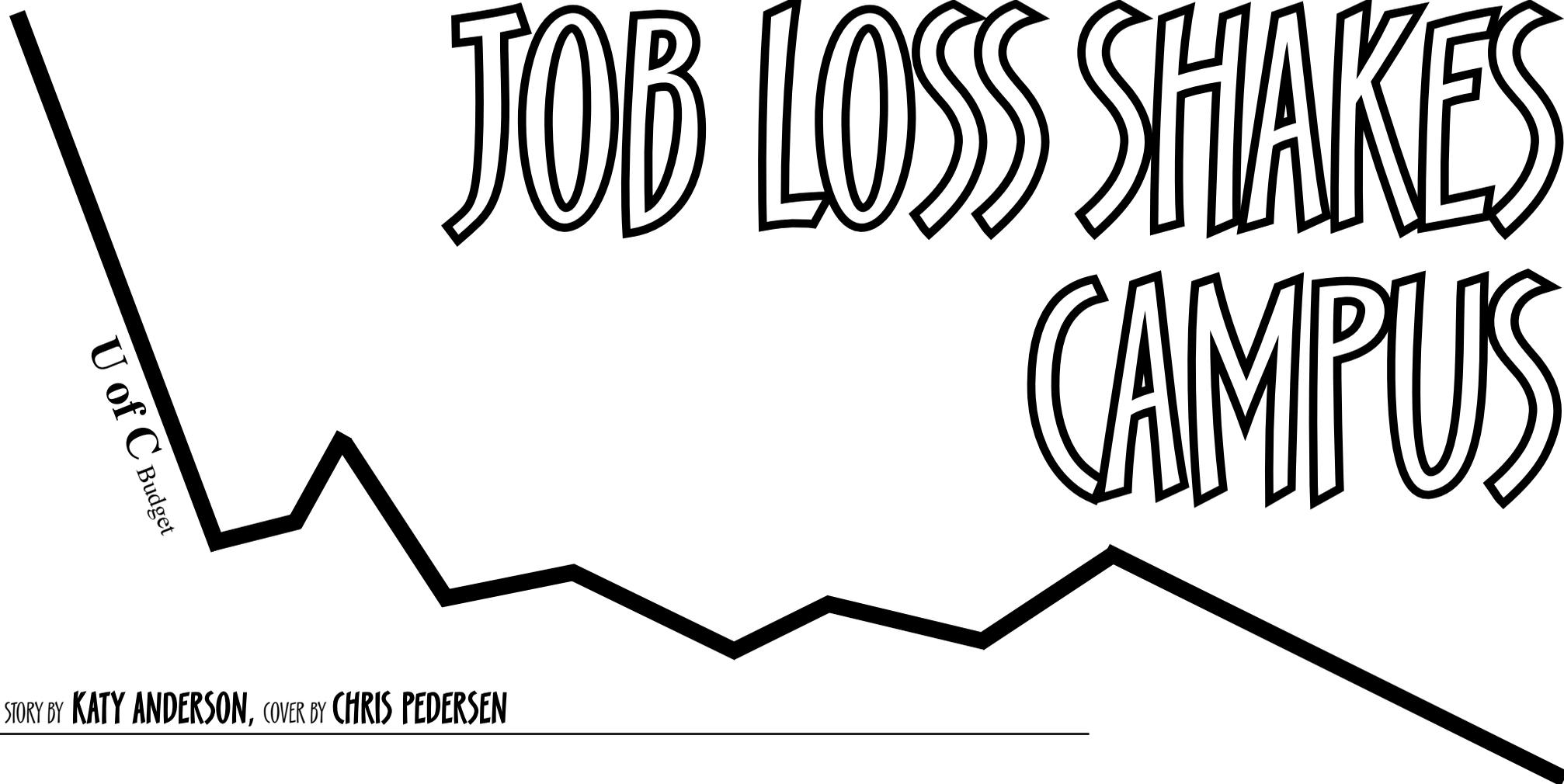


# JOB LOSS SHAKES CAMPUS



STORY BY **KATY ANDERSON**, COVER BY **CHRIS PEDERSEN**

**I**n what many are calling a “sad day” for the University of Calgary community, an internal memo was circulated Tuesday announcing the university will cut 200 positions by fall, with further cuts “likely.”

Faced with the loss of \$78 million in endowments and investments announced in January, coupled with the provincial government’s decision that the U of C will receive a zero per cent increase in their base operating budget next year, the university has a \$14.3 million deficit for 2008/09.

Provincial legislation dating back to the Klein era forbids Alberta universities from running an operating deficit.

In the memo, university president Harvey Weingarten wrote that 60 per cent of the U of C’s budget goes to employee salaries and benefits.

