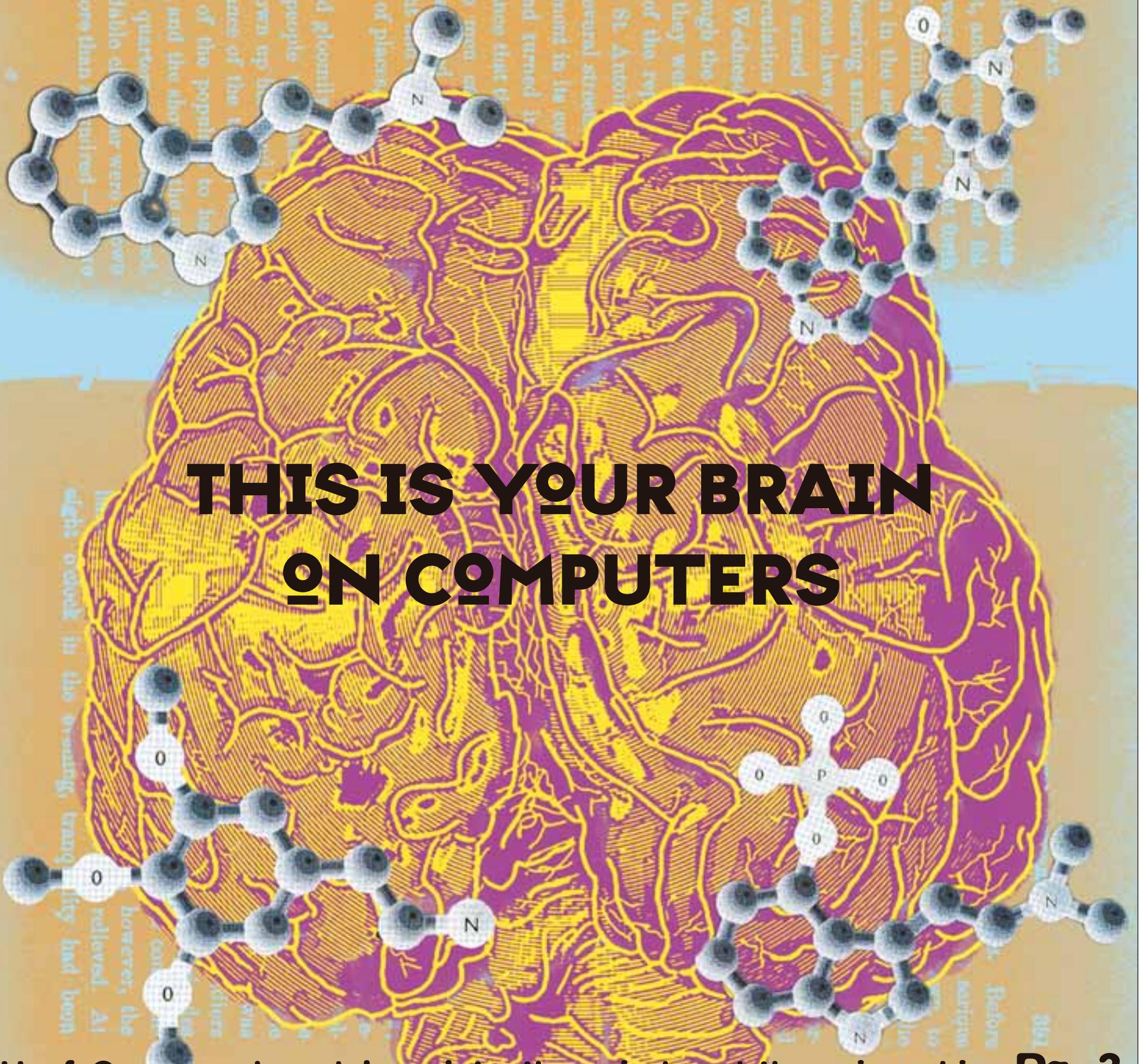


UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

gauntlet

VOLUME 51 | ISSUE NO. 10 | AUGUST 12 | 2010



THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON COMPUTERS

U of C researcher delves into the mind and the microchip Pg. 3

The oilsands or Alberta's environment (pick one)

Rethink Alberta. What does it mean to live in this province? In Calgary, the home of corporate cowboys and towering oil companies taking over the downtown core, oil takes precedence. Here, we are fortunate enough to have an abundance of liquid gold supporting our growing population and infrastructure demands. Yet this growth comes at a cost, one the recent Rethink Alberta campaign sponsored by Corporate Ethics International is quick to point out.

The Rethink Alberta ad features blunt and unapologetic stills and video of tailing ponds, oil-covered ducks and smoke stacks spewing ever-popular green house gasses. They call attention to high cancer rates in nearby First Nations communities and state the "tarsands leak nearly 3 million gallons of poison" into the water system everyday. Despite the group acknowledging and correcting some initial factual inaccuracies, those who have watched the ad are still significantly less likely to visit Alberta as a tourist, according to a recent An-

gus Reid poll. Rethink Alberta may be aiming to affect change in Alberta's oilsands, but will ultimately mainly hurt the tourism industry.

This indirect stab at Alberta's wallet has been mildly successful however. Premier Ed Stelmach has dedicated \$268,000 for an ad campaign to paint the province in a better light. Stelmach has also spent billions of dollars on unproven carbon capture research and other efforts to keep the oilsands popular while keeping royalty payments low. Alberta's government has thus clearly implied that its financial standing (specifically revenue from the oilsands) is more important than future environmental well-being.

Alberta has little reason to be concerned with driving away investors. People will not give up current lifestyles to curb oil consumption and green technology is still playing catch up. After the major British Petroleum disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, offshore drilling is even more unpopular than the Athabasca oilsands. We

are the lesser of two evils. Many groups, from politicians to Green Peace, are actively trying to stop the construction of a Keystone pipeline that would carry oilsand bitumen to southern refineries, but given the alternatives it seems the project will be approved. The oilsands will continue to grow and therefore continue to draw in revenue for the province. The province should increase royalty payments, decrease the growth rate of open pit mines and dedicate any new revenue to researching and developing sustainable forms of energy. It is important to remain a leader in the energy industry if Alberta hopes to keep its current financial status, but that doesn't mean we can only focus on the tarsands.

This is where groups like Re-



think Alberta become the most important. Oil companies will only do as much to reduce emissions or reclaim land as is legislated by the government. The government, historically, has been less than stringent. Environmental groups, by sharing these videos and publishing harsh critiques on Alberta's environmental policy, or lack thereof, do have the ability to drive the government to action.

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Golden Spatula
Mark Gudim did a great job as a new recruit. He affected us all.

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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 vau sea-cow-based ink. We urge you to recycle/emblish the Gauntlet.

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New research melds mind and machine

Brent Constantin

News Editor

Continued research into biotics, the meshing of technology and biology, took another robo-step forward this week at the University of Calgary.

