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# gauntlet

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SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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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 — sadly — uses a non-tryptamine based ink. We urge you to recycle/melt the *Gauntlet*.

#### Letter Policy

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

#### The Cover

Photo and design by Aly McGulamhusein

# Distracted drivers, distracted government

Albertans ought to join hand in hand and sigh the word "finally" softly in unison. Since September 1st, 2011, here in the province of Alberta — a land of big skies and seemingly endless pavement — drivers are now effectively restricted from, as the Stelmach government phrased it, 'distracted driving,' as if the government itself has just discovered distractions and has wisely, efficiently and with tact, provided an elegant solution for the problems plaguing our province's drivers. This legislated amendment is certainly a step in the right direction, but it is, as it were, a long time coming. Far too long of a time coming, if you ask us.

Applicable to anything defined as a vehicle under Alberta's Traffic Safety Act (yes, bicycles are vehicles too), the distracted driving legislation — Bill 16 — limits drivers from a massive swath of activities, including the use of a cellular phone (except when contacting emergency response units); a PDA, hand-held or wireless electronic devices, radio communication devices, portable audio players, GPS systems, video display screens, logistical tracking systems and dispatching systems; a pet or passenger or object that 'interferes' with driving; reading, writing, sketching or grooming. In short, the government of Alberta has decided that any type of activity extraneous to driving that involves the use of hands or eyes is problematic behavior and an offence of \$172 — payable to your local registry or court (they take debit, credit or cash!).

While Albertans usually prefer less government meddling (we are "strong and free" after all), this bill has broad support. The provincial

government is certainly looking out for the safety of its citizens — but it is only doing so after many years of negligence. The fanfare with which Stelmach's government has announced the legislation should only be seen as a desperate and foul

uneducated, aggressive and unruly sort, having been ignored and left to its own devices by the provincial government for so long.

In a province where we are certainly not strangers to the dangers of driving, most conversations about

targets set out in Canada's national traffic strategy of 1996, the Canada Road Safety Vision 2010. Germany, Australia, the United Kingdom, the majority of the United States, and all of the provinces (but not the territories) of Canada introduced some variation of distracted driving laws quite a while ago. Thus, although the distracted driving legislation is truthfully a potentially game-changing amendment to the traffic act that could harangue Alberta drivers into a safer vehicular existence — certainly in the public's benefit — the necessity for such a piece of legislation has existed for quite some time.

For a province with as many roads as ours and with as many traffic accidents as ours, minister of transportation Luke Ouellette's 'message,' "keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road," might be a powerful statement and a potent judicial sweep of which we find ourselves in favor. But it finds its way to the forefront of legislation too many years and too many lives too late.

The province's claim that "there is tremendous public support for a distracted driving law" is probably true, especially since distracted driving has long been an issue, but the statement sounds like the punch line to a sick joke 16 years overdue. Thus, although we, the *Gauntlet*, do find ourselves in approval of Bill 16, we find the government's extensive disregard for the entire issue for all these years entirely inadmissible. Somewhere down the line, perhaps in any number of the legislature building's halls, "strong and free" managed to mutate into "better late than never," and we certainly are not much better for it.

..Gauntlet editorial board



front meant to cover up the fact that Alberta has long lacked effective traffic measures. Distractions are not a newly discovered problem for drivers, they are something that has plagued drivers since the very inception of vehicles themselves, and our government's response is neither timely nor well-organized, as their marketing campaign for the legislation would have us believe. It is no surprise that the RCMP hands out tickets with unimpeded abandon, since Alberta road culture is an

our highways and drivers often reveal that your average citizen has long been fed-up with the province's harrowing roads. 2005 witnessed 466 casualties and 24,504 injuries due to traffic-related accidents. It took until 2006, where motor vehicles caused 453 casualties and 25,964 injuries, for the Klein government to finally initiate the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan — a decade behind the rest of the nation — in an attempt to curb the mayhem of several years of grisly road-based violence and to meet the

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# Bike Root puts down its roots

## U of C's community bike shop finds a new home

**Kaye Coholan**

Volunteer Coordinator

The University of Calgary's bicycle club has once again found a place to call home.

Bike Root, a cooperative student group that runs a do-it-yourself bike shop, has settled into a garage not far from the university's main gates after having lost its on-campus home in July 2010.

The organization's volunteer and member coordinator Brendan Groat said the shop's former location at the MacKimmie loading docks was temporarily made available by the university during the construction of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

"We knew that eventually we'd lose that space," he said. "But it happened really fast."

With only a month's notice the group was unable to secure a new location and the tools, parts and equipment went into storage for more than a year.

The momentum Bike Root had been building since it was founded in 2008 skidded to a halt.

"Last year our members dwindled. It hindered our functionality to not have a space," Groat said. "Such a big part of what we do is shop space."

Co-founder Justin Brown agreed that closing the shop was a great detriment to the group. "Losing the space kind of ripped the heart out of Bike Root," he said. "It's hard to maintain a community without a central place to do it."

Brown, who has moved on to a position with the university's sustainability office, said he feared the work that went into creating Bike Root during his undergraduate studies would be all for nothing once it no longer had a home.

"There's a group of us who put

our heart and soul into it, contributed thousands of volunteer hours," he said. "To see it wash away was a definite worry."

But the group now has a second wind, after a U of C professor offered space in a home on Uxbridge Drive near the university that is used to house research fellows. A

Sunnyside Farmer's Market. And when the group had more space it ran a bike library, which allowed members to borrow bicycles free of charge.

For Groat, Bike Root is an example of the university's sustainability effort. "When we're out at festivals and events in the city, automatically

Centre, but unfortunately there was no space at that time."

Because Bike Root is a cooperative, finances are restrictive when it comes to securing a location.

"One thing we did in preparation for these space negotiations is we put together a new business plan that really lays out how we've done

"We currently have it set at \$10 and that's what we'd like to keep it at," Bogle said. "It's fair and accessible to everyone."

The not-for-profit, U of C Students' Union sanctioned club relies on the work of volunteers to keep its wheels turning and welcomes those willing to contribute their time.

"Anyone who wants to help in any way is awesome," Groat said. Bike Root seeks volunteers with a range of skill sets, not just those applying to bicycle repair, because there is a significant administrative side to the group as it is also a registered Alberta society.

A potential volunteer is anyone who "likes bikes and wants to help out," Groat said.

Geoff Patterson, a third-year biological sciences student who has volunteered for Bike Root for over two years, said he hopes to see the Bike Root community grow again with its new location.

"It was really hard to actually get events organized because we didn't have a central hub," Patterson said. "A lot of what we did geared around having tools and having a shop."

For those considering becoming a volunteer, he says "Do it."

"You won't regret it," Patterson said. "Working on bikes is a good time, a good stress relief from studies, and just a healthy community to be in."

Groat, a first-year education student who spent part of his summer riding across Europe, is passionate about cycling. "I love Bike Root because it promotes something that's so beneficial in so many ways," he said.

"There are so many people that on campus, biking is their main way to get around."

For more information about Bike Root volunteering or membership, email Brendan Groat at [bgroat@bikeroot.ca](mailto:bgroat@bikeroot.ca)



Kaye Coholan/the Gauntlet

**Brendan Groat, Bike Root volunteer and member coordinator, tunes his bike at the group's shop. The university's community bicycle group has secured a new location after a year without shop space.**

former tenant suggested that the house's empty garage could be made available to Bike Root, according to Groat.

"He really liked what Bike Root is about," Groat said, adding that the new shop space is "awesome."

The group's key focus is promoting bicycle use. "We do that by having a shop so that people can come and have access to any tools, and also having mechanics here who can show you what to do," Groat said.

Bike Root also participates in local events, such as having a tuncent at the Calgary Folk Music Festival and a bike valet at the Hillhurst

people see the university out and about in the community," he said. "Every time we tell people we've got a new space they're super excited."

Though Bike Root has found a new location, the group's organizers are negotiating with university administration to find a permanent home on campus, which would be more ideal, said external coordinator Julie Bogle.

"They [university administrators] have a process for space allocation. We have to follow their lead and continue dialogue," she said. "Last year we also looked into opportunities with the MacEwan Student

our business in the past," Bogle said. "If we do have to pay for a space that would definitely be an obstacle for us."

The original location at the MacKimmie loading docks was provided free of charge on a temporary basis and the current location is being provided in exchange for some basic property maintenance.

Currently, a \$10 membership fee provides free use of the Bike Root shop and access to club events. Though Bike Root administrators have considered increasing user fees, they would prefer to explore other options.

## What do you think of Bike Root's new space?



"Now it's farther away so that sucks."  
– Kelsay Gault,  
fifth-year law and society



"It would be better if it was here."  
– Samina Tajik,  
third-year international relations



"It would make more sense if it was in Brentwood or on campus."  
– Ali Khan,  
second-year engineering



"It's kind of inconvenient. Students want to stay around campus."  
– Karem Mohamed,  
second-year geophysics

# liberal leadership candidate profiles

The Liberal leadership race is nearing its end. Only one of the five candidates vying for the liberal party's top position will succeed. The *Gauntlet* talked to each candidate and asked the following: "What do you think is the number one issue facing young Albertans?"



I believe young people need a better chance at achieving their dreams

Raj Sherman has been the MLA for Edmonton-Meadowlark for the past 13 years. Formerly a Tory MLA and a parliamentary assistant to the minister of health and wellness, he was kicked out of the Progressive Conservative caucus after writing an email that condemned the Progressive Conservative government and Alberta Health Services for their decisions on healthcare and emergency room wait times.

Sherman said the number one issue facing young Albertans is "affordable housing, the cost of tuition and books, and the fact that class sizes are getting larger."

He said there needs to be more professors and support staff in schools, whether it is in

grade school or university.

"When you are done your education, the question is what kind of jobs do you have to look forward to?" he said, using the example of the layoffs that are occurring in the education field.

Sherman says the high cost of living and education is felt most by those studying away from home.

Many students are living at the poverty line. He said "access to student loans, grants, and loan remissions would be beneficial. Students are graduating with an extraordinary amount of student loans."

Sherman said the way he would address the situation would be to sit down with stu-

## Raj Sherman

dents and universities.

"If government doesn't fund the institution they are going to raise your tuition and raise your fees to fund it," he said. "We are one of the wealthiest provinces in the nation, with some of the highest tuition fees and a high cost of living."

Sherman mentioned he has a son in grade 12 and a daughter in her second year of university, so he can understand the difficulties of affording education.

"With the amount of prosperity we have in this great province, I believe young people need a better chance at achieving their dreams. The system should be there for them. Cost should not be a barrier."



The more skills our work force has, the more competitive we are

Hugh MacDonald has been an MLA for Edmonton-Gold Bar for 14 years. He is active on many government committees, including the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund and Public Safety and Services. In his first term MacDonald took on the role of opposition critic for labour and continues his critique of the Tory government, now the critic responsible for employment and immigration as well as infrastructure.

"The number one issue facing young Albertans is job training, so that they can have good careers with good incomes," said MacDonald.

He is concerned about Alberta's large high

school drop out rate.

"We have to encourage people to finish their high school and then encourage them to go to a post-secondary institute."

He told the *Gauntlet* he encourages young people to go on to post-secondary not only to earn a higher income, but a higher quality of life. In order to address the high dropout rate, he suggested "a focused effort to encourage students" beginning early in a young person's education.

When more students enter post-secondary, he believes Alberta's economy becomes more diversified.

"We are certainly reliant and we all ap-

## Hugh MacDonald

preciate the jobs that the energy sector does generate, but if we are to diversify our economy we need to do that with a highly skilled, well-educated workforce," he said. "The more skills our work force has, the more competitive we are."

MacDonald also mentioned an endowment fund to make post-secondary education accessible for young Albertans.

"That is what I have been proposing all summer on my leadership campaign, that we set up endowments for every post-secondary institution so they can use part of the investment revenue stream they get annually and so they can pay their operating costs."



Set the bar to what you say is excellence in education and we will fund for that

Laurie Blakeman has been an MLA for Edmonton-Centre since 1997. She has a strong presence in the Alberta Liberal Party, serving as the official opposition house leader.

When asked what she thinks is the number one issue facing young Albertans, Blakeman said "I think the two words that pick it up are opportunity and quality of life."

"If you are a young gay or lesbian couple, do you see Alberta as a place you feel comfortable in and want to connect with people and live your life or if you are a new immigrant, is this a place of opportunity and quality of life for you?"

She said it is not all the government's respon-

sibility to ensure opportunity and quality of life, but she thinks the government has to do a better job.

"If we want to keep the young people who come here and are trained here, we have to do a better job of making clear what opportunities are here for young people and in some cases, making opportunity."

Blakeman said an entire paradigm shift is necessary in the way the government approaches funding and money in the government.

"I am really tired about the conversation always being about money. The money is always the bottom line. The way the government han-

## Laurie Blakeman

dles it, is they say, 'here is the money you will get for education, do the best you can with it. Here is the money we have for healthcare, keep as many people healthy and alive as you can with it.'"

Instead she would like to see funding provided in order to achieve excellence.

"Set the bar to what you say is excellence in education and we will fund for that. You must have accountability, monitor and review it and hit those marks, but essentially a change in attitude from 'this is how much money you get' to 'let's fund for excellence.'"

# liberal leadership candidate profiles



It is young people . . . that are going to solve the problems of tomorrow

Bruce Payne, a construction worker by trade, has not had much experience in provincial politics. He was nominated as the Liberal candidate in Calgary-Varsity. Payne is also a pastor. His website boasts he was “key in founding and building a number of churches in southern Alberta.”

“I think that one of the big issues is access to post-secondary education,” said Payne. “There are a number of people who are eligible through their marks and their hard work in kindergarten to grade 12 that should qualify to go to post-secondary if they wish to. But they are being excluded because of funding problems and their ability to access student loans.”

Payne said the second part of the problem is the huge amount of debt students accrue after finishing their post-secondary education.

He believes the solution to the cost of education is an endowment fund.

“What I would really like to see is the endowment fund, so people who live in Alberta could attend university completely funded,” he said.

“We are going to need to have the knowledge base,” said Payne about how to solve the current problems facing Alberta.

Health problems, environment problems, energy sector problems and economic problems are issues Albertans are going to have to face in the

## Bruce Payne

future, he said. “It is young people that are pursuing post-secondary today that are going to solve the problems of tomorrow and we need to make sure that Albertans have the best opportunities to be fully educated.”