“I anticipate that we will need to reduce our staff complement by up to 200 people by the fall of this year. There is likely to be additional staff and faculty reductions in the future,” said Weingarten.

Although disappointed with the university’s announcement, Students’ Union president Charlotte Kingston said the institution is stuck between a “rock and a hard place,” stressing she believes the root cause is the zero per cent increase from the province.

“As far as I’m concerned it is the province who is not properly recognizing that post-secondary education is going to receive more students during the recession,” said Kingston.

“Today, I would say, this is a very clear indication of what happens when the province fails post-secondary education.”

Alberta Advanced Education Minister Doug Horner defended the province, pointing to the annual increase in the base operating budget over the last five years, saying the increases add up to 34 per cent.

“I recognize that whenever you’re going to have this kind of human resource adjustment it sounds very negative, and

## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY TO CUT 200 POSITIONS TO BATTLE \$14.3 MILLION DEFICIT

it is negative to those involved and we hope for the best for them, but I think to say that we’re not supporting our post-secondaries, when you compare us to any other jurisdiction in the world right now, those numbers speak for themselves,” he said.

Horner also said the cuts could be done without sacrificing quality or spaces.

“This is about using technology better, it’s about [making] human resources management better,” he said.

In the memo, Weingarten said the university would in-

crease enrollment to try and balance the budget. Next year, the university is allotted to grow by 1,500 full-time-equivalent students in areas that already see high demand, like health sciences and business.

Kingston, however, cautioned what the impact of a reduced number of services, paired with a growing number of enrollments, would mean.

“I think we’ll probably see our class sizes grow, I think we’ll see the number of teaching assistants drop and, certainly, there’s going to be lower access to administrators and support staff, which is never good,” said Kingston.

Anticipating the budget shortfalls, the university embarked on the IS<sup>2</sup> project, an administrative review evaluating the business practices of university services, earlier this year, said vice-president of external relations Colleen Turner.

Most of the cuts will affect support staff, said Turner, but noted cuts to faculty may come in the form of attrition. The university already imposed limits on hiring earlier in the year, mandating that all new hires be approved by the vice-provost. As faculty leave, new staff will likely not be hired to replace them.

“These are individuals and these are individual lives that are going to be affected and it’s not a decision that the university takes lightly,” said Turner.

see UNIVERSITY CUTS, page 3

# Stumbling before the starting blocks

## Tories look foolish as parties ponder potential election

It's not easy being Stephen Harper. The embattled Canadian prime minister recently took time off from re-reading his Conservative troops for an ever-looming election to tend to his workload, including attending a score of events. The results were less than stellar: Harper attacked Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff for comments he never actually made, was late for the traditional G8 summit group photo, the second such incident this year, and caused a minor uproar by not immediately eating the communion wafer offered to him at former governor general Romeo LeBlanc's funeral.

These Harper bumbles are confounding on a few levels. Facing a tenuous minority government and growing support for the opposition parties, particularly Ignatieff's Liberals, the Tories have been scrambling to get ready for a potential fall election. With fiscal conservatives frothing at the mouth at the prospect of years of government deficits, ongoing media coverage of Harper missteps isn't the best way to entice much-needed party donations or gather public support.

The Conservative Party's ongoing side-show is more bizarre when one considers the



Jen Grond/the Gauntlet

party's post-merger modus operandi. A collective of Reaganite neo-cons, the Harper Conservatives have typically been all about appearances, eschewing nearly all else for the sake of presenting a united front. Harper himself has historically been a paragon of structured

restraint, a stone-faced student of politics nestled neatly in a sweater vest. The recent Harper troubles may be endemic of a larger trend — long-time Tory MP Diane Ablonsky's allocation of federal tourism funding to the Toronto Pride Parade led to Conservative MP Brad Trost suggesting that she would be disciplined or demoted in an interview, the kind of public calling-out of a caucus member the party has avoided in the past.

The scary thing about Harper's wacky week is that it came at a time when absolutely nothing is at stake. These are the dog days of summer, where reporters often go on vacation and media reports are filled with rodeo and parade coverage. The next federal election is likely several months ahead of us and Stephen Harper and his Conservatives seem to be cracking when there is absolutely no pressure. Just imagine what horrors he'll unleash when the spotlight is on during the Olympics in February.

That is, of course, if he's still Prime Minister.

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**Golden Spatula(s)**  
The Great Geoff MacIntosh spent more time at the Stampede than anybody really should, but got some great photos out of it. We just wish he stopped smelling like horses. Neigh.

