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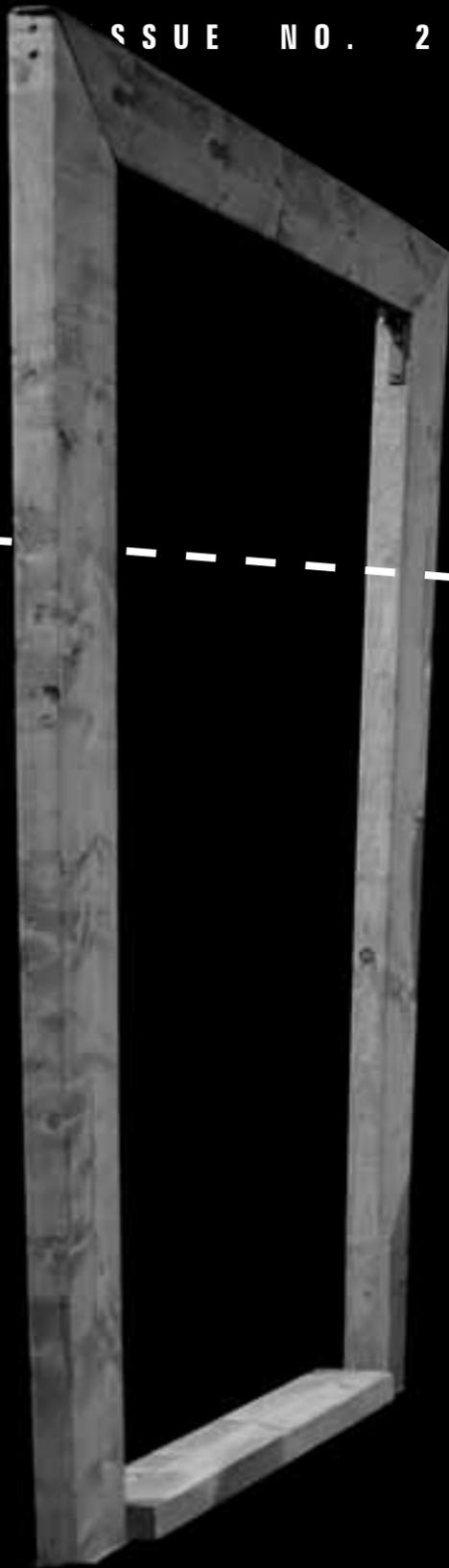
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Exploring both sides of the fence... page 5



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Golden Spatula

Dan Pagan for not eating all the sushi, and for branching out into the world of writing. But mostly the sushi thing.

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 the blood of the infidels-based ink. We urge you to recycle/return for one last hurrah at the Gauntlet.

Superboard a super bad idea

A rather unexpected announcement was made last week when Alberta Health Minister Ron Liepert sliced the number of regional health boards from nine to one. The \$13 billion "superboard" will be in Edmonton and led by interim chief executive Charlotte Rub. While many argue that this will help reduce administrative costs and therefore increase spending on frontline health care, it does not address the major issues facing Alberta's health care system.

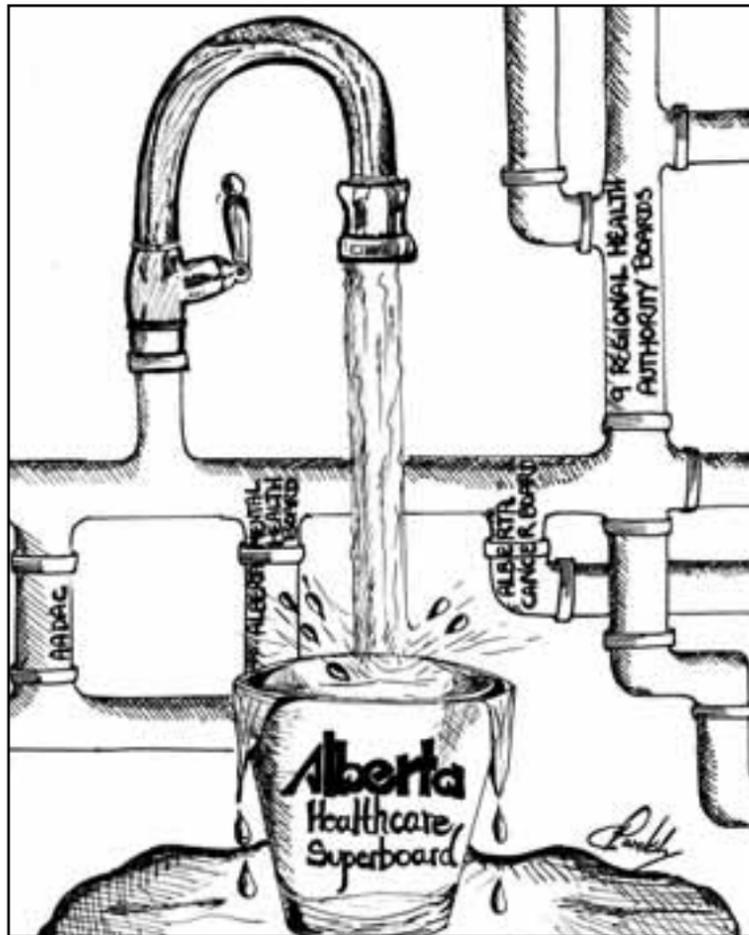
A province-wide board will help in providing an equal standard of health care across the province but that does not mean that they will be improving it. The regional health boards were introduced in 1994 after a collection of 128 hospital boards, 25 public health boards and 40 long-term care boards were facing serious deficits. In 2004, the original 17 regional boards were cut down to nine with few non-financial benefits resulting.

