

calgary folk music festival



30 years of folk
pages 6 and 7

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

gauntlet

VOLUME 50 | ISSUE NO. 08 | JULY 23 | 2009

ken clark / the gauntlet

Provincial shortcomings cut to the bone

Demonstrating an eye for investments worthy of the current economic climate, the provincial government has declined to increase the University of Calgary's base operating budget this year. This decision, in tandem with the poor performance of the university's endowment funds, has led to the loss of 200 positions at the U of C by fall.

It should be obvious that, with a dearth of jobs currently available, there will be a higher interest in university education in the foreseeable future. This tendency is happily acceded to by a cash-starved U of C, which will create another 1,500 full-time spaces this fall. It is not hard to see that there will be a difficulty in simultaneously increasing enrolment and cutting staff.

While the school's financial woes are in part due to the poor performance of its own investments, the situation is not helped by the provincial government's poor investment in the school. As many of its own constituents will want to spend their time during this lean job market pursuing higher education, it would be wise for the provincial government to increase post-secondary education funding, not flat-line it. As it is provincial



Jen Grond/the Gauntlet

legislation from the '90s necessitating the U of C not run a deficit, the province has an added imperative to aid the university.

Investing the money now, while there is a larger than normal segment of the population likely to pursue PSE, will be to the province's great benefit in the future. This will ensure that a more highly-educated populace is available when it is needed. Investing in edu-

cation will also increase the province's ability to retain highly educated workers, as a vibrant university community will lead to a more robust intellectual climate that will both be more rewarding and support more jobs.

It must be acknowledged that the province has increased funding each of the last few years and that they continue to support large projects such as the Taylor Family Digital Library. But this does not exempt them from the need to continue pursuing excellence in PSE. A willingness to look back on past achievements with a sense of satisfaction while failing to pursue future goals will only lead to the debasement of the institution. It is good to invest in buildings on campus, but without the proper staff to run the ones currently here, there is no way they are going to be used to the full advantage of either

students or researchers.

It is unfortunate that the provincial government does not see the current opportunity to bring PSE in Alberta to new heights. But perhaps making a worthwhile investment now doesn't interest them.

Cam Cotton-O'Brien
Editor-in-Chief

Editor-in-Chief: Cam Cotton-O'Brien 220-7752
eic@thegauntlet.ca

News Editor: Katy Anderson 220-4318
news@thegauntlet.ca

Entertainment: Jordyn Marcellus 220-4376
entertainment@thegauntlet.ca

Sports: Jon Roe 220-2298
sports@thegauntlet.ca

Opinions: Ryan Pike 220-2298
opinions@thegauntlet.ca

Features: Sarelle Azuelos 220-4376
features@thegauntlet.ca

Photography: Chris "Doc" Pedersen 220-4376
photo@thegauntlet.ca

Production: Andrew Rininsland 220-2298
production@thegauntlet.ca

Illustrations: Jen Grond 220-2298
illustrations@thegauntlet.ca

Business Manager: Evelyn Cone 220-7380
business@thegauntlet.ca

Advertising Manager: John Harbidge 220-7751
sales@thegauntlet.ca

Graphic Artist: Ken Clarke 220-7755
graphics@thegauntlet.ca

Network Manager: Ben Li

Contributors
Morgan Haigler • Savannah Hall • Angela Larsen
Noah Miller • Daniel Pagan

Golden Spatula(s)
Angela Larsen "****in" took three photos this week.
We thank her for her greatness.

Furor Arma Ministrat
Room 319, MacEwan Students' Centre
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive, NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
General Inquiries: 220-7750
http://www.thegauntlet.ca

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Elections Canada pushes online voting

Study shows change would increase voter turnout, but observers question security

Daniel Pagan
Gauntlet News

If everything goes according to Elections Canada's plans, voters will soon be able to cast their ballots online — even from the comfort of their own beds.

