

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

# gauntlet

VOLUME 50 | ISSUE NO. 02 | MAY 21 | 2009

# GOING GREENER

UNIVERSITY TO CUT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



**Katy Anderson**  
News Editor

**T**he University of Calgary is set to cut its emissions by approximately 43 per cent from 1990 levels — a move that will save up to \$5 million a year once implemented in 2011.

The federal and provincial governments gave the U of C \$113 million as part of its infrastructure plan Friday, May 15. Half will go to a co-generation plant and a campus wide energy performance program — refitting buildings — while half will go to making sure the Taylor Family Digital Library will have state of the art equipment when it opens.

The heating and cooling plant would not

only slash greenhouse gas emissions by 80,000 tonnes per year, the university would switch from purchasing energy to producing it themselves, said U of C president Dr. Harvey Weingarten. The move will save the university anywhere from \$3.2 to \$5 million per year on their operating budget.

“The facilities that we have for heating and cooling for our buildings are 40 to 45 years old,” said Weingarten. “We needed to expand and upgrade that facility and we decided to do it in an environmentally responsible way.”

Co-generation means that instead of just heating or chilling water and sending it through tunnels into campus buildings, a natural gas run turbine — essentially a big jet engine — produces electricity, explained Weingarten.

Office of Sustainability co-ordinator Jo Wright said the co-generation project is a

“wonderful thing” and something the university has been working on for a number of years.

“It’s an amazing scale of change to see for the campus,” said Wright. “Kyoto commits us to six per cent below 1990 levels by 2012 whereas this would give us on the order of 40 per cent by 2011.”

Calgary-Montrose MLA Manmeet Singh Bhullar said the co-generation plant is an example of government and post-secondary institutions working together to find innovative solutions to the province’s most pressing challenges.

“It’s actually quite exciting to see how the new project, with respect to co-generation, will contribute financially to the institution’s well being, as well as leave a much smaller carbon footprint once fully developed,” said Bhullar.

*see GOING GREENER, page 3*

# The U of C's amalgamation proclamation

With the spectre of the ongoing economic crisis looming over their shoulders, the University of Calgary's General Faculties Council will vote on the proposed amalgamation of the fine arts, communications and culture, social sciences and humanities faculties into a single arts faculty this Thursday. Originally proposed last fall, the plan has been a topic of pitched debate amongst students and faculty ever since. Last month, both the Students' Union and the U of C's University Planning Committee pledged their support to the single faculty plan, citing the proposed benefits to the university. As it turns out, faculty amalgamation may actually be the best option out there, for both the student experience and the university's bottom line.

Right now there are four faculties, each with a dean, assorted assistant deans, administrators and advisors. Each faculty also has its own budgeting process, which puts them at the mercy of senior administration to get enough money to run their programs. In their primer docu-



ment released last month, the UPC stated that smaller faculties generally have less budgetary and planning flexibility than larger ones. Given that stance and their tenuous financial situation, it's only logical that the university would want a faculty structure that would, in theory, reduce bureaucracy and costs while allowing for more flexibility.

While the university's stance is informed by a desire for financial stability and efficiency, the SU is meant to represent students. In that case, the reasoning for their support of amalgamation has to be vested in the notion that one giant

faculty is better for students than four smaller faculties. Trimming down expensive bureaucracy could provide more funding for teaching and research, which would enhance education.

However, some students are concerned about the smaller faculties being absorbed into a huge one. One of the stated goals behind the amalgamation is to provide more students with the opportunity to take a variety of courses, which would be easier to do in a super-faculty. While this seems fine and dandy for big departments moving from one faculty to another — the

political science department will be a big fish no matter what — it poses a bit of a problem for smaller voices, such as in the fine arts, who may become lost in a super-faculty. The question is, though, can fine arts be worse off than they already are?

Past budget crises and financial shuffling have resulted in cuts to many programs, especially those in fine arts. While prior budget cycles have seemingly resulted in dollars being doled out to the areas with more potential for profit — maybe it's hard to get sexy research from interpretative dance nowadays — a prospective arts super-faculty would, according to the UPC, have a budget in the realm of \$60 million to be divided up. Smaller departments in the mix would survive by living off the scraps of the bigger departments, which could leave already poor programs making due with what little they already have, but may see their budgets inch up slightly in the long run. Given how badly off many of the arts already are, why not amalgamate?

**Ryan Pike**  
Opinions Editor

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Kate Marlow took a great photo on her latest assignment for the paper. She's super.

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## STUDENTS' UNION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

# Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

**Term:** Part-time, from August 2009 to March 2010

**Pay:** Honoraria of up to \$2,000 for the by-election and up to \$3,000 for the general election.

The CRO is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the SU fall by-election and winter general election. Duties include hiring all election officials; supervising nominations and voting process; setting up voting stations; and ensuring SU by-laws, policies, and procedures are followed. Your work will be concentrated in September, October, January, February, and early March.