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# Prince of Pot bids freedom, Calgary adieu

**Andrew Rininsland**  
Production Editor

**M**arc Emery — best known to Canadians for smoking massive joints at pro-cannabis legalization rallies and taking bong hits before defending the plant at news conferences — visited Calgary on Sun., July 5, as part of his farewell tour. Emery's visit marked what will likely be the last time he is here before being extradited to the United States on drug-related charges.

"I want to give out everybody's marching orders so that more are active and my time in jail is not so bad," said Emery. "One of the things I used to remember from being in Saskatoon Correctional — three months for passing one joint — was that you get a lot of 'Oh man, it must suck to be in prison.' You never need to write someone in prison and say that. So one of the things I like is when all the activists write me while I'm in prison and tell me 'I was doing this to make pot legal.'"

"[The tour is] mostly to give them instructions and effective ways to make me happy while I'm gone," Emery continued, semi-jokingly.

As the publisher of *Cannabis Culture Magazine*, B.C. Marijuana Party leader and the namesake of the Marc Emery Seed Company, few people have had as much interaction with the Canadian cannabis



Andrew Rininsland/the Gauntlet

**Marc Emery, a champion of the marijuana movement, is heading to the U.S. where he faces jail time.**

subculture as the 51-year-old.

Emery's Calgary speech detailed the potential impact of new legislation such as the recently-passed Bill C-15, which adds mandatory minimums for drug offenders, while discussing some of the insights and memories gained during two decades defending the medicinal and recreational use of cannabis. Emery also addressed topics ranging from LSD use in Major League Baseball to the importance of fatherhood in preventing drug abuse.

Emery is in the process of being extradited to the U.S. on drug-

related charges, something he has fought vociferously against. Along with medicinal cannabis activists Michelle Rainey and Greg Williams, he is accused of selling marijuana seeds to Americans and initially faced an enormous sentence in U.S. jails on charges similar to that of a drug kingpin.

Emery believes he is being politically persecuted for his actions, citing a Vancouver event in December 2002 where he and others heckled then-U.S. Drug czar John Walters, and further argues he operated Emery Seeds in compliance with

Canadian law — even going so far as to explicitly declare income from marijuana seeds on his taxes.

At one point, Emery alleged Health Canada even referred patients looking for high-quality cannabis genetics to Emery's organization. After the No Extradition publicity campaign failed to generate any sympathy from the Conservative Government, Emery entered into a plea agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice, which would have seen him spend a mixed term in American and Canadian jails. This was rejected by the Canadian

government, forcing Emery back to the bargaining table and causing him to believe the Canadian Department of Justice wishes to use him as an example.

Despite the gloom surrounding his trials Emery was upbeat and optimistic, rallying supporters and encouraging them to oppose the recently-passed Bill C-15 at the senatorial level. Emery finds the bill troublesome as it adds mandatory minimums for first-time offenders and says it will accomplish little but fill Canadian prisons with young people, as he believes mandatory minimums have done in the U.S.

"A mid-level or high-level dealer is going to get one to three years anyway, so the only people [Bill C-15 is] really going to effect are young people who sell to their friends," said Emery. "That's how we all become dealers, right? Four of us want to buy some weed, three of us have money, one person has a connection . . . He begins to pay for his own stash through dealing. Those are the people — because it's a conspiracy of three or more people — who are going to go to jail for six months, one year, two years. If you're near a school it's double, if it's your second or third offence, it's double."

The tour continues all summer and will likely finish in Iqaluit, Nunavut. For more information, visit [noextradition.net](http://noextradition.net).

## Registration fee surprises, angers students

**Katy Anderson**  
News Editor

The announcement, or lack thereof, that students would lose their spot in class if they didn't pay a \$200 registration fee by July 3 was met with anger by many students.

The deadline for the fee has since been extended until July 17.

Eeshita Arora, a third-year biological sciences student, said she didn't mind paying the fee, which goes towards tuition, but wished she had known about it earlier.

"It wasn't posted anywhere, they did send an email out after they extended the deadline, but it's by word of mouth that I heard about it," said Arora.

Although an email was sent out in late March, Enrolment and Registrar associate vice-provost David Johnston admitted they had missed an important communication.

"We had planned to send out a notice to-

wards the end of the registration appointment window and we missed that, and that was my mistake. It should have gone out, clearly, and that's a big part of why we extended the deadline," said Johnston.

To further accommodate the lack of communication, students who miss the July 17 deadline will receive a personal notification before they are withdrawn from their desired classes.

The U of C had previously required a registration fee before the switch to PeopleSoft two years ago and has been among the minority since then.

The University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia both require registration fees, and Mount Royal College requires students to pay their full tuition by mid-August, noted Johnston.

"[The fee] helps us understand who is coming in the fall," said Johnston.

"Students make a clear indication that their intention is to come in September. It frees up seats in classes that might normally

be held up until the end of September. We're trying to get people to make a decision early."