An open letter to the province by Liepert explained the change will improve health system governance and accountability, add more health professionals, manage health services to better meet patient needs and promote healthy and safe communities. While these are all honorable goals, no information was given as to how they will

come about. It's almost as if they've decided to free up the money for an undetermined project. As of yet, doctor- and nurse-shortages will not be fixed by having a superboard located in Edmonton. The decision has no plan to confront surgery wait times.

Rural communities afraid of being forgotten were told the new Edmonton board is setting up smaller voluntary councils. The councils will be situated across the province and report back to Edmonton with recommendations. What is the point of dismantling regional boards only to replace them with less effective groups? Money will be saved on financing the councils but before any action can happen, it will have to go through another level of bureaucracy. Other councils will be set up to deal specifically with cancer research, mental health and drug and alcohol addiction. Decision making is being centralized and then broken up again into different councils—a return to the complicated mess the health minister was hoping to avoid in the first place.

A recent paper published in *Canadian Family Physician* calls for more cooperation between physicians and local health care executives and administration to direct funding where most needed. Past reduction in regional boards



has made this kind of communication more difficult. The superboard may have access to more money, but will also be more disconnected from those who need it.

A centralized board will cut costs for the province and, so far, that's

about it. Amputating the regional health boards may be a step in the right direction, but without any plans for the future, Alberta's healing process might be a long one.

Sarelle Azuelos

News Editor

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Protesting with a torch of their own

Sarelle Azuelos
News Editor

Local demonstrators gathered recently to raise awareness of Tibetans, the Falun Gong and other oppressed groups in China. The Human Rights Torch Relay group met in front of City Hall Monday, as part of their travels to over 40 countries with a torch of their own to protest the lack of international response to alleged Chinese human rights abuses.

Students for a Free Tibet representative Kephun Chazotsang was calling for action at the demonstration while informing people of the history of Tibet. He argued that it is ironic for an oppressive nation such as China to host the Olympics, which stands for brotherhood and peace.

"It's easy for us to get together, to demonstrate and make some noise in Canada," said Chazotsang. "But when they choose to do that in Tibet, they're basically choosing death, they're choosing prison, they're choosing the possibility of never seeing their family again just to cry freedom."

University of Alberta China Institute director Wenran Jiang was supportive of the rally but stressed it is important not to forget about the progress that China has accomplished.

"Human rights [according to the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights] includes the right to have a better living, and the Chinese government has probably done the most with the best record worldwide," said Jiang, pointing out China's comparative success battling poverty. "There are areas where China is not doing very well and areas where it is doing greatly. I think that record is a mixed one."

University of Calgary anthropology professor Dr. Alan Smart also brought up the importance of the UN declaration.

"If we're going to take human rights seriously, we can't just pick and choose which ones we're going to support," said Smart. "Stephen Harper obviously thinks we can neglect hous-



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Several bystanders were unhappy with the demonstration but were quickly escorted away by Calgary Police.

ing and things like that and then lecture those who don't [support] other human rights. I'm not saying that anything that's happened in Tibet is good but there are lots of human rights abuses going on."

