

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

gauntlet

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Is it a...

FROGAMANDER?

Is it a...

SALAROG?!

**U OF C SCIENTISTS
HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!**

pg. 3

Gerobatrachus
hottoni



Geriatric grievance

John McCain is going to die. Though the same can be said for most of us—unless the secret to eternal life is found, and even then, biological matter will still likely decay and our bodies will have to be replaced with robots—the difference between the Republican nominee for president and most of us 20-somethings is that McCain is going to die soon. In 3.29 years in fact, if he is an average American male according to the CIA World Factbook.

This is distressing for anyone in the U.S. ready to mark an 'x' and elect him president of the world's only superpower. Though McCain made attempts recently to display a clean bill of health—or as clean a bill of health a man who has been a POW, in three plane crashes and survived cancer would have—the manner he chose to do so hardly puts the mind at ease. McCain allowed around 20 reporters three hours to view over 1,000 pages of his medical records. The reporters weren't allowed to photocopy any of the documents or remove any of them from the room. This hardly counts as full disclosure. Though presidential candidates aren't required to release medical information—Bill Clinton didn't discuss his health until his second term, maybe because of an embarrassing case of

“cat-scratch fever” caused by First Cat Socks—when a candidate is so close to the doorstep of death (or the average age of death, relative to other hopefuls), everything should be done to be open and ease the minds of the public.

Perhaps an aged president would be easier to accept if the potential second-in-lines were more qualified. Of the Republican nominees for president, McCain was the least flawed. Mike Huckabee was either one of the top-five governors in the U.S. during his stint in the governor's mansion in Arkansas, according to *Time* magazine, or one of the 10 most corrupt politicians in America, according to Judicial Watch, a conservative watchdog organization. Mitt Romney was ready to abandon plenty of his political views to be more in line with traditional Republican doctrine during his campaign for the nomination.

All candidates have good and bad sides, but the flaws of the Republican candidates largely outweigh the positives. Obviously vice-presidential nominations don't necessarily have to come from failed nominees, but with such a weak field produced for the presidency, the vice-presidency doesn't seem likely to drive any better candidates out of the woodwork.

The icy hand of death will one day carry us all into oblivion. For



John McCain, that day is probably sooner than most and, should he be elected president come November, the upheaval his death would bring is of concern to everyone. To put the public's mind at ease, his campaign

needs to have an open-book policy on his medical records and a viable selection for vice-president.

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No more guessing for paleontologists

Sarelle Azuelos
News Editor

A gap in the fossil record roughly 300 million years ago had scientists puzzling over the origins of modern frogs and salamanders. This gap has now been filled with a recent discovery by a University of Calgary assistant professor.

In 1995, the late Dr. Nicholas Hotton, with a group from the Smithsonian Institute, discovered the *Gerobatrachus hottoni* fossil in Texas. The fossil was forgotten until early 2004 when Dr. Jason Anderson, lead scientist on his study, decided to bring it to Calgary and see what it had to offer. What he found was unlike anything else.

"It has a mosaic of characteristics, some froggy, some salamandery, some remnant of the temnospondyls," said Anderson, explaining that temnospondyls are an extinct order of amphibians.

Until recently, there was disagreement among researchers about whether temnospondyls left any descendants. Anderson's research suggests that temnospondyls are in fact the ancient ancestors of modern amphibians.

"When you have a gap and no evidence, you're able to hypothesize any sort of arrangement," said Anderson. "But this fossil makes it fairly conclusive that frogs and salamanders come from temnospondyls."

Anderson explained that his research was further supported by molecular studies that place the timing of the splitting in the evolutionary lineage at approximately the same time the *Gerobatrachus* fossil was formed. However, past



Michael Skrepnick/courtesy U of C

Artist's rendering.



Diane Scott/courtesy U of C

Believe it or not, about 300 million years ago, this fossil was alive and well.

research supported the hypothesis that frogs, salamanders and caecilians—long worm-like amphibians—came from the same ancestor whereas Anderson's findings place caecilians in a field of their own.

"The question of the origin of all modern amphibians is now just a question of where caecilians come from," said Anderson.

The *Gerobatrachus* would have lived in bogs and was roughly 12 centimetres in length.