That, as well as the move to stagger drop and register dates starting this fall, will allow more students to get into needed classes, he said.

Students' Union president Charlotte Kingston said her primary concern with the fee was the lack of communication and noted it would benefit students by allowing the registrar to better schedule classes because they have "a real sense of who is going to show up."

Kingston said there are two potential problems students should be aware of. The fee comes at the same time as summer semester tuition is due and those students who depend on student loans to pay tuition won't receive their loans until after fall semester starts.

Students who aren't able to pay the fee at this time can appeal to Student and Enrollment Services for an extension.

## University cuts, continued from cover

In addition to the cuts, all faculties and units will reduce their budgets by three per cent, said Turner.

"At the end of the day it's going to mean that the faculties have difficulty in actually doing the jobs that they're expected to do because they are going to be getting a three per cent cut in order to do the same work," said The University of Calgary Faculty Association president Anne Stalker.

Stalker questioned the planning of the university. She noted that if future cuts are made to faculty hires and programs, by nature long-term, then "you've cut at the core of the university," but if the main problem is with endowments, it remains possible the economy may turn around next year.

While Stalker said the cuts are a "red flag for us to say we do need to ask more questions about the way in which the overall budget is managed," Kingston called for "administration, students and everyone involved in post-secondary education to start telling the government that their reaction to the fiscal crunch has been improper."

"I think it's a sad news day for everyone involved, and it's a tough day for the U of C community to see this happen," said Kingston.

# Students lobby around Plan It

Daniel Pagan  
Gauntlet News

With the help of social media, the University of Calgary's Urban Calgary Students' Association is aiming to get students' voices heard in the debate on the city's ambitious urban plan. After a long hearing, the city council voted to pass the plan in its first reading.

Plan It, the proposed guide to Calgary's growth over the next 60 years, would stop the annexation of rural land, create a primary cycling network, focus on high-density growth and improve Calgary's transit system, if approved. Developers and several aldermen are concerned with the plan's call to decrease car usage and single-family housing.

UCSA, the official student club for urban studies students, is following the debate closely. UCSA vice-president communications Derek Pomreinke presented at the city's hearing in late June. He warned the city would be unsustainable in the future and voiced concerns that a new vision for the city's development is needed.

Plan It has implications for U of C students, since the plan would label the area around the university, Banff Trail and Foothills Hospital a "major activity centre" — an area of high employment and residential concentration, meaning the university would become an important regional centre, with more students living in transit-oriented development buildings in Brentwood. However, if it's not done right, it could lead to problems, Pomreinke warned.



Angela Larsen/the Gauntlet

Social media allowed students to better engage in the debate around Calgary's growth plan, Plan It.

"Unless affordable or subsidized housing is specifically mandated, Brentwood will see prices for its apartments and condos rise too high for them to be ideally used as student housing," said Pomreinke. "In that respect, I think secondary suites in basements and garages in the surrounding neighbourhood would go a long way to helping to house the students."

He also pointed to the need for further transit-oriented development around the communities of Lions Park and Dalhousie as the C-Train continues to grow in importance as a primary mode of transportation.

Better Calgary Campaign's Naheed Nenshi agreed with Pomreinke, noting students are amongst the biggest proponents of Plan It.

He explained his research shows that people in their 20s and 30s pick the cities they live in based on urbanity, with a great feel and vibe, not on where they want to

raise their children. A non-profit business instructor at Mount Royal College, he voiced concern for MRC students struggling with housing and transit. Parking prices recently went up at MRC and the planned western C-Train expansion won't provide service to the MRC campus.

"The provision of more types of housing should ease the rental market in the city somewhat," said Nenshi. "Even though we're not getting the LRT, the classification of MRC as a 'major activity centre' should lead to much better transit service, including two bus rapid transit lines over time."

Nenshi said social media has been a driving factor behind why people are paying more attention to Plan It than in the past.

"I only just got on [social networking site] Twitter myself as part of the Plan It debate, and I think it has really engaged people," explained Nenshi. "Folks who could not come to council followed the

play-by-play on Twitter, and the CivicCamp group actually used Twitter to help schedule speakers and tell them when to come to Council, so they didn't have to sit there all day."

CivicCamp spokesperson and sustainability activist and writer Chris Turner explained CivicCamp blogs, Twitter and Google Groups have allowed for more input from the public, while better enabling citizens to keep track of the debate and ask questions of the aldermen or speakers online than compared to traditional media.

"The *Herald's* story on the hearings, for example, used me specifically as the rep for all the 'Pro' arguments, even though those in favour made their case from dozens of points of view and with a wide range of evidence," he said. "The 'debate,' meanwhile, was mainly reduced to a one-liner from Ric McIver."