He said that Alberta is a different place than it was 20 years ago and the importance of completing post-secondary has increased.

“The requirements for jobs and the education level has increased over the past decade,” he said. “I believe a degree program should be something that every Albertan can access if they have the grades and are working hard enough. Economics shouldn’t be a barrier.”



We are not going to buy you your beer and pizza, but we are going to pay your tuition fees

Bill Harvey was the elected Liberal candidate in Calgary-East in 2004 and 2008. Harvey is a financial advisor and currently the branch manager for the Investment Planning Counsel. “Returning to responsible government” is his slogan. “The word ‘Liberal’ does not have to be a dirty word,” says his website. “We have lost our way and need to go back to our roots in this province.”

“I think the biggest thing that is facing [young Albertans] is making sure there are good quality jobs out there and making sure they can participate in all that Alberta

has to offer,” said Harvey.

He said the way to do this is to open up the education system to all Albertans regardless of their financial situation.

“We think that if you have it in between your ears to go up in the education system, the government will pay for it” he said. “We are not going to buy you your beer and pizza, but we are going to pay your tuition fees.”

Harvey would like to see more options for education in Alberta. His website says he believes in allowing more charter schools and home-schooling options for students

## Bill Harvey

in grade school.

Harvey would advocate to see the education system be the second industry in the province.

“We can make Alberta the go-to learning centre, which is very important because at the other end of the spectrum, when you come out and are highly qualified and are making money, we want you to stay right here in Alberta.”

He said Alberta is going to have a huge need in the future for highly skilled individuals. “Not only doctors and lawyers but trades like electricians and carpenters as well.”

## HOW TO VOTE

If you registered to vote before August 19 you can vote by phone, online or in person. If you registered to vote between August 19th and September 6th, you can only vote in person. In person voting will happen on September 10th. The polling station will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located at 1133 7th Avenue S.W., Kerby Centre.

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Kaye Cochran/the Gauntlet

# Summer Summary

Compiled by Susan Anderson  
Gauntlet News

Hey fellow students! Some of you may not have been reading the *Gauntlet* over

the summer — perhaps you have been working, travelling, camping, swimming, getting sunburnt or eating ice cream. So here's a summary of news stories covered over the spring and summer.

## Youth raise funds to end Somalia's famine

On August 4, nine cousins, aged 18 to 27, gathered on the outskirts of Calgary for a collective walk to Edmonton — 303 km. The walk was part of their fundraising initiative “Step up for Somalia.”

The group encountered heat and rain, as well as mosquitoes during their trip.

“It was pretty smooth but the third day was a bit harder,” said Moleed Osman, a business student at the University of Calgary. “There was rain for four hours and our van ran over a porcupine. It was just like everything was going against us that day.”

The cousins arrived in Edmonton Sunday afternoon, walking

between 40 and 50 km a day. Somalia is currently experiencing its worst drought in 60 years and famine is widespread.

## The Calgary Folk Festival continues to work on eco-initiatives

This year the Calgary Folk Music Fest again increased the number of eco-initiatives at the festival. This year's major initiative was to have Prince's Island Park — where the festival was held — completely free of plastic water bottles. Food vendors could not sell water on the island and all performers, patrons and volunteers were encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle.

“People need water. There are very hot days and people get thirsty,” said eco-initiative man-

ager Leor Rotchild. “But the Folk Fest culture does not support disposable water bottles. You can't get bottled water anywhere on this island.”

The City of Calgary provided free tap water for the island's use. Water stations were sponsored by TD bank.

This year the CFMF was also able to recycle plastics and comingle recycling for easier disposal, made possible through a partnership with the City of Calgary.

## Homeshare program gives students discounted rent

The Calgary Homeshare program — a pilot project run by Sandra Rhead for the Cal-

see SUMMER SUMMARY, page 10

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# Canadian protest course offered this fall

## U of C professor examines past and present protest and activism

**Kimberly Richards**

Gauntlet News

This fall, history professor Paul Stortz will offer a course that focuses on understanding how activism and protest occupies our daily living. History 493.47 will examine contemporary activism and protest in Canada, while also taking a historical perspective.

“We look at the whole idea of activism and protest. We try to understand how these movements developed, where they started from, who started them, what they’re like, and what their character is,” said Stortz. “We look at in the longer sense of why it started in the first place, and if you can actually find a place where it started in history in Canada, and how it’s moved up today.”

The course will cover student activism and activism on the university campus, political protest, labour movements, and gender, judicial, legislative, and environmental activism.

Stortz identified three major demographic characteristics that



Courtesy of University of Toronto Archives

Students demonstrate at Queen's Park in Toronto for lower tuition fees in 1947. Tuition protests continue today.

have been instrumental in creating change in history across nearly all the movements: youth, women and university students.

His own research has to do with the history of universities and academic cultures. He is currently examining university de-

velopment over the last couple hundred years in Canada and comparing that to medieval universities in order to compare how intellectuals organize themselves. “How do ‘smart people’ — people who think about ideas — organize themselves politically,

socially, intellectually to make their lives meaningful,” he asked.

Additionally, the class examines the history of multiculturalism, racism and sexism and how it intersects with the university.

Stortz originally taught the course in the Canadian Studies department, but as a big believer in looking at the historical aspects of a movement, he feels that the theories and practices of social justice is conducive to a historical focus.

“In terms of this, we get a fuller understanding of what the definitions are of activism and protest, and how they shape Canadian society and the Canadian state,” he said.

The class is a 400-level course but Stortz welcomes students who are interested in the topic from all levels to enrol. It focuses on participation, discussion and group presentation.

“This material is conducive to the student expression,” Stortz

said. “It would be antithetical to the whole ideology of activism and protest to hear me lecture the whole time.”

Stortz begins his course talking about logic, informal reasoning and argumentation to help his students organize their thoughts.

He recognizes that activism and protest can be deeply emotional. He urges his students to understand “we don’t deal with opinions. We deal with arguments, so let’s present those arguments.”

Stortz challenges his students to re-examine their definitions of activism and protest. He is an advocate of the view that activism and protest is everything from political protest to buying milk at the corner store. In either case, “We’re taking one step at a time in our lives and we want to change our lives in particular ways. That’s activism and protest.”

The course runs Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
12:00 to 12:50

## Evolving Food Culture in YYC

**Keisha Russell**

Gauntlet News

Getting lunch from the side of a truck? “It’s a fun way to get Calgarians out,” said fourth-year nursing student Kimberly Durham.

The Food Truck Pilot Project launched on August 11th, catering gourmet fare to hungry crowds on Stephen Avenue. The Facebook event claimed bragging rights as “the first-ever food truck festival in the city” and at “street-friendly prices.”

Dining out in Calgary can be hard while in school.

“As a student, I look for something that’s cheap,” said Durham.

University of Calgary Communications and Culture professor Dawn Johnston agrees with making gourmet foods accessible to everyone. “It’s a good sign that people are following the food trucks and are interested in

trying different things.”

She has co-taught classes on food culture and a Group Study on food culture in Spain.

Food vendor liaison and creator of YYCFoodtrucks James Boettcher found inspiration for this undertaking while travelling through other cities, “especially in the U.S.”

Johnston mentioned San Francisco and Portland as being on the food truck scene for some time.

Calgary’s food culture is “very progressive” contends Boettcher. In the last five to seven years, the food identity has grown in Calgary, but slowly for an urban centre.

The political food scene is growing in particular, Johnston explained. This includes ventures such as guerrilla gardening, The Calgary Urban Harvest Project — turning a fallen fruit problem into a local food solution — and the various food banks throughout the city.

Durham does not believe that

Calgary has a food culture.

“More events like this will bring Calgary closer to having one,” she said.

Durham attributes the perceived absence of a culinary identity as resulting from a lack of pride from Calgarians.

“They don’t take advantage of what the city has to offer.”

Boettcher, who also owns Fiasco Gelato, argues that “the emergence of cool restaurants that are committed to quality customer service, sourcing locally and sustainably,” contributes to Calgary’s growing dining scene.

With the help of the Downtown Calgary Association, the City of Calgary and Tourism Calgary, the Food Truck Pilot Project managed to begin a new, exciting dialogue on eating in the city. Durham hopes that there are more events like this “to introduce Calgarians to their city.”



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Remi Watts/the Gauntlet

## Epic O-Week continues until Friday

Three frosh students sit by the shade of the prairie chicken to enjoy a hamburger lunch. The President's Barbeque was one of the many activities happening this week. More than 4,000 students participated in orientation week. Campus tours, a Campus Carnival, and a Night on the Students' Union were other events taking place. This year's theme was 'Epic.' The theme was inspired by the epic movie genre, encouraging young frosh to be the main character in their 'epic' university journey. The annual tailgate party and kick-off will end orientation week on Friday.

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 Physics I | UPG 130 | Section 001 | Sep 13 – Dec 8 TR 3:30 – 5 pm  
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# Summer Summary cont'd from page 8

gary Seniors' Resource Society — matches up seniors age 65 and older with adult students willing to trade basic housework for discounted rent.

"The students coming into the program, if they can commit to a lifestyle where studies are important to them and they are not looking to have a party lifestyle, the program works really well for them," said Rhead. "Some of the students have really been impressed by the outlook of the seniors."

### Royal visit puts campus in spotlight

All eyes were on the University of Calgary last July when the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge paid a visit to the Ward of the 21st Century Research and Innovation Centre as part of their royal tour of Canada.

On July 7, the Duke and Duchess, also known as Prince William and Catherine Middleton, were greeted by a crowd of admirers at the university's Foothills campus before receiving a 45-minute demonstration of cutting-edge medical technology.

University president Elizabeth Cannon said the event "went off without a hitch."

"Overall it was a great tour, and I think a great day for the University of Calgary," said Cannon. "We were able to showcase to the world what we have to offer in terms of research."

The technology demonstrated included an eye movement tracking system, a wireless bandage that monitors a patient's core temperature, a bed that tells health care providers when a patient needs to be turned, a keyboard designed to stop the spread of infection and a patient simulator named iStan that breathes, bleeds and speaks. Prince William even had the opportunity to resuscitate iStan.

### No UPass for Students this Summer

For the past couple of years, the university discussed the possibility of a UPass for the spring 2011 semester.

A February 2010 *Gauntlet* article quoted associate vice-provost of residence and auxiliary services Voula Cocolakis saying "We are

still finalizing the negotiation but they should be done in the next month."

However, "due to administrative and operational issues," the UPass will not be available until May 2012, according to the U of C website.

"The go-ahead was given to make it available for summer students this year," said vice-president external Matt McMillan. "Unfortunately it did not go to the Board of Governors in the fee approval and it did not go into the fee schedule."

Cocolakis said Calgary Transit did not return the amending agreement in time for it to be approved by the BOG.

With the cheapest parking on campus at \$5 a day, and a round trip bus ride at \$5.50, daily commutes can be very costly.

### Slutwalk cancelled in May

Slutwalk, a protest to end the blame-the-victim attitude, and raise awareness about sexual assault was cancelled earlier this summer. Event organizer Nicole Brady announced the cancellation of SlutWalk Calgary on May 31. The event was cancelled due to "logistical difficulties, the inability to secure insurance and liability concerns."

However, Slutwalk did end up happening later in the summer, after new event organizers took over. The walk took place on August 20th.

### Alberta's first midwifery program launched

Mount Royal University took an important step toward meeting the high demand for midwives in Alberta.

The entry-level program, announced earlier this month, is the first of its kind in the province.

MRU has been working with provincial ministries and regulators to develop the program over the past four years said MRU dean Brenda Hendrickson.

An interest in midwifery is linked to more than just funding.

"Mothers want to have their choices honoured and recognized. For example, how and where their baby is going to be born," Hendrickson said.

# HUNGER HUSH



courtesy: Marvin Tolentino

For half an hour on an August afternoon, I asked one of That Empty Space's first performing bands of the year what they were about. This is the result.

**Andréa Rojas**  
Entertainment Editor

I'm sitting in a Kensington coffee shop when I find out that four grown men have just baked me a pie.

Strawberry-rhubarb, in fact, and lovingly Saran-wrapped with my name carefully hand-printed on a white piece of paper sitting on top of it. And I think to myself, What kind of band is this?

Hunger Hush, like countless other bands that this paper chooses to investigate, is many things: Calgarian. Indie. Made up of four dudes. Willing to pay way too much for a cup of coffee.

But one thing that differentiates Andrew Smale, Ben Tan, Steve Wirzba and Alastair Pollock from other Calgary musicians is that they don't think there's very much that's different about them at all.

"I don't feel like we're doing anything that's really substantially different or crazy or 'out there' . . . it's guitar, keys, bass, drums," says Pollock, in a matter-of-fact way.

Hunger Hush started as a solo coffeehouse project by Steve Wirz-

ba, which later morphed into a three-piece (now playfully referred to by all members as Steve Wirzba and the "Shut Up, Steve's") until they met Malaysian native Tan in a university class.

"I always liked the idea of a backup band who had a hateful relationship with the [frontman] of the band. It actually wasn't like that [though]," laughs Pollock.

One and a half years later and settling comfortably into the months after the spring release of their self-titled EP, produced by renowned Calgary singer-songwriter Lorrie Matheson, four of the most earnest faces I've ever encountered in my life look at me expectantly.

These faces represent three University of Calgary arts students (one former and two current, including one international student) and an oil-and-gas i.t. professional. Hunger Hush's paradoxical lineup is somewhat deceptively out-of-the-ordinary for a band so blatantly honest about their lack of artistic frills, at least when it comes to their recorded release.

"[Our EP] is not a concept album or a cohesive thing. It's just five or

six songs that we were most happy with, and we wanted to get something that had been well-recorded out there that could promote at shows and stuff like that.

"[Recording with Matheson] was pricey and we didn't have a lot of money. So we pretty much recorded everything we could in four days," explains Wirzba.

The frontman and guitarist doesn't put up a "please-don't-touch-the-artist" front that most music journalists are familiar with chipping through. His honesty is almost unsettling.

The idea of an EP that is almost purely self-promotional isn't a foreign concept to artists at the Calgary level, but most local independent musicians, at least those deluded by visions of extra-Prairie grandeur, would rather take pickaxes to their axes than admit it.

