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CASE SETS
NATIONAL
PRECEDENT

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BRINGS LIGHT
TO BASEMENT
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CALGARY LOCAL MUSIC LIBRARY

PG. 6



"Like Passover after a fast night out on the town."

This week's golden spatula goes to Domino's Barbecue Chicken Pineapple pizza. After years of discourse in the office when it came to ordering pizza, the staff at the Gauntlet have finally found the perfect toppings. Volunteer for the Gauntlet and you too can also enjoy this culinary masterpiece on Tuesday nights.

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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 thegauntlet.ca. The Gauntlet offices are located on Treaty 7 land.

The Gauntlet is printed on recycled paper and uses an ink that will never live up to your mother's high expectations. We urge you to recycle/consume a puny an adorable newspaper but using the Gauntlet.

Design by Samantha Lucy

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MacHall case sets national precedent

Regardless of who you think should own and operate MacHall, the legal dispute surrounding the building will impact more than just the University of Calgary and its Students' Union.

When the lawsuit eventually reaches its end, that end will say a lot about student-owned infrastructure on university campuses. It will say even more about how universities and their student associations will interact in the future.

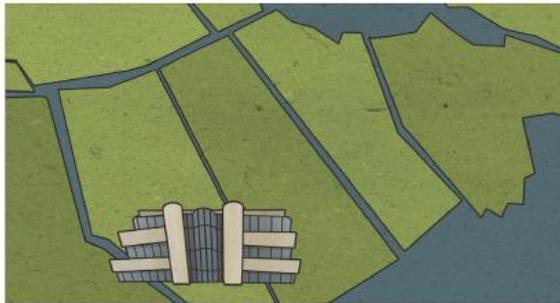
Student officials from across Alberta drove to Calgary on May 5 to attend an injunction hearing filed by the SU for temporary operation of the building—the first time the dispute finally made it to a courtroom.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations also condemned the university's actions in the dispute shortly before the hearing.

"These actions have far reaching implications and create a deeply concerning precedent regarding the relationships between universities and student associations across Canada," the statement said.

But the SU's actions set a precedent too.

Whether they're right or wrong is up to the Canadian legal system, but the fact that the SU had the chutzpah to flat-out sue the university when they felt like negotiations weren't



SAMANTHA LUCY

going anywhere is a big deal.

In the context of Canadian student associations, that just doesn't happen. Unions don't sue their universities. They engage in years of closed-door negotiations that wear both parties down and force compromise.

When building their new student centre, the University of British Columbia's Alma Mater Society (AMS) went through three years of negotiations to establish an operating agreement with UBC. A 2010 agreement cites capital contributions from the AMS of \$12.3 million and the university of \$25 million, with the remaining budget paid for by a loan from the university to the union. To avoid interest on the loan, the AMS gave up rights to land around the new building in exchange for then-present-day rates.

If we're going on history, the MacHall dispute should have been solved in one of many closed-door negotiation sessions like those at UBC. But instead of reaching a compromise behind closed doors, the SU made the dispute public in September and followed that up with a very real and very serious lawsuit.

This aggressive approach isn't entirely on the SU. On May 2, SU president Stephan Guscott said he extended an "olive branch" to university administration, suggesting they return to a deal discussed in mediation. The university's legal team refused.

Our SU is fairly unique in the scope and power of their operation. Revenue from MacHall means that our union fees are some of the lowest in the country, while the SU still provides

more services than similar organizations across Canada.

In Ontario, autonomy and restrictions on students' unions are set by university administration, giving those administrations greater power over the finances and actions of students' unions. An SU in Ontario probably wouldn't have the resources for a legal battle like this, let alone a \$500,000 building defence fund.

This lawsuit reinforces our SU's assertions that they are on a level playing field with administration. And so far, the university is forced to address them as such.

The flurry of heated open letters and statements over the past year establish this dispute not as a university battling its insubordinate student association, but as two organizations that respect each other's influence enough to fight back.

In Calgary, student representatives decided to sue the university. And no matter how the battle turns out, it might inspire other associations across Canada to take similar stands on issues relevant to them.

It also might make other university administrations remember that lawsuits can happen to anyone.

Melanie Woods
Gauntlet Editorial Board

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STUDENTS' SU UNION

MACHALL »

SU retains operation of MacHall until hearing reconvenes June 2

Scott Strasser
News EditorMelanie Woods
Editor-in-Chief

Debate as to who owns and operates MacHall will not end any time soon, but the University of Calgary Students' Union will continue to operate the building in the short-term.

An injunction request filed by the SU to prevent university administration from seizing control of the building failed to reach a conclusion after three hours before the Court of Queen's Bench on May 5.

The hearing will reconvene June 3 at 2:00 p.m. Until then, the SU will continue to operate MacHall under the terms of the 1999 License of Occupation, Operation and Management Agreement (LOOMA) and collect rent from third-party tenants.

More than 80 people, most of them students, attended the standing-room only hearing at the Calgary Courts Centre.