Funding for his project came from several different sources, including a discovery grant from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, another discovery grant which he shared with noted vertebrate

paleontologist Dr. Robert Reisz from the University of Toronto and an initial grant from the government of France.

"I got to spend a month and a half in Paris, which is the hard side of research, I suppose," joked Anderson.

It was during previous work with Reisz when Anderson met one of the graduate students that would work on his project. McGill University PhD student Nadia Fröbisch is working on her thesis about other small amphibians, called branchiosaur, which are closely related to salamanders. She and Anderson first became interested in paleontology for similar reasons.

"My parents took me to a large natural history museum in

"It has a mosaic of characteristics, some froggy, some salamandery, some remnant of the temnospondyls."

-Dr. Jason Anderson,
U of C Assistant Professor, Anatomy

Frankfurt and ever since then I've been hooked," said Fröbisch. "A lot of little kids are interested in paleontology and then at some point they kind of lose it, but I never lost it."

Fröbisch went on to get her masters equivalent at the University of Bonne in Germany before coming to Canada. Anderson started university as a drama major before realizing his real

interest lied in paleontology. He explained that the procedure he followed was typical of scientific research.

"It demonstrates the predictive nature of science," said Anderson. "If you were to take a look at the earliest frog and salamander fossils and you were to hypothesize what an ancestor for those might have been like, you wouldn't have been far off from what we discovered in Texas."

Students fixing schools in Ghana

Sarelle Azuelos
News Editor

In only four weeks time, 20 Canadian students will head off to Africa in an attempt to help fix the ailing Ghanaian education system. The students are traveling for six weeks with the World University Service of Canada.

wusc spokesperson Emily Chartrand explained the organization was a network of individuals

and post-secondary institutions that came together to help developing nations. The Canadian students are taking part in their international seminar which sends a group to a different developing country each year.

"wusc's mission is to foster human development and global understanding through education and training," said Chartrand.

The 20 students will be paired with Ghanaian students once they

arrive and will work for four internship coordinators.

"We're dealing with the basic education sector there," said fourth-year business student Chris Secreti, who is taking part in the trip. "Their primary education system isn't up to par or even close to western standards. That leads to all of the problems [in the country] because without basic education, it's pretty hard to advance when you're a Third World country."

Secreti said he had always been interested in Africa, but never knew projects like this existed. He heard about wusc in his POLI 371 class. He estimated between 150-200 students applied nationwide.

"You always hear about the things that go on in Africa and all the problems, but [the class] really opened my eyes to what was going on over there," he said. "I was very intrigued and I wanted to see how

see GHANA, page 5

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New dean and reps for Qatar students

Daniel Pagan
Gauntlet News

University of Calgary-Qatar now has a new faculty of nursing dean and student representatives to go along with the sun and sand.

Established by the state of Qatar, the U of C-Q campus is working together with the Hamad Medical Corporation to offer clinical nursing education to nursing students to address the shortage of nurses in Qatar. The campus opened up its door Aug. 2007 to 15 students. In a recent election that saw 100 per cent turnout, the U of C-Q students voted for student representatives to serve as advocates for the Doha student body, selecting Faiza Hussein, Noor Abdulrahman Abuhamdeh, Moussa Al Kiluni and Asmaa Hassan Abu Hassan.

Dr. Sheila Evans serving as the new Qatar faculty of nursing dean. She was the faculty of nursing associate dean research since 2003. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a bachelor of nursing undergraduate degree, a master's degree in nursing education and a PhD in epidemiology and bio-statistics. She then worked at the Foothills Medical Centre and taught at the U of C.

Evans wants the students in Qatar to attain the same academic credentials as those available to students in Calgary by offering undergraduates an opportunity to pursue research alongside faculty and practice partners. She added that video-conferencing and online chats, along with increased student exchanges, would offer new opportunities for students in both the Calgary and Doha campuses.

"Two of our Calgary-based students will experience their senior practicum course in Qatar and work with preceptors at Hamad



courtesy U of C-Q

The U of C in helping address a nursing shortage in Qatar.

Medical Corporation for the winter term 2009," said Evans.

Despite its recent opening, Evans is not worried about the Qatar campus and explained the hard work of faculty staff and students will keep its academic standings up to pace.