You must have completed one session of studies at U of C. Preference will be given to those with experience in student, civic, provincial, or federal election.

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, Friday, June 5.**



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# The art of amalgamating faculties

Final vote to group 60 per cent of students together to happen May 21st

**Katy Anderson**

News Editor

The highest academic governing body at the University of Calgary will vote Thursday on whether or not to lump 60 per cent of all students into one faculty.

The move, which is expected to pass with a majority after a discussion at General Faculties Council, would see social science, humanities, fine arts and communication and culture combined into a single liberal arts faculty — a system already used by many post-secondary institutions across the country, including the University of Alberta.

The University Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend the amalgamation to GFC, U of C provost Dr. Alan Harrison told Students' Union members at a Students' Academic Assembly — the highest academic body of the su — meeting.

“Our hope is there will be a similarly strong vote at GFC,” said Harrison.

Despite the large number of students this would affect, the su is supporting the move, noting as long as it's done properly it could benefit students.

“I think it's a really good opportunity, but I do think it will require a lot of vigilance on our part,” said su vice-president academic Megan Martin, noting she will be sitting on the transition team.

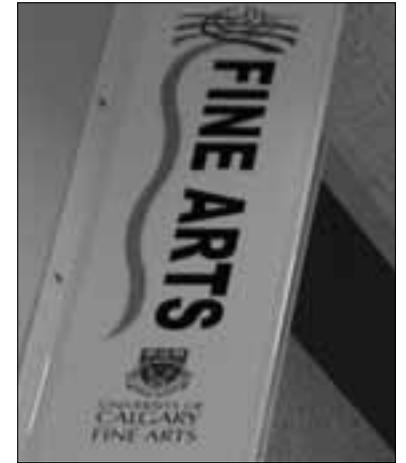
su social sciences representative Chris Kalantzis echoed Martin's call for a close eye on the amalgamation.

“I think the Students' Union and the faculty representatives directly concerned with the amalgamation need to ensure that they are keeping the provost on his toes, especially since Harvey Weingarten is going to be leaving office this January.”

Both Martin and Kalantzis



Gauntlet file photo



Dan Pagan/The Gauntlet

U of C provost Dr. Alan Harrison says he expects the May 21st vote on faculty amalgamation to go through.

stressed their biggest concern is ensuring that no students get left behind by the transition.

“If there was less advising in the

go in the process,” said Martin.

Kalantzis pointed to the loss, and decision not to rehire, a key social sciences secretary. Martin

be a product of the economy.

Martin said the battle would come down to communication, making sure that students know

changing to the new system.

She also pointed to potential benefits of the amalgamation, including streamlining the academic appeals process and making the transition easier for students entering the U of C.

“For admissions, it will be a lot less confusing for students to know where they belong,” said Martin. “We do have a lot of students transferring from faculty to faculty to faculty. It should harmonize the way that students change their degrees and harmonize admissions requirements so that students will have a better idea of what they're getting into and there will be more fluidity as far as course offerings go.”

**“I think it's a really good opportunity, but I do think it will require a lot of vigilance on our part.”**

**Students' Union vice-president academic Megan Martin**

interim, that's the kind of the risk that would run — if there is a reduction in support staff and students didn't know where they could

spoke about the troubles already facing fine arts to hire enough support staff, but noted it was a university-wide issue and could

they will matriculate with whatever degree they started in — meaning their course requirements won't change — or have the option of

## Going greener, cont'd from cover

The U of C is in the midst of a \$1.5 billion capital expansion plan and developed a set of funding proposals for different levels of government to consider.

The money from the federal government is part of the economic stimulus package, which set aside \$2 billion for infrastructure

needs in Canada's universities and colleges, said Weingarten, noting the program requires the provincial government to match the feds.

The rest of the funding will go towards library-related projects on campus, including money for work on the High Density Library,

where many of the volumes from the MacKimmie Library will be stored, and extra funding for state of the art information technology and audio visual equipment for the TFDL, said Weingarten.

Bhullar stressed the provincial government is “very excited” about the TFDL.

“It's something that will allow researchers from across the province to access [necessary resources] and really helping bridge our campus Alberta system together where people from around the province have access to the best and brightest research,” said Bhullar.

