

Sciences vs. Liberal Arts
The quest for government funding

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

gauntlet

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The failing research funding balancing act

Ottawa was invaded last month by thousands of Canadian professors looking to promote change and let the government know they would no longer work for peanuts.

In May, the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences met to discuss research funding. The event was an opportunity for academics across Canada to address with politicians the discrepancies in funding between the hard sciences and social sciences/humanities. The latter have been swept under the carpet in the past in regards to funding, the government tending to ignore them. It is hard for researchers to fund projects, as only a handful get assistance from the government.

The disparity is evident in the newly created Canada Excellence Research Chairs program, which does not include a single finalist from the humanities or social sciences, sparking protest from academics. This is not the only travesty facing professors conducting research in the humanities and social sciences areas. In fact, only one in five social sciences and humanities researchers receives funding in Canada — compared to roughly 75 per cent in the sciences. That is why Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences president Nathalie Des Rosiers has asked the federal government for \$100 million over the next three to five years to fund research. This money is long overdue, as the research undertaken by social sciences and



Jen Grond/the Gauntlet

humanities professors is just as innovative and important as in the hard sciences.

The imbalance of funding between the hard sciences and social sciences needs to be corrected to allow more professors to conduct research. Currently, an exorbitant amount of funding goes to the hard sciences, engineering

and business. It is time to balance the funding so that the social sciences and humanities get a bigger slice of the pie.

The social sciences and humanities play a huge role in developing a multi-faceted approach to problems often thought to be engulfed by the hard sciences, such as climate change and health care, to name a few. To solve such problems researchers from every field require the political, historical and cultural knowledge social sciences and humanities researchers can provide. An influx of funding to the social sciences and humanities will allow these strains of academia to co-exist with the hard sciences to conduct the broad research necessary to benefit humanity. This will not happen without improvement in funding for the social sciences.

That is not to say the social sciences deserve equal funding, they just deserve more than their current level. It is hard to dispute the hard sciences pay for more machinery and various types of equipment to conduct research — something very few social sciences professors need, except in the case of digital researchers. For this reason the funding shouldn't be equal, just improved.

Let's hope the government realizes the importance of the social sciences and humanities and gives them a couple big cheques for big money.

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Are the liberal arts underfunded?

‘There is also a mistaken belief that the social sciences don’t produce work of value’

Noah Miller
Gauntlet News

A poll on GlobeCampus.com, the *Globe and Mail’s* site dedicated to undergraduate education in Canada, re-asks a question that pops up every now and again: “Are the social sciences underfunded in Canada?”

A 780 to 245 person majority is so far of the opinion that they are underfunded and that the social sciences are “as important as science and technology.”

A number of people at the University of Calgary agree. Social sciences dean Dr. Kevin McQuillan is among them.

really important problems we face in society — poverty, social conflict, crime — can only be resolved on the basis of a better understanding that will come from the social sciences.”

Students’ Union vice-president academic Meg Martin shares McQuillan’s concern that the social sciences are both underfunded and underappreciated.

“Even at our own institution, funding announcements are frequently highlighted in business and technology focused areas, this is much less so in social sciences and humanities areas,” said Martin.

Recent government funding increases to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research

ment in my mind, to interfere with funding in this way.”

Martin maintains that an education in the liberal arts is a fundamental part of making students into “well-rounded, critically-thinking individuals.”

U of C Faculty Association president Anne Stalker takes a more careful approach to stating that the social sciences are short funded.

“It is hard for me to state unequivocally that the arts and social sciences are underfunded in Canada, because I really do not have the financial evidence to support such a statement,” said Stalker. “However, there are several trends that we at the faculty association have noticed that would tend to support such a view.”

Stalker noted that both government and private sector spending tends to be targeted specifically at areas that produce “clear and immediate results” and that have “no political implications,” stunting social sciences funding.

“It is pretty clear that of the three national funding councils, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council is the poorest and has the greatest proportion of its funding in targeted programs,” said Stalker. “This leads to under-funding of research in those areas, with the result that it is hard for them to demonstrate success at the same level as the sciences can.”

On a national-level, this debate promises only to heat up following this year’s Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in late May, which discussed “the politics of research.”



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

Discrepancy in national research funding has some observers worried.

“We are facing huge changes in the world today and we need to remember that our understanding of humans and how we work and live together can help facilitate the right changes,” said Stalker. “Marketing, politics and the very understanding of which new ideas to develop depend on our understanding of human behaviour and human culture. We need that understanding today more than ever and we don’t know which study will be the one that opens dramatic new doors.”

“Most of the really important problems we face in society — poverty, social conflict, crime — can only be resolved on the basis of a better understanding that will come from the social sciences.

— Dr. Kevin McQuillan,
social sciences dean

“In the area of research, funding to the social sciences is far lower than to areas such as science, engineering and health,” said McQuillan. “Part of this can be explained by higher costs for things like equipment, but there is also a mistaken belief that the social sciences don’t produce work of value to ordinary people in society. But most of the

Council have also been targeted towards “business related degrees,” limiting the types of students grants are distributed to.

“It shows a fundamental lack of appreciation for the value of thought in the social sciences and humanities that doesn’t equate to a dollar sign,” said Martin. “Not only that, but it’s a totally inappropriate move by govern-

Fraser Institute Alberta high school rankings miss the mark

Daniel Pagan
Gauntlet News

A free market think-tank’s high school rankings have drawn fire from instructors, parents and school principals province-wide.

The 10th annual Fraser Institute’s Report Card on Alberta high schools, released last weekend, drew concerns that it focused on academic performance at the expense of classroom participation, teacher assessment and extra-curricular activities.

The rankings were established as a way to evaluate school performance a decade ago. It is based off of provincial diploma exams’ results provided by Alberta Education, with other data such as course enrolment, grade-to-grade transitions and Grade 12 graduation rates considered. This year, the institute collected new information, such as percentage of special needs students, number of English-as-a-second-language students and parental incomes to reflect demographic differences.

The institute’s school performance studies director Peter Cowley argued the report is necessary for parents wanting to compare schools and educators seeking to improve the system.

“All schools have the same main responsibilities, [educating students] and are therefore judged in the report card on the same basis.”

Calgary Board of Education spokesperson Ted Flitton is skeptical of the report, pointing to its reliance on diploma exams.

“How can an organization that has never set foot in these schools then take a two-hour snapshot in time (the tests) and use that to rank a school?” asked Flitton.

He pointed out the report failed to acknowledge the differences between private and public schools, such as programs for students with special needs.

“There are private schools that actively select students who enter their doors via tuition fees, entrance requirements, etc.,” said Flitton. “If a student has special needs,



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

The Fraser Institute released its high school rankings this week.

many of these schools would simply reject them. We take everyone who comes to us and we do a great job of educating them.”