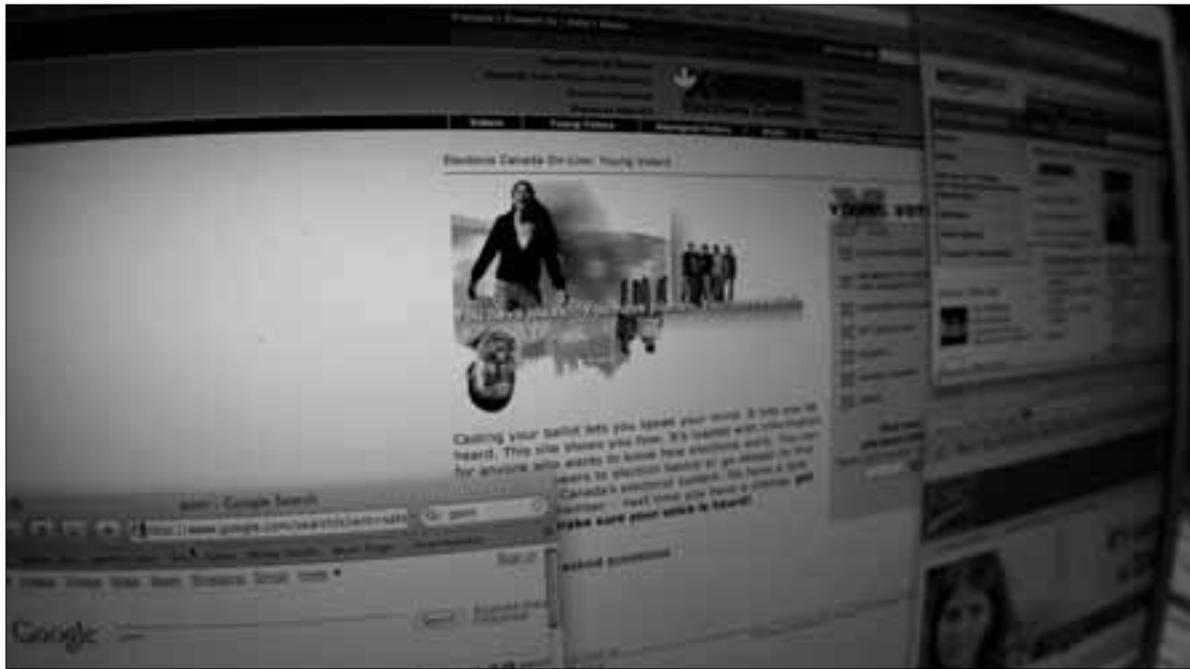
With Parliament's approval, the federal body is aiming to test online voting before 2013 in a byelection.

Elections Canada released a report last June pushing for legal changes to implement an online registration system.

In last October's federal election, only 58.8 per cent of voters cast their ballot, the lowest turnout in Canadian history. A survey conducted by the agency found that 57 per cent of non-voting respondents surveyed cited reasons such as being busy with work or on holiday, while 14 per cent were too apathetic to vote. The same survey mentioned that 64 per cent of non-voting youth electors said they would be likely to use the Internet to vote if the service was available.

Spokesperson John Enright said combating apathy is one reason why Elections Canada expressed interest in internet voting.

"This would likely take the form of a pilot project during a by-election to allow us to test the processes outside of a general election," said Enright. "Internet voting could provide an additional opportunity for electors to vote and would comple-



Dan Pagan/the Gauntlet

Students may soon be able to not only shop, bank and entertain themselves online but vote.

ment existing voting methods such as special ballot [voting by mail] and regular and advance polling days."

Enright warned it is too early to discuss what security measures the agency is considering, but stressed security is paramount and Elections Canada is working with experts to ensure the integrity of the ballot.

Kirk Schimdt, an independent federal candidate who ran in Calgary West last October, isn't keen on the idea.

Schimdt pointed to another Elections Canada survey of candidates,

in which only 41 per cent supported online voting. He explained many are wary of the chaos and corruption an online voting system could create.

"The main problem with online voting is having a transparent, auditable system, from marking the ballot to ballots being counted," said Schimdt.

University of British Columbia computer privacy expert Richard Rosenberg agreed with Schimdt's concerns, echoing the difficulty of balancing privacy against convenience. He feared it might be pos-

sible to determine individual votes when the program saves them [for appeal reasons], which could compromise an individual's right to a secret ballot.

"The system can be compromised by clever hackers, disgruntled government employees or even employees of the voting machine companies," said Rosenberg. "Hacking can be done without leaving a trace. So test runs must be done on a regular basis before the machines are to be used."

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations national director Arati

Sharma said she believes moving towards online voting would bring more students to the ballot box.

In the last election, many students complained about voting problems such as having no polling stations on campus, confusion about voting station locations and lack of advice on applying for a special ballot.

"CASA has been aware of problems with the Elections Canada voting system, particularly for students, for some time now," said Sharma.

"The main concern is a lack of resources for Elections Canada. Our members have identified the lack of online voting as a chief inconvenience, and one that leads to low voter turnout."

Ilona Dougherty, executive director of Montreal-based Apathy is Boring, explained online voting can be useful in combating voter apathy, because it would remove barriers related to getting to a polling station, such as having no vehicle or living on campus.

However, she pointed out not all students have access to computers and, in the end, online voting would not replace physical polling stations.

"It is also important to recognize that democracy should evolve, and that means continuing to ensure that young people feel that their votes are making a difference," she said.

U of C community contemplates impact of 200 job cuts

Katy Anderson
News Editor

As the announcement that there will be 200 job cuts on the University of Calgary campus this fall sinks in, many are contemplating what it means for the university community.

Shirley Maki, president of the university's Alberta Union of Provincial Employees Local 52, said she's not only worried about AUPE members losing their jobs, but how the cuts will affect students.

"Our members are the people that keep the building running," said Maki.

"Our members are the people who keep the buildings clean, our members are the people who work in the library and assist the students in finding the information they need, our members are the people who are sitting in the faculty offices making sure that the students have all the information they need in order to proceed with graduation."

U of C president Dr. Harvey Weingarten expressed regret over the decision, but said it's "simply a reality for the university."

"This is not a happy or pleasant thing to do and we will do this in the most supportive way we can but, again, we are required to live within our means and that's what we are trying to do," said Weingarten.

