

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

gauntlet

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Travel supplement inside

Spooft supplement inside



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How to access

Visit <http://ca.studentvoice.com/calgary/studentsunion2010> or link directly from the SU web site (www.su.ucalgary.ca)



It's almost

Beergarita

time!

Cam Cotton-O'Brien vs. windmills

Don Quixote and lessons about life

Almost everyone knows that one time, in a fit of delusion, Don Quixote tilted at some windmills he had mistaken for giants. I believe this holds the key to the university's purpose.

Quixote's collision with the windmills in chapter eight comprises only two pages of Cervantes' masterpiece, and yet it enjoys a sharply disproportionate hold upon the modern psyche — it was famously recreated in felt pen by Picasso and by a small dog in *Wishbone*. The secret to the story's enduring success, I think, is that it touches upon one of the central concerns of every thinking human being: the question of whether what one is doing is what one really should be doing, of whether one is not simply tilting at windmills.

The parable pitches us headlong into a confrontation with reality, a reality necessarily constructed in part for us, and forces us to grapple with the true meaning of, perhaps not our existence, but at least the way we value our works and conduct. Cervantes' story reminds readers, and indeed a far wider range of people exposed to the legend, to consider, carefully, what lies beyond the façade of their actions and beliefs.

In the present day, a life spent



pursuing no goal but material gain may seem ideal, perhaps even heroic. But it's important to recall that to Don Quixote, mired in his gallantry, the windmills really did appear as giants.

This question, and this constant quest to get behind the appearance of the world to something more

substantial, is the root of the university's purpose. A post-secondary education should be, though it certainly is not always, a student's introduction to abstraction: the abstraction of oneself from immediate reality to a place of contemplation. Theoretically, at least, this encourages reflection on how one

wants to meaningfully live one's life, and the impetus to carry oneself in that direction.

Unfortunately, I fear that some of this may be becoming obscured. Many universities seem to be moving in the direction of providing primarily practical skills and directing research to marketable products, and many people — including students — disdain the apparent idleness of a life of "impractical thought." This misses the point. And should that point be lost, something deeply important will go with it.

As a society, and even more as individuals, the importance of incisive self-reflection can never be overestimated. The constant re-assessment of the times and culture we live in, and the decisions we are constantly forced to make, from the big to the small, demand focused and trained attention. It is precisely here, in university, that one may seek out the tool kit for these explanations.

The empty doddling of the navel gazer staring at the sun this is not — it is the deeply serious task of determining if these are in fact giants, or if they are merely windmills.

Cam Cotton-O'Brien
Editor-in-Chief

contents

cover

Despite snow and sleet this week and rumours it would be without alcohol spread around by a publication that will remain nameless (we think it was the *Gateway*), Bermuda Shorts Day is here!

news

It's news you can use, located conveniently on **page 4**.

features

A look at the wonderful world of Cosplaying, **page 13**. Yes, Cosplaying.

entertainment

Six pages of CD reviews. Nah, there's tons of wacky stuff beginning **page 15**.

sports

NHL preview! Tons of Dinos wackiness!, **page 21**.

CORRECTION: Last week's feature, "Candle-lit Kraft Dinner," incorrectly referred to Jon and Erin Delamont as Jon and Erin Delamonte. The *Gauntlet* apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

The *Gauntlet* also presents its annual **Travel Supplement**, located after **page 12** inside this week's paper, and its annual **Spoof Supplement** with a fancy pull-out in the very same issue. Zounds!

Opinions complains on **page 10**. **TLFs** on **page 24**. No seriously, **BSD is not dry this year**. At all. Seriously.

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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 *Goodbye, Yellow Brick Road*-based ink. We urge you to recycle/leave the *Gauntlet*. Thanks for five great years, guys.

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

Illustration by Jen Grond



New U of C compulsory fee next year

Board of governors vote in \$450 Student Services fee to cover lost funding

Brent Constantin
News Editor

Despite the best efforts of the Students' Union to offer reasonable arguments, alternatives and compromises, the University of Calgary Board of Governors voted April 12 to impose a new \$450 compulsory fee and raise tuition in business programs in an effort to ease the operating deficit.

The morning meeting started with presentations that listed a \$37.6 million deficit this year, saying the U of C would not be able to balance its budget until 2013–2014. It was conveyed that the tuition increases were integral to the future operation of the school.

Full-time undergraduate students returning this fall will see the introduction of a new Student Services fee which rolls out over the next three years, eventually bringing in \$12 million per year to the school. Students in the 2010–2011 school year will pay the full fee but receive a \$300 rebate. This rebate drops to \$150 for students in 2011–2012. In 2012–2013, students will pay the full amount of \$225 a term.

The university said that subsidizing student services such as enrolment services, student advising and the Native Centre, currently draws from funds that should be spent on academics, after operational grants from the province were cut. When the fee is completely implemented, the school will still be subsidizing the services by \$50.

SU president Charlotte Kingston said that while she understood the fee might be necessary, students want to see some form of predictability in the future for non-academic fees. She presented an amendment to the board for future increases.

"There's still a huge degree of

uncertainty that continues to loom above the heads of U of C students with regards to compulsory non-academic fees," Kingston said to the board. "We've stepped back and said our largest concern is what will this fee look like in the future. What kind of assurances can [the board] provide to our students that they will have predictability of cost going forward?"

The SU suggested the fee would roll out as scheduled according to the university's plans, but then it could be indexed to the consumer price index in 2013, citing that other fees at the university (such as the recreation fee) are already tied to a similar model. Any increases beyond CPI could then be put to the students in the form of a referendum, akin to a system currently in place at the University of Alberta.

The SU's suggested amendment was rejected by the board of governors.

Despite this, Kingston said that the compulsory fee framework the SU put forward to the board was the same that the Council of Alberta University Students has given to Alberta Advanced Education and Technology minister Doug Horner and believes all institutions across the province will be governed by a similar guideline soon.

"While I have the very enjoyable task of being the first students' association to bring this particular model to our board, I absolutely won't be the last," said Kingston. "This proposal will be continually talked about at board tables at this institution, as well as other institutions, and a position that we will continue to press for here and with the province."

Later that afternoon at the Legislature, Minister Horner was directly asked about the lack of non-academic fees legislation in Alberta by Janice Sarich, Edmonton-Decore MLA,



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

The SU believes the government's rejection of many tuition increases was partly due to student protest.

in question period.

"I agree that we do need to look at how we regulate non-instructional fees within the system," said Horner. "My department is in constant dialogue with the students. We've also invited the students to draft a regulation that we might be able to look at. That regulation was presented to me last week, and we've now circulated that to other student associations for their comments as well as to the post-secondaries."

Horner said that his office will be working with student groups throughout the summer on the intricacies of the affordability framework and the tuition fee policy but admits that any new framework will "probably not be in effect for 2010."

Last year, the Alberta government

announced it would allow post-secondary institutions to apply for a one-time re-evaluation of professional program fees that had been locked at 2004 levels plus increases in inflation since 2006. The University of Calgary made a total of nine cases for increases in the faculties of law, medicine, education, engineering and business with Horner accepting just two. Students will see the bachelor of commerce program increase by \$1,982 and masters of business administration by \$3,121. The increases are scheduled for 2011.

The recent announcement of the rejections gave the university no time to respond, so they presented a budget to the board that didn't incorporate the 2011 roll-out date

for increases, leaving a \$2.4 million shortfall, and which included all the rejected proposals. Provost Alan Harrison said the university would find some way to decrease next year's budget.

The budget and increases were, none-the-less, approved by the board, much to the chagrin of Kingston, who said that by doing so the board had ignored the thousands of students who were opposed to the increases.

Other fees increases for next year include the UPass, from \$85 to \$105, the provincial application system fee, from \$115 to \$120 and campus recreation and athletics fees, which both increase by 1.5 per cent. This is in addition to the 1.5 per cent across-the-board tuition increase.

What do you think about the non-academic compulsory fee increase?



"They should introduce a few more things students can use."
– Saad Khan, first-year biological science



"They should stop raising tuition and fees on us. It's getting ridiculous."
– Nedine Mahgoub, first-year biological science



"I don't like it, but I don't know enough to say."
– Krystle Wittevrongel, third-year biological science



"In the big scheme of things, \$450 is peanuts compared to what we're paying for everything else."
– Dale Janewski, first-year psychology

campus quips

Students' Union year-end reviews

How your SU executive stacks up compared to boxes of delicious cereal

Charlotte Kingston



Meg Martin



Joey Brocke



Count Chocula has always been the leader of the breakfast cereal underworld. With an interesting sense of style and a strong desire to be sustainable (that's why he switched from blood to chocolate) the Count has used some stellar communication skills to keep his minions in line. While Students' Union president Charlotte Kingston may not have the same mind control powers of a

diabetes-inducing cereal, she has proven to be an effective leader. Sweetness has not gotten in the way of what she set out to do.

Just under a year ago, a pale yet fresh-faced hopeful walked into her new office with a long list of objectives and an even longer list of challenges. Count Kingston accomplished many of the goals she began with, which is sadly a unique circumstance in SU his-

tory. Thanks to her drive, Styro-foam will be out of MacHall next fall and new student spaces will open up.

On top of all her original initiatives, Kingston steered the SU through some major surprises — namely market modifier tuition increases. She successfully represented students' wants to administration, whether they were listening or not. And knowing that

the board of governors is as stuck in their ways as Frankenberry, she focused on increasing communication with the province to block market modifiers for most faculties.

Count Kingston has done an excellent job this past year. Hopefully next year's president, Lauren Webber, will be able to wear the chocolaty cape just as well.

...Sarelle Azuelos

Students' Union vice-president Academic Meg Martin has delivered healthy changes to the University of Calgary's academic body with a crisp taste that is agreeable to all — much like the healthy, but sweet, taste of Oatmeal Crisp.

Her tenacity brought through projects that have been long going and that lagged even under her capable predecessors. Rolling out the SU's online exam bank is a colossal achievement that stands testament to her resolve. While

the exam bank still lacks a diverse, wide-range of exams, this is almost solely due to club and professor resistance and is in no way a reflection of Martin's performance. Martin's term also saw the implementation of an impartial arbitrator with the capacity to resolve disputes (and investigative powers) between the SU, GSA and the university in ombudsperson Robert Clegg.

While Martin admits that she stands on the shoulders of predecessors, was well prepared and received good transition training,

she remains a powerhouse of this year's SU executive.

Her term as VP academic saw the passing of substantial academic policy, a record spike in Teaching Excellence Award nominations and the development of the TEA "hall of fame" which paved the way for the recognition of junior outstanding instructors in addition to TEA juggernauts.

Martin extensively represented students on committees as a well-respected voice and has been called on in numerous instances

by the university to advise on academics.

During her term as VP academic Martin's multitude of accomplishments (too long to list here) articulated her fervent dedication, passion and professionalism. Martin's hard work was extremely evident in the public eye despite the massive challenges presented by the amalgamation of the Arts Faculty and the SU's governance review, of which she played an integral part.

...Noah Miller

Joey Brocke's term as vice-president operations and finance is best compared to mini-wheats cereal, delicious frosting on one side that disappears on the other half.

During his first semester, Brocke's major accomplishment was a complete overhaul of the Students' Union governance structure which saw executive commissioners move from elected to hired positions, faculty representatives become linked to the

size of their faculty and the VP events portfolio fold into the new VP student life position.

These moves increased the effectiveness of executives, created smoother operation of the organization and improved the campus community.

But, looking at the side without the manufactured beef-gelatin frosting, according to Brocke and his commissioners the governance review wasn't effectively del-

egated, leading Brocke to take on most of the responsibility for the work and pushing other projects off of his plate. Projects like reforming clubs, which Brocke said went to the wayside this year. But, to Brocke's credit, the issues with clubs have now been established and dialogue about improvement opened.

Brocke admits that the second half of his term was a bit of a wash with his election campaign for

president taking up the majority of his time and, after being defeated by Lauren Webber, spending his last weeks training incoming VP op-fi James Delaney.

Overall though, Brocke was another strong link in a strong executive team, making sure that Brocke-Fest is balanced for students with a strong governance structure that will impact executive teams for years to come.

...Brent Constantin

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Students' Union year-end reviews cont'd

Kay She



Much like her namesake cereal, Special K, vice-president external Kay She provided the students of the University of Calgary some delicious results during her term. More important than what she delivered, though, was what her efforts represented for students.

Much of She's year was dominated by the tuition issue. While the initial tuition revelation found the su playing catch-up immediately afterwards, they managed to transition into an

effective media campaign. The crowning achievement of the year, for both She and the su, was the Tuition Day of Action. Not only was the event able to generate considerable media coverage, it also mobilized a large number of students who genuinely seemed to care about the issue.

While the su wasn't able to harness that momentum towards their other tuition event, the March to the Legislature, their strong provincial advocacy throughout the year eventually

bore fruit. At times it seemed like the su knew more about what was happening than administration did, a rarity, but one that definitely ensured students didn't lose out entirely.

Affordable housing took a bit of a back-seat during the winter, as She's planned secondary suites campaign was halted when the tuition struggle began. Still, a comprehensive plan developed alongside the Urban Calgary Students' Association, a campus club, was unveiled to SLC and is being

presented to various stakeholders with the goal of starting a pilot project in Brentwood.

Special K doesn't do everything. It doesn't have a heck of a lot of sugar, nor does it have marshmallows. Neither does Kay She. However, both Special K and Kay She do what they do very well. Much like Special K is part of a well-balanced breakfast, Kay She was an integral part of a well-balanced executive this year.

...Ryan Pike

Kat Lord



Just like General Mill's Baron Von Redberry cereal before her, Kat Lord is a bit of an offbeat personality, which may have helped quite a bit in a year packaged with significant tuition concerns. In the face of these challenges, Lord has done an admirable job keeping students entertained as the last of the Students' Union vice-president events. During her tenure, students have been able to enjoy a flourishing That

Empty Space and Yoga in the Space, as well as occasional outbreaks of Sex Toy Bingo. Movies That Matter has also seen a considerable resurgence this year, benefiting greatly from cooperation between Tri-Media and the su, for which Lord has been the main contact.

Most importantly, though, as the university continues to flounder in financial insecurity, Lord took a strong stand on behalf of

students, flatly refusing to consider implementing a fee to attend Bermuda Shorts Day.

Despite the many successful events, this year's main weakness was changing the format of awareness weeks to the more amorphous wellness, cultural and arts months. While this allows for a more sustained program of events, there is some concern that the themes may be stretched too thin for students to stay aware of.

Commissioners contacted had positive things to say, with incoming vp student life Jennifer Abbott, who has worked under Lord all year, noting that Lord has helped lead the portfolio in the direction it will be assuming next year.

All told, Lord has shown she is able to both oversee and execute a robust events schedule while standing tall for students.

...Cam Cotton-O'Brien

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On the Move

Attempted takeover of Campus Conservative Club

Emily Ask
News Assistant

Members of the Wildrose Alliance Campus Club attempted to take control of the University of Calgary Campus Conservative Association last Friday at the UCCCA's Annual General Meeting.

The Wildrose supporters bought UCCCA memberships at the door and tried to nominate a slate of their own members to run for the seven UCCCA executive positions. If elected, the Wildrose slate intended to disassociate the UCCCA from the Progressive Conservative party.

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach spoke at the AGM before the election then answered questions. Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, Jonathan Denis, Minister of Housing, and Cindy Ady, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation also attended.

However, only Jonathan Denis stayed for the general election after the speech.

"You try and get here as often as you can," Stelmach told the

Gauntlet. "We were here once after the campaign but it's been a busy couple years. I spoke to the conservative club yesterday at the University of Alberta and now today at the University of Calgary."

The general election was supposed to happen after Stelmach's speech, but there was disagreement about who was eligible to be nominated and vote.

The UCCCA constitution states that individuals must be a member for 30 days prior to running or voting for executive positions in the general election. It also states that executives must be members of the Conservative Party of Canada and the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta.

The vote never took place and the meeting was adjourned until a later date. The UCCCA decided that those who bought memberships at the door expecting to run for the executive or vote could be refunded.

Nine people had their memberships refunded, though their affiliations were unclear.

James Jeffrey, president of the Wildrose Club on campus, at-

tempted to run for UCCCA VP communications.

"In one sense we didn't achieve our objective because we didn't take them over," said Jeffrey. "But in one sense we consider it a win because one: they were unable to elect a new executive; and two: Ed Stelmach, the PC party and their club were embarrassed last night."

Jeffrey said that while both clubs supported the federal conservatives, they differ on the provincial level.

"The Wildrose Alliance supporters are conservatives," he stated. "Supporters of the Progressive Conservative party are liberals."

"It's the spending habits, just look where they are right now," he continued. "We're running [a] huge deficit and it's not just because of the economic downturn like Stelmach likes to say. It's because they kept increasing spending in such large amounts."

He also claimed the UCCCA contradicted itself by waiving the 30 day membership clause in the constitution last year, while enforcing it this year.

see CONSERVATIVE TAKEOVER, page 9



Emily Ask/the Gauntlet

Premier Stelmach addressed the U of C conservative club at the Den.