This strawberry-rhubarb is foreign to my tongue, but its candor sweetens the taste.

Speaking of which, I ask while hoping that my face doesn't betray the thoughts I'm mulling over — why the name Hunger Hush?

"We all like different kinds of

music, but we decided that we liked music that sounds like 'hunger,' people who sound like they want what they do really badly," Pollock shares.

So, what is the idea of a song or musician being "hungry" really supposed to be like?

"It has to do with being passionate about what you're doing and not being particularly concerned about what other people think about what you're doing.

"In terms of imagery, I think of boxers and fighters, people who are only motivated by that one thing they're focused on," says Pollock.

I'm now interested because I'm still secretly aching for the flowery confessionals of artistic pretense that usually make it easy for me to write a nice little piece of music journalism that makes everybody feel warm inside.

I probe for this with the drummer. Always, always with the drummer. So, what are you hungry for, Ben?

"I'm hungry to be rich and famous."

Well, cut me another slice.

I finally find what I think I should be looking for with Steve, as he de-

scribes Hunger Hush's single "Gold Rush."

"It's kind of like a visceral, sort of lustful thing. The whole thing is a metaphor for sex through this exotic imagery of gold mining."

I try to extract more, but my hunger's hushed.

"Well, I just write about cities and girls mostly. I have reasons to. I'm in urban studies, so I can write about cities."

There's beauty in simplicity. There's beauty in honesty. There's beauty in the endearingly uncool, coming from four guys who craft trumpet parts out of years spent in the Stampede Showband and filming music videos in their parents' basements.

And when you think about it, Hunger Hush, you see, is something else. Why?

Because no other band in the world would make a stranger a strawberry-rhubarb pie.

Hunger Hush plays at That Empty Space (ground floor MSC by Subway) Sept. 16. Listen online at [hungerhush.com](http://hungerhush.com)

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# “Let’s make some bad decisions, darling”

A bassist’s tale of a Canadian summer spent living the indie rock ‘n’ roll dream

Dylan K.

Gauntlet Entertainment

Have you ever driven an unregistered van half-way across the country, spent your last hundred dollars on a tattoo, skinny-dipped with total strangers at three in the morning or got a trial membership at a gym just to use the shower? During the first few weeks of August 2011, I grabbed my bass guitar and joined my humble little Calgary rock band, The Nix Dicksons, on tour to Ontario to promote our new album *The Red Fox*. It was our first official cross-country tour

since the band’s inception a little over three years ago, and it was the cliché rock ‘n’ roll experience we’d all wished for (and more). The only reason we survived the whole thing was a combination of luck, fearlessness and the kindness of strangers. This is our tale.

We borrowed our friend Connor’s van, but the night before we were supposed to hit the road we were informed that the van wasn’t registered or insured. We may or may not have driven through Eastern Canada in an unregistered, uninsured van, with someone else’s registration stickers. Oh, and our drummer Cole may have driven

part of the way too, which is fine, other than the fact that his license is suspended (for driving without a license). He had a court date a few days before our tour started to figure out what was happening with his charges, which potentially could have involved some jail time.

Driving a partially illegal vehicle can actually be a good thing sometimes, since it makes you careful to keep to the speed limit and obey all traffic laws. When you’re in a band, you can usually expect everything to go wrong, especially when it’s inconvenient. The Nix Dicksons’s luck goes from absolute shit to almost miraculous at times, and we’ve had to become good at adapting and rolling with the punches.

Sometimes, though, the punches you have to roll with are actual. We played a Monday night in Toronto at The Drake, a hipster hotel hangout. Tensions were a little high among us all since the previous night when we found ourselves in Barrie, opening last-minute for a mid-life crisis cover band. As a result, we’d all had next-to-no sleep. We played pretty early in Toronto the next night, and after our set, our guitarist Rob was looking for help loading gear since the rest of us had bailed to drink. While I was talking to an awesome girl named Frances who said we could sleep in her backyard that night, Rob physically grabbed me and started dragging me to the van to help him load it. I shoved him and told him to get his hands off me, but he grabbed me again. This led to us pushing each other back and forth until he threw a haymaker at the side of my face. It didn’t connect properly, so I didn’t get knocked out or a black eye, but it still hurt a bit. Meanwhile, frontman Tanner and Cole had been engaged in a shouting match down the street, but Tanner managed to break up Rob and I before the fight escalated further. I was so upset that Rob hit me that I just verbally lost it on him, calling him basically everything in the book.

The fact that he punched me wasn’t really what I was upset about. I was more upset that we were probably out of Frances’s good books and would also have no place to stay that night. When you’re in the big city, you have to be good to her people, or else the city won’t be good to you.



courtesy Greg Parke

This August, Dylan K. of The Nix Dicksons rocked his way from Alberta to Ontario with nothing but an uninsured van and a pocketful of bass riffs.

As the drunk poet Craig Finn of Brooklyn band The Hold Steady once mused, “We’re good guys, but we can’t be good every night.” Sometimes I think Craig Finn could have written that line about us. We had spent the last year being drunk and arrogant about our band, and this didn’t help us out at all. Two weeks before the tour, we sat down and talked about what we needed to do as a band to make progress and move forward, and a big one was to change our piss-poor attitude. On tour, we tried to be as humble as we could and to kill everyone with more kindness than we may have showed each other. This helped us meet some key people, both professionally and as friends. This strategy worked that night at The Drake, as it turned out we were still in Frances’s good books, and she said we could all sleep at her place (minus

Rob). We told Rob to get a hotel for the night so we could all cool our jets before our show the next night, so we called him a cab and parted ways. Frances and her friend snuck us over a fence into a public pool, where we went skinny-dipping at 3 a.m. after our show. We went back to her house and she gave us all sleeping bags and tucked us in. We all shared bedtime stories with her until we fell asleep. She felt bad for making us sleep on the ground outside, but she had the most beautiful backyard in all of Toronto, so we didn’t mind at all. The fact that we were so grateful to sleep in sleeping bags in a backyard made me realize that there are lots of things we take for granted at home, even seemingly mundane ones like having a shower.

The reality of playing in a band is that it’s not just about the music.

see NIX DICKSONS, page 18

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# "AFRIKADEY? EVERY DAY"

Rwandan-Canadian rapper Shad headlined Afrikadey! earlier this August.

courtesy Andy Williams

## Local festival paying homage to African culture is alive and well in its 20th year

**Andréa Rojas**  
Entertainment Editor

What other summer jamboree can boast not just a day, but an entire week of festivities perpetuating the artistic practices of over 54 countries? Afrikadey! has just celebrated its 20th year — and along with it, a lasting tradition of the local celebration of African culture.

Starting in the first week of August with various galas, film screenings, discursive symposia, and musical and dance performances, this

year's Afrikadey! culminated in an outdoor gathering at Prince's Island Park on August 13. From 10 a.m. to midnight, the main stage was occupied by such noteworthy acts as Grammy winner and Beninise chanteuse Angélique Kidjo, female talking drummer Ara, Sudan-born rhythmic vocalist Dynamq, and Rwandan-Canadian Juno winner Shad.

Tunde Dawodu founded the now-annual event in 1991 with the stated purpose of showcasing the life and culture of people of African descent.

"We want to show the presence of Africa within our midst. Of course, when you take a culture from one environment to another one, the new place will somehow dictate how that culture is practiced.

"From that perspective, it's not about colour. It's about culture. The idea of this festival is to celebrate this concept and share it."

This purpose is readily apparent in the meaning of the festival's name.

"Afrikadey' actually means 'Africa is well' or 'Africa is alive.' It's

broken English spoken in [the] western part of Africa. So when somebody [asks] you if you're doing well, they say 'How you dey?' and you say, 'I dey well.'

"Afrikadey?' Every day."

In Dawodu's view, Afrikadey! is relevant in light of the social context of Canadian culture characterized today by the oft-referenced "melting pot" of cultures brought about by immigration.

"You have to know who you live with. If you don't know your next-door neighbour, there's always going to be a disconnect."

As the day wore on, it was clear that the other, less-publicized but equally important artistic voices of some of these "next-door neighbours" were struggling to be heard.

During an intermission between mainstage musical acts, a local drumming group, Batafon, captivated the audience on the ground with their West African rhythmic fervour. Jude Dachowski, one of three members of an all-white female dance troupe that performs in accompaniment to Batafon, expressed her excitement at dance

see AFRIKADEX, page 16



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# X-FEST

calgary's  
first major  
alternative festival  
rocks august

courtesy Alex Solano

**Andréa Rojas**  
Entertainment Editor

On a sweltering August afternoon, four bands with Alberta roots and five of the most prolific acts in alternative music of the last two decades, despite being emblazoned with the most ambiguous letter of the English alphabet, created a musical experience that was distinctly Calgary.

Conceived of as early as 2006 by the founders of local alternative radio station X92.9, X-FEST was originally orchestrated as an answer to major artists' frequent habit of passing up Calgary tour dates in favour of Edmonton.

In a May interview, David Johnston of festival organizer Union Events explained that X-FEST's diverse lineup of both local and more major acts falling within the "alternative" genre was intended to reflect the on-air rotation of X92.9 itself.

This year's X-FEST also marked its inception. For 12 hours, the historical site Fort Calgary morphed into a hazy wasteland of ostentatious tattoos, Daisy Dukes and secondhand hash smoke. Although my lungs and sense of good taste may disagree, I survived — and liked it.

The packed lineup kicked off with two Calgary artists, and rightly so. Black Phoenix Orchestra and Michael Bernard Fitzgerald drew in the early afternoon to a steadily increasing crowd, followed by 2011 Polaris Prize nominees The Rural Alberta Advantage (who, contrary

to what their name might imply, are primarily based out of Toronto) and perhaps the most cherished token of Calgary's independent music scene: The Dudes.

Ever since I coerced a bouncer into giving me frontman Dan Vacon's discarded guitar pick at a show as a teenager, I've had a lot of room in my dress for these Alberta boys. Although key solos on favorite "Dropkick Queen of the Weekend" and "Pretty Lies" were, rather disappointingly, transposed down to allow for an easier performance, the quality of Vacon's vocals more than compensated for this. The ensemble's rigidly rehearsed lyrics were coaxed into relaxation by Vacon's poetic interjections, through which he offered up grandfatherly relationship advice ("Ladies, find yourselves a hard-drinking rock 'n' roll man") and existentialist musings ("Ain't life grand? When's it gonna end?"). The former dive-bar slumdweller has hit mainstream success (translation: have opened for Finger Eleven and are now the proud owners of a Wikipedia page), but their X-FEST performance proved they're still ragamuffin rabble-rousers, just with fancier sound equipment and a couple more kick-drum punches.

Next up was '90s novelty rap troupe House of Pain, who left festivalgoer Evan Body particularly enthused.

"I jumped around to 'Jump Around' by House of Pain while in a [literal] house of pain. I now have bragging rights," said Body on enjoying the group's 1992 hit while be-

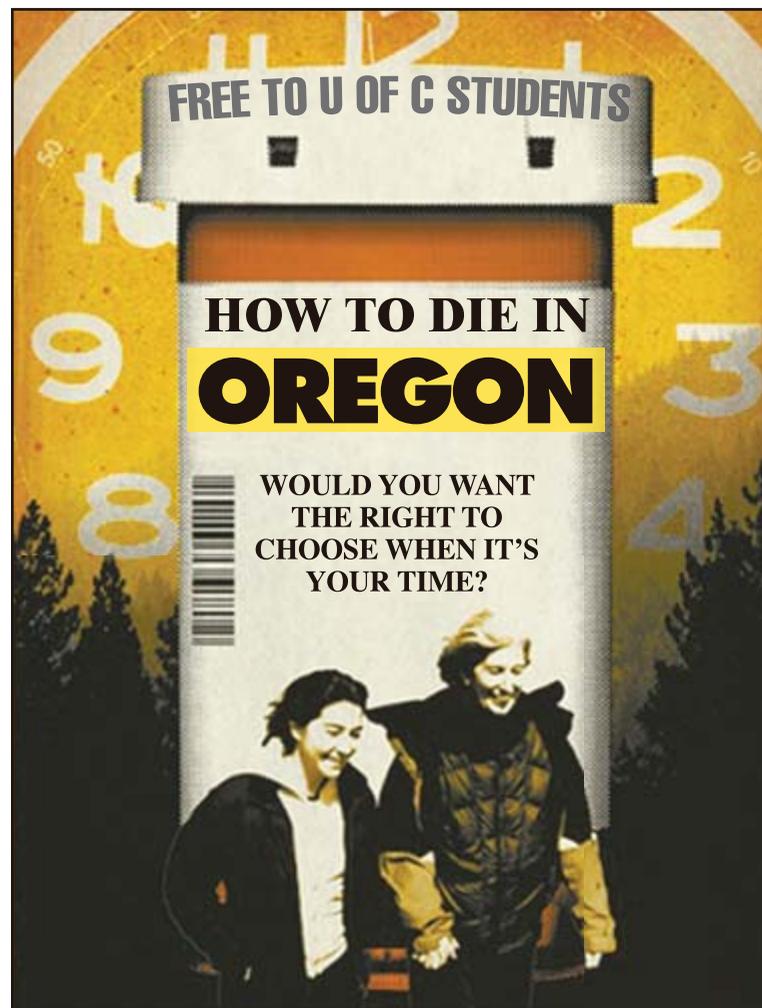
ing pressed upon from all sides by an aggressive mosh pit.

Fans then time-traveled forward to the 2010s with California indie rock act AWOLNATION, followed by punk-rock legends Social Distortion. Intense crowd-surfing meant that youthful and grizzled punks alike were continually tossed over metal barriers towards the stage. Those not being fondled from be-

low by complete strangers watched the action on a huge video screen to the left of the stage, right above a... wrestling ring? Yes, I was somewhat confused as well, but many of my beer-swilling male counterparts seemed to enjoy this vaguely homoerotic display of heterosexual dominance.

In a more wholesome fashion, post-grunge era shoegaze rockers

Weezer launched the crowd into nostalgia with the opening track "Memories" from their 2010 album *Hurley*. Weezer quickly followed up with crowd-pleaser and 1994 *Blue Album* nugget "My Name is Jonas." New twists on original solos and a seemingly improvised monologue by frontman Rivers Cuomo at the beginning of "Undone (The Sweater)" see X-FEST, page 17



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GAUNTLET ENTERTAINMENT SEPTEMBER 8.11 15

## Afrikadey, continued from page 13

performances finally being given a slot in the festival's schedule, despite taking place far away from the main stage.