The U of C isn't alone in having to make tough decisions to balance the books, said Weingarten, noting the recession is touching everyone. The U of C's greatest budget challenge is the recent hit to the endowment fund — the university lost 15 per cent of just over \$400 million. But, said Weingarten, their losses were in line with other major Canadian universities.

Further, Weingarten pointed to the zero per cent increase in the operating budget from the province in 2010-2011, a poor performing pension fund and the battle to keep up with rising salary increases.

The first round of cuts will take place in the fall, said Weingarten.

"We are primarily looking at the university business services, so things like [Human Resources, Information Technology], financial services, that's where, as we've indicated, the initial cuts will come," he said.

AUPE president Doug Knight pointed to the flawed logic of the province's grant freeze, noting more students go to school during a recession.

"Study after study show that post-secondary education is actually an investment, we get far more returns, there's higher paying jobs and less use of social services, these sorts of things," said Knight. "Higher education is a net benefit to the economy, and it shouldn't be treated as an expense as the government is treating this."

Despite assurances from university administration that the cuts won't affect education, Students' Union president Charlotte

Kingston said it was hard to see how, if the 200 jobs were considered necessary in the past, "every one of them can be accommodated by streamlining processes."

Kingston also pointed to the province's recent \$20 million funding announcement for U of C institute Tecterra, one of five Ingenuity Centres for Research and Commercialization in the province.

"Both the [U of C] and the province pumped millions of dollars into something that is not going to benefit the undergraduate experience at the University of Calgary at all," she said. "It's important to foster innovation within the province but I think now is a particularly poor time to justify spending \$20 million dollars, just from the province's end, when this institution, with a \$14 million dollar deficit, had to cut over 200 of its employees and is currently scrambling to make up for a three per cent deficit cut to all of their business units."

Library to open fall 2010

Cam Cotton-O'Brien

Editor-in-Chief

In the wide open caverns of the still-being-constructed Taylor Family Digital Library, Minister of Industry Tony Clement donned a hard hat to deliver a brief press conference to a cadre of similarly be-hatted journalists and others.

The new, six-floor building, set to open in Fall 2010, will be a marked change from the current McKimmie Library Tower. Rather than floors and floors of books, the structure will focus upon providing students from around the province with access to digital resources and workspaces. University of Calgary president Dr. Harvey Weingarten said that this accurately reflects what students today expect.

"When I was an undergraduate — I was in psychology — and I had to write a paper, I would go into the psychology section of the library and I'd walk through the library stacks looking at the new books in the area," he said. "[Students] don't do that anymore. You go to your computer, you expect to be able to search things electronically, you expect stuff to be available electronically."

"A contemporary library nowadays, it's prime real estate. You don't use it for storing shelves and shelves of books, you use it to give people access to the information sources, to the data that they need and to a working environment where they can work collaboratively, do their projects."

Books no longer located on campus will be kept at the High Density



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

Federal Industry Minister Tony Clement was on-site Tuesday to tout the progress of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

Library being built near the U of C's veterinary school on the Spy Hill campus. Requested materials will be delivered to campus.

Clement's appearance followed two months after a joint federal-provincial funding announcement of \$113 million to go towards construction of the TFDL and a new cogeneration plant to be built on campus.

The federal government's aid for the construction project comes from the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, part of the Harper government's broader stimulus package. Though it is aimed at addressing both deferred maintenance and capital projects, there has so far been no funding explicitly for the former at the U of C. This concerns the Students' Union.

"We think that the Taylor Family Digital Library and the cogeneration plant are excellent additions to our campus and our hope is that in the next round of applications for

funding our university applies for deferred maintenance funding to actually fix existing learning spaces," said SU vice-president external Kay She.

Weingarten stated that, though there are a number of buildings requiring maintenance, the recent funding has been used for this in some cases. Spaces will be refurbished around the TFDL and Science A and Engineering will receive some work as part of the Energy, Environment, Experiential Learning project.

A second round of funding from the Knowledge Infrastructure Program is being contemplated, said Clement, but noted it remains unclear what this additional funding would be directed towards.

"Obviously, as usually happens in these kinds of situations, there are more applications than there is money to go around, so we're carefully considering our approach," said Clement.

Alberta Greens off next election's ballot

Noah Miller

Gauntlet News

The Green Party of Alberta won't be able to run in the next election, according to a press release from Elections Alberta.

Alberta's acting chief electoral officer cancelled the Green Party's registration July 15 because audited financial statements for the 2008 calendar year had not been filed, as prescribed by the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act.

The failure to file these essential documents is encircled in controversy.

Members of the new party executive under Joe Anglin claim they were not given sufficient financial information to file an audited statement, while some members of the old executive allege that the information was passed on, but mishandled.

"The new executive did not provide the accountant with the full [electronic] accounting file," according to former-party president and chief financial officer David Crowe's website. With the full electronic file the accountant "would have had everything needed to produce financial statements and tax receipts."

Crowe, alongside many other long-time Alberta Greens, saw the implementation of a new executive as a kind of hostile takeover following the party's 2008 annual general meeting in Morningside, Alberta.

"Sometime over the fall before they finalized the takeover, they

forced the current leader out and then it was like dominos," said Crowe.