Cowley dismissed concerns, stressing the institute had encouraged teachers and administrators to suggest ways to improve the card, but there has been little interest.

“It seems that they would much rather have a system in which

schools could not be compared on any bases, by anybody,” said Cowley.

“Everyone would have an equal chance of sending their children to a bad school. I don’t think that’s what Albertans want.”

Cowley’s comments have attracted ire from the Albertan Teachers’ Association communications coordinator Dennis Theobald, who noted the Department of Education

has previously denounced the use of provincial test results for ranking schools as inappropriate.

“The Fraser Institute falsely assumes that opposition to its ranking scheme simply reflects a refusal by educators to be held accountable for their work,” he said. “In fact, teachers welcome meaningful and fair accountability and the ATA is working with authorities in the field to develop approaches to accountability that better reflect the inherent complexity of education in the 21st century.”

Perhaps a surprising person to echo concerns about the report is West Island College grand headmaster Jack Grant. The private school tied for the top high school in this year’s report.

“It only looks at one area, academic preparation, and even here it significantly limits its investigation . . . yet it purports to evaluate and rank all Albertan high schools,” said Grant.

“The report card does not address the fine arts, the social sciences, second languages, physical education or courses in the technologies.”

Lack of nursing job postings draws concern

Katy Anderson

News Editor

When Misty Patterson decided to enroll in nursing, she was told she'd be guaranteed a job upon graduating.

So much so, the licensed practical nurse opted for the express program and finished school in just 17 months.

Now, Patterson — along with 60 of her classmates from Bow Valley's LPN program, as well as graduates from the University of Calgary and Mount Royal — is struggling to find a job.

Starting June 1st, every job posting and hire for Alberta hospitals needs to go through the province's new health care superboard.

"They push you to do a fast-track nursing program and say we need nurses, nurses, nurses and [Tuesday] there [were] two postings on the Calgary Health Region's website," said Patterson, who graduated as the valedictorian of her program.

"I need a job now, I just finished school, I'm broke. You're going to lose nurses if you don't employ us," she said, noting she may have to go back to serving.

Tom Noseworthy, a former hospital administrator who now works at the U of C, said the province has gone from a wide-open job market to suddenly appearing as if nurses aren't needed.

"At an absolute minimum I'm confused, and certainly it does narrow the options for



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

Recent nursing grad Misty Patterson and U of C nursing student Stephen Rudolf say they're disturbed by Alberta Health Services' new hiring practices.

new graduates," said Noseworthy. "The fact that we have a hiring freeze on now and we have this temporary reprieve in hiring I don't think takes away the fundamental problem —

I think we've got a fiscal reality that has overtaken the human resources reality here."

Alberta Health Services spokesperson Bruce Conway said the change in hiring

practices has more to do with creating consistency across the province than eliminating positions.

Conway stressed Albertan hospitals are still hiring, noting the new process "has just taken a little time to get rolling."

"We have to adhere to a tight budget, but that's not to say that there's not opportunities for graduates, because there are," he said.

The perception of an effective hiring freeze contradicts the well-established fact that there is a chronic shortage of registered nurses in Alberta, said Students' Union nursing faculty rep Stephen Rudolf.

Fourth-year nursing students — who regularly work as undergraduate nursing employees under a RN — say they aren't getting hired, noted Rudolf.

"How will AHS meet the demand for more nursing staff by making conditions more difficult for frontline nurses and slashing work learning opportunities for nursing students?" said Rudolf, pointing to the irony of spending money on infrastructure projects like the West Tower at the Foothills Medical Center and the expansion of the Peter Lougheed Center, while they are not able or willing to hire staff to run them.

"[The AHS] lack of effort to recruit Alberta nursing students and their recent actions cutting off important job opportunities will drive frustrated students elsewhere, whether to other places or other professions," said Rudolf.

16-year-old Dino, engineer wins national award

Tristan Taylor

Gauntlet News

A local whiz kid was recently named one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20.

Carolina Romeo, a 16-year-old

University of Calgary student, is recognized as the youngest female athlete ever to play for a university varsity team — and the youngest ever athlete for the U of C.

As well as being commended for her athletic capabilities, she was also

the recipient of the highest award a new student can receive. Adding to her ever-growing list of awards and achievements, she was named one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20.

The award, given to 20 young Canadians yearly, is based on eight

criteria ranging from academic and personal achievements to overall community impact. The award is given out by Youth in Motion, a Canadian charitable organization dedicated to helping youth realize their full potential.

Romeo said receiving the award was truly an honour.

"When I received the great news it was a surprise," Romeo said. "I didn't really think I had a strong chance of winning it."

As well as being named amongst 19 other notable young Canadians, she benefited from meeting national business executives and leaders. During a four-day leadership summit in Toronto, she met with BMO executive Sara Joyce, as well as the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable David C. Onley.

"Meeting all of the other winners from across the country was really inspirational," Romeo said, noting she learned a lot at the summit. "It was very interesting to learn the stories of the other 19 people there and they really are amazing individuals."

Other winners include environmental activists and entrepreneurs.

"It was neat to see how we were all tackling different challenges with the same simple mindset: seeing the benefit for others and the community," said Romeo.

That seems to be the primary criterion for receiving the Youth In Motion award.

Now that Romeo's achievements have been recognized on a national level, she doesn't plan on changing her game plan.

"I just get involved in things that I love and put a lot of hard work, heart and persistence into everything that I do and it's nice to see it pay off — not only for me but for those around me," said Romeo.

Her future plans consist of focusing on athletics in the summer months. Romeo plays on several sports teams including the national team for the Junior Ringette World Championships. She will play for team Canada in August in Prague, Czech Republic. The 16-year-old also plans on competing for Canada's field hockey team.

When school starts in September, Romeo wants to spend any spare time on sports and volunteering.

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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.

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Keeping it clean, for our lungs' sake

Research Profile

Cam Cotton-O'Brien

Editor-in-Chief

In the interest of avoiding a time when air pollution levels make smoking a healthy alternative, Dr. Alex De Visscher and his colleagues are researching innovative clean air technologies at the University of Calgary.

Though he noted local air pollution levels are sufficiently low now, especially compared to Vancouver and Toronto, De Visscher said expansion of the oil industry in the province may jeopardize our air quality. The Canada Research Chair, aided by private sector funding, is working on two unique methods for greatly reducing harmful industrial emissions — biofiltration and ultraviolet technology.

The former operates by running emissions through a roughly one meter thick mass of what is essentially compost.

"If you think about what compost is, it's garden waste or kitchen waste that is decomposed by bacteria, so you've got bacteria that are very good at decomposing things," said De Visscher.

