



25

years of campus radio page 17

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
gauntlet
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STUDENTS' UNION HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 25 - 29 EVENTS:

MONDAY

Cinemanía: Zombieland (6:30pm) and 28 Days Later (9pm), ST148

TUESDAY

Clubs Night at the Den: 15% off with your Club Card, 5pm - close

WEDNESDAY

Yoga in That Empty Space: 12 - 1pm
25¢ Wing Night at the Den, 8pm - close

THURSDAY

Student Appreciation Night at the Den

FRIDAY

That Empty Space: Live Music! 3 - 6pm

The Laurence Decore Award



Are you an involved student?
Need extra cash? Read on...

The Laurence Decore Award for Student Leadership is intended to recognize post-secondary students demonstrating outstanding dedication and leadership to fellow students and to their community. Applications now available! (More than one award exists.)

Nominees for this award must be Alberta residents, as defined by Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund Regulations, and currently enrolled in a minimum of three full-time courses at a designated post-secondary institution in Alberta in the year of application. Nominees should display commitment in one or more of the following areas:

- 1) student government at the local, provincial or national level;
- 2) student societies, clubs, organizations or non-profit community organizations.

Award Value: \$500
Nomination Deadline:
February 26, 2010

Pick up and submit nomination forms to the Students' Union (MSC 251). Forms can also be found at www.su.ucalgary.ca.

For more information, call the Students' Union at (403) 220-6551.



RUN



Students' Union ELECTION

WHY?

- 5 TRAVEL and meet people
- 4 BE a voice for students
- 3 ORGANIZE events
- 2 INFLUENCE your university
- 1 MAKE a difference

HOW?

- PICK UP a nomination package at the SU office or online.
- TALK TO an SU elected official, if you have questions or need advice.
- APPLY! Campaign funding is available.



NOMINATIONS DUE:
February 8 - 10, 2010

www.su.ucalgary.ca

\$80 **TICKET TO THE GAME**
Purchase your tickets at the Den.

Monday, February 1st



GAME STARTS AT 7:30PM



UPCOMING GAMES



Friday, March 5th



Students' for Literacy

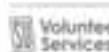
Toonie Book Sale



Something for Everyone!

All proceeds directed to the Students for Literacy resource library and ESL station.

February 1 - 5
10am - 3pm
MacEwan Student Centre
South Courtyard



Volunteer Services

Students for Literacy is a Student-run, non-profit organization dedicated to providing literacy services to all of Calgary with a focus on disadvantaged students of all ages. Forming/Joining us is a great thing to do!

Effective righting get's the axe

U of C finally eliminates useless exam

The effective writing requirement was never really to useful. If a student made it through high school English with a fair enough grade than there was no problem and if they didn't than they simply had to pass one redundant test.

Redundant because if the student was so incapable of writing a coherent piece of work, then the chance that there university assignments would be up to the standards required for classes was so low that there was very little chance they would be successful in the first place. Every university assignment every university assignment in liberal art's courses is like a mini effective writing test which student's are constantly needing to pass. If they couldn't write right for these assignments than they would be in some serious academic trouble. I am reading this pretty sweet book by Julio Cortazar write now. The question becomes somewhat more clouded when one considers the type of work that individual's in degrees more oriented towards hard science; student's

possibly even taking exclusively hard science courses; would have to hand in. But in this case it still seems that even if the greater bulk of there work lacked the necessity that they be able to write, if not concisely than at least coherently, they would still find enough need too write good in there lab assignments etc. that there course work would still successfully make up for the lack of having written an effective writing test. Again the chance that they could perform at an acceptable level in university courses without yet being able to meet the effective writing requirement was doubtful. In the extreme case where student's were in degrees that required of them absolutely no course work at least somewhat dependant upon there ability to string together there work with minimal spelling mistakes than they probably won't be winding up in a job where this matters anyway. At least hopefully.

To conclude my editorial these days it doesn't really matter to much weather student's are able on there lonesome to spell and figure



out grammar because most computer programs which student's use to write underline these things in various colors. But than again there are only four such lines dis-

played for this story: and one of them is the Spanish name.

Cam Cotton-O'Brien
Editor-in-Chief

contents

entertainment

CJSW commemorates 25 years on the FM dial with a rip-roaring hootenany.

Intrepid boy reporter Ryan Pike gets the sweet lowdown on the event, **page 17.**

news

Federal Liberal party leader Michael Ignatieff was on campus this week and the *Gauntlet* has the scoop, **page 4.**

opinions

This week, check out the latest on Haiti, Conan O'Brien, political elitism and an illustration of a panda bear fighting Google. Huzzah, **page 8.**

sports

Take a glance at a slew of upcoming Dino action, plus results of recent action! Basketball! Women's hockey! Swimming! Sports, **page 12!**

web

An in-depth analysis of the best/worst things on the Internet. You decide, **page 22.**

CORRECTION: In the Jan. 14 story "High Life cliched but fun crime caper," [Richard Lam] the film was listed as coming out Fri., Jan. 15. After press time, the film was re-scheduled to Fri., Jan. 29. The *Gauntlet* apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

TLFs are on **page 15.** **Comics** are on **page 23.** Send letters to editor@thegauntlet.ca. The Olympics are coming! Woo-hoo!

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Golden Spatula(s)
Richard "Big Money" Lam not only wore an awesome suit at the CUP National Conference, he wrote a ton of stuff for the paper this week. Or a tonne. I'm not sure.

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The *Gauntlet* is the official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute. Opinions contained herein are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire *Gauntlet* staff. Editorials are chosen by the majority of the editorial board. The *Gauntlet* is a forum open to all U of C students but may refuse any submission judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic, libelous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Grievances regarding the *Gauntlet* follow a three-step process which requires written decisions from the Editor, the GPS Board of Directors, and the Ombudsboard. The complete Grievance Policy is online at: <http://thegauntlet.ca>. The *Gauntlet* is printed on recycled paper and uses hooray for Nash-based ink. We urge you to recycle/dress as a cowboy with the *Gauntlet*.

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

The Cover
Photo and design by Chris Pedersen



Iggy gets jiggy with U of C students

Michael Ignatieff comes to campus to answer questions from students and community

Emily Ask

News Assistant

Students were urged to participate in the political process when Michael Ignatieff, leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, visited the University of Calgary last Thursday, as a part of his tour of 11 campuses across Canada.

About 300 people attended the official opposition leader's speech in the MacEwan Students' Centre Ballroom, where 15 attendees were able to address Ignatieff with questions.

"Of course I want you to get out and vote Liberal, but I know in this room there are people that support other political parties and I welcome you here today," said Ignatieff. "What I care about is that you get involved. What I care about is that you vote."

Ignatieff said that key elements must be taken into account as Canada approaches its 150th anniversary.

"Carbon will have a price. We can't keep using the atmosphere like a garbage dump," he explained. "We won't have an economy unless we go green. We've got to innovate, innovate and innovate in energy use and consumption right now."

He also noted that for 40 years the Canadian economy has been based on a 60-cent dollar. As the Canadian currency becomes more valuable, the economy will have to adjust and become more knowledge and innovation based.

Ignatieff said the global markets of the future lie within China, India, Brazil and Africa. Canada's economy has always been heavily based on the United States economy, but stressed that needs to change soon.

"We've got an aging population," Ignatieff continued. "Your generation goes out in the world at 18 per cent youth unemployment . . . with the prospect that very soon there are going to be huge and surging health care [and retirement] costs . . . and that's coming squarely onto your shoulders."

"I haven't got all the answers, but I've got a few ideas about what we absolutely must do," he admitted.

Ignatieff further explained that the future economy will not be based on natural resources, but intellectual property. Post-secondary education will be essential and we must compete with other countries to become the best educated society in the world.

Though he is criticized for spending 27 years living outside of Canada, Ignatieff said it helped him gain a new perspective on and appreciation for his home country.

"Believe me, I'm not visiting. I'm home," he said.

Ignatieff asked for students' ideas to form acceptable copyright legislation that would enable free access to information, but also protect the creators. Ignatieff said it is especially important to him because he lived



Daniel Pagan/the gauntlet

The University of Calgary was one of 11 stops on a cross Canada campus tour for Michael Ignatieff.

off his copyrights for 18 years as a writer.

Prime Minister Harper's prorogation of parliament has given Ignatieff a new platform. He said that prorogation is a legitimate power of the prime minister, but must never be used to evade the investigation of the government by parliament.

"My instinct here is that a lot of the conventions here that keep us free are not constitutional," he continued. "They are not legal. They are understandings in the public and political class that there are certain things you do not do — even though you can do

them — and this is one of them."

A student inquiry about UN Security Council decisions prompted Ignatieff to address his past views on the Iraq war. He originally supported the war, but admitted that he was wrong at the time and believes it was a mistake.

He did, however, support the war in Afghanistan because the Canadian military is there with the approval of the Afghan government and the UN Security Council.

One student asked if the Canadian government should have a higher priority for defending imprisoned

and tortured Chinese intellectuals in China over the captured members of the Taliban.

"Taliban detainees have human rights too," Ignatieff replied. "The proposition that you shouldn't care about those detainees because they're Taliban misunderstands what those human rights are."

"Canada must be consistent to oppose human rights violations no matter where they happen," he continued. "Just because China is big and powerful doesn't mean that Canada should back down on this issue."

Co-curricular record celebrates one year on campus

Brent Constantin

News Editor

Co-curricular is in the vernacular.

The University of Calgary's co-curricular record has been recognizing students' out-of-classroom experiences, and on Jan. 20 the school celebrated the success of the program's first year.

The CCR, which records a student's non-

academic campus involvement in areas like clubs, campus media or intramural sports on a document coupled with their academic transcript, has attracted 4,900 students to list their achievements so far.

"Very likely that by the time we finish eating this cake we will be 5,000 students strong," said Meghan Houghton, acting associate vice-provost of student success, addressing the crowd.

Students' Union president Charlotte Kings-

ton said that the growing number of students involved with the CCR shows that student apathy is on the decline at the school and that "the game has changed" when it comes to involvement on campus.

"I think you would be hard pressed to find anything else that influences so many students," said Kingston.

This marks the second phase of the project, which hopes to see even more students

get involved to show potential employers a wider view of their experience while at university.

"The CCR is a ready symbol of our changing culture at the University of Calgary," said Kingston. "Canada can look at the U of C and see that we are leaders."

Students interested in creating their co-curricular record can go online to ccr.ucalgary.ca.

What do you think of Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff coming to campus?



"I'm indifferent."
– Denis Ristic,
third-year geological sciences



"Depends. I'm not really politically oriented, but it's good for some people."
– Fatima Ghanem,
second-year biological sciences



"It's good for kids taking government and political courses."
– Jessica Garcia,
first-year language and linguistics



"I don't know too much about him, but I didn't like him when I heard him speak on television."
– Mitchell Dow,
fourth-year engineering

University considers new non-academic misconduct policy

Student government examines university-proposed changes

Cam Cotton-O'Brien
Editor-in-Chief

In the interest of streamlining the current process and addressing the concerns of some students, a new non-academic misconduct policy will be considered for implementation at the next general faculties council meeting on February 4.

Currently, each faculty handles non-academic misconduct cases. The proposed policy would institute a university-wide committee to deal with these concerns instead. University of Calgary vice-provost (students) Ann Tierney suggested the new policy reflected student concerns with the clarity of the current non-academic regime, as well as a desire to open up more options to be pursued when applying sanctions to non-academic misconduct issues.

"The goal of the policy is to deal with non-academic misconduct in an educational way and non-punitively," said Tierney.