In contrast to the "tearing-down" viewed by Crowe, the Greens' website states that the "de-registration of the party is an administrative opportunity to re-organize and rebuild the party into a viable political organization. The importance and mainstream acceptance of the Green Party's values and principles are on the rise, and the Green Party's many supporters can now look forward to a fresh start."

In the meantime, the "Alberta Greens" Green Party of Alberta Society has been founded. It functions as a "non-profit corporate entity for the purposes of advancing a 'Green' agenda, and preparing the Green Party's political future."

"They founded a society, but they can't run in the next election," noted Crowe.

With the Greens out of the next provincial election and a significant percentage of the popular vote now up for grabs, the question remains who will capture the Greens' votes.

"With the extreme volatility of our political system, it's anyone's guess," said former party president and local activist Grant Neufeld. "The interesting thing is that there is still a provincewide network of people engaged in politics from the Green party."

Neufeld noted that this network of people with "radically divergent viewpoints" are finding their own ways of advancing the Green principles of "questioning and not assuming" about critical issues.

Slurpee Cup rolls on without SU funding

Katy Anderson

News Editor

In the absence of funding for a Slurpee Cup BBQ, Calgary Flames

legend Håkan Loob — the name-sake of the twelfth installment of the street hockey tournament — may, or may not, be doling out Swedish meatballs to sweaty participants,

said cjsw station manager Chad Saunders.

The University of Calgary Students' Union opted not to provide funding for the competition, hosted by the campus station, this year.

Despite being a great event, the summer tournament just doesn't involve enough students and there's only so much money to go around, said SU vice-president events Kat Lord.

"It isn't student focused, but their 25th anniversary was, so we'd rather put the funding towards that, and help them out when it comes time," said Lord, referring to the campus

station's plans for their silver year.

There are no numbers on how many students actually attend Slurpee Cup each year, said Saunders, noting he understood the SU's decision.

"The trick is trying to figure out are we going to be able to host a BBQ," said Saunders.

"Really, our next challenge is trying to win the Slurpee Cup," he said. "We suck. Our team is terrible."

The tournament, scheduled for the second last weekend in August, features teams from local bands, independent media outlets and student groups. To find out how to register a team visit cjsw.com.

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Working Alone

New system 'peace of mind' for late workers

Morgan Haigler
Gauntlet News

A new web-based check-in, check-out system is paving the way for a safer campus.

The University of Calgary's new system, Working Alone, is intended for use by students, faculty and staff who are on campus alone, particularly at night or outside of normal work hours, said Campus Security manager Ken Kress.

"It gives some people peace of mind," he said.

"It's a personal choice if they wish to use it or not. It allows us to give people some sense of security on campus when they're here, especially when they're working late or alone."

U of C workers are encouraged to register through the Working Alone link on MyUofC and clicking on the Working Alone link. While some fields don't need to be filled in — name, department and log in time — workers are required to enter information regarding their work location (building and room), phone number and the time they intend to leave.

After a person registers, they need to keep their browser window open so they can be notified about their time out session. After the system beeps and a pop up reminder appears every minute until the time out session expires, workers have approximately 10 minutes to log off before security is alerted.

Security officers can check up on a person based on the information they provide. If, for example, someone fails to log out of the system at their designated time, an alert will be sent to the Campus Security control room. Security will then contact the person by phone. If no one answers, a security officer will be dispatched to a person's work place in case of an emergency.

The Working Alone system allows people to feel more protected, said Women's Resource Centre program co-ordinator Jocelyn Kelln. Even without a security measure like the new program in place, the WRC encourages women to use other security measures on a regular basis.

"We would definitely let [women] know about services on campus like Safewalk, make sure that they're familiar with Campus Security, and then I would just encourage them to make sure they're in contact with



Angela Larsen/the Gauntlet

People who work late nights alone, like Igor Khitrov, can use a check-in system letting security know their whereabouts.

someone, either a family [member] or friend who knows where they are and knows what time to expect them," said Kelln.

Minnie Chen, a second-year business student at the U of C, who has been working at the Information Centre in MacEwan Student Centre since January, said the new

Working Alone system would be useful for people who typically work by themselves.

"Even though [I work] in a pretty public place, things can happen," said Chen.

"Sometimes if you're working by yourself in an office I think it's a good idea so they know something

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Angela Larsen/the Gauntlet

A funding boost made it possible to keep ice on the Olympic Oval.

Olympic Oval in action for summer training

Morgan Haigler
Gauntlet News

It came as no surprise when the Olympic Oval couldn't afford to keep its ice this year.

With the economic downturn straining financial resources, it seemed Canada's speedskaters would need another place to prepare for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games.

It's estimated that \$10,000 a day is necessary to operate the Oval and maintain the ice.

Originally, observers anticipated

that ice would return sometime in September.

Luckily, in May a funding boost of \$530,000 from WinSport Canada, the Own The Podium program and the University of Calgary made it possible for speedskaters to use the Oval during their busy training period in July.

Had there been a further delay, skaters would have had to train in Richmond, B.C., where the 2010 Olympic speedskating competition will take place or possibly in Salt Lake City, the home of the 2002 Winter Games.

