy would likely be used to further develop the oil sands.

While Griffiths agreed that increased energy efficiency and reduced consumption would be the best options, she supported renewable resources as the ultimate solution to increase Alberta's energy production.

"In this province in particular, we just don't need any more energy," she said. "Four thousand megawatts of wind power are waiting to come online. I know you can't just have wind power, but there's a huge potential for wind power in Alberta—a lot more than we've got already."

Both Griffiths and Kowalewski supported the use of carbon capture technology to clear CO₂ from the smoke from coal plants. Due to Alberta's existing coal infrastructure, carbon capture would decrease harmful emissions without requiring new nuclear plants to be built.

The Canadian Nuclear Association was not available for comment before publication.

Student loans improved

Sarelle Azuelos
News Editor

With the new provincial budget now in effect, changes to post-secondary education spending are helping students, but some say not enough.

The new budget tabled April 22 included a 2.5 per cent cut in interest rates on student loans, bringing them down to prime, doubling part-time earning exemptions from \$400 to \$800, no scholarship restrictions on loan calculations and increased loan limits to \$13,000.

University of Calgary Students' Union vice-president external Alastair MacKinnon was generally pleased with the progress made on several Council of Alberta University Students lobby points. "[The provincial government] increased our allowances by five per cent, which is a good recognition of the fact that it is very expensive to live and be a student," said MacKinnon. "However, we

were rather disappointed that they didn't have any money specifically dedicated to affordable housing because that's one of our big pushes."

Alberta Advanced Education and Technology spokesperson Kevin Donnan said the focus of the \$13.4 million to loans and \$7.3 million to scholarships was affordability.

"What it's going to do is put more money in students' pockets," he said. "Affordability is not just about tuition, it encompasses a comprehensive initiative. We want to be ahead of this thing instead of being reactive."

While Donnan mentioned future goals include introducing vehicle exemptions and incentive grants for underrepresented groups such as aboriginal students, MacKinnon's main concern was overlooked.

"We want funding for dedicated student housing, which most directly lends itself to student residences," said MacKinnon. "We need more spaces. They did take away some of

the barriers to accessing financial aid but not all of them."

MacKinnon also mentioned the lack of assistance for rising tuition costs.

U of Calumni Susan Lamola, who graduated in 2006, was pleased to hear of the changes after her recent experience with the Alberta students' assistance program. She stressed that the loans were enough to cover her post-secondary expenses, but part-time work was still a necessity. Lamola noted more grants, instead of loans, and a longer period between graduation and loan repayment would help.

"I know a lot of students have a hard time in some faculties finding work right away, so it would just be easy if there wasn't that pressure," said Lamola.

Donnan agreed that only increasing the loan limits was not enough. The increase will not lower the amount of debt at graduation or give students more time to pay back the government. He assured students that progress on the issue will continue.

News for the unnewsed

Mercy Lamola
Gauntlet News

Credit card protest continues

A University of Calgary undergraduate paid his \$1,037 tuition with coins Monday, in protest of the U of C's decision to stop taking credit card payments.

Political science student Teale Phelps Bondaroff carried more than 90 kilograms of rolled nickels and dimes in a wheelbarrow to the registrar's office. He explained that the government and the U of C are "nickel-and-diming" students through high tuition and refusing to take payments by credit card.

The University had been discussing ending credit card payment since 2003, citing almost \$1 million in processing fees that could be spent on student services. The University posted its decision on the enrolment services website March 18 before making a public announcement. Many students found out through friends and Facebook before hearing officially from the University.

Both the Students' Union and the student body were dismayed with the lack of communication, the short amount of time before the July 1 policy change date and the credit card ban itself.

About 18,000 U of C students use credit cards to pay tuition because of unpredictable student loans or for the convenience.

U of C, the University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia were some of the few universities in Canada that allowed

payment by credit card. All three institutions will no longer accept credit cards to avoid high operating costs. The U of C will allocate the money saved to scholarships.

Statistics Canada estimated in 2006 that tuition in Alberta has almost quadrupled since 1990. In the next academic year, U of C tuition will go up another 4.6 per cent or about \$200 per student.

