

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

# gauntlet

VOLUME 49 | ISSUE NO. 34 | MARCH 26 | 2009



## SPOKEN WORD

**Calgary International Spoken Word  
Festival returns for its fifth year**

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**INSIDE:**  
Creative Writing Supplement



# STUDENTS' UNION HAPPENINGS

## MARCH 30 - APRIL 3 EVENTS:

### MONDAY

Mundane Mondays, That Empty Space 9 - 11am  
Cinemanía: Transporter 3, ICT 102, 6:30 & 9pm

### TUESDAY

Clubs Night at the Den, 5pm - close

### WEDNESDAY

25¢ Wing Night at the Den, 8pm - close

### THURSDAY

Student Appreciation Night at the Den

### FRIDAY

Governance Review Committee Meeting - every Friday at 11am. Visit [www.su.ucalgary.ca/grc](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/grc)

### That Empty Space One Hundredth Show:

The Polyesters, Chantal Vitalis, Matt Blais and Magnolia Buckskin, 3 - 6pm

## GET YOUR TAXES DONE FOR FREE.

The Students' Union Volunteer Services (SUVS) Tax Program is available to all campus students, faculty, and staff and is running this year from

**March 2 - April 9**



So come check us out at MSC 202, right by the bank machines in the MSC food court, or visit us online at [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca), email: [vstax@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vstax@ucalgary.ca)

## SU WELLNESS DAYS

APRIL 7 - 9, MSC SOUTH STAGE

### How to Survive Post-Secondary Bulge

Join host Paul Plakas of TV's "X-Weighted" for a lunch hour presentation on fitness and nutrition for students

Wednesday, April 8 from 12 - 1 pm



Paul Plakas

### Health Check with Campus Rec

Drop in for a personal fitness assessment with trainers from Campus Rec.

Tuesday, April 7 and Thursday, April 9 from 12 - 1 pm

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## STUDENTS' UNION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

# SPEAKER / MODERATOR

Term: Part-time, May 2009

Pay: \$45 per meeting

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

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

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

**Deadline: 4:30 pm, Thursday, April 9.**



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**Contributors**

Roman Auriti • Olivia Brooks • Allison Cully • Nicole Dionne  
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Dave Johnson • Rhiannon Kirkland • Edward Kwong  
Martin Lussier • Geoff MacIntosh • Hannah McKenzie  
Meagan Meiklejohn • Daniel Pagan • Julie Phillips  
Alastair Starke • Andrew Swan • Tristan Taylor • Joseph Tubb  
Jaime Vaine • Tyler Wolfe

**Golden Spatula**

Paul Ba... oh, wait. Andrew Swan, for churning out two great pieces on a success story in this dreary recession of ours, though only one of them actually involves the recession.

**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 the individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire *Gauntlet* staff. Editorials are chosen by the 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://thegauntlet.ca>. The *Gauntlet* is printed on recycled paper and uses linked-paper-clip-based ink. We urge you to recycle/ scream "seriously Geoff, stop fucking doing that" with the *Gauntlet*.

**Letter Policy**

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

**The Cover**

Photo and design by Paul Baker



# Thirsting after sanity

## Why the UN decision to declare water a need, not a right, is absurd

Demonstrating that intellectual honesty isn't necessary for international agreements, a majority of countries declined to acknowledge access to clean water as a human right at a United Nations meeting in Istanbul this past Sunday.

At the conclusion of the fifth incarnation of the World Water Forum a majority decision was reached that access to clean water is a human need, not a human right. A minority contingent of 20 or so nations dissented from the majority point, declaring that water is, in fact, a human right. Shamefully, Canada was amongst those who opted for the easy way out and decided that turning their back on such an obvious right as water was the best option. The rationale for such a morally bankrupt stance was that if access to clean water was considered a human right, then Canada might be legally obligated to provide water or services to nations that do not enjoy the same resource benefits that we do.

This resolution exposes a stunning swindle on the part of the international community — the notion that humans don't have a right to something they literally can't live without. Setting aside the absurd statement that a human need could



be distinct from a human right in any instance, the failure of water to be considered a human right undermines the very principle of human rights in general. Given that water is the fundamental sustainer of life, if it is not considered a human right, what possibly could be? Indeed, when one considers the basic human rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights it becomes very clear that, in the context of that document, water is inescapably a basic human right. Article 3 unequivocally states that "[e]veryone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." People cannot live without water, so

the question of whether water itself is explicitly recognized as a human right is redundant.

It is understandable that various nations are concerned about the implications of declaring water a basic human right. Obviously, any country should be wary about obliging itself to perform some task, even if it is immediately recognizable as a good thing to do. But in no sense can this most recent calamity be seen as anything other than nonsense. As the most basic human need, water forms the foundation upon which all human rights are built. Lacking water, there would be no life, lacking life there would

be no one to claim or exercise their rights. Denying that water is a basic human right is tantamount to denying the very possibility of rights as such. If countries want to avoid obligation to help others with their water situations that is one thing, but to seek to achieve this end by brazenly rallying against the clear fact that water supports life, and as such all human rights necessarily flow out of it, is disingenuous gibberish of the highest order.

But maybe facts are only facts if they're compatible with inaction.

**Cam Cotton-O'Brien**

Opinions Editor

# Proper conduct towards peace

## Why Palestine Awareness Week should make the U of C proud

After reading about Israel Apartheid Week and other clashes between pro-Palestine and pro-Israel groups across Canadian campuses, my school spirit swelled a little after walking past a poster for Palestine Awareness Week.

Earlier this year, police were called to escort Jewish students off of Toronto's York University campus, after the students had taken refuge in the Hillel student office because they felt intimidated by slogans chanted at a rally. In B.C., RCMP are investigating an incident at the University of British Columbia between two Jewish students and a Palestinian supporter.

Here at the University of Calgary, students set themselves apart by not participating in IAW, held in 40 cities across the world, instead promoting an inclusive environ-

ment where parties from both sides of the conflict can debate.

The Palestinian-Canadian Students' Society will feature a talk Thursday titled "Learn why Israel's occupation of Palestine is considered apartheid," but will also focus on Palestinian identity and the occupation.

Club members set up an information booth in MacEwan Students' Centre Monday and Tuesday to answer questions.

Although one executive member did say he'd like to see an IAW if the PCSS had more volunteers and if they did it in a peaceful way, several others stated the club had decided against holding IAW because they valued an environment that would foster discussion.

One student at the booth said he didn't think the club needed to have

a shocking event, pointing to news coverage and UN reports about the conflict, suggesting it was better if students came to their own conclusions.

Another said that although both groups are in the advocacy business, they choose to act in a mutually-respectful way, noting that many executives of both Hillel and PCSS know each other on a personal level.

And, although not always agreeing, Hillel and PCSS even consulted each other over aspects of PAW. Hillel members will attend some of the events to challenge the speakers, a fact one PCSS member, who will help host Thursday's apartheid talk, said was great.

Despite, and perhaps because of, the hopelessness that so often surrounds the prospect of peace

between Palestinians and Israelis, there is an immediate need to continue to seek a peaceful resolution. Both parties have committed atrocities and there are logical arguments on both sides about the varying degrees of fault. Yet, what's important is the urgency of children suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and whole nations living in fear of their closest neighbours.

Hamas and the Israeli government could learn from the U of C's PCSS and Hillel and realize a solution can only come about through respectful discussion and compromise.

For more information about PAW visit [pcsscalgary.org](http://pcsscalgary.org).

**Katy Anderson**

Features Editor

# Campus Pro-Life returns

## Administration warns more trespassing charges will be filed

**Sarelle Azuelos**

News Editor

The University of Calgary Campus Pro-Life club may face more charges of trespassing after setting up their Genocide Awareness Project display again this week.

In November, the university asked the group to turn their signs depicting abortions, victims of the Holocaust and Rwandan genocide inwards. After they failed to comply, the university charged the students with trespassing February.

“The university has attempted for several years to find a reasonable compromise with CPL that would give members of the university community the choice to view or not view the Genocide Awareness Project display,” said university administration in a statement released Wednesday. “These efforts, including requests that CPL turn its display signs inward, have been unsuccessful.”

Six students pleaded not guilty to the trespassing charges on March 16 and will be heading to court in November.

“As of now I’m not very worried about it,” said CPL treasurer Alanna Campbell. “We have a strong case for



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

Some students find the graphic GAP images offensive.

being students and on campus and being allowed to be here.”

The statement released by the university said they will report the incident to the Calgary Police Service, but won’t seek to remove the group or its signs.

“This action would elevate the risk of confrontation and give the organization the publicity it is seeking,” it read. “The university is working to have this issue resolved in an appro-

priate manner — through the court system.”

CPL president Leah Hallman said campus security approached the group and asked them to leave, but they declined.

“We’re innocent until proven guilty and it would follow that we should continue to act as we always have,” she said.

Some students on campus are angry that the graphic images are

back on campus. Feminist Initiative Recognizing Equality president Kat Lord is circulating a petition for CPL to turn their signs inwards. The pro-choice group gathered 200 signatures by mid-Wednesday.

“It’s not a form of censorship,” she said. “It’s just an understanding of the fact that those images are very violent and offensive and people should have a choice to view them.”

Lord explained that FIRE did not

object to CPL’s right to freedom of expression, only the method in which they display it. She asked for the university to publish information on where students and faculty feeling victimized can go for help.

“It’s unfortunate because it’s a case of two rights in opposition to each other,” she said. “So which right prevails, the freedom of speech or the freedom to security of person? It’s an issue that continues to go unresolved.”

The Womens’ Resource Centre declined to comment.

“This is not an issue about Freedom of Speech; the paramount issues for the university are the needs to uphold its legal right to manage activities on campus, and to ensure the safety and security for the thousands of students, staff, faculty and community members on campus each day,” said administration.

The CPL is also going through an appeal process with the Students’ Union to maintain its club status. The SU clubs committee ruled that CPL violated SU policy by violating university bylaws, but failed to specify which ones. The group will stay an SU club as the appeal progresses. A decision should be reached in two weeks.

## Communist leader talks economics in Calgary

**Jon Roe**

Editor-in-Chief

Blame for the current economic crisis has been leveled at both the financial institutions who lent money to underqualified borrowers and people who accepted and sought those loans in the first place. Communist Party of Canada leader Miguel Figueroa believes that the crisis is in no way the fault of the working class.

“We didn’t cause this crisis and

we don’t think it’s important for the working class and ordinary people in this country to pay for this crisis,” he said on the phone from Saskatoon.

“You have to remember that the banks and financial institutions have been going out of their way to, on one hand, encourage continued and even increased consumption . . . and then, at the same time, to increase credit limits,” he continued. “My credit card company phones me up almost once a month urging me to increase my credit limit.”

Figueroa was in Calgary on March 19 at the Central Library downtown to speak about the impact, consequences and nature of the economic crisis. He said it was a crisis of the neoliberal policies of free trade, privatization and the undermining of labour and environmental standards.

“It’s a worship of the market and the retreat of the state [and] the role of state intervention in the economy,” said Figueroa. “[These policies have] aggravated and deepened the

crisis, but the crisis itself is in many respects a classical crisis of the cyclical pattern of capitalism, the boom and bust character of capitalism.”

He explained that while the real wages of working people have declined in the last two decades, neoliberal policies have been very successful at centralizing capital in the hands of the largest corporations and banks.

“Most people who have lines of credit are not using that to buy a cottage in the country or luxury goods,”

he said. “Many people are using their credit cards to put food on the table. I don’t think it’s fair to say we’re all to blame for this circumstance.”

Figueroa advocated for substantive employment insurance reform, which he said had been systematically eroded for two decades. They would like to see insurance for the full duration of unemployment, the removal of the two-week waiting period and an increased rate of coverage.

He also recommended an increase  
*see COMMUNISM, page 8*

## Should water be a human right?



“Yeah, because countries should help each other.”  
– **Jamie Liang,**  
first-year business



“Of course. People can’t survive without water.”  
– **Dami Olugbake,**  
second-year  
computer science



“Yes. I think it’s one of the natural resources that as a citizen, you should have the right to.”  
– **Sara Al-kebsi,**  
fifth-year  
engineering



“It sounds like a good idea but you have to think about the costs and consequences.”  
– **Sonahita Luthra,**  
fifth-year business

# Fine arts cuts staff again

Dean Ann Calvert said other faculties will soon follow

**Sarelle Azuelos**  
News Editor

The faculty of Fine Arts will have to make do with less support staff after shedding over a dozen positions during the last few months.

Four individuals were let go and several vacant or part-time positions with interim staff were discontinued.

Many of the positions lost belonged to the first people students approached if they had questions, said Students' Union fine arts representative Joey Brocke.

"It's always regrettable," said Brocke. "It's an unfortunate situation when you have to lose people, especially people that were that visible to students."

The four positions terminated

belonged mainly to administrative or support staff. Brocke said two technicians are the only losses that will directly affect students. Without them, arts majors won't have constant access to labs.

All faculties had their budgets frozen and were required to balance them despite increased costs.

"Our budget has been held to the same expectations as other faculties," said fine arts dean Dr. Ann Calvert. "The only tool we really have is to reduce positions."

She explained that the cuts are not related to a drop in donations. The total donations haven't been calculated yet for this year, but donations usually go to special projects or scholarships, not operating costs.

"Most of them won't impact ac-



Martin Lussier/the Gauntlet

The fine arts faculty has shed over two dozen positions since 2003.

tual academic offerings and classes," said Brocke.

He added that the decision had nothing to do with the upcoming faculty amalgamation decision. A

vote to combine the faculties of fine arts, humanities, social science and communications and culture will be going to the Board of Governors at the end of April.

"If you look at the data for faculty amalgamation, moving to a larger unit would allow for more budget flexibility, essentially making it more stable," said Brocke.

The fine arts faculty went through similar cuts in 2003. Fourteen positions were cut as part of a reorganization due to budget decrease.

"I'd hoped it would not happen again after 2003," said Calvert. "It's never a good thing when you have to make those decisions. We'll notice that they're not there."