Smart said pointing out China's faults without developed nations recognizing their own could lead to China feeling targeted, but Chazotsang finds it difficult to compare Canadian and Chinese human rights abuses.

"I don't think that any country is perfect by any stretch of the imagination," he said. "I don't think there's any case in Canada which bares any resemblance to what's going on inside of Tibet. Hypocrisy isn't the best way to go about things, but for the most part it's like comparing an apple and orange."

Chazotsang advocates a modified boycott of the Olympics in which athletes would attend

but political figures would not. While personally happy with international response, he believes that China is not listening because there are no serious repercussions for their actions. Political figures abstaining from the games would send a loud and clear message. Chazotsang also recommended the official torch relay stay out of Tibet because it would compel Tibetans to protest, leading to more deaths.

Jiang also warned protestors of the effects of their demonstrations. He does not agree that an Olympic boycott will help those in need.

"The Chinese people are very much looking forward to [the Olympic games]," said Jiang. "That's why they come out in support of the Olympic torch relay. They do not see the games as part of the propaganda of the government, they see the games as their own coming-out party."

Smart explained the current Olympic protests have resulted in a backlash in China and are leading to a rise in xenophobic nationalism. An Olympic boycott might fail to deliver the desired response.

Jiang had positive feelings about the future of China and the eventual end of human rights abuses there.

"They should not lose the overall bigger picture of where China is, otherwise we fail to understand China and its dynamics and where it is moving," he said. "If the pace of what China has achieved, even on the political front, in 30 years can be projected into the next 30 years, you'd be quite optimistic."

Chazotsang stressed that the Human Rights Relay was not anti-China or against the Olympics but simply searching for a solution.

Engineers have Robocop entertaining again

John McDonald
Gauntlet News

Two words that seem to go together like bread and butter are engineers and robots. This stereotype has been reinforced this year at the Schulich School of Engineering. A team of four electrical and computer engineers repaired a robot for the Calgary Police Interpretive Centre.

As part of their degree, all engineering students must complete a design project in their fourth year. This year, a team fixed ANDROS, a bomb-disposal robot donated to the Calgary Police Interpretive Centre collection after the robot was decommissioned in 1997.

"We had it in our collection and we thought it would be interesting to have it actually functioning again so that we could demonstrate to youth visitors how police might use a bomb robot in their work," said Calgary Police Interpretive Centre YouthLink administrator Gail Niinimaa. "We had a discus-



John McDonald/the Gauntlet

Wai brought ANDROS, the bomb-disposal robot, back to life.

sion with Dr. Alex Ramirez-Serrano, the project supervisor, to see if we could have it fixed at the university as a student project."

Fourth-year electrical engineering student Jeff Wai was working on the project.

"There were a variety of projects to choose from, including some that had to do with signals, transmitters and receivers," said Wai. "The robotics one seemed to be really interesting. It involved aspects of hardware and software."

ANDROS robots are designed to master rough terrain and have two arms: one for a camera and one to disarm the bomb.

"We needed them to develop an interface that would be more user-friendly," said Niinimaa. "They implemented a gaming joystick into the design so that potentially someone that doesn't know how to operate a bomb robot could figure it out by using the simple gaming joystick." The Interpretive Centre was hoping the more versatile controller design would allow volunteers to show children how the robot functions.

"The most interesting part of the project was the reverse-engineering of the robot," said Wai. "When we first received the robot, we knew nothing about it. We needed to do an analysis on the robot to understand how it worked and how we could fix it."

Wai attributes the success of the design project to the concepts learned in class such as circuit

design, programming and power supplies, which were required for
see ROBOT, page 4

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Prof's work pays off

Sarelle Azuelos
News Editor

A certain University of Calgary professor is no stranger to receiving prestigious awards, but her latest will leave a lasting impression.

U of C law professor Dr. Kathleen Mahoney recently won one of five Trudeau Fellowships, which consist of a \$150,000 prize and up to \$75,000 of research allowance over three years. Since the establishment of the fellowship in 2002, less than 30 Canadians have received the recognition. According to the Trudeau Foundation website, the awards are given to those who have proven they are capable of promoting new solutions to major contemporary issues.

The prize is unlike a grant because it does not bear any requirements on its use. Recipients are free to spend the money on whichever project they wish. Mahoney has not decided what she will use the money for just yet.

"My thinking so far, is that I'll continue on with the work I've been doing with judicial education and also in the fields of reconciliation and restorative justice," she said.