Research led by Dr. Naweed Syed, cell biology and anatomy department head in the faculty of medicine, has allowed chemical communication within brain cells to be “read” at a resolution previously unheard of.

In 2008, Syed made headlines when his lab, in collaboration with a German team, developed the first “neurochip” — a bionic hybrid technology that allowed snail brain cells to be stimulated through a chip and the resulting activity to be recorded.

“The notion was that we should be able to regain lost brain function from, for example, Parkinson’s or Alzheimer’s disease,” said Syed. “When the brain cells die either due to stroke or trauma, they are dead forever, so how do you regain that lost brain function?”

Syed’s team approached the medical problem by using electronic chips to interface with the brain and recoup some of that function.

While connecting the human body to technology might sound like science fiction, the reality is that the secrets of the mind are now being unlocked internationally after Syed’s initial discovery. Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University hardwired the brains of macaque monkeys allowing them to operate a robotic arm and feed themselves peanuts.

Syed and others hope the neurochip technology will eventually lead to greater prosthetic control in amputees and those born with disabilities.

“But for that it’s really important that you design and develop devices that can talk to brain cells and then the brain cells can talk



Sydney Stokoe/the Gauntlet

Dr. Naweed Syed has developed a method of “talking” to brain cells connected to a chip, which he hopes will improve drug testing.

back to them,” said Syed. “You really have to make it a two-way communication, otherwise the conversations don’t really happen effectively.”

The communication in question occurs through subtle changes in the brain cells’ ion channels. These channels are tiny pores in a brain cell’s membrane and the flow of ions across them determines the nature of that cell.

“Because that happens all the time without any impulses which we normally detect, we wanted to be able to get access to this chatter which doesn’t get registered with normal technologies,” said Syed. “So in collaboration with NRC [the National Research Council of Canada] we have actually developed a chip which allows you to record a brain cell’s ion channel in a fully automated manner.”

“You take a brain cell, you put it

on a chip and then it automatically begins to record ion channel activity which is unique to that cell,” said Syed.

The discovery is important because, according to Syed, all of the various drugs used for manipulating, monitoring or managing brain functions target these ion channels. The ion channel recordings could eventually grant researchers the ability to test drugs directly on cells, without long clinical trials and, perhaps most importantly, without bombarding the brain with drugs and their side effects in an effort to pinpoint a solution.

“I think that opens up the possibility for improving drug screening,” explained Syed. “It’s a very important step because what it allows you to be able to do is to interrogate brain cells and their function at a resolution and with an ease that

hadn’t been attained before.”

The next step for the research is a planned partnership with a neurosurgery team to obtain epileptic tissue removed during brain surgery for further study.

“It was taken out because it wouldn’t respond to any drugs and we can take that tissue and actually put it on a chip to record ion channels, try to understand the behaviour of seizure cells and then we can test a number of different drugs to see which drug will block the activity of those cells or the seizure behaviour in those neurons of the brain cells,” said Syed.

Currently epileptic patients will feel relief for five to ten years after this type of surgery, but eventually suffer seizures again. The neurochip allows for the design of a personalized drug for the patients that will block specific ion channels linked to epilepsy in case of relapse.

“This opens up the possibility that you could test it all in a test tube,” said Syed. “So you can also test the side effects of a drug even within a very short time window without having to go through massive clinical trials for patients.”

Over the next several months Syed will be working on ethical protocols to move from snail to rat and then human cells collected from these epileptic patients.

“It will take a lot of work because, of course, it has never been done before,” said Syed. “But the proof of the principle that there is a device that can actually do this opens up the possibility that one could move this thing forward.”

“The most important thing personally for me is that it’s a Made in Canada technology,” said Syed. “And that is really important because we have to be the innovation savvy people.”

What do you think is the most important medical advancement of all time?

campus quips



“Penicillin.”
– **Varuna Adikariwattage**,
first-year project management



“The cure for measles.”
– **Ethan Sir**,
fourth-year english



“Vaccinations, hundreds of years ago that’s how most people died.”
– **Stephanie Gill**,
fourth-year kinesiology



“Stem cell research has set the stage for an advancement that will be phenomenal.”
– **Acacia Young**,
second-year cellular biology

New U of C president shares her views

Brent Constantine
News Editor

After a University of Calgary career that saw her go from undergrad to dean of the Schulich School of Engineering, Dr. Elizabeth Cannon officially became the U of C's 11th president July 1. The *Gauntlet* talked to Cannon about her new role and her vision of what the U of C is and should be.

G: What is your role as the president of the U of C?

C: As president your main role is to provide leadership to the organization in terms of crafting and leading the strategic direction of the university. Working with students, working with faculty and staff and working with the board of governors to ensure that we really move the university to where it needs to be in the future.

G: What is your plan to interact and communicate with students?

C: I already had some interaction with students before I started.

Meeting with the leadership of the Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association gave me a good introduction to what students are thinking and what some of the key issues are.

I will be working with students in many different forms, certainly working with the SU and the GSA, regular meetings, going to their executive, being sure to introduce myself, but also just meeting with students in groups. I'm going to certainly make a point of doing that throughout my presidency. It's a little bit tough in the summer be-

cause there's not a lot of students around, but it is important.

G: How important do you think the SU is to the U of C?

C: Well it's very, very important because it represents effectively the students that are here. They are here to make this a better university and to ensure that the things we do for students are the right things. We have to work in partnership and I'm very, very pleased. Lauren Webber I've met several times, she's very dynamic . . . and I think we'll work very well together in our respective roles.

G: How will you transfer the success you had as dean of engineering to president of the university with areas like an arts faculty, a dance program, music? How will you continue that success outside of your element?

C: Well I think that's one of the interesting things and one of the reasons why I wanted to be president, because you get to learn and represent the broad aspects of the University of Calgary.

As you mentioned I know engineering very well. That's where I was a student and a researcher and an instructor and dean so I know that well and I have had great experiences in that role. But when you move up to president you are expected to represent the university as a whole, so part of what I'm doing is learning more about the university and ensuring that I understand all of the different elements; the programs, the faculties, the faculty staff and students who really make up the University of Calgary.

G: During your career here, both academic and professional, what have you seen as the biggest change?

C: I came to University of Calgary in 1982 as a student, so I came for the same reasons you did, to get an education.

Probably the biggest change that I've seen in the many years is that we have grown, not just in the number of students — we're over 29,000 now, with over 5,000 faculty and staff. We are seen as a major player on the national stage in terms of what we offer to students and what we offer to the community through our research, so that's been extremely impressive. There's challenges always with growth, but I think we are sitting at a position now with a lot of potential . . . and a lot of achievement to be proud of.

G: What are your thoughts on instructors or students that



Sydney Stokoe/the Gauntlet

President Cannon said the U of C benefits from links to industry.

might say the focus on research at the school is to the detriment of teaching?