Students' Union president Charlotte Kingston said that

when academic units independently determine non-academic misconduct issues, rules are often applied differentially across campus.

"The case that's usually cited is that there were four residence students charged with non-academic misconduct, and all four of them got different sanctions," she said.

Kingston explained that the proposed policy is also intended to address student concerns that the non-academic hearings, which have to this point involved their faculties' dean, could have an impact on them academically.

"Our small faculties have a real intimidation factor when they have to deal directly with their deans," she said.

su student rights advisor Robert Clegg, pointing out that non-academic misconduct issues generally affected the university as a whole rather than a single faculty, was comfortable with the change.

"I do think it's a logical approach to take, to separate the academic from the non-academic....From a

practical point of view it would be a lot easier — one stop instead of 17," said Clegg.

Another potential change from the current non-academic mis-

Students aren't intrinsically knowledgeable about the proceedings, so legal council should be allowed ... In such a serious case, it's only fair that we allow them to seek legal council."

— Chris Kalantzis, Social Sciences representative

conduct policy was proposed by the su after a lengthy Student Academic Assembly meeting Monday night.

"We proposed the amendment that would allow for legal council in the case of concurrent criminal proceedings for students," said Kingston. "The amendment was adopted by GFC steering and will go forward to the GFC as part of the non-academic misconduct policy."

The question of whether or not students should be allowed to utilize legal council if they are criminally charged for an action at the same time as they face a non-

academic misconduct hearing for the action was an important one for Social Sciences representative Chris Kalantzis.

"Students aren't intrinsically knowledgeable about the proceedings, so legal council should be allowed," he said.

"In such a serious case, it's only fair that we allow them to seek legal council." James Thomas, Student Legal Assistance student director

2010, also felt that legal representation in such situations was warranted.

"Given that we already extend representation to people facing criminal charges, I think it's appropriate, particularly in light of the complexity of such matters, that people have assistance throughout the whole process," said Thomas.

Under the current policy students aren't allowed to seek legal council at all for non-academic misconduct cases. The slight proposed change to allow students legal council when they face concurrent criminal charges — but only then — reflects the opinion that having lawyers present at all levels of the hearings may overly formalize matters and potentially escalate the situation.

"The general sentiment was that it just overly-complicates the situation," said Kingston.

Students will be allowed to bring the ombudsperson, su rights advisor, any elected student representative, a friend or family member to their hearings.

Harper's prorogation controversy continues

Amy Badry
Gauntlet News

On Dec. 30, 2009 Stephen Harper decided to prorogue parliament, which has become a contentious issue for many Canadians. Rallies and protests across the country are being planned. The Facebook page "Canadians against the proroguing of Parliament" has grown to over 200,000 members, while "Canadians for the proroguing of Parliament" has less than 500.

"Overall I think the whole prorogation issue is way overblown, in the big scheme of things this is really a very minor episode," said University of Calgary political science professor Tom Flanagan.

Parliament has been "postponed" by 22 working days and will resume March 3. This is the

105th time Parliament has been prorogued since confederation and Flanagan said there is "Nothing unusual about it."

The Prime Minister has the power to control parliament's timetable.

"Opposition parties have been quite clever about what they did with this issue," said Flanagan, a former campaign manager for Harper. "Seizing the opportunity to criticize the government and making the proroguing of parliament seem undemocratic."

Proroguing parliament has advantages for Harper. It is an opportunity to reorganize committees and the senate and to shelve the investigation of the Afghanistan committee.

"It doesn't mean the inquiry will go away," said Flanagan, "it will

give the government a chance to come up with a different strategy to deal with it."

Under Canadian law it is illegal to transfer a prisoner of war into the care of a government known or suspected to torture prisoners. Reports have circulated that Afghan authorities were abusing prisoners.

"Opposition parties are saying that they are all war criminals but realistically this was a new mission and the Canadians were understaffed and under equipped . . . there were lots of things to do in addition to worrying about what happened to prisoners," said Flanagan who called the Afghan committee's behaviour "shameful" and was glad to see it be shut down.

Michael Ignatieff, leader of the

Liberal party of Canada, disagrees.

"Prorogation is a power of the Prime Minister that can be used in only certain circumstances and not in others," he said during a talk at the U of C on Jan. 14. "When legislation is completed and you want to reset and come back with a new legislative agenda for example . . . that is prorogation as I understand it and that is not prorogation as Harper understands it."

Ignatieff said there have been proposals to limit prorogation by statute, but that it needs to be studied further and the implications considered.

In regards to the accusations that parliament is taking a vacation Flanagan said the issue is irrelevant. MPs have other work that they do in their own constituen-

cies while parliament is not in session.

Flanagan did not see the prorogation as having any long-term effects.

"It's enlivened an otherwise dull time politically," said Flanagan.

A rally is being planned for Jan. 23 at Harper's constituency office in Calgary. Scott Payne, committee member for the Calgary rally, feels that Harper has "undermined our democratic institutions."

The non-partisan group wants to generate discussion and ensure that Calgarians have a place to voice concerns. Payne indicated that there are a number of different rallies across the country which the group hopes will have an effect and hold Harper accountable for his "unjustified proroguing of parliament."

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ROADHOUSE

U of C prof researches decline of braille

New audio reader technology has potential to negatively affect blind literacy

Daniel Pagan
Gauntlet News

New adaptive technology and the decline of braille education in public schools could result in a shift from a literate society to a new oral culture among blind people.

Last year, the National Federation of the Blind reported that less than 10 per cent of 1.3 million visually impaired Americans read braille. According to the *New York Times*, the report pointed out that only one in 10 blind children learn braille today, compared to half of all blind children in 1950.

University of Calgary Commu-

nication and Culture professor Doug Brent is gloomy about how audio readers, like the Kindle, would change blind students' literacy for the worse.

Brent decided to investigate the effects of audio readers and the lack of braille education on blind students after his wife, Diana Brent, noticed an unusual pattern in her classes with visually impaired students.

The couple compared stories written by students who used audio readers to those who read braille. The preliminary results suggested that students who never learned braille would not master writing habits later.

"The preliminary results from this extremely small sample suggested that students who did not learn to use braille as a regular communication medium did not learn fully literate habits of mind."

Brent said their writing tended to be disorganized. However, their stories also bore characteristics of oral stories, such as fantastic characters, larger than life plots and non-logical events.

"This would not apply to people who lost their sight later — they seldom become proficient at braille, and arguably don't need to. But some kind of linear alphabetic literacy seems important to early development."

Brent referred to literary scholar Walter Ong to explain the differences between oral and written cultures. Ong argues that members of literate societies tend to think in a sequential and linear nature based on writing, compared to people who share an oral culture.

Brent explained the lack of a linear alphabet could hold students back in their writing. Without it, students may struggle with concepts such as abstract logic, linear thinking, logical classification and coherently organized paragraphs.

"Oral cultures developed elabo-



Daniel Pagan/The Gauntlet

Communication and Culture professor Doug Brent is wary about the impact that the rise of audio readers and the decline of braille will have on the blind.

rate systems of poetic forms to organize thinking, but these students don't have access to them either," said Brent. "We worry that they could be caught in an in-between world, living in a literate culture without the full resources of literacy. Blind children are routinely taught braille but it is not always heavily reinforced, and some claim that it is obsolete."

Braille textbooks are expensive and bulky — a single one can cost

more than \$1,000. The *New York Times* noted a braille press printed the Harry Potter series in 56 volumes, each nearly a foot tall.

"Publishers are so terrified that their products will go like music that it is often hard to get rights to the digital files, even when they already exist," explained Brent. "It's such a waste of time."

He warned more studies with larger sample sizes are necessary for conclusive data.

NOTICE OF NOMINATION DAYS

THE STUDENTS' UNION, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Days are Monday, February 8 to Wednesday, February 10, 2010 (and Thursday, February 11 if necessary) and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the Students' Union, MSC 251 between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on Nomination Days.

Offices Available	Number of Vacancies:
President	1
Vice President Academic	1
Vice President External	1
Vice President Operations and Finance	1
Vice President Student Life	1
Faculty Representatives, Arts	4
Faculty Representative, Education	1
Faculty Representatives, Haskayne School of Business	2
Faculty Representative, Kinesiology	1
Faculty Representative, Law	1
Faculty Representative, Medicine	1
Faculty Representative, Nursing	1
Faculty Representatives, Schulich School of Engineering	2
Faculty Representatives, Science	2
Faculty Representative, Social Work	1
Faculty Representative, Veterinary Medicine	1

Referendum Question:

Do you support a \$1.25 increase per full-time student in each of the Fall and Winter sessions (from \$1.00 to \$2.25 per session) and establishing a \$0.50 increase per part-time student in both of the Fall and Winter sessions, Spring session, and Summer session (from \$0.50 to \$1.00) to sponsor refugee students at The University of Calgary through the WUSC student refugee program?

Chief Returning Officer: Alastair McKinnon
Students' Union, MSC 251 (cro@ucalgary.ca)

Dated at the University of Calgary in the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta, this 25th day of January, 2010.



As of January 25, 2010, nomination packages will be available online at www.su.ucalgary.ca or at the SU main office. Visit www.su.ucalgary.ca for more information.

'Rebooting' apathetic Alberta's politics

James Jeffrey
Gauntlet News

Alberta is a province beset by apathy, but according to a new initiative aiming to "reboot" Albertans, this no longer has to be the case.

Following poor voter turnout in 2008's general election, Reboot Alberta is attempting to channel Albertans' frustrations with provincial politics. Through web-based forums, blogs and, most recently, a planned gathering in Kananaskis, project founders are determined to alter how regional politics are perceived.

"We're looking at changing people's perspectives," said Ken Chapman, an Edmonton-based lawyer and co-founder of Reboot Alberta.

Chapman and most members of the initiative have no intention of forming an alternative party; instead, they want to openly explore

and articulate problems they see facing the province.

The project was started by Chapman and three others who believe that progressive voices are being stifled in Alberta.

The four organized an invitation-only meeting last November, attended by 89 people from 22 different communities, all concerned with the province's direction.

According to Chapman, people of all political stripes were at the gathering, including members of Renew Alberta, which may become Alberta's newest political party.

Self-identifying as centrists, Renew Alberta is working to gain Elections Alberta recognition, which requires a petition signed by 7,050 electors or about 0.03 per cent of eligible Alberta voters.

According to Chapman, Renew Alberta did not spawn from Reboot Alberta, but runs parallel, focusing on a grassroots political

movement defined by voter input.

Chapman supports the party, but emphasizes the tendency of new parties to fall short of their promises.

"[Renew Alberta] has to be new and different," he said. "It's easy to fall back to the old ways."

The party, like Reboot Alberta, is already facing criticism for its lack of specific alternatives. The label "progressive" is used throughout the Reboot Alberta website, which had several people asking what that actually means.

"We want people to grapple with that question," said Chapman, who explained the phrase is intentionally vague as a way to encourage inquiry.

Those interested in joining Reboot's dialogue may do so online at rebootalberta.org. Reboot will also be hosting a conference in Kananaskis called Reboot Alberta 2.0 February 26-28.

History professor long way from Israel

Emily Ask
News Assistant

The Arab-Israeli conflict is perhaps one of the most complex situations in the world and David Tal has come from his home in Tel Aviv to share and continue his research on the subject by joining the University of Calgary as Kahanoff Chair of Israeli Studies.

“...people are very, very uninformed... even academics are influenced by what they see on TV... in many cases they don't see the process that leads to that situation, they don't understand the context.”