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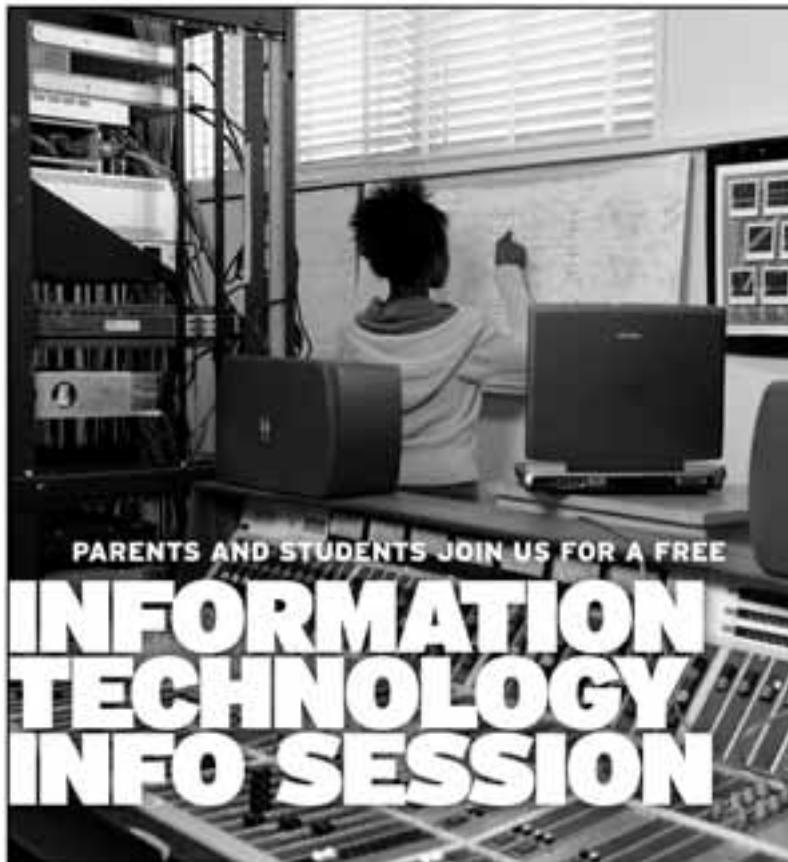
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Music department receives \$1 million

Daniel Pagan
Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary Department of Music is jamming more freely after two people donated a combined \$1 million towards the Music Department Facilities Renovation and Relocation Project.

Dick Matthews, one of the founding members of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra who has donated generously to various art departments at the U of C in the past, donated \$500,000 to the Department of Music. The gift was matched by an anonymous donor, bumping the total to \$1 million.

The donation enables the department to renovate the music rehearsal facilities by looking for sophisticated acoustic treatments, meaning the practice rooms are soundproofed so students do not have to deal with erratic and muddy sounds, better control of music stands, new chairs and instruments.

Music Department head William Jordan said the project would result in a new rehearsal space that is closer in



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

The \$1 million donation will allow the music department to renovate.

form and function to the Rozsa Centre's Eckhardt-Gramatté Concert Hall stage, by renovating the existing space in Craigie Hall.

"The gift of \$1 million to the Department of Music will enable us to provide much needed upgrades to our rehearsal and teaching spaces, specifically for instrumental music," said Jordan. "Coming at this time, the gift contributes to a positive, forward-looking, and confident approach to the future we want for our

students and community partners."

In a press statement released on April 12, former Fine Arts faculty dean Ann Calvert explained the donation was very useful for the department, as most of their facilities are aging and need repair for contemporary teaching.

"Old facilities are not always the right kind of spaces for our current teaching, sound or even room set-up," Calvert wrote. "This renovation will provide us with more flexibility and updated amenities."

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University of Calgary post office outlet closes

Noah Miller
News Editor

Students heading to MacEwan Students' Centre to mail taxes or process student loans will face disappointment and have to trek a little further with the closure of the Canada Post outlet in the basement of MacHall.

"The closure of the postal outlet was not Canada Post's choice, it was a request by the [University of Calgary]," said Canada Post spokesperson Teresa Williams.

According to Williams, the kind of postal outlet occupying the MacHall basement is run by a host business, in this case the university, which "takes on a contract with Canada

Post to provide postal services."

"It was strictly done for financial reasons. It was not financially viable," said U of C Parking and Traffic Services director Susan Austen, who indicated the outlet was actually losing money.

The decision has met with criticism from the Students' Union and students alike.

SU vice-president events Kat Lord said at this week's legislative council that the opinion around the executive table is that the outlet "is a valuable service [and] just because it doesn't turn a profit doesn't mean they should close it."

Fourth-year philosophy student Remi Watts agreed.

"It seems to me that shouldn't ex-

ist to turn a profit — it exists as a service to the students," said Watts. "There seems to be something critical about mailing your parents or processing a student loan. For students who live on campus, where do they go?"

Austen noted that a company comes and processes student loans around registration time and that students can head to any other Canada Post outlet to utilize post services.

"Unfortunately they won't be able to do it on campus, but there is [a postal outlet] at Brentwood, at stadium and also Market Mall," said Austen. "It's not quite as convenient and I appreciate that, but it is possible [to access these services] in the area."



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

The closure makes the Brentwood postal office the nearest to campus.

Conservative takeover, continued from page 7

"What looks bad is denying people the right to vote. What would have been democratic is if they had let us vote. Let the majority of people decide. Let [the] majority of people decide who should be the executive," Jeffrey stated.

Christina Rontynen, president of the UCCCA, said neither Jeffrey nor anybody on the Wildrose slate was a member of the Conservative club last year, while most voters at last year's AGM had been around the year prior to voting.

"I don't know how it worked at the door. I was the VP internal [last year] but as far as I know the majority of that room were members from the previous year," Rontynen told the Gauntlet.

She said that Jeffrey should not have based his actions on a precedent, but should have consulted her or the UCCCA constitution to clarify the rules for voting in the general election.

"Wildrose is in the end going to be the ones that are wrecking what they stand for, democracy and the constitution," she asserted.

Rontynen also addressed what she thought was responsible for the divide between the PC and Wildrose supporters.

"I think the divide comes more from allegiance to politicians than really what we believe. The progressive conservative party is a big-tent party and you have the 'big c's' and the 'little c's.' I think what it comes down to is the Wildrose party on campus has

allegiance to certain politicians, we put our allegiance behind Ed and our [Members of Legislative Assembly]."

The UCCCA executive will determine a new date for the election and send out an email notice to members 30 days in advance, she added.

"Tonight was supposed to be a fun night to welcome new members, vote [in] new executives and just start off the new year," Rontynen said. "I guess people will have to get used to me as president a little bit longer."

The UCCCA constitution states the election must happen before April 15, but Rontynen said the Manager of Student Programming from the Students' Union, Jason Morgan, told her via email that there will be no repercussions given the circumstances and clear efforts to resolve the situation.

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The struggle for Project Fly Home

Kim Nursall

My Mom Says I'm a Bigot



Values such as liberty and respect for due process of the law are espoused by the United Nations as integral to the development and preservation of healthy, autonomous societies. Despite this, individuals such as Abousfian Abdelrazik have found their lives obstinately constrained through the UN's 1267 list — a Kafkaesque resolution passed by the UN Security Council in 1999.

The 1267 list establishes a sanctions regime against "listed" individuals. These individuals are subject to: (a) a flight ban; (b) an arms embargo; and (c) an asset freeze. Arguably the most apt description of being listed on 1267 is that of being forced to reside in a "prison without walls."

Individuals are placed on 1267 at the behest of a UN Security Council member which must provide a "statement of case" to support their accusation that an individual is associated with the Taliban or Al Qaeda and therefore deserves to be on the list. Individuals accused of being associated with the above organizations are not notified prior to listing, however, nor are they provided with the statement of claim or given a hearing in which they can respond to or refute allegations. A brief summary of the charges — with no supporting evidence — is the only piece of information made available.

Countries can petition to have someone removed from the list and individuals can also apply to be delisted. In both cases, the decision to delist requires consensus among



all Security Council members, including the state that placed the individual on 1267 in the first place. From a due process perspective, this means that the accuser and the judge are the same. The record indicates that individuals are only delisted if their country of citizenship not only applies but actively lobbies to have their civilian removed. In 2008, the Security Council acknowledged that it "is far easier for a nation to place an individual or entity on the list than to take them off." No reasons are given for a refusal to delist.

One individual who has suffered tremendously as a result of being placed on 1267 is Abdelrazik, whose story not only shows the failure of the list to guarantee guilt but also its terrifying ability to handicap any listed individual — even one cleared of all charges — from ever being able to live a relatively normal life.

Abdelrazik's life has been mired in turmoil for the past seven years. For most of that time, he was imprisoned and allegedly tortured as a possible terrorist in Sudan at

the initiative of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. Eventually, the RCMP and CSIS were forced to admit there was no connection between Abdelrazik and terrorist activity, yet obdurate regulations made it impossible for him to return to Canada. He was instead forced to reside for more than a year at the Canadian embassy in Sudan's capital, Khartoum.

Canadians from across the country, under the banner of Project Fly Home, rallied for Abdelrazik's cause by purchasing him a ticket back to Canada last June. Almost 10 months later, and after years of waiting to return home, Abdelrazik is having his ability to reconstruct the life that was stolen from him further constrained by the 1267 regimen. He is now living with his children in Montreal, but is denied employment and has had his assets seized in accordance with the list's sanctions.

Although the Canadian government backed his delisting application in December 2007, it was blocked — presumably by the administration of former president George

W. Bush, which had originally requested his listing. Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon says it is Abdelrazik's responsibility to get himself off the list — ignoring the unsuccessful history of individual applicants for delisting — and has labelled Abdelrazik a threat to Canada's national security. He has provided no reasons for his claims.

Project Fly Home continues to advocate for Abdelrazik's rights. Their quest deserves the support of anybody who believes in due process of the law and the protection of individual liberty. The organization's immediate goals include asking the government to do three things: (1) lift sanctions from Abdelrazik in Canada immediately; (2) contact members of UN Security Council to inform them that delisting Abdelrazik is a priority; and (3) revoke the regulations that implement 1267 in Canada. Their long term goals include accountability for the abuses that Abdelrazik has suffered.

For more information about Project Fly Home, Abousfian Abdelrazik or the 1267 list, please visit peoplescommission.org/en/abdelrazik/

Thank you and Farewell!!

Charlotte Kingston
President



The 67th Students Legislative Council wraps up its work and passes the torch on April 30th. With just days left in our mandate we have much to celebrate and even more of which to look forward.

This week marks the end of what appears to be the longest tuition consultation process in our history. While we normally decide on tuition in December, this year the big vote did not take place until April 12th. On April 7th we learned from the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology that feedback from students was instrumental in helping him make choices in regards to market modified increases

to base tuition. The UofC can be proud their voices helped future engineers, doctors and lawyers avoid dangerous increases to their tuition. Despite the outcome for business, the full grandfathering and the push back until 2011 means the principle of predictability has been strongly protected. While there is more work to be done on business, the outcome is far more positive than it may have been.

As the 67th exec wraps up its work the more than \$3 million in MacHall renovations gets started. These changes will bring new club space, a new and multi-functional Empty Space, the first physical GLBTQ Resource Space on campus, and some new food choices to the food court.

A brand new governance structure will link faculty representatives closer to their constituents, and exciting new employment

opportunities can now be offered on campus. Instituting an annual Report to the Community, and making our bylaws more transparent and understandable are all part of a move to make the Students' Union more accessible and relevant to our membership.

All that accomplished, the possibilities for the future shine even brighter. Our new Students' Union Executive is full of plans to increase communications and outreach, market our events better, be more advocacy driven and build stronger community. Their ideas are fantastic and exciting; a year under their helm bodes well for students at the University of Calgary.

With so much on the horizon it becomes all the easier to let go of the roles that the current 67th are currently holding. I look forward to observing Lauren Webber's team and their work

from the outside. I look forward to having my life back and no longer having 24,000 bosses. Mostly, I am thankful for the experience of having served as your 67th Students' Union President. Thank you UofC for supporting us when we spoke on your behalf, thank you for attending the events we poured our hearts into, thank you for working with us to bring our community closer and protect the rights and needs of students. It has been our joy to serve and represent you over the last year.

Thanks for having us, and have a great summer.

Sincerely,
Charlotte

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Ruminations on graduation

Life, *Lost* and the wide world in-between

Ryan Pike

From the Cheap Seats



Breaking up, like many things in life, is hard to do. It's especially difficult when the relationship has been long-standing. This spring is particularly difficult for me, because I have to say goodbye to both the University of Calgary and the hit television series *Lost*.

I started at the U of C way back in September 2004. Paul Martin was prime minister, George Bush was America's president and *Lost* was just about to premiere on ABC. Now, after six years, it's time to say goodbye. If you'll indulge me, here's a few words of advice. Hopefully I'll provide more answers by the time I'm done than *Lost* will.

You should probably go to your classes, at least some of the time. Go often enough that your professors know who you are, or at least have a vague recognition of where you typically sit. While this means they'll probably be able to bust your ass when you skip class to drink in the Den, it also means they'll know when you show up and are putting in an effort. Professors are people too, even if they have made strange life decisions. Seeing that you actually show up means they might cut you a break once in awhile.

That said, classes aren't everything. Over six years at the U of C, I probably spent more time in the *Gauntlet* office or the Den than in class. Against all odds, I managed reasonably strong grades and actually graduated roughly on time, something few *Gauntlet* editors ever do. The challenge facing you, as a student and as a customer of the university, is to get as much

from this place as you give to it with your tuition.

Have some adventures while you're young. This doesn't necessarily have to do just with schooling, but you should use the time you have above the university safety net to do some cool stuff. Go on a road trip. Spend a weekend in the mountains. Make friends with a stranger in one of your classes. Heck, take one or two really interesting options during your degree — like one of the film department's awesome genre classes. Last spring and summer I was able to make my classes all movie-themed, which made me actually want to drag my ass out of bed every morning.

Last, but certainly not least, challenge yourself and those around you. It's really fun to surround yourself with like-minded people, but it's also really easy. Spend some time with people whose lifestyles or viewpoints are in stark opposition

to your own. I'm fairly centrist, politically, but I've managed to have some tremendously eye-opening conversations with communists, libertarians, conservatives and even university administrators. The key is to expose yourself to differing viewpoints — even if they're completely bat-shit crazy, you'll open your mind to some extent.

The university, much like the rest of the world, is filled with people trying to do the best with what they've been given. The Students' Union might not be the most effective body in the world, but they're doing as much as they can. If they all wanted to pad their resumes and slack off, there are much easier ways to do it. Similarly, nobody in administration is out to get students. It just seems that way sometimes given the things they do to keep the books balanced. If everyone had the resources they required, no

doubt academic quality of life at this institution would take a great leap forward.

Myself, I'm leaving the U of C proud about most of my time here, although the quality of my experience had little to do with the school or classes.

Once you make the decision to enroll, it's up to you to make the most out of things. Jacking up tuition aside, there's very little the university can do to make things great or terrible. I've had the opportunity to go to free concerts, travel across the country and meet politicians, musicians, activists and all sorts of interesting people from all walks of life. The U of C might be granting me my degrees, but they have nothing to do with why I had so much fun here.

I spent my time on this island and got as much as I could from the experience. I hope you all do the same.

Research finance proposal a step in the right direction

Sarah Dorchak

Gauntlet Opinions

With files from Hazel Jenkins

Throughout the past academic year, the university's financial management has been under review and attack. From Harvey Weingarten's payout to the research grant fiasco, the University of Calgary has received negative and critical attention. However, there have been some positive steps to correct these past mistakes.

To recap, a February report

from a council of Canada's top research grant agencies — the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council, Social Science and Humanities Research Council, and Canadian Institutes of Health Research — found fault with the university's management of grants. As the report outlined, the "framework for ensuring grant funds are used in accordance with the agencies' requirements continues to be unsatisfactory."

This is the second report the tri-council has submitted to the

university, the first was in 2006. The council outlined recommendations on how to resolve recurring issues, like claiming purchases unrelated to actual research. Despite the statement, no changes were made to rectify the identified problems until this latest report. While the lack of changes during the past four years may be blamed on past management, that issue hopefully has been addressed with the 2009 appointment of vice-president finance Jonathan Gebert and 2007

appointment of vp research Rose Goldstein.

In response to the 2010 report, Gebert and Goldstein issued a warning to staff that the university's reputation was at stake.

"When you're entrusted with public funds, they assume you've got business processes in place to be able to be good custodians of it," Gebert said in a March 10 interview with the *Calgary Herald*.

The council requested a proposal from the university on how it will rectify the identified prob-

lems, due March 31. While the proposal is closed to the public, U of C media relations associate director Grady Semmens assured the *Gauntlet* that steps are being taken to fix the problems. The warning towards staff and the university's proposal submission are positive steps away from past financial mishaps.

Interview requests with Gebert and Goldstein went unanswered — hopefully they are saving their breath for when the proposal is approved in late April.