C: The University of Calgary has a clear mission, we are a research intensive organization, but we are here to teach students and we have a very strong mission around the undergraduate program.

To me it's not an 'either or,' it's an 'and.'

There's a value in the sense of the environment we create. You are being taught by faculty that are

C: Well I think there is a lot more that is there than is perhaps recognized or talked about. But maybe just to step back for a second, we are a commuter campus, many of our students do live off campus or they come in for the day.

We are increasing our residence capacity and I think that's important, whether you're from Calgary or not, that we have more students living on the campus because that creates a very interesting vibrant community

/// To me a university education isn't just the courses you take . . . it's about developing people."

— Dr. Elizabeth Cannon, U of C president

on the leading edge of their disciplines, they are generating new knowledge.

But we have to value the teaching role. I think we do that. We can always get better, we have to hold ourselves to a high standard and we need to ensure that our students get a quality education.

G: Schools talk about student apathy and the term "commuter campus" is tossed around at the U of C often. Is there an issue here with student involvement or are our students engaged?

right here.

But I think we do have, and we need to strive for more, opportunities for students to get engaged in university and community life.

One of the things that I think is very exciting about the University of Calgary is our co-curricular record. We have over 5,000 students signed up for that, it's the biggest number I believe in the country or at least western Canada. To me that shows students are hungry for engagement in the university or the community.

So I think we have a number of

opportunities, we will create more, we have a great emerging leaders program for our students. I will be talking a lot about this because to me a university education isn't just the courses you take, that is important, but it's about developing people and part of that is going to be in the classroom and part of that is going to be outside the classroom. We need to have those opportunities on both sides.

G: A complaint of post-secondary is its increasingly corporate or business approach to operations. Is this a valid concern or something that has always been a topic of discussion?

C: I think it's an issue that has certainly been talked about for many, many years.

We are not a business, we are an academic institution, but that doesn't mean that we can't adopt business practices in some of the things that we do.

I've talked about the fact that we've grown very quickly, with that growth means that the systems and processes you use to run the university need to be of the scale and sophistication so that we can operate smoothly.

Bringing in business processes to support the functioning of the university is important. We also engage with the corporate community in many ways and for me those are positive collaborations. They hire our students, so having linkages with future employers adds value directly back to students. In some cases they provide with advice on trends in their organization so we ensure that we're listening to that when we consider curriculum issues.

G: In my post-secondary career I've seen students referred to as "customers." Is this the mindset that higher education is moving into, where students come to school and pay a certain amount for a piece of paper?

We certainly want students when they're coming here to feel like they're getting value. It does cost money and in many cases we know that it is a financial challenge for students. They have to feel that at the end of their degree they're walking out of here with the right knowledge and right skills so they can enter the work force and be successful in the long term.

So certainly there's an appreciation of that, on the other hand this is a two way street. It's not that you're paying your tuition and our

see DR. CANNON, page 5

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Public policy events diversify

Eric Mathison
Opinions Editor

Students can expect a curriculum that spans beyond the classroom as the University of Calgary School of Public Policy will once again host its Harold N. Kvisle Academic Lecture Series. While last year's series was primarily focused on regional issues, such as energy and business in Alberta, this year's series tackles a wider focus with 15 events planned throughout the upcoming year.

"We really tried to broaden our scope," said Emily Bailey, public policy's coordinator of executive programs and outreach. "Public policy is so multi-disciplinary, it involves fields such as economics, political science, international relations and business. Exploring the connections between these subjects is important for academics, government and the corporate world."

"This series gives the campus community the chance to take part in the discussion," Bailey said.

The first event is part of a series on the role of the G8 and G20 in international affairs. The keynote event for the fall, taking place on November 3, sets former Republican senator and Hollywood actor Fred Thompson against Howard Dean, past Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, to debate the results of US mid-term elections planned for November 2.

Mark Steyn, a well-known political commentator for *MacLean's* magazine, will be moderating.

Other noteworthy speakers include U of C president Elizabeth Cannon and retired Major-General Cameron Ross, who will speak next year on future security and defence challenges.

In addition to events on campus, The School of Public Policy will also host events for the business community throughout the year, including the Nexen Global Round Table which launches with a gala dinner featuring Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mohamed ElBaradei. Dr. ElBaradei is the past director general for the United Nation's International Atomic Energy Association, responsible for negotiating on behalf of the Obama administration with Tehran to break the stalemate over Iran's nuclear program.

The U of C's 12-month masters of public policy degree program is now in the final stages of approval from the Alberta government with an anticipated launch in fall 2010. The program will have an initial intake of 35 students and will emphasize the practical aspect of policy analysis while matching students with government ministries, NGOs or businesses for a final capstone research term.

All events are free for student members of the School of Public Policy Student Association.

Dr. Cannon, continued from page 4

job is to just lay out the courses and it's a contract.

We expect and we see students coming here that they want to engage with us. It's well beyond the tuition that they pay and it's about, again, the personal development. It's about a knowledge of learning, it's about being involved in your community and it's about being a better person when you walk out of our doors than you were coming in.

G: Onto the future of the university, what do you see as its biggest growth area?

C: I won't want to pick one area

right now and say we're going to grow X or Y, but I will say within the coming year we will be looking at the university, looking at strategic planning and ensuring that we carve out a clear direction for this institution.

I also want to very much focus on what we can give to students in terms of programming and what are the attributes we want to be able to see in a University of Calgary graduate.

So I think there's a lot of growth areas, it may not be in specific programming areas, but it's in opportunities for the university as a whole.

WE HAVE ISSUES

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SOCI 201 L03	Introduction to Sociology	M/W/F 10:00

Hiver – Winter 2011

BIOL 305 L01	The Human Organism	T/R 11:00
ECON 203 L03	Principles of Macroeconomics	T/R 09:30
GEOG 205 L03	Gateway to Geography	M/W/F 10:00
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NUTV channels different path with new director

Amy Badry
Gauntlet News

New University Television, the campus television station and one of the longest running university-based television production societies in Canada, has welcomed a new executive director. Tinu Sinha is stepping down from his position as executive director of NUTV and handing the torch over to Dominique Keller.

"The executive director looks after the day-to-day operations and long-term vision of the organization, making sure the organization is transparent," said Sinha.

During his time at the station, including two years in his current position, Sinha saw NUTV grow to include closed-circuit televisions showcasing NUTV programs, information and advertising. The station also features online content such as podcasts.

"And we have a lot more members," boasted Sinha, who plans to leave for Toronto to further his work in film and television.

Incoming executive director Dominique Keller said she looks

forward to learning more about what programming students want from NUTV.

"She is a great mentor and filmmaker herself," Sinha said. "She knows a lot about the industry and can really bring in those connections that members are interested in."