Mahoney's past projects include

international work for constitutional law, women's rights and educating the public about the judicial system.



Mahoney.

equality and how those things work into judicial decision making, if they do at all," she explained. "Often times they don't and decision making, which is supposed to be independent and completely unbiased, is not."

Mahoney said most people come to court as a last resort for seeking justice. If the litigation process is biased or if those in charge do not understand the social context of those seeking justice, Mahoney argues that the entire judicial system becomes undermined.

Trudeau Foundation program director Bettina Cenerelli explained the selection was made by an external committee which looks at leadership, productivity, reputation and

communication and involvement. Mahoney was qualified in these areas because of her extensive work as chief negotiator for the Assembly of First Nations, which was awarded a unique settlement for residential school survivors. Her work with judicial education is currently in the form of a \$12 million Canadian International Development Agency study tour project in Vietnam.

"Our scholars are not only brilliant and intelligent but these are really people who are active in many fields," said Cenerelli. "Mahoney is not only a university professor, she's much more than that. She's trying to reach out; she's engaging in all kinds of different domains. She's not only a person who speaks up but acts as well."

The Trudeau Foundation is composed of fellows who act as mentors to chosen scholars. The organization picks five fellows every year and accepts nominations for foreign students studying in Canada, a distinct feature among academic grants.

"The prize and research allowance allows them to continue the work they have been doing until now," said Cenerelli, adding the foundation wishes to connect the public with humanitarians across Canada.

News for the unnewsed

Asma Chaudhry and Amanda Hu
Gauntlet News

MySpace imposter charged

Lori Drew, a 49-year-old from Missouri, has been charged after impersonating a teenage boy on MySpace.com and pretending to be in love with a 13-year-old girl. The incident eventually resulted in the girl's suicide. Drew, along with others, created the fake MySpace identity of a 16-year-old boy to woo her neighbour, Megan Meier. In 2006, Meier committed suicide by hanging after receiving messages that the relationship was over and that the world would be better off without her. The suicide spurred international calls for social networking sites to crack down on cyber-bullying. Drew was indicted May 22 on federal charges of conspiracy and accessing protected computers.

Nargis death toll on the rise

More than 130,000 people are dead or missing in Myanmar as victims of Cyclone Nargis. The shocking death toll surpassed international aid agency estimates. The United Nations said only a fraction of the needed water, food and emergency

shelter materials is getting through. About 2.5 million people are barely surviving in the Irrawaddy River delta where they are begging for help along roadsides in the absence of large-scale government assistance. The ruling Junta insist that domestic relief efforts are adequate and deny the need for foreign relief operations.

Xenophobia in Italy

The Roma people of Italy are getting the boot as part of the country's latest move in a national anti-immigration campaign. Many Italians blame the transient group's increasing population for high crime rates and are calling for their expulsion. Civilians have started demolishing Roma camps and assembling angry mobs to attack members of the nomadic group. The government has done little to discourage such actions, going so far as assembling special forces to impose their anti-immigrant policies, despite calls from human rights groups and European Union officials to treat the Roma people with respect.

Canada officially gay-friendly

Prince Edward Island has become the latest and final province in

Canada to approve gay marriage. The legislation puts the province in line with a July 2005 bill that approved gay marriage throughout the country. The new ruling changes the term "married couple" to "spouses" and encompasses mixed-sex, same-sex and common-law unions. The wording allows for changes in the Adoption Act that will allow same-sex couples to adopt children. The decision will also give same-sex partners a definitive ability to act as their spouse's next of kin in the event of a medical emergency, something that wasn't guaranteed across the province previously.

U of C student on the runway

Six-foot-two, blue-eyed, Taylor Fuchs was innocently studying natural sciences at the University of Calgary when he was approached about modelling. He started modelling over a year ago and has since been named the "World's Most Successful" male model by Forbes Magazine. Fuchs has modelled for Dolce and Gabbana, Fendi, Yves St. Laurent, Burberry and walked the catwalks of Paris and Milan. He plans on returning to the U of C once modelling becomes less successful.

Robot, continued from page 3

his electrical engineering degree.

Niinimaa explained the centre has been open for 12 years and exhibits are currently going through construction. The robot will stay in storage until the upgrades are complete.

"[We want to] give the message how to be safe in the community [and raise awareness about] drugs, bullying and domestic abuse," explained Niinimaa. "We want to show how police work is important

and generate interest. Our mandate and mission is to educate youth on the consequence of crime and poor lifestyle choices and the ANDROS robot will help us capture their interest."