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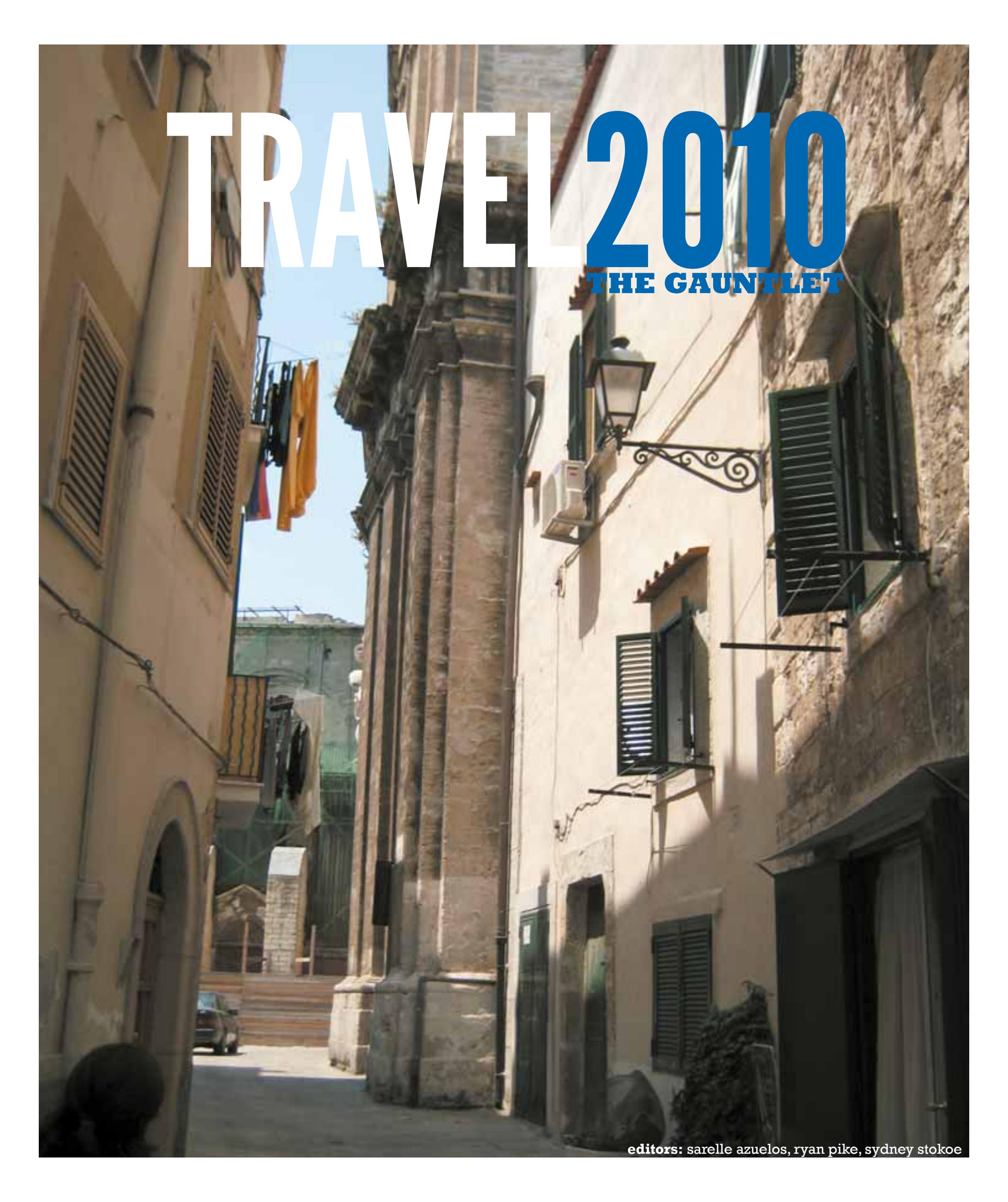
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TRAVEL 2010

THE GAUNTLET

editors: sarelle azuelos, ryan pike, sydney stokoe



SURFING THE WORLD ONE COUCH AT A TIME

It was raining when I rolled into the nearly non-existent town of Fox Glacier on the south island of New Zealand — grey, wet and cold. After hauling my bags to the shack housing the internet café and checking my email, I was able to breathe a sigh of relief — my couchsurf host had finally gotten back to me. There is nothing more relieving than knowing you have a place to sleep. I had been trying to contact my host Jono for almost a week and when I arrived in Fox Glacier, I had no idea if there would be a place for me to stay or not. But if this sort of unpredictability doesn't put you off, Couchsurfing is an awesome way to travel.

Couchsurfing is an online community of travellers looking to escape from the conventional hostel experience. Participants can either offer couches or search for places to stay on their travels. Each host or traveller creates an online profile describing themselves and their couch, and travellers are able to contact potential hosts requesting a place to stay.

I took the bus into town that day. Most of my road travel had been by thumb, but looking at the dense grey of the sky I didn't regret my decision to hop a bus this time. Somehow standing in the rain waiting for a ride on the roadside was less than appealing.

Certainly, there is an element of risk associated with connections made over the internet; surfers and hosts both need to exercise a certain amount of street smarts before they agree to a host situation. As a young woman travelling alone, I was initially skeptical about staying on a stranger's couch. However, safety and security is a huge priority for the organization. Members can be rated and verified by other users and both surfers and hosts are encouraged to write reviews of any member they meet in person. Both sides have a high level of control — personal contact details are not divulged by the site and all communication between parties is through the website. It only takes a minute to scan the reviews of a potential couch or surfer.

It's the sort of situation that you have to go into with an open mind; the quality of the couch at the other end is not guaranteed. Sometimes you get the spare room, sometimes you end up in a hammock, or a tent in the backyard, or a garden shed, it really depends on the situation. One thing is certain, though: the people that open their homes to weary travellers are among the most welcoming and sincere I have ever met.

I met up with Jono when he got off work and we walked the two kilometres out of town to his house. Turns out he and his housemates were all guides for the local glacier tour company I had booked a trip with

for the next day. The couch itself was a pretty standard three-seater, comfortable enough, but nothing special. But the quality of a stay rests very little on the sleeping surface itself. It's all about the people you are spending time with, and these guys were top notch. We ended up driving out to the glacier at night, hacking off chunks of ice and hauling them back into town to make glacier margaritas. The wine flowed as freely as the conversation, we sang and talked shit for hours before I retired to my couch tired and happy. That's what it's all about: good company, good conversation, loads of alcohol and a place to rest your head for the night.

I'm not saying that every traveller should rush out and stay in strangers' houses, but for those looking for a break from the conventional bus and hostel sort of trip, Couchsurfing opens doors to a lot of interesting places. Provided you're up for a bit of adventure.

"I get a lot of couch surf requests," admitted Jono. "When I saw you were from Red Deer, I knew you had to come and stay."

I was confused for a moment. Red Deer, Alberta is hardly a noteworthy place. "I lived in Red Deer a while back," he added with a grin.

It's a small world.

Share, host and surf at www.couchsurfing.org.

sydney stokoe

THE 50-MILLIMETER CANON LENS BOUNCED DOWN THE IHLARA VALLEY



Coming out of the mosque, I put my purse down to free my hands and aid in my safe journey back down the awkward, eroded carved steps. Suddenly the world was in slow motion as I heard my bag shift. Even though the top was sealed with Velcro, the only two objects similar in size and shape came rolling out. In disbelief I stared as a red shiny apple and my 50-millimetre Canon lens dropped-off the mosque steps.

It all started when the four of us — Ben, Pen, Chris and I — piled out of the car to hike the Ihlara Valley. I had hiked the valley 11 years ago with my mom, dad and two friends, so it held a special place in my heart.

We were extremely excited to hike the valley because of the tunnels, pigeon holes and churches carved into the steep cliffs. While hiking we came across a conveniently placed restaurant with log stumps for seats and each table equipped with the Turkish necessities, an ash tray and sugar cubes.

Above all, we were especially excited to locate a hidden mosque the owner of our hotel told us about. We hike further and further into the belly of the Ihlara, never tiring of the magnificent landscape.

Rounding a curve, we were suddenly surrounded by giant cliffs. High up we could see carved doorways. Was that the entrance the hotel owner tried to describe? And is this the cliff edge he haphazardly marked on our map with an “X”?

Without further hesitation we pulled out our headlamps and flashlights. One by one we entered the small, claustrophobic tunnel. What a discovery! We had found what appeared to be an old well, a barricaded door, a small church and two grand rooms measuring five metres by 10 metres. Only 20 more metres down the valley we found the mosque.

...In disbelief, I stared as a red shiny apple

and my 50-millimetre Canon lens dropped off the mosque steps.

“Oh no...” I muttered. Time froze as both apple and lens gain speed with their descent, each one bouncing harder and further the more it crashed down the Ihlara Valley. The apple, like a runner in a marathon only feet from the finish line, flings itself off the hill directly into the gushing river below.

“Oh no...” I think, being even more intelligent than I was a few moments ago. “Perhaps the lens will stop bouncing. Perhaps I’ll be lucky enough that it just stops and doesn’t follow the apple into the river. Or perhaps be-



cause of the 10 bounces and bangs this unprotected 50-millimetre Canon lens has just endured down the mountain side, I should hope it puts me and itself out of misery by landing in the river.”

What does the lens do? It stops-dead two-thirds of the way down the hill. Collecting the lens cap which popped off at the top, I slowly make my way down to my injured 50.

“It might still work,” I think. “Sure. It’s little... and tough?”

I pick it up. Its glass eye starring at me, still intact.

“Um?” Chris tries the lens on his camera.

“ERROR”. My heart sinks a little.

“Darn it. I’ve already destroyed a lens and we’re only two months into the trip.”

Two days later I try the lens out on my camera and the most amazing and impressive thing happens. It works! It’s been a week since my poor 50-millimetre rolled down the Ihlara Valley, but remarkably it is still producing quality photographs! So for you photo buffs out there who need sturdy, reliable equipment, I think this one passes the test.

March 25, 2010

To follow Laura and Chris’ adventure, go to outtheresomewhere.ca.

MY LIFE AS A KIWI



Kia Ora. A few years ago, I was lucky enough to be part of a rugby team travelling to New Zealand, the sport's world capital. One of the most iconic and dominant teams to ever surface the playing field, the All Blacks, hails from New Zealand. Canadian rugby, although it is developing nationally, has yet to prove itself within the international rugby community. Our team was definitely looking to get our hands dirty, as we were set to play various teams all over New Zealand.

The tour consisted of four games, in a farming community, a beach city, a big city and one against the highest ranked rugby school, where 90 per cent of their first team players went on to play professionally. But there were many skills to learn and games to play other than just throwing a rugby ball around.

New Zealand has two official languages, Maori and English, which are spoken widely throughout the islands. All government documents, including money and passports feature both languages.

Otorohanga — We arrived in a small town of about 3,000 people that was apparently the drinking and driving capital of the country. We played our game and got our asses royally kicked by some of the most talented players we had ever come across. We quickly learned that the Polynesians and Maoris loved to hit, and the condition of our bodies post-game was proof. There were punches, elbows and kicks incorporated into the various scrums. I'm not saying that they were cheap, but we definitely learned that rugby in New Zealand was no cake walk. After the game there was a huge celebration in which both teams took part. Even though we were enemies on the field, post-game everyone built friendships over a couple drinks. Soon enough, I was eating bangers

and mash with the family of the guy who repeatedly smashed me into the ground just a few hours earlier.

In New Zealand they sell an exclusive drink called Lemon & Paeroa. L&P is indescribable; it's one of those beverages you have to try to understand. If you find yourself in New Zealand, be sure to pick one up. After the banquet, the Kiwis had greater things planned for us Canadians. We went to a party and quickly learned that instead of egging houses, lemonging houses was compulsory. Unlike eggs, lemons don't usually break and since all of the households in New Zealand have aluminum roofs, the lemons make a really loud and rather rewarding sound. Despite throwing heaps of lemons at houses, no one complained and no one cared. The biggest reaction was from a guy who, after his house was lemoned, drove by and informed us which house we should lemon next. That led us deep into the night, and for some the morning as well.

New Plymouth — After hanging around in tiny Otorohanga, we arrived at the New Plymouth All Boys Academy and were greeted by a bunch of adolescent males attending a sports academy. The school had about seven rugby teams in our age group. We played the third team and got thrashed. The first team had top recruits from various islands, such as Tonga, Samoa and Fiji. We learned a valuable lesson: do not underestimate any rugby team in New Zealand. These boys had unreal talent and skill. We matched and maybe even bettered their athleticism, but when it came to game knowledge, they levelled us. They held a post-game BBQ to display their sympathy and good will.

New Plymouth was a rather quiet town in regards to partying. Our hosts were younger, so most of us played video games and hung around the house. We went on a really comical tour of the harbour called Chatty's Boat Tours. Several of us were not accustomed to the motion of the ocean and as a result vomiting was a frequent activity amongst our team. Chatty, the tour guide, had a small dog on board that literally fished during the tour. The dog held onto a fish line and when a fish bit the line, the dog barked. After the tour, Chatty gutted the fish and fed the remains to stingrays off the boat launch.

There are numerous rivers and cliffs within the city's core. We went swimming and cliff jumping after our game. The Kiwis showed us how to really cliff jump. At a spot called Qualcomm Cliffs there are 40- and 60-foot cliffs. The Kiwis were doing back flips, gators (running back flips) and front flips off the 60 footer. New Plymouth's low key nature worked for us; after getting smashed on the rugby field, we were not too keen on getting smashed off of it. Even the breakfasts were low key, there is no sugar on cereal in New Zealand. The lack of anything close to Coco Puffs or Fruit Loops was rather upsetting.

Waihi Beach — The name pretty much sums up the city. It was a beach town where most of the students from the Waihi Beach Academy participated in surfing or life saving competitions. We played rugby in one of the rowdiest, heaviest torrential downpours I have ever experienced but it completely disappeared shortly after the game. Again, we lost, this time 42-0. The Kiwis were familiar with playing in such heavy precipitation. After the game, we ended up hitting the "piss," or beer, and having a big BBQ. We soon found out that no one wears shoes in Waihi Beach. Even when the parents of our billets went grocery shopping, the shoes were left at home. Some of us tried it, but rapidly learned that we don't have tough feet and every little thing hurts. After all was said and done, we played some beach rugby and relaxed. There was skateboarding, freestyle rapping and breakdancing. At the gathering, one of the parents brought heaps of random chips. One of my personal favourites was a type of chip called Burger Rings. Other flavours included

Tomato Sauce and Mince Pie, Chicken, the Works, Honey/Soy Chicken, Lamb & Mint and Apricot Yogurt.

Auckland (Whangaparaoa) — As we arrived for the last leg of our tour, many of us were hung-over, sore and rather exhausted, but we kept the party going. We arrived at the school to a traditional Maori greeting, which starts with "Haka," a rather intimidating traditional dance. After, it's customary to touch foreheads and noses as a symbol of the bonds of knowledge and peace. This greeting is called "Hongi." Soon after the Hongi, we were playing our final rugby game in New Zealand. The game was a bit closer, but we came out a couple tries short. After we all headed to

our billet house for the biggest party yet. The night was young, and after an L&P, it was off to the beach.

Friday night, our last evening in New Zealand and we were in one of the country's largest cities. Many of us went out dining to the various pubs around the city. There was a McCafé on every street. Similar to a normal McDonalds, the café had a somewhat tranquil environment to consume the artery assaulting products in. We found an arcade that was probably the biggest in all of New Zealand. At one point there were about 25 Dance Dance Revolution games going simultaneously.

Auckland is comparable to Vancouver, lots of rain, on the sea, built around a harbour.

Many of us went sightseeing and set off to visit various spots around the city. The night ended smoothly and we were all grateful for having the opportunity to experience New Zealand at its finest.

We built friendships, experienced culture and established camaraderie with each other. New Zealand can only be summed up with one word — epic.



KILLING CHICKENS MAKES FOR THE PERFECT READING WEEK



I never thought that I would have to kill my own dinner while I was there, but I have to say it made the trip.

Over reading week, I decided to venture into ancient Mexico. My trip took me to a tiny Mayan village along with 12 other students on a group study program. Xmayben (pronounced shamayben) was full of pole and thatch homes, dirt roads, kids on bicycles and buildings adorned with each family's political affiliations. This traditional village spoke almost exclusively their own language — we found ourselves lost in translation. With an inability to communicate anything other than a laugh or a scream of horror as a three-inch bug wandered across the floor, our group made do with simply watching.

I met healers, elders, ranchers and bee keepers. I ate fruit straight off of trees, made my own tortillas and killed a chicken to eat for dinner, all before the children in our house left for school in the morning. Each family has everything they need in their gardens to sustain themselves, including herbs, pigs, goats and my friend, the chicken, who was tied upside down to a branch waiting to become dinner. I was handed a knife and the lady of the house pointed to the chicken. I couldn't understand anything she was saying, but I

got the idea pretty quick. I ran back into the hut, rifled through my first aid kit and, with blue surgical gloves on, I was ready to kill a chicken while protecting myself from bird flu.

In our travels around the Yucatan, I visited some of the most breathtaking sites I have ever seen. From the pyramids in Edzna, to the temples at Uxmal, jaguar, owl, turtle and snake motifs adorned each piece of Mayan architecture. I learned that these motifs represented fertility, wisdom and power from our resident Maya expert. Tales of magic men and their adventures building the pyramids emerged one evening under the protection of nightfall. All of the students were in awe as we looked off into the horizon from the top of one of the steepest pyramids, listening to the forest's never-ending quiet. It was a stark contrast from the hustle and bustle of Mexico's major centers. Legend has it that you have to walk up the stairs like a snake, otherwise your land will be cursed with poor fertility. I'm not a believer, but it did make it a lot easier to walk up. Climbing down a 65 degree angle is a whole different story, especially when you are supposed to do 121 steps backwards to avoid offending the Gods. They key is not to rush, because the idea of falling down a 35 meter high wall isn't appealing.

If you're looking for something different than your typical all-inclusive experience, I recommend starting in Campeche and staying at Hostel San Carlos.