On top of her seven years in the film industry, Keller coordinated the NUTV documentary school where participants attended workshops and created eight-minute documentaries in 2006.

"I had a great experience then and when I saw the job posting come up I thought, 'What a great place to work,'" said Keller. "I enjoy working with the students and the environment here."

"I am just excited that Dominique is going to be steering the ship," said Sinha. "She has a lot of worthwhile experience that members will benefit from."

Keller, also a U of C alumnus, explained that the film industry allowed her to pursue her personal interest and eventually became a way to make a living.

"I was really interested in travel and learning about different cul-

tures," said Keller. "I think it was just a natural progression from filming my adventures to thinking I could make a career out of this."

Keller takes over the reigns of the station as NUTV's flagship program, Full Frontal, moves into a primetime spot on Shaw cable. The program covers university and community news, entertainment and sports and will air Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. on channel 10.

"I'm happy that current and new members will have their content seen on primetime TV," said Sinha.

Full Frontal associate producer Martha Affleck is not convinced a primetime spot will increase viewership, adding the show already has a large web-based audience. Affleck said NUTV is more important as a training grounds than content producer.

"NUTV is a professional development kind of place," explained Affleck. "If you really want to become a reporter, this is a place to go to develop those skills and we would help you along the way."

"This is an institute that teaches members on broadcast and film

production, and it will always be that before anything else," said Affleck.

Keller said NUTV can expect some exciting changes in the future including more show programming and content on the closed-circuit system.

"We have lots of things going on," Keller said. "We are getting ready for the open house, so we are looking forward to meeting the new students. Hopefully people come by and check out NUTV."



Sydney Stokoe/the Gauntlet

Dominique Keller joins NUTV as its new executive director.

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Dinos prepare to hold the border

Noah Miller
Sports Editor

After no tournament last season, the University of Calgary's Battle of the Border returns to the Jack Simpson gym earlier than ever.

The tournament, which pits U of C and neighbouring universities against comparable teams from across the border, runs August 11-15, a full month before regular fall classes begin.

This year, the tournament brings up the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks of the NCAA's Big Sky Conference to tip-off against the Dinos twice, the University of Lethbridge pronghorns twice and against Concordia for a single matchup.

"It's the first time we've done it this early," said Dinos men's basketball head coach Dan Vanhooren, who noted that the last battle of the border two years ago occurred over the September long weekend. "We practice only four times, we're playing and give the guys a couple weeks off after this, because otherwise I think the season is too long."

The Lumberjacks from Flagstaff, Arizona are the third team in their conference to visit the U of C for Battle of the Border



Noah Miller/the Gauntlet

The men's basketball team huddles around Coach Vanhooren in preparation for this weekend's games.

since the tournament's inception in 2006. The Lumberjacks posted a 14-14 overall record last season and were .500 in both in- and out-of-conference play. The Lumberjacks will boast four returning starters for the 2010-11 season and the tournament against a young Dinos team.

"This team we're playing is go-

ing to be formidable," said Vanhooren. "It's not like we are going to be in a weak heat."

The tournament will be the first opportunity for Dinos fans to get a good look at Vanhooren's recruiting class consisting of eight new players including Phil Labongo and Matt Letkeman. Four veterans will be missing

from the lineup due to graduation.

"It gives us a real good chance to get a good look at our guys early, a couple weeks of time to plan for our pre-season based on what we saw," said Vanhooren. "It's a nice sneak peek at what we have. It will help prepare us for our season much, much better."

Vanhooren said he was looking for "a competitive experience" to come out of this weekend.

Despite the absence of veteran players from the lineup, Vanhooren said he doesn't feel the young players must fill their shoes, but should "play their own way and be who they are."

"Obviously losing Ross [Bekker] and Robbi [Sihota] up front and Jamie [McLeod] in the backcourt, those are some significant players for us who had fabulous careers and we love them to death for that and we're looking forward to watching them play pro," said Vanhooren. "These guys are going to have to create their own identity. This tournament will hopefully help them do that."

All games take place in the Jack Simpson Gym.

Wednesday, Aug. 11

Northern Arizona 106 : Lethbridge 72

Thursday, Aug. 12

8 p.m. Concordia vs. Northern Arizona

Friday, Aug. 13

7 p.m. Calgary vs. Northern Arizona

Saturday, Aug. 14

7 p.m. Calgary vs. Northern Arizona

Sunday, Aug. 15

10 a.m. Lethbridge vs. Northern Arizona

McMahon to host NHL Heritage Classic

Noah Miller
Sports Editor

McMahon Stadium — the home of the University of Calgary Dinos football team and the Calgary Stampeders — will host Canada's second ever outdoor National Hockey League game.

At a press conference held last Wednesday, the NHL announced that on Sunday Feb. 20, the Calgary Flames will battle the Montreal Canadiens in the 2011 Heritage classic.

With the Sidney Crosby versus Alexander Ovechkin rivalry set

to go outdoors when the Pittsburgh Penguins play the Washington Capitals on New Year's Day, there grew a desire to bring the game back to its origins in Canada.

"Our first regular-season outdoor game was played in Canada and it's great to be coming back," said NHL commissioner Gary Bettman at the press conference. "As everyone knows, the roots of our game are in Canada . . . [on] frozen ponds and backyard rinks in Canada. When you have a heritage as proud and as strong as we do, you want to celebrate it."

With roughly 40,000 expected to be in attendance, attention was focused on the potentially cold weather.

"Hopefully they have the heaters in the benches," said Flames forward Curtis Glencross.

To further the heritage theme, Reebok designed special jerseys for the Flames to don that pays tribute to the Calgary Tigers — the first major professional team in Calgary in 1921.

In addition to the Flames' landmark game, the Calgary Hitmen are also slated to play the Western Hockey League's first outdoor game when they take on the Regina Pats the next day.

Tickets for the inevitably popular event have yet to go on sale.



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Out of season testing reveals more doping violations

Task force created to combat steroid use in university football

Noah Miller
Sports Editor

Following more positive steroid tests from Canadian Interuniversity Sport football players, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport held a press conference alongside CIS and the Canadian Football League this past Tuesday to announce new anti-doping measures that will be put in place for university football athletes effective immediately.

In addition to the unprecedented testing of the entire University of Waterloo football team in March, the CCES also conducted 54 unannounced, out-of-season tests on CIS football players across the country in June.

This testing confirmed two

more violations and CCES continues to manage one other potential violation.

Acadia Axemen linebacker Taylor Shadgett admitted to use of Stanazolol, a World Anti-Doping Agency prohibited substance. After exercising his right to a hearing, Shadgett received a sanction of two years of ineligibility.

Joining Shadgett for the same two-year period of ineligibility will be University of Windsor Lancers linebacker Christopher Deneau. Deneau was found to have used Methyl-1-testosterone, another WADA prohibited substance, and waived his right to a hearing.