More cuts came in 2004 after the university cut \$60 million from its total budget to pay off its outstanding deficit.

Calvert is sure that other faculties will have to make similar cuts if budgets stay frozen.

## U of C prof reminisces about time in Rwanda

**Laura Bardsley**  
Gauntlet News

Although the state of affairs in Rwanda have quieted down since 1994, its violent past will not be soon forgotten. At Big Rock University, the brewery hosts a lecture every month on a different issue. This month's speech was about the Rwandan genocide.

The featured speaker, University of Calgary sociology professor Dr. Augustine Brannigan, discussed his studies and experience in Rwanda.

He focused on the Rwandan genocide, when Hutus killed hundreds of thousands of Tutsis.

Brannigan explained that the



Tristan Taylor/the Gauntlet

Brannigan calls for remembrance to avoid repetition.

sporadic violence resulted from a large number of Tutsi refugees coming to Rwanda and its surrounding nations in 1990. The Rwandan Civil War vastly increased ethnic tensions in the country after the Rwan-

dan Patriotic Front, comprised mainly of Tutsis, invaded Rwanda from Uganda.

France helped the Hutus gain power, Brannigan said. He argued that without French aid, the geno-

cide would have had fewer casualties.

However, the French were not to have the brunt of the blame.

In 1994, the killings were carried out by two Hutu militias — the Interahamwe and the Impuzamugambi — who were associated with political parties. Directing the genocide was the Hutu group known as the Akazu.

"You are far more likely to die at the hands of the state than to die at the hands of a mass murderer," said Brannigan.

When the killings were over and the trials and insights started, the lack of remorse by the perpetrators wasn't completely astonishing, said Brannigan. He explained that when

an individual is asked by their state to do something, then prosecuted for it, the individual doesn't see it as their fault because they just did what they were told to.

Because of the number of illiterate people in Rwanda, the radio was used to transmit news from the government. When the only two radio stations, Radio Rwanda and Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines, started to advocate violence towards the Tutsis, the population responded. It was clear, Brannigan said after touring the trials, that the displacement of blame onto the state wasn't surprising.

"If it's not lost, hopefully it won't be repeated," he said, after presenting slides of countless death sites.



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# White supremacists blocked from City Hall

**Sarelle Azuelos**  
News Editor

A white supremacist group that marched downtown last weekend was met with strong opposition, but not everyone was pleased with the result.

The Aryan Guard, an anti-Semitic, racist and homophobic group based in Calgary, organized a White Pride march from the Mewata Armoury to City Hall on March 21, the International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination.

Over 400 Anti-Racist Action Calgary supporters congregated in front of City Hall early that morning to wait for word of the AG march. At about 3 p.m., the two groups met downtown and chants of "increase the peace" and "you're not welcome" began.

The Aryan Guard was unable to make it to City Hall and the Calgary Police Service called a bus to escort them away from the conflict.

"I think it was a resounding success," said ARA spokesperson Jason Devine. "A few individuals result-

ed to throwing objects. Of course it was stupid to throw stuff."

Devine estimated about a dozen protesters were engaged in the violence. Two people are reported with minor injuries.

"I'm not sure if it was pretty successful," said anti-racist protestor Paula Russel. "A non-confrontational protest was my goal."

Most media reported that three people were arrested — one Aryan Guard member and two anti-racist protesters — but Devine argued there were more.

"Every time they say they're going to march, we're going to be there," he said. "The only downside was the police harassment."

There have been three complaints of police abuse to date. Fifty police officers kept a barrier between the groups with their bikes.

A March 3 CBC article said that police met with the groups beforehand to warn that they would not tolerate any violence, but that both had a right to free speech.

"They're a violent gang, they're not a political group," said Devine.

"They promote and espouse violence, their members have attacked people. Why should they have the right to promote hate?"

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that "everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: . . . freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression."

Devine was pleased that the number of Aryan Guard marchers seemed similar to last years, and that the group was not growing.



Lindsay Goodwin/the Gauntlet

Over 400 anti-racist activists came out to protest on Saturday.

## MRI wait times need help

**Rhiannon Kirkland**  
Gauntlet News

Most Calgarians are familiar with long wait times for medical services over the past three years. University of Calgary's dean of medicine Dr. Tom Feasby has been trying find out what can be done to reduce the times for MRIs.

The first part of his study revealed some centres didn't have systems for prioritizing scans and others didn't monitor their systems to ensure that

target times for urgent cases are met. The target time for an acute scan varied from 24 hours to two weeks across Canada.

"Centres did not have adequate processes for prioritization," said Feasby. "They didn't carefully track how well they meet the targets they had, if they had targets. There wasn't much in the way of quality control."

Feasby recommended that target times be set and monitored to ensure that they're met. He added that definitions and criteria for the different areas of need should be clear and standardized.

The study found a lack of consistent standards of care across Canada. Different regions provide a range of standards and services and little to no standardization exists, said Feasby. He added that it would be difficult to set national standards because it is a provincial responsibility. The ability to set standards lies with radiology department heads at

individual centres, then with health regions and, ultimately, with provincial governments.

The second part of the study is looking at the appropriateness of MRI scans and to what extent people receive scans when they don't need them.

"We suspect that there may be a substantial proportion of scans that are inappropriate and therefore don't need to be done," said Feasby. "We don't give everybody cardiac surgery or brain surgery, we have certain specific indications for them and so why not for something like this."

Feasby suggested that guidelines for referring doctors and for MRI centres could help to reduce the number of inappropriate scans and therefore wait times.

"Calgary's actually got a good system," he said. "They've got three categories. They define them carefully. They set targets and they generally met their targets."

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# Take a stand for Darfur and the Macarena

**Katy Anderson**  
Features Editor

What does the Macarena and a deadly conflict in Africa have in common? University of Calgary students are pairing with local entrepreneurs to put a stop to both.

Night to Fight: a Benefit for Darfur will feature live local music, an interactive fashion show and a visual art installation in an effort to raise money for international humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders.

The awareness event will be held at the MacEwan Hall Ballroom on Saturday and is co-sponsored by the U of C chapter of STAND, an international club dedicated to advocating for the prevention of genocide, and by grassroots Calgary publication *atbt Magazine*. Art can add meaning to the distant conflict, said *atbt Magazine* co-founder Brendan Kane.

"We're trying to push students into activism, but into fun activism," said Kane. "I think in terms of the issues in Darfur, it's a very dark subject and people have a hard time relating to it, so we're trying to put things together so people can initially relate and at least have knowledge about the situation."

STAND president Michelle Cheung is adamant that, although far away from the conflict, Calgarians can make a difference in the war in western Sudan, which has killed an estimated 400,000 and displaced over two million.

STAND was founded in 2007 by a group of American students who were shocked that they didn't know about the conflict. Members are hopeful the genocide in Darfur can be ended, they stopped using the acronym Students Taking Action Now Darfur to emphasize its temporal nature.

"Our hope is that we can stop the genocide in Darfur and after

that the organization can continue to work towards stopping other crimes against humanity," said Cheung.

She encouraged students to get angry that the Canadian government, known for its efforts to ensure peace, isn't taking action.

"I know a lot of students feel like they can't do anything in terms of affecting policy changes, but we have this huge voice that is so untapped and so many people don't know about what's going in Darfur," she said. "The more we get angry about what's going on, the more likely that Canadian politicians are going to be forced to listen to us."

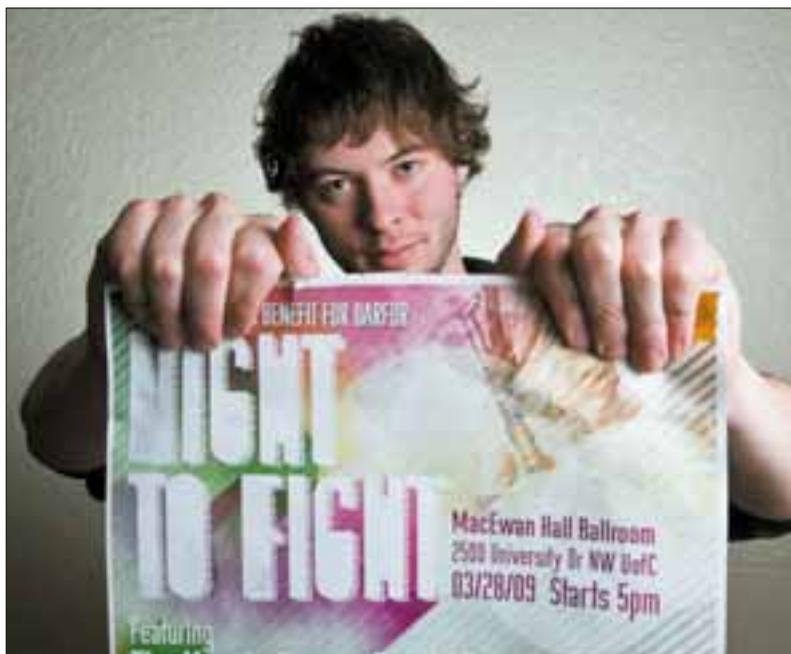
Cheung encouraged students to call 1-800-Genocide, a hotline that directs callers to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office, Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff and even the foreign minister, noting the more people that voice concerns, the higher Darfur will rise on the agenda.

Saturday's event will feature 30 local artists and their wares from Market Collective, a live visual arts installation by Art Life Gallery, an interactive fashion show put on by Split Pea Vintage and a speech given by Alberta Liberal leader David Swann, who once fasted on Parliament Hill for Darfur.

Kane also promised that the bands — The Kronik Groove Band, The Fast Romantics, Platinum Alibi and Calm Asa Coma — will be so lively and fun, the event may start a new social trend, putting an end to grooving techniques from the days of yore.

"You're going to see people doing dance moves that they've never attempted before, all brand new dance moves like the twist when that was huge and the Macarena," said Kane.

The all-ages event starts Saturday at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door with all proceeds going to Doctors Without Borders. A beer garden and raffle tickets for some of the art will be available.



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Live music and local art will support Doctors Without Borders.

## Sick.



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# Optimism in Afghanistan

Claire Fenton  
Gauntlet News

It's a wonder how a human being can remain optimistic after seeing a child turned into a human bomb, but even after witnessing that, Canada's former deputy commander of the Afghanistan mission insists Afghanistan is not a barbaric place, just culturally different.

Colonel Jamie Cade was the deputy commander of Joint Task Force Afghanistan during May 2008 to February 2009 — the most active period for NATO forces since entering Afghanistan. The force faced more acts of violence and improvised explosive devices than previous years. He spoke at the University of Calgary on Monday about Canada's role in the mission.

Canada, Cade explained, is putting in security, governance, reconstruction and development systems to assist the downsizing of the Taliban and build a sustainable country. These systems are designed to pay for lawful policemen, build schools, hire credible teachers, create irrigation systems to boost agriculture and build a bureaucracy — no small task

to complete before Canada's involvement ends in 2011.

"2011 is a government decision, a political decision," he said. "Quite honestly, we know where we need to go and we will continue to work towards that."

According to the Canadian National Defence website, since May 2008, 34 Canadians soldiers were killed in Afghanistan, 25 by IEDs. With 116 fallen Canadians since the beginning of the Afghan mission, the ability to detect explosives and prevent more losses is a priority for Canadians back home and for those on the ground who have lost comrades.

"The find rates have been going up," said Cade. "When we came in the countryside it was about 30 per cent, and when we left it was about 60 per cent. Kandahar City was more dramatic, [it was] about 40 per cent and it went up to 85 per cent."

The Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police conduct sweeps to find explosives, which can be considered a success in itself, Cade said.

Another success was the Kajaki Dam in Helmand Province, said

Cade. The dam was the result of a multinational operation which transported a turbine for the dam to bring that area electricity. Access to electricity averages six hours a day and also downsizes Taliban influence over the Afghan people.

"You will never get rid of the Taliban, the Taliban is a religious movement," explained Cade. "It's a question of how much influence over the political process does an extremist religious movement have."

Cade also said that the real enemy was not insurgents, but illiteracy.

"If people can't read, they can't challenge what they are being told," he said. "It's very hard to get them to understand, to accept changes or other ideas without education. It's a very, very poor country, people are going to feed their families and if the system doesn't provide employment, then the insurgents and drug industry will."

Cade boasted that Canada was the best at seeing these obstacles and creating systems to bring employment. He said that focused assets have helped change Canada's reputation.

"We can draw on money for developments, we can put security forces

in, we can put more money into the law and order fund," he said. "We are the leaders in Kandahar."

However, Canada stepped back on a major issue: the eradication of the narcotics trade. While abolishing all poppy crops could reduce drug trade, Cade foresaw that it would

have counterproductive effects.

"The reason our national policy right now is against eradication is because [it's] only hurting the farmers," said Cade. "And how are they going to get money to buy food? Well, they're going to go work for the Taliban."

## Communism, cont'd from page 4

of the minimum wage to at least \$15 per hour to ensure people stay above the official level of poverty.

"Where wealth is produced, by the bucket loads — let's take the question of energy, the oil and gas industry, our party is for the nationalization of oil and gas in this country — use those resources, not to go into the coffers of private corporations [but] to go into general revenue so that they can be used to do precisely those measures," Figueroa said. "We think the solution is very clearly to put people before corporate greed."

Figueroa finds the case of ailing insurance giant AIG interesting. The American company was bailed out by \$180 billion of taxpayer money and is currently the subject of Congressional hearings after handing out

\$165 million in executive bonuses.

"The answer given by [Federal reserve chairman] Ben Bernanke in the hearings to the question of why this was done was very simple," said Figueroa. "He said, 'Well, AIG is just too important, too central to the American economy to allow it to fail.' But that begs the question, if these monopolies . . . are so central to the welfare of the society, of the entire country, is it appropriate that they should be privately controlled and administered for a very select few who are the primary beneficiaries of that? Or should it in fact be socially owned?"

He added that the answer is not to tinker with a broken system, but systematic and fundamental change.

"We think that answer's socialism."