"We are offering the students here at the U of C-Q the same high quality education that students at the main campus receive," said Evans.

Director of U of C-Q student services Fred Rosmanitz agreed with Evans' comments, add-

ing that the U of C is popular in Qatar because of its reputation in nursing education.

"Prior to the U of C setting up here, there was a higher institute of nursing which got discontinued, so the U of C has the responsibility of educating and upgrading the Qatari nurses," said Rosmanitz.

Rosmanitz explained that the recent student representative election in Qatar worked differently than the Students' Union elections in Calgary due to the small student body. Representatives were chosen for students in the regular bachelor of nursing track, sponsored and non-sponsored post-diploma bachelors of nursing.

"After a discussion with students, we decided that the best electoral approach was to list the students in each three categories and [visit the classes to] allow students to indicate their choice of a person who they want for the student representative positions," said Rosmanitz. "We tallied the results and then approached each of the successful students to see if they would agree to be the representatives."

Rosmanitz said the U of C-Q is planning to adopt a traditional approach for student elections in the future, when the number of students enrolled is expected to increase.

Houda Moussa Al Kilani, a post-diploma bachelors of nursing transition student representative is taking his duties seriously.

"It gives me the opportunity to discuss with my colleagues their concerns and deliver these concerns to the staff and professors," said Kilani.

Asmaa Hassan Abu Hassan, another student representative, agreed with Kilani's comments pointing out their duties include raising awareness about the Doha campus and the Qatari students to U of C students.

News for the unnewsed

Ryan Pike
AP Co-Editor

Phoenix lands

NASA's Phoenix Mars lander landed and began transmitting images back this week following a 10-month journey to Mars.

Launched Aug. 2007, Phoenix was designed to study the geological history of Mars and search for evidence of a habitable zone in the planet's soil. Although its mission is slated to last for 92 days, scientists are already discussing similarities between Earth and Mars

based on one of the first images transmitted by Phoenix, displaying polygonal-patterned cracks on the surface similar to those caused by ice wedging on Earth.

UBC art theft

The University of British

Columbia is offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the return of artwork stolen from a campus museum last week. A dozen pieces of jewelry by B.C. artist Bill Reid, valued at \$2 million, were stolen from UBC's museum of anthropology May 23. Museum

officials are concerned that the pieces may be melted down for their gold, valued at \$15,000 based on weight. Law enforcement officials are continuing to investigate the break-in. RCMP spokesperson Annie Linteau noted art theft is
see NEWSBRIEFS, page 5

Flippers **Frisbee** **Keyboard**

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gauntlet

Newsbriefs, cont'd from page 4

not very common in the province and the RCMP are working with police abroad to track down the culprits.

Hurricane season a-comin'

The upcoming Atlantic hurricane season is not expected to be anything unusual, the United States government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced in a report released last week. Based on current climate conditions, NOAA estimates the 2008 season has a 90 per cent likelihood of a "near or above normal season." An average hurricane season features 11 named storms, including six hurricanes with two reaching major hurricane status. National Hurricane Center director Bill Read said his forecasters are ready to track any storm in the Atlantic Ocean once hurricane season begins June 1 in a NOAA news release May 22.

Grand Theft Auto: Calgary

A Calgary man has been charged in connection to a wild crime spree over the weekend.

The suspect stole seven cars and took hostages twice—including a nine-year-old girl and a 75-year-old man—over a daring two-hour string of car-jackings. Richard David Barker has been charged with robbery, forcible confinement and assault with a weapon in connection with the spree. He is also facing charges of three failed car-jacking attempts and a series of robberies on the same day. The suspect was brought into custody with injuries after the car he was driving was forced into a pole by police, although witnesses claimed they were a result of police violence. Calgary Police Service Staff Sgt. Keith Cain acknowledged the use of force in bringing the suspect into custody in a *Calgary Sun* news article Tuesday, but praised

the officers for their restraint in light of how many people were in harm's way.