# Challenging commuters to be responsible

## Riding the proletariat chariot, cycling and car pooling for Mother Earth

Daniel Pagan  
Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary wants students to break out their spandex and bicycles to save the world. From June 1 to 15, students and staff are encouraged to bike, take transit, walk or even carpool. Participants can enter their mode of transportation online for two free public transit tickets and an opportunity to win prizes in a draw. The cross-national Commuter Challenge pits workplaces against each other to encourage employees to use sustainable transportation methods. Here at the U of C it is a collaborative project between the Office of Sustainability, external relations, Healthy U of C, Parking Services and the Students' Union.

The challenge kicks off June 1st with a celebration on Swann Mall — the prairie chicken hill — with a BBQ and a bicycle repair workshop. OS coordinator Jo Wright explained the campaign would make students more aware of environmentally friendly transportation methods.

“Calgary actually steps up when it comes to the Commuter Challenge. We were last year’s national winning city,” said Wright. “Very surprising for such a ‘car city.’”

U of C research communications manager Grady Semmens shared Wright’s excitement, explaining the Commuter Challenge fits perfectly with the university’s other sustainability plans.

“There are a number of other plans to make the campus more accessible by bicycle, like Bike Root,” said Semmens. “We [also] have a car-sharing program and designated ‘top of the lot’ parking stalls reserved for those who carpool.”

Semmens said the university’s participation has resulted in a reduction of 45,278 kilometres driven in one week by 521 participants. This year, the goal is to get an additional 1,000 people involved.

“Last year, [the] U of C had the third highest number of participants in the city, behind Shell Canada and ConcoPhilips Canada,” said Semmens.

One group hoping to encourage



Kate Marlow/the Gauntlet

Grady Semmens (l) and Jo Wright are encouraging commuters to be environmentally aware.

increased cycling is the Bike Root Community Bike Shop, a campus co-op. Event Organizer John Brown explained the Bike Root is holding a workshop for people who want to learn more about good commuter practices, like which routes to use and how to equip one’s bike. He also explained

the Bike Root’s plan to promote cycling through its lending library, located in the MacKimmie Library Tower. Currently, 20 bikes are available to use.

“The purpose of the lending library is to make cycling accessible and affordable for people on campus and surrounding communi-

ties,” said Brown. “A goal for this year’s Commuter Challenge is to get first time commuters using our lending library, making it easy for new commuters who want to start bicycling.”

Students and staff who want to get involved can sign up at the OS’ website: [ucalgary.ca/sustainability/commuterchallenge](http://ucalgary.ca/sustainability/commuterchallenge)

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**STUDENTS' UNION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

## FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

Students' Academic Assembly Appointed Position

**Term: Starts May 2009**

**Pay: Honoraria of up to \$400/month**

Faculty Reps are the main communication link between the SU and the faculty in which they are registered. They are responsible for representing and promoting the academic interests of the students in their faculty. Their role involves staying up-to-date and briefing SAA on issues and concerns related to students in their faculty and the SU; and informing their faculty about SU policies, programs and services.

Duties include preparing for, attending and participating in SAA and General Faculties Council (GFC) meetings; working with student clubs in their faculty; attending Faculty Promotions Committee (FPC) meetings; acting as the student member on the faculty Student Appeal Committee; attending Faculty Council (FC) and any sub-committee meetings; and assisting in administering Teaching Excellence Awards in their faculty.

The following Faculty Rep positions are available: Kinesiology and Social Work.

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

Rhiannon Kirkland  
Gauntlet News

Synthetic biologists are a lot like children playing with Lego. But while a child uses plastic blocks to construct elaborate creations, synthetic biologists use genes and DNA to build new organisms and bacteria that create vaccines and biofuels and cure diseases.

The International Genetically Engineered Machines Competition is an undergraduate challenge to design the best synthetic biology systems. This year’s championship sees a U of C team, comprised of 15 students, competing for the fourth time at iGEM. iGEM began in 2003 with four teams and has grown to 105 for this November.

“Synthetic biology is the next generation of biotechnology — and there’s so much that you can do with

synthetic biology,” said fourth-year health sciences major and U of C iGEM team leader Thane Kubik. “Anything that a living cell can do, you can probably appropriate that and re-engineer with synthetic biology and probably combine it in new and incredibly bizarre ways.”

Members of the U of C iGEM team are working to design a cell signaling mechanism that will help cells work together to accomplish their task more efficiently, said Kubik.

“There’s a whole class of genes and proteins that tie the whole thing together,” said fifth-year health sciences major and Second Life team leader Patrick King. “They serve as messengers, activators or oppressors for genes, they turn things on or off, they communicate between cells. That’s the type of project we’re working on.”

The U of C’s team is trying an

online universe called Second Life to serve as an educational platform promoting synthetic biology and to help teach future teams the basic concepts and science behind synthetic biology, explained King.