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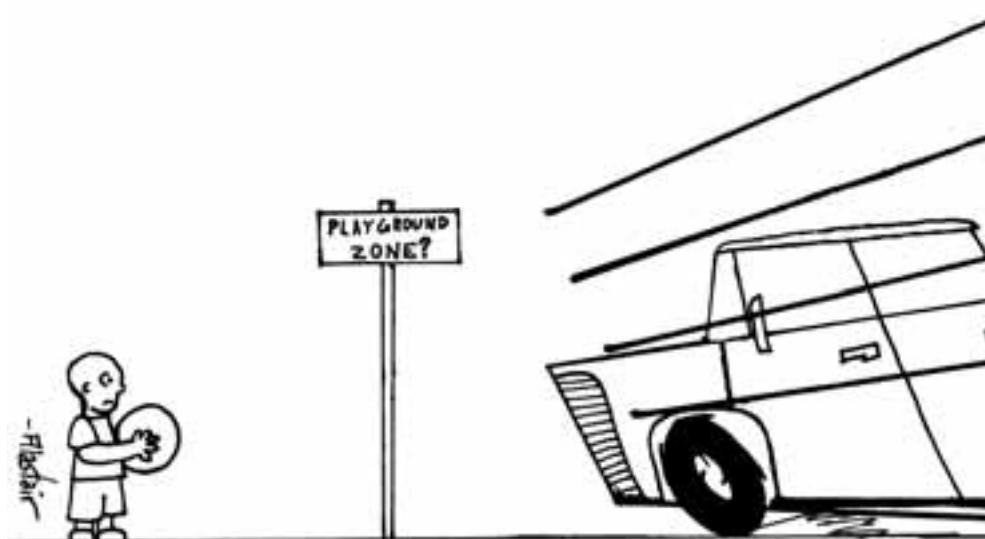
Opening Worlds



## Should playground zones be abolished?

Yes

In our Darwinistic and capitalist world, we let the mantra of survival of the fittest reign in the job market, yet we expect others to watch out for the safety of our young. Our young need to watch out for their own safety.



Playground zones are silent schedule killers. The seconds drivers waste going 20 kilometres per hour slower than they need to could be better spent doing other things: buying coffee, reading Twitter posts, making more children. It's an outrage that we even consider slowing down with all these other useful things that could be taken care of in those precious seconds. Calgary has more playground zones than any other city in Canada, according to the *Calgary Sun*, and though there was a City Council plan in the works to drop the speed limits in some zones, it was abandoned. Why?

In our Darwinistic and capitalist world, we let the mantra of survival of the fittest reign in the job market, yet we expect others to watch out for the safety of our young. I'm telling you, sister, our young need to watch out for their own safety, because it ain't going to happen in the real world. No sir, not with the violence on the streets and the drugs in our schools.

Children wander through life expecting their noses to be wiped, their craw stuffed with food, their university to be paid for and a room in the basement until at least the age of 30, possibly extending as far as 35 (I'm warning you now mom and dad). While our parents were leaving home at the age of 18 to fend for themselves in the job market, this generation is sitting at home, smoking

weed and watching the *Daily Show* and the *Colbert Report*, complaining about politics while not yet paying for their own utilities. Maybe if we had to really look both ways before crossing the street we'd be looking out for the man instead of expecting the man to look out for us.

Besides, when was the last time you drove by a playground zone and there were actually children playing in the playground? That's right, never. Parents are smart enough these days to keep their children inside. If parents aren't releasing their children to a possible onslaught of metal and rubber, then who are we protecting? Unloved children. A parent would have to hate their children quite a bit to let them play in a world of gang violence and serial rapists and if a parent can't love their own child, there must be something seriously wrong with it anyway.

The point is, children need to learn to fear cars. While they lolly-gag through crosswalks, fingers stuck rebelliously up their noses, they develop a false sense of security. The result is people getting hit by C-Trains, despite obviously marked tracks and the loud and large nature of the vehicles. We need to stop coddling our youth, otherwise they turn into pudgy, obnoxious and offensive university students.

Jon Roe

No

A speed limit of 30 kilometres per hour means the difference between their death and a broken leg. Personally, a broken leg would be a better lesson learned — only the living can learn from a funeral.

According to personally found statistics, 90 per cent of Jon Roe's arguments have been wrong. This case is no different. The abolishment of playground zones is a useless endeavor. Although one could admit that not having to slow down to avoid hitting short, wandering pedestrians would be quite beneficial, it's not the right move. Playground zones exist because said pedestrians are naive to the metal danger approaching them at high speeds. These pedestrians, although capable of learning timetables and basic communication skills, cannot simply be taught to fear automobiles. Fear can be overcome and then the short pedestrians would just wander into the street again without notice. Naiveté and curiosity have always been an easy way to overcome fear and half the kids out there don't even know how to spell fear, let alone know what it is. They're too busy exploring the wonders of tyke-life to be slowed down by something they can't spell.

Yes, there are less children each day found out wandering the streets or playing on the neighbourhood playground, but the small percentage that are still outside need protection. You gotta help a brother out in those kind of situations and slow down for the little tykes. If children are not going outside because of the dangers their parents make up for them to fear, then ridding the streets of low speed limits

would only worsen this problem.

Jon Roe is arguing that we're coddling our youth, but the youth need to be coddled to grow up just like us. They need the speed limits, hand holding and training wheels to properly adjust to adolescence and university age. The young aren't able to watch out for their own safety, so our efforts must do the deed. As a generation we must foster the next one's safety in hope of more generations to come. This partly means slowing down to avoid injuring those around now.

These little pedestrians, as well as their aging parents who take them to the park, are at risk without the protection of playground zone speed limits. Well, the loved children at least. The unloved children, running rampant without parental supervision, still need some protection. When they're high in the street, or stumbling drunkenly in the daylight hours, a speed limit of 30 kilometres per hour means the difference between their death and a broken leg. Personally, a broken leg would be a better lesson learned — only the living can learn from a funeral.

In coddling our youth, we're really just teaching them the lesson: fostering hope and care for others. With the way most kids these days refuse to believe in a religion, there has to be some way to communicate the basic moral of caring for others. Speed limits help.

Laura Bardsley

# The female arm of the head of state

Jaya Dixit  
Gauntlet Opinions



Like a kid in a candy store, journalists are salivating over Michelle Obama's every utterance and action. From her championing of locally grown whole foods to her dual identities of mother and lawyer, the latest of the seemingly endless accolades are directed not at her brains or balanced life, but her biceps. The new first lady is a babe and is being hailed as "an inspiration to any women hitting the gym." Pictured in every colour, cut and manner of sleeveless fashion, Mrs. Obama's arms have the media squirming with indecision about how exactly to celebrate the unprecedented ability to throw the caption "the right to bare arms" anywhere near the photo of a Democrat.

And while the response remains positive, if not excessive, the hailing and hooting has been met with some disapproval. Some credible

media personalities have suggested that the visibility of her athleticism is somehow less feminine, as if to say that while strong women are still to be held as the gold standard for upcoming generations of girls, the feminized variant of strength preferred by journalists and popular culture is one that is spontaneous or ad-hoc; a kind of strength that aggregates itself as a reactive force, rather than an enduring, unchallenged empowerment. In other words, female strength is ideally characterized solely as strength of character, while the image of muscularity is only tolerable in limited doses.

Fashion writers in New York, Los Angeles and London are all a little uncomfortable with this recent and increasing flash of buff arms — call it a revelation — that belong not to some pop starlet or Hollywood icon, but the traditionally ultra-docile, ultra-understated first lady. Though high fashion media takes no shame in policing what they deem to be deviant fashion choices, their open criticism of the appropriateness of Mrs. Obama's decision to don sleeveless numbers at

congressional and state events reflects only marginal interest in her clothes, taking implicit aim at her physique.

While I can respect that personal opinions regarding attractiveness remain just that — personal — I am not prepared to accept that a culture that hails itself as having progressive views about gendered body types and denies prescriptive imagery is still trying to cover up (pun intended) aesthetically manifested physical strength as a feminine quality. As evidence that I am not out to lunch (although I would like to know what Mrs. Obama fancies on her lunch plate) the comments of *New York Times* journalist David Brooks illuminate this very fact: "She's made her point. Now she should put away Thunder and Lightning." Is Brooks actually condemning Michelle Obama's (or more likely, her stylist's) decision to give women's muscles a gentle push toward the mainstream? Perhaps more to the point, should we leave it to popular culture to instruct women and men as to which specific variant of fitness or fatness makes it acceptable to bear a certain



appendage? While on the one hand, personal trainers are falling over themselves, marketing fitness programs that will deliver Obama-like arms, there are fashion conservatives who have no desire to expand the body image status quo to broaden the scope of beauty and feminin-

ity to the extent that gendered ideas of body can be left by the wayside. But it's not like there is any more important news. I mean, aside from the superficial news about congressional hearings about executive bonuses, economic forecasting and foreign policy decisions.

## The future of gaming: where the industry's next steps should lead

Andrew Swan  
8bit



The need for innovation in the gaming industry was a major theme in many gaming publica-

tions' years-in-reviews. Innovation, it was concluded, was needed to bring the industry out of a stagnant cycle and move it forward into new, uncharted territory. Not only was it recommended that game developers go out on a limb, it was also suggested that players become more forgiving toward attempts at fresh, creative

and quirky games. Whether innovation is really coming is yet to be seen. But after attending "The Future of Gaming" event held in Scurfield Hall last Wednesday, I can safely say that we should feel confident about the future of our favourite medium.

Hardware was one of the big three topics of discussion at the

event and, led by Hewlett Packard Global Voodoo business unit chief technology officer Rahul Sood, the forecast for gaming hardware was bleak but promising at the same time. Microsoft and Sony's tales of production of their respective console systems have been catalogued sufficiently — a quick Google search

will bring you the stories of the development of these systems. Hearing the other side of these stories, namely the loss of money on behalf of each company, was very interesting and should forecast the future of these two juggernauts. Further, it seems that Nintendo is and will be king for a

see FUTURE OF GAMING, page 13

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# Harper's hand in the jar

## Conservative foibles with the GST

**Tyler Wolfe**  
Gauntlet Ramblings



Stephen Harper doesn't care about black . . . figures. Last week, Harper publicly defended his government's decision to reduce the Goods and Services Tax from its initial seven per cent to five per cent as a crucial measure to stimulate growth in our suffering economy. This statement was in response to criticism of the GST cut levelled against the Conservatives by former Bank of Canada governor David Dodge. Harper's response, though expected, is like the denial of a child with his hand in the cookie jar. The decision to cut the GST was little more than a political gimmick — one

**Harper's response, though expected, is like the denial of a child with his hand in the cookie jar.**

that has had a role to play in the accumulation of a projected \$34 billion deficit for the current fiscal year — and Harper's continued defence of the cut is a stubborn refusal to accept this reality. The reduction in the GST will cost the federal coffers an estimated \$12 billion to \$14 billion annually and, while we would still be in red figures without this consumption tax cut, this is money that could be put to better use in these dire economic

times. It is unlikely that Harper would have pushed forward with the GST reduction had he foreseen the impending shit-kicking of the market ominously looming. That Harper was oblivious to the threat is no more his fault than any of the other world leaders who were equally ill-prepared.

Where Harper's government can be faulted, though, is in its willingness to toy with the GST revenue for short-term political gain. To suggest that there was a more prominent strategic motive for cutting the GST than to buy votes is pure folly. When the decision was made, the federal government was afloat with cash and the loss of GST revenue seemed a worthwhile compromise to win voters. Now that the surpluses have gone dry and our economy is reeling, Harper's irresponsible election promise has proved damaging.

Harper's claim that the GST cut is crucial for spurring economic growth is at odds with Dodge, economists from the Canada West Foundation, CD Howe Institute and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, among others. Many of these groups suggest a reduction in income tax would have been a better alternative to the reduction of the GST. It is estimated that a one per cent reduction in the GST will save the average Canadian household

\$250 per year; not exactly the type of financial windfall that's going to convince consumers to head to the stores and fuel the economy.

The primary objective of the GST reduction was political, not economic. The unwillingness of the prime minister to acknowledge this failed policy demonstrates his inability to make the tough decisions his position requires. To raise the GST would be a difficult decision to make, but probably the right one. Instead, Harper has stuck his head in the sand and is waiting for the crisis to pass. While he may not actually be adverse to black figures, Harper's air of infallibility will hamper his efforts to return the books to the black.



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# Calgary police's fancy new toys

## Green-light cameras a glorious new cash grab

Tristan Taylor  
Gauntlet Opinions



It seems as if our provincial government has hatched another plan to catch all the speeders in Alberta. Since the start of 2009, all red-light cameras have been upgraded to snap photos of all cars who pass through lights regardless of the colour. Is it just another cash grab? It fucking feels like it. Just like the ticket quota enforced on our police officers and the use of photo radar to blindly ticket all offenders, green-light cameras are another way for the city to pocket money.

This new protection for drivers supposedly solves two problems, claims Paul Oss, a spokesman for the provincial government: it will catch speeders and those who run red lights. Seriously though, if someone was to run a red light, they usually wouldn't be going the speed limit. That reasoning is ludicrous. If you want to protect drivers, educate them, don't punish them through excessive laws and cash grabs.

What are the potential problems with this? What happens when people slam on the breaks to go through green lights? Eighty-kilometre-per-hour fender benders, especially in the winter, when Calgary's roads become treacherous.

This supposed protection doesn't actually solve any problems other

than filling out the big boys' salary. In fact, it seems like it will create a more hazardous environment. One of the most dangerous aspects of driving is the interaction with other drivers. This occurs most frequently at intersections and by adding another complication or threat to drivers, they will be forced to choose between a safe decision and a cheaper decision in the case of an emergency.

Another aspect of this new law enforcement technique is that it will double charge a single driver for one act. If someone is caught speeding through a red light, they will get double fined. It is like getting yelled at for not knowing the right answer in class, then also getting docked participation marks for being a dumbass. It doesn't really make sense nor is it fair.

Citizens are in the midst of a four-month grace period, which ends April Fool's Day. Unfortunately, this isn't a joke. Possibly the most irritat-



ing part of this whole thing is that no one seems to mind. This action taken by the provincial government, and approved by our municipality, directly affects all drivers. This will have negative consequences, especially in times of poor road conditions.