The NDP pens net neutrality bill

The federal New Democratic Party brought legislation aiming to tackle the issue of internet neutrality to Parliament this week. Introduced as a private members bill, Bill C-552 was unveiled as a reaction to recent actions by Canadian internet service providers to limit their customers' use of the internet. Companies like Rogers and Bell claim that the use of mass-downloading applications such as BitTorrent slow down their networks and, in response, have reduced their connection speed during peak access times. NDP digital spokesman Charlie Angus called the internet "a critical piece of infrastructure" in a CBC news article Wednesday. He argued the bill, aiming to amend the Telecommunications Act to block internet providers from limiting access, would protect Canada's innovation agenda.

Bruton's slip

Spokane Chiefs captain Chris Bruton insists he did not break the Memorial Cup after his team won it last week. The Calgary-born hockey player said the trophy, a replica of the 89-year-old trophy given to the champions of the Canadian Hockey League, simply broke apart in his hands. Nicknamed "Butter-fingers" by the media following the incident in Kitchener, Ontario, Bruton has become an internet sensation in the interim with over 100,000 views of the video on YouTube. The trophy has since been repaired by CHL officials and the original, first presented in 1919, remains in one piece at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

Ghana, cont'd from pg. 3

I could help out so I ended up applying."

The students will first go to a training session in Ottawa for a week to learn about intercultural relationships and the Ghanaian culture. Chartrand stressed that the research completed in Ghana will be practical for Ghanaian officials. Work will coincide with the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations, which include universal primary education and developing a global partnership for development.

"They're going to break up into research groups partnered with a Ghanaian student to undertake research on the quality of basic education in Ghana," she said. "They're doing that with local partners in Ghana so that the research will be useful to them."

The students will be working with Uniterria, another Canadian volunteer program with a presence in 13 countries worldwide. The students will later be required to participate in a public engagement program.

"The students will be, upon coming home to Canada, sharing what they've learned with their fellow students on campus and throughout their communities," said Chartrand. "A lot of the focus is not on what



Brett Wagner/Creative Commons

Students will be working for schools like this one.

they'll be achieving overseas, but on what they'll be doing once they return home."

This is the 61st International Seminar hosted by WUSC. The organization is funded by dona-

tions and supports refugee students studying in Canada. This year they will also be starting their first Refugee Summer Seminar, sending students to a refugee camp in Kenya.

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Underground artists inspire intrigue

La Mexicaine de Perforation

theatre preview

Amanda Hu

Entertainment Editor

Delivering a new and far more literal meaning to the term, “underground cinema,” La Mexicaine de Perforation has inspired intrigue and confusion since its public discovery in 2004. The elusive group has performed various acts of clandestine artistry throughout Paris, managing to set up an entire functioning film theatre in the abandoned caverns below the city’s streets—only to remove any sign of its existence days after the discovery—and broke into the Panthéon multiple times without a trace—except for the old clock they restored.

The group, and their various escapades that continue to befuddle authorities, are the subject of a collaborative project by Calgary’s Trepan Theatre and the United Kingdom’s Aetherios Theatre. *La Mexicaine de Perforation: a catacomb clown comedy* plays on the artsy cave dwellers’ infamous nature and the police’s apparent inadequacies when attempting to pin down the pack. Co-creator and actor Rew Lowe says it is their oddball attitude and unpredictability that made La Mexicaine such an interesting subject for the theatre.

“I think they’re an inherently theatrical group of people,” he says. “There’s a lot of puppeteering and slight of hand and magic with what they do in real life. These are tricks that we’re trying to use in theatre as well. They also set themselves up as quite a powerful group, outside of the law.”

In Lowe and his colleagues’ version of the story, two Canadian backpackers get



courtesy Trepan Theatre

Apparently, you can hang out in your underwear in Paris.

caught in the middle of the battle between the catacomb people and the police patrol, eventually becoming immersed in an underground circus of sorts, where La Mexicaine are the ringmasters. Though the inspiration for the play seemed dramatic enough for the stage, Lowe cautions that he and his fellow creators are not trying for a direct imitation of the situation.

“The research [we have done] has inspired

us and is a starting point,” he says. “We don’t, for one minute, profess to be doing anything realistic at all. The play is totally ridiculous, and rightfully so. For example, La Mexicaine seem to be able to evade the police and that has given us a real chance to explore the notion of having completely incompetent police and sort of explore using clowns and idiots in that dimension.”

Lowe also notes that their take of the

story—including the traveling Canadians—allows for a great exploration of cultural clashes and idiosyncrasies, something that was familiar given the international nature of the collaboration.