These micro-organisms, so proficient at decomposing household waste, could be a great asset if able to use industrial air pollution molecules as food, he related.

The ultraviolet treatment method, explained De Visscher, operates by passing pollutant molecules through ultraviolet light, the high-energy photons of which break down chemicals. The hope is the pollutant molecules will break down to the point where their constituent parts react with the oxygen and convert to carbon dioxide.



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

The U of C's Dr. Alex De Visscher is researching ways to keep air pollution low.

De Visscher and three other U of C professors have been planning the research necessary to develop these technologies for roughly one year. This has meant reviewing the existing literature and acquiring the necessary funding. The one to two year experimental phase, which is about to start, will cost roughly \$250,000, including equipment, students and support from a post-doctoral fellow, said De Visscher.

Raising money for this project wasn't too arduous.

"When industry is confronted with a specific problem it's not so difficult," he said. "If it's not tied specifically to a particular problem, it's much more difficult to get funding."

The specific problem in this case revolves around the process undertaken to make natural gas usable. The fuel is usually moist and must be dehydrated in order to work properly

in the pipes. Dehydration results in the production of benzene, which must be dealt with.

De Visscher further explained how to successfully garner funding for a project.

"Often what we do is we start with some funding from government, do some preliminary work, then when the first results look promising, we can go to industry and ask for additional funding from them," he said.

Should De Visscher and his colleagues prove successful in their research and develop a way to reduce air pollution, they will likely approach industry to produce the technology.

De Visscher noted that biofiltration, due to its low development cost, could feasibly be used on a small scale. Ultraviolet treatment, however, poses greater problems for smaller applications.

"The limitation there is that you need electricity locally," he said. "A lot of rigs don't have

electricity locally, so you would have to install a small generator."

The generator, installed to reduce pollution, would itself release unwanted entities into the air, thereby denigrating its utility.

De Visscher's teaching is closely tied to his research. One of his undergraduate courses, Chemical Engineering Kinetics, ENCH 421, shows students how to design reactors of various types — for refining plants, waste treatment, even for developing medicine. A graduate course he teaches is even more directly related to his research, instructing students on air-dispersion modeling, methods he employs in his own work.

Belgian by birth, De Visscher came to the U of C in 2005, having studied and worked at Ghent University. Initially intending to work in industry, he was drawn to research after completing his first thesis.

"[What] I find most gratifying is trying to, succeeding to, understand something that nobody else understood before, then writing it up in a paper and having it published in a scientific journal," he explained.

Scientific journals are not the only place where De Visscher's writing has appeared, however. An article he penned attempting to debunk global warming misinformation appeared on the *Calgary Herald's* editorial pages June 9.

"It's not the first time I tried to send them something, but it's the first time they actually published mine," he remarked.

The team working with De Visscher, who is a member of the chemical and petroleum engineering faculty, is comprised of Dr. Arindom Sen, from the same department, Dr. Danielle Marceau from geomatics engineering and the department of chemistry's Dr. Cooper Langford.

Student lobbyists glean priorities

Canada's second-largest student advocacy organization will prioritize access and child-care issues in the next year, following the decision reached at a week-long policy and strategy session at the University of Calgary.

Post-secondary institutions students' unions and associations representatives from across the nation attended the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations policy and strategy conference last week. CASA national director Arati Sharma explained the meeting allowed membership to identify several lobbying priorities for the coming year.

"Affordability and upfront grants are one of them and that's where we're talking about

access grants," said Sharma. "Upfront grants are for students from under-represented backgrounds, such as low-income, first-generation [students]. Another policy-slash-advocacy priority is Metis, Inuit and First Nations groups and their access to post-secondary education, their barriers, their challenges and how we can meet them."

Sharma stressed that student financial aid continues to be a priority for CASA. Much of the discussion focused on the federal government's phasing-out of the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation and its resources, as well as access to aid for part-time students.

..Ryan Pike

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Slipping and sliding to Sled Island

Calgarians, buckle up for late nights, daily Tubby Dogs and a whole bunch of hearing loss. Sled Island is back this year and its rollicking line-up will make way for a procession of bleary-eyed hangovers — such is the magic of the music festival.

Organizing a festival is a hair-pulling, ultra-stressful affair. To help blow off the steam after a hard day's night of trying to get Sled Island up and running, festival operations manager Sean Petsche and festival director Zak Pashak picked up *Magic: the Gathering*.

Spreading the nerdy love, they

held an open tournament for *Magic* fans to test their mettle against the two in the hopes of winning some festival passes.

Looking up from his cards, Pashak explains how the organizers spend their days trying to get the best shows possible for audiences.

"We work really hard in the Sled Island office to get as many great shows going as possible," says Pashak. "There are 50 bands from Vancouver playing and they're all rad. I think Calgarians should check out the Vancouver scene. 50 Vancouver bands is pretty fucking remarkable."

Petsche, who looks world-weary

and sleep-deprived as he's slinging his card-based spells, explains how the pay-off of his job isn't the happy hipsters.

"Sled Island is exhausting," says Petsche. "It's 18-hour days, your entire pay off for the festival happens six days over 365 days. 359 days of work, six days of pay off and because you're so busy you don't even get to check out any bands."

With \$99 wristbands and over 200 bands lined up, make the retreat to Sled Island. It may not be the tropical paradise some want to spend their summer nights at, but the beer is far better.

..Jordyn Marcellus



Party, party, party hard with Andrew W.K.

Andrew W.K.
music interview

Jordyn Marcellus
Entertainment Editor

Andrew w.k. knew he finally hit the big time when he met face-to-face with one of Canada's most notorious celebrity interviewers — Narduwuar the Human Serviette. Even before the famously nerdy journalist approached him for the interview, w.k. had admired him for years.

"I saw his videos in 1997 or '98 on a vhs copy that a friend of mine lent to me," says w.k. "I was just completely blown away; I had never seen anything like this. I had never seen anybody with this flavour — it was just this entirely new flavour."

w.k., whose biggest hit was "Party Hard" off of his 2001 debut LP *I Get Wet*, has spent the years since working on numerous different projects. After a contractual dispute that prevented his previous two albums, *Close Calls with Brick Walls* and *The Japan Covers*, from being released, his music will again be unleashed upon North America with the all-piano instrumental album *55 Cadillac*.

But even with all of his relative success, including motivational speaking performances and creating his own record label, w.k. explains that meeting Narduwuar ended up being an important milestone in his career.

"When I first met Narduwuar, I considered that a real significant moment," says w.k. "Now I'm getting to do a Narduwuar interview, just like



courtesy Melanie Kaye P.R.

Andrew W.K. (bottom centre) and Narduwuar (top centre) are totally BFFles.

all these legends I watched — from Snoop Dogg to Nirvana and whoever else; now I [got] to do one. It wasn't so much that I arrived into a circle of entertainers, but I felt like 'now I [get to be] interviewed by Narduwuar.'