Green-light cameras suck. This

is a call for our government to stop sucking. Enough with the cash-grabbing techniques. This potentially dangerous decision to punish those that speed through green lights will negatively affect all drivers, both safe and dangerous. The only solution to this problem is to take transit, but that sucks too. So ride a bike.



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# Born free, but not in Florida

Meagan Meiklejohn  
Word Playa

Man's best friend or biggest burden? Being a pet owner can be an entertaining and rewarding experience. Not only does caring for another teach responsibility, but it can provide a number of laughs along the way. However, being a domestic pet owner is much different than owning an exotic, or non-native, species. Oftentimes, as these species grow, owners feel that they can no longer handle the responsibility of caring for their pet and assume that by setting it free, they are returning the species to its home — the outdoors. The outdoors, though, is made up of a variety of ecosystems with specified habitats for species in different parts of the world; species cannot just be placed anywhere.

Miami, Florida officials and the Metrozoo celebrated their fifth annual Non-native Pet Amnesty Day this past Saturday. On this day, overwhelmed pet owners are able to donate their exotic species and

avoid any charges associated with violating Florida's wildlife laws. Species that are given up at the Metrozoo are then examined by a licensed veterinarian and, if healthy, are adopted by alternative owners who are both willing and qualified to take care of the species.

As an alternative to releasing exotic species into Florida's wilds, Amnesty Day is extremely beneficial to both the species in question and the surrounding area. When non-native species are placed in a foreign environment and left to fend for themselves, it is not likely that they will survive. If they do, there is a great chance that the species will become invasive and disrupt the indigenous wildlife. If so, these exotic species could threaten those native to the environment, either by treating them as prey or by eventually overpopulating them as they reproduce. Finding an adoptive owner who has the proper credentials, such as having applied for and received the appropriate licence or permit, is necessary to ensure the safety of all species and avoid such disruptions.

Yet, despite this, non-native species still find their way into foreign lands. Whether it is exotic marine

life that have been carried over from the ballast water of a ship or barnacles and aquatic plants that have hitched a ride on the blades, hulls or propellers of a boat, there are endless ways for species to enter new environments. Exotic species can even be brought over in packing materials, infesting exotic wood or hiding on the sea weed and plant matter used to pack fruits and vegetables. In addition, through international food markets, exotic animals have, at times, either escaped or been released into Florida.

In those instances the invasion of non-native species is virtually unavoidable, but Amnesty Day addresses the issue with exotic pets being released into Florida. However, adopting such species as pets is just as harmful. It does not matter whether an exotic species is released into an outside environment, such as Florida's ecosystem, or somewhere inside, such as a pet owner's house; taking species out of their own habitats places their lives and the lives of other species



sharing their habitats, in jeopardy. Exotic species are not domesticated nor are they meant to be. Keeping them as pets endangers both the species and the owner, since such a foreign environment could cause the species to rebel violently against the drastic change. Furthermore, the use of non-native species for purposes such as tourism, educa-

tion and exhibition, like in zoos and circuses, is to be frowned upon as well. The best place for exotic species is roaming free in their own habitats, nowhere else. That is what Florida should be cracking down upon: enforcing the conservation of original wildlife habitats instead of bouncing species from one owner to the next.

## The future of gaming, continued from page 10

while; something that, no matter how hardcore of a gamer you are, should be embraced.

Innovation, though, is still key here and it is really easy for gamers to shun those types of things when they play a new game. Gamers know what they want and when we enter into a game with certain expectations that are not met, we are immediately disappointed. But there is something to be said about completely odd gameplay.

Immediately, *Mirror's Edge* comes to mind. Released late last year, it combined adventure elements with the first-person perspective. A few cast the game aside, as first-person has always been the domain of shooting games like *Halo* or *Doom* rather than the place for adventure games to call home. Either way, *Mirror's Edge* is a case in point of spelunking into that cavernous place known as innovation and the tribulations of what happens when the bright lights of gamer opinion find their way inside. What can be

found is sometimes scary.

Casual games have become incredibly important since the Nintendo Wii was released. Steve Shatford from GamesCafe.com is on the front line of casual gaming and his slot of time at "The Future of Gaming" helped to really flesh out just how important and congenial they have become. If anything, the kind of casual games that are easy to learn and easy to play are going to be an important cog for the future of the industry. This is especially true as more and more people who rarely if ever played video games before have now started playing them. There was a bizarre statistic last week stating that the Wii Fit has sold more units than the popular *Halo 3*.

More and more we are starting to see the surging dominance of casual games and if we choose to dismiss them as inconsequential, we are just lying to ourselves.

For more information see "Video games surviving the recession," posted in the news section at [thegauntlet.ca](http://thegauntlet.ca)

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# three lines free

So this week I've had two midterms just creep up on me, and frankly, I didn't enjoy it. What's with all these sneaky tests just popping up out of nowhere?! I demand more Blackboard notifications to remind me, as an absent-minded, alcohol-riddled student that should probably study instead of thursdenning this week. If you agree with me, or enjoy being a alcohol-riddled student, please bring your TLF submission to MSC 319 or send it to [tlfs@thegauntlet.ca](mailto:tlfs@thegauntlet.ca). All submissions must include your name, ID number, phone number and signature. Submissions judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic or an attack of a personal nature will not be permitted.

Loo etiquette: 1. Cover the seat with entire bog-roll. 2. Do not flush. 3. Leave seat as is for next customer. 4. Scrawl on walls. 5. Drop paper towels on floor.

- \*pigs united\*

To all the people in the gym using the machinery, please wipe machines down after use. Thanks to you assholes my sack boils.

- puss soaked crotch area

I'm looking to get some bailout money. If you want to throw some money around give it to me for beer and wings. It's better than what GM is doing with theirs.

- Sober and Hungry

My friend has an STI (not serious) & works out at the uni gym. He refuses to wear underwear & wipe the seats. I told the people at the desk & they didn't do anything, so now I turn to TLFs.

- regular

Even though you lost the game, you still have my heart and I plan on taking it back. Meeting soon...I'm starting the countdown.

- Ms. Right

"And nail them to the ceiling fan/Do as I command/Say "goodbye" then say "hello" again."

- [www.ChrisGheran.com](http://www.ChrisGheran.com)

DODGEBALL! What more needs to be said? Gather 5-6 members from a club you belong to (or have made up) and show 'em what you've got! \$5/person to raise money for micro-credit. Friday, March 27 6:30pm-7:30pm in KN gym. email Jenni: [japanekc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:japanekc@ucalgary.ca) only space for 2 more clubs!

\*Participation eligible for co-curricular transcript. Do you like animals and playing with children? Volunteer at the Calgary Zoo's Easter Eggstravaganza where we will be organizing Easter-themed games for children. You will get snacks and a free pass to return to the zoo. Email [ccc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ccc@ucalgary.ca) to participate.

International Student Energy Summit- Calgary June 11th-13th 2009 Scholarships available to U of C undergraduate students (\$695 value) Fuel the Future of Energy! [www.studentenergy.org](http://www.studentenergy.org)

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- Contest Girl

UofC Kin Gamerz know how to party on a boat! WINK!!!! Cheers to the organizers, WIN!!!!!! Did you know Tom's 18?

- ED a.k.a. Adequate

University of Winnipeg has banned the sale of bottled water on their campus. Do your part in our campus and boycott bottled water.

- Water is Free

Bass Player needed for Stoner Rock/Metal Band Influences: Kyuss, Orange Goblin, QOTSA, Fu Manchu, etc. Must like beer and not suck. email [dkpurdy@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dkpurdy@ucalgary.ca)

Hey, I saw you rip down palestinian awareness week posters in a fit of hate. If you cant be peaceful and open-minded-Dont come to uni!

- PAW-supporter

I had something bad to say about a prof. But I'm not allowed to say it lest I get expelled. So much for free speech. Seems like profs have been given god status. They are the untouchable.

Environmental awareness week, return them lightbulbs for a walmart gift card. Hustleconomics 420.

Thanks to the GAP, I've been in a bad mood all of today. GTFO

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# Grasshopper beats old master

Graeme Schnell wins second consecutive squash championship



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Graeme Schnell — two time champion.

Graeme Schnell rallies at the U of C against his brother.

**Chris 'Doc' Pedersen**  
Sports Editor

Winning two sports championships in a row in most sports is difficult and squash is no different. Graeme Schnell, a squash player from the University of Calgary, successfully defended his Canadian University and Colleges Championship in Toronto on March 8, defeating the University of Waterloo's Eric Dingle 3-2 (11-9, 6-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-5) in the final.

"It felt really good to win a second time," said Schnell. "The first one was more of a shock, this one I knew I was capable of winning."

Schnell entered the tournament as the number one seed as he played in a lot of tournaments that counted

towards the Canadian Squash ranking. Being number one has advantages and can make tournament play easier.

"Since I was the number one

SCORE	
SCHNELL	KANE
3	0
games	

seed, I got a bye for the first round," said Schnell. "I got into the quarter-finals without playing a game."

The quarter-finals were not a difficult task for Schnell and he eas-

ily defeated his opponent Andrew Kane from the University of Waterloo 3-0 (11-5, 11-1, 11-3).

"He was a decent player, but he didn't really push me to hard," said Schnell. "I got in there and got a feel for the court — since the ball bounces differently at sea level. As soon as I won that I progressed to the semis."

Schnell was matched up in the semi-final with Iain Crozier from the University of Western Ontario. Crozier plays in the National Collegiate Athletics Association in the United States and had the talent to present a tough challenge for Schnell.

"I ended up taking him out in three straight sets," said Schnell. "So that was good from a rest point of view because I didn't want to get su-

per tired for the next day, plus it felt good to beat him 3-0 since he was a highly ranked player."

With the semi-finals behind him, Schnell would be taking on the

SCORE	
SCHNELL	CROZIER
3	0
games	

tournaments other superstar — his former coach Dingle.

"He used to coach me when I was a really, really young player," said Schnell. "He is a really fierce com-

petitor and it was cool to have two guys in the final from the same club in Calgary."

After cruising through the first two rounds as easily as a drunk frat boy flying down a slip and slide, the final proved to be a much tougher affair. Schnell took the first game 11-9 and then eased up. He felt the pressure from the crowd and slipped a little in the second and third game, losing 11-6 and 11-9.

"I knew what he [Dingle] was capable of and really hard to beat," said Schnell. "You can't ease up on a guy like Eric. I was actually losing 2-1 and I was really, really nervous being the favourite. The whole crowd was against me, since I was from out west. You just have to tone that out."

see SQUASH, page 16

# Squash, continued from page 15

Schnell managed to relax after the third game and began to ignore the crowd, focusing on beating his old coach. In the fourth and fifth game, he found his second wind and handily beat Dingle 11-6 and 11-5.

"I came out fired in the fifth game and won those easily," said Schnell. "Last year was a lot easier to win."

By becoming the champion of Canada in a year that the World University Squash championships are held, Schnell qualified and gets to travel to exotic places to compete. Last year Schnell traveled to Cairo, Egypt and is looking to head to Australia if he is able to win a third Canadian championship next year.

It will take constant training, something which Schnell manages to fit into a busy school schedule.

"It depends so my exam schedule, I wish I could say that I had a straight forward training schedule. I try and play at least six hours a week. I try to play one hour a night. When I don't have busy exams I try and get on two times a day for an hour. I never seem to go below five hours a week."

If you find yourself in the squash courts at the U of C, look to see a redheaded squash phenomenon battering a tiny rubber ball against a plain white wall.

SCORE	
SCHNELL	DINGLE
3	2
games	



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Graeme Schnell performing at his best

## massage therapy



Massage therapy has become one of the most respected professions in the last few years. According to a survey in Alberta, 83% of the medical doctors recommend massage therapy. The Harvard School of Medicine, Department of Complementary Medicine, published a study that 67% of North Americans go for massage, chiropractic, and acupuncture treatments. Massage therapy was on the top of the list!



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# Sport shorts

## Chris 'Doc' Pedersen

Sports Editor

### Women's volleyball

Jesse Knight was named the full-time head coach of the University of Calgary Dinos women's volleyball team. Knight was interim-coach for the 2008-09 season. He led the Dinos to 16-4 record and won a silver medal in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport volleyball championship.

Next year will be his second season with the Dinos and he will look to take the team all the way and win the gold. Knight was assistant coach for the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds before coming to Calgary. He helped the Thunderbirds win the national championship last year. He replaced long-time head coach Kevin Boyles after Boyles became the Dinos athletic director.

### Women's basketball

Women's basketball head coach Shawnee Harle has recruited one of the top players in Calgary.

Tilly Ettinger, a Saint Mary's Saints high school point guard, will don the red and yellow next season.

Ettinger was recently awarded the Dr. Arlene McGinn award recognizing the top female high school basketball player in Calgary.

Ettinger is the Saints all-time leading scorer and spent three years at the Canada Basketball Centre for Performance.

She finished her high school career with a city championship this season.

### Dinos athletics

The annual award night for the Dinos will be held at the Red and White Club near McMahon Stadium on March 31. This night recognizes the achievements of the Dinos athletes throughout the school year.

The night recognizes the male and female athletes of the year, rookies of the year, volunteer awards and the *Gauntlet* Extra Effort award given to a male and female who display heart and determination in their sport.

The nominees for female athlete of the year all come from teams that had tremendous success this season, with three athletes winning championships. Holly Harper (volleyball), Heidi Erdle (wrestling), Hanna Kubas (swimming), Heather Sim (cross-country and track and field) and Katie Urness (hockey) are the 2009 nominees.

The male nominees for the award sees three Canada West champions and a national gold medal winner.

Ross Bekkering (basketball), Andrea Bonaventura (football), Sam Effah (track and field), Travis Friedley (hockey) and Matt Walter (football) are the nominees.

Nominees for female rookie of the year are Shelby Davey (hockey), Erica Morningstar (swimming) and Ali Sandholm (volleyball).