“As soon as you start working in that kind of environment, immediately, you keep striking on the culture differences and some very fun and hilarious theatrical differences,” he says. “What is it for two Canadians to jump into the world of Paris and what is the idea of this international group of artists to encounter Canadians? Where cultures hit each other can be a very good comedy.”

Though the play has come together with few glitches, the real La Mexicaine have contacted the troupe, demonstrating their infamous sinister character.

“They left a message for the police [in the cinema cavern] saying, ‘Do not try to find us,’” explains Lowe. “That can be translated as simply, ‘do not try to find us’ or, ‘do not push your luck.’ We’ve been in touch with them, which has been a curious experience in that they don’t seem too pleased that we’re basing our show around them. They feel they have the ownership of this name. It’s been an interesting dialogue. There have been various cryptic messages coming towards us basically saying, ‘You can’t use our name or our history.’”

Despite the protests from La Mexicaine de Perforation, Lowe and his company are continuing on, telling the tale with their own brand of theatrical humour. Their version may even add to the allure and intrigue of the original group, inspiring more works based on the mysterious catacomb artists while transporting audiences from a Calgary stage to the underground caverns of Paris.

La Mexicaine de Perforation: a catacomb clown comedy runs at the Joyce Doolittle Theatre at Pumphouse Theatres June 3–7. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors.

Let’s play a little game of snakes and aliens

Latest *Indiana Jones* installment turns goes from nostalgia to science fiction absurdity

Indiana Jones

movie review

Jordyn Marcellus

Entertainment Assistant

It’s been almost 20 years since Harrison Ford cracked the whip and donned his trademark fedora as Indiana Jones. Fans, who were entranced by Ford’s rugged and manly, yet thoroughly intellectual portrayal of Jones, have been eagerly chomping at the bit for a new film to wet their whistle.

With everyone worrying about the quality of the latest adventure, especially considering George Lucas’ apparent ability to make a film terrible just by being associated with it, the question on everyone’s mind is if the fourth movie will be face-meltingly awesome or tear the heart out of the collective fan base. The answer is

somewhere in the middle: it isn’t *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, but it isn’t as awful as *Temple of Doom*.

Like the old serials the *Indiana Jones* movies were based on, the *Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* is crafted from the interests of the ’50s movie going public at the time. Instead of the ’40s Nazis and thugs, it’s those silly communists.

The tales of fantastical religious artifacts and adventures in the Middle East are replaced with mystical South America and, yes, aliens. People may be a little taken aback by the sudden science fiction turn of the series with the alien plot, but it is firmly rooted in the cinematic tradition of the *Jones* dynasty.

The plot is classic adventure fare. Evil, ideological bad guys are

coming to take over the world and the plucky protagonist needs to use all his wisdom and guile to prevent that from happening. Ford proves that he can still play the lovable rogue and he finally gets to meet his Leia in perma-spunky Marion Ravenwood (Karen Allen) who is back since her first appearance in *Raiders*.

While the two have instant chemistry on screen, it is Shia LaBeouf’s tough, street-smart, greaser named Mutt Williams that is the most surprising delight. LaBeouf usually plays the bumbling everyman, but gets an opportunity to be a full-blooded action hero in this film. While he does play a comedic role, he manages to always be on equal footing with Ford and is never a chump, a good move on Spielberg’s part, despite some more questionable choices, like the absurd vine-swinging scene.

Beyond the glowing moments,

there are problems with *Crystal Skull*. The last bit of the climax is a ridiculous, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*-esque attempt at cleaning everything up in a neat, little package. There are a few moments of utter absurdity, like a scene where Jones is getting interrogated and suddenly has to look into the titular crystal skull. It’s far less scary than likely intended.

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull isn’t going to beat out *Raiders* for best Indy instalment. It can’t capture that whirlwind, lightning-in-a-bottle moment of the sheer joy of the first film. Despite that, the franchise hasn’t shrivelled up into a skeleton and can even go on strong for another trilogy, though hopefully with less aliens and more rootin’, tootin’ action.

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull is playing in theatres everywhere.