– David Tal, U of C Kahanoff Chair of Israeli Studies

“Certainly, people are very, very uninformed,” said Tal. “Not only the general public, but even academics are influenced by what they see on TV, what they read in newspapers... usually it is the very present event and... in many cases they don't see the process that leads to that situation, they don't understand the context.”

This semester is Tal's first at the U of C. He received his PhD in History from Tel Aviv University, where he subsequently taught from 1995–2005. He then accepted posi-

tions at Emory University in Atlanta and Syracuse University in New York before coming to Canada this past July.

“I'm still in the process of getting to know what is going on around me,” Tal grinned. “Canadians are very nice people, [and] this university looks like a very good one... my colleagues [have] welcomed me in a very warm way.”

Tal has been a popular invite across Canada, having spoken at Montreal's McGill University, Queen's University in Ontario and the University of Ottawa, among others. Recently Tal gave a talk hosted by the U of C's International Relations Club based on one of his books, *Israel's Conception of Current Security: Origins and Development, 1949–1956*.

Tal explained that historians must consider how people understood the events happening around them at the time, not just

the objective realities we see today.

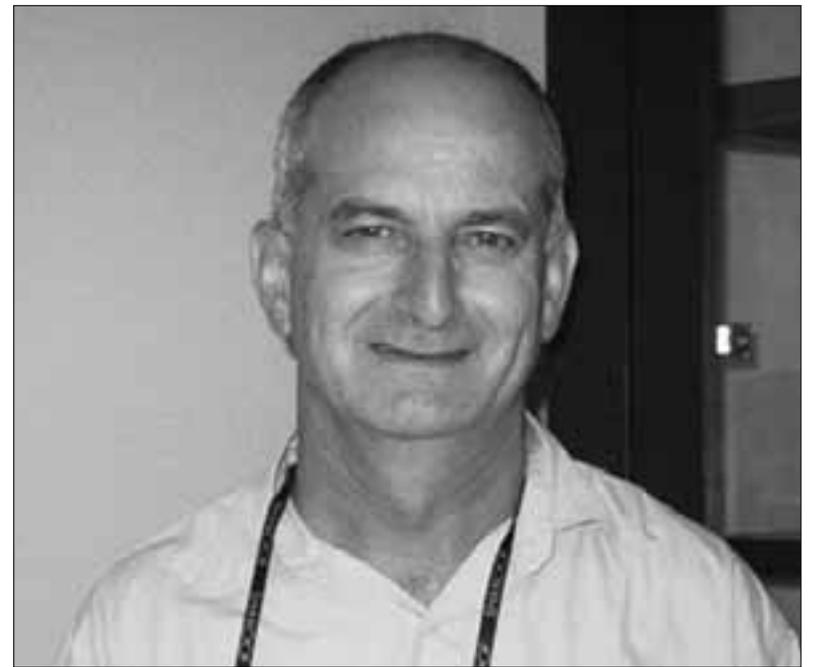
“As a historian I have an access to documents that they didn't have, and I have access to events that surround them in a way that they didn't have,” he said. “But it would be wrong to judge them in their mistakes. [Myself] knowing that reality has nothing to do with what the people of the time knew.”

Though he has many academic responsibilities, Tal told the *Gauntlet* that the focus of his work is ultimately driven by his own interests.

After writing two books about Israel and editing a third, he decided to challenge himself by researching a topic he was not familiar with. His book *The American Nuclear Disarmament Dilemma, 1945–1963* was published in 2008. The book addresses the question, “Why did the United States first attempt to negotiate disarmament and fail?”

“On the one hand, the United States, like other nations, were strongly committed to the idea of disarmament for... ideological and moral reasons,” Tal explained. “But, dramatically, they were not ready to give up nuclear weapons. So the dilemma was to bring together these two issues: the moral values and the military and strategic necessity.”

“Despite the fact that, in my



Gauntlet file photo

Tal is in the process of writing a book on the Yom Kippur War.

work, I'm not writing as an Israeli but as a historian... to a great extent [writing this book] was an interesting experience,” he continued. “It reflects also in my work on Israel [regarding] how to approach issues and how, really, to remain as objective as possible.”

Tal has just started researching a book on the 1973 war between Egypt, Israel and Syria. He plans to return to Israel whenever he can because many documents and books needed for research are there — not

to mention it is his home.

The U of C library has offered funds to buy books in Hebrew, so Tal plans to enrich the library with some when he returns from Israel. He also says the university may possibly offer Hebrew classes in the future — something that might be useful for students wishing to read Hebrew books.

Tal is enthusiastic to continue his research and organize programs and events as the Kahanoff Chair of Israeli Studies at the U of C.

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On Haiti, God, and the case for aid

Eric Mathison

Fighting Words



“Underlying all earthquakes is the idea of Fault,” says a character in Salman Rushdie’s novel *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*, which begins with an earthquake that kills the female protagonist, and then jumps back to trace her life from beginning to end. Rushdie is a master story-teller who wonderfully describes the search all people face to answer the difficult question: Why did this happen?

For over a week people in Haiti have been asking that question. Death toll estimates are as high as 200,000, and that number will grow as a more accurate picture of the disaster takes shape. Such atrocities are hard to reconcile with beliefs.

As a matter of fact, we know the reason that the earthquake occurred near Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince. Christopher Hitchens, who also happens to be Rushdie’s friend, puts it well: “It’s idiotic to ask whose fault it is. The Earth’s thin shell was quaking and cracking millions of years before human sinners evolved, and it will still be wrenched and convulsed long after we are gone. These geological dislocations have no human-behavioral cause.”

We need not worry about the reasons for an earthquake’s occurrence; we should

be spending our time helping those affected by the disaster, and begin to explore if there are ways that we can understand earthquakes better, increasing the accuracy of our predictions. Although the “why” question may be benign, the answers that some religious dogmatists are giving to it are purely wicked.

Pat Robertson has made news recently for his idiotic diatribe, propounding that a voodoo ceremony in Haiti 200 years ago was the catalyst for the recent earthquake. *National Post* writer Charles Lewis calls this response “strangely comforting be-

cause at least it ‘explains’ what is going on.” What’s incredible is that people like Robertson aren’t on the fringe of society; the channel that aired the devil pact quip, the Christian Broadcasting Network, is seen in 180 countries. Lewis is entirely too soft about Robertson’s opinion, taking it as one of the many possible explanations people might want to hear. Meanwhile religious leaders of all stripes have been lining up to denounce Robertson, stating that his view is inconsiderate and theologically unsound — whatever that means.

Robertson’s fatuity is unique for

it’s degree, but it isn’t a difference in kind. Elsewhere people are preaching the necessity of faith in trying times, trusting that God will make sense of the disaster he allowed, and thereby provide hope. In Lewis’ article he cites Father Okoye’s view that “the workings of the universe are beyond human comprehension.” This is obviously true, but whereas theology is content with that conclusion, science and philosophy have treated it as the beginning of exploring the limits of that comprehension. (Of course, the universe’s workings are not so incomprehensible as they once were, and we don’t have religion to thank for that advancement.)

Surely, you might say, in spite of the doubt surrounding its truth value, religion still has an important role to play in providing aid to Haitians. Yes, many religious groups have no doubt done good humanitarian work. Hitchens points out, however, that no good deed exists that a person of faith can do that a nonbeliever can’t. So regardless of your metaphysical persuasions, there’s no reason why you shouldn’t contribute to the plight of those in need.

Many people in other parts of the world — in particular Africa, where the AIDS policy of the Catholic Church has shown the harms that can come from fallacious beliefs — have needs that are just as great, but have existed far longer. The plight of Haiti is certainly deserving, but we should be contributing just as much aid, only more frequently than we currently do, to other parts of the world.

Letter: unsettling times

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,

So another decade has ended and a New Year has begun, but while the economists have expressed optimism that the bleak times of the recession are behind us one is left pondering what 2010 will bring for the University of Calgary; I suspect it will be a rather unsettling year.

The despondency of 2009 was marked by the layoffs in the fall of 200-plus support staff, including myself. Streamlining became the operative word; yet it isn’t enhancing services at the university. Prior to the layoffs many support staff were already feeling over-worked, under-appreciated and drained. The low morale amongst the support staff appears to contradict the almighty recruitment slogan that the university is “a Great Place to Work and Learn.” While 80 or so personnel lost their jobs in the fall it wasn’t long before the decision-

makers in management began looking at using a staffing agency to recruit PeopleSoft contract workers. It begs the question, is the outsourcing of U of C support jobs the direction management wants to move the university towards? If so, what is the university’s vision in terms of providing services to staff and students?

During the layoffs it became clear that support staff were being forced to bear the brunt of the terminations because of what those above like to refer to as “budget constraints.” Yet, it is difficult to justify the laying off of support staff while increasing the number of highly paid managerial and professional positions. In December alone nine managerial and professional jobs for the 1S2 project were posted. How cost effective are these recruitments? When one looks at the organizational hierarchies within the university it becomes

increasingly clear the university is already top heavy; the university has more directors and associate directors than several large corporations combined. Upper management seems to have lost focus and forgotten that the University of Calgary is an academic institution and not a corporation. As a result, the support staff, academics and students alike are paying the price. Not surprisingly then, support staff and academics increasingly feel that management is failing to value them; yet, we should not forget that support staff and academics are the university’s greatest resource.

Regrettably, the union is impotent. What might come as a surprise to most support staff is that seniority is not what they assume it to be. A full-time experienced employee with many years’ service can be let go in favour of a limited term inexperienced employee in the same job category. The university

can, because it has done so, break Article 40 of the AUPE Collective Agreement on the redeployment of any employee made redundant. As the union enters a new bargaining agreement in 2010, it has a responsibility to ensure that full-time employees are better protected. And while the union cannot organize strike action, there is nothing stopping the union from organizing lunchtime peaceful gatherings protesting any future layoffs at the U of C. The union needs to show solidarity with their support staff members.

Whoever the next president of the university is in 2010, he or she is certain to have a tough road ahead of them. It won’t be about approving the construction of more buildings — the university doesn’t even have the people to service existing buildings — but rather about building bridges between upper management and the

support staff and academics, in addition to providing students with the quality of education and service they deserve.

M. Patricia Gordon

Former U of C employee/alumnus



Late night comedy is serious, serious business

Savannah Hall
Gauntlet Opinions



The prestigious peacock is no longer. NBC, formerly known as the more intelligent and esteemed network, has become cheap and tawdry. A few months ago NBC moved late night king, Jay Leno to a primetime spot in an effort to produce a cheaper alternative to the sitcom as well as give Leno something to do. Like others before him, he passed the torch to Conan O'Brien to host *The Tonight Show*, leaving Conan's *Late Night* spot for Jimmy Fallon.

NBC hoped that Leno's celebrity status and already established brand would create a successful primetime show. Producing one and paying one celebrity salary for five nights a week is more cost effective than producing five different shows. They figured that if Leno had good ratings at 11:30 p.m. ET, moving him to 10 p.m. ET would only bring more people.

A number of problems came from this move, not only poor ratings on Leno's new show. They failed to realize that those who watch late night television are not necessarily those who watch primetime shows. But because people stopped tuning into Leno, they weren't watching their local news after the primetime spot, maddening NBC affiliates.