With an open-air dining area and a location close to the square, you are within walking distance of everything you need. Already boasting festivals, museums, great markets, the most colourful buildings you have ever seen and an awesome boardwalk, Campeche is also within a few hours of many Mayan ruins. Student discounts are offered, so make sure you have your student ID with you to capitalize on cheaper rates. And last but not least, you can pick up a three-foot-tall princess piñata at the market and carry it around like your own Travelocity gnome.

Happy travelling!

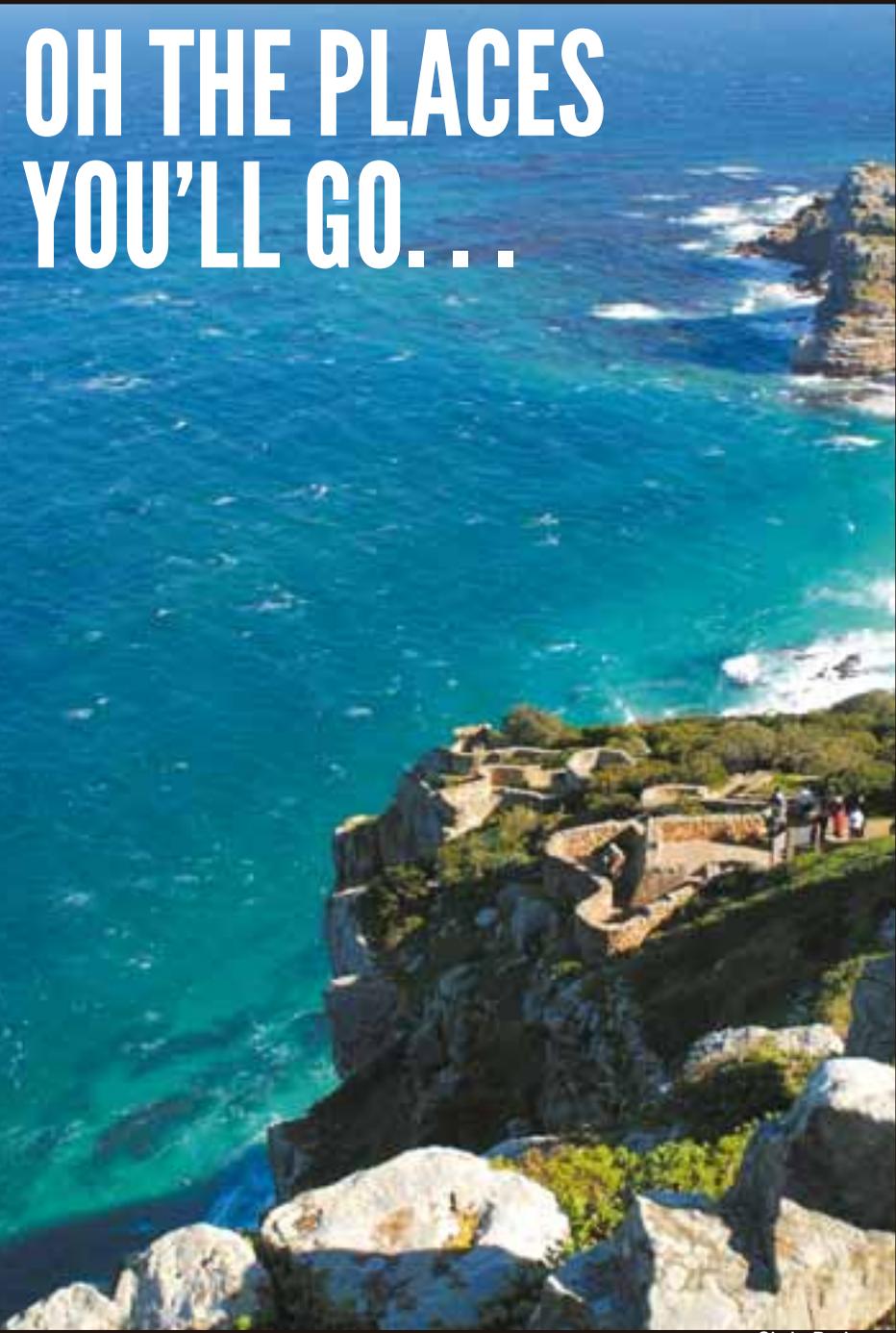
naomi rau



photos by brita goldie

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO...

Cape of Good Hope



Chris Pedersen

Italian Building



Geoff MacIntosh

Amazon Sunset



Amy Badry

Mt. Cook ,New Zealand



Sydney Stokoe

Capitolio, Cuba



Winifrey Valencia

Cuban Road



Geoff MacIntosh

Wellington harbour front, New Zealand



Sydney Stokoe

Brazilian peppers



Amy Badry

Stairs, Italy



Geoff MacIntosh

Rotorua, New Zealand



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Chobe National Park, Botswana



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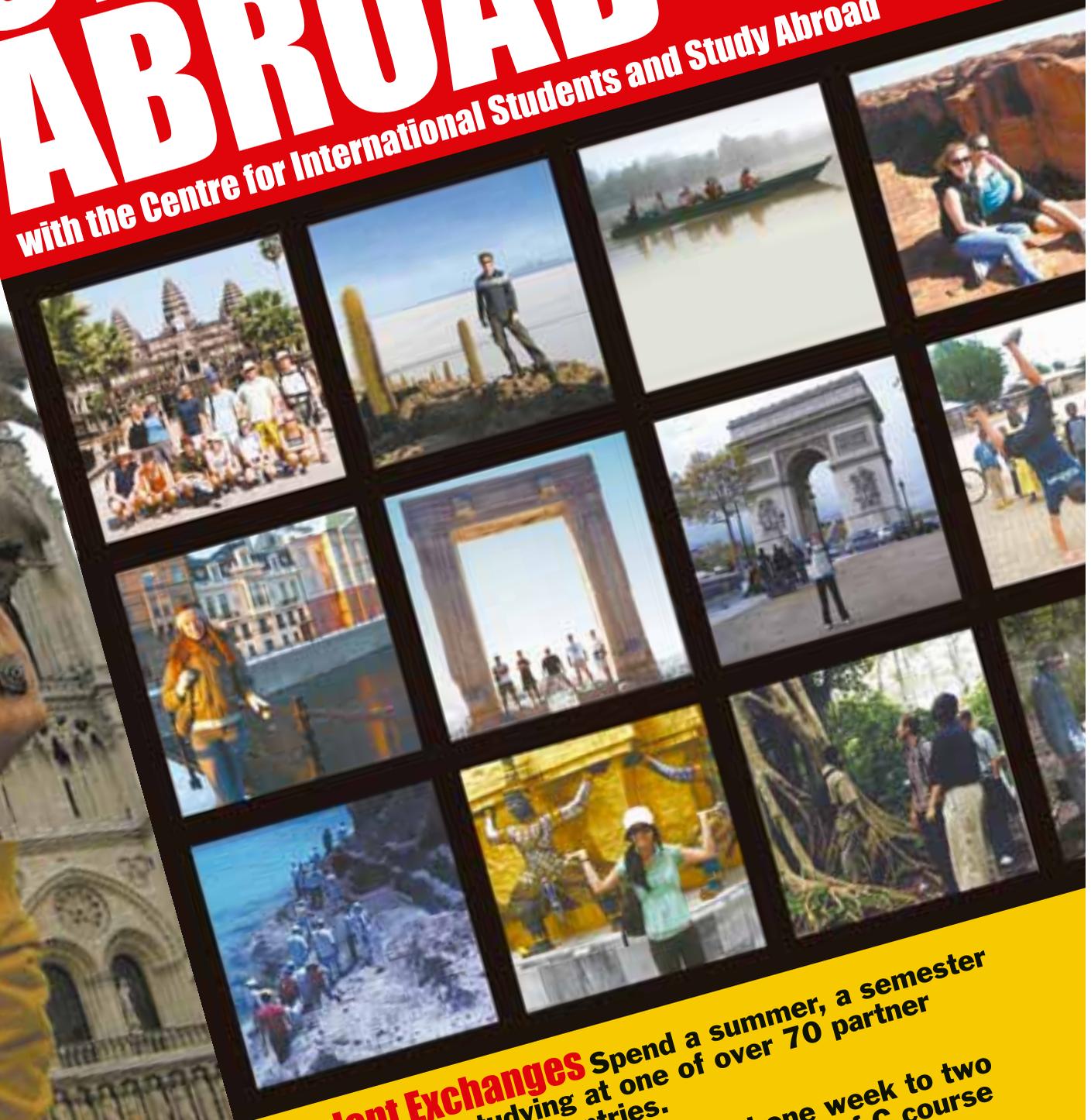


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ROAD TRIP 2009: FUCK THE DESERT

In the summer of 2009, my girlfriend and I faced a conundrum: what should we do for a vacation? Neither of us made a whole lot of money, so we lacked the ability to whisk ourselves away to far-flung regions of the world. But we had an idea: we'd go on a road trip.

Beginning with a vague goal in mind — spending a day or so in San Francisco and Seattle — we trekked south. We had blocked out how far we wanted to go in advance via Google Maps, and booked hotels online accordingly. A couple long drives at the beginning provided us with extra time on the coast but resulted in a pair of arduous drives. No matter what Google Maps tells you, add at least an hour onto that time. For instance, the first day was scheduled to be a

12-hour drive between Calgary and Idaho Falls cutting through Montana. Google Maps neglected to factor in that Montana highways run through rolling hills and mountains, which added nearly two hours to the trip.

Similarly, the second day of driving — roaming through Utah and cutting across Nevada before finishing in Reno — involved another dozen hours of travel. Unfortunately, fate intervened in two significant ways. First, a wrong turn outside of Salt Lake City resulted in us driving around the desert on a sketchy secondary highway looking for a way back onto the Interstate. Second, my car's air conditioning broke three days before the trip and was not fixed prior to departure. What resulted was nine hours of driving across the desert in 37-degree heat without air conditioning.

Needless to say, when you are planning a road trip, try to limit your driving to 10 hours a day. To keep our trip on schedule I ended up driving in four-hour blocks, stopping only for gas, with my girlfriend feeding me snacks throughout. It was in no way a “fun” way to spend a vacation. But, if you wish to test the mettle of your relationship, 24 hours of driving over two days may be a good plan.

Despite the insanity that preceded, Reno was a fun city, although a crazy woman denounced us as casino-goers and shouted obscenities at our car as we were leaving the hotel-slash-casino. Maybe it was because it came after the desert, or after the crazy woman, but the best day of driving was our trip from Reno to San Francisco. The Sierra Nevada mountains are gorgeous, the transition from hills to coast is extremely pleasant and our driving that day was a scant





three hours. Despite California's seemingly state-wide commitment to 24/7 road construction, travelling to and around San Francisco was surprisingly easy. We ended up checking out Fisherman's Wharf, visiting Alcatraz and walking around downtown for several hours. The city itself was teeming with life the entire time we were there and, had we done things over again, we could have spent three or four days exploring.

The highlight of the next day of travel was our trip to Weed, California. Located snugly beside Mount Shasta near the Oregon border, Weed is a town named after a local lumber magnate. It sounds like it's named after marijuana. Thankfully, the town is in on the joke and sells a wide array of merchandise designed to make light of the moniker. Our excitement surrounding visiting Weed provided nice forward momentum for our trip, particularly when we got caught in Bay Area traffic outside of Oakland and had to make up time. Unfortunately, after leaving Weed we realized that we still had four hours of driving through Oregon. The highway experience in the state is road and trees. Four hours of that was tortuous, particularly considering that once we reached our destination for the night — the state capital of Salem — we realized there was nothing to do in the entire city. Fuck Oregon. Avoid it if you can.

Our antipathy for Oregon fueled our next day of driving, thankfully another short trip, this time bringing us to Seattle, Washington. Seattle is a really cool city, but driving through it sucks. Seattle traffic is awful. We ditched our car as soon as we could and walked around. That was the best decision

we made all week. Downtown Seattle is great. Everything is centrally-located or easily accessible by transit, so we were able to see everything from the Pike Place Market to the Space Needle without having to cut anything out. Heck, we even had a chance to explore Seattle's awesome aquarium, the Science Fiction Museum, the zoo and go to a Mariners game. In short: visit Seattle.

Leaving Seattle to begin our journey home, we had another day of driving ahead of us through the rolling hills of central Washington. As much as Seattle is great, central Washington is not. Central Washington is dull — there's nothing much to do, see or be aware of between Seattle and Spokane. Incidentally, one thing to be aware of are tires. Semi trucks often put secondary tires on their real tires to decrease wear. Unfortunately, these tire shells often get loose and fall off, resulting in much random rubber lying on Interstate highways. If you run over these tires, like we did near the Gorge, you will think your car is dying. While that made the last two hours of driving interesting, neither of us enjoyed stopping every half hour to make sure nothing was broken.

The last day of our trip was a short jump from Sandpoint, Idaho through British Columbia to Calgary. Driving through the B.C. interior is always fun, given that mountains are pretty. I must admit that the first place we stopped to get food once back in Canada was a Tim Hortons. After six days in the U.S., you'll crave their coffee. While our planning backfired on the way down to the coast, it worked in our favour on the way back to town — a much-needed jaunt through Banff allowed

us to get candy and visit the hot springs, but it also allowed some decompression. It's much easier to relax on a road trip when you're sure you can get home even if your car explodes. That feeling of relief permeated the entire Canadian leg of our trip.

Once back in Calgary, we made a few observations. The car's odometer had rung up over 4,000 kilometers through six states and two provinces and we had purchased several hundred dollars of trinkets and knick-knacks. Additionally, neither of us wanted to murder each other. That said, even though we front-loaded the driving on purpose, driving for 24 of the first 36 hours of a vacation wasn't ideal. Sticking to the Interstate system meant faster speeds, but unless you want to cut across areas and take short-cuts, you're going to end up driving further (and probably longer).

Finally, while we went on the trip to save money and see the "real" America, we ended up seeing far more road and rolling hillside than we really wanted to. As much as we'd like to deny it, the real character of a country resides within its cities, not within four-hour drives through boring-ass Oregon. Our vacation this year holds the same goals as last. But this year, we're flying.

ryan pike

**USA 2004 (September 19th) Utah,
Arches National Park; Paraflyer [left]
Mesa Arch, Island in the Sky, Utah; Rick McCharles [right]**

A TASTE TOUR ACROSS EUROPE

Food is one of the greatest parts of travelling. Unless you are incredibly strapped for cash, surviving on crackers and dip, you'll likely want to sample some of the ethnic specialties in the countries you find yourself in. Below is a European tour of foods — the good, the bad and the revolting — courtesy of Richard Lam, the *Gauntlet's* food elitist.

Location: Jönköping, Sweden

Food: Hamburgerkött

Language barriers are most problematic in the grocery store, where you are never sure exactly what you are buying. I've heard a number of people report purchasing what they thought was milk, only to find a thick sour yogurt paste oozing from their cartons and resting on top of their cereal. In my case, I was looking for deli meat, which is always useful to have on reserve. I settled on a reasonably priced, reasonable looking meat called Hamburgerkött, which resembled some sort of ham, based on the name and colour. It tasted fine, and I began using it in salads, pasta, sandwiches and omelettes. Weeks passed before I met my Swedish friend Daniel, who after reading the packaging, informed me that it was, in fact, horse meat that I had been consuming the whole time. My guilt and disgust at what I had done was easily allayed by how good My Little Pony tastes.



Location: Barcelona, Spain

Food: Churros & Chocolate

The curious combination of deep-fried dough strips and melted chocolate are apparently a breakfast item in Spain. The idea is that you either dip these "Spanish doughnuts" in the hot chocolate or drizzle the chocolate on top. It's hot enough to burn your tongue, oily enough to leave a streaky residue and dense enough to weigh you down for a few hours. Satisfying yet disgusting. Filling the craving but leaving you bloated. Spain's answer to poutine.



Location: Prague, Czech Republic

Food: Czech dumplings

Not necessarily the prettiest, but Czech dumplings, served with a Hungarian paprika beef stew sauce, is some of the tastiest stuff one can find in Europe. The cylindrical slices of dough are the dumplings, impeccably soft pieces of melt-in-your-mouth goodness. It's usually served in some sort of meat sauce, which makes for a flavourful and well-balanced meal. Top recommendations.



Location: Gothenburg, Sweden

Food: Swedish Meatballs

Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, and lingonberry jam. One can't get more typically Swedish. The only problem being . . . Swedish meatballs aren't very good. They taste a lot like the generic fake Swedish meatballs you can get here. Like Michelin's fake. It's all the same, which is a shame. Mashed potatoes are mashed potatoes. The only redeeming factor is the lingonberries. More sour than sweet, lingonberry jam actually goes very well with meat or fish dishes, rather than on toast. Similar to cranberries, but less tangy, lingonberries are one of the high points in the generally underwhelming world of Swedish cuisine.



Location: Oslo, Norway**Food: Plate of fries**

Ah, Oslo — likely the most expensive city in the most expensive country in Europe, if not the world. Ducking into a Hard Rock Café on a particularly cold February afternoon with 30 centimetres of snow, we decided to take a break with munchies and beer. It was then that we realized the cost of a simple starter. One plate of fries: 66 Norwegian kroner, which equates to about 11 Canadian dollars. Don't even ask about the beer. I'm sure there are plenty of wonderful and exotic dishes that Norwegian cuisine has to offer, but after those fries, we decided to just eat nothing for the remainder of the trip.