Not only did Narduwuar end up influencing w.k.'s view of his own success, he also helped to shape w.k.'s performance in the press. Ever since he watched the vhs tapes as a high school student in Michigan, w.k. has

met many people influential to him as a musician on the path his musical career has taken him.

"There was just many times in my life where things that I've been interested in or liked or been a fan of or things that I have wanted to have happened," waxes w.k. "Some days they have ended up happening in some way, sometimes in a really different way than I expected, sometimes when I never would have expected."

The professional relationship between Narduwuar and w.k. came to a head recently with their newly released split 7" inch record *A Wild Pear*. Side A features w.k. and his band covering two classic Canadian punk tunes, while Side B offers the Evaporators, putting up a slab of original music and then proceeding to cover '60s Quebec rockers Les Hou-Lops.

For w.k., this is just another way to appreciate the trajectory of his career.

"When things happen that you wanted to happen, out of respect for that, I want to try and do something," says w.k. "Out of respect for the possibility for dreams coming true, no matter how big or small they may be, it's nice to acknowledge them in a symbolic way. That's what this split 7" means for me."

Andrew W.K. performs at the Marquee Room Wed., June 24 as part of Sled Island.



courtesy Mint Records

Leisurely raft down the 'ol Bow

Hot Panda music interview

Jordyn Marcellus
Entertainment Editor

One of Calgary's best summer past times is a slow, leisurely rafting trip down the Elbow or Bow River. Hot Panda's guitarist/vocalist Chris Connelly is well aware of this relaxing activity and, if the weather is right, he says the Edmonton band hopes to find themselves lounging about on an inflatable dinghy before

their Thursday, June 25 show at the Plaza.

"We wanted to the last few times we've gone through Calgary when it's warm," says Connelly excitedly. "We've seen people doing it and it looks really fun. I've really wanted to do that, so we were like, 'Oh, maybe we'll do that.'"

The band's jingle-jangle pop-rock is the perfect summer soundtrack, especially for a lazy Saturday on the river. With accordion, synthesizer and back-up guitar provided by Heath Parsons, harmonica by bassist Keith Olsen and Maghan Campbell's ecstatic drumming, Hot Panda's music is refreshingly fun. Connelly's vo-

cal, too, are a delight — pleading on some songs, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed in others, but always shockingly emotive.

It's surprising, though, with the band's summer jams sound, that Connelly doesn't even own a rubber raft. With songs like "Whale Headed Girl," you'd think the group would have their own transport to chat with the marine mammals.

"Somebody said that you could rent them," contemplates Connelly. "I personally don't have my own raft to bring, but if you can rent it that'd be good. Grab a case of beer and a raft and just laze down the river."

The group, fresh off a European

tour with the Von Bondies, is currently relaxing after spending their time blasting through Europe. Starting off in Germany, they slowly meandered around the continent. He was especially effusive with praise for Germany, the land of plentiful beer, brats and good times.

"As a whole, all the [European] shows are a bit better," explains Connelly. "There's always food, always a place to stay. They just treat you better there. It's a lot shorter to drive and play around."

Of course, the group chose to spend a little extra time in the Netherlands — specifically, Amsterdam. When questioned, Connelly's voice

perks up considerably as he begins talking in an excitable rapid-fire.

"Amsterdam was great, we had a great time," he says. "We took off from and landed in Amsterdam, so we had a few extra days on each end."

Like any hip, bohemian group of 20-somethings, Hot Panda spent their extra time in Amsterdam right — chasing the Green Fairy.

"We got a bottle of absinthe. We bought a bottle of absinthe and we were drinking that — that was a pretty neat experience . . . [It was] a good drunk, a weird drunk."

Hot Panda perform Thur., June 25 at the Plaza Theatre with the Evaporators.

Five things to do while on the island

1 Go to Tubby Dog. Look, if you're running around Calgary, you'll need some high fat food to get you through the day. Who knows if you can actually get the ubiquitous Tubby Dog when there's a show going on, but at least the place is licensed — which you'll need if you're rocking out to Israeli brain-blasters Monotonix Friday, June 26.

2 Check out the Legion. The craziest, most balls-out shows happen at the Legion come Sled Island time. This year's line-ups include the Rural Alberta Advantage, Japanther, King Khan and the BBQ show, Japandroids and Curtis Santiago. Plus, there are always secret "surprise guests" who inevitably blow away audiences.

3 Challenge yourself to some new music. You have a Sled Island pass. Check out your favourite acts once and then explore. Look for new bands and new musical groups that you haven't heard before. Don't like them? Head on out and find someone else. Since everything is downtown, it's a quick bike ride to and from each location.

4 While you should check out bands you may not see for a long time, there are lots of awesome local groups playing this year. Local faves include BRAIDS, Indiensoci, Knots, Fox Opera and Dragon Fli Empire. You may have heard them, you may not have; but go and catch one of their shows. You won't be sorry.

5 Meet some new friends! Hang out with some of Calgary's biggest music geeks and talk about your favourite bands. Maybe you'll end up start a band with some of them and play Sled Island 2010.

Check out the thegauntlet.ca for more, including a day-to-day guide of the best Sled Island has to offer.

Away We Go a delightful romp

Away We Go
film review

Ryan Pike

Opinions Editor

Just over a decade ago, acclaimed British stage director Sam Mendes made the jump to film with *American Beauty*. The movie won five Academy Awards and instantly catapulted Mendes to the A-list. Since then, he's used the medium to explore fatherhood with *Road to Perdition*, wartime boredom with *Jarhead* and the family unit with 2008's *Revolutionary Road*. It's fitting that Mendes' first comedy, *Away We Go*, embraces and abandons many aspects of his previous-work.

In a good many ways, *Away We Go* serves as a companion piece to *Revolutionary Road*. Both films follow couples as they seek to create a home for their young families amidst the hustle and bustle of modern life. While *Revolutionary Road* fixated on the dysfunction of the husband and wife dynamic, with scene after scene of Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet screaming at each other, *Away We Go* takes the opposite approach.



courtesy Alliance Atlantis

Maya Rudolph and John Krasinski (pictured) give star performances in *Away We Go*.

Instead of focusing on the constraints of modern society, Mendes and co-writers — and real-life married couple — Dave Eggers and Vendela Vida take a look at its possibilities. In the very first scene, long-term co-habitants Burt (John Krasinski, *The Office*) and Verona (Maya Rudolph, *Saturday Night Live*) discover she is pregnant.

Flash-forward six months and the couple discovers that their expected lifeline, Burt's parents, are moving to Belgium for two years. With no real anchor weighing them to a particular spot, they're faced with a unique conundrum — where do they want to start their family?