To add insult to injury they were

having a harder time getting celebrities to sit down with Leno. Other networks did not want their leading ladies and lads to appear on Leno, which sometimes aired against the very same show the guest was promoting. These celebrities are the show's bread and butter, which is built around such interviews. Sure NBC could use this new show as a platform to promote their shows and their partners' products. As of right now NBC is owned by General Electric, the world's largest company, which also owns Bravo, Oxygen, Telemundo and Universal. So they were guaranteed to have the stars working with those networks and movie studios, but that could not solve all their problems. Since NBC primetime was destroyed by *The Jay Leno Show* they lost many stars and much celebrity power. Other than Universal Studios, those other networks are not on the top of the audience's wish list.

Now they want to move Leno back to his original time and shift the other shows back. Conan did not agree with this, refused to take the demotion and is now left out in the cold. Conan lacks Leno's celebrity so NBC seems to not care about his future. Which appears harsh, but they have to save an entire network from disaster. It's only right that they would reinstate Leno to try and return things to the way they were before their major miscalculation.

NBC stepped out on a limb trying to change their programming into a cheap commodity. They figured society has become so celebrity-



obsessed that viewers would abandon their primetime favourites to watch Leno sit down with various stars. It's somewhat comforting to know that society still demands quality in their primetime shows. This left NBC in a tight spot because now they are scrambling to fix their disaster of a network.

To make matters worse, Comcast and GE are in a business deal that will leave the controversial cable giant, Comcast, with a 51 per cent stake in NBC Universal. Oh, how the mighty have fallen.

A letter to NBC

Dear NBC,

The past few years have seen your stock fall in the eyes of television viewers. Your once-proud network now boasts only a single block of solid programming — Thursday's line-up of *Parks & Recreation*, *The Office*, *Community* and *30 Rock* — after a series of poor decisions.

And let's face it, you really lucked into having any of those shows in the first place: *The Office* was originally jettisoned onto the craptacular Tuesday night timeslot while the horrid *Friends* spin-off *Joey* dragged Thursday nights down. Yet, all four shows were allowed time to find audiences and managed to survive.

That brings me to Conan O'Brien.

People in my age group seem to hold Conan in high esteem. He wrote for *The Simpsons* during what's generally considered to be the show's best creative period — his run from 1991–1993 saw him write such classics as "Marge vs. the Monorail," "Homer Goes to College" and "New Kid on the Block" where Bart Simpson fell in love.

O'Brien's particular brand of comedy struck a chord with audiences because it assumed that we all had brains that worked. Similar to David Letterman, O'Brien never explained every aspect of a joke to ensure that we got it. His jokes weren't based on making people look stupid nor were they simply finding typos in newspapers.

O'Brien's brilliantly surreal, absurdist style of humour was never given a chance on NBC. It's obvious to me now that the success of unique shows on the network is entirely accidental and that quality programming is, at best, an aberration.

I hereby submit my resignation as an NBC viewer, effective January 22.

Yours truly,

Ryan Pike

Opinions Editor

February is Wellness Month!

Kat Lord
VP Events



Dear Student Body,

The Winter Olympics are coming to Canada this February and it's a great time to get into the spirit of wellness. Once again the SU is offering you a slew of wellness options throughout February. There's something for everyone, from mental wellness to physical fitness. Simply visit the SU website at www.su.ualgary.ca and find something that interests you.

One thing I'm really excited about is the Push-Up Challenge taking place on Monday February 8th in the North Courtyard in partnership with the Strength and Fitness Club. Come out and compete for charity!

I'm also very excited to host a series of Wellness Workshops over the lunch hour on Monday February 1st and Monday February 8th from 12-1pm in That Empty Space. Come out and learn about 'nutrition on a budget' and 'keeping a healthy life balance' while enjoying a free lunch. RSVP to suvpeve@ualgary.ca if you're interested.

We're also bringing back Sex Toy Bingo on Tuesday February 1st from 3:30-5pm in The Den and Perogies and Porn

Thursday February 11th from 12-2pm in That Empty Space. Risque, non?

I'd also like to highlight some other wellness initiatives taking place across campus:

Campus Recreation is offering a fitness challenge and you can win a lot of sweet prizes! Sign up for the Light Your Fire Challenge at www.ualgaryrecreation.ca/2010 and track your activity levels from January 19th-February 12th to participate.

The SU Wellness Centre is offering wellness workshops and you get a full listing of what they've got lined up at www.ualgary.ca/counselling/wellnessworkshops. Seriously, they're free and amazing.

Plus, the Wellness and Health Awareness Team, a group of student volunteers, is offering a Cookbook Challenge. Submit your own recipe or design the art for the cover. Enter your submissions at what@ualgary.ca to win a gift certificate to the University of Calgary Bookstore.

Finally, the SU is proud to partner with the Stop Racism Committee for Black History Month during February. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events!

so SU me!
www.su.ualgary.ca

Learning to love political elitism

What's so bad about letting educated people govern?

Kim Nursall

My Mom Says I'm a Bigot



In light of Conservative MP Tony Clement's comments detailing who exactly cares about prorogation — "I know it's a big issue with the Ottawa media elite and some of the elites in our country" — it is painfully obvious that being labelled an "elite" is a political insult. Clement's words are offensive to Canadians. They show contempt for those who care about prorogation by belittling their numbers and categorizing protesters as part of the "chattering classes." Although undeniably disrespectful in terms of downplaying the anti-prorogation movement, it is Clement's characterization of "elites" that concerns me.

"Elite" derives from the latin for "elect," although its definition differs from the democratic implications we've come to associate with that word. It means those who — through effort and talent — "elect" themselves as qualified to lead, and teach, by example.

Elitism is the belief or attitude that individuals who are considered members of the elite — individuals who, for example, display



outstanding personal abilities, intellect, specialized training or experience — are those whose views on a matter are to be taken the most seriously or carry the

most weight; whose opinions or actions are most likely to be constructive to society as a whole; or whose extraordinary skills, abilities or wisdom render them

especially fit to govern. Unfortunately, the term has been spun to denote people as out of touch with the common person — the "average Joe or Jane" — or as behaving aristocratic or snobbish. The implication is that the alleged elitist individual regards themselves as superior, and therefore places their needs and interests before those of others. As a result, a term which should be complimentary has become a sound bite slur, and creates the populist notion that we should be electing the "common man" to represent our needs.

Barack Obama, in his campaign to win the Democratic nomination and, in turn, be elected President, had to downplay his education at upper-crust Columbia and Harvard universities. Although his intelligence and ability to govern were undoubtedly enhanced by his academic career, his attendance at the prestigious schools was said to have put him "out-of-touch" with average Americans. Not only is this pathetic political spin potentially damaging to a politician's campaign, it undermines the notion that a good, if not great, education is important. If we start insulting our political leaders because of their academic portfolios, we are sending the message that education and intelligence are not

essential for governance, as they cause people to lose touch with average individuals — which is demeaning not only to the accused elitist but to average individuals as well.

Here in Canada, Liberal Party leader Michael Ignatieff has suffered in the polls for a number of reasons, including his labelling as an "academic," an "elite" and, God forbid, "intelligent." If we are to believe the received wisdom, this man is clearly unfit to govern.

However, because staying in touch with voters is unquestionably important, especially in a democracy, it seems that so-called "elites" have the greatest capacity for such a role. It requires a higher-than-average level of intelligence to understand and effectively argue on such diverse issues as the isotope shortage, the Economic Action Plan or the intricacies of a cap-and-trade system. Frankly, I want an elite governing my country and representing me in Parliament. When I consider the interests of the "common people," I do not see being "out-of-touch" with such plebeian activities as watching *Jersey Shore* or listening to Rush Limbaugh as an impediment to one's ability to govern. So next time you are labelled an "elite," say "thanks," and then, please, get elected.

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A CLASH OF THE TITANS!

Google and China lock horns over censorship issues

Rhiannon Kirkland
Gauntlet Opinions



China is known to limit freedom of speech and has attacked activists'

rights in the past. The battle over censorship in China recently took a new turn with cyber attacks on the Gmail accounts of known Chinese dissidents. In response, Google said it is no longer willing to censor its Google China website and will pull out of China if need be. Google was criticized for initially agreeing to

cancel content when they set up Google China.

Until recently, Google China users were unable to find information on touchy topics like Tiananmen Square where searches would not return images or information about the student protests. This could soon come to an end.

What happens now is in the hands of China's leadership. If they don't want to back

down, there is nothing to force them to. They have the power to do what they like and if they don't want an uncensored Google in China they don't have to have one.

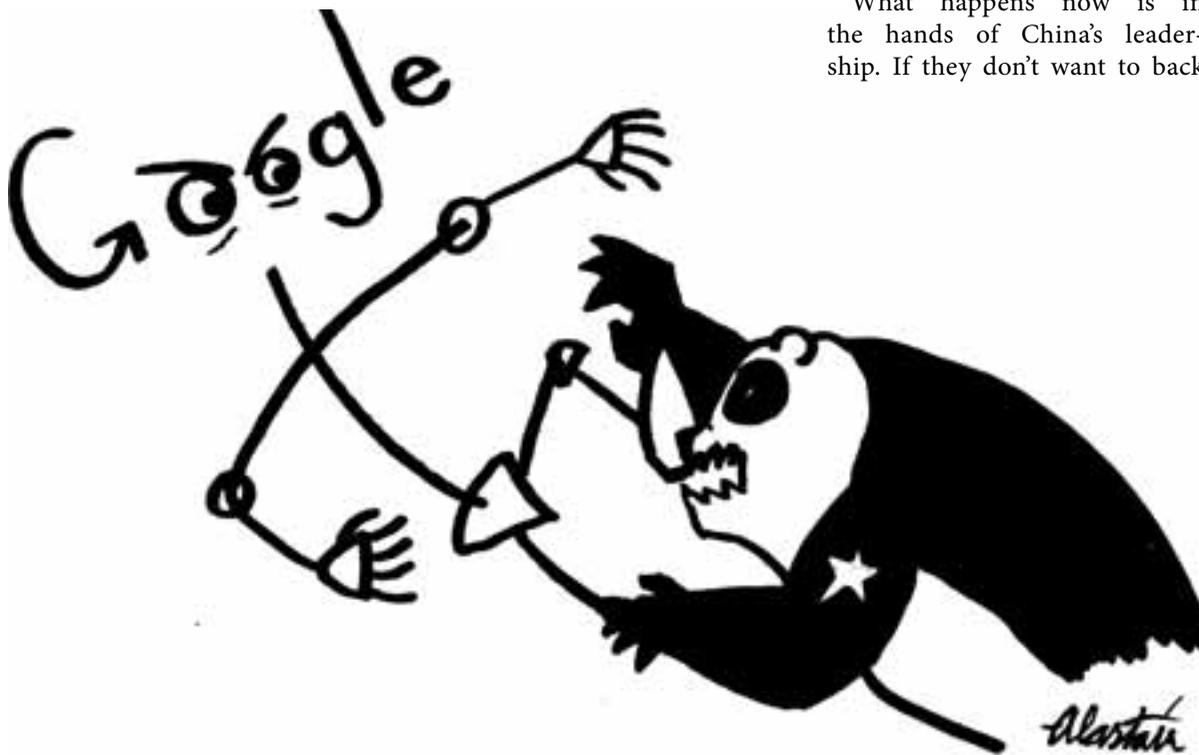
If any company has the ability and size to pressure China, it's Google. Google has been playing along for years and it's good they have finally decided to take action.

Google is only used for about a third of searches in China. Its domestic competitor Baidu controls the majority of the market and would be more than ca-

pable of taking over for Google. Google's threats are thus slightly less potent, because China can live without their services.

Even if this doesn't change anything — which it likely won't — Google deserves credit for at least trying. Their actions will provide leadership for other companies that want to put pressure on China. The United States has backed Google's message by pressuring China too and asking questions about the attacks on Google.