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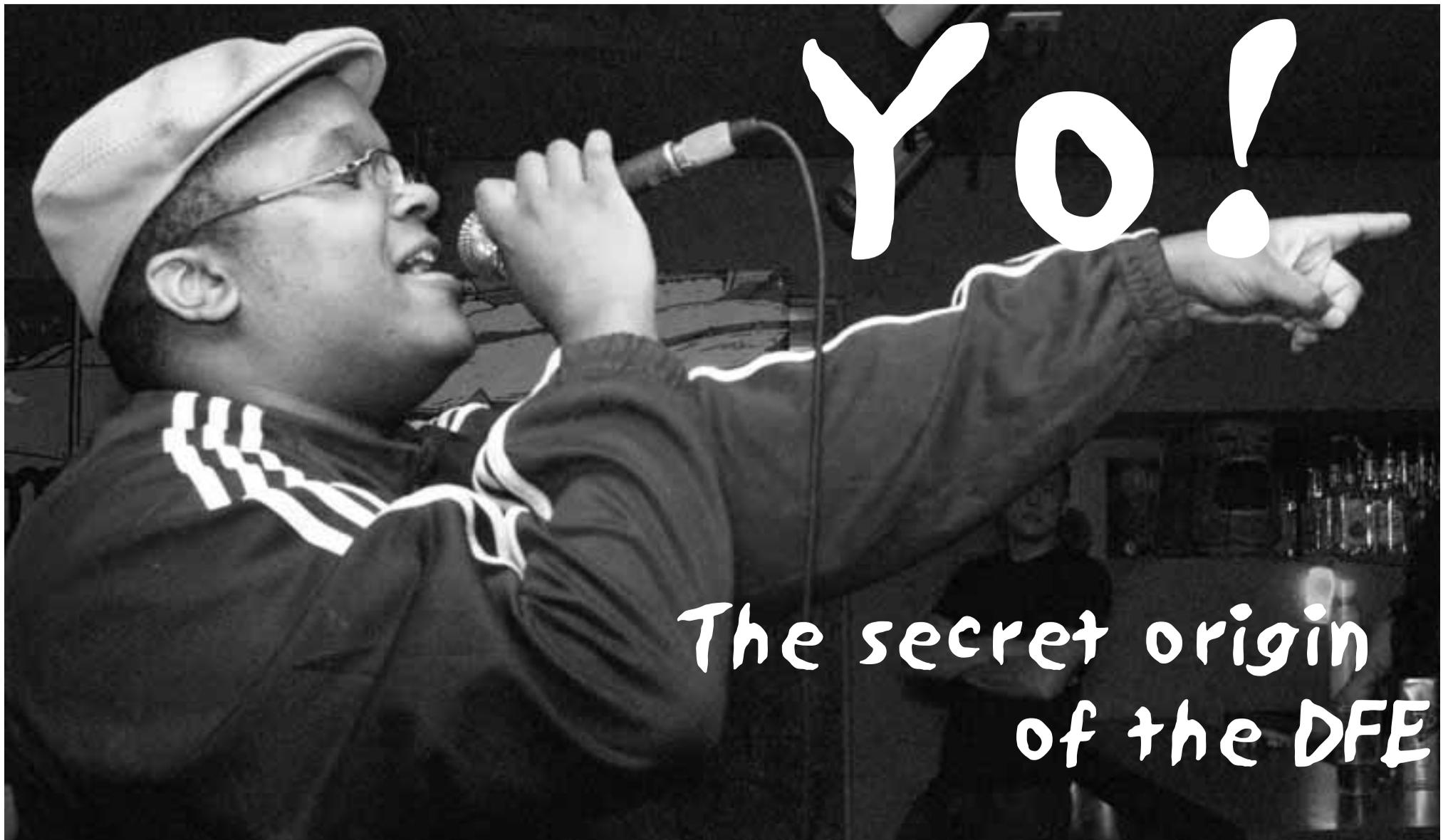
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NOTE: Depending on volume, we may not be able to respond to every enquiry; however we will enter all applicants into our database for future consideration.

EMAIL your response to prodassist@shaw.ca



Jordyn Marcellus/the Gauntlet

Tarik Robinson, a.k.a. Teekay, emcee of Dragon Fli Empire, performing at the Bamboo Tiki Room Wednesday, June 24. He performs throughout Folk Fest.

Dragon Fli Empire music interview

Jordyn Marcellus

Entertainment Editor

Calgary's Dragon Fli Empire — the DFE — is def. They know it

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too. Hook-laden “D-E-F” is a local crowd favourite, the audience shouting along with emcee Tarik Robinson, a.k.a. Teekay, as DJ Cosm spins in the back.

But the big brassy emcee behind the DFE used to be a shy, unassuming high school band geek.

“I always made little beats on keyboards,” says Robinson. “They were very repetitive beats that I realized, after a while, were hip-hop beats. I decided to start recording raps over them and I would show my friends these really amateur recordings and they would critique it. Instead of getting dejected, I would try and improve it on the flaws I could improve on.”

Unabashedly Calgarian, Robinson and DJ Cosm found fame with 2004’s “Mount Pleasant,” an ode to the number two bus line running through the downtown core.