Chris Hoag (volleyball), Brock Nixon (hockey) and Andy Rochon (basketball) are the nominees for male rookie of the year.



Gauntlet file photo

Male athlete of the year nominee Ross Bekkering (#33)

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# CFL star to join Jamaican Bobsled team

Well, actually it's the Canadian team, but wasn't *Cool Runnings* a sweet movie?

**Chris 'Doc' Pedersen**  
Sports Editor



The Canadian Olympic Committee has set a goal to finish first overall at the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver. It will take more than belief and inspirational quotes from kids on television to beat out the world's top countries.

To compete with the world, Canada must do whatever is necessary to put them on the top of the podium. With the introduction of football player Jesse Lumsden to the Canadian bobsleigh program, the COC is proving that they are willing to break a sweat and put the best athletes in the games.

Pierre Lueders and Jesse Lumsden won the national two-man bobsleigh competition last Saturday in Whistler. Lumsden had only been training with the national team for a week prior to this race—his first.

Lumsden joined bobsleigh because it is excellent training for football—he currently plays for the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League. While he may have joined to prepare for football, Lueders will continue training with the team during the summer, progressing towards a spot on the 2010 Olympic team.

Canada has not won a gold med-

al in bobsleigh since Pierre Lueders and David MacEachern won in Nagano in 1998. Since that time, Canada received no bobsleigh medals in Salt Lake City and won silver

**The inclusion of Lumsden on the Olympic team proves that the Own the Podium campaign is creating a successful environment that will allow our athletes to win.**

in Turin. Canada cannot compete on the world stage without the best athletes pushing the sleighs down the track.

The entire world will be gunning for Canada because we have a massive target on our backs

with Own the Podium. Countries such as the United States and Russia, with populations that dwarf Canada's, have an abundance of athletes to choose from. Canada is not lucky enough to have the massive population and must take our best athletes from all disciplines and allow them to compete.

The inclusion of Lumsden on the Olympic team proves that the Own the Podium campaign is creating a successful environment that will allow our athletes to win. It shows that the COC is willing to go beyond throwing money at the athletes; it is going out and recruiting the best athletes.

Frankly, no matter the symbolic peace and sportsmanship undertones of the games, the goal for every country is to win and hold bragging rights for four years. With the Olympic games heading to Vancouver next year Canadian sports orga-

nizations cannot afford to be nice. This is no longer high school athletics where fun and playing time should be available for all. It is the biggest sporting competition in the world and a time for ruthlessness. If Jesse Lumsden is skilled enough to steal a roster spot from a veteran then that is the way it should be.

This theory should spill over to all sports, especially hockey where the team needs to be created of the right players, who can come together and win.

This may exclude some veterans from Salt Lake City and Turin or it may exclude talented rookies, but so be it.

With such high expectation placed upon our athletes to win, the country must send the best athletes to Vancouver, the contestants who possess the skill to claim the gold.

I'm proud that Lumsden joined the bobsleigh team, and will work hard with his mates to ensure that Canada can place the best athletes on the ice, and maybe, just maybe, will be one medal of many hanging around Canadian athletes' necks.

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# A spoken word celebration

C I W S F  
festival preview

Jordyn Marcellus  
Entertainment Assistant

Starting April 1, the usually staid and conservative Calgary downtown core will be infiltrated by beatniks, hippies and even a few Rastafarians. They're all here for the 2009 Calgary International Spoken Word Festival, Canada's largest spoken word festival and the premiere poetry event for Calgarians.

Presiding over the madness is Sheri-D Wilson, described in arts circles as the "mama of dada" and a Calgary-native herself. After leaving Calgary at the age of 17, Wilson traveled the world, living in cities like New York and Vancouver, honing her craft. After returning to Calgary 15 years ago, she's been involved in all aspects of the spoken word community. But it wasn't until the new millennium that she decided to make the huge leap into creating a festival devoted to spoken word in the city.

"In 2000, I went to Africa where I was performing as a poet and I was inspired to do something for my community so I came back [to Calgary] and I started up this festival," she says. "That's really where it came from. It's about the exchange of voice and the exchange of song. As we go into the seventh year, we're meeting my original vision and dream."

Most people conceptualize poetry events as elitist gatherings where clove-smoking, beret-wearing beatniks with goatees and sunglasses snap their fingers to esoteric, drug-addled ramblings. CISWF explores other aspects that don't jive with people's conceptions of what poetry events are.

With the Calgary-based Dragon Fli Empire performing and reggae singers like Ras Michael, the festival's programming aims to bring poetry to the masses.

"There's poetry, music and most of it is spoken word," says Wilson. "It includes hip-hop, jazz, dub, beat, storytelling and slam... We have international and local artists and we all come together to create a, what I think of as, an inclusive festival that gives voice to the people. That's why I think [the festival is] so popular — it's down-to-earth."

One of the problems with trying to put on any arts event in Calgary is trying to find a place to hold the show. Wilson herself identifies that this is one of the major problems to putting on any cultural event in Calgary.

"One of the things that Calgary must address is the fact that we don't have many venues," says Wilson. "In order to hold a very, very large event for international artists, we don't have many venues to do that."

Trying to keep the festival inexpensive is one of Wilson's goals, despite the international-calibre of the artists. This was an issue consider-



courtesy CISWF

evalyn parry is one of the artists slamming it this year.

ing Calgary's venue crunch. As festival director and a leader in the arts community, she helped to cultivate places for the festival's shows.

"We've got shows in the Auburn, the Calgary [Central] Library and this year in the Chinese Cultural Centre — and that show is going to be wild and completely wacked," says Wilson. "We'll be playing at the Banff Centre in their club. It's great. It has this real underground feeling."

Wilson is effusive about many of the artists, but none moreso than John Giorno. A New York-based performance artist, he is easily one of the festival's highlights. Performing on April 4 at the Chinese Cultural Centre, Wilson describes him as "the true New York voice" in spoken word. Giorno, a Buddhist for 50 years and a member of Andy

Warhol's original Factory group, is both a gay and AIDS activist as well as performing all his work from memory.

"I first performed with him at the Harbourfront Festival in Toronto over 20 years ago, so I've known him for a long time," explains Wilson. "I performed with him at [Festival] Voix d'Amériques in Montreal. I was lucky enough to share a bed and breakfast with him so I got to hang out with him a large amount. At Voix d'Amériques, we really clicked and I was just, sort of, taken back by the beauty of this man. The magic that he has is unbelievable."

Wilson says Calgary audiences are in for a treat when he takes to the stage, as they'll be blown away by Giorno's once-in-a-lifetime performance.

"He will bring the house down,"

she says. "People don't know him here, but he's really popular in Toronto, Vancouver and — of course — New York. When people get a load of him here, they're just going to freak. The people that are lucky enough to get to see it will remember it for the rest of their life."

It may seem strange to call the festival the largest in Canada, but it's through the hard work of Wilson and the arts community in Calgary to make it so. Wilson doesn't deal in hyperbolic statements — she knows that Calgary has the potential to become a great arts capital of Canada. She's been saying that ever since she first started CISWF back in 2003.

"I said from the first festival that Calgary is the poetry epicentre in North America," Wilson says forcefully. "Everyone was laughing — but it has become that. One of my teachers said to me, 'Fake it 'til you make it,' so I've always faked it until I made it. It has become what I said it was to become. There's an amazing experimental poetry community here in Calgary already and now it's also a hub of spoken word. We have everything here."

Wilson wants nay-sayers to note that she feels that, in time, we'll be agreeing with her assessment of Calgary's burgeoning arts scene.

"Mark my words," she adds. "Calgary is going to be noted for its culture."

For more information on the fifth annual CISWF, go to [calgaryspokenwordfestival.com](http://calgaryspokenwordfestival.com).

## Morpheus Theatre looks at Gilbert and Sullivan's lesser known work

P a t i e n c e  
theatre preview

Olivia Brooks  
Gauntlet Entertainment

All you need is a good sense of humour according to Tim Elliott, the producer of Morpheus Theatre Company, to appreciate their production of Gilbert and Sullivan's opera *Patience*. The musical, directed by Richard Michelle-Pentelbury, satirizes the aesthetic movement of the time while telling the story of two rival poets fighting for the love and adoration of Patience (Naomi Williams-Covey), the local milkmaid. Even though *Patience* was the second longest-running musical in

its time, it is now one of the lesser-known musicals in the Gilbert and Sullivan canon. However, do not expect anything less than a night brimming with tomfoolery, young maidens, aesthetics and military suitors.

"[*Patience* is] when your wishes are granted," says Elliott.

Reginald Bunthorne (Michael Johnson), the "fleshy poet," is lusting after Patience who eventually caves to Bunthorne's wiles, but only because it is her duty. However, Bunthorne soon learns that being married to the village milkmaid has not made him as happy as he thought and he yearns for the worship of the 20 lovesick maidens who used to flock to him. Like any good comedic opera, *Patience* has its intrigues but closes with a happy end-

ing. Originally the role of Bunthorne was Gilbert and Sullivan poking fun at Oscar Wilde who was, as Elliott describes, "the poster boy" for the aesthetic movement.

"[The] aesthetic movement is similar to what the hippie movement was in the '60s or the next-gen in the '90s," he says. "It was the young people rebelling against their elders. It still does speak to the modern times."

Those who are familiar with Wilde are sure to get a laugh from Bunthorne's wild attire and songs about "the aesthetic line," but Elliott also hopes that even those who are not familiar with Wilde will still get a laugh out of Bunthorne's character.

Every season Morpheus Theatre produces at least one Gilbert and Sullivan musical, whether it is one

of their more commonly known ones such as *Mikado* or *Pirates of Penzance* or their lesser-known operas such as *The Gondoliers* or *Iolanthe*.

"One of the things Morpheus as a society would like to do is to do as many of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas as we can," Elliot says. "We would like to have people whistling the arrays from *Patience* and humming the tunes from *Iolanthe* as they do the other ones [*Mikado*, *Pirates*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*]."

Even with the looming recession, Morpheus Theatre's *Patience* is still persevering with ticket sales matching previous years. Traditionally, musicals bring in the larger crowds, but the extra appeal that *Patience* offers its audience is enter-

tainment at a low price.

"You can go and spend \$135 to go and see the *Lion King* and it's a spectacular show, but put that up against something like \$20 to see *Patience*," Elliott notes.

Even though *Patience* is community theatre, which generally gets a bad reputation as "low quality" theatre, Elliott says that stigma needs to be quelled.

"The talent that goes on stage, the actors, the singers, the chorus, we can probably stand up to almost anybody in professional theatre," he says. "That's going to help us in the recession, the value you get for your money."

Divine Brown plays at the Grand Theatre on Feb. 5. The show starts at 8 p.m.

# April films make for a mixed bag



Maybe it's because of the advent of spring, but movies feel somewhat fresher and wider ranging at this time of year, even if they aren't. The slate feels as if it's been wiped clean and expectations are wide open. Or maybe we're just more tolerant with the prospect of fair weather? Upon closer investigation, overall there's not too much to be excited about save the potential to be diverted by mostly fluffy and just fairly decent movies.

Case in point, this week will see the release of a Sundance indie darling (*Sunshine Cleaning*, in wide release this week), a not terrible looking old-fashioned exorcism movie (*A Haunting in Connecticut*), a brainless but appealingly simple action flick (*12 Rounds*, starring the WWE's Jon Cena), a typical but comforting Colin Firth rom-com (*The Accidental Husband*) and a star-studded animated film (*Monsters vs. Aliens*). Of note is *Adventureland*, about a teen (Jesse Eisenberg) whose sense of entitlement is shattered when he has to spend his summer in the drudgery of the local amusement park. Of course, said park is

rife with comedic possibilities, care of Ryan Reynolds, *SNL*'s Kristen Wiig and Bill Hader, as well as a love interest (*Twilight*'s Kristen Stewart). Several of Hader and Wiig's fellow comedians such as Paul Rudd, Seth Rogen, Will Arnett, Amy Poehler and Stephen Colbert lend their vocal talents to the other movie of note this week, Dreamwork's next Shrek-esque money-machine, *Monsters vs. Aliens*.

Sure to make a killing at the box office the following week is Katherine Heigl's latest pointless romantic-comedy, *The Ugly Truth*. The real ugly truth is that the movie's incredibly misogynistic poster and premier that one critic cited as proof that "romantic comedies are backsliding into record lows of reactionary bullshit," can easily be brushed aside by the common denominator "female demographic." The cad Gerard Butler and his dreamy accent also make an appearance. The male demographic can be distracted this week by the creatively monikered *Fast & Furious*, the fourth movie of the over-milked and spent cash cow of, almost, the same name.

Things perk up April 10 with a higher-grade version of *Paul Blart: Mall Cop* starring Seth Rogen. *Observe and Report* has him playing a bi-polar mall security guard who is pitted against a detective, played by Ray Liotta, in a competition to catch



courtesy E1 Entertainment

*Sunshine Cleaning* looks quite messy.

an infamous mall flasher and win the heart of the make-up counter girl (Anna Faris). The so-terrible-it's-awesome award of the year may possibly go to the other new release that day, *Dragonball: Evolution*, which is, yes, the live-action version of the classic unintentionally hilarious Japanese anime.

If the prospect of those pieces of escapism doesn't move you, seek refuge at the Engineered Air Theatre and in harsh reality with the latest Movies that Matter documentary playing April 6. *El Ovidio (Oblivion)* focuses its lens on modern day Lima, Peru and its startling gap between the extremely wealthy class and the survival-oriented poor who have endured decades of terrorism, economic crises

and government violence.

Zac Efron gets his big break away from Disney in *17 Again* on April 17 which, judging from the trailer, is not a huge leap, but looks surprisingly sweet and endearing despite the reverse *Big* conceit. He plays the suddenly younger version of a divorced and washed-up father of two (Matthew Perry) who reconnects with his family in awkward, Oedipal-line-toeing ways. An actor who's found his typecast niche and sticking to it, Jason Statham gets to reprise his role as the absurdly still alive professional hitman in *Crank: High Voltage* this week as well. The saga picks up from tough guy Chev Chelios' fall from a helicopter and sees him in a race against time to get back his illegally harvested heart, while staving off death by restarting his artificial one by any absurd means possible. The clumsily funny bits include Statham strapped to a car battery in the middle of gang turf and rubbing himself against an old lady for the static elec-

tricity from her wool wardrobe.