The pressure may not work, but it's better than nothing.



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The SU exists to serve and represent the University of Calgary undergraduates. Through a unified voice we are dedicated to enhancing the quality of student life and the educational experience.



Marquee match Saturday at the Jack

Jon Roe

Sports Editor

Here come the Thunderbirds. Number one in the country. Unbeaten at 11-0 so far in this men's basketball season. Runners-up at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship last season. The team that knocked the Dinos out of the tournament. The team the Dinos beat to take the conference title last year. The team that knocked the Dinos off at home in the Canada West final four the year before.

To say there's a lot of history there would be an understatement. So it would to say that this game isn't anticipated. But that's Saturday and the Dinos still have a capable University of Victoria Vikes team to take on Friday.

Head coach Dan Vanhooren is confident that his veteran squad won't look past the Vikes to what is the marquee match-up of the regular season.

"We need to play Vic first," says Vanhooren. "That certainly could be a challenge for our players, or maybe an inexperienced team, but we have some experienced guys and they know not to look past Victoria. If they do look past Victoria, then we'll lose on Friday night."

"I think we have a good group of guys who know we have to focus on the first game," agrees fifth-year Robbie Sihota. "I don't think it's going to be a big challenge for us."

The Vikes currently sit at 7-4, third in the Pacific Division, and play a tight defensive style. They're second in the conference in points-allowed per game, behind only the T-Birds. And the Dinos are coming off a narrow home-loss to the hated University of Alberta Golden Bears last weekend.

Anyone can beat anyone on a given night in men's basketball in the CIS, as Vanhooren insisted, but as long as the team learned from last weekend, he's confident they will be able to stay focused on the remaining games, as they come up on the schedule.

"All the games right now leading up to the playoffs are simply process games in doing that," says Vanhooren. "As long as our kids stay focused on that concept, then the outcomes aren't nearly as important as getting the little things done within the game itself. If we can keep on that, then our task will become simpler and simpler and we'll peak at the right time."

But with all that being said, the



Gauntlet file photo

The T-Birds knocked the Dinos out of the national tournament last year. The two teams play for the first time since then Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Jack Simpson Gym.

T-Birds and the Dinos are likely to meet again in an important game in the future. They are the two top scoring teams in the conference. And their recent history suggests that regardless of what's on the line, it'll be an exciting game from wire-to-wire.

It's the Dinos big men versus the perimeter play of the T-Birds. The Dinos top guys versus a deep, rotating bench for the T-Birds. And it's

the Dinos four starters who return from that national semi-final loss maybe with a little bit of bad blood left from that meeting in Ottawa.

All this noise about UBC is a lot easier for the Dinos fifth man in the starting line-up Jarred Ogungbemi-Jackson to shut out. As a rookie, it's all new to him and he's just soaking it in.

"I'm trying to learn from the veteran guys what to expect from the bigger games," he says. "You're talk-

ing about UBC being a more of a hated game, I don't see it that way. I see every team as a challenge and us trying to win."

And that's probably the right attitude to take: one game at a time. But here are the Thunderbirds, the number one team in the country. Saturday night could be special.

Follow the Gauntlet on Twitter live during the games this weekend: www.twitter.com/gauntletsports

Swimmers look to repeat as Canada West champions in Lethbridge

Jon Roe

Sports Editor

It's a fairly safe thing to say that the Dinos are favourites to repeat as Canada West champions in swimming this weekend at the University of Lethbridge, for both the men's and women's sides. Their top rival, the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, have 14 new swimmers on their roster and a new coach and the Dinos have lost few from the teams that finished first (the ladies) and second (the men) overall in the country. However, this doesn't mean the Dinos are expecting to swim past the other schools with ease.

"I don't think it'll be a giveaway, by any means, I think we'll have to fight for it," says second-year Jason Block.

That being said, they're balancing those expectations with a healthy dose of confidence.

"We showed everyone last year how well we came together," says fifth-year Katy Murdoch. "We've been building this team since my first year in university, so for five years now. I know we have the best team in Canada right now, so it's really exciting to go into it [the Canada West meet]."

It's a tough balance for a top squad to reach: humble confidence; knowing you're the best if you're at your best without discounting your opponent. After last year's close loss to the Thunderbirds at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships, the men's side knows what happens when they land too far on the side of swagger.

"Going into CIS, I think we weren't expecting the fight other teams were going to put up," says Block. "I think everybody second-year above knows that and knowing that, yes, just because you have a lot of talent doesn't mean you're always going to come up on top."

The conversation for this year's Dinos swim teams has focused on whether they will achieve as expected and top both the conference and the country. Coming in as favourites is a marked shift in

SEE CANADA WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS, pg. 14

Women's hockey team snap 13-game losing streak with back-to-back wins over the Cougars

Chris Pedersen

Photo Editor

The University of Calgary women's hockey team gained a much-needed confidence boost last weekend. On the back of superb goaltending by Katie Urness, the Dinos defeated the Uni-

versity of Regina Cougars 3-2 and 3-0 in back-to-back games. Urness earned her first Canadian Interuniversity Sport shutout. The wins end the Dinos 13-game losing streak, which stretched back to the season opener against the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds.

"It gives us a lot of confidence

and takes a huge weight off our shoulders," says head coach Danielle Goyette. "No matter how hard you work, if you don't get results it brings you down. It's been a long time since we won a game and it gave us a lot of confidence. We have to give credit to Katie [Urness]."

The team has been plagued with injuries this season, one of the many reasons for the string of losses. With a full team against Regina, the Dinos rose to the challenge.

"It was the first time we had a full team," says Goyette. "As a team, we had four lines. When you play with two or three lines you can't be aggressive."

The Dinos changed their offensive strategy, focusing on getting the puck to the net instead of waiting for a perfect opportunity. Goyette believes the trouble scoring was a huge reason for the losses and something had to be done.

"At practice it's about shooting. When you have players who are less talented offensively you have to shoot more. Players can be more selfish and take shots. [The Regina games] were the first time we out-shot the opponents."

The Dinos travel to Winnipeg next weekend to take on the University of Manitoba Bisons where they hope the boost in confidence

will extend their winning streak to four. The Bisons sit in second spot in the Canada West standings while the Dinos are last, two points behind Lethbridge and nine points out of playoff contention. The Dinos last played the Bisons on the large ice at the Olympic Oval, losing back-to-back games in Calgary. Goyette hopes the small ice out east and their Canada West experience will boost the Dinos chances.

"The players were perhaps intimidated at the beginning of the season," she says. "I didn't know if they believed they could win. Now after Christmas, even at practice we are better and have more confidence."

Olympic torch returns to campus



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

The Olympic torch was at C.O.P. this week as well.

Ken Hunt

Gauntlet Sports

The Olympic torch blazed inside the Olympic Oval on Tuesday morning for the first time since Calgary hosted the Olympics in 1988, in front of throngs of eager Canadians. Some 6,000 attendees chose to take advantage of the unique opportunity to watch torchbearers and Olympic speedskaters Susan Auch and Kyle Yoshida each skate two slow laps around the oval with the torch in hand.

The ceremony began with a re-sounding "Good morning Canadians!" from four-time gold medalist Catriona Le May Doan, who went

on to highlight the meaning of the Olympic flame as a symbol of peace and sportsmanship that unites individuals all across Canada. After a brief video montage of notable Olympic moments and torch relay footage, Auch and Yoshida made their rounds followed by the Canadian Olympic speed skating team. Current U of C students Lucas Makowsky, Jeremy Wotherspoon, Denny Morrison and Brittany Schussler were chosen to be a part of the team. 2006 silver medal winner and U of C grad Kristina Groves was also named to the team.

The U of C is the only university in the world with an Olympic facility on campus

date
JAN. 27 - 29

place
MacEwan Centre - North Courtyard

hours
9 - 8

last day
9 - 5

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THE IMAGINUS POSTER SALE

Women's basketball look to snap three-game losing streak

Jon Roe
Sports Editor

After a couple of painful losses to the archrival University of Alberta Pandas last weekend, it doesn't get any easier for the Dinos women's basketball team. The University of Victoria Vikes (7-4) and the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds (9-3) roll into town for games Friday and Saturday, respectively, that take on an added importance because the Dinos now sit in sixth, one win out of a playoff spot.

Head coach Shawnee Harle doesn't think it's all bad, even though the team is currently on a three-game slide to start the new year.

"It's good news, bad news," says Harle. "We've lost our last three in a row . . . but the good news is we're

a good enough team to win all three of those games. The bad news is we didn't.

"You always learn more from losing than you do from winning," she adds. "I hope that bodes well for us because our last three losses have been heart-wrenching, but perhaps those three losses will allow us to win down the stretch when it really matters."

The stretch is now comprised of seven more games, the next four at home and the final three on the road. They're only one win out of the fourth and final playoff spot, but after this week against the Vikes and T-Birds, play back-to-back against the division leading 10-2 University of Regina Cougars.

It's still too early to ramp up the pressure, though, says Harle.

"There's a lot of ball to be played,"

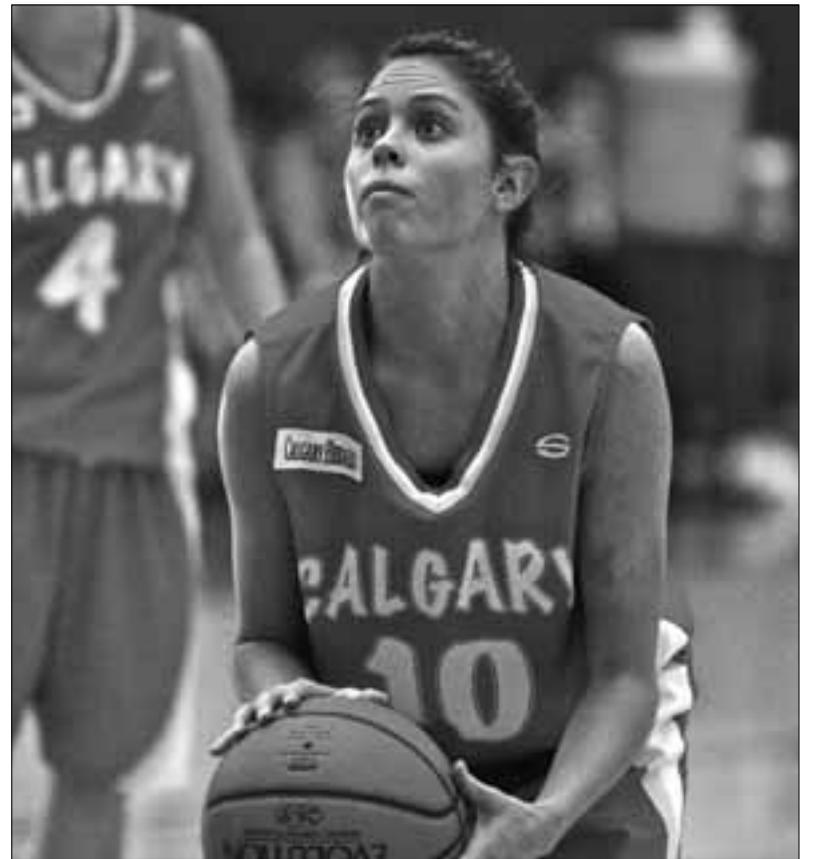
she says. "But I really think our kids need to wake up and start realizing that, you know, this isn't Kansas, Dorothy. This is Canada West basketball and you have to come to win every single night."