Pomreinke seconded Turner's comments, noting students don't get involved in municipal politics due to studies and a fear of being ignored due to their "student status," but with online media, that's changing.

"Social media allows for a more guerilla style of information and news sharing that's something more real than a newspaper or TV broadcast could ever be," said Pomreinke.

The city council voted on an omnibus motion to refer 76 amendments to city administration, who will have to prepare a report on these amendments by December.

Ward 6 Alderman Joe Connelly brought forward a motion Monday for the measures prescribed in the Plan It document to be removed and re-developed again in the implementation phase, but Mayor Dave Bronconnier recommended Connelly submit his motion to administration for consideration.

## Charges laid in U of C students' 2007 death

Charges have been laid in the 2007 death of a University of Calgary student.

Nathan Shair, 22, a then-summer intern at XI Technologies, was fatally hit in the head by a mechanical horse at the company's Stampede party July 12, 2007.

When a rider kicked the machine a calf would spring out from underneath the horse frame, giving the rider an opportunity to emulate calf roping. Shair was one of three people working when, according to Calgary Police Services, a spring-loaded lever hit him in the head.

Shair died in hospital the next day.

The small software and data company is being charged under the Occupational Health and Safety Act for failing to reasonably ensure the safety of an employee and failing to ensure all work-site equipment operated as intended, according to the *Calgary Herald*.

Radar Rental's, the company that supplied the mechanical horse, is being charged with failing to ensure the equipment it supplied was working properly as regulated under the safety code.

The case is now before court.

..Katy Anderson

## Nightly riots continue in Iran

Nightly demonstrations in Iran are continuing, a month after the re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on June 12.

In the aftermath of the contested election, which many have called the last straw for a generation of Iranians — 60-70 per cent of Iran's population are under the age of 30 — 20 protesters have died according to state reports, while other sources indicate as many as 200 are dead. According to observers there is a growing sense that demonstrators are calling for dramatic change in the structure of the Islamic Republic itself — the separation of religion from government, more transparency and the right to dissent.

On Saturday a top advisor to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called for the Supreme Leader to reach out to protesters.

"We cannot order public opinion to get convinced," Mohammadian said, according to the Mehr news agency. "Certain individuals are suspicious about the election result, and we have to shed light on the realities and respond to their questions."

On June 23, about 150 concerned Calgarians added their voices to the global chorus of "Stop the violence, stop the killing!"

"To me, it's not about politics, it's about human rights," said rally organizer Liza Lorenzetti, a member of Calgary Democracy Iran. "We are here to support our sisters and brothers in Iran who are risking their lives for the basic fundamental human freedoms: the freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of belief?"

..Johanna Hung and Katy Anderson

**Tuition registration  
deposit deadline extended  
until July 17th, 2009.**

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# Bucking broncos and stomping hooves

Snapshots of the Calgary Stampede  
by Geoff MacIntosh



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# Sled Island's success due to Calgary's culture

## Sled Island Wrap-Up festival review

Jordyn Marcellus  
Entertainment Editor

After Sled Island's third year in Calgary, it appears that the festival has finally honed in on a formula for future success. The perfect way to describe Sled Island was explained by Colin Newman on Jian Ghomeshi's *Q* radio show: Sled Island is a culture festival, as opposed to a music festival.

This year, more than anything, the festival's programming focused less on music and more on offering a taste of Calgary's complete cultural landscape. Sled Island collaborated with the Calgary Market Collective and Calgary's own place-to-been-for-the-indie-kid set, the Factory Party — the name pretentiously channelling Andy Warhol's famous parties of the '60s and '70s.

Working with the Factory Party organizers was one of the smartest choices festival programmers could make. It was an event specifically tailored to the festival's audience — hip and fashion-forward fans of independent music. It also allows for a more sustainable festival; it shows out-of-town bands that played the party that Calgary isn't just Stampede City, but in fact a young and vibrant metropolis filled with people who can be just as interesting as the hep cats in Brooklyn or Toronto.

This year's film programming, too, offered another great aspect to the festival. The movies themselves



Jordyn Marcellus/the Gauntlet

Cam the Wizzard was one of many acts that took to Sled Island's many stages.

were more focused on music — a good programming choice for a music festival — but in the future, the films could easily branch out into more cultural topics as well.

One of the complaints that seemed to be on some people's minds was

that Sled Island's musical line up consisted of a bunch of bands that no one had heard of with a smattering of more famous ones like Holy Fuck and Andrew w.k. This criticism is understandable, but sad.