Some classier bets are available for April 17, too. One is the American re-make of the fantastic British political thriller, *State of Play* — with a huge ensemble cast including Russell Crowe, Helen Mirren, Jason Bateman, Rachel McAdams and Ben Affleck — that looks at the complex connections and channels of investigations of the murder of a congressman's mistress, conducted by police alongside a team of investigative journalists. The other is *Earth*, a feature-length version of the *Planet Earth* series, narrated by Darth Vader himself, James Earl Jones. Seek out the U.K. version for narration by another vocal and sci-fi giant, Patrick Stewart.

*The Soloist* will finally hit theatres April 24 after being pushed back since December 2008. Starring Robert Downey Jr. as a journalist who befriends a now homeless violin prodigy (Jamie Foxx), the movie was apparently held to be pushed back for so long to give it fighting chance at next year's Oscars. After giving audiences a glimpse of it last spring, we'll finally be able to see what the buzz is all about.

For campus events, happily there are more than just the usual Cinema listings (*Transporter 3* on March 30, *The Day the Earth Stood Still* on April 3 and *Twilight* on April 13). The FILM 441 class will be hosting a short film festival and workshop, *Show Us Your Shorts*, going March 26–28 at the Nicke Arts Museum and the Plaza Theatre. The gala, screenings and workshop are free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted at the door.

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# Talk about a bonus project

Film studies student spearheads film fest with the help of classmates

## Show Us Your Shorts festival preview

Ryan Pike  
AP Editor

Society, we're told, is in dire straits. The economy is in recession, folks aren't willing to help each other out and everyone seems fine with doing the bare minimum. At a time like this, an odd beacon of light shines bright. That beacon? Shorts. Short films, that is, in the form of the Show Us Your Shorts festival.

The origin of the festival, while not exactly something out of science fiction, is definitely unique. As part of the coursework in FILM 441, a class devoted to film festivals, fourth-year art history student Jeanette Burman was required to do a 10-hour practicum working for a local festival. Instead of searching for somewhere to put in her hours, she did the unthinkable — she created her own.

"I thought, 'How about a shorts festival? Why don't I make my own festival?'" recalls Burman. "I decided to propose that as my practicum and it was approved by George Melnyk, the professor, and I just kinda started."

Burman hasn't gone it alone,

though. She's had the help of her friends, family and classmates in starting the festival from scratch. Interestingly enough, some of her classmates helped out even though they had already completed the 20-hour requirement for the course but still wanted to be involved.

"It's been really exciting for me to see the volunteer students who are my fellow classmates get this practical hands-on experience," shares Burman. "I don't think a big festival would allow them to do the main marketing of their festival. How often is a student volunteer going to contact major media in Calgary and say, 'I'm promoting a film festival?'"

Show Us Your Shorts features a bevy of films split into three categories by length: short, medium and long. Burman and her student volunteers have managed to cull together a diverse collection of films for the festival, a number of which wouldn't otherwise have an avenue to be shown.

"I really tried to get the word out for submissions through every arts organization and institution I could think of in Calgary and Alberta," says Burman. "We received over 31 films in a period of two months, all from local filmmakers — one actually from British Columbia — which I think is pretty phenomenal



Amanda Hu/the Gauntlet

One of the festival's volunteers is clearly confused.

for a first festival and for such a short period of time. I was pretty much blown away by how much material we got. Once the films started rolling in, it started to build itself."

The shorts festival has grown beyond what Burman initially anticipated and emerges as a three-day affair. The festivities begin with a reception and workshops Thursday night at 6 p.m. at the Nickle Arts Museum. Then, Emmedia hosts a screening beginning Friday at

7 p.m. Finally, the festival's main event is nine shorts screened at the Plaza Theatre on Saturday beginning at 4 p.m., with a reception to follow at the Yardhouse across the street. Burman is succinct in stating why fans of film should check out Show Us Your Shorts.

"We have great short films and you'll enjoy yourselves," she says. "No attendance is going to be taken and it's free, which is not very common."

For more info and a full events schedule, go to [showusyourshorts.ca](http://showusyourshorts.ca).

DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

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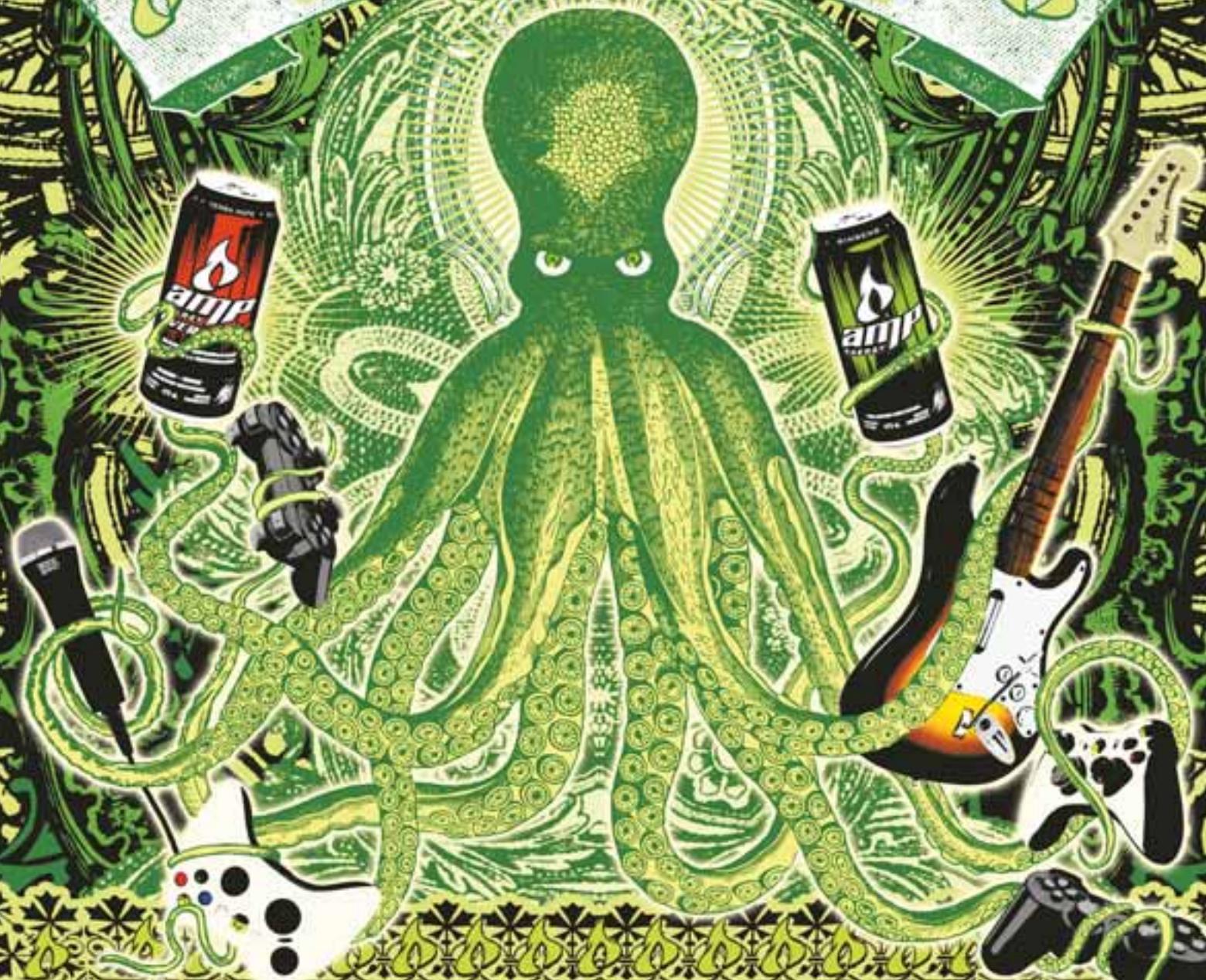
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# Learning the ways of the scene

Going the solo route means big changes for Calgary musician Brock Geiger

**Brock Geiger**  
That Empty Space

**Amanda Hu**  
Entertainment Editor

The Calgary music scene is becoming more and more well known for its sense of camaraderie and community. Many bands emerging from the scene praise the city's musicians for working together towards common success and creation. As Sea Level Rise's Brock Geiger is an emerging artist who is continuing to reap the benefits of this auditory solidarity.

"I started playing with a band," Geiger says. "We played for three or four years. We started getting involved in the scene with the band and people took off to university and other places and I

ended up doing a solo thing. I've started playing with various musicians and developing a different sound with more simple arrangements."

Working on those pared down arrangements is a drawn out process for Geiger. Though it's not usually a planned procedure, he spends a lot of time on his songs, especially since going solo.

"Honestly, I don't think I've ever just sat down and decided it was time to write a song," he says. "It's really spur of the moment kind of stuff. I'll just be doing something totally not music related and a single line will inspire me and I'll jot it down. I usually start from small pieces and kind of work concepts, lyrically and musically, building them out and develop them from that. It's very rarely a sudden process for me, so I like to take a lot of time to work things out."



courtesy Brock Geiger

Brock rocks out with folk tunes.

Though Geiger is channelling a folk, guitar-driven sound, his musical roots mirror a lot of high

schoolers starting down their musical path.

"We started doing some punk

covers and we were really into Pink Floyd, obsessively," he recalls. "We went through a few different people playing with. I got sick of trying to sing like Robert Plant. I started coming up with some stuff — it was very mimicky of that style, but it progressed from there. Moving into the solo thing has been a new game altogether."

Geiger admits he's still got a ways to go before hitting it big in the music world, but he has some advice to impart on people just starting out with their musical career.

"I've found that it's about exposing yourself and getting to know the people in the circle that are more recognized," Geiger says. "It took me playing a lot of free stuff and not expecting to get paid."

Brock Geiger plays That Empty Space with the Summerlad on Friday.



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If you think you might have trouble paying back your student loans, there are federal and provincial programs available to help you stay on track.

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- **En ce qui concerne ton prêt d'études provincial**, communique avec EDULINX, fournisseur des services de prêts aux étudiants de l'Alberta, au 1-866-827-0310.

Si tu crois que tu pourrais avoir de la difficulté à rembourser tes prêts d'études, des programmes fédéraux et provinciaux s'offrent à toi afin de t'aider à maintenir le cap.

Renseigne-toi au sujet des possibilités de remboursement qui te sont proposées. Dans le cadre du nouveau Programme d'aide au remboursement, par exemple, tu seras assuré que les versements sur ton prêt d'études canadien ne dépasseront jamais un montant raisonnablement abordable pour toi.

Pour plus de détails, visite la section **En vedette** du site [cibleétudes.ca](http://cibleétudes.ca).

Canada

# VOX

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## TOP 20 for the week of MAR. 9.09

- \* Denotes Canadian Artist  
 \*\* Denotes Local Artist
- JULIE DOIRON\*** *I Can Wonder What You Did With Your Day* (Endearing)
  - NEKO CASE\*** *Middle Cyclone* (Anti)
  - THESE ARE POWERS** *All Aboard Future* (Dead Oceans)
  - M. WARD** *Hold Time* (Merge)
  - FAUNTS\*** *Feel. Love. Thinking. Of.* (Friendly Fire)
  - BON IVER** *Blood Bank* (Jagjaguwar)
  - MR. SCRUFF** *Ninja Tuna* (Ninja Tune)
  - COTTON JONES** *Paranoid Cocoon* (Suicide Squeeze)
  - THE INVISIBLE HAND\*\*** *Cash Money EP* (indie)
  - MARISSA NADLER** *Little Hells* (Kemado)
  - BELL ORCHESTRE\*** *As Seen Through Windows* (Arts & Crafts)
  - GENTLEMAN REG\*** *Jet Black* (Arts & Crafts)
  - DD/MM/YYYY\*** *Black Square* (We Are Busy Bodies)
  - ABE VIGODA** *Reviver* (Post Present Medium)
  - INDIGONE TRIO & STRINGS\*** *Cycles* (indie)
  - KNUCKLEHEAD\*\*** *Hostage Life* (Longshot)
  - ANDREW VINCENT\*** *Rotten Pear* (Kelp)
  - TWO BEARS\*** *Eight Ice Cream Cones* (It's A Disaster)
  - DENT MAY AND HIS MAGNIFICENT UKULELE** *The Good Feeling Music Of Dent May And His Magnificent Ukulele* (Paw Tracks)
  - LORRIE MATHESON\*\*** *In Vein* (Saved By Radio)

### METAL

- LITHICA\*\*** *Invokation Of Satan Within* (indie)
- GOD FORBID** *Earth's Blood* (Century Media)
- FASHION BOMB** *Devils To Some, Angels To Others* (Full Effect)
- ARCHITECTS** *Hollow Crown* (Century Media)
- TOMBS** *Winterhours* (Relapse)

### EXPERIMENTAL

- NELS CLINE** *Coward* (Cryptogramophone)
- HORDE OF TWO\*** *Guitar And Bass Actions* (Smarten Up And Get To The Point)
- BLAH BLAH 666\*** *It's Only Life* (Barnyard)
- GERALD CLEAVER, WILLIAM PARKER & CRAIG TABORN** *Farmers By Nature* (Improvised Communications)
- M. TEMPLETON AND AA. MUNSON\*** *Acre Loss* (Anticipate)

### ELECTRONIC

- MR. SCRUFF** *Ninja Tuna* (Ninja Tune)
- THE BANJO CONSORSIUM\*** *A Remixed One* (9.12)
- ODD NOSDAM** *T.I.M.E. Soundtrack* (Anticon)
- THE BRAN FLAKES** *I Have Hands* (Illegal Art)
- VARIOUS\*** *Northern Faction 4* (Balanced)

### HIP HOP/SOUL/FUNK

- K'NAAN** *Troubadour* (Octoscope)
- CHIN CHIN** *The Flashing, The Fancing* (Definitive Jux)
- MADLIB** *Beat Konducta: Vol. 5-6* (Stones Throw)
- LEXINGTON & WHATEVSKI\*\*** *Preggers Can't Be Choosers* (indie)
- PO\$** *Never Better* (Rhymesayers)

### WORLD

- VARIOUS** *African Reggae* (Putumayo)
- VARIOUS** *Delhi 2 Dublin Remixed* (indie)
- LORRAINE KLAASEN** *Africa Calling* (Justin Time)
- MISHKA** *Above The Bones* (J.K. Livin)
- BENAISSA** *Tables Turn* (Silver Kamel)

### RADTASTIC!

**YOUR GUIDE TO ALL THINGS MUSIC AT CJSW 90.9 FM**

To be added to the email list, contact Myke Atkinson, Music Director at [cjswfm@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cjswfm@ucalgary.ca)

# As spring comes, so does Wintersleep

## Wintersleep music interview

Nicole Dionne

Gauntlet Entertainment

Despite the dreary weather, Wintersleep has opted out of hibernation and has instead been hitting the road. The band has been touring relentlessly to promote the U.K. release of their third album *Welcome to the Night Sky*.