There are plenty of positive signs for a team that is currently second in the conference in scoring average, but allow the most points per game. They held the Pandas to 67 points Friday and 65 points on Saturday. But the Dinos were held to 65 points and 61 points, for a combined six-point differential in those two games.

"It's definitely painful and you definitely don't want that ever happening again," says rookie point guard Tilly Ettinger. "But we have a saying on our team, 'What's next?' After every kind of upsetting occurrence, we always want to focus on what's next. We can't change the past, we can only learn from it and try to make it better in the future."

"Definitely the fire burns in all of us, I can guarantee that," agrees first-year guard Tamara Jarrett. "We do not want to have what happened to us, especially in the Alberta games, to ever happen again."

The Dinos are looking at a tough schedule for these four remaining home games and without a few wins, could be looking at a steep



Gauntlet file photo

climb to the playoffs for a three-game road trip to close out the season. Harle knows that this weekend, her team is the underdog in both games. But her and her young Dinos are focusing on what they can do well as a team.

"I know we're the underdogs this

weekend in both games," Harle says. "I also know that both opposing coaches are not looking forward to playing us. . . . We have to get going here and step up to the plate, be ready to play to our strengths and also become a better defensive team."

Canada West championships, cont'd from pg 12

the framework for the Dinos season. For 10 years, the T-Birds won the men's national title before the Dinos dethroned them in 2008 and for 11 years, the T-Birds won the women's national title until the Dinos took the title last year, after fin-

ishing second for eight years. With all the fresh faces on the T-Birds side, this year is another in transition for the powerhouse school and Murdoch couldn't be happier about the progress she's seen in her five years as a Dino.

"We have the confidence now; we didn't when I started," she says. "The atmosphere's completely changed. It's really cool because we can be champions now. . . . This is great. I'm sad that it's my last year."

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Lords and Ladies of this fine university, congratulations for surviving another week! The nostalgia of holidays has officially set in, and I find myself doodling mindlessly on my biology notes. With all of the practice I've been getting, you would think I would be a better artist. Unfortunately for you, I'm not. Seeing as you lovely people didn't send me enough TLFs to fill my space, I'm going to share one with you. You brought this on yourselves. I'm giving you fair warning for next week; to save yourself from the horror of having to look at more of my sad attempts at drawing, send in a TLF and fill some space! Please bring your TLF submission to MSC 319 or e-mail them to tifs@thegauntlet.ca. All submissions must include your phone number, name, ID number and signature. Submissions judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic or attacks of a personal nature will not be tolerated.

Dear Bad Wolf,
We are not amused.

– Queen Vic
[double retaliat-ed?]

Is there a way to text a punch to Pat Robertson's face?

– StrayDog
[anger-ed]

Candy on candy
This is a terrible rope
Quoth she: cram it nerd.

– Lt. Doctor General John
Rambo III PhD Esq. XVIR
[Accomplish-ed?]

"We gotta teach you to learn how to write good."

– Pike

Unmissable!
Amnesty International's film week.
Coming Soon!

If you care for the well-being of Calgary, come participate in political discourse with other people that care! Legion #1 7th ave. and 1st SW Thursday January, 28 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

HEY!

Anyone that enjoys music should check out CJSW's 25th anniversary of being on the FM dial. Over 25 bands for \$25. Saturday January 23 starting at 7:00 p.m.

No, I won't make out with you. You're 25 and I have never met you.

– notTristan

People who park in the McMahon parking lot and then take the bus to and from the school — how lazy are you? Walk a block, it won't kill you! And it will be faster than waiting for the bus to come.

[maybe they're tir-ed?]

To Wee naked timorous beastie:
I told a story, that's all. No weapons, just words!

– The other doctor
[retaliat-ed]



While reading a book of short poems
Towards me were thrown several tomes
This caused me much dread
Something smells of lead
Now I lack most major bones

– Lt. Doctor General John
Rambo III PhD Esq. XVIR

You heard Ninjasaurus. Sure, this week it's only a stick man he's about to devour, but next week, it might be YOU!

WRITE TLFS WRITE TLFS WRITE TLFS
WRITE TLFS WRITE TLFS WRITE TLFS

Editor's Bookshelf:

Sometimes a Great Notion - Ken Kesey
~Often considered to be Kesey's magnum opus, it's the story of a logging family during strike times. It follows the strike-breaking Stamper family, through their reunion with the estranged youngest son of logging patriarch Henry Stamper. Scandal! Vengeance! Family feud! Terrible weather! Kesey's flip-flopping narrative keeps readers on their toes as he draws them into the tumultuous lives of the Stampers. It's not an easy read, but Kesey's mastery of words makes for a story that goes down smooth.

"There are worse things than being alone, but it often takes decades to realize this and most often when you do it's too late, and there's nothing worse than too late."

– Bukowski

Campus greenspace
An endangered species
No more frisbee!

– Goyo
[pav-ed over]

WRITE TLFS WRITE TLFS WRITE TLFS
WRITE TLFS WRITE TLFS WRITE TLFS

CASH REWARD



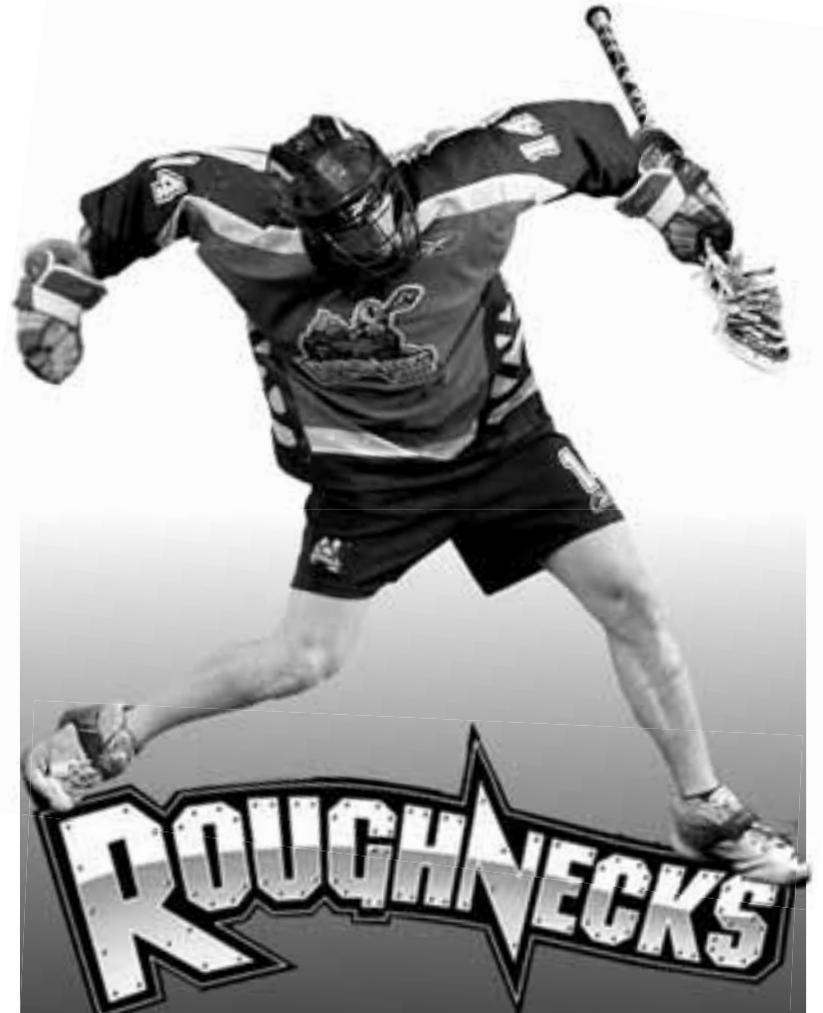
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SU GOVERNANCE RENEWAL

→ RENEWED REPRESENTATION

Faculty Representatives will now be governors and your direct link to the SU.

A new Executive position, the VP Student Life, will be in charge of health and wellness, diversity and clubs.

→ RENEWED ACCOUNTABILITY

Improved reporting will allow Council to make better informed decisions and increase transparency to students.

→ RENEWED CAPACITY

More paid opportunities to support events and Executives making SU operations more effective.

Details and the rationale behind all changes to the SU governance structure can be found in the document **SU Governance Renewal: A Synopsis** available online at www.su.ucalgary.ca.

Check out the Students' Union election web site at www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home to learn about the new roles and available positions for which students can run in the upcoming Students' Union General Election! Nomination Days will be held on Monday, February 8 to Wednesday, February 10, 2010 (and Thursday, February 11, 2010 if necessary).

Over the past few years the University of Calgary Students' Union has been working on a governance review initiative. The initiative's goal was to revise the outdated structure of the SU to better reflect today's student population, remove ineffective positions while improving the focus of other roles.

Through changes to executive portfolios, council and committees the SU will be better equipped to advocate for students at this institution and all levels of government.

The governance review initiative included careful planning and discussion among elected officials as well as consultation with the undergraduate student population. In December, 2009, the Students' Legislative Council voted in favour of a motion to improve the structure of the Students' Union.



Ryan Pike

Opinions Editor

Twenty-five years ago, the world was a much different place. There was no internet, the Calgary Flames were Stanley Cup contenders and CJSW was a radio club that only broadcast to campus listeners. But history was made January 22, 1985, when CJSW officially joined FM radio's ranks and expanded to the entire city. This weekend, the popular radio station invites its magnificent musical friends to celebrate 25 years on the airwaves with a massive concert event on Sat., Jan. 23.

"CJSW is turning 25 and may I note it doesn't look a day over 14," says CJSW station manager Chad Saunders. "We've decided to kick off the whole year of celebration with a huge shaker here in the Mac Hall building — not to be confused with the Mac Hall destination. It's the whole building, so we've asked bands from the past, the really-far-ago past, and most recently the hot new bands. Initially it was 25 bands, 25 bucks, but [that is] some false advertising, because now there's more than 25 bands."

The result of the station's efforts is a majestic buffet of musical diversity. Spanning five different venues through MacEwan Student Centre — the Cassio and Escalus rooms in the conference centre, the Den, the Black Lounge and MacEwan Ballroom — the event boasts at least 28 different acts from the past three decades of local music.

Additionally, Saunders mentions that for the first time in recent memory, the entire building will be open to liquor consumption.

"When you need a drink, you can get it anywhere in the building," explains Saunders. "You can leave the venue with the drink in hand and go all through the whole building, up and down. No problem. Some folks out there I know get their mom to pack a can of beer in their lunch sometimes. Now you can do it legally."

The talent lined up by CJSW's organizing committee is a veritable who's-who of Calgary music. The roster includes old favourites like The Mants, Shecky Forme and Field Day, along with more contemporary acts like Chad VanGalen, Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir and Dragon Fli Empire. While Saunders admits that narrowing the massive list of Calgary musicians down to something workable was a great undertaking, they had no trouble finding enough bands to fill the bill.



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

The CJSW Anniversary concert is a celebration of the beloved Calgary radio station.

"We [had] a big organizing committee help to put it all together and a lot of people on that organizing committee really didn't get turned down very often and when we got turned down, it was pretty legit," notes Saunders. "To the credit of all of these bands that did sign up, they were almost in right off the bat. It was a matter of making sure the schedule matched and they were available."

Roughly half the groups are bands from yesteryear, including nearly a dozen that reformed their old acts just for the occasion. Among those reforming are Tinderbox, one of Kris Demeanor's first bands. Demeanor notes that the show is the first time the band has played together in 10 years, a product of his backing band being too busy with their own previous groups.