“The test of our project will really come next year in iGEM 2010, when the first students of that year need to learn all these concepts again,” said King. “We’re going to see how many students we can get to log in and check it out here — as opposed to doing the lecture format as we’ve done for the last few years — to prime them with the knowledge they need to do this project.”

The 15 member iGEM team was selected in January and spent the winter session preparing. The team will work full-time throughout the summer to develop their system and online resources.

# Campus 5-0 battle busy month

The plight of the homeless, a vandal in a wheelchair and indecent exposure

**Cam Cotton-O'Brien**

Editor-in-Chief

As host to Bermuda Shorts Day, April is always busy for Campus Security and this year's fourth month didn't disappoint.

University of Calgary staff members harangued CS officers for not understanding the plight of the homeless, a man in a wheelchair was caught letting the air out of a truck's tire and an intoxicated male student exposed himself to a female security officer.

CS observed two individuals acting suspiciously in the Social Sciences building. Upon approach, the man fled while the woman stayed behind. CS saw her removing empty bottles from a recycling bin and issued a verbal trespass notice. Two university staff members witnessed the event and sided with the woman, berating CS officers for being too harsh with her.

"They came up and they verbalized to the officers, 'Why are [you] giving them a hard time? They're only empty bottles,' and they ended up giving this person a hug and also giving them some cash," said CS director Lanny Fritz.



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

Campus security member, or Big Sister, Kelly Jones watches over the university.

Recycling theft on campus frustrates the efforts of the Students' Union run recycling program and is estimated to amount to a \$10,000 loss each year.

CS received reports that a man in a wheelchair was letting the air out of a truck's tire. Officers responded and the man admitted to the intransigence, saying that the truck, inap-

propriately parked in a handicap space, impeded access to his own vehicle and acknowledging that deflating the truck's tire was not the best expression of his anger. The truck's owner was notified and parking services helped reinflate the tire.

A crime committed two decades ago was rectified, as an individual phoned CS to report

their spouse's theft of a print from the engineering faculty and returned the hot item to CS, who located the proper owner.

A female officer faced a trying shift as an intoxicated male student exposed himself to her.

"The individual had been drinking heavily [and] Campus Security asked his friends that he was with to take him home for the night," said Fritz.

A construction worker was also subjected to an unpleasant shift, though in his case it was due to getting pepper sprayed while on the job.

"A construction worker was directing traffic over by the [Energy. Environment. Experiential Learning.] building and at a point he started to exhibit sinus and nasal discomfort that is consistent with being sprayed with pepper spray," said Fritz.

The Calgary Police Service continue to investigate the incident.

Fritz noted that BSD went well this year, despite there being more EMS calls than usual, all of which were due to individuals drinking too much.

Total losses for the month were \$27,461.56 from 121 incidents.

## sports

Editor: Jon Roe—sports@thegauntlet.ca

# Let's be brief: Dinos invade Serbia for Universiade

**Jon Roe**

Sports Editor

Eleven University of Calgary Dinos swim team members are heading to Serbia to compete in the 2009 Summer Universiade. The event, which takes place in Belgrade from July 1 to July 12, is a competition for university athletes from around the world.

Dinos will make up over a quarter of the Canadian swim team and Dinos coach Mike Blondal will lead the squad, with help from Dinos assistant coach Kevin Anderson.

Seanna Mitchell, Jessika Craig, Breanna Hendriks, Jessica Johnson, Hanna Kubas, Allison Long, Katy Murdoch and Kevyn Peterson will swim for the women's team and Kelly Aspinall, David Dimitrov and Chris Tobin will swim for the men.

The Dinos women's swim team won their first ever Canadian Interuniversity Sport title in 2009, finally wresting it away from the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, while the men placed second behind the T-Birds.



Gauntlet file photo

Dinos make up a quarter of the Canuck swim team at Universiade.

**Three football players drafted to CFL**

Offensive lineman Dylan Steenbergen became the 13th Dino drafted in the first round of the Canadian Football League draft after he was picked seventh overall May 2. Safety James Green and linebacker Andrea Bonaventura were also drafted, 18th and 20th overall respectively, in the third round.

Steenbergen, who was selected by the Montreal Alouettes, is the first Dino to be chosen in the first round since offensive lineman Richard Yalowski was also drafted by the Alouettes in 2006.

Green joins former teammate

Mark Dewit with the Toronto Argonauts and Bonaventura will head north to the Edmonton Eskimos. Green and Bonaventura were Canada West all-stars in 2008.

Since 1970, 97 Dinos players have been selected in the CFL draft.

**Lecavalier still on the block, apparently**

Despite multiple assurances to the contrary, the Tampa Bay Lightning are still interested in moving captain Vincent Lecavalier.