OFF THE PAGE @ GAUNTLET . U CALGARY . CA

off the page
(RADIO GAUNTLET)

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Finding the elusive suburban niche

H a b i t a t
t h e a t r e p r e v i e w

Amanda Hu

Entertainment Editor

Most people want to see the world be a better place, one free of crime, hunger and other maladies. While the sentiment may be there, it dissolves for many when confronted by those in need, and the self-sacrifice that offering relief can entail.

Habitat, Downstage's final production of the 2007–08 season, explores themes of displacement, intolerance and coming of age through circumstances that hit home for many, regardless of their background. The play, written by Judith Thompson, follows the story of a picturesque upper middle-class neighbourhood thrust into conflict after a newcomer opens up a group home for wayward youth. The friendly, "Howdy, neighbour" smiles start to melt away, revealing a community that doesn't seem quite ready to embrace their new friends down the block.

Though Thompson penned her play several years ago, Downstage took on the project now, citing its relevance given recent incidents in Calgary like the debate within Sunalta over the appearance of a halfway house in the community and the various appeals filed from the 16th Avenue area when the Brick building was converted into a temporary homeless shelter.

"It's one of those plays that is kind of ripped from the headlines because there are still murmurs about that sort of stuff going on in our own backyards," says Simon Mallett, *Habitat* director and Downstage's artistic producer. "When you read about things in the newspaper, it's really easy to cast a judgment for or against one side based on who you are and how you feel."

Mallett notes that while the "not in my backyard" argument is prevalent throughout the



Amanda Hu/the Gauntlet

Shannon Pollock (r) is not a happy camper. Seriously, look at her face.

production, Downstage was careful to portray both sides equally, giving a human and relatable face to all viewpoints. This approach sets the stage for audience engagement and, hopefully, future discussion and discourse.

"A lot of the community uproar that surrounded [the Sunalta situation] is the same as

in the play in terms of the residents' perspectives," he says. "Decreased property values, increased crime rate, those sorts of concerns, are completely valid concerns. I think the challenge is that, in those sorts of situations, we don't just get an insight into the details and the specifics of the people involved but

also the kinds of desires within the efforts to establish a halfway house."

Julie Orton, who portrays the group home's heroine, Raine, says her character seems to personify the argument, dealing with the inner conflict of coming from affluence and landing on the other, less fortunate side of the fence.

"She has the circumstance of being pulled in all directions," Orton says. "She's thrown into this situation and is along for the ride. In that respect, she is able to use her experiences with both sides and at the end, truly emerge as her own person and find her own voice and fight for something that she truly believes in. She probably comes out at the end of the play having learned the most and come the farthest and it's really her journey."

Orton says she learned a lot from working on the project, though she hasn't come to any definitive conclusions on the issue.

"My perspective of the issue before was just what I had heard in the news because I didn't really have any personal experience with it," she says. "In the course of doing this, you get a chance to see both sides and how it can seem overwhelming and helpless."

Mallett maintains that the play is meant to spur on the debate, rather than make a statement for one side or the other.

"I think one of the great things about the play is that it explores some socially-provocative questions without giving any easy answers," he says. "It's not just sort of a political diatribe within a theatre space. It's actually a very human story that happens to revolve around something that is very much happening in our community."

While *Habitat* may leave the audience with more questions than answers in regards to the NIMBY argument, the discourse that follows may result in the solutions we're looking for, or at least a willingness to accept the personal costs.

Habitat runs May 22–31 in the Studio at Vertigo Theatre Centre. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors.

Latest *Narnia* installment is very little but watered-down drivel

Prince Caspian
m o v i e r e v i e w

Hoang-Mai Hong

Gauntlet Entertainment

The Chronicles of Narnia is back in full Christian-allegorical force in the much-anticipated sequel subtitled *Prince Caspian*. This time around though, weaknesses from the first film are beginning to pile up, leaving the *Narnia* movies to seem more and more like a lesser version of *The Lord of the Rings* movies. The films even force this comparison, undermining what C.S. Lewis was aiming for with his story and unfairly comparing him to his friend and colleague J.R.R. Tolkien, yet again.