Though touring has helped the group gain more exposure and bond, vocalist/guitarist Paul Murphy still feels the pull of home.

"You kind of realize during the shows just how far away you are from home and that you are there with your friends who all grew up in small towns and dreamed all our lives about playing music in these types of situations," he says.

After their 2008 Juno Award for best new group, things have taken off for Wintersleep, both here in Canada and across the Atlantic and Pacific.

"The Juno is something that means something to a journalist in London or in Japan," says Murphy. "People in the music industry take Canadian music really seriously nowadays so a thing like the Junos, that celebrates Canadian music at a bigger industry level, along with some other things like Polaris, is taken more seriously than ever from the music industry in other countries."

Though the band is gaining notoriety, here and beyond, Wintersleep



courtesy Riel Nakagawara

Band publicity shot pose number 27: the cool, detached dudes in shadow.

maintains their down-to-earth qualities.

"Every sign of appreciation matters to us, whether it is 12 people at a show in Dallas, or a packed club in Stockholm or London (and hopefully Calgary) or an award on national television," Murphy says. "We have a lot of people to thank."

Despite their success in Canada, the U.K. and Japan, making a name for themselves in the United States is proving to be much trickier.

"We haven't really connected with

a label that we want to be on in the U.S.," Murphy says. "I guess we've been lucky to sign with Labwork in Canada and 147 in the U.K., and in Japan. Luck plays a big part in the initial stages. We have met a few really great U.S. people, but yeah, it takes time and you can put as much heart and soul and hard work into it as you want but luck and timing also plays a role."

While Wintersleep has been enjoying various intimate European venues, they are excited to make it

back to Canada where they will be going on tour with An Horse. Wintersleep appears to be a bit wary of the Canadian wildlife though. Murphy gave some cautionary words of wisdom on bears.

"[Bears are] cuddly in pictures and might scratch your eyes out if you go near its cubs," he warns. "Don't leave your food in the tent you're sleeping in."

Wintersleep play MacEwan Hall on March 30. The show starts at 7 p.m.

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# The Great Lake Swimmers' geography lesson

## Great Lake Swimmers music interview

Laura Bardsley  
Gauntlet Entertainment

Clear and distinct are not often used to describe music anymore. However, in the 1920s, when there was actually only time for one song per side on the record, bands were forced to be concise. Tony Dekker from Great Lake Swimmers worked toward this sound on the group's fourth release, *Lost Channels*.

"I was sort of inspired by listening to groups like the original Carter Family," Dekker says. "Groups that recorded between the '20s and '30s, you know, literally only had three minutes to get their point across."

Not only are Great Lake Swimmers fans of concise, '20s-sounding tunes, but they also enjoy a good trip up the old St. Lawrence River. Notorious for their recording location choices, *Lost Channels* was recorded at Thousand Islands, up the St. Lawrence, halfway between Toronto and Montreal. Within the region of Thousand Islands, they recorded in Singer Castle, Brockville Arts Centre and St. Brendan's Church. Dekker explains part of what makes the



courtesy Nettwerk

Please, adopt the Great Lake Swimmers. They're adorable.

band's distinctive sound is unique locations. "Tying the history of a place is pretty important," he stresses. "The places we've chosen we've been able to weave the mythology into what we're doing. . . making the connection with the place and environmental thing, it's important to drawing the performance out from you."

Not only is it imperative to include and reflect your environment in your music, but also to include your past in the mix.

"I love when people put references to where they're from in their music, referencing the geography of where you're from," Dekker notes.

He grew up on the Great Lakes, and the

band, now centred in Toronto, is still situated near a Great Lake.

Dekker's voice is often compared to Neil Young's, but he asserts that he refrains from using labels as much as possible and doesn't pay much attention to comparisons.

"I didn't get into Neil Young until I heard the comparisons," he admits. "It's a huge compliment to be put in the same bracket as Neil Young, but at the same time, I'm a young Canadian guy singing with a tenor, so..."

With the historical places the Great Lake Swimmers have recorded, it almost seems to relate to the sometimes eerie qualities of the songs. However, no ghosts showed up for a free show.

"You could feel a presence of history, surrounded by energy and presence," Dekker says. "Sometimes when you walk into a place, you can feel that there's not so much as a presence, but a feel to a place."

Although the locations help, they only add to the talent of the band. Metaphors also help.

"I almost see the place we record as a member of the band, you know, or as like a back-drop or a canvas, that we're painting all these songs on it, if you want to carry the metaphor," he says.

The Great Lake Swimmers play at the Grace Presbyterian Church on March 26. The show starts at 8 p.m.

# CJSW ON-AIR GUIDE

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun		
MORNING JAZZ	6 am	heads telling tales	breaking the tethers	the morning after	morning_oy	jazz stains	sunlight theory (continued)	mental brain thoughts (continued)	6 am
	6:30						democracy now!	alternative radio	6:30
ROOTS MIX	7 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS weekday mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am					bunte welle <i>german</i>	counterspin	7 am
	7:30							eritrean radio	7:30
AFTERNOON MIX	8 am						calgary vietnamese radio	hrvatski radio <i>croatian</i>	8 am
	8:30	her royal opinion	canadian music centre presents	bella musica	the soap box derby	the two and a half hour coffee break		radyo pilipino <i>filipino</i>	8:30
LATE NIGHT MIX	9 am		deconstructing dinner				helenic melodies <i>greek radio</i>	buscando america <i>latin &amp; south america</i>	9 am
	9:30						the double entendre preserves!	let's get baked with mat & dave <i>vegan baking from ckdu</i>	9:30
MORNING MIX	10 am	cjsw news	what's shakin'	alternative radio	democracy now!	who shakes city calendar	bikesheviks <i>sponsored by cadence coffee</i>	level the vibes	10 am
	10:30	counterspin (media watch)	so SU me students' union				caribbean link-up <i>sponsored by fivd weekly</i>	mental illness <i>sponsored by the coup</i>	10:30
AFTERNOON MIX	11 am	picking out a thermos	constance billard <i>sponsored by the drum &amp; monkey</i>	mind grapes	pillage the village / failed pilot	fantastic plastic <i>sponsored by beat route</i>	the nocturntable	speaking in tongues <i>world music</i>	11 am
	11:30						the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder	the chit chat	11:30
LATE NIGHT MIX	12 pm						remote emissions <i>hard hitting jungle &amp; drum 'n bass</i>	tokyo eye patch	12 pm
	12:30						the double entendre preserves!	translucent dreams <i>ambient, trance etc.</i>	12:30
AFTERNOON MIX	1 pm	the banshee beat	electric company <i>sponsored by the inner sleeve</i>	the ok ship lights	my public shame <i>sponsored by melodiya records</i>	my allergy to the fans <i>sponsored by tubby dog</i>	fat beat diet	straight on 'til morning	1 pm
	1:30						sunlight theory		1:30
LATE NIGHT MIX	2 pm						mental brain thoughts		2 pm
	2:30	don't throw your marmalade	jane & tasya's guide to everything <i>sponsored by broken city</i>	halfway home <i>sponsored by the liberty lounge</i>	alternative to what? <i>sponsored by kerfmusic.com</i>	road pops <i>sponsored by fivd weekly</i>	the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder		2:30
AFTERNOON MIX	3 pm						voice of ethiopia oh africa!		3 pm
	3:30						the nocturntable		3:30
LATE NIGHT MIX	4 pm						the nocturntable		4 pm
	4:30						the nocturntable		4:30
AFTERNOON MIX	5 pm	france transe en danse	off the page gauntlet	mezza l'una <i>italian</i>	writer's block	musiquarium <i>everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45</i>	the nocturntable		5 pm
	5:30	south louisiana gumbo	tombstone after dark <i>sponsored by the palomino smokehouse &amp; social club</i>	the blues witness <i>with reverend ron sponsored by calgary dollars</i>	folkcetera <i>sponsored by the marquee room</i>	full moon funkalcious <i>the latest &amp; greatest in breaks &amp; house</i>	the nocturntable		5:30
LATE NIGHT MIX	6 pm						the nocturntable		6 pm
	6:30						the nocturntable		6:30
AFTERNOON MIX	7 pm	filmclips	yeah, what she said <i>women's programming</i>	lift the bandstand	noise <i>experimental music</i>	dirty needles <i>the best in funk, soul &amp; hip hop</i>	the nocturntable		7 pm
	7:30						the nocturntable		7:30
LATE NIGHT MIX	8 pm						the nocturntable		8 pm
	8:30						the nocturntable		8:30
AFTERNOON MIX	9 pm	aubrey's shindig! <i>sponsored by the marquee room</i>	each one teach one	urban sex <i>lesbian / bisexual / gay</i>	good character requirement / turing radio	fat beat diet	the nocturntable		9 pm
	9:30						the nocturntable		9:30
LATE NIGHT MIX	10 pm						the nocturntable		10 pm
	10:30						the nocturntable		10:30
AFTERNOON MIX	11 pm						the nocturntable		11 pm
	11:30						the nocturntable		11:30
LATE NIGHT MIX	12 am						the nocturntable		12 am
	12:30						the nocturntable		12:30
AFTERNOON MIX	1 am						the nocturntable		1 am
	1:30						the nocturntable		1:30
LATE NIGHT MIX	2 am						the nocturntable		2 am
	2:30						the nocturntable		2:30
AFTERNOON MIX	3 to 6 am						the nocturntable		3 to 6 am
							the nocturntable		

a note from our new program director

As CJSW's new Program Director I would like to extend a warm greeting to all listeners, members, and anyone who might be reading this. I'm quite excited to take up the challenge of managing the best programming schedule in all campus-community based radio.

And I'd also like to ask for feedback from anyone who has anything to say about CJSW. I can be reached at 403-220-3903 or by email at cjswpd@ucalgary.ca.

Thanks for listening!

Mark Shields  
CJSW Program Director

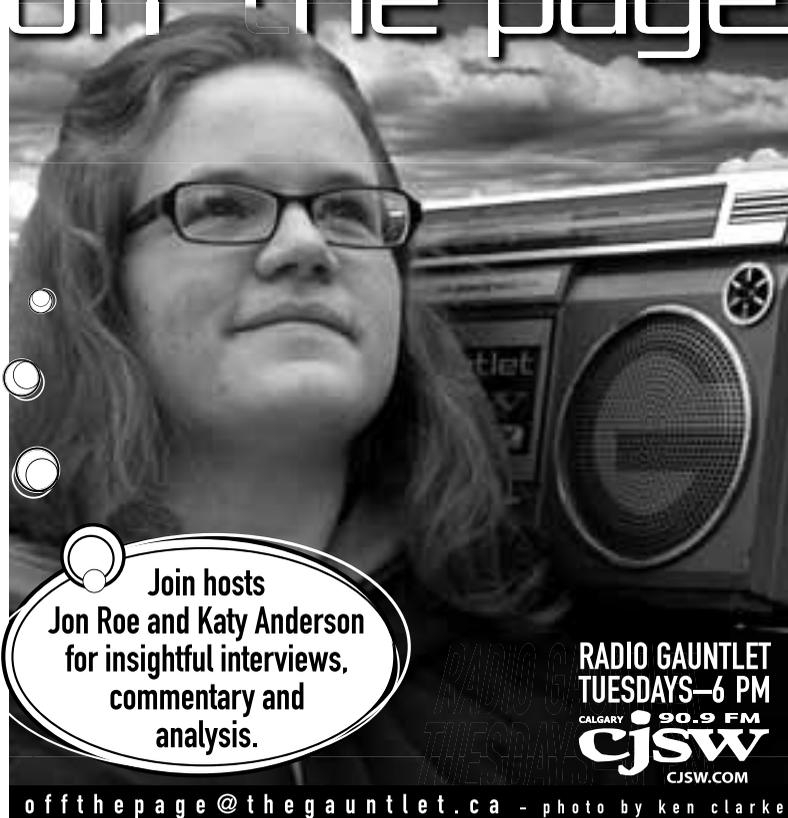
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## off the page

s p u n

ALBUM REVIEWS



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Stolen Organ Family Band  
*Divorce*  
(Independent Release)

Listening to *Divorce* can lead to only one conclusion: B.C. band the Stolen Organ Family Band does way too many drugs. With incredibly fuzzy, razor-edged guitars and filtered vocals mixed so deep into the tracks that the lyrics are nigh-comprehensible, *Divorce* is a strange mix of stoner-influenced, countrified rock 'n' roll and pseudo-psychodelia.

"Lez Get Divorced" is the closest thing to the Family Band's audio-equivalent to mission statement you can get. With vocalist Mack wailing over rollicking guitars, his voice distorted to sound even more rough and tumble, the song seems right in place with the music of a bunch of meth-addled hillbillies playing on the ol' hootin' jugs. They're kind of messy and sloppy, which is frustrating for those who care about a cohesive listening experience. When the effects pedals are turned off, the band really manages to rock it. "Baby, Wez Ye Phun Numbah" is a relatively normal song for the band, with a high-energy guitar line bookended with scatchy, full-throated howling. It's the only track like it on the album, sadly, as it's the most interesting song on an otherwise nonsensical and unorganized album. With more songs like the unlistenable "Lez Get Divorced" as opposed to the fantastic "Phun Numbah" on the album, *Divorce* is sadly lacking.