"It turns out that the entire Crack Band was busy anyway because they were all playing in the bands that they played in," says Demeanor. "I wouldn't have had a band anyway, so I suggested why don't we get Tinderbox back together?"

Demeanor's sister, Monika Wenzel — also of Tinderbox — expresses great appreciation for CJSW's role in developing the local arts scene. She notes that the station's appeal stretches well beyond the campus community.

"I think it's a real testament to campus radio," notes Wenzel. "It's been fundamentally supportive to really good music, not just in Calgary but everywhere, as a campus radio station. CJSW's got such an amazing reputation and people don't realize what a role they've played in promoting excellent music throughout our city and getting people started beyond our city as well."

One group that echoes Wenzel's sentiments is the Summerlad. Band member Dean Martin says the station's appeal is not only its ability to provide exposure to emerging bands, but also its stark departure from many of commercial radio's conventions.

"It's the alternative to all of that," says Martin. "I think a lot of people really pay attention

to that. They're kind of tired of all the endless crappy commercial radio and CJSW doesn't have that at all. It's such a great relief on your ears to hear something that's not played five times a day in a cycle."

The Plaid Tongued Devils, together since 1990, may in fact be the longest-running band appearing at the show. While frontman Ty Semeka declined to search for proof, he was excited at the opportunity to see bands from across Calgary's musical history this weekend.

"It's gonna be like a high school reunion," says Semeka. "Back in the day, you could go down to the Ship and Anchor on a Monday night and there'd be three or four bands hanging out. I'm sure bands are still hanging out, possibly at different clubs, maybe Broken City or something like that. It'll be like a Monday night at the Ship, about 15 or 16 years ago."

Saunders is well aware of the role that CJSW played in helping get local bands established. However, he notes that the bands the station plays establish its role just as much.

"The bands are playing for us because we were good to them and we played their tracks and they were an important part of our programming for so many years," says Saunders. "But the other part is like we've got a lot to thank these bands for creating this scene in Calgary and making it worthwhile to go out to venues of yesteryear."

Ultimately, Saunders feels that the 25th anniversary celebrations are as much about giving back to the community as about commemorating the station's success. Case in point: Saunders says that any profits from the event will be donated to charity, while the first several audience members will be rewarded for their attendance with swag from the CJSW archives. It's just a small way that a radio station that has given so much to the community for a quarter-century continues to cement its place in Calgary's collective heart.

"Personally, I thank all the bands that agreed to do this stuff because we wouldn't have become the go-to station for local music over the last 25 years without their support," says Saunders. "The affection is mutual and I hope to slow dance with everyone out on the dance floor before midnight because that'd be my way to say 'Thanks and let's dance.'"

The CJSW 25th Anniversary concert starts Sat., Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster and Sloth Records for \$25.

Radiopark offers live music and comfortable atmosphere for students

Jordyn Marcellus

Entertainment Editor

If Chris Jamieson, the manager of Radiopark music room, looks familiar to some University of Calgary students, it's probably because they've spent far too much time at the Den. The manager of the new live music venue found his calling while working at the beloved campus bar.

"Working at the Den influenced who I am in many ways — not the

least of which is my style and approach to hospitality," he says. "I think it speaks volumes about the Den to say that it is a safe, friendly, comfortable place where university students can go and be themselves and I certainly wanted [that] to stand true in any establishment that I direct."

The space itself is unpretentious, with two banks of television screens blasting shows like *Entourage* as well as candy-coloured '80s cartoons like *The Legend of Zelda*, *He-Man* and *Dungeons and Dragons*.

"We want Radiopark to be somewhere people feel comfort first and foremost," explains Jamieson. "We want people to have fun, be themselves and enjoy some great music, but we feel that in order to do so you need to be at ease, that's why comfort is the biggest thing. Everything about the room and the concept has been tailored to make the place down to earth and accessible."

Getting bands on stage is one of the key things that Jamieson and his managing partner, Elena Remoun-

dos, are setting out to do with the venue. So far, booking has been focused on local acts, with rapper Ricca Razor Sharp and punk rockers Mad-cowboys taking to Radiopark's stage.

"We are committed to running live original music every week and in most cases have two or three bands lined up," says Jamieson. "For now they are mostly local acts but [we] have already had a lot of attention from groups touring and will likely have our first visiting act soon."

Remoundos, who acts as the

booker, also has a history with the famous, long-lamented Night Gallery. The Gallery — the birthplace of Tubby Dog and Moustache Rock — has influenced Remoundos' vision of what the venue can hope to achieve.

"The Night Gallery was definitely a huge part of my life," she explains. "I have such great memories and made so many great friends at the Gallery. The atmosphere and the feeling of belonging no matter what are definitely reasons why I kept on going back."

Steam Engine don't need any training

Group formed from other local bands find themselves prepped to rule Calgary as soon as they start recording their EP

Laura Bardsley

Gauntlet Entertainment

Calgary's music scene gets a bad rap. We don't have the sheer number of bands that Brooklyn, Toronto or Montreal have. Yet groups like Steam Engine will help put Calgary music on the map.

With artists like Chad Van-Gaalen, Woodpigeon and the impressive Sled Island festival, there is a fierce concentration of talent producing a worthwhile show at least every week. Steam Engine is adding their own ferocity to that Calgary talent pool.

Made up of members from the Grim Beat, Dream Horse Spirit and Bikeland, the group is comprised of Mclean Eubank, Keith Daser and Greg Hartling. Daser first thought of the idea as a solo-project.

"[Steam Engine is] stuff I was working on that I didn't think worked with Dream Horse and that I really liked," says Daser. "I started off coming in with a few songs to the table, but everyone's contributing now. I come with



courtesy Nyssa Electra Brown

Steam Engine are formed by members of Grim Beat, Dream Horse Spirit and Bikeland.

parts, but it's really a group effort."

Eubank and Hartling joined soon after hearing the demos, and have apparently slid right into stride.

When asked if they truly felt at home in the band, the response was positive.

"Yeah. It's new, it's fresh," en-

thus Eubank.

Although band practices are not always consistent, the trio's confidence in their music, as well as experience, shines through.

"[We're] kind of go with the flow," says Daser as Eubank nods on. "We're definitely working in ways that we previously learned from our other bands and things that don't work in regards to the motions and things that do."

Like any new band, the constraints of recording and establishing themselves in Calgary can often be at odds.

"We're definitely going into that realm where we're trying to go more effectively . . . for example, we're trying to record our EP before our February 12th show," says Daser.

Not only are they planning to be efficient, but prolific as well. When asked if they could see Steam Engine "taking over Calgary" they responded separately, but well.

"I wouldn't say ruling, but hey, go as far as you can," says Eubank. "The music is what's most important."

Daser agrees with Eubank, focusing on how much easier it is to get into the group than previous efforts like the Grim Beat or Dream Horse Spirit.

"I would say that yeah, [Steam Engine]'s definitely more accessible than the previous bands all of us have been in. It's a lot simpler, but I think it will do well."

But the connections the group have to other local bands are vitally important — the multitude of bands are much stronger in a group than on their own.

"Well, it's weird because all of us are sort of connected to other bands that are doing things," says Hartling. "We'll be taking it, we'll take Calgary. It won't be just bands, but all the bands and us."

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Eli is badass but preaches to the choir

Silvia De Somma

Gauntlet Entertainment

The *Book of Eli* tests you from the beginning. How many different ways can the title be twisted — at least three, it seems, until the very end.

Eli (Denzel Washington) is a lone wanderer of the wastelands headed west on a mission. He also happens to be carrying a very valuable and powerful book, the last of its kind in the post-apocalyptic American landscape. Eli is war-hardened and wise and his proclivity for violence gets him noticed when he wanders into a little town run by Carnegie (Gary Oldman) and essentially wipes out his entire bodyguard unit.

Carnegie is so impressed by Eli's abilities he tries to convince him to stick around by tempting him with the barkeep, Solara (Mila Kunis). When she accidentally lets slip some of the theology Eli taught her during their passionless, platonic night together, Carnegie puts two and two together. Turns out, he's searching for the very same book that Eli is lugging around. The rest of the movie essentially pits Eli and Solara against Carnegie and his crew as they both fight to keep possession of what turns out to be the Bible.

The Book of Eli doesn't offer much originality. While a relief from the *Deep Impacts* and *2012s* of the cinematic world, the movie had the misfortune of being released shortly after *The Road*, which has a post-apocalyptic setting and storyline. Even more interesting, the washed out scenery and consumption of wild, possibly feral animals, will be familiar to *Fallout 3* fans.

That's not to say *Eli* doesn't have any worthwhile qualities. The overall aesthetic is extremely well executed, with strong act-



courtesy Warner Pictures

Denzel Washington plays Eli, a man with a mission — to protect the last copy of the Bible.

ing from the principle cast. The fight sequences are perfectly choreographed and help balance out the storyline's oftentimes sluggish pacing. The script redeems itself regularly, though only with unintentional humour.

Sadly, *The Book of Eli* walks a very thin line between entertainment and preaching and wavers rather uncomfortably into the realm of religious propaganda fairly often. The Biblical overtones and connotations throughout the film are delivered like a brick to the head — incredibly obvious, heavy-handed and completely unapologetic.

The Book of Eli is big on some things: sweeping shots of barren landscapes, intense fight scenes and making Denzel Washington look badass. Apparently, though, it's not such a big fan of providing insight to its vague back story or staying away from clichés. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that Eli is protected because he's been specially "chosen" while

Carnegie is a bad, power hungry man set on corrupting the only good thing left in the world. The Hughes Brothers did manage to

put together an entertaining feature and throw a mind-bending twist at the end that is really quite surprising. And Denzel Washing-

ton makes a good badass.

The Book of Eli is open now. Check out thebookofeli.warnerbros.com for more info.

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CJSW 90.9 FM is kicking off a year-round celebration of their 25th anniversary on the FM dial with a huge shaker on Saturday, January 23 at 7pm.

For one night only and for the first time in campus history, CJSW will take over the entire building of MacEwan Hall on the University of Calgary campus for the biggest bash of the year. To celebrate 25 strong years on the FM dial, CJSW has invited some of the most beloved Calgary bands of the past and present to perform for Calgary's biggest music fans.

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- **MICO** ▪
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Artists will perform full sets that will be staggered throughout the evening in different spaces in MacEwan Hall, so fans can catch as much as they want! Additionally, some of CJSW's finest DJs, **ROB FAUST, LOTUS QUEEN, SIDESHOW SID & LEO C.** will be keeping the winter party toasty warm by spinning hot tracks and hot wax in the Black Lounge all night long.

While it will be a celebration of the music that has been played the loudest and proudest on 90.9 FM, the party will also be a reunion for many of the luminaries of the graduating punk rock classes of the '80s and '90s. Come meet the musicians who have made CJSW airwaves a blistering sonic adventure for the last 25 years.

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State Radio
Let It Go
(Ruff Shod Records)

Guitar-heavy and politically charged, Boston-based trio/activist group State Radio returns with their third album, *Let It Go*. The album cover and jacket are filled with images of police, protestors, scrawled writings and newspaper clippings. Themes of injustice and power imbalance run heavy throughout, but the anger is balanced by an enduring sense of hope.

The songs are mainly grungy guitar-chugfests, which occasionally delve into other styles. "Calling All Crows" and "Evolution" are a pair

of reggae-infused calls to arms while "Doctor Ron the Actor" recalls the sharp guitar bursts of the Pixies' "Oh My Golly." "Bohemian Grove" manages to work in political nursery rhyme Old Mother Hubbard, the assassination of Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto and the imprisonment of Burmese politician Aung San Suu Kyi. "Knights of Bostonia" is an unashamed sing-along stadium anthem, boasting and preaching "Sit straight and listen up . . . You only you can set you free."