"For the past 20 years I've been coming to Afrikadey, [Batafon] usually makes it to the [morning] drum circle and we . . . organize an impromptu dance class at the same time.

"This is the first year that we've performed 'for real.' We basically perform every year, [but this year] we're officially in the program. [For years,] we've been asking and saying, 'you have local talent — use [it]. We're there, we're willing, so if we're available, we'll come.'"

The French native also offered an explanation of why those of non-African descent may choose to participate in displays of African custom.

"We just embrace the culture. The music itself is so contagious, you can't help but move."

Michèle Moss, currently on staff with the university's Department

of Dance and credited by Jude and others as the co-founder of the West African dance movement in Calgary, dedicated herself to the art after a 1986 trip to Africa. A workshop in upstate New York that she would attend for 17 years after that further solidified her passion.

Moss, of Jamaican heritage, also co-founded the well-known Calgary dance studio Decidedly Jazz with a colleague. The studio would, like Afrikadey!, prove to be a locale for Westerners to familiarize themselves with the four-pronged concept of African movement, involving "the storytelling, the music, the song [and] the dance," according to Moss.

The dance professional has an anthropologist's take on African cultural practices as appropriated by non-Africans such as Dachowski through events such as Afrikadey!.

"There's a different tradition these days. There's a different notion about 'appropriation' and it's what

this festival is about, which is sharing, celebrating. It may not be your culture, but there are many people here who have travelled to Africa or just listened to the music and gone, 'That moves me, that connects [with] me.'

"That's where we need to italicize 'appropriation' [of culture] because it's not something that's pejorative. It's something that . . . you can embrace."

When asked if she would like to see more dance incorporated into the regularly scheduled events of Afrikadey!, Moss responded "absolutely." According to her, repeated requests to the festival's coordinator to do this have gone largely unacknowledged.

"I wish that greater levels of African culture were represented on smaller stages or in other areas — things like this whole [West African dance] subculture that I belong to. We dance and drum, but we are not represented [even though]

we are here in the city.

"I would love to see the music and the dance elevated to the highest realm of community participation, recognition, understanding."

Christie Preston, a West African dance enthusiast who currently teaches classes on the same subject at Central Memorial High School, not only cites Moss as her mentor but shares her views on dance and Afrikadey!.

"Just watching this festival, [I see] so many of us who are interested in West African dance and culture. There's a huge population, but we're not represented here [on the main stage]."

Sporadic attendance due to bad weather and year-to-year variation in the number of performances by better-known artists that tend to draw larger crowds (such as last year's performance by K'naan) has also been a recurring problem.

Sets going over their allotted time slots and last-minute lineup changes

meant that the outdoor show, slated to end promptly at 10 p.m., almost snaked its way into the wee hours of the morning. Organizational issues seem to be another difficulty that Dawodu and his colleagues will have to overcome in time for the 21st Afrikadey!.

Nevertheless, this day ended up being more than just an excellent excuse for a non-African journalist to wear beautiful traditional Ghanaian garb. A day of soaking up musical performances in the sunshine culminated in everything from playing Frisbee with a 35-year-old hippie to chatting backstage with Shad and his band. In short, this little festival is greater than the sum of its shortcomings, and hopefully will be for years to come. Afrikadey? Every day.

Missed Afrikadey! this summer? Visit [afrikadey.com](http://afrikadey.com) and celebrate African culture into the fall with links to music from this year's artists and online video and image galleries.

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## X-FEST, continued from page 15

Weezer's Rivers Cuomo sings his heart songs to 13,000 on August 20 at Fort Calgary.



courtesy Alex Solano

Song)" added flavour. By the time I had pushed my way to stage front and centre, Cuomo had commenced the opening riff of gushy beach jam "Island in the Sun," which segwayed into stoner anthem "We Are All on Drugs." A second encore brought out all four members onstage for a combined percussive effort at the end of disgruntled-teen gem "Pork and Beans." Eargasms ensued.

The nutritious and delicious strawberry jams of Weezer were to be placed in stark contrast with the cock-rock apex of alternative metal that was final act Jane's Addiction.

A black curtain fell to reveal two female acrobatic artists in lingerie dangling at either side of the stage with two stage-size images of naked women behind them. Was this exploitative? I couldn't decide. This and periodic yells of "mother-fucker" by lead singer Perry Farrell proved to be the yin to the yang of the power-pop licks delivered by "the Weez."

All misogynistic undertones aside, Farrell's proclamations of candy-coated rebellion ("We're not good because we're good, we're good because we're *baaad*") may

have induced an eye-roll or two, but you have to applaud them for at least attempting to be incorrigible — although coming from a skinny dude in a neatly-tied neckerchief, this was more cute than edgy. Regardless, I was fascinated by it, in a weird way.

At most, I would call x-FEST a monumental development to propel Calgary towards musical-metropolis status, and an enjoyable day at the very least. Mind you, at times, I was only able to achieve the latter by telling myself that the drunken, slovenly mayhem around me was a mere caricature of actual humanity. Logistical failures, such as the lack of a suitable amount of Porta-Potties, were exacerbated by the festival's "no re-entry" policy, turning 13,000 people into a restless flock of (quite literally) caged animals that resorted to urinating in corners and on fences. The lack of availability of anything other than food and drink upwards of \$6 an item didn't help either. Additionally, the pro-Calgary stance that x-FEST professed to take was somehow lost in the blatant polarization of the lineup, with smaller Canadian acts taking the morning and early afternoon and the Ameri-

can performers lighting up the night. Yes, x-FEST was Calgary — but only until 3 p.m. Does X92.9 see Calgary musicians as musical placeholders until the big guys show up?

That being said, it is applaudable that Union Events and X92.9 would even give up half of the bill to Alberta musicians, and moreover, at least understandable that they would choose to place major acts as headliners — tickets still needed to be sold to people who aren't local indie rock fans. But even one Alberta act as a headliner in future years would not only help bolster local music, but be extremely telling as to x-FEST's real priorities and purpose.

Devan Forster is the bass guitarist for Black Phoenix Orchestra, whose opening performance at x-FEST, along with \$25,000 and regular rotation on X92.9, was awarded to them for being a winner of this year's Xposure contest. Forster had his own views on the bi-polar bill.

"It's kind of up to Alberta bands to get the point where they could be headlining a show. I don't think we should expect for things to be given to us . . . we were just happy to be there."

Despite all this, this journalist is now the happy owner of two Weezer shirts, a persistent sunburn and a rad day of memories. It may have a lot of kinks to work out, but I'll be back next year. Xs and Os to you, x-FEST, until I find a rock 'n' roll man who drinks harder than you.



Calgary's own Dan Vacon of The Dudes shared the X-FEST stage with Jane's Addiction, Social Distortion, and Dan Vacon's beard.

courtesy Alex Solano

 A large advertisement for a lecture. On the left is a photograph of Rex Murphy, a man in a light-colored suit with his arms crossed. The background is a sunset sky. The text reads:
 

# CLIMATE CHANGE 101

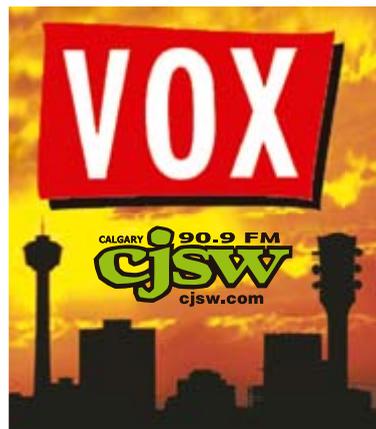
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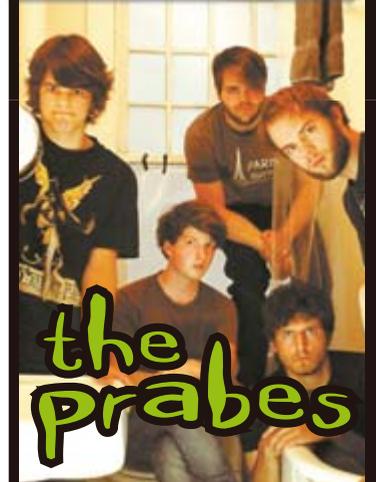


- TOP 20** \*canadian artist \*\*local artist ▶ aug 29/11
- 1 STEPHIN MERRITT *Obscurities* (Merge)
  - 2 THE PACK A.D.\* *Unpersons* (Mint)
  - 3 THE PSYCHIC PARAMOUNT II (No Quarter)
  - 4 APOLLO GHOSTS\* *Money Has No Heart* (Geographing)
  - 5 ELLIOTT BROOD\* *Days Into Years* (Paper Bag)
  - 6 ICEAGE *New Brigade* (Whats Your Rupture)
  - 7 WOODEN SHIPS *West* (Thrill Jockey)
  - 8 MISTER HEAVENLY *Out Of Love* (Sub Pop)
  - 9 FRUIT BATS *Tripper* (Sub Pop)
  - 10 TY SEGALL *Goodbye Bread* (Drag City)
  - 11 HOLLOW *Cut Off Your Hands* (Frenchkiss)
  - 12 MALE BONDING *Endless Now* (Sub Pop)
  - 13 THE WAR ON DRUGS *Slave Ambient* (Secretely Canadian)
  - 14 EXTRA HAPPY GHOST\*\* *Modern Horses* (Saved By Vinyl)
  - 15 THE ETTES *Wicked Will* (Krian)
  - 16 THE PRABES\*\* *The Prabes* (Saved By Vinyl)
  - 17 CUFF THE DUKE\* *Morning Comes* (Paper Bag)
  - 18 BLASTED CANYONS #1 (Castle Face)
  - 19 SLEEPING BAG *Sleeping Bag* (Joyful Noise)
  - 20 THE BANDANA SPLITS *The Bandana Splits* (Boy Scout)

- WORLD**
- 1 TINARIWEN *Tassili + 10:1* (Wedge/Anti-)
  - 2 VARIOUS *Red Hot + Rio 2 / Nova Tropicalia* (Eone)
  - 3 TRIO BEMBE\* *Oh My Soul* (Self-Released)
  - 4 ORCHESTRE-POLY-RHYTHMO *The 1st Album* (Analog Africa)
  - 5 GOOGOOSH *Googoosh* (B-Music)

- JAZZ**
- 1 JOHN STETCH TRIO *Fabled States* (Addo)
  - 2 KIRK MACDONALD JAZZ ORCHESTRA\* *Deep Shadows* (Addo)
  - 3 DR. MICHAEL WHITE *Adventures In New Orleans Jazz Part I* (Basin Street)
  - 4 ALANIARIS\* *Live At Somewhere There* (Trio)
  - 5 AIMEE ALLEN *Winters & Mays* (Azuline)

**SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY**



These young rockers were finalists in CBC AM's "Best Teen Rock Band" and make plain awesome garage rock. They may be young, but among the five of them, they have some experience under their belts. [radio3.tbc.ca/#/bands/The-Prabes](http://radio3.tbc.ca/#/bands/The-Prabes)

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# Nix Dicksons, continued from page 12

You have to look at least somewhat presentable too, and at this juncture we hadn't showered in three days and looked absolutely haggard. We did what anyone else might do in this situation — we tried to sign up for free ten-day trial memberships at the local Extreme Fitness just so we could use the shower and steam room. The manager looked us all over once and said, "You guys are in a band, aren't you?" We admitted we were, shot the shit with him for a bit and gave him an album. He told us the trials were technically only for Toronto residents, but that he'd let us use the facilities for the day.

It was the most incredible shower of my life. I think Extreme Fitness is what the gyms are like in heaven. There's a steam room, flat-screen TVs and couches, and internet access. It also turned out that the gym was having a promotion for some new fitness product that day, and to celebrate, they were giving out glasses of champagne and orange juice. We all felt like kings, and realized how much good a daily shower does to you without you even realizing it.

Eating on the road can feel like a bit of a luxury, too, since it gets expensive. It's also tough if you spend your last hundred bucks on a tattoo, which is what Cole did. The bank froze his account about halfway through the tour, and for four days he survived on french fries, bummed cigarettes and wine that we donated to him. Cole once told me that "When you don't eat, it makes your liquor go farther." This rationale for starving yourself now makes total sense to me.

We were lucky to be treated so well by people we'd just met, but our luckiest city by far was Peterborough. We showed up in the 'Borough at seven in the morning, pulled into a dusty parking lot and Rob and I crashed in the van until the 35-degree weather woke us up sweating. Cole wandered around the city while we slept and came back with horror stories about the types of people populating the downtown strip.

A good portion of the local youth were what we termed "Durst-y," which means that they wore baggy jeans, backwards red Yankees caps and



courtesy Greg Parke

Lead singer and guitarist Tanner plays to a packed crowd at The Marquee Room the night before The Nix Dicksons depart for their summer 2011 tour.

just generally seemed like they were looking for a fight (in true Fred Durst fashion). Cole almost quenched someone's Durst and got stabbed one night, and the second day we were there, we saw four people getting arrested on four separate occasions.

We were all pretty worried that we'd be playing to no one in Peterborough since the well-known local opener, usually one to draw a crowd to the bar, had bailed the day of our show. Before the tour, we'd had download cards of our new album made, so we basically used these as business cards to advertise our show that night to random pass-

ers-by. We split into groups of two and just approached people downtown (with a little busking along the way), trying not to come off as weirdos or serial murderers. I'm not usually the most outgoing person in the world, but I had to suck it up and engage people, and it worked.

We probably would have played for nobody at all had we not hit the streets and kept soliciting people after getting rejected, sort of like the mid-life crisis dudes at the Den who try to pick up 18-year-olds on Thursdays.

After our show a few of Cody's sister's friends took us skinny-dipping Ontario-style for the second time at a place called Hippie Island. Apparently, this is what young people do once the bars close. Tanner, Cole and I were all basically blacked-out drunk at this point. We could barely stand, let alone swim, but we toughed it out so we didn't look like total pussies in front of our new friends. We stumbled back to the band dressing room they were letting us sleep in above the bar, stoked on how serendipitous the night had been.