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A very musical ramblin'

Ramblin' Ambassadors manage to avoid trend-chasing

Ramblin' Ambassadors

music interview

Jordyn Marcellus

Entertainment Assistant

Retro-chic is all the rage right now. Saturday morning cartoons like *GI Joe* and *Dragon Ball Z* are being remade into live-action movies, often more for the adults than their kids. Brands like American Apparel are exploiting all those once-horrendous fashions from the '80s for the 20-somethings who barely lived through the decade. It's more than a little ridiculous.

With everyone steeping themselves in all the trappings of the past in an attempt to be "cool," it's good to see the Ramblin' Ambassadors are not following this trend. Even though the old-school pedigree of the band—the Ambassadors' lead guitarist is Brent Cooper, who also plays for seminal Calgary band Huevos Rancheros—would make it easy for them to rest on their laurels, the group takes that classic surf rock sound that everyone knows and adds to it, making it all their own. Since it's all a bit cliché, Cooper doesn't find much value in a straight-up retro sound.

"My problem with the retro stuff is that it's just that—there's nothing new," explains Cooper over the phone from his Calgary abode. "We try to combine all of those music traditions into our own sound. Some of it is retro, but it's not entirely retro. There's a little bit of a soundtrack quality to it, with a surf and psychobilly tinge to it as well."

The band's newest album, *Vista Cruiser Country Squire*, was recorded off the floor in the band's Calgary



courtesy Mint Records

Coop and the boys hang out on the stairs.

rehearsal space for a bit of an extra kick. While each track manages to have those smooth and silky sonics that Cooper's groups are known for, there's an added energy that would otherwise be missing from a normal studio recording. Critics and fans alike are digging on the album, much to Cooper's delight.

"The reaction to the CD has been totally positive," says Cooper. "It's rewarding to make an album that we're happy with. Mint [Records] has always stood by the band and they're totally supportive of us."

Mint, which put out most of the Rancheros records, is one of Canada's best kept secrets. Located in Vancouver, the label

has often been on the cutting edge of Canadian independent music. Past acts on their docket include Neko Case and the New Pornographers—even that obnoxious rascal Nardwuar the Human Serviette has his band on the label. With the past working relationship, Cooper had a great in for his new band's distribution.

"I called up Mint and said, 'Hey, I have new band. You guys want to put it out?' and they said okay," laughs Cooper. "It was sort of a handshake over the phone. They're still a tiny company with only three or four paid employees. It's nice, because they're definitely doing it for the music."

All those years ago when the Rancheros were starting out, they'd say they were in it for the beer. Now that Cooper is, as he says, on the wrong side of 40, he has a dreaded "real job" in addition to his music career. He teaches elementary school.

"You're not allowed to drink beer when you're teaching," jokes Cooper. "There are similarities [to playing in a band and teaching]. You have to be 'on,' in a sense. When you're playing in front of an audience, or trying to keep a bunch of grade threes in line, you always have to be on your toes."

With Cooper teaching tykes, it's not the easiest thing in the world to go touring. Many say it's the best part of the experience—especially the copious amount of free beer that bands can acquire in the process. Luckily for the Ambassadors, they get the occasional opportunity to ramble around Canada, with the occasional stopover in Europe as well.

"In September, we snuck off to Spain," laughs Cooper. "It's more like [we tour] when we can sneak it in. Last weekend we bombed all along the coast. We had some CD release parties in Victoria, Vancouver and Kelowna with Mint Records there."

With the sunny summer rays shining down on our heads, listening to the Ramblin' Ambassadors is like going back to those carefree summers spent innocently on the beach. Unlike other groups with one foot in the past trying to cash in on nostalgia, the Ambassadors are not in it to make a buck. Instead, these guys play music for themselves and

The Ramblin' Ambassadors head to Broken City for their Calgary CD release party of *Vista Cruiser Country Squire* Friday at 8 p.m.