Earthquake in China wreaks havoc

Nearly 15,000 people are dead after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit the Sichuan province in China on Monday.

The earthquake took place around 2:28 p.m. local time, when schools and businesses were full. Telephone poles were destroyed and roadsides were blocked, hampering military aid and making it difficult to determine the extent of casualties and injuries.

The Sichuan province is located in southeast China, about 1,500 kilometres from Beijing. At the epicentre of the quake is the small city of Wenchuan with a population of 110,000. Sparsely populated areas like Wenchuan were the worst affected.

Chengdu's Huaxi Hospital, one of the largest in western China, evacuated the upper floors and moved patients outside after the quake hit the Chengdu area. Two chemical plants were destroyed and spilled 80 tons of toxic ammonia and 6,000 people had to be evacuated from their homes. Two large schools, each with a population of

about 1,000, collapsed in the earthquake. Rescuers are still searching for survivors.

The aftermath of the earthquake has left traffic jams, a lack of running water, power outages and landslides. The earthquake was felt as far away as Pakistan and Vietnam.

Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao flew to Chengdu on Tuesday to oversee rescue efforts. So far 50,000 soldiers have been deployed for search and rescue.

Universities battle doctor shortage

A concept that was only seen in the U.S. and Canadian military is now being considered as part of a solution to Canada's health care shortages.

Physician assistants are being introduced in Canada to combat waiting lists and staff shortages. Physician assistants are trained as a senior resident and are able to handle situations in general and specialized practice including putting on casts, taking histories and filling out patient charts.

In the fall, McMaster University and the University of Manitoba will begin Canada's first non-military physician assistant training programs. Manitoba has been using physician assistants from the military and some trained in the U.S. since 2002.

The program will hopefully cut wait times countrywide. In Ontario, physician assistants reduced wait times by as much as one-third.

off the page
(RADIO GAUNTLET)

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STUDENTS' UNION UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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- Attending regular commission meetings
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- Developing a familiarity with the SU budget and funding opportunities for students
- Reviewing Travel and Conference funding applications
- Participation in various committees, events, and projects of the Students' Union (for example, the Refugee Student Program, the Clubs Committee, and the SU Sustainability Board)
- Commissioners are eligible for up to \$400/month honoraria

Please submit a cover letter and resume to the attention of:
Susan Judd, Coordinator Executive Cabinet, Committees & Elections
Email: scjudd@ucalgary.ca or in person to SU Main Office, 251 MacEwan Student Centre.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
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U OF C ~ A GREAT PLACE TO WORK AND LEARN

CUPS helps homeless with art

CUPSExhibition a r t p r e v i e w

Amanda Hu

Entertainment Editor

Creating a piece of art is often akin to undergoing a self-renewal. It can be an outlet for frustration, a way to articulately convey ideas and sometimes can redefine who a person is.

The Calgary Urban Project Society is taking on this belief in full-force, providing the opportunity for Calgary homeless, who are clients of the not-for-profit community health centre, with a program where they create art and reap the various benefits.

The art program—which started as an all-ages paint to music class on Monday afternoons—is part of several CUPS initiatives including anger management and current event classes, legal guidance and church service to provide clients with useful skills. Unlike the other activities, the painting sessions are not guided, leaving the artists to their own creative devices.

“We talk to the clients and ask what supplies they need and then we go into the community and collect these things,” says art teacher Linda Shaikh. “We supply the studio space so they have a place to work and we get donations of supplies and then we set up the art shows.”

Prior to the program picking up popularity with continued interest from several of the artists, CUPS workers saw many possible niches for the clients’ talents to fill.

“Kevin [Brown, CUPS program manager,] picked up on these guys being good and originally thought that they could maybe end up being tattoo artists or something,” Shaikh recalls. “I don’t know anything about tattoo artists, but I do know about art. I thought I could get them into some different venues or



Jon Roe/the Gauntlet

Phil von Bruchem is one of CUPS’ most prolific artists.

something to give them exposure.”