Trade rumours about the forward reached a frenzied peak during the NHL all-star game in

Montreal in January, when the Quebec native was rumoured to be heading to the Montreal Canadiens. The trade never materialized and Lecavalier finished the season swimming with the bottom-feeding Lightning.

However, a report by TSN's Darren Dreger suggests he could be on the move to the Los Angeles Kings in a package that might include 22-year-old defenceman Jack Johnson. Johnson, though, according to Barry Smith, head coach of Kontinental Hockey League team SKA St. Petersburg, is interested in signing a one-year deal to play in Russia. Smith was contacted by Johnson's father, Jack Johnson Sr., about the possibility.

Though there probably is no good reason why Johnson would rather toil away in the hockey salt mines of Russia than play in Los Angeles or Tampa Bay, perhaps he's interested in the solid perks the KHL offers its players, including mid-season, 30-per-cent salary rollbacks.

Johnson was originally drafted by the Carolina Hurricanes third overall in the 2005 NHL entry draft before he was traded in 2006 to the Kings after he refused to sign away

from the University of Michigan.

Trade speculation on Lecavalier, in the mean time, is expected to continue until a no movement clause kicks in with the first year of his 11-year, \$85-million contract extension with the Lightning on July 1. He won the Stanley Cup with the Lightning in 2004.

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# Musical *Evil Dead* a bloody good time

Singing, dancing zombies and a three-row “splatter zone” crawl into Vertigo Theatre

## Evil Dead The Musical

theatre interview

Lisa Nguyen

Gauntlet Entertainment

Rebecca Northan, who stars as Annie in *Evil Dead: The Musical*, found her love of theatre doing improvisation in Calgary’s own Loose Moose Theatre when she was 16 and it remains one of her favourite venues to perform in.

A professor once told Northan, a University of Calgary drama graduate, about the importance of getting to know those in her program, as they would eventually be the people she would work with. Fifteen years later, Northan reunites with some fellow U of C drama graduates to put on the theatrical production of *Evil Dead: The Musical*.

“This is one of the most amazingly funny and talented group[s] of actors,” raves Northan. “Our chemistry is amazing and we all have moments when we shake our heads in awe that we are getting paid to have so much fun!”

Sam Raimi’s gory humour possessed audiences following the release of *Evil Dead* in 1981 and the movie series saw enormous cult popularity, with sequels in 1987 and 1992. Originally a fringe show in Toronto, it made its way to Broadway, later returning to Toronto because of the dedicated Canadian fans.

Ryan Lunning, the artistic director of Ground Zero Theatre, took Northan to see the Toronto



courtesy Bottom Line Productions

How spooky! A hand reaches up from the mist.

mounting. Northan says that in the middle of the show she leaned over and whispered to Lunning:

“This is pretty funny, but if you cast me, I will make it even more hilarious.”

Northan and her fellow actors conjure a killer show, filled with singing zombies and splatacular bloody good comedy. Gore lovers will laugh their guts out and give a demon-possessed hand

of applause for this horror-fueled laugh fest. Watch out or you will get sucked into a vortex of demonic giggling, as blood sprays you in the three-row “splatter zone.”

“Even those who are not die-hard fans of the movies will still appreciate the brilliant ridiculousness of a bunch of singing and dancing zombies,” says Northan.

Grab your boomstick and get into the heads

of the evil undead in the theatrical amalgamation of *Evil Dead*, *Evil Dead 2* and *The Army of Darkness*.

Lifelong fans mark your calendars for the greatest, most grotesque necrocomedy — or be dead by dawn.

*Evil Dead: The Musical* runs from May 26 until June 14 in the Vertigo Theatre. Tickets are on sale now at [groundzeretheatre.ca](http://groundzeretheatre.ca)

# Quake in fear or feel the Shatner’s wrath

## Shatnerquake

book interview

Ryan Pike

Opinions Editor

Way back in 1966, a role in an obscure science fiction program called *Star Trek* catapulted a young man from Montreal to international superstardom. Since then, William Shatner has delighted audiences around the world with his starring roles in *Star Trek* and its assorted spin-offs and a litany of other roles. Now Portland-based author Jeff Burk is bringing Shatner to a whole new realm.

Burk’s new novel, *Shatnerquake*, sees a “reality bomb” go off at the first-ever ShatnerCon, pitting Shatner against members of a cult worshipping B-movie icon Bruce

Campbell, as well as prior Shatner characters which the bomb draws into our reality.

If the story seems un-nervingly crazy, rest assured, it was designed that way by Burk, a member of the burgeoning “bizarro fiction” movement which is dedicated to works of ridiculousness for its own sake.

According to Burk, the genesis of *Shatnerquake* occurred at the BizarroCon event.