Both of the schools' athletic directors expressed their support of CCES and the rulings.

"We have a zero-tolerance policy and are fully supportive of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. All of our students are required to take online anti-doping education from the CCES and we augment that with presentations from an on-site CCES representative . . . It's a widespread message that we ensure is communicated to all our athletes without exception," said University of Windsor director of athletics Gord Grace, who noted this is the first time an athlete at Windsor has tested positive for performance enhancing drugs.

"Naturally we're very disappointed in the results of the home visit tests, as they signal that doping in CIS football is not an isolated occurrence," said CIS chief executive officer Marg McGregor.

"We have significant work to do to address the problem in a systematic and comprehensive manner and to protect the integrity and positive values of university football. We look forward to working with our partners to address the issue."

As a result of the violations, CCES announced the immediate launch of an independent task force which will look at the trends and attitudes surrounding steroid use in football. Subsequently the task force may also be called upon to make policy recommendations to all levels of government and stakeholders. The CCES has yet to divulge the task force's membership, but that information is expected to be released in a matter of weeks. In addition to the task

force, CCES also plans to increase the amount of testing in CIS football and target already allocated testing to more 'at risk' periods.

In cooperation with the effort to stem the use of performance enhancing drugs, the CFL has agreed to identify top CIS prospects, provide more extensive funding to test these prospects and participate in public education programs.

"We all share a responsibility to ensure that positive experience is not undermined by performance enhancing drugs. As role models for football players at every level, those of us privileged enough to be part of the CFL are working to fulfill that responsibility," said CFL director of football operations Kevin McDonald.

o p i n i o n s

Editor: Eric Mathison—opinions@thegauntlet.ca

Child soldiers aren't to blame

Omar Khadr deserves to be repatriated to Canada so that justice can be served

Eric Mathison
Opinions Editor

After years of interruption, the trial of Omar Khadr began Tuesday at Guantanamo Bay. Khadr, the youngest of the 176 men interred at Guantanamo, is a Canadian citizen. His story has become well-known: he was born in Toronto in 1986, moved back and forth between Pakistan and

Canada and, after he moved with his family to Afghanistan in 1996, was captured by American soldiers following a firefight in 2002. In Afghanistan the Khadr family frequented Osama Bin Laden's compound. Khadr's father was arrested but released on insufficient evidence for the 1995 bombing of the Egyptian embassy in Pakistan.

Khadr was captured after being shot in the back twice. He al-

legedly threw a grenade after the firefight had finished which killed an American soldier. For the past seven years he has been held at Guantanamo Bay as two American presidents and no less than four tribunals have attempted to establish the legality of holding prisoners of war (though that title is avoided) and determine what ought to happen to them whether found guilty or not.

Khadr must be sent to Canada where he can receive psychological treatment and, if possible, be released. The Canadian Supreme Court found last January that Khadr's human rights had been violated. His treatment at Guantanamo Bay has, along with the other prisoners, come under intense scrutiny. Members of the Canadian Intelligence Security Service were told by Khadr and his lawyers that he had been tortured. (Indeed, Joshua Claus, who interrogated Khadr at Bagram airbase before he was sent to Guantanamo Bay, later plead guilty to abusing other detainees.) Also, information that was gathered by CSIS agents during interrogations was passed to American authorities without pursuing guarantee that they wouldn't seek the death penalty. Canadian Federal Court

judge Richard Mosley ruled that Canada had violated international law by doing so.

While the majority of Canadians are in favour of having Khadr repatriated, the Canadian government has spinelessly done nothing to have him sent to Canada. Meanwhile, America has pressed the legal opacity of Guantanamo Bay to the breaking point. Both governments are complicit in interfering with proper justice — American president Barack Obama failed to keep his promise to close Guantanamo Bay by last January and Canadian prime minister Steven Harper needed to be told by the Supreme Court what constitutes a human right. Even if Canada does the right thing and demands that America repatriate Khadr, they must go further to ensure that the dubious legality of the trials are called into question by the international community.

A much more troubling fact is being overlooked: Khadr was 15 years old when he was captured. This makes him the first person in the history of war crimes to be tried for an act he did as a child. Whether or not he did cause the death of an American soldier — and the evidence suggests that

he did — he should not be held legally culpable for it. Child soldiers are victims and, as the United Nations special envoy for children in armed conflict Radhika Coomaraswamy states, a dangerous precedent is being set in this case.

There is little doubt that Khadr desired to kill American soldiers. Video footage recovered from the attack site shows him making explosives and planting landmines with other men. Yet he is not responsible for this desire, nor should he be tried for his actions. Those responsible are the people who indoctrinated him from a young age to fight for an immoral cause. Khadr has been let down twice. Once by the Islamic fascists who programmed him to kill, his father and Bin Laden among them, and once by the justice system that has failed to recognize it.

It isn't clear what should happen to Khadr. It's possible that, given his mental state, being released into society will lead to his continued association with extremists. It could be years before he receives the help he needs to function in society and that help may never rehabilitate him. Canada didn't cause this tragedy, but it has also done little to help it.





courtesy Kenneth Locke

Pining for Banff's beauty

What's that smell? A lovely pine air freshener perhaps?

Andy Williams
Entertainment Editor

It's always hard to judge how profound and significant a band's name is. Some names have oodles of thought put in to them and when you hear the back story or the genesis of the name, it can alter your perception of the band altogether. Others are clearly the creation of a bigwig at record company, or the product of the bravado that comes with a few too many beer. Rage Against the Ma-

chine — profound, Pussycat Dolls — not so much. Pine Tarts fall in the former category, though it may be hard to glean the significance at first glance.

"I was living in Banff, and I thought of it as a slang term for the type of kids that lived in Banff," explains frontman and vocalist Jesse Powell. "Sort of whimsically minded young people who end up living in abject poverty, but living the crown-jewel of beautiful places of the world. People coming from all over coming Canada and else-

where to this beautiful place, and living super poor, but it makes them super rich."

Though the explanation provides startling insight into a side of Banff that isn't often seen, it still doesn't explain the connection between the town and a garage-rock/power-pop band. If one were to associate music with the idyllic mountain locale, folk and country seem like the most obvious genres, but Powell disagrees.

"It's the funny division of the facade culture existing in this deep,

profound wilderness," says Powell. "I was trying to reconcile that shiny, glitzy edge of Banff with its roots. I was trying to take a form that was a folk culture to young people, which I don't think is folk anymore. It's rock'n'roll."

Though he concedes he doesn't find it as beautiful, Powell has since moved to Calgary to focus on his music, citing the transient nature of Banff's populous as a severe obstacle when starting a band there. Powell has a solid idea of the course he wants to chart through Calgary's music scene.