**Location: Stockholm, Sweden****Food: Semla**

Semla is the god amongst pastries, a seasonal Nordic specialty rivalling the best of what the Danish have to offer in the pastry department. A fluffy cardamom-spiced bun with the top cut off and the innards scooped out, it is filled with whipped cream and marzipan and lightly sprinkled with icing sugar. Not too heavy and not too sweet, it is only offered between Christmas and Easter, a dessert traditionally associated with Lent. True Swedes only eat it once a year — like the Chinese and their New Year's mooncake — but once these have entered your life, a distinct gaping hole in your heart remains post-Easter when it is no longer sold.

**Location: Edinburgh, Scotland****Food: Haggis**

One word: outstanding. Forget what you've heard, forget what you've read — forget what's in it. Just savour the spices that mesh perfectly with this brown bowl of miscellaneous ground meat parts of variable consistency. Originally a staple dish for the poorer Scottish population, it just tastes damn good, especially with some neeps and tatties on the side. They've also come up with a vegetarian haggis option, for the conscientious eater. Oxymoronic, yes, but it still ain't bad.

**Location: Amsterdam, The Netherlands****Food: Mini Dutch waffles**

Tough chunks of dough, covered in assorted sweets — cherries, whipped cream, icing sugar — all drowned in a strong, spicy rum. Tastes exactly how it looks. Satisfies the sweet tooth if that's what you're looking for.



One more thing — order iced tea in Sweden and you'll get just that. A cup of ice water and assorted tea bags. Enjoy.



A STRANGER AT HOME



Travelling to a foreign country is exciting, fun and sometimes scary. The thrill of new sights and sounds, so different from the C-Train clanking and construction roars of Calgary. With crazy foods to try (crocodile, anyone?) and exotic beverages to sip, your stomach may take a journey of its own. There are interesting people to talk to and foreign lips to kiss, sand to frolic in and ocean to surf. Terrain so beautiful, the thousand and one pictures that you snapped with your new digital camera won't do it justice.

But there comes a time in every person's travels when they have to purchase a ticket back home. After all the crocodile meat has been eaten, all the beer has been drunk and all the terrain has been tread, only hugs and goodbyes await at the airport.

It was a warm day in July 2008 and I was boarding a plane in Montes Claros, Brazil, on my way back to Canada after a year abroad. Coming home is the hardest part of the journey. After a year of Portuguese, *samba*, *fútbol* and *feijoada* I was having trouble remembering the taste of maple syrup on pancakes and the sound of snow-blowers in the winter. I was travelling back home, but "home" to me now seemed like an exotic, far away land.

Trepidation and worry entered my thoughts as I

showed my carry-on bag into the overhead compartment. The flight attendant gave the usual spiel about emergency exits and safety belts, but my mind was focused on what awaited me in Canada.

A strange feeling came over me. Would I remember how to be Canadian? The culture seemed strange and far-off to me at the moment on the plane. I didn't know what music was popular on the radio or what hit t.v. show was playing on the airwaves. I wasn't even sure what the right context for using "Eh" was anymore. How would I relate to people back home?

Looking out of the Air Canada jet window, I saw fields stretching as far as my eyes could see, the square plots of land making a sort of green patchwork quilt across the prairie. After four layovers and 16 hours of flying, I had arrived in Edmonton.

My mom picked me up at the airport. After hellos and hugs she loaded my bags on to the trolley. She asked how the flight was and I tried to tell her, but my explanation became a jumble of incoherent English and Portuguese. I forgot simple words and sentences took a little more concentration. Mom was patient and I finally was able to explain to her how I almost missed the plane in São Paulo because my ticket had the wrong terminal number printed on it.

On the two-hour drive from Edmonton to the farm, mom caught me up on what had changed in our small

prairie town. Not much — other than the new restaurant in town, everything was the same she said.

We pulled into the driveway. Flowers were in full bloom under the July sun and my old calico cat welcomed me back. The front porch step was still broken and the kitchen sink still leaked. But it was good to be home. Mom barbequed salmon and at dinner I shared stories about the people I met, the food I ate, and the places I visited. The family feigned interest for a while, but by the time mom brought out the apple pie I could tell they were not as excited to hear about my year abroad as I was to tell them about it.

Coming home was an adventure in itself. I felt like a tourist in my own town. I could revel at the colours of the country sunset and could see beauty in the decrepit grain elevators that were falling over beside the railway tracks. Family and friends were excited to welcome me home and politely asked questions about my trip. But soon the novelty of being home wore off.

Most have heard of culture shock — the feelings of anxiety and surprise when entering an unfamiliar culture. But reverse culture shock is a more difficult concept to understand. No one expects you to feel like a stranger in your own culture and country. But a year in the interior state of Minas Gerais left me with a gap in Canadian cultural knowledge I didn't even know I was missing.

The week after I arrived home, my little brother invited me to go with him and his girlfriend to the country fair taking place in the next town over. I hadn't met his girlfriend yet and we drove to her house to pick her up. I got out of the car to greet her with *beijos* on the cheek, a typical Brazilian hello. She pulled away, not sure what to do. I guess we don't give kisses for hellos here in Canada.

Things you take for granted — like how to greet people, when someone is telling a joke or being serious or how to order drinks at the bar — all the familiar symbols and signs of social interaction were lost on me and I was like a tourist in my own town.

Friends laughed when I forgot a word in English. Mom yelled at me when I failed to take off my shoes at the front door. (Wearing shoes in the house is common in Brazil.) My brother rolled his eyes when I told him stories of people and places he didn't really care about.

I missed *pao de queijo* for breakfast and resented eating instant Quaker oatmeal. I bought black beans and rice at the grocery store and cooked them on the stove but they didn't taste the same. I missed my host country and the Canadian way of life seemed mundane and wearisome. I was angry and resentful, feeling out of place in my own home.

Mom got tired of me playing *Forró* on the stereo, Dad didn't like any of the Brazilian sweets I baked him. My family had a hard time grasping the idea that I could feel alien in my own culture. They hadn't expected me to change so much, and to tell the truth, I didn't expect coming home would be such a struggle.

As the year went on, I began to re-adjust and life became normal again. Hearing English in the grocery store wasn't odd and I started remembering to take off my shoes at the front door. I greeted people with the ever so impersonal wave or handshake and I stopped trying to convince Mom to make rice and beans for lunch everyday.

My journey didn't end when I came home; it was just the beginning of a new adventure for me. Traveling home was the most difficult part of my trip, but I came back with a new outlook and greater appreciation for my own country and that of beautiful Brazil also. The culture shock started my heart beating again and it beats with *saudade* of Brazil, but also with love for this Alberta soil I call home.

amy badry



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BONAIRE FIRECRACKERS FLAMINGOS AND LOVE-STOMPING DOLPHINS



Bonaire's Flamingo International Airport is by far the coolest airport I have ever seen. Its flamingo pink, open-air setup and welcoming atmosphere is a far cry from the standard cold, drab and inhospitable airports I've seen everywhere else. Waiting for our baggage under the sun's rays after a full day of travel and three layovers, my family began to suspect that we were in for a treat.

Bonaire is a small island just north of Venezuela, which together with nearby Aruba and Curacao constitute the ABC islands of the Lesser Netherlands Antilles. The small, charming island is beautiful and supported mainly by tourism. The coral reefs surrounding the island are extremely well preserved and all license plates carry the common catchphrase "Diver's Paradise."

I was fortunate enough to spend Christmas break 2007 in Bonaire, sleeping on a sailboat my uncle has a timeshare in. The island is marketed as a tranquil retreat for divers and snorkelers, but thanks to the arrival of a shipment of cheap, loud and dangerous firecrackers and fireworks, this was not the case for

us. Explosions crackled at least 20 hours a day, from eight in the morning until four the next, every day of the week — much like David Hasselhoff's ideal happy hour schedule. The island's young windsurfing punks devised an ingenious game where they would set fireworks or firecrackers directly in the path of unsuspecting tourists. My mother was not amused and expressed concern of some sort of rebel uprising on more than one occasion.

Near constant explosions ultimately did little to detract from our enjoyment of Bonaire's natural splendor. Snorkeling became a daily favourite, as there was always something cool to see underwater. I spent at least an hour hanging out with a sea turtle one afternoon and saw a great variety of colourful and intriguing fish. I regret not doing any SCUBA diving and will seriously consider pursuing SCUBA certification if I ever return.

Bonaire's beauty does not end at the shoreline. Though the island is predominantly arid, there is still much to see. Since Bonaire's main export is sea salt, we drove past vast fields of pink salt brine and saw mountains of salt being formed. We also saw remnants of Bonaire's storied history, visiting for-

mer slave quarters, lighthouses and other buildings. Ponds teeming with wild flamingos were a highlight. We spent a day at Lac Bay, a world famous windsurfing destination, and the site of a sizeable nudist vacation spot. Windsurfing in the shallow windy bay is enjoyable, as long as you keep your distance from the bay's less modest residents.

Bonaire is a fun place to visit. Islanders speak English, Dutch and Spanish, and the natives speak an incomprehensible mix of the three. The food is good, the people are friendly, and you can arrive at the bar by boat. On one sail around the island we were accompanied by a friendly pod of dolphins swimming beside our boat for around half an hour. Having never touched one of these elegant and intelligent creatures, I decided to seize the opportunity. I targeted a dolphin swimming on the port side of the vessel, hung myself safely off the railings and kicked the playful creature. It was a light punt, or "love-stomp" which barely registered with my new aquatic pal.

If you are looking for a unique, beautiful and exciting travel destination, Bonaire will not disappoint.

colin minor

GEEK OR REVOLUTIONARY?

The Secret Life of the Average Nerd

Stacey Carr, Allie Percival, James Sinclair and Kenzie MacAskil

Gauntlet Features

Modern life would be difficult to imagine without some form of escape. We retreat into our virtual worlds of gaming, television and internet communication on a daily basis as a reprieve from the stress and anxiety of our real lives. Escapism is, in a lot of ways, the only form of entertainment which we recognize — we move quietly from one glowing box to another, from monitors to television screens, opening up our minds and leaving our own realities behind. Daydreaming and the creation of imaginary scenarios — “what ifs” and “if onlys” —

are a universal part of the human experience.

Most of us can easily move back and forth between our inner world of fantasy and our public lives — abandoning our secret lives of fame, adventure and fortune for the daily grind and personal struggle. But when we switch off our televisions and leave home for work, do we leave everything that isn't strictly “real” behind? Why do some people seem unable to abandon their ideal worlds?

All of us know someone who spends far too much time away from the “real world.” She might be a gamer who has more friends online than she does at school, a Trekkie who can quote every episode of every series by heart or

even somebody who secretly has a suit of chainmail in his basement. They're the kind of people who ambulance-chasing journalists like to suggest are the bane of modern society; they're likely to be sociopathic mass-murderers,

“Is it possible that some of these people do have personal issues that need to be sorted out? Absolutely. But it's also possible they might end up being the social revolutionaries we will remember in the world of tomorrow

never marry and die young of energy drink-induced heart failure.

Maybe so, but with so much social stigma surrounding their choice of hobbies, why do they still choose to spend so much

time in a world that isn't “real?”

The easy and obvious answer is that these people are running away from something. Maybe they can't cope with the demands or pressures of “real” life. That would explain *hikikomori*, the Japanese

as their favourite video game or cartoon characters and meet with other fans in public places.

To figure out why these extreme escapists are the way they are, we need to establish escapism's purpose. In the 16th century, Sir Philip Sidney wrote of escapist literature (specifically poetry) that “nature never set forth the earth in so rich tapestry as divers poets have done.” In other words, escapist behaviour isn't about running away from reality — it's about wanting to improve reality.

It might seem like a bit of a stretch to say that your younger brother who locks himself in his room playing *World of Warcraft* all day is trying to “improve” any-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



AN INTERVIEW WITH THE STARS

How/when did you get into Cosplay?

Constantine Vlahos, 21, U of C Anime Club executive:

“I got into Cosplaying when I came to the university and discovered Otafest [a yearly anime convention held at the university].”

Therese Bong, 21, U of C student:

“I got into Cosplay the first time I went to Otafest back in grade nine. My friends had informed me of the convention and also encouraged me to make a costume, since they were themselves making some.”

Yvonne Bouvier, 23, from Edmonton:

“When I was little, I loved to play dress-up, but in society's eyes as you get older dressing up is just bad. So, one year I went to an anime convention and my mother helped me make a costume. I've been Cosplaying ever since.”

Why do you Cosplay? What about Cosplay is attractive?

Vlahos:

“I Cosplay because it's a way to bring my favourite characters to life, as well as a way to make new friends. What's attractive about it is it brings you together with other people who like the same thing as you, and you get to run around acting like you're someone else and still feel completely normal!”

Bong:

“I Cosplay because it's fun. I like dressing up and making the costumes from scratch. It gives me a sense of pride to showcase my hard work and I do like sewing. Figuring out how to make the costumes work in real life is a great challenge and it's nice to know you can make a great costume. Dressing up is also great fun!”

Bouvier:

“It's fun to pick and figure out how to make a Cosplay perfect down to the tiniest detail!”

Who's your favourite character to Cosplay, and why?

Vlahos:

“That's a tough one, there are so many.”

Bong:

“Rei from Beyblade will always be my favourite. That was my first costume and probably the one I pulled off the best!”

Bouvier:

“My favourite character to Cosplay would be Hello Kitty. She was such a learning experience in the art of costume making.”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14
 thing. Fair enough. But wouldn't you agree that life would be improved if all human illnesses could be cured by picking up the right potion? Wouldn't it be nice to have some mystical creature as a pet? Admit it — deep down, if you wouldn't be ostracized for it, wouldn't you be the guy with the chainmail in your basement?

When you think about it in those terms, it's not hard to see why so many people are drawn so deeply into imaginary worlds. We're always trying to surpass our own limitations using science and technology — it's only natural that

we'd try the same with our imaginations.

There's a popular group of medieval re-creationists called the Society for Creative Anachronism with a large chapter in Calgary. They create new personas for themselves, wear clothing from their favourite historical period and learn to fight and act like they've stepped out of time. Their mandate, as stated in their handbook, is "to embody the ideals of the medieval romances: chivalry, courtesy, honor, and graciousness . . . re-creating the Middle Ages as they might have been."

These people aren't just look-

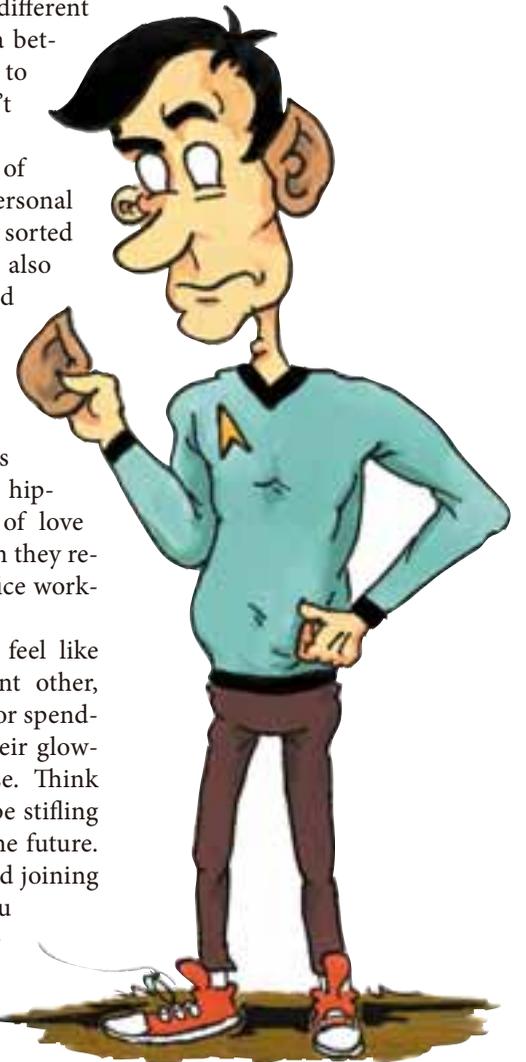
ing to gain levels in the latest RPG; they're actively trying to improve society, and themselves, by following anachronistic codes of conduct — no matter how many weird looks it gets them. Even if their members walk around wearing tunics and breeches and refer to each other as "my lord," at heart the SCA's quest is to try to reclaim what they feel is a better, safer, more pure world. And if they get to have some awesome mock sword fights on the way, then who are we to judge?

When you think about people like members of the SCA, or gaming addicts, you don't immediately think of interested and productive

members of society. We've been taught to see them as unfortunate men and women who have somehow failed to adjust to their proper roles in the real world. But when you consider *why* these people choose to see reality in a different way, either dreaming of a better life or actively trying to improve society, it doesn't seem so cut and dry.

Is it possible that some of these people do have personal issues that need to be sorted out? Absolutely. But it's also possible they might end up being the social revolutionaries we will remember in the world of tomorrow — after all, everyone remembers the outrageously dressed hippies and their message of love and peace a lot better than they remember the nameless office workers of the 1960s.

So the next time you feel like yelling at your significant other, child or younger sibling for spending too much time on their glowing box of choice, pause. Think about it. You might just be stifling the intellectual wave of the future. Personally, we recommend joining in wholeheartedly. If you need us, we'll be at the Comic and Entertainment Expo getting our Star Trek DVDs signed by Leonard Nimoy. On that note — live long and prosper.