The road isn't always kind, but much like the big city, if you're good to her, she'll treat you right. Being on tour is a real test of whether your band is cut out to play music, since it gets you out of your comfort zone and, at times, your clothes.

I learned that you have to be willing to do whatever it takes to make it happen, whether it's sleeping outside, soliciting people to come see you play or taking advantage of whatever is free. You also need to be kind to whoever you meet, because they may end up becoming your best friend or a fellow musician. When fearlessness and kindness fail you, sometimes you have to rely on your luck to get you out of a sticky situation.

Fortunately, The Nix Dicksons have that in spades, and after our first cross-country tour together, we have the clean criminal records and foggy recollections to prove it.

If you see these boys skulking around downtown Calgary, be a pal and let them serenade you.  
Get your Nix Dicks fix at [myspace.com/thenixdicksons](http://myspace.com/thenixdicksons)

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NEW UNIVERSITY TELEVISION

# VANDALISM VERSUS SELF-EXPRESSION

Marisa Makin  
Gauntlet Features

First, you'll have to wait 45 minutes in line amid a crowd of west-coast hipsters, boarders, businessmen and conservative-types alike — everyone wants to see this. The excited chatter you'll hear will only serve to heighten the anticipation of seeing Los Angeles's Museum of Contemporary Art's latest and greatest installation celebrating graffiti culture. Despite the very clear differences in the buzzing crowd, they all gathered for one common reason: whether you support it or not, graffiti is enticing.

MOCA presented *Art in the Streets* April 17–August 8 this year. One of the first exhibitions to feature a history of graffiti and all things related to street art, MOCA's partnership with the Brooklyn Museum created a "major record of public art over the past half century," said Brooklyn Museum Director Arnold Leman in a press release. *Art in the Streets* showcased work from street artists Fab 5 Freddy from New York, Margaret Kilgallen from San Francisco, Shepard Fairey from Los Angeles, and JR from Paris. One of the most prominent artists, Banksy, was given his own section. Along with artists, the exhibit highlighted photographers and filmmakers who have detailed street art in their work. MOCA Director Jeffrey Deitch said in a press release that he hoped the exhibit would "position the work of the most influential artists to emerge from street culture in the context of contemporary art history." If nothing else, *Art in the Streets* brought graffiti to the forefront of art critics and museum-goers alike — the exhibit drew in over 200,000 visitors in Los Angeles. During the exhibit's run at MOCA, graffiti increased in the area, causing controversy about whether the exhibit was to blame. The exhibit was scheduled to continue at the Brooklyn Museum, but was later cancelled.

When I attended MOCA, the very first display I saw was a corridor-long mural of birds,

fish and skunks, made intentionally ugly. On a giant floor-to-ceiling wall, two dead birds hung limp by ropes around their necks. As an opening piece, it set the tone for the exhibits offbeat, dark and often offensive art. Next, I entered a corridor that explained the origins of graffiti and graffiti culture. Mounted on the wall were dates, photos and stories of the influences that helped shape street art as it is today, starting from the 1970s. From a small history of the infamous Los Angeles gang the Crips, to a wall of hundreds of cans of different spray paints, the exhibit presented street art as organic and lively — as a natural extension of stoner culture into its niche art foray.

I found myself laughing instead of disapproving when I heard how a street team tagged 200 New York subway cars in a matter of hours. These artists weren't rebels without a cause to me — they were achievers of something special. When surrounded by colourful, comical little street art figures, most of which were super cute, *Art in the Streets* presented a playful and innocent side to this rebellion. The exhibit legitimized street art, portraying it as more than just a hobby for teenagers but as a necessary means of self-expression, as real and beautiful as heartfelt ballet and as intentional and deliberate as a well-phrased haiku.

"A painting tells a story on paper, and graffiti tells a story too," said Steve, a 22-year-old Vancouver-based street artist who asked that his name not be published. "People just don't see past where [the story is being told]."

Societal conceptions of urban graffiti are all over the map. While some view graffiti as the flourishing of urban art and expression, others view it as a sign of generational decay or a lack of respect for others' property. After all, the people forced to view the graffiti didn't ask to see public displays of expression. According to the City of Calgary website, "Graffiti is an eyesore that ruins the natural and architectural beauty of a city." But has the city ever considered a difference between racist remarks scrawled on the side of a train and a mural portraying a dove flying from open hands?

The city's website asks for citizens to call

9-1-1 if they see an act of graffiti or other vandalism in progress. While this may seem extreme, Constable Dave Laddick, the graffiti coordinator of the Calgary Police Service, said otherwise. "Any crime in progress you should be calling 9-1-1. It's a criminal act, you don't want to let that just slide by."

He continued, explaining that adults caught could pay up to \$5,000 in fines, or

the city's website, the administration defines graffiti as "Words, figures, letters, drawings or stickers applied, scribbled, scratched, etched, sprayed, or attached on or to a surface." It's nearly identical to the dictionary definition of vandalism.

Vancouver artist Steve has a different definition of street art. "Graffiti is art when it's put there with a purpose, when it's put there

**// Because street art holds no real boundaries, the experience and its effect can be the same from country to country. It's a liquid form of culture.**

– Dean Michaud, 23-year-old MRU business student

even face jail time for up to two years. "What determines the scope of [the charges] is how prolific the vandal is."

Surprisingly, unlike what was implied in MOCA's exhibit of the New York subway cars, gangs do not do the majority of graffiti, at least in Calgary. "We have very low gang graffiti in Calgary," Laddick added. "Most of our graffiti has been referred to as hip-hop graffiti."

Hip-hop graffiti is famous for its identifiable font. Most graffiti of this type spells out messages or tags. The art form's correlation with hip-hop culture began with the controversial expression of rap artists. Graffiti as a form of art has always had a history of controversy — a controversy based on location as well as content. It's always a matter of artist versus shop owner, rebels versus police, or creative expression versus conservative citizen. To some, graffiti is art. To others, it's simply a colourful form of vandalism. In places like Belfast, Northern Ireland, murals depicting historic Irish as well as worldwide struggles mark the sides of buildings. The art is supported, financed and completed by the community. Conversely, Calgary doesn't see a large distinction between the two. On

for other people to enjoy it, or question it." For Steve, the difference between art and public disturbance is the intent behind it, whether it's done for others to enjoy or to stake out a territory. "Tags can really annoy me. Haven't we moved past that? I think tags are what give graffiti a bad name," he added.

Dean Michaud, a 23-year-old business student from Mount Royal University, feels differently about tagging. "To see the same tag, stencil, or print in multiple countries, I feel is very symbolic of globalization and our seemingly growing societal unionization. Because street art holds no real boundaries, the experience and its effect can be the same from country to country."

"It's a liquid form of culture," he continues. "Street art is mobile in the sense that it can be done anywhere."

Tags are considered the birth



Murals from Derry, North Ireland. These political themed murals, completed by the Bogside Artists, are community funded and supported.

Sarah Dorchak/the Gauntlet

of urban street art. Starting in New York in the 1960s, writing your name or a clever version of it in or on the subway started to gain steam as a movement and it has yet to slow down. While urban graffiti still includes tags under its umbrella, it has expanded to include meaningful, possibly political images, clever quotations and even elaborate sculptures placed secretly in public places at night. The movement has essentially grown into art through the intention of the artists themselves. Since the movement has grown, street artists have become famous worldwide. The most dynamic artists were featured in MOCA's exhibit, but one among them received his own section: British street artist Banksy.

Banksy, one of the most notorious (in a good way) artists of the moment, seems to come from a different place than many young street artists. His goal isn't to gain fame,

or infamy for that matter, but to awaken the world to the ironic injustices that plague our society and our culture. He's actually gone to extreme measures to keep his true identity unknown to this point, further proving that he's not in it for the fame. His art beautifully depicts the hard truths of our culture in a uniquely contemporary way, and his murals, often placed on public property, are well thought out and planned. In Banksy's 2010 documentary, *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, art collector Wendy Asher praises the success of his first commercial art show: "Everyone I told about it bought something. Like people who have Picassos and, you know, Mondrians . . . I mean, serious collections." Whether Asher's art collectors bought Banksy's pieces only for the controversial appeal or for the quality of the piece itself, the fact that the art show was a success indicates the value of street art.

Banksy's section at *Art in the Streets* generated quite a buzz from museum-goers. I won't forget the young African boy who stood among other child labourers and glared back at me from a Banksy painting. Wearing a very American "I Hate Mondays" printed T-shirt, ripped from being overworn, the boy was famished and dirty. His eyes disturbingly conveyed no emotion; they're blank; the boy is numb. Clearly a child slave, the satirical painting acknowledged the very real sentiment about the ignorance of western culture, seen in the above picture. As pointed out in *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, Banksy's pieces comment on "how easy it is to ignore the things right in front of us." North America shudders at the thought of the workweek, while under-aged slaves lose their childhood producing goods that will likely make their way back into our economy. Banksy's mission is to highlight our ignorance and change the way we perceive our culture. "It's not about



A Banksy painting depicting child labourers in a satirical manner. Courtesy of Menage a Moi/Flickr

but to the urban landscape to being something very negative? "There was a lot of concern, particularly by conservative politicians, that this art gave the image of disorder, of a city that was chaotic, where the local government was not in control," Miller explained. According to him, police started to crack down on graffiti art, ticketing and arresting artists, beginning the

and slang. This failed project, along with the 2009 spree of racist symbols and slogans sprawled on several schools and synagogues, never resolved the question of vandalism versus self-expression. Even the recent vandalizing of McMahon Stadium's billboard demonstrates the use of graffiti to take freedom of speech one step too far.

Constable Laddick offered a solution to the question's grey area: "If [graffiti] is done with permission, it's art. If it's done without permission, it's vandalism. When it's done with permission you don't have a victim and, without a victim, you don't have an offense." The law helps to differentiate between political murals and territorial backlashes like the vandalized McMahon Stadium billboard, though the law still maintains the sense of black and white right and wrong. Constable Laddick asks for citizens to call 3-1-1 to report non-commissioned graffiti so that it can be cleaned up, and to call 9-1-1 if the vandalism is in progress.

Street art questions culture from a unique standpoint. For many, the only barrier between street art and traditional art is the illegal medium of presentation. When examining street art, like any traditional art, you often grasp the obvious emotional tone but you're left with some questions of your own — some room for personal interpretation. You'll feel the same reaction when viewing a colourful, mixed-up Picasso in the Glenbow Museum as when you're looking at a painting of a stoned apple in the *Art in the Streets* exhibit. Why did the artists make the choices that they did? What message is this piece of art trying to convey? As we were taught in elementary school, there's no right answer — art is personal.

"The thing that I would stress," Miller added, "is that there is no innate nature to graffiti art. It all depends on how we as a society choose to receive this art."

**/// If [graffiti] is done with permission, it's art. If it's done without permission, it's vandalism. When it's done with permission you don't have a victim and, without a victim, you don't have an offense.**

— Constable Dave Laddick, CPS Graffiti Coordinator

the hype, it's not about the money," says Banksy in his documentary. While some will call Banksy a vandal merely by definition, most, especially after seeing the impact of his work, would sooner call him an artist whose canvas happens to be the street.

"At the end of the day I'm all for [street art]," 23-year-old student Michaud said, applauding the ability of anonymous artists to comment on society. "I feel it adds a lot of character to otherwise bleak urban landscapes. I like seeing or reading various messages I come across in everyday life. [It] puts a smile on my face."

Michaud's thoughts echoed the initial critiques of the original 1970s New York street art. In a time of economic depression, the city was in a state of decay. Street art was positively received as it added colourful and interesting beauty to the deteriorating streets. "It was thought to be brightening up the place," University of Calgary urban studies professor Byron Miller said of early New York street art. So how did graffiti go from being viewed as a positive contri-

common pattern of authority versus graffiti artists that "changed the societal framework of how graffiti was viewed."

In the end, it seems as though those whose interests rely on the perception of an orderly, well-managed city won't find a place in their hearts for graffiti. It's those of us who don't rely on these illusions who find more value in street art. "Those who aren't typically concerned with things like order and property value and so on, and look at the world as a place that could be very interesting, tend to have a much more accepting view of graffiti," Miller added.

Sometimes the concerns of order and property value overlap with the desire for self-expression. In 2009, the city funded an initiative to allow Millennium Park goers to use a park wall as a creative outlet for graffiti. The goal was to keep the project maintained and ordered while making room for the controversial art form. But after two days of the project, the city shut down the initiative. The backlash from artists led the entire park to be covered in derogatory illustrations



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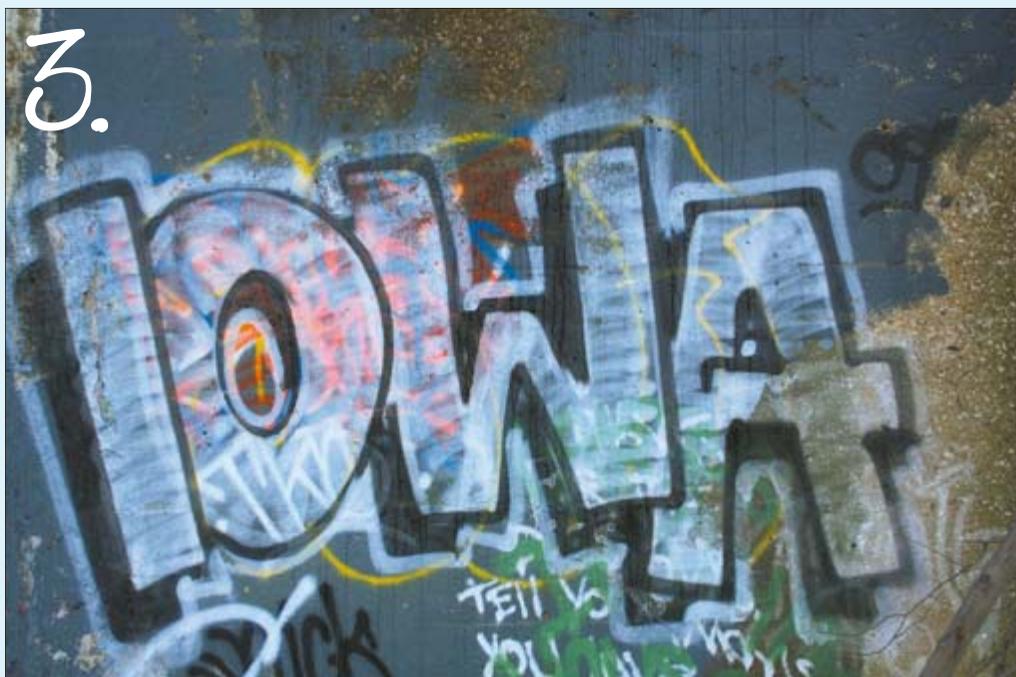
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# STREET ART FROM AROUND THE WORLD



1. A *Star Wars* version of hip-hop graffiti. Courtesy of Anarchosm/Flickr.

2. A drag-queen Spock. Courtesy of Salim Virji/Flickr.

3. A vandalized Iowa. Courtesy of The Cleveland Kid/Flickr.

4. A wall of graffiti covered with hip-hop style tags. Courtesy of Jamiecat/Flickr.



# A most peculiar toad



Remi Watts  
"Cosmic Pirate"

**M**orality and animals is an undeniably sticky subject. However, it seems to be the case that there is, at minimum, one particular animal who is a possible candidate for, as I hope to show, significant moral consideration due to its capacity to produce entheogens. That animal is the Sonoran Desert toad.