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TOP 20 for the week of
MAY 26.08

- * Denotes Canadian Artist
** Denotes Local Artist
- 1 **DRAGON FLI EMPIRE****
Intermission EP (Make Believe)
- 2 **THE BLACK ANGELS**
Directions To See A Ghost (Light In The Attic)
- 3 **TEENAGE HEAD WITH MARKY RAMONE***
Teenage Head With Marky Ramone (Sonic Unyon)
- 4 **THE RAMBLIN' AMBASSADORS****
Vista Cruiser Country Squire (Mint)
- 5 **WITCH**
Paralyzed (Tee Pee)
- 6 **BIL HETHERINGTON AND THE ASIAN TIGERS**
Bil Heatherington And The Asian Tigers (indie)
- 7 **RUN CHICO RUN***
Rocket Surgery (Reluctant)
- 8 **MUDHONEY**
The Lucky Ones (Sub Pop)
- 9 **AARON BOOTH****
Back Stories (indie)
- 10 **DAVID KARSTEN DANIELS**
Fear Of Flying (FatCat)
- 11 **PORTISHEAD**
Third (Mercury)
- 12 **BORIS**
Smile (Southern Lord)
- 13 **WET SECRETS***
Rock Fantasy (Six Shooter)
- 14 **GHOSTKEEPER****
Children Of The Great Northern Muskeg (Saved By Radio)
- 15 **CUMAKO****
No Borders (indie)
- 16 **SONS OF YORK***
Chicks, Dudes, Bad Attitudes (indie)
- 17 **THE MAG SEVEN**
Knife To A Gunfight (End)
- 18 **JAMIE LIDELL**
Jim (Warp)
- 19 **SECRET FIRES***
I Only Want What I Can't See (indie)
- 20 **CONSTANTINES***
Kensington Heights (Arts & Crafts)

WORLD

- 1 **PRINCE FATTY**
Survival Of The Fattest (Rasa)
- 2 **VARIOUS**
Nigeria 70 (Strut)
- 3 **VARIOUS**
Global Noize (Shanachie)
- 4 **DJ REKHA**
Basement Bhangra (Koch)
- 5 **FUTURISMO**
Kassin + 2 (Luakabop)

JAZZ

- 1 **RABNETT 5***
Leopardism (Quirk Audio)
- 2 **STANTON MOORE TRIO**
Emphasis! (On Parenthesis) (Telarc)
- 3 **THE JAMES DANDERFER GROUP**
Accelerated Development (Cellar Live)
- 4 **THOLLEN MCDONAS & ARRINGTON DE DIONYSO**
Intuition, Science, And Sex (Edgetone)
- 5 **CUMAKO****
No Borders (indie)

MYKE'S PICKS

- 1 **DESOLATION WILDERNESS**
- 2 **VIVIAN GIRLS**
- 3 **THE WEDDING PRESENT**
- 4 **BOULDER ACOUSTIC SOCIETY**
- 5 **DISCO ITALIA**

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY



CJSW's DJ Cosm and partner Teekay stormed the charts this week with a little taste of the magic to come out later this year when they drop their full length record.

The new aptly titled *Intermission EP* keeps fans remembering why these guys are known as the top of the pile in Calgary's hip hop scene.
www.myspace.com/dragonfliempire

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SUN. JUNE 1

Fairy Tales discussion "Celluloid Sexplorers & Straddling the Mainstream: A Conversation in 2 Parts" hosted by Anthea Black and Michelle Wong. This panel discussion will be taped by NUTV and will be simulcast LIVE on the NUTV website at <http://www.nutv.ca/streaming/> beginning at 12 pm.



FRI. JUNE 6

FRIDAY NIGHT: LATE hosted by local talent AJ Demers and Rob Mitchelson in the Loose Moose Theatre space. Join us for an hour+ of comedy, variety and special guests. Go to <http://www.nutv.ca/streaming/otherbroadcasts.php> to watch the archived episode or click on the NUTV LIVE! icon on the front page of our website.



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ALBUM REVIEWS **S p u n**



Tokyo Police Club
Elephant Shell
(Saddle Creek Records)

Tokyo Police Club broke out hard and fast with *A Lesson in Crime* as one of the few Canadian bands to get noticed immediately out of the starting gates back in 2006. After touring for the last two years, they have finally unleashed their first full-length album, *Elephant Shell*, to the masses on the uber-hip Saddle Creek Records out of Omaha, Nebraska.

One thing is immediately evident throughout the collected works of Tokyo Police Club: these guys can write one mean pop song. The singles, like "Tessellate" and "Your English is Good," are foot-stamping, pogo-ready tunes for the shaggy-haired teens that make up their fan base. But *Elephant Shell* doesn't really stick out from the band's peers' releases in the indie rock, post-punk revivalist genre.