“There was a writing workshop run by another author, Carlton Mellick III,” recalls Burk. “The premise of the workshop was to come up with a high-concept idea, an idea that would be irresistible just based upon the title alone. I had been writing down a whole bunch of different titles. I believe my original title was ‘Section Death Camp’ for the workshop, but there was a title on my paper that was *Shatnerquake* and that

just made me giggle so much. So I decided to pitch it and write up this one paragraph description of William Shatner fighting different versions of himself. I kind of meant it more as a joke than anything, but so many people responded to it positively at the workshop that I thought ‘this book has to happen.’”

Burk’s road to bizarro stardom began in his native Pennsylvania. Soon after graduation, in September, Burk escaped the state and his dead-end job for Portland, Oregon and the world of bizarro fiction. There he landed his current gig as editor of the soon-to-launch *Magazine of Bizarro Fiction* and his book deal for *Shatnerquake*.

Not resting on his laurels, Burk is already planning his next project.

“The next book is going to be *Super Giant Monster Time*, which will be a choose-your-own-adventure

parody and it will also be my tribute to the Japanese giant monster movies,” reveals Burk. “It will also have aliens with ray-guns that will turn people into punks.”

While *Shatnerquake* was strongly influenced by both the actor’s extensive career and the recent bizarro-flavoured film, *My Name is Bruce* (starring cult icon Bruce Campbell), Burk reveals that *Super Giant Monster Time* takes cues from the ridiculousness found in the popular Toho Productions’ Japanese monster films.

“My favourite monster is Hedorah, which is this really obscure Godzilla villain,” says Burk. “It’s a pollution monster. I mostly like that monster so much because the movie he’s in [1971’s *Godzilla vs. Hedorah*] is this really weird, trippy, psychedelic movie with animation and go-go dancers and people wearing fish-heads.”

Burk seems to be taking his success

in stride, noting how surprised he is by the media attention and planning for future projects in a genre defined by its excesses. When asked why he chose to devote his efforts to such an obscure and unabashedly over-the-top style of literature, Burk explained the appeal of bizarro fiction.

“I really believe that you find in bizarro authors much more willing[ness] to take chances,” he shares. “You have authors like Carlton Mellick telling stories about *Baby Jesus Butt Plugs*, which quite literally is baby Jesus turned into a butt plug, or Kevin L. Donihe’s *House of Houses*, a really sweet romance story about a man who is in love with his house. I just find [the genre] much more exciting and much more willing to take risks.”

*Shatnerquake* is available for order in bookstores. The *Magazine of Bizarro Fiction* launches in June.

# Fanboys' jokes only good for Star Warriors

F a n b o y s  
m o v i e r e v i e w

Olivia Brooks

Gauntlet Entertainment

Fanboys, hold on to your lightsabers. *Fanboys*, directed by Kyle Newman, is being released in Canadian theatres with its original story line intact, to the great joy of its fans.

Not so long ago — 1998 to be exact — in a place not so far away — Ohio — four boys make an epic journey across the United States to Skywalker Ranch. Their mission: break in and watch *Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace*.

Originally set for release in 2007, the film ended up in reshoot hell. The reshoots created an alternate version of the film, replacing the emotional centre of the storyline with vulgar humour.

Initially motivated to break into the ranch to show terminally ill Linus (Chris Marquette) *The Phantom Menace* before he died, the new version was devoid of this plot — the boys in-



courtesy Alliance Atlantis

Zoe (Kirsten Bell) above, feeding Linus (Chris Marquette)

stead raiding the ranch on a drunken whim. Fortunately, negative response from hundreds of Star Wars enthusiasts led to the original plot's return for the film's final release.

*Fanboys* is as fun as partying down with the Ewoks at the end of *The Return of the Jedi*. That being said, the downfall of the film is that most of the jokes and cameos will be lost on non-

*Star Wars* junkies. For audience members well versed in the way of The Force, this movie delivers, from the opening's classic crawl to the *Trek*-kicking throughout.

During the four's adventure to Lucasfilm, they encounter a peyote smoking Chief (Danny Trejo), as well as Kevin Smith playing himself and Billy Dee Williams in a small bit part. Their adventures take them through three states, eventually encountering Seth Rogen's Admiral Seaholtz, a *Star Trek* fan hell-bent on revenge after the group destroy a *Trek* monument in Iowa. They also end up at a Spanish gay bar called The Mantina, where the boys are forced to strip.

The movie may come off to many as another teen road trip flick, full of campy life lessons and coming of age trials, but it contains a sufficient amount of integrity for Star Wars fans. The plot floats along with a plethora of Star Wars references, which will appeal to those of us who grew up on the trilogy of *Episodes IV, V* and *VI* and to new fans more accustomed to fancy digital effects and shoddier plot lines.