Forthwith, 'entheogen' (Greek for 'generating God within') is, as writer-explorer James Oroc defined it, "an ethnographic term used to describe a plant or drug that invokes a sense of the numinous or a mystical experience."

Entheogens are defined independently of drugs as they are markedly different. Entheogens are often produced naturally within the plant and animal kingdom, and produce states of mind not valuable in the context of pleasure — unlike most things considered drugs — but are instead valuable for the spiritual or mystical experiences they create. The most peculiar and significant example of an animal that produces an entheogen is our friend, the Sonoran Desert toad (*Bufo alvarius*). This creature bears the burden of being the basis for the infamous and deadly act of toad licking. To delve

into the science of the matter, the Sonoran Desert toad secretes two chemicals: the venom dehydrobufotenine, which is quite poisonous if consumed (hence why toad licking is actually unwise); and also the chemical 5-MeO-DMT, an entheogen from the tryptamine family that naturally occurs throughout the plant and animal kingdom, but occurs in particular abundance in bodily glands of the toad in question.

The unique identity as a producer of entheogens places the Sonoran Desert Toad in a position of high — or simply unique moral worth — for two reasons. Firstly, the value or veracity of mystical experiences that can result from consumption of entheogens. Secondly, the significant, symbolic, and unique role in delivering said important entheogens, as occupied by animals such the Sonoran Desert toad. Of the first proposition, we must accept the notion that mystical experiences have a value or veracity due to the elementary immediacy of conscious experience itself — a position we can dub 'phenomenology.' From the starting point of phenomenology, which since it is pure subjective experience and nothing

more it is devoid of secondary preconceptions and judgments, we can avoid any spookiness that discussions of mystical or spiritual

must withhold all secondary judgments and metaphysical assumptions and instead focus on the subjective perceptual experiences themselves. It follows, phenomenologically speaking, that a mystical experience is more



revelation often contain. Thus, even if you believe that a mystical experience is the work of certain molecules acting within the brain, and I believe the contrary wherein a mystical experience is a divine presence entering my mind/spirit, both viewpoints are leveled redundant when we start from the reference point of phenomenology, since we

interesting than pleasure, and obviously far more interesting than regular phenomenological experience. To deny this claim suggests a lack of insight or familiarity with the contrast between mere pleasure and mystical experiences. This hierarchy of 'interestingness' can, again from the phenomenological perspective, allow us to attach a certain degree of value and

veracity to mystical experiences before they get discounted as secondary judgments often cause.

If the arguments just explicated can be taken to be the case — at least tacitly so — then we can progress to the second proposition, that being that animals — specifically the Sonoran Desert toad — represent a case of moral peculiarity on account of their production of said valuable entheogens and the

resulting mystical states, and of their valuable and unique role as the deliverers of said entheogens and of the aforementioned mystical states.

That is, if we accept that the mystical experiences produced by entheogens are of a veridical and valuable nature (minimally in the phenomenological sense as previously explained), then it follows that if the originator of entheogens occupies a role

of similar or contemporaneous being, then it too, being the Sonoran Desert toad, has an equally veridical and valuable nature equitable with, and resulting from, the entheogens it produces — allowing us to declare it to be a candidate for moral peculiarity. Thus, the Sonoran Desert toad is an excellent example of moral peculiarity.

## SU Welcomes Students to Another Great Year!

A Welcome Message  
from your SU Reps

### Thousands Invade the Student Centre

On behalf of the 69th Executive of the University of Calgary Students' Union, we want to welcome you to the University of Calgary and your Students' Union (SU). We've got a great student executive and faculty representative team this year and we're really looking forward to working with them.

Been a busy week for your student exec making presentations and welcoming all new students to the UofC. With the first day of classes coming we wanted to wish you all the best of success in your studies and let you know we

have a great line-up of events, programs and services this year to make sure you have the best university experience possible.

With our partner NUTV, our on-campus student TV station, we are launching twenty digital messaging screens in the Student Centre so you can check out what's going on every week and don't miss opportunities to have some fun. The SU's portion of this new network is called **THE LOOP** and represents a more sustainable approach (less posters and paper) to getting the word out to you. SU Clubs will allow be able to take advantage of **THE LOOP** to promote events and awareness campaigns. This great project has been made possible by Quality Money (we'll tell you more about this program later) and our primary sponsor, Rogers/Cellcom Wireless.

Once you get settled, make sure you check out the entertainment and activity line-up at **That Empty Space** on the Student Centre

lower level. It's Cinemania with free movies and cheap popcorn on Mondays, Yoga on Wednesdays and a line-up of entertainment to lead into the weekends. Yes, the first Thursday at the Den has marked the beginning of a fun semester and there are lots more to come. And don't miss out on our upcoming concerts in Mac Hall or the Ballroom.

We want to welcome you with an opportunity to get involved and win some really cool prizes. We are all hearing that a provincial election is coming and we have something special planned. Many politicians believe that students don't care and don't vote... We say bull\_ \_ \_! Students have a voice and their issues matter.

We're starting the year with **GOTV**, a GET THE VOTE OUT Campaign. We want to spread the word over the next several months on why you should vote, how to vote and when and where to vote. If you want to be part of the information network, check out the SU display

booths in the Student Centre or sign up at [www.uofcgotv.ca](http://www.uofcgotv.ca) to receive updates. To help you get started this year when you sign up you're automatically entered to win Macbooks, iPads, some great tablets from our on-campus Rogers store in Science B, along with gift certificates to the U of C Bookstore and the SU's Bound and Copied to help pay for your books. We'll have earlybird prizes like Sunshine Marmot ski tickets and Live Nation concert tickets to kick it off.

Well, we'll send a lot of info your way on how you can make the most of the fall semester so stay informed, stay active and have some fun. Drop in to see us at the SU Main Office in the Student Centre or at our displays, be in **THE LOOP** and check out [su.ucalgary.ca](http://su.ucalgary.ca) for a load of information on what's happening.

Remember, we're here to serve and represent you. Welcome and make it memorable!



# London town's morals are melting down

**Joydeep Mukherjee**  
Gauntlet Opinions



Having been an Anglo-ophile all my life, I identify all that is best of human civilization with what Britain once stood for, a long time ago. Perhaps I happen to be one of the few remaining people in a shrinking group who associate Britain with the finer things in life: great literature, classic rock bands, Radio 4, Earl Grey tea, polite drivers, long walks and an intrinsic sense of courtesy and decency. Once upon a time, the British empire was not only the largest, but also the most powerful and influential empire the world has ever seen. During this period of total world dominance, Britain achieved an astonishingly large number of things which she taught other countries to follow. The greatness of Britain transcended beyond mere military might — the country's success lied in the numerous achievements which other nations admired, worshipped and tried to emulate. These achievements range from creating the grandest body of literature to building the most efficient police force in the world, from creating a wonderfully balanced society that nurtured science, arts and commerce with equal fervour to organizing missionary activities on a massive scale, from establishing a solid foundation for education and social security to insisting upon the need for good manners and courtesy and humour in a democratic nation. Therefore it comes as no surprise that Britain has produced geniuses of world-changing stature, right from Shakespeare and Newton to today's J.K.Rowling and Stephen Hawking.

History has been a testament to the fact that all nations experience periods of rise and fall. For Britain, this fall started shortly after the Second World War, even though the decay was hardly noticeable in the early years. The full impact of this decadence came to light in the massive orgy of looting, rioting and vandalizing witnessed in London and other parts of the country last month. Described as “the worst outbreak of civil disorder in Britain since the riots of 1981,” the recent London riots present

ominous portents not only for England, but for the whole world in general.

I am of the disposition that the London riots are distinct from the riots happening elsewhere on the globe. The exact reasons for the riots have been debated by politicians, journalists, sociologists and arm-chair thinkers such as me. From increasing poverty and growing income disparities to joblessness and police atrocities against a certain section of the society, numerous reasons as to what led the general public to ‘protest’ in the form they did have been cited. Several commentators have criticized the lax policing on the government's part in the face of the riots. They may have a point — the British prime minister took three full days to authorize the police to use force against the rioters.

It's not only the riots but the nature of them that troubles the common Britons. The looters and vandals were mainly teenagers (and even eight year old kids!) who stole iPods, flat screen TVs, laptops and sports equipment. The point to be noted here is that the looters stole no food or no books. Water bottles were occasionally stolen, more for the sake of fun than genuine need. Many among those who stole cigarettes from the corner-stores were university students and the well off, a far cry from the image of poor rioters stealing essentials such as food. The prime minister of Britain dubbed the rioters as “sick,” a rather strong term to be used against one's fellow citizens (perhaps not as strong as Nicolas Sarkozy referring to the Paris rioters as “scum” in 2005). Another Londoner said this in disgust: “We have indeed brought up a horrible generation of kids!”

Some people might try to justify this sort of behaviour on the grounds of need. But the pattern of looting and arson in the recent London riots suggests otherwise. A vast majority of looters were hardly needy, and all they targeted were fancy digital equipments and brand accessories. The truth of the matter is that the widespread decay in the moral and cultural side of Britain has severely affected the way young generations of people have been brought up. A section of the British media has been lamenting over how young generation of Britons identify themselves more with brands and consumer goods rather than anything else.



Eminent British psychologists are now saying that the pampered society has produced generations of people with absolutely no sense of values. The lack of moral authority in home and school has led to a state where young Britons have forgotten the distinction between right and wrong. What is to be carefully observed here is that all

countries — developed, developing or otherwise — can take a huge lesson from the recent London riots. When so many people identify themselves with ownership of consumer goods rather than family values or national heritage, a dangerous breeding ground for immorality is created.

When people start living by the

doctrine “you are what you own,” the moral fibre binding the nation together loosens up to reveal large patches of recklessness. At the risk of sounding like a doomsayer, I must stress the fact that the rot is not limited to Britain alone. Leaders of all nations should take immediate measures to prevent the rot from spreading further.

## CASH REWARD



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# The future of Jack's Democrats

**Domink Matusik**  
Gauntlet Opinions



For the first time in close to a hundred years, a Canadian leader of the opposition has died in office. Jack Layton's unexpected passing prompted an unprecedented outpouring of condolences from supporters and opponents alike. Understandably, in the wake of Mr. Layton's death, nobody was eager to be the unabashedly ambitious politician and declare their leadership aspirations. Soon after, the bolder candidates began publicly mulling a run. And by the looks of it, it's going to be quite the race.

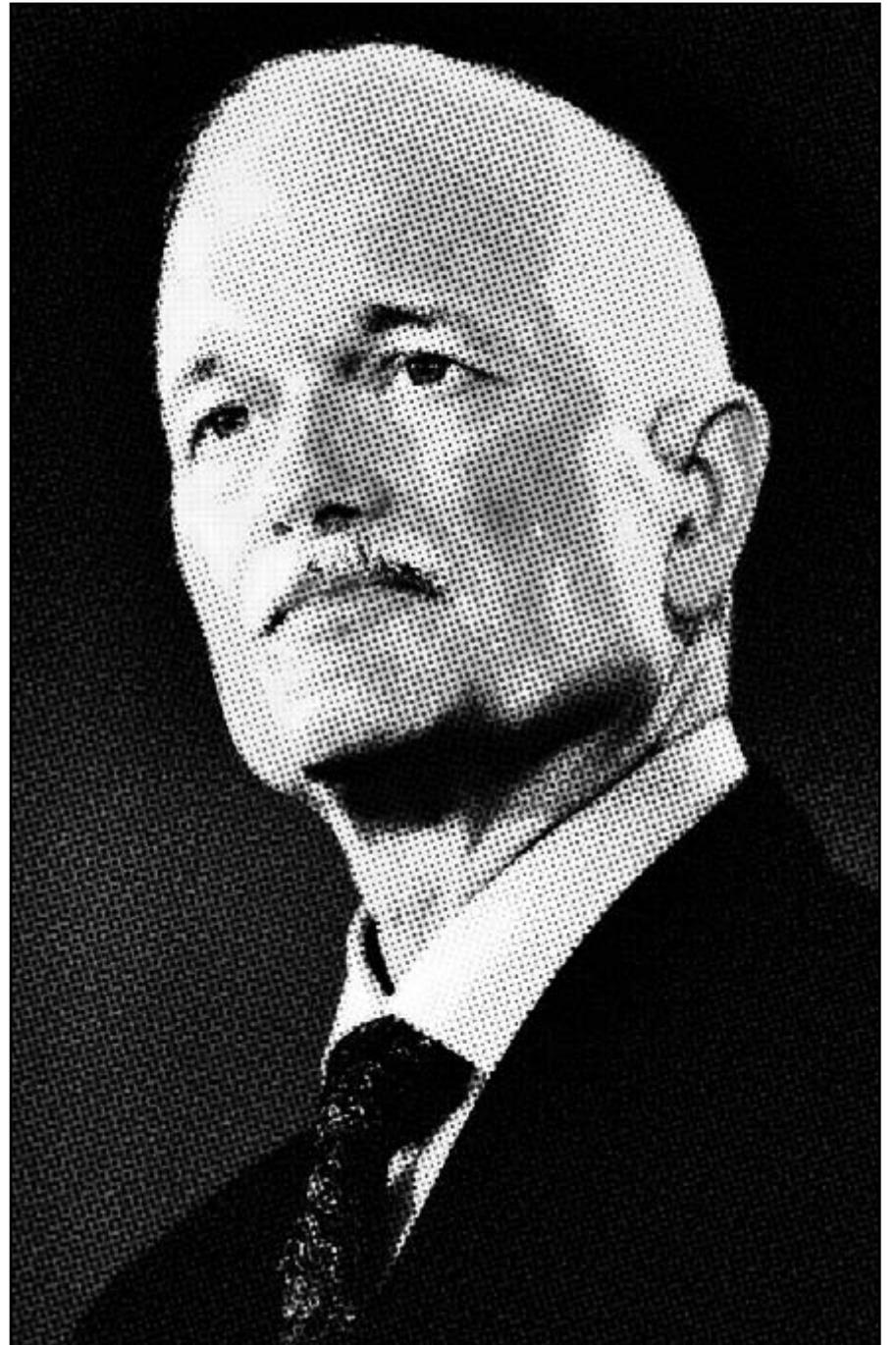
Layton's death was particularly shocking as he was in his political prime. He was popular, his party managed to achieve a historic breakthrough and he would have been poised to become the first NDP prime minister in Canada's history. Now the NDP's success could evaporate as suddenly as it materialised — this is doubly true with the perceived architect of last election's result gone. To understand what the next NDP leader is up against, it would help to determine what exactly Layton's "legacy" was. Some have dubbed him a "visionary." Some, like the *Globe and Mail's* Jeffrey Simpson, strongly dispute that claim. It is true that he did not differ, in any radical sense, from the party mainstream. If anything, he brought it closer to the centre.