The first *Narnia* installment took the story of the Pevensie children set in Second World War Britain

and Disney-fied it for the apparent benefit of a twenty-first century audience's sensibilities, giving the film an overall soulless, corporate sheen. CGI animals with cutesy one-liners, an excessive showcasing of special effects and an inadequate amount of character development of the kids themselves—who are fairly photogenic and charming child actors—pushed the gimmicky feel further. In *Prince Caspian*, even more money is thrown at the special effects department and even less time is spent with the kids, and most crucially, on the story.

The PG rating, the all-around Disney-fication of the story and a blandness that carries over from the first movie seems to compete with an apparent rip-off of *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* in the expansion of the epic battle scenes. The battles have been bloated in

Prince Caspian, much like in *Two Towers*, and it overwhelms the real heart of the books: the story of the four Pevensies. Little time is spent on developing the children's lives back in the real world, from where they are escaping the war by living as kings and queens in the fantastical realm. Before we know it, they are whisked away back to Narnia to fight on its battlefields. As the story is made into a conventional war movie, it is noticeably bloodless and bland due to the kiddie movie restriction and falls back on emphasizing those CGI characters we don't particularly care about. It all makes for "epic" battle scenes that are neither epic nor have anything that really feels at stake.

The role of the eponymous Prince Caspian (Ben Barnes) is also reduced in the wake of the constant swordplay. He spends a

see GIMMICK, page 6



courtesy Paramount Pictures

One of *Prince Caspian's* bloated battle scenes.

Gimmick,
continued from
page 5

lot of his non-battle screen time alpha-male bickering with Peter Pevensie (William Mosely). The rivalry seems to be built entirely on empty and meaningless back-and-forth insults of battle strategies and other stereotypical dominance traits, a product of the under-developed storyline. A hasty romance with Susan Pevensie (Anna Popplewell) is inserted in the Prince's storyline as well, perhaps to lure in the Tiger Beat element. Admittedly, the Prince is rather dreamy, but stays as vacuous and underdeveloped as the movie itself.

Ultimately, *Prince Caspian* is a strange and awkward creature: a kiddie war movie. Though adventure played a role in Lewis's original story, the movie sacrifices the story itself for drawn-out battle scenes. The filmmakers would've done well to stick to the kids and the idea of the magical imaginary world as a refuge. An altered approach could have made Narnia a world worth fighting for, as well as a movie worth watching.

Prince Caspian is in theatres now.

A hearty, Texas-sized sound

Sleepercar
music interview

Amanda Hu
Entertainment Editor

Imagine sitting down on a cool night in desert terrain, a breeze blowing softly and the stars shining in full force throughout the dark sky. Now pop in Sleepercar's first offering, *West Texas*, and get the same feeling via musical means.

The band, the newest project from former At The Drive In and current Sparta member Jim Ward, has set itself up for alt-country acclaim, offering hearty harmonies and down-home guitar riffs. While somewhat of a departure from Ward's previous musical work, he says that Sleepercar's sound was a natural fit, given his upbringing.

"I think it just sort of came from being at home," he says. "It is expansive and big and Southwest America, which is still a little bit of a frontier. We live on a border and it's quite a bit different than the rest of the world. I think it kind of reflects where I wrote it."

Ward compiled the album's



courtesy Indoor Recess

Sleepercar frontman Jim Ward waits patiently for the train to come.

11 tracks over seven years of writing, including through the split-up of ATDI and the creation of Sparta. After making some demos of a few of the tracks, Ward gathered an ensemble together—including

Ward's father, Jeff—to formally record the beginnings of *West Texas*.

"He's always been the kind of dad who comes down to the shows during the sound check and says everything sounds great," Ward says. "Some kids grow up building cars with their dad or playing baseball, but for me, music's always been our common thread no matter what point in life we're at. The opportunity to actually make music together was sort of a father/son bonding experience."

While Ward is no stranger to the band life, he says Sleepercar gave him the opportunity to experience and create music in a more directly-influential way, noting Sparta is more of a collective in terms of writing. But he cautions that, though the project was much more directly steered by him, he doesn't see his role as domineering compared to his past musical endeavours and involvement.

"When people say 'side project,' it sounds more like an ego thing to me and I don't want to get into that territory," he says. "It's probably not the way people imply it but I take it that way, so I try to stray away from that."

It is quite apparent that the band is far more than something on the side for its members. Sleepercar is coming into its own, enriching Ward's original ideas and adding to the skeleton foundation he laid out.

"The thing I love about this band is that the songs will always change a little bit every night," he adds. "A lot of the parts were written and played by me over the years but handing off the piano to someone who is 50 times better at piano is great because it takes my elementary skills and makes it sound better."

That fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants mentality and versatility has ended up benefiting the band, especially in unexpected circumstances.

"We added a guy right before that, so his first show with us was on *The Tonight Show*," Ward says. "It was a surprise, so there wasn't much preparation that went into it. We drove to L.A. and the song that we had rehearsed for the Tonight Show had changed so we went to the rehearsal space and practiced until midnight. But, I kind of like the fact that this band can do that and not have to rehearse a whole lot because there's a certain amount of spontaneity."

Sleepercar will continue to carve out its niche in American music as long as the tunes keep flowing. With Ward at the helm, it is clear that there are more audio breezy nights to come.



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I liked it better in high school

Stone Angel adaptation seems to skim over all the good parts

Stone Angel
movie review

Hoang-Mai Hong
Gauntlet Entertainment

The *Stone Angel* is a Can-lit high school staple that some may be wary to revisit, even in the relatively quicker film form. It's always been curious how a completely depressing novel—beautifully written though it is—about a woman looking back on her life and how she has endured its many soul-crushing pitfalls made its way into our curriculums. It's a plot that few high schoolers can willingly absorb and understand. Unfortunately, it seems that the story went over the heads of the filmmakers as well, as they glide superficially over the story to cram it into two hours, making for a mainly dreary and episodic soap-opera.

The film introduces us to nonagenarian Hagar Shipley (Ellen Burstyn) who, in the present, is being shepherded into a retirement home by her eldest son, Marvin (Dylan Baker). Feisty as all hell and further fuelled by a sudden recall of key moments in her life, she runs away in order to get physically closer to the place of her memories. Unfortunately, this takes the form of clunky flashbacks, transforming an opportunity to develop characters into a weak attempt to sporadically inject some drama into the bleak Manitoban landscape.

The audience witnesses episodes that highlight her rebellious youth in brief bursts, such as her impulsive love affair with her future husband. It skips quickly to a sexed-up marriage that transforms into an imprudent one to a one-dimensional, heavy-drinking, farmer cliché, all within the span of 10 minutes, before revealing several deaths, secrets and disillusionments that the audience can't



courtesy Alliance Atlantis

Steamy scenes like this make for a vapid portrayal of a school-lit classic.

fully grasp or commit to.

Thankfully, the last thing to go wrong is the acting. The mainly forgettable movie has some great names and the talented cast do as much as they can with such underdeveloped characters. Most notable are Burstyn and Christine Horne, who both portray Hagar. The latter is especially compelling in the flashbacks and adds a much-needed complexity to Hagar that seems to be

lacking in the script. Ellen Page and Kevin Zegers are also highlights but are given pithy roles in a significant romance that is stuffed into, basically, one line of dialogue.

The Stone Angel condescends so much to the audience that it is seemingly ready-made for an English class-viewing by students slumped over their desks. After being subjected to a circling shot of the literal stone angel monument for the fifth

time, the metaphor being pounded into our skulls gets tiresome. As a result, the reconciliation between mother and son at the centre of the movie is only quasi-touching, and the rushed job will make you want to retreat back to the fully-developed characters of the revered and (in school) reviled novel.

The *Stone Angel* hits theatres May 23.

VOX

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TOP 20 for the week of
MAY 19.08

- * Denotes Canadian Artist
** Denotes Local Artist
- 1 THE RAMBLIN' AMBASSADORS****
Vista Cruiser Country Squire (Mint)
 - 2 WET SECRETS***
Rock Fantasy (Six Shooter)
 - 3 TWO HOURS TRAFFIC***
Little Jabs (Bumstead)
 - 4 MT. ROYAL****
Mad Foxes (indie)
 - 5 THE CULLS****
If Your Horse Returns Alone (Transistor 66)
 - 6 YOUNG AND SEXY***
The Arc (Mint)
 - 7 PATTERN IS MOVEMENT**
All Together (Hometapes)
 - 8 THESE ARE POWERS**
Taro Tarot (Hoss)
 - 9 GHOSTKEEPER****
Children Of The Great Northern Muskeg (Saved By Radio)
 - 10 HOORAY FOR EARTH**
Cellphone (Dopamine)
 - 11 TAPES N' TAPES**
Walk It Off (XL)
 - 12 AARON BOOTH****
Back Stories (indie)
 - 13 FRANCIS CHEER****
Typewriter (indie)
 - 14 THE BLACK KEYS**
Attack & Release (Nonesuch)
 - 15 THE OKMONIKS**
Party Fever!!! (Slovenly)
 - 16 JONATHAN RICHMAN**
Because Her Beauty Is Raw And Wild (Vapor)
 - 17 ATLAS SOUND**
Let The Blind Lead Those Who Can See But Cannot Feel (Kranky)
 - 18 THE OH SEES**
The Master's Bedroom Is Worth Spending A Night In (Tomlab)
 - 19 ADELE**
19 (XL)
 - 20 VANCOUGAR***
Obvious/distance 7" (Mint)