*Fanboys* opens up in the Plaza Theatre Fri., May 22 starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at the box office.

## To d'oh or not to d'oh, that is the question

M a c H o m e r  
t h e a t r e i n t e r v i e w

Jordyn Marcellus

Entertainment Editor

*MacHomer* is nothing like a tale told by an idiot, but it is full of sound and fury, signifying comedy gold.

With good humour and a load of near-perfect impersonations, the play is being held as one of the many theatrical performances for the Calgary International Children's Festival. *MacHomer* is the perfect show for parents and teachers who want to educate children and teens who find the Bard's Eliza-

bethan dialogue a little intimidating.

"Many people who come out of it are really surprised at how much the words are actually Shakespeare's words," says Miller. "Although I throw a little 'okily-dokily' [Ned Flander's catchphrase] in there as well, three quarters of what comes out of my mouth are Shakespeare's words that have really become accessible through this gimmick of the Simpsons characters."

Miller is adamant that purists have nothing to fear — outside of a little bit of Simpsons flavour in the dialogue, it sticks to the Bard's words very closely.

"Shakespeare purists have probably seen much, much worse done in Shakespeare's name than this," he says. "This is, in a way, not dumb-

ing [Shakespeare] down, because the Simpsons are anything but dumb, but making it palatable to a whole cross-section of people who would otherwise never step into a theatre," says Miller.

*The Simpsons* have been on the air for 21 seasons and the famous animated family has become ingrained in pop culture. From the old days of Bart's catchphrases and Butterfinger commercials to the famously annoying "Spider-Pig" song from *The Simpsons Movie*, Miller explains the unique appeal of Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and little Maggie.

"The Simpsons have a kind of heart to them," he says. "The characters are almost tragic; they're so pathetic that they're tragic. I think that the combination of one into the other [is] so successful because I'm dealing

with such great source material."

Miller believes that one of the reasons *MacHomer* works for fans of both is because of the similarities between the two groups of characters. What's more, the mix between classical theatre and modern television adds an exciting, curious cultural edge to the play, which has pleased audiences in over 140 cities, Miller says.

"Overall, the concept of one dysfunctional family [the Simpsons] doing another [the Macbeths] and high and low culture thrown together in a car crash, it all seems to work for the many, many Simpsons fans and the many, many Shakespeare fans."

*MacHomer* plays in the Jack Singer Concert Hall Fri., May 22 at 8 p.m. Tickets on sale now.

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- 8 **PJ HARVEY & JOHN PARISH** *A Woman A Man Walked By* (Island)
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- 17 **BEN LEE** *Rebirth Of Venus* (New West)
- 18 **THURSDAY** *Common Existence* (Epitaph)
- 19 **KARA KEITH\*** *Vision's Fugitives* (Self-Released)
- 20 **DOVES** *Kingdon Of Rust* (EMI)

## METAL

- 1 **HEAVEN & HELL** *The Devil You Know* (Rhino)
- 2 **BRUTAL TRUTH** *Evolution Through Revolution* (Relapse)
- 3 **MASTODON** *Crack The Skye* (Reprise)
- 4 **ABSU** *Absu* (Candlelight USA)
- 5 **FASHION BOMB** *Devils To Some, Angels To Others* (Full Effect)



## JAZZ

- 1 **THE NOW ORCHESTRA\*** *Animal Tales* (Now Orchestra)
- 2 **ANTONIO VALDETARO & GRUPO** *Leticia* (Agata Technologia)
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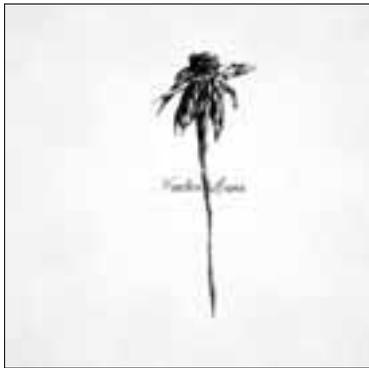
The Brenda Vaqueros sound like what I wish the Calgary Stampede was, cause then I might actually go. And if I went to the Stampede, I could eat those rad mini donuts while listening to the Brenda Vaqueros. Rad.  
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Patrick Watson  
*Wooden Arms*  
(Secret City Records)

Wander back three years to a typical autumn day in Montreal. The release of Patrick Watson's second full-length disc, *Close to Paradise*, had earned him and his backing band of eccentric masterminds international acclaim and the Polaris Music Prize.

Three years on, Watson's latest release, *Wooden Arms*, provides an array of lush instrumentals, quirky makeshift effects and well-seasoned vocals. If you've already developed a crush on Watson, *Wooden Arms* will make you enter into a weird, "I'm deeply invested in this relationship," kind of love.