Working from that base, *Away We Go* is ostensibly a road trip movie, travelling from Arizona to Montreal and many places in-between.

Eggers and Vida's story is very interested in the nature of home and family and how they're constructed, and so nearly everyone that Burt and Verona encounter is in a different romantic or parental situation and dealing with it in their own way. In the hands of lesser writers this conceit could have come across as forced, but the filmmakers treat it as a logical product of the journey the couple are on.

Much like *Revolutionary Road*, *Away We Go* rests largely in the

hands of its leading couple. Flying in the face of his previous casting of big-name movie stars like Kevin Spacey, Jamie Foxx and Tom Hanks, Mendes instead plucked his actors from the obscurity of TV comedy. This gamble largely works.

Embracing the gung-ho comedic energy of his character on *The Office*, John Krasinski embodies Burt with effortless charm. Largely seen in the sketch-comedy wasteland of SNL for the past decade, Maya Rudolph is a revelation — her performance ranging from emotionally wrenching to gut-bustingly funny without feeling false. While *Revolutionary Road*'s story suffered because its leads were

such unlikable jerks, Krasinski and Rudolph inhabit Burt and Verona with such unabashed likeability that it's easy to spend 95 minutes in their company.

Unfortunately, some of the secondary characters in the film aren't as well-crafted. The most notorious culprit is Ellen (Maggie Gyllenhaal), an old family friend of Burt. Despite Gyllenhaal diving full-bore into the absurdities of her hippie character, the majority of her scenes with Burt and Verona feature jokes that are unfunny or just downright mean. In a film that attempts to spend enough time with each character, big or small, to get the audience to relate to them, the depiction of Ellen as a closed-minded, self-righteous zealot really doesn't fit with the rest of the puzzle.

After making four films that explored their themes through a dramatic lens, it's a treat to witness Sam Mendes look at them in a different way. Instead of delivering two scoops of bleakness, *Away We Go* is a more optimistic rumination on the notions of family and love that works because of the emotional honesty present in the writing.

Away We Go opens Calgary-wide Fri., June 19. For more information, visit allianceatlantisfilms.com

Looking for spirituality in political action

Fierce Light
film review

Joel Cummings

Gauntlet Entertainment

Fierce Light: When Spirit Meets Action explores whether one person can make a difference in an age of global economic collapse, war, terrorism and mega-corporations. The movie takes filmmaker Velcrow Ripper across the globe in an attempt to understand the relationship between activism and spirituality. What results is a beautiful and powerfully compelling film which sadly does not quite reach its full potential.

The film begins with stunningly gorgeous photography of the Oaxacan countryside in Mexico. Ripper's close friend and fellow documentarian Brad Will is covering the 2006 Oaxaca protests, a conflict which started between the government and teachers unions but quickly exploded into

massive protests and riots.

As the government sends in riot police to control the crowds, Will catches a stray bullet and dies. Will's death is the catalyst which propels the film forward. Ripper takes the audience around the world, examining sites of social activism.

Beneath it all, he is on a journey of self-discovery, trying to ascertain his own spirituality and how this informs his activist zeal.

Fierce Light's scope is staggering. Ripper covers the history of the civil rights movement in America, disenfranchised social classes in India, the life of Gandhi, the history of apartheid and much more.

His most compelling material comes from Los Angeles, where a treasured urban green space faces demolition by encroaching developers. He interviews activists, politicians, artists and spiritual leaders from all different walks of life.

Many of these interviews are

both intriguing and entertaining, offering relevant insights into the themes Ripper develops. Some, however, seem thrown in with little regard to content or context — such as an interview with a great granddaughter of Gandhi who didn't have anything relevant to add to the film.

Fierce Light is an expertly filmed and produced documentary. Ripper's cinematography is often exceedingly beautiful. The film is edited well, effectively combining excellent footage with various stock materials. The soundtrack is appropriate — if forgettable — and keeps the film moving at the proper pace.

The film's ordering, both spatially and chronologically, is occasionally schizophrenic, jumping from place to place with little logical progression. This is rather unavoidable, considering the huge array of information Ripper condensed into the film.

Perhaps the most compelling aspect of the piece was an ex-

ploration of Ripper's own spiritual life. The film briefly touches on his reluctance to accept any one established religion, yet this idea is rarely touched on after it is introduced. His attempt to address spirituality in a documentary about activism results in a lot of aimless discussion of new-age spirituality and Buddhism.

Those eagerly looking forward to a comprehensive examination of spirituality will find a lot of half-baked, pseudo-religious ideas that are never effectively woven into the film.

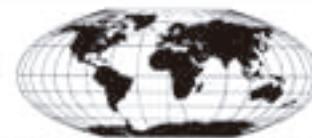
Ripper runs into the same problem when covering various activist causes. He addresses so much that he's hardly able to delve deeply into anything. Ripper would have done *Fierce Light* much justice had he narrowed his focus, favouring a more nuanced look at his various causes of interest.

Activists and the socially conscious will find a lot to like in this film. Those looking for an in-

depth exploration of larger social and spiritual themes are going to leave the theatre unsatisfied.

Fierce Light: When Spirit Meets Action is currently playing at the Plaza.

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Sled Island films show music in the mix

Sled Island Film Fest music interview

Jordyn Marcellus
Entertainment Editor

Ever willing to expand its content for festival-goers, Sled Island has moved beyond its comfort zone again with an impressive film component curated by Jeanette Burman.

Burman, who previously organized the Show Us Your Shorts Film Festival, explains that there are a variety of flicks offered to both hungry film fans and those interested in aural delights.

"Initially the main objective was to have music the most integral part of any of the films I was programming," she says. "Our opening film, *I Need That Record!*, that one is playing at other music festivals like NXNE and sxsw. [I wanted] films that had music as part of the narrative."

Each movie fits right into Sled Island: the films relate to, and explore, themes that are prevalent in music and cinema, like life and

death. *I Need That Record!* addresses the death of the independent record store and features interviews with Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore and Minor Threat/Fugazi frontman Ian MacKaye.

On the topic of life, *Anvil! The Story of Anvil* details the life of Torontonians metalheads Anvil, focusing on the underdog story of a group who relentlessly tour to keep their dreams alive.

The documentary, which Michael Moore has called, "The best documentary [he] has seen in years," won rave reviews the world over and offers an unconventional look at a band that's going to rock Sled Island's mainstage.

"Of course, Anvil is playing, so you can find out all about how they came to be once they rock your world," suggests Burman with a laugh.

While initially Burman chose films documenting, in some way, musicians or music-related subject matter, she soon decided to expand her focus.