Before his big breakthrough moment, though, Robinson was inspired to perform by an experience gained while playing saxophone for William Aberhart High School’s concert band.

“In grade 11 we took this trip to Cuba,” says Robinson. “We

reached this one high school that we were supposed to perform at and they were actually waiting for us to come. The high school was three or four stories high and they were packed onto the balconies to see this high school from Calgary perform.”

It was at this moment that the normally shy Robinson decided to open up a little. He saw the kids jammed onto the balconies and decided to give them a little performance.

“I thought that I could do anything and these kids would go off to it,” says Robinson. “So I put my arm up in the air and I screamed at the top of my lungs — ‘yeah!’ — and everyone looked at me strange, like, ‘What the hell is this guy doing?’ Couple of seconds later you start to hear this [yelling back at me]. It was pretty cool.”

Later that night, after his performance, a large crowd of Cuban children began requesting Robinson. The performer in him bubbled up again and he delivered the exclusive first performance of what would eventually be one-half of Dragon Fli Empire.

“After [the concert band] finished playing our regular songs that night, the power went out and the kids started asking for me at the side of the stage. So I went to the side of the stage and I did that ‘yeah!’ thing again and they all went off. Then I started screaming my early hip-hop raps — no microphone or anything — and got everybody waving their arms side-to-side and going ‘hooo! hey!’ and everything. It was awesome.”

So here he was, a young grade 11 student who had never rapped in front of an audience. It was this experience that informed him and helped solidify his love of performing hip-hop, which would eventually lead to the DFE.

“To come from nothing to 400 to 500 people — it made me feel like, ‘wWow, this hip-hop thing is something that I want to hold on to. Because it has the power to do this kind of thing and it was so much fun. It was my way to connect with people. It was destined to be.”

Dragon Fli Empire play throughout Folk Fest Saturday and Sunday.

1 One of the most revered rituals of Folk Fest is the rush for the tarps. Each day, hardcore festival-goers line up early, tarps in hand. When the gates open, there is a rush towards the stage, the fastest getting the best spots. Bear in mind, this is a folk music festival, so between that and safety concerns the “rush” to the stage is merely a power-walk. Nevertheless, getting a spot at the front of the stage is a badge of honour.

2 The main stage boasts many things — good music, copious amounts of dancing space and fairly big crowds. On the opposite side of the island, though, lie the side stages. While it may not see the same big name acts as the mainstage, these side stages offer a much more intimate performance with musicians of just as high a calibre.

3 Folk Fest differentiates itself from the glut of music festivals in one important way: it’s on a really pretty island. Prince’s Island Park is in the heart of the city, yet provides music lovers the chance to escape the crowds and enjoy nature.

MPSE an exhibition in delicious pop-folk

M P S E
music interview

Jordyn Marcellus
Entertainment Editor

MPSE are a lot different than the stereotypical singer-songwriter. The group, who won the 2009 Calgary Folk Music Festival Best New Song competition, find themselves with an aggravating problem: they keep being asked who the brains behind the song is.

Their music is full of atypical pop arrangements, including musical accents like handclaps, trombone and breezy vocals by keyboardist Maddy Purves-Smith and guitarist Liam Law. The entire group worked on their winning song, collectively arranging each track, with Purves-Smith and Law writing the lyrics after the arrangement had been nailed down.

"We definitely always wanted lyrics to give something to the music," says Purves-Smith. "Whether it be in terms of storytelling or almost as an additional instrument, it's definitely been fun using that to our abilities."

The two start brainstorming with one-word imagery and build from there. Law says the process is "a big thought shower," with lyrical content reflecting the musical imagery. This flies in the face of popular

thought concerning singer-songwriters — the music doesn't reflect and accent the lyrics, the lyrics become another instrument to reflect the musical imagery the instrumentation evokes.

"For me, the lyrics come more from the images of the music," says Purves-Smith. "I have a pretty good idea about what the song is about to me, before we even start writing lyrics."

"The best example is the song we played for the competition, ['Straight For the Honey']" adds Law. "We literally both sat down and came up with, I don't know, a blueprint for what the story is about. It's a story about a guy — the story is clearer to some than others, but we kind of went with that."

While this creative system has worked for the group, traditionalists have been quick to recognize Purves-Smith as the ostensible brains behind the act, even though the group works together to create their own music. That leads to frustration, because the music is all equally crafted by the entire band.

"Every e-mail I would get [from festival organizers], I would say, 'Just have to clarify, all the members worked on the song. I'm just the e-mail contact.' Then I would get an e-mail saying, 'Congratulations Maddy,' and I would have to say, 'Just to clarify [*she trails off*].'"



courtesy Paul Baker

MPSE aren't exactly one big happy family. They play Sunday, July 26 at 11:40 a.m.

Nowhere was this problem felt more strongly than when the band was competing in the Best New Song and Best Song competitions. The group found themselves constantly barraged with questions about who actually ended up writing the song.

"It's weird; every time we played [at the competitions], we're asked, 'Who

wrote it? Who wrote it?'" adds Law.

While MPSE have played only three live shows — their performance Sunday at the Calgary Folk Music Festival will be their fourth — the professional quality of their music features an exciting pop sensibility that belies the group's relative inexperience.