Bat For Lashes  
*Two Suns*  
(Astrelwerks)

Bat for Lashes is the pseudonym for Pakistan-born, Britain-based singer Natasha Khan. Her most recent album, *Two Suns*, features bass and beat programming from Brooklyn-based psychedelic experimenter Yeasayer and singer Scott Walker, who performs in the duet "The Big Sleep." Holding true to her alternative sounds, *Two Suns* is a heady combination of breathy vocals and talented drumming.



Heaven and Hell  
*The Devil You Know*  
(Rhino Records)

*The Devil You Know* is the first studio album in 17 years from the line-up of vocalist Ronnie James Dio, guitarist Tony Iommi, bassist Geezer Butler and drummer Vinny Appice.

For those not in the know, Heaven and Hell are actually the Dio-era Black Sabbath who, due to legalities, are recording under the name of the album they released in 1980 as



Depeche Mode  
*Sounds of the Universe*  
(Mute Records)

Most electronic music can be classified in two distinct categories — generic background pump-up music ideal for intensive workouts and the dark soundtrack to a lovesick adolescent's life.

*Sounds of the Universe*, Depeche Mode's newest record and twelfth studio album, falls into the latter category as a brilliant addition

Basing her work on modern day fables, Khan attempts to expose the duality of identities and introduces her own alter ego, a femme fatale named Pearl.

Continuing her penchant for giving songs people's names — "Sarah," "Priscilla," "Pearl," "Daniel" — Khan carries a similar sound from 2006's *Fur and Gold*. Like her previous album, *Suns* isn't an entirely positive first listen. Some songs, such as "Sleep Alone" have great hooks, but only become favourites after repeated exposure.

"Glass" is the album's ethereal introduction,

Black Sabbath. Despite the long wait, these metal vets have managed to conjure up one hell of an album.

The music is old school doom metal and the band doesn't seem to have the slightest interest in playing anything else. Since Heaven and Hell are masters of their craft, this new release is simply four musicians unapologetically doing what they do best.

Most notable is the bone-crunching guitar riffs of Iommi. The man who single-handedly invented metal music hasn't lost any of his demonic edge — or soloing technique.

to their already formidable discography. *Sounds* stays true to the band's intricate synthesized melodies, while exploring a more dreamlike approach to songwriting. Although it's possibly their most lyrically advanced work, they don't forget their roots, with songs like "Peace" and "Fragile Tension" backed by familiar dance grooves. The album's opening track, "In Chains," has a creepy vibe, as an ensemble of eerie sounds combine to back a powerful vocal chant which sounds like a follow up to

With creativity oozing out of their pores, the group gives listeners inventive music at its finest. Unconventional percussion is accented by the sounds of a redesigned bicycle in "Beijing." Subtle yet eerily prominent orchestration garnishes tracks such as opening number "Firewood," which reaffirms Watson not only as a brilliant songwriter, but as a talented composer. The somewhat manic tone of "Where The Wild Things Are" could easily fit into Spike Jonze's screen adaptation.

Not that listeners need to be reminded of his seemingly bottomless pit of experimental wonders, but with the emergence of *Wooden Arms*, Patrick Watson has succeeded in carving out a comfortable little niche for anyone listening. Its warm embrace and pleasing melodies are the perfect space to crawl inside and never resurface.

..Phylicia Tran

with a string accompaniment and background city soundscape complementing a pounding drum beat distinct from her previous works. After the haunting a capella of "Glass," the album easily transitions to the more lyrical ballad, "Two Suns."

Overall, *Suns* is interesting, but most songs seem more like B-side accompaniments to *Fur and Gold* than a new CD with new ideas. Diehard Bat for Lashes fans should give it a listen, but hopefully her next album will show a stylistic progression and not just a side-step.

..Kirsty Kalin

Amazingly, Dio's vocals are as powerful as ever, with his dynamic range and evil snarling fully intact. The tight rhythm section of Butler and Appice pound out an appropriately heavy bottom end.

*The Devil You Know* is darkly layered with macabre lyrical references to fallen angels, torture and, of course, the devil. The gloomy nature of the lyrics aptly compliment the menacing music.

If you're willing to delve into Heaven and Hell's metal netherworld, crank it up.

..Ken Clarke

1989's "Personal Jesus." The track "Come Back," loaded with fuzzy, distorted guitar, is somehow removed from reality, in a way reminiscent of Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb." The album concludes with the menacing "Corrupt," which leaves *Sounds* hanging on a note of sadistic satisfaction. Ultimately, Depeche Mode's latest effort has found a fitting balance between 21st-century synthesizers and the raw power of vintage dance-rock.

..Roy Cotton-O'Brien