"There are some films that are not necessarily about music *per se*, but there are interesting elements



Gauntlet file photo

Cinema fans and music geeks alike will be delighted to see the films at this year's Sled Island.

to it," she adds. "One film, for example, that is showing in a shorts package [June 28] is called *The Edge of Town*. That one features Will Oldham from Bonnie 'Prince' Billy and several other projects. He stars in the film and does music for it — so that's not necessarily about music, but has a connection to music."

Like Sled Island proper, the screenings are across the city's downtown core. Some, like *I Need That Record!*,

are being shown at the Uptown Stage and Screen while others will be put on at more curious locations — like the Thursday, June 25 Factory Party, featuring some of the best in local music videos.

No matter where the screenings are, though, they're all easily within biking distance from a C-train station — one of the greatest things about all Sled Island venues.

"There are no films being in bars," stresses Burman. "Our open-

ing night is at the Uptown; the Factory Party will also be screening at the Uptown as well. Then the Calgary Public Library — we have a full day there from three until 11 p.m. It's right across from Olympic Plaza, which is the mainstage that day, so we're right across the street. If people want to catch a break, they can check out a film."

If you're hungry for music and movies, check out sledisland.com for dates and times.

cjsw on-air guide

| | mon | tue | wed | thu | fri | sat | sun |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| MORNING MIX | 6 am the jazz baby | 6 am breaking the tethers | 6 am the morning after | 6 am morning joy | 6 am jazz stains | 6 am raj against the machine (continued) | 6 am mental brain thoughts (continued) |
| | | 7:30 BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS weekday mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am | | | | 7:30 democracy now! | 7:30 alternative radio |
| | 8 am monday morning comedown | 8 am canadian music centre presents | 8 am bella musica | 8 am the soap box derby | 8 am the two and a half hour coffee break | 8 am bunte welle german | 8 am counterspin |
| | | 9 am deconstructing dinner | | | | 9 am hrvtaski radio croatian | 9 am eritrean radio |
| | 10 am cjsw news | 10 am what's shakin' | 10 am alternative radio | 10 am democracy now! | 10 am who shakes city calendar | 10 am calgary vietnamese radio | 10 am radyo pilipino filipino |
| | 11 am counterspin (media watch) | 11 am so SU me students' union | 11 am mind grapes | 11 am pillage the village / failed pilot | 11 am fantastic plastic sponsored by beat route | 11 am helenic melodies greek radio | 11 am buscando america latin & south america |
| | 12 pm her royal opinion | 12 pm constance billard sponsored by the drum & monkey | | | | 12 pm the double entendre preserves! | 12 pm let's get baked with mat & dave vegan baking from ckdu |
| | 1 pm the banshee beat | 1 pm electric company sponsored by henry | 1 pm the ok ship lights | 1 pm my public shame sponsored by melodiya records | 1 pm my allergy to the fans sponsored by tubby dog | 1 pm bikeshelviks sponsored by cadence coffee | 1 pm level the vibes |
| | 2 pm don't throw your marmalade | 2 pm jane & tasya's guide to everything sponsored by broken city | 2 pm halfway home sponsored by the liberty lounge | 2 pm alternative to what? sponsored by kerfmusic.com | 2 pm road pops sponsored by fivd weekly | 2 pm caribbean link-up sponsored by fivd weekly | 2 pm mental illness sponsored by the coup |
| | 3 pm french transe en danse | 3 pm off the page gauntlet | 3 pm mezza l'una italian | 3 pm writer's block | 3 pm musiquarium everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45 | 3 pm voice of ethiopia | 3 pm breaking techniques |
| | 4 pm south louisiana gumbo | 4 pm tombstone after dark | 4 pm the blues witness with reverend ron sponsored by calgary dollars | 4 pm folkcetera | 4 pm full moon funkalicious the latest & greatest in breaks & house | 4 pm oh africa! | 4 pm desi vibes |
| | 5 pm filmclips | 5 pm yeah, what she said womyn's programming | 5 pm lift the bandstand | 5 pm noise experimental music | 5 pm dirty needles the best in funk, soul & hip hop | 5 pm the nocturntable | 5 pm speaking in tongues world music |
| | 6 pm aubrey's shindig! | 6 pm each one teach one | 6 pm urban sex lesbian / bisexual / gay | 6 pm fat beat diet | 6 pm remote emissions hard hitting jungle & drum 'n bass | 6 pm megawatt mayhem metal | 6 pm the chit chat |
| | 7 pm katharsis | 7 pm radio boys in the shortwave mystery | 7 pm good character requirement / tuning radio | 7 pm am i right? | 7 pm the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder | 7 pm the nocturntable | 7 pm tokyo eye patch |
| | 8 pm post everything | 8 pm twilight banter | 8 pm blue collar bravado | 8 pm bass ackwards | 8 pm dna hardcore techno | 8 pm the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder | 8 pm translucent dreams ambient, trance etc. |
| | 9 pm late nite | 9 pm the betthupherl show | 9 pm late nite | 9 pm rage cage | 9 pm sound champion showcase | 9 pm raj against the machine | 9 pm sunday night groove school |
| LATE NIGHT MIX | 10 pm | 10 pm | 10 pm | 10 pm | 10 pm | 10 pm | 10 pm |
| | 11 pm | 11 pm | 11 pm | 11 pm | 11 pm | 11 pm | 11 pm |
| | 12 am | 12 am | 12 am | 12 am | 12 am | 12 am | 12 am |
| | 1 am | 1 am | 1 am | 1 am | 1 am | 1 am | 1 am |
| | 2 am | 2 am | 2 am | 2 am | 2 am | 2 am | 2 am |
| | 3 to 6 am | 3 to 6 am | 3 to 6 am | 3 to 6 am | 3 to 6 am | 3 to 6 am | 3 to 6 am |

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TOP 20 for the week of JUNE 8 .09

- * Denotes Canadian Artist
 ** Denotes Local Artist
- 1 **KNOTS**** *The Blistering Sun, The Pale Moon, Hahahaha* (Self-Released)
- 2 **FOREST TATE FRASER WITH EVAN VAN REEKUM** *The Fall EP* (Self-Released)
- 3 **PHOENIX** *Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix* (Loyaute)
- 4 **PATRICK WATSON*** *Wooden Arms* (Secret City)
- 5 **EELS** *Hombre Lobo* (Vagrant)
- 6 **VARIOUS*** *Record Of The Week Club* (Head In The Sand)
- 7 **GRIZZLY BEAR** *Veck Atimest* (Warp)
- 8 **MAGIK MARKERS** *Balf Quarry* (Drag City)
- 9 **MAGIC WANDS** *Magic Love & Dreams EP* (Bright Antenna)
- 10 **BILL CALLAHAN** *Sometimes I Wish We Were An Eagle* (Drag City)
- 11 **PINK MOUNTAINTOPS*** *Outside Love* (Jagjaguwar)
- 12 **PALE AIR SINGERS**** *Pale Air Singers* (Flemish Eye)
- 13 **CAM PENNER**** *Trouble & Mercy* (Prairie Boy)
- 14 **COOL DEVICES** *Cool Devices* (Power)
- 15 **JEFF & THE HOLOGRAMS*** *Truly Contagious* (Self-Released)
- 16 **VIOLENT KIN*** *Bitter Blood* (Self-Released)
- 17 **HEALTH** *Die Slow* (Lovepump United)
- 18 **NOFX** *Coaster* (Fat Wreck Chords)
- 19 **JORDAN KLASSEN**** *Tempest & Winter* (Self-Released)
- 20 **ST. VINCENT** *Actor* (4AD)