While last year had big independ-

ent acts like Grizzly Bear, Yo La Tengo, Broken Social Scene, Mogwai and Tegan and Sara, this year's line up had a multitude of bands that weren't as popular but just as good. Japandroids and Japanther may not have the cred that Mogwai

does, but their appearances prove that Sled Island organizers were trying to be more forward-thinking in their programming choices.

It also shows that the festival was trying to be more sustainable in their artist selection — in a June 24 *Globe and Mail* interview, Sled Island festival director Zak Pashak admitted that the festival has spent the last two years in the red. Because the festival received its first grant this year — from the Calgary Arts Development Association — these bands were the proper choice, especially considering the current economic climate.

Overall, Sled Island is poised to further refine their festival mission in the coming years. Newman's suggestion that it has become more of a culture festival, as opposed to a music festival, is something Sled Island organizers need to think long and hard about. Not because it's a bad idea, but because it opens up the festival to an expanded mandate. Furthermore, it will show forcefully that Calgary is a burgeoning cultural centre of Canada.

Check out [thegauntlet.ca](http://thegauntlet.ca) in the coming week for more Sled Island interviews and pictures.

## After longstanding feuds, Fox Opera resurges

### Fox Opera music interview

Jordyn Marcellus  
Entertainment Editor

Fox Opera used to hate each other. They're better now.

After a year or two of drunken shows and loutish sets, including lowlights like breaking their own equipment, throwing milk crates at one another in the Marquee Room at a show no one attended and getting put in choke holds by the Stetsons' sound guy, the band has now pared down to three members and become a much better live act.

"Now we don't play bad shows anymore," says drummer Noah Rabinovitch. "It used to be that every second or third show we played it was absolutely useless."

Guitarist Caitlyn Copeland agrees, shaking her head at the memories.

"Terrible," she says. "Like each show was our first show ever. But for the last while we've been playing really well."

With the recent mending of the group's friendship, their music has tightened up significantly. They like each other again, and you can tell — they banter back and forth in a playful manner like happily squabbling siblings.

Although the group hasn't released a proper LP or EP, the band has a rather impressive sound. Copeland's tense, angular guitar riffs mix with her soft vocals, Rabinovitch's complex, calculated stomp 'n' crash drums provide the constant backbeat to the band's energetic rock.

For Rabinovitch, who also plays in other Calgary bands like If I Look Strong You Look Strong, it's good to be in a band that is consistently strong.

"Every band that I've been in has never been always consistent," he says. "Usually they've been pretty consistent but always have a few off-shows. But Fox Opera — every show is great. We don't practice a ton; we practice a fair amount."

Copeland quickly interjects. "I wouldn't say that; we practice maybe once a month."

While Fox Opera hasn't released

a full length aria quite yet, they're currently planning a quick *intermezzo* to satiate themselves and their small fanbase.

"We're planning on releasing a split 7 inch with Hunter Gatherer later this year," says Copeland. "It'll either be in September or October — we're still trying to figure out the final details — and then hopefully after that we'll be able to pull together some funds to do a full length. We've been trying to do it for a while, but it hasn't really worked out yet."

Rabinovitch quickly interjects with the most obvious plan for the band: get signed to a label.

"We're going to record the full length and then get signed to a label," he says impishly. "If not, we're going to break up."

Let's hope they don't. With a great sound and an energetic live show — that features less instrument breaking but more of the occasional Copeland/Rabinovitch wrestling match — the band could be one of the next Calgary groups to watch.

Check out [www.myspace.com/foxopera](http://www.myspace.com/foxopera) for free MP3s and show dates.

### If Fox Opera were a video game...

Drummer Noah Rabinovitch, who has a tattoo of Samus from the *Metroid* video game series on his arm, is an avid gamer. He's even teaching bass player Keith Rodger how to play *Street Fighter*. When questioned about what kind of video game Fox Opera was, he paused for a second.

**Noah Rabinovitch:** If Fox Opera were a video game, we'd be *Looney Tunes B-Ball*. It's like a normal basketball game, but your basketball turns into a pie and you throw it and it kills someone.

**Caitlyn Copeland:** Oh my God! It turns into a pie?

**NR:** If you're, like, Wile E. Coyote he sometimes goes through the basket with the ball.

**Keith Rodgers:** Actually Yosemite Sam does that as well. It's surprising — he doesn't seem so spry.

**CC:** No, he's super short.

**NR:** Kind of like Fox Opera.

**KR:** Yeah. We're not so spry, but we jump through the basket.

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# Sixth Potter beautiful but lacks punch

Harry Potter  
movie review

Ryan Pike

Opinions Editor

It's been over a decade since J.K. Rowling introduced the world to a pre-pubescent wizard and eight years since the first time Harry Potter and his friends hit the big screen. In the intervening years, the characters (and actors) have grown up and the filmmakers involved have refined their craft. The sixth Potter film, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, features most of the same strengths and weaknesses as prior offerings.