Yet, his message clearly resonated with the electorate, which returned the NDP with 103 seats, more than double the number that Ed Broadbent had managed in the 1980s. What resonated was Layton successfully contrasting himself with Stephen Harper. The NDP offered hope and respect. Harper and the Tories offered negativity and attack ads. The NDP offered

openness and democracy, the Conservatives offered prorogation and quasi-dictatorship. Most of the NDP leader's success can be traced to his skill as a campaigner. He had no grand plan akin to Trudeau's "Just Society," but he was offering an optimistic yet pragmatic alternative to the governing status quo. Unfortunately for whoever is to succeed Layton as leader, the cult of personality surrounding the former leader has already been embedded into mainstream political consciousness and it will be impossible for the new leader to live up to the public expectations while mimicking Layton's style.

The more complex question, however, is a regional one. Canada's politics have always been regionalist — West versus East, Anglophone versus Francophone, urban versus rural. Generally, it had been thought that support in Quebec and Ontario was necessary and sufficient to form a majority government in Canada — after all, that's why the Liberals were so successful. However, the paradigm may be shifting — Harper's Conservatives managed to win a majority government with only 16 percent support and five seats in Quebec. The NDP, on the other hand, did exceptionally well in Quebec for the first time in the party's history. The "Orange Wave" started in Quebec and, in many ways, was largely confined to that province, considering the NDP did not significantly improve their seat-count elsewhere. Support in Quebec, however, is a mixed blessing. Not only can it disappear overnight (as the Bloc Quebecois found out), but it comes with decades of nationalist baggage. Of course the NDP shouldn't abandon Quebec, but it needs to establish itself as a federalist presence built on social democracy rather than a Bloc clone built on nationalism. Failure to do so could come at the heavy price of western alienation.

With the renewed focus on Quebec, people ignored the emerging influence of the West.





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Quebec gave the NDP opposition status, but the west gave the Conservatives a majority government. The new NDP leader, however, can take advantage of this by chipping away at the Tory power base. With the exception of Alberta, the NDP has had historical support in the western provinces. Despite the party's current weakness in the prairies, it is in an excellent position in British Columbia: some well-established and competent caucus members represent B.C. ridings, the provincial NDP is fairing relatively well in public opinion and the province has a larger urban population than the prairie provinces, which works in favour of progressive parties. Somebody capable of patiently cultivating that base would be an ideal leader.

While region no longer plays as important a role in Canadian politics as it once did (and it should by no means be the only factor at play in the NDP leadership election), it remains vital to winning elections. The new leader must carefully tread the line between regional and national appeal — no easy task. In addition, the new leader will have to be sufficiently different from Jack

Layton without alienating those voters who were drawn into voting for the NDP due to the former leader's style of politics. In short, the new leader must have a connection with both the West and Quebec, hold an important enough portfolio within the caucus to be qualified, yet be enough of a "blank slate" to the public that Layton's replacement isn't judged by the Layton standard. Under these criteria, Peter Julian, the MP for Burnaby-New Westminster, critic for international trade and fully bilingual graduate of the Université du Québec à Montréal is a perfect example of the type of leader the NDP needs.

Considering the challenges of redefining the NDP along ideological as well as regional lines and filling Layton's shoes, it's a wonder that anybody even wants the job. The NDP has more to gain as well as more to lose than the party has ever had. Much can go wrong for the NDP without Layton. However, if the cards are played right during the leadership convention, the "Orange Wave" could just be the beginning of the Dipper's success story.

## HISTORY OF THE NDP

**1933:** The CCF is formed with James Woodsworth as leader.

**1935:** In the general election, the CCF sends seven Members of Parliament to the House of Commons.

**1940:** The CCF wins eight seats.

**1945:** M.J. Coldwell is elected leader of the party. The CCF wins 28 seats in the election.

**1956:** The Winnipeg Declaration is written to quell widespread fears about communism. It is more moderate than the Regina Manifesto written at the party's formation.

**1958:** In a disastrous general election campaign, the CCF loses 20 seats, winning only eight. This prompts the party to formally ally itself with organisations like the Canadian Labour Congress, and leads to the formation of the NDP.

**1961:** The New Democratic Party of Canada is formed by combining the CCF with the Canadian Labour Congress. Tommy Douglas becomes party leader.

**1962:** The NDP gains 10 MPs, winning 18 seats.

**1971:** David Lewis is elected to lead the NDP.

**1974:** Ed Broadbent becomes party leader.

**1979:** The NDP wins 26 seats, and the next year gaining six more.

**1984:** The NDP sends 30 MPs to Parliament.

**1988:** The NDP wins 43 seats, reaching the previous peak of its popularity.

**1989:** Audrey McLaughlin is elected leader of the NDP. She is the first woman to lead a federal political party.

**1993:** Disaster for the NDP, losing official party status,

sending only nine MPs to the House of Commons.

**1995:** Alexa McDonough becomes leader of the NDP.

**1997:** The NDP wins seats for 21 MPs, making strong gains in Atlantic Canada for the first time.

**2000:** The NDP wins 13 seats.

**2002:** Alexa McDonough announces her resignation.

**2003:** Jack Layton is elected head of the NDP.

**2004:** Jack Layton is elected the Member of Parliament for the Toronto-Danforth riding.

**2008:** Layton signs an accord with Liberal leader Stéphane Dion and the Bloc Québécois's Gilles Duceppe to form a coalition government to replace Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

**February 5, 2010:** Layton announces he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

**March 4, 2011:** Layton has hip surgery at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital after suffering a micro fracture which had developed into a full fracture.

**March 25, 2011:** Layton votes in favour of non-confidence in government over contempt of parliament, triggering the latest federal election.

**May 2, 2011:** Layton is re-elected in Toronto-Danforth and leads the NDP to 103 seats in parliament to become the Leader of the Official Opposition for the first time in NDP history.

**July 25, 2011:** Layton announces he will be taking a temporary leave of absence from his post to fight a newly diagnosed cancer.

**August 22, 2011:** Jack Layton passes away in Toronto at the age of 61.

Sources: [mapleleafweb.com/old/features/leadership/ndp/leadership\\_timelines.html](http://mapleleafweb.com/old/features/leadership/ndp/leadership_timelines.html)  
[globalsaskatoon.com/Pages/Story.aspx?id=6442468021](http://globalsaskatoon.com/Pages/Story.aspx?id=6442468021)

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# The football season is ready for kickoff

A preview of the Dinos football 2011–12 year

Gauntlet photo archive

**Joseph Sandler**  
Gauntlet Sports

The University of Calgary Dino football squad rush into the 2011–12 season with high expectations as an extra push. As the reigning three-straight conference winners and two-time Vanier Cup finalists, the Dinos enter the season with a lot of pressure. In the tough Canada West conference, the Dinos will compete without seven former All-Canadians who either graduated or moved on to the CFL. Head coach Blake Nil remains optimistic, with many new recruits and returning stars ready to carry on the competition.

“We have always been a team with substantial guys that can handle losing a player and filling that gap with a talented athlete,” he said. “That’s what we rely on now. Our biggest issue is just to keep rebuilding the depth.”

Missing from the roster this year are five starters: two-time MVP quarterback Eric Glavic, receivers Nathan Coehoorn and Anthony Parker and offensive linemen Alex Krausnick-Groh and Paul Swiston. Nil acknowledged that one of the greatest challenges the team faces is the tremendous turnover of players and the implementation of a brand new offensive system for the first time in five years. The Dinos will be employing a 30-de-

fensive scheme, one that Nil said is dynamic, flexible and easy to recruit for.

The fourth-ranked Dinos football team began the 2011–12 season in dramatic fashion, defeating the Manitoba Bisons 35–21 in Winnipeg on Saturday. For the first time in four years the Dinos

**“ We have always been a team with substantial guys that can handle losing a player and filling that gap with a talented athlete.**

—Blake Nil,  
Dinos head coach

won the season opener.

The roster against the Bisons, however, remained similar to when the Dinos defeated them in 2010. Returning players are running backs Matt Walter, Steven Lumbala and Anthony Woodson, and receivers Chris Dobko and Taylor Nil who are expected to shoulder the load offensively. Eric Dzwilewski, 2010 Canada Interuniversity Sport rookie of the year, will quarterback the offence this year. Dzwilewski brings a 4–1 record as a CIS starter and incredibly active legs that will create a challenge for opposing defences.

The Dinos will focus more on balance and possession, allowing the defence more time to rest on the sidelines.

“You have to have balance. If you are one-dimensional you limit your capabilities,” said assistant coach Greg DeLaval, who returned to the Dinos after a few seasons with the University of Toronto’s football program. Former CFLer and NFLer Pat MacDonald will be working with the defen-

sive line to develop an already solid front.

Dinos fans can expect much of the same on defence. Returning is 2010 Canada West Defensive Player of the Year linebacker Sam Hurl and 2009 CIS Rookie of the Year defensive end Linden Gaydosh.

Halfbacks Tye Noble and Doctor Cassama, cornerbacks Chudi Nzekwu and Michael Lau and McGill transfers Mike Edem and Jesse Zimmer make up the secondary.

With the huge turnover of players, Nil acknowledges the challenges facing this year’s squad. “Special teams needs to be improved and we have lost a little depth,” he said. However, he be-

lieves the Dinos can bring home the Vanier Cup this year. “You have to be healthy when the playoffs start. When it comes time to play the big game, you have to play your best. You need to be consistent, you need to prove you deserve to be there.”

The Dinos proved themselves during the pre-season when they crushed provincial rivals the University of Alberta Golden Bears 49–14.

For the season opener, the first in four years not against the Saskatchewan Huskies, the Dinos entered the game as the heavy favourite. Despite the favour, the Bisons surprised spectators by coming out strong and putting the Dinos in an early deficit.

The Dinos quickly fell behind when Bison quarterback Khaled Williams drove his team to the six-yard line. Bison first-year running back Anthony Coombs swept out to the left running into the Dinos end untouched. The Dinos had difficulty keeping up with the speedy running back who put up 167 offensive yards and two touchdowns.

The Bisons left the first quarter up three after a field goal from kicker Nick Boyd.

During the second quarter, the Dinos offence seemed to gain some traction and were able to put together a five-play, 30-yard drive. The Dinos took their first lead when Walter rumbled 49

yards through a sedan-sized hole created by offensive linemen Carson Rockhill and Reed Alexander.

The Dinos took a 17–16 lead heading to half time.

The Bisons opened the second half with a bang, taking the lead off the kickoff on a 91-yard scamper by Bison tailback Nic Demski.

The Dinos offence appeared to awake after this point and strung together an impressive seven-play, 53-yard drive that was snuffed out by Bison linebacker Thomas Hall.

After a good punt and cover, Coombs struck the Dinos again. Breaking three tackles and demonstrating his blazing speed, Coombs and the Bisons opened up a 14-point lead after his 90-yard touchdown reception.

Then came the comeback after relentless pressure from the Dinos defensive front caused three Bison fumbles. Timely catches by Nil, a tremendous rushing effort by Lumbala and a spectacular reception by Dobko put the Dinos up with 22 seconds remaining.

The suspenseful season opener provides a look into what is sure to be an exciting football season for the Dinos. The 2011–12 Dinos football squad has all the right tools to live up to high expectations.

The KICKOFF begins 7 p.m. on Sept. 9th at McMahon Stadium.

# Olympic Oval ready for the world

\$9.7 million dollar renovations mean the Oval is leak free

**Erin Shumlich**  
Sports Editor

A leaky roof at the Olympic Oval created bumps and grooves in the ice which caused unwanted obstacles for speed skaters. Since opening 24 years ago, rainy days meant hazardous conditions at the Oval for skaters who often had to dodge pylons and water buckets.

The Olympic Oval just completed its largest project since opening in 1987 for the 1988 Olympics. The \$9.7 million project means skaters will be housed under a leak-free roof.

Oval associate director and two-time Olympic gold medalist Catriona Le May Doan said the construction means that athletes will continue to train at the “number one training facility around the world.”

“We are starting the season and we are a new and improved facility,” she said. “We have a brand

new roof and this is truly going to be the home for speed skating where more world champions will be developed.”

The new roof closed the book on all capital submissions over the last seven years said Oval director Kameron Kiland. The Oval refurbishment corrected codes compliance issues, electrical inefficiencies and upgraded timing and refrigeration systems.

“This is a new beginning,” said Kiland. “We are resetting the clock on the world’s best facility when it comes to speed skating. It’s another 20 years of guaranteed home for Speed Skating Canada.”