A collection of works of five artists from the program—Phil von Bruchem, Rosie Weaver, Norm Stoby, Sheralyn Paulus and Andrew Stimson—will be showcased at an upcoming exhibition at the University of Calgary administration atrium. While providing some much-needed exposure, the paintings are also offered for sale with proceeds going to the artists themselves. Though under tight financial constraints, CUPS found promotional help from Dave Parker, who offered to design posters, and Scott Johnson and Harry Yeung of the Design Centre of Canada, who printed 200 copies free of charge. Long-time gallery

curator Paul Koon offered to come in and price the art prior to the show to ensure that the prices were reasonable for buyers, while still sufficiently recognizing the artists’ talent and work. The profits for Stimson, who passed away a few weeks ago, will go to his 19-year-old son.

Von Bruchem, one of the most prolific of the program’s participants, is excited at the prospect of getting his name out in the art world. While the allure of a certain amount of fame appeals to him, he says he would keep creating art regardless of who was looking at it. He started creating intricate pen and pencil drawings at a young age and while he

still considers that his favourite medium, he has embraced the new opportunities the vivid colours of paint have provided him.

“When I draw with a pen, I really take my time about it,” he says. “You can’t undo it once you’ve done it, so you have to imagine something different if you make a mistake.”

As the show approaches, organizers and artists alike are excited about the work getting exposure, but are cautious due to past roadblocks.

“Last year, we tried to have an exhibition, but it turned out to be really shoddy,” Shaikh recalls. “Someone had actually sent around a notice from the Drop-In Centre that they wanted to do an art show for people from all these different agencies and apparently, they dropped it because they didn’t have any response except from CUPS. I said, ‘We have people who are producing art and expecting to be able to show it,’ so we got into it and they put us in the back of a tent.”

While the exhibition acts as a good goal with tangible rewards for the artists, organizers say that the program has helped their clients in many other ways.

“A lot of our clients are barred from every other agency, so they’re allowed to come in here, where they don’t get hassled, grab some paint and go,” says Brown. “They’re left alone and they go on their own. It’s what an artist needs. It’s also a sober time for them too, which is very therapeutic.”

Shaikh agrees, adding that the program has given a lot of clients new-found confidence.

“Many of them have gotten encouragement from other clients,” she says. “All of the artists have a lot of integrity and ideas. It’s definitely not empty work.”

The CUPS art exhibition runs at the University of Calgary administration atrium May 20–22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.

Redbelt more preach than punch

Redbelt movie review

Ryan Pike

Gauntlet Entertainment

Making a film can be a lot like making a stew. There’s a lot of factors to balance—actors, special effects, story and dialogue—and only the best cooks can get things simmering just right. For the better part of three decades, David Mamet has been a great cook. The playwright-turned-screenwriter/director burst into the Hollywood spotlight with films like *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Rife with twists, turns and complex dialogue, Mamet’s films have been both lauded and criticized for their complexity. His latest outing, *Redbelt*, is par for the course.

Mike Terry (Chiwetel Ejiofor) is the owner and operator of a Los Angeles gym, training his students

both Brazilian jiu-jitsu and how to live good lives. Unfortunately, this approach to business and life has left Terry’s gym hanging on the purse strings of his long-suffering wife Sondra, who wishes her husband would find a way to make some money. A chance encounter between Terry, a troubled woman and his prize pupil (a cop) results in a gunshot, a broken window and the beginning of a precarious set of changes to Terry’s life.

Redbelt is not really about Brazilian jiu-jitsu or mixed martial arts at all. Mamet, a purple belt in jiu-jitsu himself, uses the martial arts world to showcase the difference between those with principles and those without them. Throughout the film, Mamet drives home his message: those who live in excess are violating their principles. As such, Terry’s principled, almost poverty is contrasted with wealthy loan sharks, actors and fight promoters. During these interactions though, Mamet often throws subtly out the win-

dow, seemingly turning on a flashing neon sign that shouts “these are the bad guys.”