*Half-Blood Prince* picks up where 2007's *Order of the Phoenix* left off. Having proven to the world that the evil Lord Voldemort has returned, Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) returns to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for another year with Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson), who struggle with their attraction to each other. Meanwhile, Harry finds himself increasingly drawn to Ron's younger sister, Ginny (Bonnie Wright). But it's not all fun and games in year six, as Voldemort's underlings are rapidly preparing for the inevitable clash between good and evil — and Hogwarts is not immune to their influence.

From a technical perspective, *Half-Blood Prince* is marvellous to behold. Cinematographer Bruno Delbonnel, best known for his superb work on 2001's *Amelie*, joins the crew and provides an eye-catching glimpse of the Potter universe's well-known locales. Delbonnel's shots of Hogwarts itself are breathtaking, something that should also be credited to production designer Stuart Craig, whose work on the series has already earned him two Oscar nominations.

One of the problems with the previous films was their treatment of action scenes, particularly larger magic battles. This problem is solved in two ways. *Half-Blood Prince* features only a handful of battles and they're all blissfully simple to follow. Moreover, director David Yates seems more at ease behind the camera than he was in *Order of the Phoenix* and this confidence is evident in several key scenes — including attacks by Voldemort's Death Eaters on downtown London, the Weasley home and Hogwarts. The attack on the Weasley burrow is especially well-done, with Yates utilizing perspec-



courtesy Warner Bros.

Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) and Dumbledore (Michael Gambon) stare a lot in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

tive, music and farm crops to create a fantastic sense of dread.

The film is bolstered by strong performances from its cast. The standouts for this installment are definitely Michael Gambon (Dumbledore), Daniel Radcliffe (Harry), Jim Broadbent (Albus Slughorn) and Alan Rickman (Severus Snape). Radcliffe has grown leaps and bounds since the first film, while Rickman steps into his own and truly transforms Snape into a magnificent character. The supporting actors are equally up to the task, as Wright's Ginny Weasley steps out of the shadows and becomes a character in many ways as prominent as Ron or Hermione.

However, problems abound. Fans of the previous films and their rapid pacing may not like the film's more laid-back attitude. The narrative is remarkably simple, with the mystery of the film being swept aside for most of the duration before being picked up on right at the conclusion. Much how *The Two Towers* and *the Empire Strikes Back* set up the Lord of the Rings and Star Wars sagas for their conclusions, *Half-Blood Prince* aspires to do the same. It's not quite as successful; the film's entire duration is devoted to set-up, leaving precious little time for a plot of its own. It's great for long-time fans of the series to see these plots furthered, such as Harry's feud

with Draco Malfoy or the various romantic entanglements, but when the consequences of the plot can be described in a matter of short sentences, it's a bit sparse.

That said, the Harry Potter films have been great to varying degrees

— 2004's *Prisoner of Azkaban* likely being the standout — and *Half-Blood Prince* does not disappoint. If audiences can handle not getting much in the way of closure or answers, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is an effortlessly enjoy-

able trip through a magical world that primes the two-part conclusion to the Potter saga, hitting theatres in November 2010 and July 2011.

*Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is in theatres now.

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## TOP 20 for the week of JULY 6 .09

- \* Denotes Canadian Artist  
 \*\* Denotes Local Artist
- 1 **VARIOUS\*** *Vancouver's Punk As Fuck! Vol 2* (Self-Released)
  - 2 **VARIOUS** *PDX Pop Now!* (PDX Pop)
  - 3 **MARS VOLTA** *Octahedron* (Warner Bros)
  - 4 **DINOSAUR JR.** *Farm* (Jagjaguwar)
  - 5 **TORTOISE** *Beacons Of Ancestorship* (Thrill Jockey)
  - 6 **VARIOUS\*\*** *Pizza Records Party Pack* (Pizza)
  - 7 **DEERHUNTER** *Rainwater Cassette Exchange* (Kranky)
  - 8 **DIRTY PROJECTORS** *Bitte Orca* (Domino)
  - 9 **RUM RUNNER\*\*** *What's The Music Mean To You?* (Stumble)
  - 10 **STARLIGHT MINTS** *Change Remains* (Barsuk)
  - 11 **ROYAL CITY\*** *Royal City* (Outside)
  - 12 **POST HONEYMOON** *Post Honeymoon* (Two Thumbs Down)
  - 13 **BROCK GEIGER\*\*** *Invitation* (Self-Released)
  - 14 **UUVVWWZ** *UUVVWWZ* (Saddle Creek)
  - 15 **LEMONHEADS** *Varshons* (The End)
  - 16 **JOAN OF ARC** *Flowers* (Polyvinyl)
  - 17 **SONIC YOUTH** *The Eternal* (Matador)
  - 18 **BLACKOUT** *The Best In Town* (Epitaph)
  - 19 **SUNSET RUBDOWN\*** *Dragon Slayer* (Jagjaguwar)
  - 20 **GRUESOMES\*** *Hey!* (Ricochet)