"It's a tricky situation. In Calgary, and most scenes in Canada I suppose, the people that go to shows are the people in the bands for the most part, with a bit of crossover," he says. "With Pine Tarts' music, I was always trying to make it more pop. It's not just for band people who know all the strange, rare garage-rock. The bands that are big hits with local crowds are generally bands that are for musicians and for collectors, and they hit a lot of reference points that other people won't get. It's an exclusive club."

Powell isn't putting this kind niche down, he's just aiming for a wider audience. He has friends in these scenes and wants them to be able to appreciate his music, but

he also wants to make it accessible enough for people to just pick up and dive in to. He's carried this thoughtful approach into how the band intends to distribute its music.

All their releases — including the recently released 10 inch, *Two Moons* — have been on vinyl and Powell has no intentions of changing things. This may seem contradictory to Powell's intention to make their music accessible, but each record will include a download card for fans to grab the songs in mp3 format online.

"No one wants to collect CDs, they are just clutter and garbage — they don't look nice on your wall," he says. "One of the things I think about with our music and our shows is the ritual aspect and vinyl fits in. Often it just sounds better too."

Though it comes with a cost. Records are more expensive to produce than CDs, but Powell thinks it's worth it.

"All we do is lose money on that stuff, so if you lose a few hundred bucks more, who cares?" Powell laughs.

Pine Tarts play Friday, Aug. 13 at Broken City, and Saturday, Aug. 14, at Olympic Plaza for the CJSW concert series.

Mukwah — you won't find any scouts at this jamboree

Andy Williams
Entertainment Editor

Five years ago, the Mukwah Jamboree was just a birthday party in the woods, but thanks to word of mouth, things have snowballed. Festival coordinator Danny Vescarelli says conservative estimates for this year's turnout are about 300 people — up from 40 in its first year — but they expect the final tally to exceed that amount.

In terms of numbers it's no Folk Fest which had approximately 50,000 attendees over its four day run this year. But the Mukwah Jamboree has managed to cut a niche for itself in Calgary. Festival alumni include Calgary heavyweights like Braids, Azeda Booth, Beija Flor and Neighborhood Council, and some of these acts have actively sought out their place on the Mukwah roster.

"It kinds of just grew in ways that sometimes felt beyond our control. Artists asking to play — that we were like, 'How do you even know about this?'" explains Vescarelli. "I might have sought out Azeda Booth and Beija Flor originally, but they've actually played it twice.

They become drawn to the format of the festival. I wouldn't say every artist is exactly drawn to it for the same reason and sometimes I have to convince them, but they come and have a great time."

One of this year's most recognized bands, Dojo Workhorse, sought out their place on the roster.

"Dan [Vacon] was out there and saw what it was about and was excited about playing," says Vescarelli.

Though music is important to any jamboree, Vescarelli believes that the event isn't just about the music.

"I believe we have some very cool bands that play, but the festival itself is not really too concerned about being on top of it as far what's cool in music," says Vescarelli. "It's about the vibe and the people that come out. I still believe it's valuable in that you can discover bands, and it's good music . . . but it's still at the level where the attendance and the patrons themselves play a huge role."

The role of the attendees has made the festival's organizers cautious about growth. As previously mentioned, word about Mukwah has spread and attendance in-

creased. Vescarelli is conscious of the fact that festival could become a victim of its own success.

"If it got too big out there, or too legit out there, it just might not work," says Vescarelli. "Not that it's not legitimate, but it's kind of underground."

"I'm not calling the Calgary Sun

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and saying, 'Hey, you should cover this Mukwah festival because it's a wild unhinged party in the woods.' It's small and it's intimate and its got a cool vibe."

This is likely going to be a problem in the festival's future. Vescarelli concedes that it will be pretty packed with 300 patrons, so

they've added a second stage and more camping space for this year's event. However, he doesn't know what the future will bring, be sure to get it while it's good.

The Mukwah Jamboree kicks off this Friday, Aug. 13, and wraps up on Sunday, Aug. 15. More information can be found at mukwahjamboree.com.

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A world away from the Globe

Festival finds innovative ways to keep Shakespeare fresh in Prince's Island Park

Alicia Ward
Gauntlet Entertainment

Being rudgerly studying Shakespeare is a rite of passage for junior high and high school students. Shakespeare isn't bad, but it's definitely more difficult to appreciate when you're forced to read plays that are hundreds of years old, in language that you need a teacher to help decipher. For the last 23 years, Martie Fishman and Shakespeare in the Park have tackled this problem head on, re-envisioning and re-imagining some of Shakespeare's classics in new and exciting ways.

"I like to call what I do 'Rock 'n' Roll Shakespeare' because it's really current," says Fishman. "There's a real appeal, I think, to younger audience members. It's accessible, it's fun. We don't change a word of Shakespeare but we try and set it in places that people can relate to . . . it's not traditional Shakespeare but I really enjoy the energy."

Last year the festival produced *A Midsummer Night's Dream* set to Queen music and featured the character Puck as Freddy Mercury. Martie Fishman is hoping to do this play again next year to Pink Floyd. Plays sometimes repeat from year to year because of previous success or as a reflection of the state the city is in.

"I like to pick plays that some-



courtesy James Bailey

It's all smiles in the park amidst another successful season.

how reflect the mood of the city or alleviate the mood of the city . . . plays like *Othello* that force you to think about things," explains Fishman, admitting his choices are not always planned. "Plays just pop into my head. It's a mystery."

This year audiences can look forward to watching two old classics, *Othello* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, performed by what Fishman thinks is his strongest acting company yet thanks to professionals and emerging artists from all over Canada.

"We've never done *Othello* before

so people are really clamouring to see it and the response has been amazing. *Much Ado About Nothing* has just gone blockbuster. People are laughing and are really enjoying every second of it," says Fishman.

The real attention grabber of this year's festival, however, has been the newly added *Double Falsehood*. The authorship of the play has been a matter of debate, but it was recently added to Shakespeare's canon by Arden Shakespeare Publishers. Shakespeare in the Park has the esteemed privilege of showcasing this intriguing work.

Double Falsehood's cast is also composed of purely emerging artists who Fishman encourages to take on larger roles so they can learn and develop. He believes *Double Falsehood* is important to the students as it gives them an "opportunity to explore and to shine."

Shakespeare in the Park has been in Calgary since 1987 and remains accessible to every Calgarian. It has always been a pay-what-you-can show with a recommended adult donation of \$20, but the initiative has also found a way to give back with Shakespeare in the City — a

traveling troupe that visits Calgarians who cannot make it to Prince's Island Park. This year they are performing *Shakespeare's in Love* at venues like The Kirby Centre and Lougheed House.

"You'll see people at Prince's Island Park that you would never ever see in a traditional theatre," says Fishman, who believes Shakespeare in the Park is "the only place anywhere that you can see a street person and a banker sitting together and watching a play"

It's not surprising that Shakespeare in the Park draws such a diverse crowd. Fishman admits that he doesn't like all of the Bard's plays and acts as an editor, picking the plays he enjoys and knows the audience will enjoy while also considering what plays are suitable for the Prince's Island Park environment.