Though Law and Purves-Smith

are leaving at the end of the summer, MPSE plans to release an EP with the money they won through the Best New Song competition; it will soon be required listening for anyone who wants to be in the know.

MPSE play the Ship and Anchor Pub Stage Sunday, July 26 at 11:40 a.m.

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TOP 20 for the week of JULY 13 .09

- * Denotes Canadian Artist
 ** Denotes Local Artist
- 1 **VARIOUS*** *Vancouver's Punk As Fuck! Vol 2* (Self-Released)
 - 2 **WILCO** (*The Album*) (Nonesuch)
 - 3 **KEITH SMITH TRIO**** *Afterthought* (Plunge)
 - 4 **KNOTS**** *The Blistering Sun, The Pale Moon, HaHaHaHa* (Self-Released)
 - 5 **PTERODACTYL** *Worldwild* (Brah)
 - 6 **REVERIE SOUND REVUE**** *Reverie Sound Revue* (Boomba)
 - 7 **EVAPORATORS with ANDREW W K*** *A Wild Pear* (Mint)
 - 8 **TORTOISE** *Beacons Of Ancestorship* (Thrill Jockey)
 - 9 **DIRTY PROJECTORS** *Bitte Orca* (Domino)
 - 10 **GOT TO GET GOT*** *Sanalee* (No Yes)
 - 11 **VARIOUS*** *D-Day 4/20* (Outside)
 - 12 **PHOENIX** *Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix* (Loyaute)
 - 13 **APOSTLE OF HUSTLE*** *Eats Darkness* (Arts & Crafts)
 - 14 **DEERHUNTER** *Rainwater Cassette Exchange* (Kranky)
 - 15 **CASS McCOMBS** *Catacombs* (Domino)
 - 16 **SONIC YOUTH** *The Eternal* (Matador)
 - 17 **IGGY POP** *Préliminaires* (Astralwerks)
 - 18 **EELS** *Hombre Lobo* (Vagrant)
 - 19 **ENDANGERED APE*** *Ape Shall Not Kill Ape* (Mammoth Cave)
 - 20 **GRIZZLY BEAR** *Veckatimest* (Warp)

ELECTRONIC

- 1 **DISCOVERY** *Discovery LP* (XL)
- 2 **MAJOR LAZER** *Guns Don't Kill People, Lazars Do* (Downtown)
- 3 **BIBIO** *Ambivalence Avenue* (WARP)
- 4 **ELEAZAR VS JOHN*** *Pits In The Sandblaster* (Eleazer)
- 5 **MOBY** *Wait For Me* (EMI)

HIP HOP/SOUL/FUNK

- 1 **SERENGETI & POLYPHONIC** *Terradactyl* (Anticon)
- 2 **VARIOUS** *Nigeria 70: The Definitive Story Of 1970's Funky Lagos* (Strut)
- 3 **MOS DEF** *The Estatic* (Downtown)
- 4 **RICCA RAZOR SHARP**** *Causeways & C-Trains* (Neferiu)
- 5 **GRAND ANALOG*** *Metropolis Is Burning* (Urbnet)

MYKE'S PICKS

- 1 **CLARK**
- 2 **MARK TEMPLETON***
- 3 **CASEY FOUBERT & JAMES MCALISTER**
- 4 **MAGNOLIA ELECTRIC CO.**
- 5 **CHALI 2na**

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY

HUNTER-GATHERER

I love cassettes, and I really love bands who release cassettes — hence why I love Calgary's Hunter-Gatherer. Their brand new recording is awesome indie pop radness,

but it's only available on cassette. What's not to love?
www.myspace.com/huntergathererspace

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Math the Band

Don't Worry

(Slanty Shanty Records)

Sugar-shock electro-punkers Math the Band have crafted a tight, 25-minute party record with a loud noise assault that's sure to keep the neighbours up all night. The boyfriend and girlfriend duo of Kevin Steinhauser and Justine Mainville have a small cult following in the eastern United States and hopefully with *Don't*

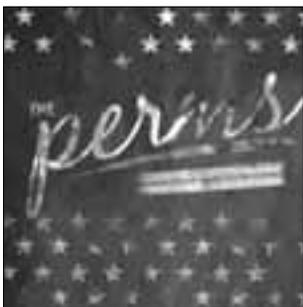


Pictures of Then

And the Wicked Sea

(Independent Release)

In the era of overwrought and over-arranged pop music, it's nice to have a little bit of uncomplicated Americanized Brit-pop. With *And the Wicked Sea*, Minnesota-natives Pictures of Then don't try to shoot for the moon with epic instrumentation and



The Perms

Keeps You Up When You're Down

(Independent Release)

The Perms new album *Keeps You Up When You're Down* does the exact opposite — it keeps you down when you're up. It's a shout-out to those who grew up with braces and glasses that were too big for their faces.

Keeps You Up is the kind of music featured on teeny bopper movies like *10 Things I Hate About You* which über geeks would watch

Worry will further attract fans to their peculiar brand of spastic dance music.