JAZZ

- 1 **ALLEN TOUSSAINT** *The Bright Mississippi* (Nonesuch)
- 2 **SOPHIE MILMAN*** *Take Love Easy* (Linus)
- 3 **ADRIAN VEDADY*** *In Three Acts* (Elephant)
- 4 **NOMO** *Invisible Cities* (Ubiquity)
- 5 **GYPSOPHILIA*** *Sa-ba-da-ow!* (Self-Released)

FOLK/ROOTS/BLUES

- 1 **CAM PENNER**** *Trouble & Mercy* (Prairie Boy)
- 2 **DAVE ALVIN & THE GUILTY WOMEN** *Dave Alvin & The Guilty Women* (Yep Roc)
- 3 **BROCK GEIGER**** *Invitation* (Self-Released)
- 4 **TODD SNIDER** *The Excitement Plan* (Yep Roc)
- 5 **ELVIS COSTELLO** *Secret, Profane & Sugarcane* (Hear)

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY



Beautiful, simple, magical, epic, and affecting. These are just some of the words I would easily use to describe Knots' (aka Neal Moignard) new album *The Blistering Sun*.

KNOTS
The Blistering Sun, The Pale Moon, Hahahaha. The album rides flawlessly through gentle tales of loss and sorrow, which are also chronicled on the backside of the stunning artwork/poster that accompanies the disc. No joke, I've listened to "Woodsmoke" 23 times today, and I'm about to get to 24.
www.myspace.com/hiknots

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SAT. JULY 4: Jay Crocker, Hot Little Rocket, The Stables
SAT. AUG. 15: Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir, Beija Flor, Mystery Band

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Dinosaur Jr.
Farm
 (Jagjaguwar)

Note to artists — cds are a dying breed, so do the cover art right before you can't do it at all. With *Farm*, their fifth studio release and first on Jagjaguwar, Dinosaur Jr. has answered this grim inevitability with tripped-out style.

Farm is a breath of fresh, psychedelically-charged, garage rock-fueled air. The cover is a magic realist's dream and holds your attention like the grass people hold their charges. The art reflects the album's sound, the distorted charge and drone of the rhythm guitar, overlaid with J Mascis' clean and swirling post-classic rock, pre-grunge lead guitar.

Through the chaos of the distortion come crisp and decisive solos, lifting the music's spirit and taking it to a higher place — just like the grass people take the kids out of the chaotic, industrialized world and show them some higher ground.

The raspy, laid back vocals of "There's No Here," the most guitar-heavy song on the disc, give the best juxtaposition of Dinosaur Jr.'s style. It is followed by the bouncy, light-hearted "See You," which relies heavily on Mascis' axe to bring the track to life.

Despite several line-up changes (Mascis is the only original member) and an average of one full-length studio album every five years, Dinosaur Jr. still have a respectable place in the rock and roll world — including its soon-to-be-classic cover art.

..Brad Halasz



Alexisonfire
Old Crows/Young Cardinals
 (Dine Alone Records)

Alexisonfire's latest album, *Old Crows/ Young Cardinals* is a throwback to old-school thrash metal. Their heavy, hard-hitting beats and intricately-mixed guitar work make *Old Crows* an upbeat album worth listening to.

The new vocal style of lead singer George Pettit strays significantly from classic Alexison-

fire. Pettit leaves behind his broken screams, adopting a more melodious growl than ever before. Despite this, they retain a passion and energy behind their lyrics.

Back-up vocalist Dallas Green's serene voice commands the attention of the audience between the intense and emotional instrumentals. This, however, is also the downside of the album. Green's constant presence throughout the disc makes it seem like *Old Crows* is a hard-core version of City and Color.

Old Crows/Young Cardinals begs the question — are Alexisonfire still two girls in a knife fight or have they evolved into a more subdued verbal disagreement? *Old Crows* is evidence of the band growing out of prep school and displays how far they have come.

The production and mixing makes the album more full and complete, as opposed to previous efforts. Despite Green, Alexisonfire brings its fans another impressive album.

..Tristan Taylor



Dirty Projectors
Bitte Orca
 (Domino Records)

After Brooklyn-based Dirty Projectors showcase performances at sxsw, the music blogosphere began buzzing about their latest LP, *Bitte Orca*. While not a new phenomenon for the band — previous albums have received critical praise — they have failed to attract a large following. *Orca*, though, is an accessible masterpiece, one which will inevitably attract the au-

dience and acclaim that the Projectors deserve. The album is short, clocking in at just over 41 minutes and spanning nine tracks. This fact doesn't limit the diversity or effectiveness of *Orca*. The Projectors have managed to create an album that varies greatly in style, but is consistently entertaining. The poppy, feel good sound of "Temecula Sunrise" gives way to the R&B beat and Amber Coffman vocals which fuel "Stillness is the Move." The title of the album is derived from the chorus of the midway point in the album, "Useful Cham-

ber." "Chamber" is definitely the peak of this classic-in-the-making. A dizzy synth line lays the foundation for Dave Longstreth's neurotic guitar and quavering vocals, backed by Coffman and Angel Deradoorian.

After "Useful Chamber," the album trails off a little, but only in comparison to the fantastic preceding tracks. Even then, *Orca* proves to be a fascinating, rewarding listen which should take the Brooklynites into the musical consciousness of many fans.

..Andy Williams



LeE HARVeY OSMOND
A Quiet Evil
 (Latent)

LeE HARVeY OSMOND isn't a Donny and Marie brother gone bad, but rather a musical collective headed by guitarist and vocalist Tom Wilson. The group contains members of such Canadian bands as Junkhouse, Blackie & The Rodeo Kings, Skydiggers, Cowboy Junkies and a variety of guest musicians.

Dubbing their music "acid folk," debut release *A Quiet Evil* is a 10-song set of laid back roots

grooves driven by plenty of gently chugging percussion. The arrangements leave ample room for guitar and pedal steel improvisation, along with a variety of background effects. Wilson's mellow vocals handily blend into the mix, at times as quiet as a whisper or performed in spoken word. Album opener, "The Love Of One," sets the tranquil pace for what's to come, followed by "Cuckoo's Nest," with its mild congas and jazzy horns.