Unfortunately, the film spends far too much time setting up conflicts with verbal acrobatics than actually showing any. After a gunshot shatters the front window of Terry’s gym, he goes to ask his brother-in-law for money. This scene sets off a chain reaction of other scenes introducing new characters and long dialogues, almost none of which seem to lead to anything until the final 25 minutes of the film. The resulting finale snaps and crackles, but by avoiding the standard sports movie cliché ending, it is less satisfying than it should have been, given the endless preamble.

Like most Mamet projects, *Redbelt* is at least blessed with a talented cast. Chiwetel Ejiofor, perhaps best known for his roles in *Dirty Pretty Things* and *Kinky Boots*, earns the vast majority of the film’s screen time and transforms Mike Terry from a person

spouting complex verbiage into a multi-dimensional character. Emily Mortimer continues a string of good performances as a troubled woman who becomes Terry’s pupil. Alice Braga is solid as Terry’s wife, but doesn’t have much to do. Stunningly, Tim Allen ends up delivering, arguably, the best performance of his less-than-illustrious film career as an action film star who encounters Terry in a bar. Mamet’s regular crew of Ricky Jay, Rebecca Pidgeon and Joe Mantegna also appear, but take a noticeable backseat to Ejiofor.

When the mixture is just right, a stew can be a fantastic meal. However, should the ingredients be mismatched or delivered in unsatisfying proportions, it can devolve into a sour concoction. David Mamet’s *Redbelt* is unlikely to completely turn moviegoers’ stomachs, but it’s also very far from being a gourmet offering.

Redbelt is playing in theatres everywhere.

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Showin' your stuff while you can

Bachelor of fine arts grads showcase work at year-end exhibition

BFA Exhibition a r t p r e v i e w

Daniel Pagan

Gauntlet Entertainment

If you want to see a display of underdogs overcome challenging obstacles to be victorious, visit the 2008 bachelor of fine arts graduating exhibition instead of renting the *Rocky* movies. A group of 14 graduating fine arts students struggled against an apathetic city, lack of exposure for the arts and heavy workload to organize a successful exhibition.

The budding artists began organizing the exhibition at the start of fall semester with help from both faculty and Nickle Arts Museum staff. The class shared different duties such as publicity, catering, getting insurance coverage and presentation of works.

The exhibition draws from many of the students' inspirations, such as Ivan Ostapenko's caffeine addiction and 2008 BFA graduating class president Lauren Simms' mathematics skills.

Simms' dreams of getting a mathematics degree and interest in two-dimension illusions of space inspired her "String Drawing" work. The collection bends the viewers' perception to her advantage.

"The strings are sewn into boxes so that from a particular vantage point in the gallery, the drawings come together," she explains. "As the viewer steps back, the drawing collapses into a system of black and white strings."

Over a cup of pitch-black coffee, Ostapenko, a graphic designer, points out how his caffeine addiction led to the creation of his work, "Moments of Clarity," a collection

of empty paper coffee cups lined up on the wall.

"Both of these are means of exposing my obvious dependence on caffeine, as well as tracking months," he says. "You know, the first blank cup of coffee I bought made me write on it, and I liked the result, so I turned all of the cups I stopped throwing out into this exhibit you can see."