The band's sound can be described as a mix between two of their most obvious influences: Atom and His Package and Andrew w.k. In short: a dance party. Stabby, elated synths and wide-eyed, smiling vocals are *Don't Worry's* hallmark. Despite the two-person nature of the band, the music is produced with the vocals deep in the mix and the synthesizers out in front, a nice arrangement for the group's album.

high-minded orchestration, but strip their arrangements down to just make some nice rock 'n' roll.

And the Wicked Sea opens with the high-flying vocals of "A Glimpse of Dawn," which moves into the more sharply rollicking first single "When it Stings." The smart guitar lick and the odd synth blast make "Sting" a great pop track, with the instrumentation further accenting vocalist Casey Call's silky smooth singing.

and wish their life was like. Meanwhile, the tune of this annoying garage band has somehow become the new soundtrack to their life.

Yes the band can bash some musical notes together. Yes, the singer's voice isn't horrible. But that doesn't mean each of the band members can do their own thing in the same room and make it sound good.

Keeps You Up is a generic compilation of songs which all sound like something that has come out before — and by better acts

One of the best things about Math the Band is how fun the music is. With songs like "It's Gonna Be AWESOME" — the longest track at 3:36 — and "Why Don't You Get a Haircut," *Worry's* lyrical content is all child-like sandbox jubilation and innocent party fun times.

Don't Worry is the perfect summer soundtrack: loud and sugary like a shotgun blast full of candy buckshot. Grab your slip 'n' slide and get down and *Don't Worry*. You'll have a good time.

..Jordyn Marcellus

While *Sea's* songs are all solid, tracks like the grooving "One Day" offer up something a little different from their normal straight-up Brit-influenced sound. "One Day" is the sexiest song on the album, a mellow slow-burn that builds to a rousing crescendo. Don't you dare play it near your sister, lest she choose to give herself over to Call and company for chaste make outs and hand holding.

..Jordyn Marcellus

than this. This kind of musical recycling doesn't lend itself well to the genre, mostly because this style of garage-rock wasn't good in the first place.

Keeps You Up does have one use — it could lend itself to a good sing-a-long. It's easy to remember the lyrics, because they are extremely simple and rhyme. Thankfully, the singing is pretty slow and not out of range of the average person — otherwise there would be no redeeming qualities.

.. Savannah Hall

opinions

Big explosions and the dumbing-down of cinema



Jordyn Marcellus
 Popinions

Anyone who's ever been to Disneyland knows about *Star Tours*. *Tours* is a ride through the *Star Wars* universe, narrated by the plucky Paul Reubens-voiced droid Captain RX-24. Through a series of unfortunate events, the tour goes off the rails and eventually leads to the climactic battle at the Death Star. All the while, the audience shake and rattle in their seats, mimicking the action onscreen. If the ship swerves to the left, the audience's mechanized chairs swerve with it.

Movie theatre giant Cineplex Entertainment recently announced they are implementing similar, but more advanced, technology called D-Box seating in their theatres. Already being tested in a

Toronto Cineplex theatre, as well as in theatres in Austin, Texas and Phoenix, Arizona, this technology is a further way for the theatre giant to reap big returns in the current trend of technological acceleration gripping the theatre industry.

While D-Box may offer a great, truly immersive experience, it is just further proof that both major mainstream theatre houses and film companies are moving away from offering a good film experience and instead focusing on flashy spectacle.

This slow implementation of D-Box can be compared to the current 3D revolution. 3D was recently popularized with Disney's 2008 *Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus* concert movie, which grossed more than \$60 million in limited release. More and more theatres are now implementing digital projection — the proper technology to display 3D films — because it is a proven moneymaker due to its

spectacular nature.

Spectacle, here, means some kind of dramatic or visual device meant to be exhilarating. Spectacle is the money shot to the scene — the pratfall, the explosion, the robot peeing on John Turturro. Michael Bay, McG and Tony Scott are all directors firmly planted in creating spectacular works with pretty explosions, pretty women and pretty bad plots.

Yet despite their brainless nature, these films make incredible box office numbers — because of their spectacle. People love to watch stuff explode or a dude getting punched in the face by Mike Tyson. That's nothing to begrudge, but it is troublesome for people who care about the art of film. When Michael Bay is focusing on Megan Fox's perfectly glossed lips and the giant robot Devastator's wrecking ball testicles, these films don't have a lot of artistic merit. While it may seem pretentious, such films don't say anything

about the human condition, nor do they offer interesting exploration of any themes. Objects explode, people go "ooh" and "ahh" and leave the theatre.

Such spectacle trivializes one of the most vital art forms of the 20th century, replacing a powerful medium that's produced such impacting human dramas as Fellini's *8 1/2* for forgettable movies about secret spy hamsters who fart in their hamster ball-cum-spy vehicle.

There's nothing wrong with the mainstream being interested in spectacle. 3D and D-Box technology isn't going to be adding the much-needed pop to Werner Herzog's *Latest Human Drama #23*. The problem is that these technologies are showing film's slow descent into nothing more than pablum-like entertainment, as opposed to art.

When Hollywood studios aren't focused even minutely on the artistic potential of a film, it leads to the Michael Bay-ing of film and a dumbing-down of cinema.