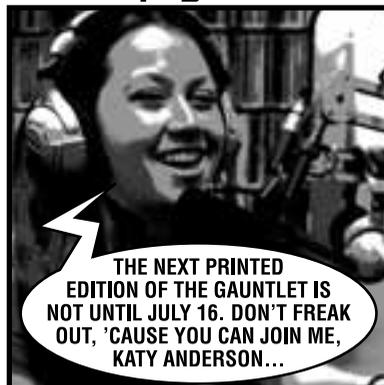
The album's centrepiece, "I'm Going To Stay That Way," features Wilson in a duet with Margo Timmins of The Cowboy Junkies. As

smoothly melodic as Timmins voice is, the track seems oddly out of sync with the rest of the disc. With the pedal steel's and Hammond organ's countrified weeping, this number should have been saved for a different project. Closing the album is a spirited cover of the Velvet Underground's "I Can't Stand It," which serves as a wake up call to anyone who may have fallen into a trance by this point.

A Quiet Evil may not be mind-expanding, but it just might be what the doctor ordered for a rainy day.

..Ken Clarke

off the page BY KEN CLARKE



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The elusive “now hiring” oasis

Job hunt often more like wandering in the desert

Jordyn Marcellus
Entertainment Editor



It's hard out there for students trying to find work. It's well known, too — the media has almost gleefully reported on the frustration of youths trying to find employment in these troubling times.

Young men and women across the country — who have in no way contributed to the current economic crisis — are beating the pavement trying to eke out any source of income. The old joke about graduates fresh out of university flipping burgers has come to pass for many who took out student loans in the belief that better careers were just around the corner.

Now, if they're lucky, they'll be able to find part-time work in big-box retailers.

Unfortunately, the student job market is even more awful. Anecdotaly, many youths are finding themselves unemployed. According to the Canadian Labour Congress, student unemployment is high with 18.4 per cent of Canadian students jobless. The number of students participating in the labour force has dropped significantly, too — from 75.2 per cent in 2008 to 68.6 per cent in 2009.

These participation figures show something really troublesome: that students are

now refusing to go out and even look for jobs. The figures also suggest something more insidious, something that is reflected anecdotaly: young men and women aren't bothering to find a job due to both depressing stories in the media and feelings of discouragement. While it's easier to find a job in a city like Calgary, in Ontario it's extremely bleak.

It gets discouraging after 50 resumes are handed out with nary a call-back. Valuable money is used up in ink and paper purchases. When you're supporting yourself, these costs can add up to financial death by a thousand paper cuts. Heaven forbid you don't own a printer or have access to a cheap (or free) printing service. That's an extra cost that helps drain the bank account surprisingly quickly.

But no one should be feeling “oh poor me” during this time. People shouldn't be faulted for feeling despair, but it's not a constructive use of anyone's time. Instead, everyone looking for a job needs to realize one thing: the economy is in the toilet, but it will eventually get better. For now, people need to use the resources available to them for free.

So, for students who are becoming more depressed during these bleak times, here are some resources to help job-seekers stand out in the crowd. One of the first places that students should turn to is the Youth Employment Centre, a free City of Calgary service that only requires a regis-

tration. They offer resume building assistance and a job board with useful job postings.

The Service Canada Centre for Youth office in Calgary is another resource, also offering job postings and resume building assistance, along with interview skill-building and assistance with various labour regulations.

Another idea, if a student or graduate is unable to find employment, is to volunteer in a field of interest. It may not be the amazing resume-builder that a paid internship is, but it's always good experience and offers an outlet to work with organizations that are good networking opportunities.

The one-stop shop to look for volunteer work is definitely Volunteer Calgary, located at the intersection of 12th Avenue and Centre Street in the south, where people will direct you to volunteer opportunities around the city.

It's bad out there. Money is tight everywhere and many people are experiencing similar problems. But don't get discouraged and self-pitying — it won't help anyone's case. Keep handing out resumes, go out and volunteer, just do something and have fun in an otherwise worrisome summer.



The problems of pragmatic progress in Sudan

Rumoured southern secession invites new difficulties to region

Eric Mathison
Fighting Words



It's not a good sign when reports indicate that a country like Sudan is getting worse. It's hard to even think how things could get worse in a locale consistently in the running for the title of “worst place on Earth.” After the atrocities of the '90s, things seemed to be picking up. A ceasefire was agreed upon between Khartoum, the predominantly Muslim capital in the north, and Juba, the largest city in the south, made up of a variety of indigenous ethnic groups.

For a brief spell, the world was focused on the province of Darfur, in western Sudan — a region that connotes genocide and little else. But the United Nations is now saying that with the stabilization of Darfur, more people are being killed in the south. When the supposed ceasefire was agreed upon between the north and the south in 2005, one condition allowed for the south to hold a referendum in 2011 to decide whether they want to become independent of the north or not.

The troubles of northeastern Africa, of course, are not new. Recent history in Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea is full of civil wars, intertribal violence and humanitarian crises. Only in the most extreme

cases — the American involvement in Somalia in the '90s and international attention from piracy — has the world bothered to do anything about it. Most of the issues have required threats to national interest: the failure of the international community to intervene in Darfur was a lesson in the shortcomings of diplomacy.

Sudan has been a constant source of interest for Egypt to the north, because of the latter's dependency on the Nile for water. Otherwise, the source of most animosity between groups is due to tribal control of grazing land. One question persists, however: Why isn't anyone asking about Africa?

The lack of discussion is because no one has any idea how to pro-

ceed. Renewed attention from the Obama administration toward Israel and Palestine, for instance, has focused on picking up where the failure of the Oslo peace process left off. The history of habitation (as well as strife) in that area have made it so that no side is without guilt. There is still a pragmatic decision to be made, and the two-state solution is likely it.

The problems of Sudan can be multiplied from those of Israel and Palestine. To be sure, Sudan lacks the modern weaponry to wage an all-out war. But the war of attrition being fought over the last 50 years has left neither side better off, and both with bloody hands indeed. It's harder to see what a pragmatic solution

would entail; it's almost certain that southern Sudan will choose to separate, likely creating a new range of problems.

Corruption is rampant in the south, where the Government of Southern Sudan has been too keen to spend money on weapons and has done little for the population outside of Juba. Similarly, as long as oil makes up 98 per cent of the south's revenues, there is little hope of developing a sustainable economy. From the beginning, these matters will make it difficult for south Sudan to succeed.

There is still hope for the future of the region, though, if the first government focuses on the major issues. The least it should have to worry about is war from the north.

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