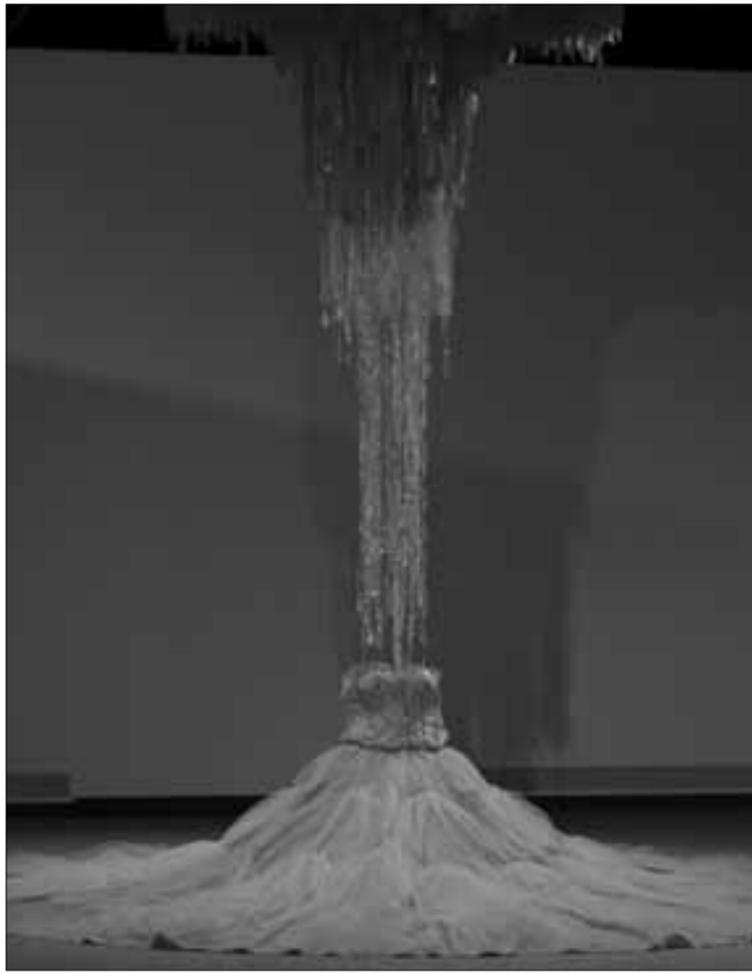
Simms notes that this year's exhibition was more difficult to organize and required more work because of a smaller graduating class. But the sheer amount of effort put in to the exhibition prepares students for the transition from student to professional artist.

"Previous graduating classes consisted of 30 or more people, compared to our group of 14 students," she says. "Tasks assigned to sub-committees were now assigned to one or two individuals. The show acts as closure for the degree program, but also as the beginning for emerging Canadian artists by allowing them to exercise their fundraising, organization, teamwork, self motivation and creativity skills."

For Ostapenko, the exhibition is a visual representation of the challenges facing the art department and hardships of the art community in Calgary.

"Over the last four years, the art department has to deal with crises like the death and re-birth of the Visual Studies Undergraduate Society, underexposure and an apathetic city community," he says.

Ostapenko explains that the arts community's growth is challenging given Calgary's reputation as a city apathetic towards culture, but the community still survives as an ever-increasing number of successful artist-run galleries manage to keep everything afloat.



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

BFA grad Jeanne Stangeland's dress.

"Calgary may be far from a metropolitan culture, but as the city grows, there is noticeably more attention given to the arts, due to more money trickling down into art initiatives thanks to the economic boom," he says.

However, Ostapenko points out that the arts community still has a long way to go and faces some disadvantages compared to other mediums.

"Right now, the local music scene is enjoying a lot of exposure due to highly publicized events like the Junos and the Virgin Festival—

something the visual arts does not have," he adds.

Simms is pleased with the success of the exhibition, adding that it is important for many graduating students to get a taste of the artist life.

"For most of the students involved, the BFA graduation exhibition is an opportunity to not only show in a professional gallery, but also to fund, organize and mount a major exhibition," she says.

The 2008 BFA exhibition runs at the Nickle Arts Museum from April 25 to June 13.

VOX

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TOP 20 for the week of
MAY 12.08

* Denotes Canadian Artist
** Denotes Local Artist

- TWO HOURS TRAFFIC***
Little Jabs (Bumstead)
- FRENCH KICKS**
Swimming (Vagrant)
- CPC GANGBANGS***
Mutilation Nation (Swami)
- FRIGHTENED RABBIT**
The Midnight Organ Fight (Fat Cat)
- THE PHENOMENAUTS**
For All Mankind (Silver Sprocket)
- LYKKE LI**
Little Bit EP (LL)
- THE CULLS****
If Your Horse Returns Alone (Transistor 66)
- PEPI GINSBERG**
Red (Park The Van)
- SUN KIL MOON**
April (Caldo Verde)
- TOKYO POLICE CLUB***
Elephant Shell (Saddle Creek)
- CLINIC**
Do It! (Domino)
- THE BLACK KEYS**
Attack & Release (Nonesuch)
- THE RAMBLIN' AMBASSADORS****
Vista Cruiser Country Squire (Mint)
- SONS OF BULLWINKLE****
Sifting Through The Muddy Floods (indie)
- ISLANDS***
Arms Way (Anti)
- DOSH**
Wolves And Wishes (Anticon)
- NIGHT MARCHERS**
See You In Magic (Vagrant)
- GUNS ARE FOR KIDS**
It Takes A Nation Of Morons To Hold Us Back (Fourth World)
- WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH**
Not Notice (Aloft)
- OLD HAUNTS**
Poisonous Times (Kill Rock Stars)