"There are some plays I can't do . . . just because they are so vicious and so bloody I have to keep in mind that this is a family audience."

With the last month of Shakespeare in the Park already underway, Fishman is hoping for some nicer weather, but is aware that it's all just part of the "joys of outdoor theatre."

Shakespeare in the Park runs Monday to Saturday until August 21. More information can be found at www.mtroyal.ca/AboutMountRoyal/MediaRoom/FeaturedEvents/sitp/.

Despite promise, *Expendables* ultimately predictable

Isaac Azuelos
Production Editor

The Expendables is about explosions. If you don't like the billowing, orange-yellow flame of something exploding, or the sanguine cloud of someone exploding, you have no reason to see this movie.

The screenplay is written by Stallone — a man made famous by his ability to pass as a man who gets hit in the head for a living — and David Callahan — one of the men responsible for the *Doom* film. But even knowledge of the screenwriters couldn't prepare you for how incredibly terrible the dialog is.

The plot isn't any better. The film's main exposition occurs in a scene inexplicably lit with blue, where Mickey Rourke attempts to make the audience concerned for the moral plight of mercenaries.

They parrot the traditional action movie cliché 'Am I a burly, angry, rich, killing machine or am I a burly, angry, rich, killing machine with heart?' You will not relate to these characters and pretending the audience might is simply a disservice to the ultra-manly, unachievable ideal these characters are supposed to portray.

All the stars play the same characters they always play. Jason Statham is the steely, quiet, sophisticated mercenary, while Jet Li — whose character's name is Ying Yang — is the quick one who punches people. Just like every other aspect of this movie, the characters are predictable, unsurprising and explosion-prone.

The action itself won't shatter your understanding of what it is to watch an action movie. The camera work is quick and jumpy and

the music impressively unimpressive. It's like a modern *Commando*. Speaking of *Commando*, everyone's favourite governor does make an appearance, albeit a short one, next to Bruce Willis in the one scene whose sole purpose seemed to be bolstering *The Expendables'* movie posters.

This movie is ridiculous — it's the quintessential action flick. The bulk of the action takes place on an island ominously called Vilena, which doesn't really exist. This island is ruled by a small dictatorship which is said to have an army of 600 and I wouldn't be surprised if they all died. There are three female characters in the movie and one of them is only seen on the way to a bedroom. Only one of them isn't a love interest, initially anyway. I don't know how else to make it clear — this movie is exactly



courtesy Maple Pictures

Sylvester Stallone, taking directing a little too seriously.

what one would expect.

So far it may seem like a bad movie and strictly speaking it is, but to deny that it was a lot of fun wouldn't be fair. Nobody goes to a movie like this for any reason other than the explosions, obscene violence and maybe the odd one-liner.

In that respect the movie delivers. This isn't the next *Terminator* or *Rocky*, it's another *Demolition Man* and that's okay.

The Expendables is released Aug. 13 in theatres everywhere.



Fringe Fest Wrap-Up

A few reviews

Pick Your Food up Off the Floor and Eat it!

Son of a wealthy businessman and living "where the sun shines up your asses" James Fritzpatrick is a 17-year-old New Yorker found brutally murdered on the streets of Soho in 2003.

With a buzz cut and a bit of scruff, prisoner 3781314 (Jason Seelman) recounts a story about "why kids like Jimmy" need to be taught a lesson without doubt or remorse. The orange prison suit glows against a sparse white backdrop as prisoner 3781314 confesses to a panel of psychiatrist why he murdered the rich business tycoon's son.

The skit, minimal in props and wardrobing, was carried by the elaborate detail about the prisoner's life. This true story, researched for almost a year, held my attention for the entire hour. Especially impressive is the fact that the whole show was written, directed and performed by the talented Jason Seelman.

The Peter 'n' Chris Show with Peter 'n' Chris

For a full hour Chris and Peter kept the audience laughing with sidesplitting jokes and horribly choreographed dances.

This duos comedy sketch spins the hilarious tales of two best friends living the life of being "funemployed." However, rent does need to be paid and Peter, sick of Chris' shenanigans, is determined to land a job.

Throughout awkward job interviews, squirrel attacks, and slow motion escapes from assassins the originality of Chris Wilson and Peter Calone kept me laughing throughout their skit.

Chris and Peter have an energy together that is incongruous and inexplicably wacky but never annoying. The two Calgary natives have a comedy sketch that seems to never miss a beat unless they are skipping and jiving during one of their many dance montages.

Too much chest, not enough duct tape.

Amy Badry

Gauntlet Entertainment

Calgary's Fringe can be categorized as quaint and charming. Not interested in competing for huge crowds, the festival has completed a successful fifth year in the city. Presenting 27 unique and original theatre works over nine days, Fringe Fest is a diverse, uncensored, awesome example of alternative theatre.

Canada has more fringe festivals per capita than any other country and our northern neighbour Edmonton boasts the second largest fringe in the world. The Canadian

Association of Fringe Festivals have set some guidelines in order to keep the true spirit of fringe alive — low-ticket prices ensure performances are accessible and proceeds from the tickets go directly back to performers.

Fringe performances last about an hour, giving you the chance to see a couple of acts a night. This year the theater performances were held at various locations around Inglewood, the oldest neighborhood in Calgary. Venues span from church basements to community centres and art galleries. Obstacles like travel requirements and budgets have ensured

the performances and plays are usually one or two man shows with minimal props and backdrops.

Everyone from amateur artists to professional performers are welcome to perform at the festival, keeping the true nature of uncensored and un-juried performances intact. If there are more acts than spots available artists are picked at random. With no limits on content and no censorship applied to the acts a distinctive, controversial and assorted mix of performances was seen. From serious to seriously hilarious there is something for everyone at fringe.



Ken Clarke/the Gauntlet

A taste of Blues Fest 2010

Ken Clarke

Gauntlet Entertainment

Thousands of blues lovers of all ages congregated to Shaw Millennium Park last weekend for the sixth annual Calgary International Blues Festival.

Once again the four day celebration featured a impressive line-up of blues musicians from around the world, who provided the masses with a dizzying array of various blues styles.

Photos left to right:

Mississippi Heat

After joking about the long drive up from Chicago, this talented ensemble layed down an energetic mix of classic blues with a contemporary edge.

Annika Odegard

With the Randy O Band backing her up, Odegard won the crowd over with her hearty voice and Joplin-esque stage presence. The University of Calgary student brought to the festival a collection of blues standards topped with an emotional delivery of "Stormy Monday."

Little Feat with Coco Montoya

A definite highlight of the weekend was Montoya's unannounced three song improvisation with California's Little Feat. Backstage after the extraordinary jam, the guitar virtuoso remarked, "I didn't know what I was doing, but I had fun!"