Illustrations: Remi Watts

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Big dreams ahead for Calgary comic con

Jordyn Marcellus
Entertainment Editor

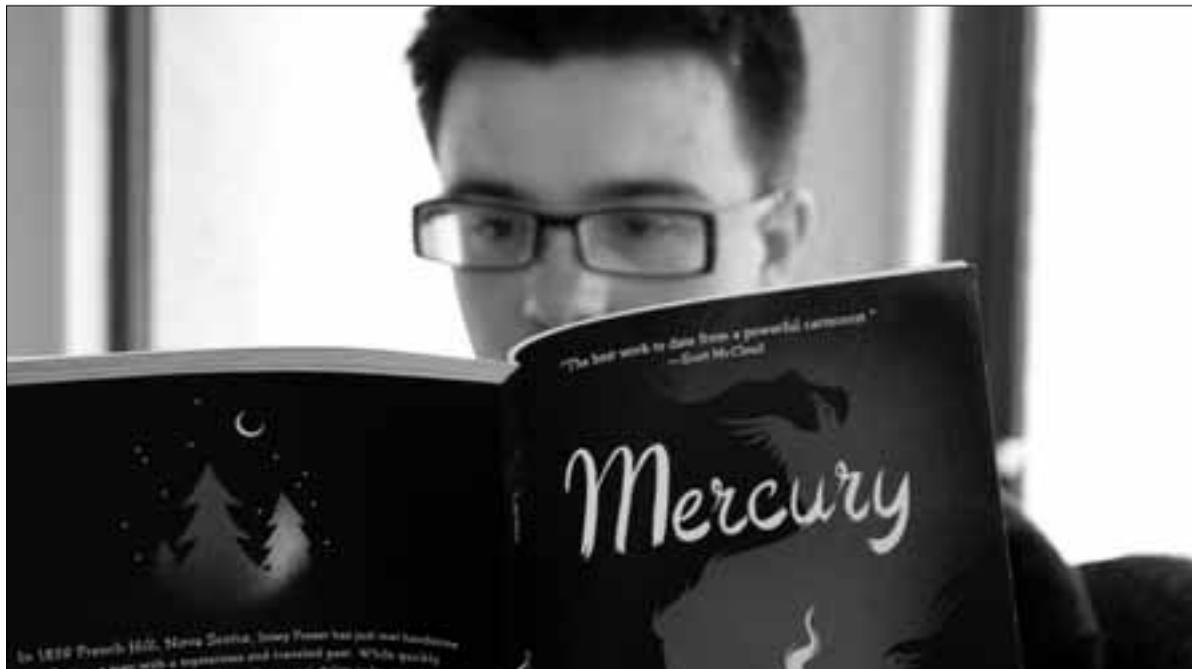
2010 might be the year the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo makes the comic convention map.

This year features a comprehensive list of some of sci-fi and horror's greats — Troma Studio's auteur Lloyd Kaufman, *Star Trek: The Next Generation's* Brent Spiner and the venerable Leonard Nimoy — and an even larger space thanks to the recent expansion of the BMO Convention Centre.

With massive crowds last year, event organizer Kandrix Foong says this year is an attempt to broaden the focus. This ties in with the eventual desire to establish the event as a destination spot, where major comic companies and studios make large announcements to excited fans.

"I think we're doing great for getting the word out to Calgarians, but I'd like to start drawing in more people from the other provinces," says Foong. "Every year we've had a solid increase from out-of-towners. I'd love to add another hall or two to accommodate the growth. It's taken five years to get where we are, but there's still a lot we can do. I'm hoping we can start adding some big sponsors, and getting to the point that people want to do special releases for our show, like movie studio support. That would be cool."

To do this, the expo is focusing



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

Comics, costumed fans and celebrities stampede into the BMO Centre April 24 – 25.

more and more on a wider base of contemporary and famous pop cultural figures. The expo also features guests from the wildly-popular *Twilight* series, and despite some comments that this year seems to be particularly *Star Trek* heavy, it's all about the careful balancing act of pleasing a wide variety of fans.

"You have to look at each guest and their respective fan base, and seeing how things cross over," he explains. "A great example of that would be *Twilight* vs. *Star Trek*. I'd say something like 90 per cent of

the *Twilight* fans don't really care about *Star Trek* and vice versa. After we announced Nimoy and Spiner, a lot of other *Star Trek* actors started to contact us about coming out because they know we've got two major stars but at some point it's too much in one genre."

Even though some may feel it is too focused on *Star Trek*, Foong explains he took the opportunity because he saw it as a rare chance.

"We had [Brent Spiner] on board first, but then we had a chance to bring in Nimoy, which is really a

once in a lifetime type of opportunity, so we pulled the trigger on it."

One of the major problems with organizing this kind of event in the Calgary market is the competition. Not competition from conventions inside Canada, but the entire world. This is especially problematic in the busy summer season, where every other week major American cities like Chicago or Seattle invite

creators to come and participate. Foong says that due to the time-intensive creative nature, getting comic guests can be a bit of a tough slog.

"I think the hardest area to fill is actually the comic book guests. The reason I say that is because people don't realize there's more than just one show . . . lots of the comic creators only want to do one appearance a month because it takes them away from creating. There's a major show in Chicago the weekend before, plus Boston, Anaheim, Pittsburgh, and I'm sure a bunch of other smaller events."

Despite this problem, the sheer breadth of potential attendees allows for an always exciting lineup of comic book artists and writers.

"Jeffrey Brown's great for the indie scene, and Chris Claremont and Len Wein are awesome for mainstream," says Foong. "As we've grown, we're getting more support from comic publishers too, we've always had Udon, but now we've got Top Cow, Boom, and Avatar Press."

"Hopefully we'll make enough waves to have Marvel and DC one year."

The Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo runs Apr. 24 – 25 in the BMO Centre. Tickets available at the door.

Indie comic creator explores his own past through comics

Richard Lam
Gauntlet Entertainment

It's no secret how Jeffrey Brown lost his virginity. Described in minute detail with sensitive hand-scribbled drawings, Brown's second book, *Unlikely*, tracks his relationship with first girlfriend Allisyn from awkward beginning to eventual end. It is his fascination with the little things in life and relationships that make up the core of his autobiographical comics.

"I think the question I get most [from fans] is about the reaction

of the girls I've written about, and what happened after," says Brown. "It makes me feel that the books were successful in that way, that they've drawn people in and made them interested in what's underlying the books, the real life and its meaning"

Along with his more serious and introspective work, Brown balances his output with comedic works and one-off parodies such as *Bighead*, an over-the-top superhero spoof, and *Incredible Change-Bots*, a charmingly blatant rip-off of *Transformers*.

"I usually have a more detailed

script for the autobiographical comics, plotted out to page by page and for some of those pages, to panel by panel," says Brown. "With the humorous work I'm much looser, and have a general plot for the book but leave lots of room to change things as I go along."

Change-Bots in particular harkens back to Brown's childhood nostalgia, looking more like the pencil-crayoned fan fiction of a 10-year-old. The innocence and love that went into this apparent farce has led to it becoming one

see BROWN, page 17

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Cursing eleven-year-olds *Kick-Ass*

Sydney Stokoe

Gauntlet Entertainment

Take a kid in a wetsuit, team him up with a faux-Batman, a purple-wigged preteen and a dude with too much eye makeup and you have the recipe for one very interesting superhero movie.

Taking the classic superhero story — a socially conscious nerd sees an opportunity to do good in society and works unrelentingly towards this noble goal — and melding it with a hormone-fueled tween-age drama certainly proves to have some intriguing side effects.

The marriage between action film bad-assery, teenage romance and amateur costumed heroism is hard to take seriously. Considering that the cursing flowing from the pre-teen heroine (Hit-Girl, played by the 11-year-old Chloë Grace Moretz) is as colourful as her costume, the characters brutality betrays the youthful bubblegum colours of the film's posters.

It's hard to discern whether this is a more realistic superhero film or a more outlandish one. Sure, none of the characters have any real super powers beyond strength of will or depth of pockets and the bad guys act like idiots and screw up, but when a preteen girl can



courtesy Dave Smith

Kick-Ass (left) and Hit-Girl get prepared to fight some crime — which pretty much involves murdering the bad guys.

handle a butterfly knife better than hardened criminals the film loses some of the “truth of humanity” that its main character embodies.

Nerdy teen Dave Lizewski likes comics, can't talk to girls and is ha-

assed by bullies, but his character goes deeper than that, addressing the need for the social recognition of wrong doing. Not even the heroes are void of flaws — one of the first scenes depicts the hero himself, Dave (the titular Kick-Ass) jerking off to a fantasy of his teacher.

Having scenes like this — though somewhat surprising given that the film might appear to cater to a younger audience — helps develop character depth, establishing him as a real person. Rather than brush aside the teenage characteristics and focus on the more mature crime fighter, the film embraces teenage sexuality, brazenly displaying it throughout. Were the awkwardness of teenagehood omitted, it would take a lot of validity away from the charac-

ters.

The heroes are real people. They have families, they dance poorly and they are terrible with girls. They trip and fall, and when they get attacked, they sometimes lose — badly.

While the film flip-flops between tender moments of teen love, hormone-fueled fantasy and laughable hero adventures, the only thing that can be said for certain is that this is one hero flick that doesn't take itself seriously. It's difficult to keep a straight face when Hit-Girl opens her mouth and a stream of cringe-inducing curses follows.

This plays in sharp relief to the sugary sweet performance of Nic Cage as Big Daddy — you half expect him to take his little daugh-

ter out for milkshakes rather than help her slaughter a bunch of gangsters.

While certainly entertaining, most of the characters — aside from Kick-Ass himself — feel as though they are drawing attention to themselves for the sake of drawing attention. The bad guys are cookie-cutter and the ending is predictable from the opening 10 minutes, but Moretz's portrayal of Hit-Girl alone is worth the price of admission.

Irrationalities aside, Kick-Ass is a laugh and a half and delivers some pretty solid action sequences. If you don't mind the colourful language and teenage sex, it's golden.

Kick-Ass opens wide Apr. 16. For more info check out kickass-themovie.com

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Brown, cont'd from page 15

of Brown's most popular works, even inspiring the upcoming sequel, *Incredible Change-Bots Two*.

"I'm usually thinking of myself — what kind of book I'd like to see, and what makes sense for each project," says Brown. "The times it seems like I've written a book for a specific audience, it's probably only because I'm part of that audience, and I was really just writing what I wanted to see. I like cats, and I like *Transformers*, and I like autobiographical comics."

Brown's latest, *Undeleted Scenes*, collects his shorter comics and anthology contributions from the past 10 years. Much of the anthology work came from simple networking. For his contribution to *Kramers Ergot*, for example, he was referred by friend and fellow graphic novelist Paul Hornschemeier.

"The other thing that happened was as my work gained exposure, more people I didn't know were approaching me about it, and I

just haven't said no as much as I maybe could have," says Brown.

Along with anthology work, Brown has been commissioned to contribute to licensed series and franchises, such as *The Simpsons* and *Fraggle Rock* comics. In this, Brown faces an entirely different work ethic with deadlines and page counts.

"Deadlines always seem to give me fits . . . I'm much more comfortable working without deadlines, or if people just give me fake deadlines," says Brown. "[Page counts are] usually helpful, since it limits how big I'll let something get and makes these side projects more manageable."

"I think I've tended to tighten up and feel more pressure when it's not 'my own' work, but at the same time I like being challenged occasionally and it can be good to be forced to try different working methods."

Jeffrey Brown will be at the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo Apr. 24 – 25

// Deadlines always seem to give me fits . . . I'm much more comfortable working without deadlines, or if people just give me fake deadlines — Jeffrey Brown, comic creator.



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Crackerjack mystery potentially marred

Film adaptation of Steig Larsson's wildly successful novel features brutal rape scene

Jordyn Marcellus
Entertainment Editor

Mystery films haven't been consistently enjoyable since the days of film noir. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* offers a modern re-interpretation of the genre, keeping the red herrings and fake-outs that make it so great but give it a much-needed update.

Unfortunately, the film may leave a sour taste in many audiences' mouths due to its frank, brutal and near-exploitative depictions of rape and sexual abuse of women.

Adapted from the Stieg Larsson novel of the same name, *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* starts out with journalist Mikael Blomkvist's conviction of libel against the powerful Hans-Erik Wennerstrom. With nothing left to lose, he takes a 40-year cold case from the fantastically rich Henrik Vanger to find the person who murdered his niece, Harriet. Along the way the mysterious Lisbeth Salander, a damaged genius computer hacker with a photographic memory, becomes fascinated by Blomkvist's libel case and slowly helps with his murder investigation.

The greatest strength of the film is that it wants to make a point. *Girl* focuses on and explores how men of power, in this case the wildly rich business elite, abuse and manipulate women to achieve their own nefarious ends. Given the Swedish title — *Man Som Hatar Kvinnor* (translated as "Men Who Hate Women") — it's abundantly clear what topic the film tackles head on.

At the same time, the film's depictions of rape can be seen as exploitative due to the visceral way they're shot. Three people walked out of the screening during the three-minute scene, which is un-

derstandable given how absolutely brutal it is.

Lisbeth, after having her legal guardianship moved to the boorish Nils Bjurman, is forced to go to him any time she needs money. Her Macbook breaks after she's violently attacked by a group of drunken louts in a subway station and the vicious Bjurman says that "he'll be nice if she's nice" — and then proceeds to force her to perform oral sex.

It gets worse, though, when she realizes she needs more money. Bjurman rapes her in a way that grabs at the heart and doesn't let go. Noomi Rapace, who plays Lisbeth, gives an especially virtuoso performance throughout the scene. Her eyes tell the story — scared and horrified, but with a tinge of knowing regret. Her howls echoed through the theatre and made everything that much more uncomfortable.

While she gets a modicum of vengeance in the end — her job at a security company affords her the opportunity to tape the rape — it's still deeply troubling. Even though it fits perfectly with the overall theme of the film, there is definitely a case to be made that it doesn't need to be that long.

The scene is a black mark that, unfortunately, will keep a fairly significant proportion of the audience away, which is deeply unfortunate as it's an otherwise fantastic film.

Despite its two-and-a-half hour length, the plot speeds along with little in the way of excess fat. Every scene is important, either to the film or the greater trilogy. Rapace's performance is a fascinating portrayal of a young female genius whose entire life has consisted of sexual abuse — there are many scenes of her simply smoking a cigarette, and she manages to make them effortlessly cool.

It's unfortunate, then, that one scene will ruin the film. It deserves to be seen — Larsson's books are incredibly popular due

to their taut plotting and excellent characters. The film adaptation continues that tradition, and is a must-see for genre fans and

those with a strong stomach.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo opens wide Apr. 16.
For more info check out dragontattoofilm.com



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PHYS 303 L02	Quantum Mysteries and Paradoxes	M/W/F 15:00
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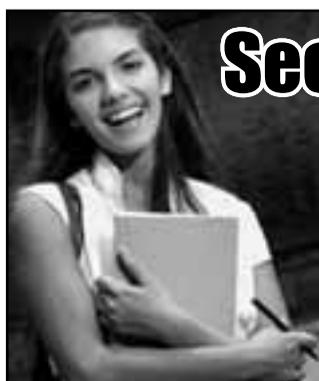
BIOL 305 L01	The Human Organism	T/R 11:00
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Keith and Renée make *Detours* to Kenya

Sydney Stokoe

Gauntlet Entertainment

It doesn't matter where people start, paths change and often lead to interesting places.

Winnipeg-based pop-rock duo Keith and Renée know all about it. With their fourth album, *Detours*, released April 16 on Easily Amused Music, the pair have proved that changing paths is what life is all about. Having moved away from the usual bar-based performances, they chose to instead work with Free the Children in what's proved to be a successful deviation from their status quo.

"At first, when Free the Children asked us to be a part of this, we weren't completely sure, coming from the world of playing in clubs and just being a band we weren't sure how it would work out playing in high schools or elementary schools," admits Renée Lamoureux.

The change, however, has proved successful and having worked alongside Free the Children for two years and with plans to continue, they've turned their attention to music as a medium for developing a global community.

"Our music has always had a really positive vibe to it and message in it so I think really what's been happening is we've just really been aligning with the right demographics and markets for our music," says Keith Macpherson. "It's really cool how everything kind of came together syn-



courtesy Sound Strategy Music

Keith and Renée with a bevy of smiling Kenyan children.

chronistically without us trying to force it"

It's a long journey from Winnipeg to Kenya, but the experiences gained not only from working in Africa but also spreading the word about Free the Children through schools back home in Canada has been invaluable to the duo.

"I just find it's amazing because I think back to when I was that age and I don't remember being like that, or having those opportunities and hearing about problems in other countries. I think there are a lot of opportunities for young

people in this generation," says Lamoureux.

Travelling to Africa and interacting with the people there not only opened doors in terms of charity, but also to experience another culture's attitudes towards music — an eye opening experience.

"It's like there are no egos out there, no one was holding back, they were all singing and they want to be a part of it and it's very community based and everyone was supporting each other," says Lamoureux. "Here we think about the dan-

gers of Africa and what we see going on, but not once did we feel that way being down there. I mean, we instantly fell in love with the people and they kind of adopt you right away."

Spending time in other cultures has helped the duo grow not only as musicians, but as people in general, Macpherson commented on the reverse culture shock he felt returning to North America.

"We really get attached to what we do for a living and we get attached to what we own," he says. "We end up defining ourselves by our jobs or our career or how much money we have in the bank and there in Africa it seemed like it was more about just being in the moment."