METAL

- CHILDREN OF BODOM**
Bloodrock (Spinefarm)
- DEAD AND DIVINE**
The Fanciful (Verona)
- BELPHEGOR**
Bondage Goat Zombie (Nuclear Blast)
- IN FLAMES**
A Sense Of Purpose (Koch)
- CAVITY**
Laid Insignificant (Hydra Head)

EXPERIMENTAL

- STEBMO**
Stebmo (Southern Lord)
- OFF THE INTERNATIONAL RADAR***
Off The International Radar (indie)
- REVERIES***
Matchmakers Volume 1: The Music Of Willie Nelson (Rat-Drifting)
- BARNYARDDRAMA***
I'm A Nabby (Barnyard)
- LORI FREEDMAN & SCOTT THOMSON***
Plumb (Barnyard)

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY



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There are certain types of music that are just undeniable as good music. For example, is there anyone in the world who doesn't like

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Wild Rose ALBERTA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Songstress plays old-time feel with fresh sound

K a t e M a k i
m u s i c i n t e r v i e w

Amanda Hu
Entertainment Editor

The musical down-tempo lament is becoming a lost art in this day and age. Audio references to the likes of Bob Dylan are, more often than not, lost to jittery, no-time-to-stop pop for the instant gratification generation. Thankfully, Sudbury songstress Kate Maki is a refreshing bright light at the end of the tunnel when facing a sometimes dim future for folk music.

Maki, a self-proclaimed small potato in the industry, has been pushing her success in a very direct way, managing her own recording career, publicity and booking. She released her third offering, *On High*, in February with the help of renowned producer Howe Gelb, after recording the album in a rapid-fire five-day session, taking tracks live off the floor. The grade school teacher-turned-musician says that, while the time restraints were stressful, they ultimately improved the final product.

"I was teaching full-time last year, so I only had five days off during March break and that's all the time Howe could afford to come up," she

says. "I think there were no expectations and we were all coming into it in an experimental, lets-just-see-what-happens frame of mind. Doing it live off the floor, if the guitar has a great track but the vocals don't, you've ruined that take. You're really on your toes. I like that immediacy and that pressure."

In addition to the quick production and the initial CD release, the album was structured for vinyl with noticeable A- and B-sides. The move attracted Calgary label Saved by Vinyl, who picked up *On High* for eventual record production. Maki says she plans for vinyl as it represents her preferred way to experience music.

"I like the whole physicality of the vinyl," she adds. "I don't own an iPod or anything."

Following the release of the album, Maki has been struggling to promote her music to an often-ignorant audience, sometimes being left to pay-to-play gigs and insulting hecklers. But since touring in the U.S. and presenting *On High* as her first south of the border release, the singer has received a lot more noticeable acclaim and publicity. Though not disregarding Canada, Maki says that breaking out in a larger market can be beneficial.

"There are so many venues around Canada that you have to play and they don't know who Bob Dylan is," she explains. "I've been yanked



courtesy Kate Maki

Kate Maki is in deep thought.

off the stage in [some places] because I wasn't playing new country. There are a lot more people down there and a lot more people doing the kind of music that I do and you find those avenues and those little channels. It's easier to find your audience in the States and the people at the shows are actually listening."

She also cites the Canadian curse—when American exposure sometimes opens up the doors for Canadian adoration—as a big

determining factor for trying to break out down south.

Maki has learned a lot from her experiences with the uninformed masses and is hoping to one day apply that knowledge to enlighten a new generation of young music listeners—many of which see record players as arcane—whether or not she reaches her goal as a full-time musician or continues to teach to fuel her passions.