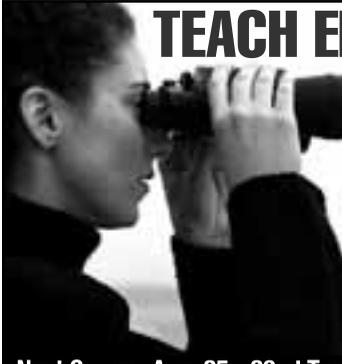
The Holmes Brothers

This New York trio performed an uplifting set of soulfully funky blues with heart-felt vocals. Their amazing three-part harmony sounded at times like a gospel choir.

The Chicago Blues Reunion

Led by harmonica guru Corky Siegel, these all-stars delivered a truly

inspired and authentic Chicago blues set. An appropriate close the final day of the festival.



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- 2 **RAE SPOON**** *Love Is A Hunter* (Saved By Radio)
- 3 **RAH RAH*** *Breaking Hearts* (Young Soul)
- 4 **BAD FATE*** *Olympic City* (Radical Clatter)
- 5 **TEN KENS*** *For Posterity* (Last Gang)
- 6 **KONONO NO. 1** *Assume Crash Position* (Crammed)
- 7 **JAILL** *That's How We Burn* (Sub Pop)
- 8 **SARAH HARMER*** *Oh Little Fire* (Gold Snap Music)
- 9 **THE GRAVE MISTAKES*** *Dig Your Own Grave* (Self-Released)
- 10 **BARE WIRES** *Seeking Love* (Castle Face)
- 11 **IMPERIUM**** *MMX* (Self-Released)
- 12 **WOLF PARADE*** *Expo 86* (Sub Pop)
- 13 **STAIWART SONS**** *Burn Daylights Like Torches* (Revolution Winter)
- 14 **THE CITY STREETS*** *The Jazz Age* (Clamour)
- 15 **ARIEL PINK'S HAUNTED GRAFFITI** *Before Today* (4AD)
- 16 **SLEEPY SUN** *Fever* (All Tomorrow's Parties)
- 17 **THE GOLDEN DOGS*** *Coat Of Arms* (Nevado)
- 18 **THE JOHNNYS*** *Louder Faster More Fun* (Self-Released)
- 19 **THE BIRTHDAY CAKES*** *Expansion Pack* (Ladyboy)
- 20 **THE LENNINGS** *Sampler* (Self-Released)

FOLK/ROOTS/BLUES

- 1 **LOST IN THE TREES** *All Above In An Empty House* (Anti/Trekky)
- 2 **ENDLESS BOOGIE** *Full House Head* (No Quarter)
- 3 **MISS QUINCY*** *Your Mama Don't Like Me* (Self-Released)
- 4 **KATHRYN CALDER*** *Are You My Mother?* (File Under Music)
- 5 **FRAZEY FORD*** *Obadiah* (Netwerk)

METAL

- 1 **IMPERIUM**** *MMX* (Self-Released)
- 2 **BURN US BOTH*** *Stray Bullets* (Self-Released)
- 3 **REAPER*** *Corvus* (Self-Released)
- 4 **ARTEP*** *Thy Will Be Done On Earth As Is Done In Hell* (Bleak Art)
- 5 **TRIBUNE*** *Rotting Core* (Corpse Corrosion)

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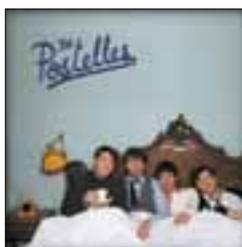
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ALBUM REVIEWS



The Postelles
The Postelles
(Capital Records)

Does music have to be original to be truly great? When do your musical influences stop becoming inspiration and start becoming redundant? There's something immediately recognizable when listening to The Postelles' self-titled debut and it's because they are recycling old ideas and calling it their own. But heck, are those hooks ever catchy.

Taking the best of the early millennium's Strokes, Hives and Libertines (who in turn took the best from the 1970s' Television and The Velvet Underground), *The Postelles* is a quick burst of rabid — though familiar — energy. Chugging guitars, chants and sing-alongs, simple lyrics and a steady driving rhythm. By now, it's a photocopy of

a formula. Yet, all things considered, it doesn't stop every song from sounding like a hit single.

Opener "White Night" is impossibly danceable and the lyrics for "Stella" are just plain charming. The plus (or problem) with albums like these is that it sounds like a Greatest Hits compilation from the get-go. Everything is fast-paced, but there's no real album flow. And bands like these tend to burn out quickly, after only two or three albums. There's really only so far you can go with this type of music. It has a short lifespan, so enjoy it while it lasts.

..Richard Lam



Big Boi
Sir Lucious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty
(Independent Release)

The southern rap duo OutKast had a meteoric rise. Since the group was founded in 1990, Andre 3000 and Big Boi have conquered both hip-hop and pop with a string of number one hits. From the gritty "B.O.B." to the soulful "Ms. Jackson," the group has always been credited for their diversity.

Big Boi's debut solo project, Sir Lucious Left Foot, continues this trend of success. Big Boi hits most of the usual subjects — the state of rap, current events, sex — but

he largely avoids the obligatory references to drugs that have come to typify the genre. Big Boi is particularly focused on sex — a Pitchfork review states Big Boi comes off "sounding like a fired-up 11-year-old goofing off in the back of some sort of prodigy-level English class." This is a pretty apt description of Big Boi's antics and the weirdness peaks during the closing seconds to "General Patton," where Big Rube describes a sex trick called the "David

Blaine." (Look it up, it's funny).

Ultimately, the album is great. The production is on point, the guest spots are appropriate and compliment Big Boi's flawless technique and his lyricism is sharp. Particularly strong are "Back Up Plan," "The Train Part II," "Shutterbugg," and "Be Still," which features up-and-comer Janelle Monáe. Give it a chance.

..Andy Williams



Women
Public Strain
(Flemish Eye)

When I caught word Women were preparing to release a new album, that I was set to review it, and that it was to be produced by my personal hero — the enigmatic Chad VanGalen who also produced their previous album — my expectations were high, to say the least. But instead of a musically-induced orgasm, I was left with auditory blue-balls. Interestingly enough, the incessant droning sound that fills the album and is suppos-

edly music is remarkably similar to what you would get if you gave electric instruments to a handful of chimps. If I wanted to hear something so offending I would have picked up Lou Reed's *Metal Machine Music* instead, which showed the world that there is a difference between music and nonsense sound 35 years ago.

Their previous album was like a lovely little wedding with good cake. However, if this album, *Public Strain*, is

the honeymoon, then it is equivalent to you and your newlywed bride hopping on the wrong plane and getting stuck vacationing on a windy ice-flow rather than on the sunny beach you had intended.

On September 28 *Public Strain* is set to be released, but you could just stay home instead. I know I will be.

..Remi Watts

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