..Jordyn Marcellus



The Fray  
*The Fray*  
(Epic)

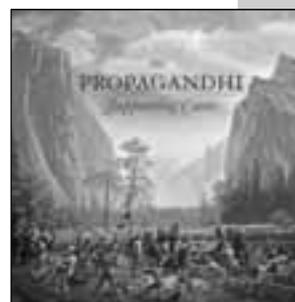
The Fray are a hard band to peg. On one hand, their songs feature strong piano-work and competent vocals. On the other hand, nobody has an impression of them outside of, "Hey, how about that song that plays during *Gray's Anatomy*?"

The odd thing about the Fray is, that despite being around for the better part of the decade and now being snugly nestled in the Sony/Disney corporate synergy machine, they've only released two albums. Their album, the self-titled *The Fray*, is more or less the same as its predecessor, *How to Save a Life*. It features a wide array of piano-heavy ballads and the occasional song with slightly less piano. Also, just as *How to Save a Life*'s main single

was used to promote ABC's *Gray's Anatomy*, *The Fray*'s key single, "You Found Me," was used to promote ABC's *Lost*...during *Gray's Anatomy*. Funny how that works.

*The Fray* itself is largely inoffensive alt-rock, seemingly designed to appeal to the same demographic as the first album. The problem with the CD is that the band makes a series of safe choices and never seem willing to stray. Many other bands have that same problem, but a good deal of them have back catalogues full of daring, sometimes embarrassing, musical experiments. The Fray seem to lack the courage to be anything but bland.

..Ryan Pike



Propagandhi  
*Supporting Castes*  
(G8 Welcoming Committee)

Propagandhi, Manitoba's own pacifistic, tofu-eating hardcore musical warriors, are back with another hard-nosed album full of pounding drums, powerful guitars and lyrics devoted to hockey, class warfare and even some modest proposals for cannibalism.

On opening track "Night Matters" the band starts out with a mighty, mosh pit ready shredding guitar riff that doesn't let up until the 46-minute album is over. "Dear Coach's Corner" is a lament of the state of hockey and sports co-option by right-wing interests. Over vocals that criticize Don Cherry's rightward lurch and his constant cry to "support the troops," vocalist Chris Hannah delivers the vocals with white-knuckled intensity.

Guitar work by Hannah and Dave Guillas further accentuate Hannah's vocals, showing the punk rock fury that has fuelled the band for nearly 20 years.

For a group like Propagandhi, the lyrical content is front-and-centre. The songs are devoted to the group's normal areas: veganism ("Human(e) Meat"), class warfare ("Supporting Caste"), depression and suicide ("The Funeral Procession"). Of course, for a hardcore act like Propagandhi, they are inherently polemical, but also offer a powerful dose of radicalized leftist ideology in a perfectly palatable musical package.

.. Jordyn Marcellus



Kashiwa Daisuke  
*5 Dec.*  
(MIDI creative / noble records)

Proving once and for all that people who use Macbooks aren't necessarily useless, Kashiwa Daisuke envelops the listener within his own imagination in *5 Dec.* Daisuke is not a musician, but a visionary. As a follow-up to 2007's instrumental poetry reinterpretations, *program music I*, *5 Dec* quickly moves from an uneasy ambience to overwhelming swells of brilliance. Invoking everything from Ryuichi Sakamoto to Prefuse 73 to Frank Zappa, this album may seem like a bit much to ingest in one sitting.

"Red Moon" lulls the listener into a calm, only to have "Requiem" breakbeat and

glitch the world atwain. Venturing deep into the realm of prog-rock temporarily, albeit tastefully, in the aptly titled "Bogus Music," Daisuke pulls back into a deep dub beat heavily laden with distant piano and static samples. Daisuke-chan stays within the boundaries of no genres, opting to clear his own path through the dense world of music.

Anyone looking for a challenge, a new experience, or who happens to love ambient music already should do themselves a favour and give an hour of their time to this man.

..Jordan Fritz

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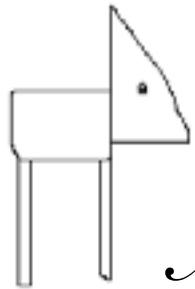
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# Deconstructing Horsedog

*A look at the world's greatest achievement since the pyramids*

**Ryan Pike**  
Vowels Editor

Human beings have walked the Earth for roughly 200,000 years, according to scientists. In that time, we have discovered fire, mastered flight and made scientific discoveries that have revolutionized the way the world works. The creation of *Horsedog* makes every other human achievement seem like a small child's

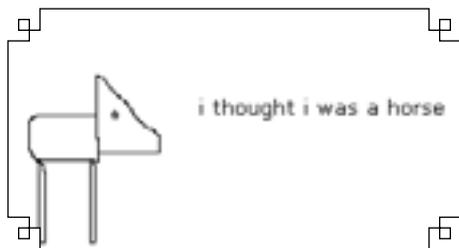


Fig. 1: *Horsedog* tackles identity issues.

inane scrawlings. In the annals of Western civilization, only *the Cosby Show* and *Webster's English Dictionary* come close to having the cultural impact that *Horsedog* boasts.

Created by Nobel laureate Julie Phillips, *Horsedog* has garnered unprecedented critical acclaim and catapulted the paper that publishes it from a ragtag publication full of typos and factual inaccuracies into

one that publishes pure greatness on its comics page.

"When Julie came to me with this project, I originally thought, 'Hey, this could fill some space on the comics page,'" reflects *Gauntlet* illustrations editor Gina Freeman.

"When I actually read it, I immediately felt that this was something that could change the world and, in a very real way, we could try to make money off of it."

While there is actually no real way anybody can make money off of the *Gauntlet*, *Horsedog's* runaway success has resulted in its creator being besieged with lucrative endorsement opportunities. To her credit, the reclusive Phillips has refused all of them, wishing to remain true to her craft.

"Julie has always been intensely passionate about *Horsedog*," says Freeman. "She used to joke that she put her blood, sweat and tears into

each strip. Later on, I discovered that was literally the case."

Phillips declined to be interviewed for this article, wishing instead for her work to speak for itself. Needing more interviews to fill out his story, *Gauntlet* writer Ryan Pike instead spoke to the people that *Horsedog* has touched the most: its readers.

"Right from the first strip, *Horsedog* has tackled the tough issues plaguing humanity," notes media scholar Jordyn Marcellus. "When *Horsedog* is asked whether he is horse or dog, the comic asks the same thing to its readers. Who among us hasn't asked ourselves, at some point, whether we are horse or dog?"

Marcellus argues that *Horsedog's* assertion that it is a horse expresses a belief in the power of self-actualization and that modern identity is

not imposed by any outside source, but instead is created by one's self.

"*Horsedog* also asks the tough metaphysical questions," says Christian Loudon, the *Gauntlet's* token philosophy major. "The strip that asks, 'Why does it need to mean something?', that was profound. Why does anything need to mean anything? Why can't it just exist? That's fucking deep, man."

Avid reader and part-time philosopher Andrew Rininsland also noted the strong philosophical undertones that permeate the series. "That one strip had a Descartes quote in it," recalls Rininsland. "That totally

reminded me of *The Matrix*, which is kind of like Descartes' *Third Meditation*, right?"

[Editor's note: No. It's really not.]

While *Gauntlet* sports editor Chris Pedersen complained that *Horsedog* doesn't involve enough sports, three lines free editor Laura Bardsley had fond remembrances.

"The *Horsedog* that said 'What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas' really says something profound about secrecy in our modern world," says Bardsley. "It also made me laugh."

Despite its successes, questions abound regarding the future of *Horsedog*. There is pressure mounting for Phillips to give in to corporate offers to helm the proposed spin-off *Horsedog Minus Horsedog*. Nevertheless, *Horsedog* stands proud and true as a monumental achievement that has brought joy and wisdom to the masses.



Fig. 2: *Horsedog* gets existential.

it," recalls Rininsland. "That totally

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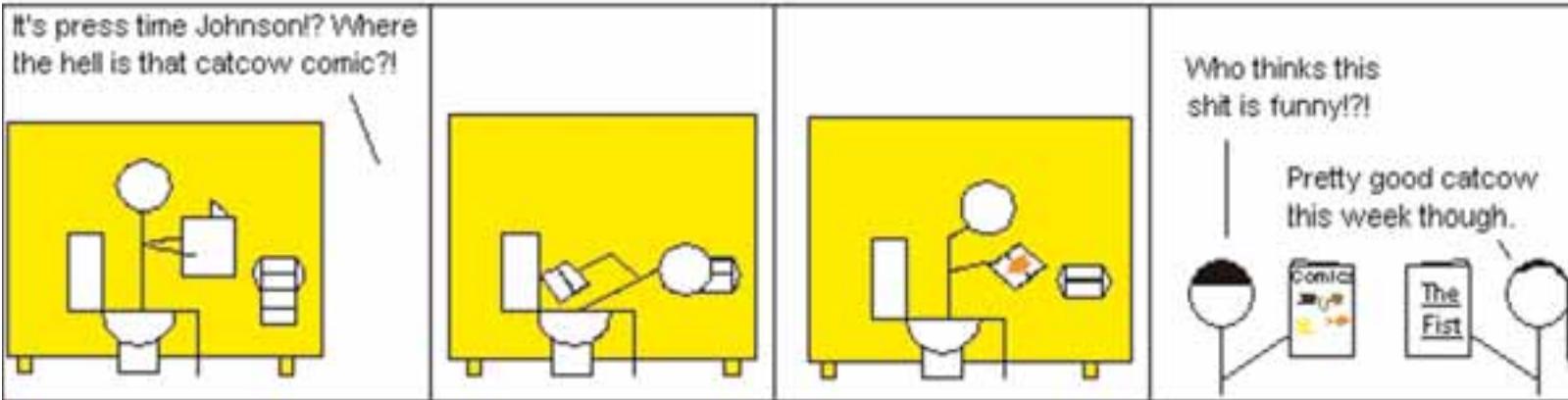
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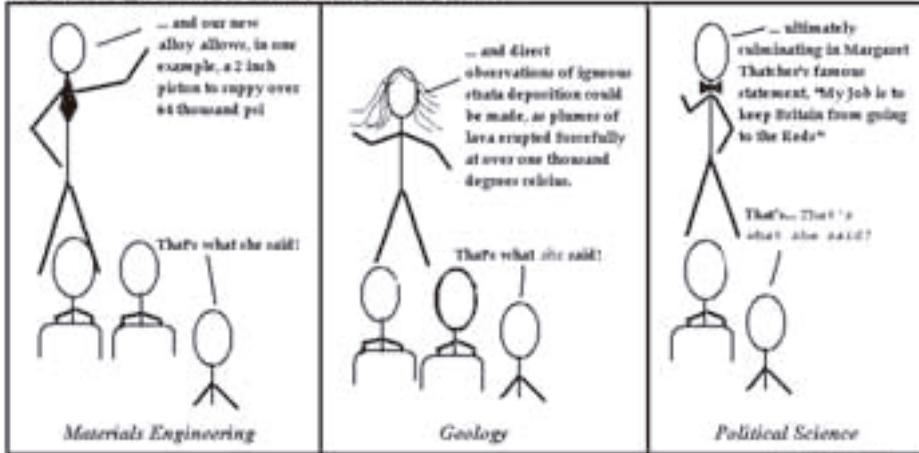
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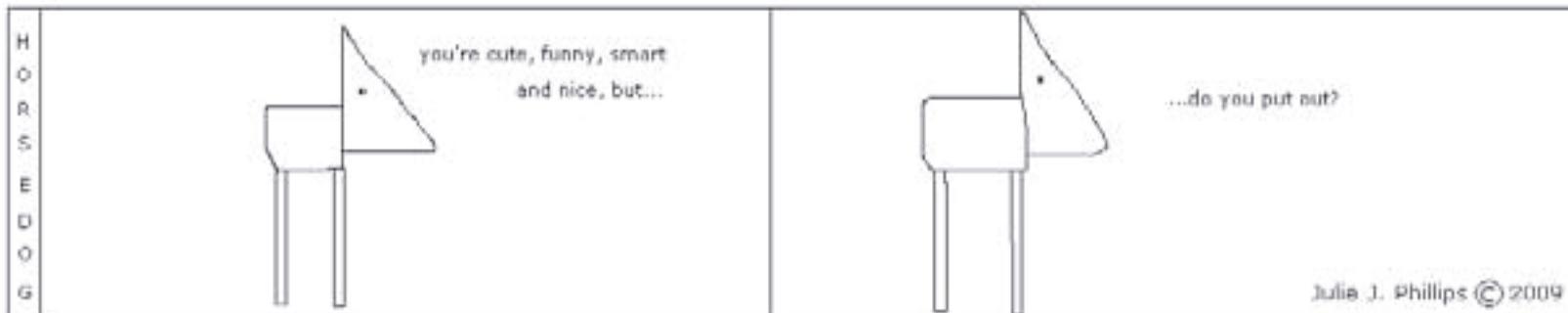


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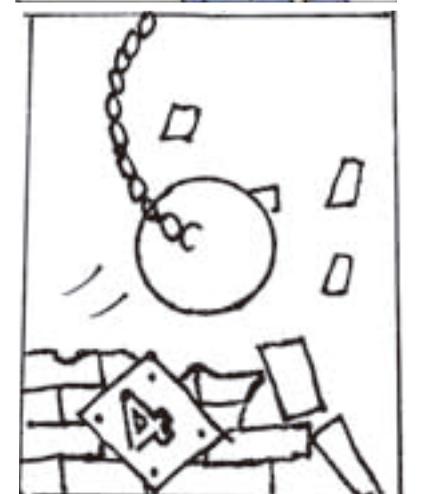
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