"I think, 'You poor people, you're listening to digital music that's not round or natural to the ear and it's all coded and angular,' and maybe it affects how they behave," she says. "Maybe [learning about] music can just slow people down so they can take the time to listen to a record and maybe relax a bit and meditate."

As the do-it-yourself *chanteuse* continues to navigate the musical battlefield, Maki's take-it-as-it-comes attitude seems to be working in her favour, lending the music to keep its breezy yet meaningful feel.

"I think I just like to keep things as natural as possible," she says. "I just let it come out and I don't think too much about it, I guess it is sort of a nonchalant, go-with-the-flow kind of thing."

Kate Maki rocks the stage with Cindy Dore, Nathan Lawr and Ryan Bishop at the Marquee Room May 15. The show starts at 8 p.m.

Prog rock group finds musical inspiration in the unbelievable

M a r s V o l t a
m u s i c i n t e r v i e w

Darren Young
Gauntlet Entertainment

Suppose while traveling the world you stumble upon a Ouija board possessed by evil spirits and, out of the kindness of your heart, give it to a friend as a gift. Now suppose that upon using the board, your lives are thrust into turmoil that can only be conquered by burying the board as deep in the earth as you can dig. Such is a day in the life of the Mars Volta, and the subject of their latest release *The Bedlam in Goliath*. The group is infamous for the chaotic and almost unbelievable occurrences that seem to follow them, but as guitarist/producer/composer Omar Rodriguez-Lopez

insists, these events are far short of being tall tales.

"[The stories] are all concrete fact," says Rodriguez-Lopez. "So many people are able to view it and they isolate us as a group. The more people that are able to view our lives, the more opinions they have."

Though it is difficult to concede that Rodriguez-Lopez delivered a possessed board game to vocalist Cedric Bixler-Zavala, nearly bringing about the demise of the band, Rodriguez-Lopez believes he and his bandmate are magnets for bizarre and inexplicable activity. Consider the tale of their 2005 release, *Frances The Mute*, based on a diary found by their late sound technician in a repossessed car, or the 2003 offering, *De-Loused in the Comatorium*, centred on their late friend Julio Venegas, who was in a coma for several years.

By these stories alone, it is hard to dismiss the paranormal magnetism of the Mars Volta.

"You're going to attract chaos if that's what's in you," explains Rodriguez-Lopez. "The simplest example I can give you is this—if you've done drugs before, even when you stop being that person somehow you still have that mark on you. Even though I haven't touched that stuff in almost a decade, when I walk down the street at night or during the day, it's like I have a mark on my head."

The theatrical essence of *The Bedlam in Goliath* is fuelled by more than just a confusing concept. It is a statement of faith, not specifically in the religious sense, but in the capacity to believe in the extraordinary and the metaphysical. Rodriguez-Lopez believes that we are not alone in this universe and the

structure of life includes entities that are not physical.

"My religion is everything around me," says Rodriguez-Lopez. "I don't have a set of rules on it and I don't think there's a rule that dictates God. The planets evolve, they revolve, the universe changes, planets die, suns die and everything works that way. I definitely don't think something as huge as the universe could be understood by any of us."

Now that the demons of the soothsayer Ouija board have been unleashed from the studio, the Mars Volta are hitting the road to tour in support of *Bedlam*. Recreating music live is a difficult procedure for any band, but for the Mars Volta, it requires nearly a dozen people. Rodriguez-Lopez is thrilled to be touring again, getting his hands dirty in venues across the globe and put-

ting on intense performances.

"The live performance is everything," says Rodriguez-Lopez. "It is the essence of the music. Making records is a cold medium. You can look at pictures, but it can never compare to what it felt like to be at the wedding."

After their current tour, the band already has plans to jump into the studio for their next endeavour. The album is expected to showcase acoustic sounds—less familiar territory for the generally loud and bombastic Volta crew. With laurels and loyal fans pushing them further, it seems all they need is another earth-shattering catastrophe in their lives to inspire them once again.

The Mars Volta visit MacEwan Hall May 21. Doors open at 7 p.m.

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