The pair play the Ironwood Stage and Grill April 16 for the release of *Detours*. No matter where their music takes them, Keith and Renée are ready for adventure. After all, the things that make people's lives great are the things we don't expect.

"Our musical career has taken us on such a journey, on so many different paths, and they've all been amazing but you have no idea where they're going to end up," says Lamoureux. "We've got a goal and dream of where we want our music to take us, but we have a lot of detours getting there, but along the way we are here and it has been amazing so far"

Keith and Renée play at the Ironwood Stage and Grill Fri., Apr. 16 at 8 p.m. Tickets at the door.

cjsw on-air guide

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	
6 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS					pitch shift (continued)	bringing it all back home (continued)	6 am
6:30	coming soon							6:30
7 am	the get up	the chit chat	the morning after	soap box derby / cold smoke	the house blend sponsored by milk tiger lounge	deconstructing dinner	canadian voices	7 am
7:30								7:30
8 am	NEW MORNING MIX					bunte welle german	counterspin	8 am
8:30							eritrean radio	8:30
9 am							hrvatski radio croatian	9 am
9:30								9:30
10 am	breaking the tethers	between the lines sponsored by the canadian music centre	instant gratification: revoked	daydream dance party	double me on cjsw	calgary vietnamese radio	radyo pilipino filipino	10 am
10:30								10:30
11 am		deconstructing dinner	alternative radio	democracy now		hellenic melodies greek radio	buscando america latin & south america	11 am
11:30								11:30
12 pm	her royal opinion sponsored by local 510	who let me on the radio?	mind grapes sponsored by republik	failed pilot / pillage the village	fantastic plastic sponsored by beatroute	democracy now!	alternative radio	12 pm
12:30								12:30
1 pm						the double entendre preserves!	the via lactea caboose	1 pm
1:30								1:30
2 pm	the new classics	electric company	off duty trip	my public shame	my allergy to the fans sponsored by tubby dog	bikesheviks	the 2 and 2 ain't 5 show	2 pm
2:30								2:30
3 pm						fancy that	knotted roots	3 pm
3:30								3:30
4 pm	aubrey's shindig sponsored by the drum & monkey	tasya & adele reinvent the wheel sponsored by broken city	halfway home sponsored by local 522	alternative to what?	road pops sponsored by fwd weekly	level the vibes	mental illness	4 pm
4:30								4:30
5 pm								5 pm
5:30								5:30
6 pm	french transe en danse	desi vibes	mezza l'una italian	caribbean link-up sponsored by fwd weekly	musiquarium everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45	voice of ethiopia	breaking techniques	6 pm
6:30						radio oromia		6:30
7 pm	south louisiana gumbo	tombstone after dark	the blues witness sponsored by calgary dollars	folkcetera	the dubble bounce	oh africa!	william tell	7 pm
7:30								7:30
8 pm	yeah, what she said / so su me	writer's block	artslink	cjsw presents...	full moon funkalicious	nocturntable	katharsis	8 pm
8:30								8:30
9 pm	the jazz baby	jazz focus	lift the bandstand	noise	dirty needles the best in funk, soul & hip hop			9 pm
9:30								9:30
10 pm	funk senden	radio boys in the shortwave mystery	good character requirement	fat beat diet	what will the neighbors think?	megawatt mayhem metal	downtime	10 pm
10:30								10:30
11 pm	each one teach one	urban sex	am i right?? comedy	the twisted brain wrong	remote emissions jungle & drum 'n bass			11 pm
11:30								11:30
12 am	post everything	twilight banter	blue collar bravado	bass backwards metal	dna hardcore techno	electric ladyland	translucent dreams ambient, trance etc.	12 am
12:30								12:30
1 am					sound champion showcase	attention surplus disorder	sunday night groove school	1 am
1:30								1:30
2 am	white lodge / black lodge	late nite	graveyard riot	rage cage metal				2 am
2:30								2:30
3 to 6 am					pitch shift	bringing it all back home	straight on 'til morning	3 to 6 am

Our program schedule

has a number of new programs, and some of your old favourites may have switched times. Have some thoughts on the exciting changes? Give us your feedback.

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TOP 20

* canadian artist
** local artist
for the week of
april 5 - 2010

- 1 LIARS *Sisterworld* (Mute)
- 2 POINTED STICKS*
Three Lefts Make A Right (Northern Electric)
- 3 SHOUT OUT LOUDS *Work* (Merge)
- 4 SHE & HIM *Volume 2* (Merge)
- 5 BLACK TAMBOURINE *Black Tambourine* (Slumberland)
- 6 TED LEO AND THE PHARMACISTS
The Brutalist Bricks (Matador)
- 7 PINE TARTS** *Two Moons* (Self Released)
- 8 GHOSTKEEPER** *Ghostkeeper* (Flemish Eye)
- 9 CHRIS GHERAN** *Coup D'etat* (Self Released)
- 10 YOUNG RIVAL* *Young Rival* (Sonic Unyon)
- 11 LET'S WRESTLE *In The Court Of The Wrestling Let's* (Merge)
- 12 NOMORESHAPES** *Creesus Crisis* (Drip Audio)
- 13 APOLLO GHOSTS* *Mount Benson* (Self Released)
- 14 ROKY ERICKSON WITH OKKERVIL RIVER
True Love Cast Out All Evil (Anti)
- 15 DR. DOG *Shame, Shame* (Anti)
- 16 ARCHIE BRONSON OUTFIT *Coconut* (Domino)
- 17 JASON COLLETT* *Rat A Tat Tat* (Arts And Crafts)
- 18 KRANG* *They Came From Planet D* (Cassettes)
- 19 THE NIX DICKSONS*** *The Nix Dicksons* (Self Released)
- 20 DAVID BYRNE & FATBOY SLIM
Here Lies Love (Nonesuch)

WORLD

- 1 VIEUX FARKA TOURE *Other Roads: Fondo Remixed* (Six Degrees)
- 2 YOUSOU N'DOUR *I Bring What I Love* (Nonesuch)
- 3 TRIO BEMBE* *Trio Bembe* (Self Released)
- 4 SIERRA LEONE'S REFUGEE ALL STARS
Rise & Shine (Cumbancha)
- 5 ANGELIQUE KIDJO *Oyo* (Razor & Tie)

JAZZ

- 1 MULATU ASTAKE *Mulatu Steps Ahead* (Strut)
- 2 NOMORESHAPES** *Creesus Crisis* (Drip Audio)
- 3 THE JESSICA STUART FEW* *Kid Dream* (Do Right!)
- 4 AMIR ELSAFFAR/HAFZ MODIRZADEH
Radif Suite (Pi Recordings)
- 5 JAMES ZOLLAR *Zollar Systems* (JAZZ)

KAT'S PICKS

- 1 GRAND TRINE*
- 2 WOODEN SHJIPS
- 3 NEDRY
- 4 THE DEVIL MAKES THREE
- 5 ILHAN ERSAHIN

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY



ghostkeeper

After a few weeks of touring across Eastern Canada, Ghostkeeper is back in town to celebrate their sparkling new album. I can only imagine that Broken City is going to be packed on Thursday! Fun. Muskeg. Times.
www.myspace.com/childrenofthegreatnorthernmuskeg

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Chris Gheran
Coup d'etat
(Independent Release)

On first listen, something may appear a bit off with *Coup d'etat*. It is only after checking the lyrics that it becomes apparent — a lot of these songs don't rhyme. Stripped of his backing band The Graveyard Gang, local Calgarian Chris Gheran's sparse second album is almost entirely a solo effort — often just him, his guitar and his words. Great words so densely packed they don't need to rhyme.

Since his colourful and flat-out catchy

debut *Monster*, Gheran seems to have gotten fully immersed in historical warfare. The disc is covered in war memorabilia, pictures and quotes. The songs detail the lives of riflemen, sergeants and APC gunners — loss and lost innocence, bravery and cockiness. The album's eight-minute centerpiece, "The Ballad of Sergeant Malone," brilliantly tracks a soldier from childhood to eventual suicide, detailing the horrors he took home with him. Yet these bleak tracks are separated by Gheran's sig-

nature sweetly skewed love songs.

It's debatable whether the back-and-forth between dark, lengthy war epics and innocent heartbreak ballads is successful. On the one hand, it breaks any chance of a consistent theme. But at the same time it keeps the album from being too heavy, too oppressive in its lyrics. And where else will you get to hear about trench warfare and zombie love on the same album?

..Richard Lam



Maurice
Young People With Faces
(Reprise Records)

Young People With Faces is a very likable, easy to listen to album, overflowing with multi-talented musicians. Maurice is catchy and although their album does not make you want to head bob or dance, they create excellent driving or winding down music. Be ready to listen to this 13-track album again and again.

One of my favourite aspects of the band might be the fact that they use a varied collection of real instruments, instead of the auto-tuned and synthesized music that is currently so trendy. In addition to the traditional bass,

guitar and drums you will hear mandolin and even a lap steel. The diverse instrumentation will please and entertain.

Admittedly Maurice can get a little whiney and emotional, such as in "Midnight Kiss," but the songs always have a story and intent. Certain lyrics will pop out at you, bringing to light the comedic but incredibly complicated dimensions of the band. In the song "How You Spend Your Time," you realize that Maurice is needy and wants their respective partners to spend more time with them.

The song that's most likely to make you tap your foot, "Love is Love," also presents an interesting mix of contradictions. The chorus opens with the cliché line "love is enough," but continues, "love is love, whatever you consider that to be." Are we considering what love is, or what enough is?

Overall though, it's best just to let Maurice's powerful vocals and talented music wash over you and evoke whatever emotions you have.

..Alicia Ward



Jeff Healey
Last Call
(Stony Plain Records)

This posthumous release from guitarist/vocalist Jeff Healey is a pleasantly upbeat 14 song collection of 1920s and 1930s swinging jazz numbers. While most listeners know Healey as a blues rock guitar player, he *did* form the Jazz Wizards in 2002 and recorded three swing albums with them by 2006, playing trumpet and guitar. It's no secret that this style was Healey's true musical love and it's fortunate he was able to record these tracks before he died of cancer in 2008 at the age of 41.

Last Call is culled from solo, duo and trio sessions from 2007 that feature Healey on vocals, guitar and trumpet, Drew Juecka on violin and Ross Wooldrige on piano and clarinet. Despite the lack of a rhythm section, this sparse line-up breezes through the material like it's a walk in the park. In fact, the music is perfect listening for a walk in the park. The majority of the arrangements are joyous and leave plenty of room for virtuosic soloing from all three of these top notch players. Healey's earnest vocals come across in a very

sincere and soulful manner, as if he had been singing these tunes the entirety of his short life.

The enhanced CD also includes a rousing bonus video of "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down And Write Myself A Letter," recorded live at Healey's Roadhouse in Toronto with the Jazz Wizards in 2007.

As listeners will ultimately discover, *Last Call* goes down smooth.

..Ken Clarke

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Year in review: banner year for the Dinos

Jon Roe
Sports Editor

The Dinos had a fantastic 2009-10 season, capturing three Canadian Interuniversity Sport titles. It was the second best year in Dinos history, behind only 1989, a season in which they captured five national titles. The University of Calgary was tops in the country in swimming, both men's and women's, and men's volleyball. Following a Canada West title by the football team in the fall semester, the men's swimming team captured the Dinos' second cw title of the season in the winter.

Here's a review of the year, focusing on team's completing play in the winter semester (with apologies to men's wrestling and track and field, space was short).

Women's swimming
CIS rank: first
CW rank: second

The Dinos ladies captured their second straight CIS title in dominating fashion, taking it over the University of Toronto by more than 100 points. Erica Morningstar led the way, picking up 200 of the Dinos 679 points. She has been perfect so far in CIS competition with 14 gold medals in 14 races so far in just her second-year. She also won the sprinter's cup for the second year in a row, awarded to the winner of the



Gauntlet file photo

The Dinos captured both CIS titles in swimming for the first time in their history in 2010.

50- and 100- metre freestyle events.

Men's swimming
CIS rank: 1st
CW rank: 1st

The men regained their CIS title after losing out last year to the University of British Columbia Thun-

derbirds, thanks to an over 80-point victory over the U of T.

Bodgan Knezevic took home the rookie of the year award thanks to a bronze-medal win in the 100-metre breaststroke, a sixth place finish in the 200-metre event and his part in the silver-medal winning 4x200-

metre freestyle relay.

Captain Jason Block won three gold medals.

It was the Dinos 14th CIS championship.

Men's volleyball
Regular season record: 13-5
Finish: CIS champions

The Dinos started the year looking to avenge the home playoff loss they suffered last year and did that and more. It was the U of C's first championship since 1993 and fourth overall.

To say it was unexpected would be an understatement. They finished second in the Canada West conference and lost in the opening round of the Canada West playoffs. They then needed two five-set victories to get them to the national final. They then took down the Trinity Western Spartans in four games to capture the title.

Graham Vigrass was named the tournament MVP for his efforts.

Next year's Dinos squad will look much different with five different Dinos running out of eligibility, but for now Rod Durrant can bask in accomplishing what he set out four years ago when he came to Calgary.

Women's volleyball
Regular season record: 10-10
Finish: Lost in CW quarter finals

The Dinos streak of nine-straight appearances at the CIS championships ended this season, but head coach Jesse Knight got a lot from a young squad. Only two fifth years, Raynell Lavertu and Laura Spence, saw significant time. Another fifth-year, Laura Littlejohn, was limited to just 13 matches. Beyond Kathryn Moncks, a fourth-year, the rest of the squad was a mix of first, second

see YEAR IN REVIEW, pg. 23

Glavic nominated for BLG award

Jon Roe
Gauntlet Sports

The accolades keep piling up for Erik Glavic.

The University of Calgary Dinos quarterback was announced Wednesday as one of the four finalists for the BLG award, handed out to the male Canadian Interuniversity Sport athlete of the year. Eleven Dinos have been nominated for the award since its 1993 creation and a record six Dinos have won.

Glavic won the Dr. Dennis Kadtz award as the Dinos male athlete of the year last week after winning his second Hec Crighton award as CIS football's athlete of the year earlier in the year. This year was Glavic's first with the Dinos after transferring from the St. Mary's University Huskies in the offseason. He set a school record in completion percentage at 67.5 per

cent and led the Canada West conference in total offence with 336.1 yards per game, rushing average with 10.5 yards per carry, pass efficiency with 181.6 and passing touchdowns with 14. With Glavic under centre, the Dinos set single-season team marks for total offence and first downs and tied the team record with 39 touchdowns.

The Dinos finished the season 7-1, beat out the University of Saskatchewan Huskies for the Hardy Cup as CW champion and St. Mary's for the Uteck Bowl before falling in the Vanier Cup final to the Queen's University Golden Gaels.

The other three finalists for the men's side of the BLG award are University of New Brunswick hockey player Hunter Tremblay, McGill hockey player Francis Verrault-Paul and Western Ontario University player Michael Faulds.

Tremblay captured the national scoring title and was named CIS men's hockey MVP. Verrault-Paul was Ontario University Athletics player of the year and was tied for first in the nation in goals and second in points. Faulds was the OUA MVP in football after he finished the season with both the single-season and career CIS records for most passing yards.

The results will be announced April 26. The awards show will air on TSN on Sunday, May 16 at 9 a.m. If Glavic wins the BLG, he will receive a \$10,000 post-graduate scholarship for any school in CIS.

The female BLG nominees are Cape Breton basketball player Kelsey Hodgson, Universite de Montreal soccer player Veronique Maranda, Wilfrid Laurier University hockey player Liz Knox and University of British Columbia volleyball player Liz Cordonier.

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The chase for the cup

The Gauntlet previews the NHL playoffs

Jon Roe
Sports Editor

The east

This is either the most predictable first round of the playoffs ever, or everyone is underestimating the bottom four teams in the east. I prefer to think along the lines of the former, because with the exception of Philadelphia, I have no faith in Ottawa, Montreal or Boston.

[1] Washington vs. [8] Montreal

Maybe Montreal can catch a cocky Capitals team off guard. Maybe the goalies, the supposed weak link of the Capitals, struggle early. Or Ovechkin, Backstrom, Green and Semin outscore a slow defen-

sive core of Montreal and this series is a laugher. I don't really think the Canadiens stand a chance here unless Jaroslav Halak turns into a brick wall.

Pick: Capitals in five

[2] New Jersey vs. [7] Philadelphia

Upset alert, upset alert! Philly took it to New Jersey all season, and is coming in at the bottom of the conference because of team chemistry issues and goaltender injuries. They needed until the last day of the season to get in, but the Flyers have one of the most diffusely talented forward group in the NHL. New Jersey is good defensively, but they are leaning on a fairly top-heavy offensive equation and I don't trust Ilya Kovalchuk to produce when it mat-

ters unless he's wearing Russia's colours. It's going to be a long series, but the Flyers have what it takes.

Pick: Flyers in seven

[3] Buffalo vs. [6] Boston

The Buffalo Sabres are my favourite team in the entire playoffs. Great goaltender, lots of scoring options (if they're healthy), and there are a lot of pieces from those back-to-back eastern conference finalist teams in 2006 and 2007. They've done it before. As for Boston, who scores on that team? If you're looking for a lot of offence from Milan Lucic (overrated), Marco Sturm (getting old), Mark Recchi (definitely old) and Patrice Bergeron (not a top level scorer), then you're in trouble. That being said, Rask has been great this season and great against the Sabres,

but they're in for the long haul.