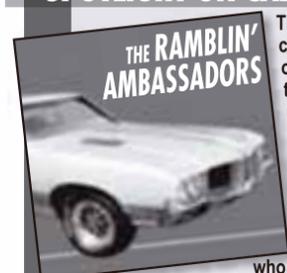
ELECTRONIC

- 1 ARIANE MOFFAT***
Tous Les Sens (Audiogram)
- 2 THE PRESETS**
Apocalypse (Modular People)
- 3 M83**
Saturdays=Youth (Mute)
- 4 YELLE**
Pop Up (Caroline)
- 5 CARL CRAIG**
Sessions (IK7)

HIP HOP/SOUL/FUNK

- 1 ELI "PAPERBOY" REED & TRUE LOVES**
Roll With You (Q-Division)
- 2 JAMIE LIDELL**
Jim (Warp)
- 3 THE HEAVY**
Great Vengeance And Furious Fire (Counter)
- 4 PRODIGY**
H.N.I.C. Pt. 2 (Voxonic)
- 5 LYRICS BORN**
Everywhere At Once (Anti)

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY



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Of comic books and rock groups

Prog rockers take inspiration from fictional universe and set it to music

Coheed and Cambria music interview

Darren Young
Gauntlet Entertainment

No matter what the comic books say, it is no easy feat to kill Coheed and Cambria. After suffering through an immensely rocky period in their history, the band has found new life in their latest concept album installment *Good Apollo, I'm Burning Star IV, Volume Two: No World For Tomorrow*. The band has also added ex-Dillinger Escape Plan drummer Chris Pennie. Though the protagonists of Claudio Sanchez's pseudo-biblical, musical science fiction saga *The Amory Wars* were pronounced dead long ago, the band of the same name is alive, well and ready to take over the universe.

"There are a lot of things that excite me about this band right now," says Pennie. "This is probably the happiest time of my life. We have a lot of fun when we're playing, we're relaxed and there's no drama. Things are never so sweet without the bitter."

Coheed first ran into trouble while on tour in 2006 when drummer Josh Eppard and bassist Michael Todd suddenly left the band. Todd eventually rejoined the group just in time to record *No World For Tomorrow*,



courtesy Chapman Baehler

Coheed and Cambria specialize in intensely staring down at cameras from hills.

but, due to management and contractual issues, Pennie was unable to play on the album. He was forced to sit on the sidelines while the band recorded, handing his drumsticks over to resident Foo Fighters beat-

dropper Taylor Hawkins. "The way that I look at it, you have to make certain sacrifices to get to where you want to be," says Pennie. "To me it was very important to be a part of this band. You want to get

along with the people you are with, and with Dillinger it just wasn't happening. It became bitter and that was the climactic point of the way everything went, but they got a new drummer and now I'm able to play

and tour with Coheed."

Pennie is not the only new face in the band. Coheed and Cambria has also expanded its touring roster from four to seven, with the addition of a full-time keyboardist and two backup vocalists. This significantly impacted their most recent performances, leaving some fans dejected and skeptical towards the presence of the new musicians. The band, however, is thrilled to have more support on stage with their new layer of sound.

"They really fatten up the sound," says Pennie. "The girls are really adding to the harmonies of what Claudio is doing and the keyboardist is really playing a lot of parts. [The fans] will see how sonically big it is."

With their lineup solidified, Coheed and Cambria are in the preliminary stages of writing material for their next record. The new offering is set to be the final chapter in *The Amory Wars* and a prequel to the four albums already released by the band. Having already penned the quintessential soundtrack to their comic book version of Revelations and the end of all life on *No World For Tomorrow*, it is now time for the band to channel their inner Phil Collins to create the soundtrack for the Coheed and Cambria universe's Genesis.

Coheed and Cambria hit Mac Hall Ballroom May 24.

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