Le May Doan said the Olympic Oval is the best training facility around the world, not just for speed skaters, but for all athletes. During the project’s unveiling, the Oval was booming with activity — the University of Calgary women’s hockey team practiced on centre ice, short track speed skaters zoomed by and the Chi-

nese national speed skating team jogged around the track.

“This is a facility that is for our entire community,” said Le May Doan. “It seems like just a few months ago we saw many of the athletes in Vancouver win medals and those athletes were training right here. Athletes are training right now and are looking forward to the next Olympics.”

Because of the altitude, the Oval has some of the fastest ice in the world — athletes from around the world flock to it for training.

It’s clear the facility needs to continually stay in prime condition. The refurbishment guarantees the building’s lifespan for another 20 years.

WinSport Canada, which bid on behalf of Calgary to host the Olympic winter games, ensures the continued use of Olympic venues to further develop athletes. WinSport, formally the Calgary Olympic Development Association, provided \$9.7 million for



Erin Shumlich/the Gauntlet

the roof refurbishment and will continue to provide \$2.4 million annually for the next 20 years for continued maintenance.

“When you walk in these buildings, you recognize that it has provided us the opportunity to continue to develop athletes,” said WinSport Canada’s chief executive officer Dan O’Neill. “If you look around at the activity here every day, you know it’s worth fixing.”

A hundred per cent of the roof

was either recycled or re-used for the refurbishment.

“The roof is the final chapter of this book that we now can close,” said Kiland. “We are officially watertight. The Oval is a vital importance for aspiring athletes — they definitely want to come to the Olympic Oval. Athletes are the success and passion of this building.”

The project finished just in time for the speed skating trials starting in mid-September.

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# Dinos men get ready to hit the ice

## A look into the 2011–12 men's hockey season

**Taylor McKee**  
Gauntlet Sports

In the world of collegiate hockey, the off-season hardly affords time to rest on the laurels of last season, no matter how substantive the accomplishments may have been. With a finite number of eligible years to play, Canada Inter-university Sport talent is both given and taken away at the end of every season. This constant turnover means that recruiting becomes the most important part of building a championship-calibre team every season.

The University of Calgary Dinos men's hockey season saw tremendous progress last year, but was soured by defeat in the University Cup held in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The season ended with a trip to the CIS championship and a pair of heartbreaking one-goal losses at the hands of the University of New Brunswick — the eventual national champions — and the University of Western Ontario respectively. The loss against UNB saw the Dinos surrender a goal with 4.1 seconds remaining in the third period to lose 2–1. Despite the unceremonious exit from the University Cup, last season's accolades included the Dinos' first trip to the CIS championship

since 2001. Dustin Butler was named the nation's top goaltender and head coach Mark Howell was named the 2011 CIS coach of the year. A first rate coaching staff includes former NHL regulars Cory Cross and Brad Isbister as assis-

fifth-year players, including Aaron Richards and Torrie Wheat, who combined for 31 points in 37 games in the 2010–11 regular season. This year, however, the Dinos will feature one of the best recruiting classes for the U of C in



Gauntlet photo archive

tant coaches teamed with Brad Kirkwood and Howell.

The Dinos are looking to build off the success of last season and assert themselves as a Canada West powerhouse and a threat to return to the CIS championship once again.

The defeat in Fredericton was the final CIS game for four Dino

recent years. Offensively, the Dinos welcome five former WHLers: Dylan Hood, Thomas Frazee, Taylor Stefishen and Max Ross join the Calgary Hitmen standout Tyler Fiddler to replace the outgoing senior forwards. Fiddler, a former 30-goal scorer in 2009–10, was a member of the 2010 WHL champion Calgary Hitmen, tallying 12

points in 22 playoff appearances while maintaining a plus-eight rating. Fiddler and fellow 30-goal scorer Dylan Hood will add scoring depth to a team thin on offensive prowess — the team ranked third last in the Canada West Conference and 26th overall in the CIS with 82 goals scored. Howell is confident in his new forward recruits: "It was important for us to get some top-end forwards after graduating some guys last year ... all of these guys fit into what we want to do."

When summarizing the additions made during the summer, Howell added "we are very optimistic about our chances this year — we have great goaltending, great defence and we've got some excellent pieces up front."

If one is to believe the often-observed hockey adage that goaltending wins championships, the Dinos may have to start making room in their trophy case. Perhaps the most intriguing member of the new recruits is six-foot-two former Saint John Sea Dog goaltender Jacob DeSerres. Easily one of the top goaltending recruits of 2011–12, DeSerres was a member of the 2011 Memorial Cup Champion Sea Dogs and captured the QMJHL's Jacques Plante trophy for best goals against average in 2010–2011. DeSerres was a third-round

draft pick — 84th overall — of the Philadelphia Flyers in 2008 and went to the Memorial Cup twice, once with Saint John and once with Brandon. However, as previously noted with CIS goaltender of the year Dustin Butler, the Dinos now have an embarrassment of riches between the pipes. The duo of Butler and back-up Kris Lazaruk were nothing short of spectacular last season, sharing the Canada West Adam Kryczka trophy for lowest goals against average last season. Adding DeSerres to the roster surely gives the U of C one of the deepest goaltending depth charts in the country.

There is plenty of reason to be excited for the upcoming season of Dinos men's hockey with this most recent recruiting class supplementing last year's roster. This year will bring higher expectations, and with it, pressure to succeed rather than the satisfaction of progress. No one will be surprised to see a strong Dinos squad this year and a freshly fashioned target placed firmly on the backs of the U of C. But judging by the new roster, returning veterans and coaching staff, the 2011–12 Dinos will be ready.

The season opener is on Sept. 9th at 7 p.m. against the University of Alberta Golden Bears in Edmonton.

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*Narrowcasted News*

Radio Gauntlet

CALGARY 90.9 FM cjsw

fridays 11:30 am | cjsw 90.9 fm | commentary | interviews | analysis

# Sports games now broadcast live

Erin Shumlich  
Sports Editor

Students across Western Canada now have the opportunity to watch their favourite University sports, regardless of whether they are in attendance or not. All 14 members of the Canada West University Athletic Association, including the University of Calgary, will use CanadaWest.tv as their official web-based broadcast. All Dinosaurs basketball and volleyball home games will be broadcast on the network, along with feature games from a selection of other sports, including hockey, football and soccer. All non-televised Dinosaurs football home games will be streamed live.

On Aug. 24th, CWUAA announced a partnership with Stretch Internet in order to launch CanadaWest.tv, the first of its kind in Canada. In a press release Canada West vice-president of

marketing Ben Matchett said he was thrilled with the partnership. He said the online network "will greatly enhance the experience of fans who want to catch live Canada West action and cannot make it to the game."

"Rather than our fans spending time searching the web for links to a broadcast, they can go to one place and find everything they are looking for," he said. "[We] have worked very hard to see this happen and we are looking forward to a great initial season."

The website will be available for the 2011-12 season and beyond.

All streamed games will be available online, all Flash 10.1-enabled mobile devices and Apple iOS devices. For the first time in Canadian university sport, iPhone and iPad users will be able to watch games from their devices.

"I cannot emphasize enough how thrilled we are to partner with Canada West," said Stretch Inter-

net president Ryan Ermeling.

Ermeling said Stretch Internet's platform is suited perfectly with Canada West and its member institutions.

"Fans will enjoy an incredibly user-rich experience, with high-quality live and on-demand video along with integrated live stats and other features on both desktop and mobile platforms. Since our very first discussions in Calgary, it has been evident to us that quality and professionalism are of the utmost importance to the conference, and we are confident we will deliver on both fronts," said Ermeling.

The first video stream was on Sept. 2nd when the Regina Rams took on the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in the Canada West football opener. The basketball season begins on Nov. 4th — a conference-wide commitment has been made to showcase all Canada West games this season.

The first Dino broadcast on the site is KICKOFF 2011, the football home opener on Sept. 9th when the UBC Thunderbirds visit McMahon Stadium.

"[The website] provides us with a unique opportunity as a conference and as individual schools to have our product seen by fans across Western Canada and around the world," said Matchett. "Our new mobile platform means they will not miss a minute of the action no matter where they go."

Of the four Canada Interuniversity Sport conferences, CWUAA is consistently the most decorated and a leader of innovation with the launch of CanadaWest.tv. The website will also provide a scoreboard and statistics in addition to live games, making it the one-stop shop for university sports. Archived broadcasts will be available and during select games you can talk with other sports fans with live blog and chat capabilities.



Adrienne Shumlich/the Gauntlet

## Longboarders race for gold at the end of the rainbow

The International Gravity Sports Association held a longboarding World Cup event at COP on Sept. 2nd-4th. The competition awarded the largest cash prize ever in North America, a whopping \$12,000. The course was more technical, with competitors reaching speeds of "only" 70-80 km/h.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

## Socio-Cultural Facilitators

The English Language Program is looking for team players possessing initiative and cross cultural sensitivity for the following part-time positions:

### ESL Socio-Cultural Facilitator

To lead and assist in the facilitation of social and cultural events on Friday's between September and July. Two weekends are involved.

The applicant should demonstrate:

- In-depth mastery of the English Language
- Energy, dependability, maturity, and leadership
- Organizational and time-management skills
- Event planning and project coordination experience
- Familiarity with Calgary and local tourist destinations
- Willingness to participate in outdoor activities
- Second Language skills and First Aid an asset

Please email your resume and cover letter to Ms. Erica Amery by Friday, September 16, 2011. If successful, you will be contacted for an interview.

Erica Amery, English Language Excursion Coordinator Continuing Education, EDT 232, University of Calgary 2500 University Dr. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4  
eamery@ucalgary.ca



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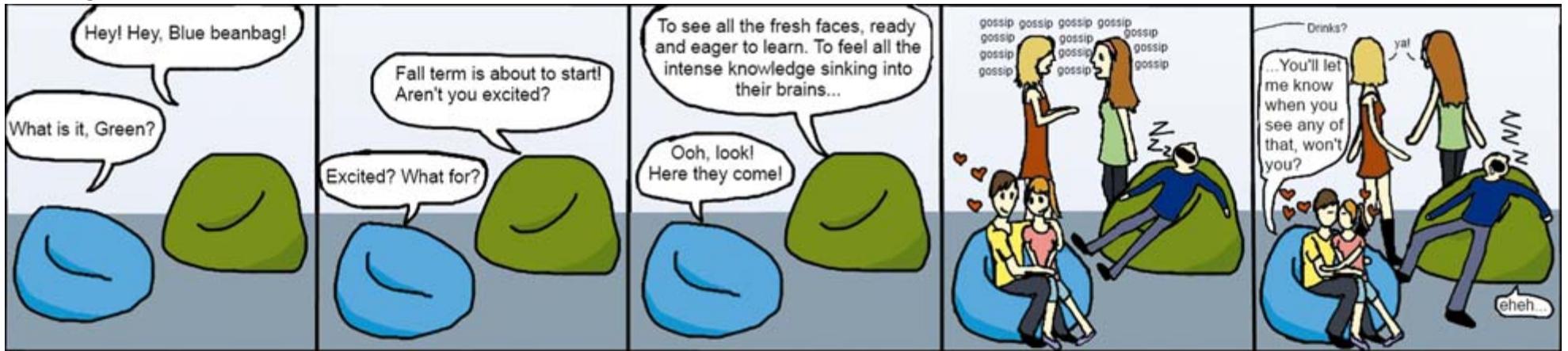
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Network Admin



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# Grammar nut finally cracks

## "We used spellcheck just in case"

James McDonall

"A little nutty myself"



The paper has learned that beloved campus hero and self-proclaimed grammar nut, Geti T. Wright, has apparently suffered a breakdown following exposure to one too many local television personalities. Details of the event are slowly becoming clear. Ms. Alma Parsons, a witness, describes how Mr. Wright was in the lobby of the local television station when he suddenly removed all of his clothes and wildly waved his hands in the air, shrieking "That's bad grammar — do it right! Do it right! Do it right!" She confirms that a butterfly net was used to put him in custody, where officials say he will be given an opportunity to chill out a bit.

According to Parsons, Wright was in the lobby of CLHK TV to express his indignation at several recent on-air infractions when the station manager, I. Messi Tup, told him "The thing is, is that we usually always do pretty good, but will be more firmer on our grammar in the future." Apparently this remark, though well-intentioned, was enough to initiate the mental implosion.

Wright is long known to have had issues with the quality of

grammar among local professionals, and his responses to some of their errors have caused him a great deal of trouble over the years.

One well-remembered incident in which a reporter apparently said "this will certainly play a factor in future developments" prompted him to hack into the station's computer, delete the reporter's profile, and post a memo to all employees announcing that he had been fired for being a complete and utter moron.

Over the years Wright has cited many examples of "unbelievable faux pas" heard in the local media. Indeed, he once suggested, perhaps somewhat prophetically, that these blunders would "some day drive me crazy."

At the time of this paper's last interview with Wright, he stated a personal belief that those wishing to earn a living by the use of words should be held to a standard of grammatical care far higher than the average communicator, and that those presenting themselves as informers or educators, or even as being educated, had an irreducible responsibility to ensure crisp, clear, accurate and efficient communication at all times. He further declared that there was "absolutely no room for negotiation in this."

Called a kook by some and a genius by others, Wright has cer-

tainly captured the imagination of our readers. Phones rang off the hook following his last visit to the campus when crowds of fans rallied in Turkey Square to support his radical approach to journalistic professionalism. It is true that some think he should loosen his knickers and relax a bit, but many more support furiously his

demands for the protection and preservation of proper, accurate grammar in a world that is rapidly forgetting how to communicate longhand.

No actual charges have been laid, despite the unexpected thrill for Parsons. The station manager refused to comment on this, indicating only that "charges are a

whole nother issue." He did, however, express his hope that Wright would receive the treatment necessary for a rapid return to society, and that he would then "get off our backs already."

Next time:

A Grammar Nut Sport Star Q&A.



**"Eats, shoots and leaves?!"**

**Are you fucking kidding me you little punk?!"**



# WE HAVE ISSUES

## And we need help!

The *Gauntlet* is always looking for volunteers to help us out with photos, illustrations, proofreading and production, so drop by our office.

The *Gauntlet* is a fun place to learn great skills.



Room 319, MacHall • [volunteer@thegauntlet.ca](mailto:volunteer@thegauntlet.ca)