Pick: Sabres in six

[4] Pittsburgh vs. [5] Ottawa

I don't think the Penguins are making it back to the Stanley Cup Finals, but I like them here. They have the best one-two-three centre combination in the NHL and the Senators have been doing things mostly by smoke and mirrors. They separated themselves from the bottom three playoff teams in the east, mostly because they got hot for a stretch of the season, but they've been mediocre for the rest of the year. Kovalchuk is gone, not that he was much help during the year, and so is Filip Kuba, a key cog on the powerplay. Look for the Pens to win and move on.

Pick: Penguins in six

Ryan Pike
Opinions Editor

The west

This year, we judge who wins each Western Conference playoff series based on each team's most impressive victory over the Calgary Flames.

[1] San Jose Sharks vs. [8] Colorado Avalanche

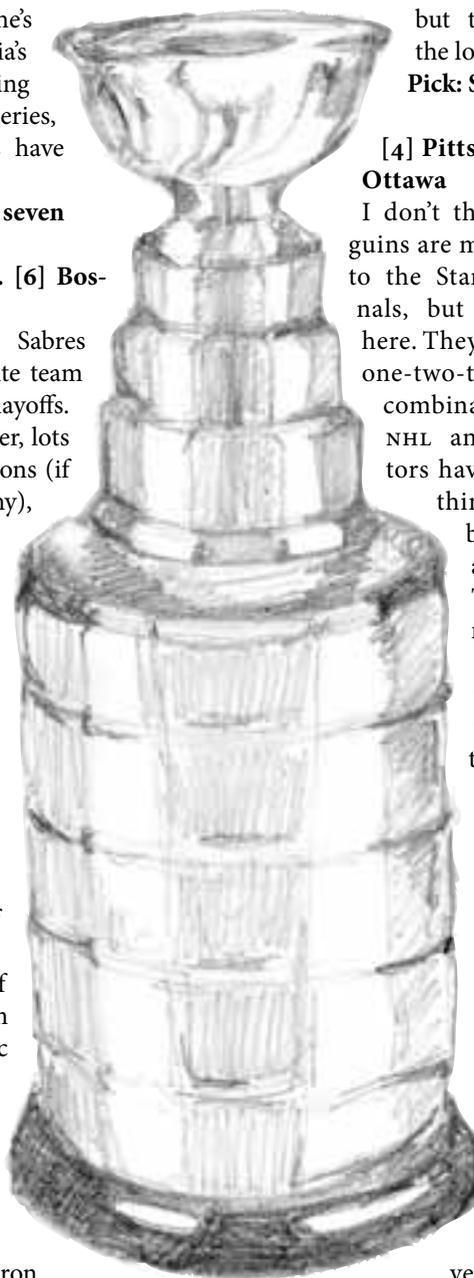
The Avalanche narrowly beat out the Flames for the eighth and final playoff spot, despite being pretty awful down the stretch. The clincher? Three victories over the Flames by identical 3-2 scores. On the other hand, the Sharks crushed the Flames 9-1 in January and maintained a pretty impressive record all year. The Sharks will be motivated to get rid of the "playoff choker" label that's been following them around.

Pick: Sharks in five

[2] Chicago Blackhawks vs. [7] Nashville Predators

You might remember the Chicago Blackhawks from the Winter Classic last year. Or from last year's Western Conference final. Or from the several beatings they placed on the Flames this year — the 6-5 comeback on Oct. 12 was the first sign they were in trouble, and the subsequent 7-1 trouncing a month later showed there was work to be done. Nashville's not a bad team, they played strong down the stretch. However, Chicago took four of six meetings from the Predators and

see STANLEY CUP PREVIEW, pg. 23



VARSIITY PHARMACY PRESENTS DINOS ROOKIES OF THE YEAR



ALLISON LONG
Dinos Swimming

Breastroker Allison Long is the **2010 Bill Popplewell Dinos Female Rookie of the Year**. Long was named the CIS rookie of the year in women's swimming, the fifth straight Dinos swimmer to earn that honour. She won gold in the 50-metre breaststroke and was also part of the record-setting 4x100-metre medley relay squad, adding a fourth-place finish in the 100 breaststroke and a fifth-place in the 200 breaststroke.



LINDEN GAYDOSH
Dinos Football

Defensive lineman Linden Gaydosh is the **2010 Bill Popplewell Dinos Male Rookie of the Year**. He started every game on the defensive line for the Dinos in 2009 en route to winning the Peter Gorman Trophy as the top rookie in CIS football. After representing Canada at the World Junior Football Championship last summer, Gaydosh thrived in the trenches for Calgary, helping the Dinos become the top run defence in Canada West.

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Year in review, cont'd from pg. 21

and third years. With another year under their belt, this team will be much improved.

Men's basketball

Regular season record: 15-5

Finish: Lost in CIS semi-finals

The Dinos season ended in the same way as it did last year, with a national semi-finals lost to the UBC T-Birds and final games for key Dinos seniors. Robbie Sihota and Ross Bekkering, pillars for the Dinos during their recent run of success, leave the team in the off-season. So do guards Lindsey Thouret and Jamie McLeod. Rookie Jarred Ogungbemi-Jackson wowed everyone with his play during the national tournament, and will be a player to watch these next few years.

Women's basketball

Regular season record: 8-12

Finish: Out of the playoffs

Head coach Shawnee Harle's squad finished out of the playoffs, but, much like the women's volleyball team, did it without much veteran help. Only two players had more than two years of experience with the squad heading into the season: fourth-year Ashley Hill and third-year Megan Lang.

Despite this, they were able to sneak away with a win over the UBC T-Birds in the winter semester, who won the CIS championship in 2008.

Men's hockey

Regular season record: 13-9-6

Finish: Lost in CW semi-finals

Under new head coach Mark Howell, the Dinos returned to the playoffs after missing out last year. This despite the number of playoff

spots shrinking from six to four.

A fourth-place finish earned them a playoff match-up with the hated University of Alberta Golden Bears. The Bears swept the series 2-0, though the Dinos gave it their best effort behind third-string goalie Nathan Deobald in game two. Deobald played because back-up goalie Jeff Weber was suspended and starter Dustin Butler injured.

Reid Jorgensen finished seventh in league scoring with 30 points.

Women's hockey

Regular season record: 7-15-2

Finish: Out of playoffs

It wasn't the best return to CIS competition the Dinos could hope for, but they did pick up some steam down the stretch — six of the team's seven wins came in the second half of the season. Unfortunately, it was

after the team had lost 13-games in a row. However, they finished just four points out of a playoff spot.

Women's wrestling

CIS rank: second

CW rank: second

The Dinos didn't win their second CIS championship in a row, but they gave it a hell of a shot. It came down to one match. The Dinos were only two points off the title-winning Simon Fraser University Clan.

Dino Gen Haley was named CIS outstanding wrestler of the meet. She has won four straight gold medals at the CIS championships.

Jazzie Barker and Leah Callahan also came away with gold medals, while Erica Wiebe finished with a silver behind U.S. Olympian Ali Wiebe, who came away with her fifth straight gold medal.

Stanley Cup preview, cont'd from pg. 22

seem likely to do the same here.

Pick: Blackhawks in five

[3] Vancouver Canucks vs. [6] Los Angeles Kings

Vancouver had a surprisingly strong season, taking advantage of off-years by many of the Northwest Division's teams en route to a division title. During that run, they laid a pair of savage beatings on the Flames — 5-1 on December 27 and 7-3 in the last game of the season for either team. Bolstered by great years from the Sedin twins and consistent goaltending from Roberto Luongo, the Canucks could be a force to reckon with in the West. Or they could lose in the second round like they tend to. Either way, they have enough in the tank to get past the Kings.

Pick: Canucks in six

[4] Phoenix Coyotes vs. [5] Detroit Red Wings

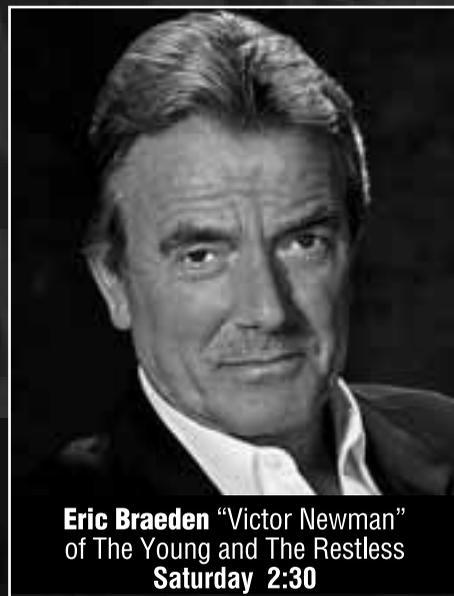
The Coyotes and Red Wings split their season series during the regular season and each team beat the Calgary Flames equally well. However, the Detroit Red Wings were one of the league's most impressive teams during the stretch. With the Flames nipping at their heels for the last playoff spot, the Wings turned on the gas and pulled away. While the Coyotes were very good in the regular season, they lack the veteran leadership and playoff experience that the Red Wings have in spades. Can all the old guys lead Detroit to another Stanley Cup? Maybe not, but it should get them past the desert dogs, at least.

Pick: Red Wings in seven

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Well, my time as TLF overlord has come to an end. Have a wicked BSD and a fabulous summer. Don't forget to send in TLFs next year! Bring your TLF to MSC 319 or e-mail them to tlf@thegauntlet.ca. All submissions must include your name, ID number, phone number and signature. Submissions judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic or attacks of a personal nature will not be tolerated.

Pro-lifers: I respect and defend your right to have opinions. I don't respect your fire and brimstone bullying method of "inspiring" thought on the matter. If you tone it down you may actually "save" a lot more "lives."

- I'm Right

Speaking of Programming, oi profs... Get it through your heads, Python >>>>> {Pascal, C/C++, Java} (at least for beginners).

To the hot blonde, now redhead girl who works at Stör. I would buy you your first pitcher at Thursden.

- Amp Energy Lemonade
[They buy their energy drinks there just so they can "accidentally" brush your hand when they give you the money.]

- Flirt-Ed]

Dear female U of C population, I am a girl looking for a serious relationship with another girl. I am too nervous to approach another girl interested in this sort of relationship, for fear of not being accepted for who I am. Despite being shy I would really like to meet someone and start a relationship. Please respond to uofcgirl@hotmail.com.

You're not going to read this but — congrats on your engagement!
- movin' on, movin' on

I'm still super pissed about the Avro Arrow. The Arrow outperformed our current F-18s we fly, but was born in the 50's. Stupid politics. Such frakin n00bs.

- DocD

TRYING TO WRITE A NOVEL OR PLAY?? **Creative Writing Club starts in Fall '10** email writing.ucalgary@gmail.com if you are interested!!

Phew, we gave our ENEL 589 presentation and no one spontaneously combusted. <Keanu>Whooooah </Keanu>

Dear Editor: You bring me joy, too. TLFs = my crack <3.

To anyone who pays to park on campus: I realized parking ain't cheap. . . it is NOT the parking attendant's fault. . . Don't make us mad. . . The \$4 - \$6 tab will end up being a \$30 - \$50 fine. . .

- your neighborhood parking attendant
[This TLF has been shortened to make a point. I dig your complaints, but try to keep it succinct.]

- Ed]

To my future roommates who will be living with me in Cascade next year, room 521, add me on Facebook! My e-mail's nmpalardy@live.ca! Can't wait to meet you guys!!

- Roomie in 521 A

Hey you on the escalator it isn't a ride! Start walking!

-Guy on the step behind you tapping his fingers impatiently to try and passive-aggressively give you the hint.

[Your sign off is longer than your TLF. It's a skill to be succinct.]

- Shorten-Ed]

I miss Horsedog.

- adogcalledstray

Q: Is Google Webmaster Tools the same as Google Analytics?

A: Let's ask our master, Python. >>> "Webmaster Tools" == "Analytics" False, douche

The Calgary Daytime Hockey League is now open for early registration (2010/2011 season)! Teams or individuals may sign up. Games will be played during weekdays between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Father David Bauer Arena. Every game will have a referee with scores and standings updated daily. For more information visit: <http://cdhl.teamopolis.com/> or e-mail: daytimehockey@gmail.com

To that hot chick I refuse to identify. Damn, you're hot (evidently smart too), ohh & nice iron ring.

I've been here for five years, and now is my LAST chance to write a tlf. So here it is.

- A Bappity Boopee

R, BSD is upon us! You better be there 'cause you won't be here next year :(But guess what. . . I'll probably be able to visit you next year! Good news, oui? (I promise not to pretend I'm French if I'm there haha) Love youuu!

M, You better be preparing yourself for the legend that is BSD...and by prepare I mean buy a lot of alcohol and refrigerate that shit. Also, no accidentally sexting your mom.

- S

I'm a retard for choosing to be away from you. I wish you really were little enough to fit in my pocket. I'll miss you too. Please come visit me.
- 2214 evermore

Dear Fellow Undergrads: I am tired of having to stop off at the second floor of Math Sci all the time so get this through your little heads: If you have two good feet that can carry you up take the f'ing stairs! You might shed your freshmen 15 — god forbid! Thanks.

-A busy 4th year who has to go to floor five or higher

Poetry, part 5

by Richard Lam

Fuck it. it's True. I write poems in a futile attempt to get laid.

[Best in the set. - Enjoy-Ed]

Dear Brentwood Safeway Employee, You're the cutest express till cashier there is. Wanna get coffee sometime?

- Craigie Hall

[I guess there was more than one sort of "checking out" at THAT till. . . - Shopp-Ed]

Fear o' the week: Potophobia - the fear of alcohol. Best cure: BSD (beer pong at 9 a.m? Couch races? The Beer Mile? I think so!

Hey cool guy in ARHI 325, I like your clothes!

- fashionista

Banana Bread, Sometimes the baking soda clumps and it's gross and that makes you never want to eat it again. But sometimes, on a really good day, the brown sugar is lumpy and it's absolutely delicious.

- Chipmunk

Go to Stör, the frogs are fresh!

- Andy

You still rock my world. Thanks for making the semester more bearable, I owe you a grand summer.

- decked in plaid

Worried about not making it to the after party? *COUGH*WHISKEY*COUGH* Then you might want to write a few of these down.

1) Sleep. I know you haven't missed a ThursDen since September but extreme times call for extreme measures.
2) Caffeine. MayoClinic.com says that 500 - 600mg (six to seven cups of coffee) can either turn you into an insomniac or BSD legend.

3) Breakfast. The most important meal of the day, unless you're running the Beer Mile @ 10 a.m., then you're just adding insult to injury.

4) Pace Yourself. Go hard, pass out at noon and be energized enough to meet up with your friends at the Whiskey before 10 p.m.

5) Jagermeister. Extensive research by the U of C Ski Club has concluded it will boost your immunity, endurance and cause an increase in confidence (the kind you'll need in a couch race). Don't hesitate to test these findings yourself.

- U of C Ski Club

A weekly haiku
My New Year's resolution
Farewell until Fall

- Goyo

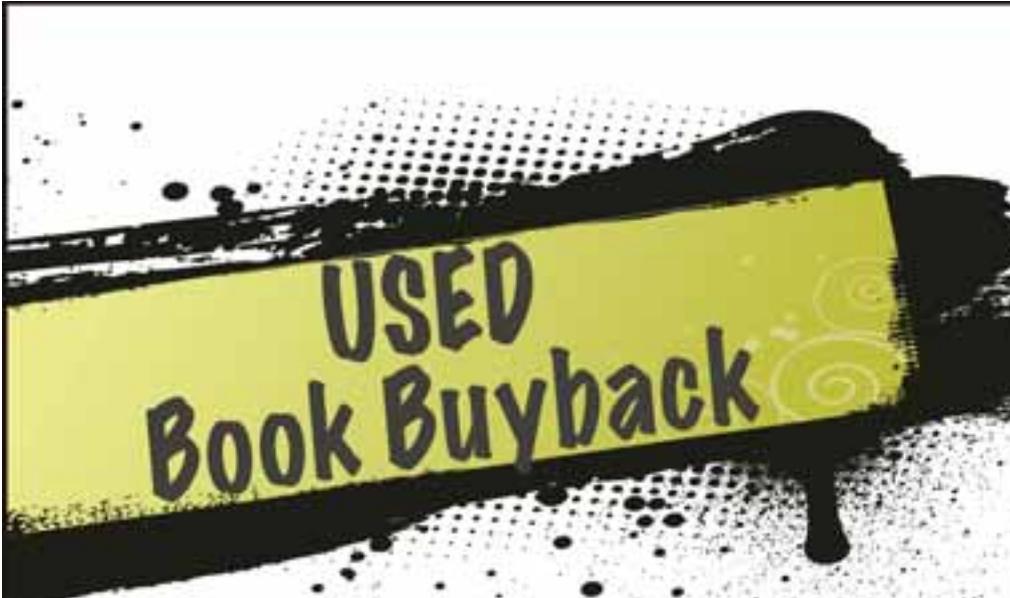
[Best New Year's resolution I've heard. Look forward to reading more in the fall.]

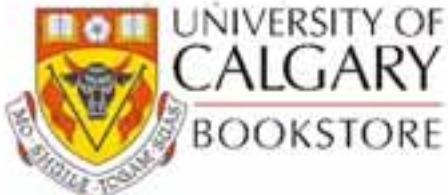
-Ed]

"I'll always tell the truth to you. If I get hit on by a gay dude it's alright, it doesn't even phase you."

- Maurice

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