### METAL

- 1 **DEVIN TOWNSEND\*** *K* (Insideout)
- 2 **DEVILDRIVER** *Pray For Villains* (Roadrunner)
- 3 **GRAVES OF VALOR** *Salarian Gate* (Relapse)
- 4 **1349** *Revelations Of The Black Flame* (Candlelight)
- 5 **DREAM THEATER** *Black Clouds & Silver Linings* (Road Runner)

### EXPERIMENTAL

- 1 **CARL MAGUIRE** *Floriculture* (Firehouse)
- 2 **BLACK DICE** *Repo* (Paw Tracks)
- 3 **JOHN HEBERT** *Byzantine Monkey* (Firehouse)
- 4 **ANN SOUTHAM\*** *Simple Lines Of Enquiry* (Centrediscs)
- 5 **SCHERZO\*** *Darrett Zusko Piano* (CMC)

### MYKE'S PICKS

- 1 **SAM & THE PLANTS**
- 2 **RICEBOY SLEEPS**
- 3 **PTERODACTYL**
- 4 **SERENGETI & POLYPHONIC**
- 5 **TY SEGALL**

### SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY

RUM RUNNER



It seems like Canadian labels outside stampede city have their eyes on Calgary bands—the latest band to get picked up are the punks in Rum Runner by St. Catherine's Stumble Records. Their

new record *What's The Music Mean To You?* dances through some classic upbeat punk rock tracks that you can't deny no matter your musical affinity. It's no wonder everyone is looking in on Calgary when the quality is this good...

[www.myspace.com/rumrunner](http://www.myspace.com/rumrunner)

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# Finding salvation



## in the one dollar record bin

### I Need That Record!

film review

Jordyn Marcellus  
 Entertainment Editor

There's something magical about the independent record store, or at least that's the message behind Brendan Toller's *I Need That Record!* With interviews featuring Ian MacKaye and a multitude of men and women working in the trenches of local record stores, the film is an interesting, if slightly amateurish take, on the slow death of the mom and pop record store.

The production values on the film are strangely low quality for a documentary touring the festival circuit. The cinematography is negligible; it's traditional docu-fare, though it does appear to be shot on a home video camera — the colours are washed out and

faded. This isn't a huge problem, but it does look jarring on the big screen.

Another of Toller's odd choices is the stop motion, paper cut-out interstitial scenes used to explain the heavy concepts involved in the interaction between record stores and the music industry. Due to *I Need That Record!*'s low-budget, they are easily explainable and work within the context of the film, but they do look strange and kid-like when dealing with the weighty, complicated nature of buying and selling music.

Another concern is Toller's strange, *Loose Change*-like narration. Again, it can easily be explained due to a lack of budget, but it's weird to hear the low fidelity narration over paper cut-outs trying to explain such heady concepts as the consolidation and monopolization of the music industry.

Despite these aesthetic complaints, *Record!* ends up being a

strong documentary when it discusses the real-life stories of those who frequent — and own — the record stores. From the music obsessives who found their favourite records in some local record bin to the owners and employees who spent their time unearthing tunes to give to the hungry masses, the doc reveals the community behind these shops.

Another great thing *Record!* reveals is the sense of discovery these shops foster through scene after scene of store patrons and employees fondly remembering the greatness of actually being able to communicate and talk about music with knowledgeable staff, as opposed to random teen number 13 who knows nothing about music.

At the same time, it's a frustrating look at what is causing the death of these industries. It focuses on the various excesses and general screw-ups of the music industry — bad PR, mis-communication and

record exec's high salaries — and also addresses how big-box retailers are able to undercut independent record stores.

The problem with this, though, is that it isn't revealing anything new. It's not exploring the concepts in great detail, it just aims its sights erratically and attempts to shoot. What's even more frustrating is that there isn't any discussion outside of one tiny, acted-out scene criticizing the record store's failing business model.

For better or worse, *I Need That Record!* is a nostalgic look at the record shop through the lens of the patron. When it tries to be a documentary about anything more, investigating and analyzing the depths and corruption of the music industry or trying to criticize the Internet era of music distribution, it fails.

Check out [www.ineedthatrecord.com](http://www.ineedthatrecord.com) for more information.

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# off the page

((( interviews - commentary - analysis )))

hosted by  
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