From patriots to sages, magistrates to madrigals, rebels to revolutionaries, State Radio's socio-political lyrics are dense and closer to prose writing, yet musically the album still manages to work. *Let It Go* demands your attention and holds it. So sit straight and listen up.

..Richard Lam



Devendra Banhart
What Will We Be
(Warner Bros)

Devendra Banhart's career has produced a steady, reliable selection of soft-yet-quirky folk music.

Each of his six albums — including his latest, *What Will We Be* — has garnered remarkably consistent and respectable acclaim, both a strength and a weakness for Banhart. There is little to be unhappy about with this

newest release, but there is also very little that distinguishes it from his past work.

Banhart's albums have stuck to a sparse guitar and wispy voice formula, sometimes diverting into slight musical experiments or different languages. "Anjelika" contains a catchy melody and brief foray into Spanish before returning to its main chorus. But Banhart seems unable to follow through with these musical diversions. "Rats" features the troubadour trying out psychedelic rock a la Vancouver-based Black Mountain. "Rats" is the highlight of the

album simply because it's unlike anything else he's done, though it's ultimately just another mid-point break before returning to his familiar, comfortable living room sound.

What Will We Be will satisfy, if not excite, existing fans, and is as good an entry-point as any of his other works. It is the same lo-fi acoustic freak-folk he is known for, though perhaps looser and more accessible than before. Then again, he was loose and accessible to begin with.

..Richard Lam



Sea Wolf
White Water, White Bloom
(Dangerbird Records)

From the opening organ and strings of "Wicked Blood," it's easy to see Sea Wolf's influences. The emotional rock songs on *White Water, White Bloom*, their sophomore album, are immediately reminiscent of Arcade Fire and Modest Mouse. Lead singer Alex Brown Church's vocals even sound like a slightly sadder, deep-voiced Win Butler. As such, the

piano blinks and chugging guitar lines are immediately familiar to most indie rock fans on first listen.

"Orion & Dog" is one of the more stripped-down numbers, driven by acoustic guitar and accentuated by lightly plucked strings where boisterous rocker "O Maria!" is the exact opposite. "The Traitor" is the emotional peak of the album, a bright, soaring number with steady percussion and sweeping, widescreen orchestration.

Lyricaly, Sea Wolf tends towards excess.

The aforementioned "O Maria!" boasts such purple prose as "wicked spider," "wooden bones," "silver hair" and a "crystal heart." With a tacked-on adjective for nearly every noun, it makes for awkward and convoluted songwriting.

Compared to the polished music and the group's interplay, the lyrics are the weakest and least mature aspect of the band. Still, Sea Wolf is worth keeping an eye on, as they continue refining their sound and their style.

..Richard Lam



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Boris
Japanese Heavy Rock Hits Volume 1
(Southern Lord Records)

Boris are one of those bands that can seamlessly change genres several times an album — even midsong — and not seem like pretentious fucks. They've maintained a steady release and tour schedule, making them Japan's main export since the start of the current recession.

Japanese Heavy Rock Hits is a series of four 7-inch

records released through the mighty Southern Lord Records this year. The titles in this series hearken back to their 2002 sludgy juggernaut *Heavy Rocks*, but with a dash of pop sensibility thrown in. These are truly strange offerings, even for these musical schizophrenics.

Volume 1 starts off with about a minute of drone, which turns into a heavily distorted pop-punk song with dreamy vocals straight out of My Bloody Valentine's *Loveless*. Of course, they couldn't help but throw in some feedback and soloing courtesy of guitarist Wata, the loudest Japanese woman alive. Side B of *Volume 1* is a weird

Smashing Pumpkins-esque rock song with heavy guitars and soft vocals over a track of distant space-echoes. This gives way to some power-chord crazy punk rock featuring gang vocals. But it doesn't stop there, obviously. Wata lays down a noise solo that sounds like guitar feedback 100 feet down a hallway from the microphone.

Japanese Heavy Rock Hits Volume 1 shows that Boris just make music. They don't make it for you; they don't make it for themselves. It just comes out that way. ALL GLORY TO THE HYPNODRONE.

..Jordan Fritz



Patrick Watson
Just Another Ordinary Day
(Secret City Records)

With the success of *Closer to Paradise* and *Wooden Arms*, Montreal-based Patrick Watson have decided to re-release their out-of-print debut, *Just Another Ordinary Day*. While the album shows the band's early signs of experimentation

and maintains their air of mystery, it ultimately feels like an assortment of half-executed ideas.

Many of the album's tracks are piano-based ballads, with a warm and full sound strangely detached and inaccessible. The lengthy songs are largely musical meanderings with little direction or flow. "Woods" contains interesting instrumentation, but the vocal wailings grate.

"Mary" plays it straight, resulting in a pleasant, jazzy shuffle. "Silent Night" is another highlight, a piano-based instrumental track hypnotically employing strings and drunken trumpets for nearly seven minutes.

The main problem with *Just Another Ordinary Day* is that it simply drags. At less than 10 tracks and about 45 minutes long, the album feels like it is padded at twice the

length. The repetitive piano patterns and the overlapping vocal harmonizing sound like Watson are working out ideas or backdrops for future songs. Sticking with the band's later albums is the way to go — they are far more melodic and focused — because by the time *Just Another Ordinary Day* ends, you may have long forgotten it was even playing.

..Richard Lam

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Oh, the huge manatee!

More than you ever wanted to know about the worst part of the Internet

With very few exceptions, the anonymous imageboards known collectively as The Chans are quite possibly the worst part of the Internet. The idea is fairly simple: users can anonymously post to a variety of boards focused on different topics and are given the option to add an image. Each board has a different number of pages, with the most current posts being bumped to the front page and receiving the most visibility. Other, more current topics eventually get bumped to the front page and older topics fall back to high numbered pages, with posts on the last page eventually falling off the board and lost to history. The level of anonymity inherent on these boards and the speed at which they move result in an incredibly variable level of content, ranging from downright interesting to damn-near-horrifying. However, as stomach-churning as a jaunt through 4chan's /b/ — or “random” — board can be, The Chans are also the place where a large portion of Internet culture originates. If you've been exposed to lolcats or linked to Rick Astley's “Never Gonna Give You Up,” you've been touched by The Chans in some minor way.

This week, *Gauntlet* Web and AP are combining forces to offer an illustrated look into three of the more popular Chans. Be advised these sites are generally very unsafe to surf while working and especially in public locations. Also, understand that these sites are designed to be bewildering to casual observers — a good portion of what's posted is done so entirely with the intention of offending people. In short, if something on a Chan disgusts you, you've already let them win.

4chan: i can has fail?

The most popular of the Chans, 4chan is the highly volatile epicenter of filth in which all other chans were spawned. Scanning the pages of 4chan you will be insulted, disgusted and offended yet strangely intrigued, and you will most certainly laugh.

There are many image boards that offer insight and meaning-laden discussions in a semi-coherent and often informative manner. If you're stuck on a thought about John Paul Sartre, you might find help in the Philosophy board. If you're having problems with F-stops, try the photography board. Need some info on the latest electronics? Try the technology board.

At its best, 4chan offers peer-reviewed comments to inquiries or questions other users have about any given subject. It is intended for a mass-audience and offers the most reliable information of The Chans.

At its worst (and it's almost always at its worst) 4chan offers a glimpse into the world of the paranoid, elitist, geeked-out sausagefest that is the Internet. It is an invitation to join the rude, crude grade school-level bathroom wall humour that made little Suzie Gorginchuck switch to private school.

Undeniably powerful, 4chan is the birthplace of those lovable Lolz Cats, and the resurrection of '80s one hit wonder Rick Astley.

4chan, We're never gonna give you up.

420chan: dicks everywhere

If you want a glimpse into how the Internet probably looks to your grandparents, drop on by 420chan, where the posts are always bumped whilst high and the trolls are told in no uncertain terms to GTFO and smoke moar.

It makes quite a bit of sense that anonymous imageboards would eventually become a significant source of drug-related discussion. With boards ranging from /weed/ to /jenkem/, 420chan's massive audience of recreational drug users post an enormous amount of disturbing, trippy and downright awesome content every single day. Of particular quality is the /weed/ board, which contains a huge number of really baked people talking and is perhaps the best way to demonstrate to your kids the effects of drugs on otherwise intelligent individuals. /psy/ is really awesome if you want to hear people openly talk about meeting machine elves, while /sagan/ is excellent for discussing aliens and all things space-related. If you can get past the fact most people on 420chan are likely operating on a way different wavelength from you, the Academic and Media categories are quite excellent, if only because nobody likes to talk about philosophy and music like someone who's just consumed eight grams of psilocybin mushrooms.

What sets 420chan apart — besides an outright rejection of the idea users shouldn't post whilst inebriated — is its relaxed attitude and community. 420chan: smoke moar.

jackiechan: rush hour. two.

The most ass kicking of the Chans is Jackie. Incorporated in 1954 in Hong Kong, the Jackie Chan has become a staple of over-the-top, lightning fast karate chops.

While browsing through the Jackie Chan's body of work you are liable to see excessive explosions, a plethora of broken windows, doors, body parts and cheesy one-liners as Jackie chops his way to the hearts of millions of North American moviegoers.

Unfortunately, you will not find any boards on the Jackie Chan, because he karate chopped them all.

Mediocre at best, the Jackie Chan has limited comedic and acting ability yet his reach into popular culture trumps the other chans. One need not look any further than the wildly popular *Rush Hour* series in which he co-starred with that guy who said, “Do you understand the words coming out of my mouth?”

Take a moment to laugh.

Done? Didn't think so, that line is classic.

Jackie is the only Chan to have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. It is also the only Chan to have had a singing career.

In 2009 the Jackie Chan started filming a remake of the *Karate Kid*, which will be directed by Will Smith and feature his kid Jaden as Daniel and Jackie as his teacher.

Fuck that man. Seriously.

BUDITSU

By Tristan Aurini



beanfolk

By Matthew McGuigan



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KIMJONGILIA

The Flower of Kim Jong II

North Korea "is one of the most staggering human-rights and humanitarian disasters in the world."

—Vaclav Havel

North Korea is one of the world's most isolated nations. For almost 60 years, North Koreans have been governed by a totalitarian regime that controls almost all information entering and leaving the country. A cult of personality surrounds its two recent leaders: first, Kim Il Sung, and now his son, Kim Jong II. For Kim Jong II's 46th birthday, a hybrid red begonia named kimjongilia was created, symbolizing wisdom, love, justice, and peace. This film draws its name from the rarefied flower and reveals the extraordinary stories told by survivors of North Korea's vast and largely hidden prison camps. Interviewed in South Korea, where they now live, their experiences are interspersed with archival footage of North Korean propaganda films and original scenes that illuminate the contours of daily life for a people whose every action is monitored and whose every thought could bring official retribution. It's a world where justice and peace are impossible.

First-time documentarian NC Heikin's background as a dancer and performance artist has influenced her approach to this stylish and deeply moving rendition of modern-day torture and the search for recovery. Far from being a litany of travails or a simple indictment of a government's actions, Kimjongilia is a totally original and ultimately inspiring consideration of the extremes human beings can suffer, and yet still hold out hope for a better future.

Director: N.C. Heikin | 75 minutes | 2008
<http://www.kimjongiliathemovie.com/>

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