The Born Ruffians and Vampire Weekend both released albums this year. Tokyo Police Club is releasing *Elephant Shell* into an already-crowded group. Outside of the singles, *Elephant Shell* doesn't really do much for the listener. At only 30 minutes for 11 songs, it's just a pleasant—if a bit bland—listen. There's nothing wrong with short releases if they are memorable, but unfortunately, *Elephant Shell* is two or three good songs sandwiched between a lot of mediocrity.

..Jordyn Marcellus



Carpenter
Law of the Land
(Smallman Records)

In the early years of their existence, Vancouver farm-core band Carpenter was often defined by its members' previous projects—All State Champion, By A Thread, Daggermouth and Speaking of Heroes. With their third record and first full-length, *Law of the Land*, they'll be able to start trading on their own name.

Like the group's previous two EPs, *Law of the Land* delivers Mellencamp-esque sing-along rock anthems with an endearing '90s indie-rock edge. The band stretches itself a bit more on the full-length offering, incorporating an impressive harmonica breakdown in "Off The Road" and a somewhat-odd, misplaced trumpet part in "A Different Life."

The album was recorded in Vancouver's legendary Mushroom Studios and produced and engineered by Shawn Penner and Aaron Nordean. The slicker production feels a little less down to earth than on their EPs, but benefits the album sonically with its more polished sound. Carpenter's tendency to endlessly sing about little except the plight of farmers could get somewhat tiresome if frontman Dan Sioui wasn't so damned earnest about it. By the end of the record, you want to grab a shotgun and defend your land—or just want to rock out and sing along.

..Paul Baker



Hey Rosetta
Into Your Lungs
(Sonic Records)

There's apparently a firm tradition among people from smaller towns in Newfoundland. Whole hoards of friends and family go to the beach, start a fire and play music using whatever instruments available, all for the sake of having a good time.

St. John's outfit Hey Rosetta's sophomore effort is evocative of one of these late night escapades. Like the Atlantic Ocean lapping at the shore, their newest album crests and ebbs like the tides and consistently interplays between folk and rock. Tracks like "Handshake the Gangster" initially come from a very folksy angle, until the electric guitars kick in to remind listeners of the band's rock roots.

There are gorgeous violins and squealing saxophones pushing a rock crescendo that hits hard and fast. After a rock song, the folk side of the band comes back to play. The best tracks, though, are when they meld each genre together. Twin tracks "Black Heart" and "Red Heart" show that interaction, each starting off quietly until the music builds for a more rocking end. With masterful track sequencing, *Into Your Lungs* displays just how well Hey Rosetta can pull off the delicate balance between folk and rock, while channeling a nonchalant, off-the-cuff attitude.

..Jordyn Marcellus



Gonzales
Soft Power
(Mercury Records)

Though recycling trends is not a new idea, most usually stick to one and go with it, at least as far as albums are concerned. Long-time Feist collaborator Gonzales doesn't seem to believe in this method, offering up a haphazard mix of genres and '70s and '80s pseudo-throwback tracks on his latest album, *Soft Power*.

After kicking things off with the sickly-sweet "Working Together"—the title says it all—"Slow Down" features some of the most clichéd adult-contemporary shtick in the book: opening up with some laid-back piano chords, congo accents and sequenced background "ahhs" and leading into the dreaded sax solos and predictable key changes. He makes a musical return to the disco floors in "Let's Ride," focusing on an upbeat drum groove, orchestral strings,

synth and a tempo-block reminiscent of "the Hustle." The result is a cute, but overwrought, attempt at cheeky nostalgia, much like the album as a whole.

Soft Power's saving grace is one of the bonus tracks. "Fortunately, Unfortunately" chronicles a quirky story through the clever use of an almost point-counterpoint highlight of its events. The track features Gonzales' rapping skills with some understated piano pings, which is a refreshing change from the rest of the offering's overdone elements.

Overall, *Soft Power* sounds quite slapped-together and doesn't present itself as a cohesive album. Taken individually, some of the tracks are cute enough to get by, but as a whole, they make for a collection of mismatched singles.

..Amanda Hu

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