Members of student associations across the province were also in attendance. The Students' Association of MacEwan University in Edmonton hopes to break ground on their own student centre in spring 2017.

"We're in the midst of building our own building right now and this is something that weighs heavily on our minds," SAMAC president Danika McConnell said.

The hearing comes after years of confrontation between the U of C and SU over the building's ownership.

Both sides have exchanged hostilities since years of failed closed-door negotiations were made public in September 2015. The SU issued a statement of claim in October, suing the U of C for 55 per cent majority ownership of MacHall. The university filed their statement of defence on Nov. 10.

Throughout the hearing, the SU's lawyers cited millions of dollars of student investment as justification for their 55 per cent ownership claims. The SU argued that letters and other documentation from MacHall's early history state them as majority co-owners of the building.

The 1981 operating agreement marks the beginning of what the SU's lawyers called a "watering down" of language that suggested



The hearing will reconvene at 2:00 p.m. on June 3.

the SU were majority owners. They said the language used in documentation changes from "owners" to "occupiers" of MacHall with no justification.

In their response, the university's lawyers called the original 1969 agreement — which cites the SU as co-owners — "a misnomer." They argued that as owners of the land the university was situated on, the university was privy to fixtures that were on that land.

The university's lawyers disputed the notion of SU ownership, stating there was "never any grant or transfer of any ethereal interests" or subdivision of the land.

The SU's legal team accused the university's lawyers of "picking and choosing" which documents supported their case.

The university argued that the 35 years of "free rent" and revenue collected from their operating agreements since 1981 were more than enough compensation for the union's initial investments into the building.

The SU disagrees.

"For that to be justified compensation, a decision would've been written down at some point," SU

president Stephan Guscott said.

University administration initially stated they planned to assume control of MacHall after the original 1999 agreement expired on Dec. 9. However, both sides agreed to enter closed-door mediation on Dec. 3, extending the LOOMA for the duration of mediation. The mediation period ended after talks broke down April 15.

Guscott said the SU sent an "olive branch" proposed agreement to the university on May 2 as a last minute effort at a truce.

"I was trying to see if there was any way we could return to a deal we discussed in mediation," Guscott said. "Unfortunately, the university was unwilling to engage in a discussion."

U of C senior director of strategic communications Scott Donaldson said before the hearing that if the university assumes management of MacHall, the building will remain fully open and operational. He said the SU would continue to run all businesses they currently operate in MacHall and collect the revenues.

"The university is committed to working with the SU to continue

MELANIE WOODS (TOP) AND JARRETT EDMUND (BOTTOM)

to support student programs and services in MacHall through the utilization of net proceeds received from third-party tenants," said Donaldson in a statement.

Outgoing SU vice-president operations and finance Sarah Pousette said in late February that the SU had already spent \$150,000–\$175,000 in legal fees on the dispute. In March, the SU approved the creation of a \$500,000 "MacHall defence fund" to continue funding the dispute.

Guscott said the only winners in a lengthy legal battle "would be the lawyers."

"Both sides have acknowledged that going to court is not good," Guscott said. "It's not good for the university and it'll damage the reputation of the university. But I'm not willing to give up the rights that students have paid for, that alumni have paid for."

With the LOOMA extended, the SU will continue to collect revenue from third-party tenants until the reconvened hearing on June 2.

The university declined to comment on the hearing until a verdict is reached.

short form

How long do you think the MacHall lawsuit will last?



"Hopefully not too long."

– Summer Abdalla,
third-year linguistics



"All I know is it's been going on for a while."

– Rushda Rubaia,
third-year french



"I'd say for years."

– Thomas Kerr,
fourth-year business



"Until one party gives up."

– Jeremy Morris,
Biochemistry PhD

Photos: Jarrett Edmund
Interviews: Scott Strasser



ALEXANDER KIM

One year in: an NDP government's impact on the University of Calgary

Scott Strasser
News Editor

The Alberta New Democratic Party was elected on May 5 2015, ending a 44-year Progressive Conservative dynasty. The NDP's victory came as a shock, upsetting Alberta's long-standing political identity.

A year later, the *Gauntlet* compiled a list of some of the biggest changes that have impacted the University of Calgary. We spoke to U of C NDP president Ryan Carter and Wildrose on Campus vice-president external Kean Bexte to get their thoughts on a year of orange governance.

1. Implemented a two year tuition freeze

The NDP implemented a two-year tuition freeze in September 2015 after restoring post-secondary funding that had previously been cut. Under the freeze, the cost of tuition is not allowed to rise at Alberta's post-secondary institutions until 2017. The government also reversed the 2.2 per cent inflation-tied increase approved by U of C Board of Governors in 2014-15 and rolled back faculty-specific market modifiers.

Carter: The idea was, if we're to raise tuition there has to be some kind of benefit for it — be it better programs, better buildings, something. The tuition raise the PCs were offering back in 2014 had no discernible benefit other than to fill the coffers of the government due to a drop in oil prices. In an interest to retain the quality of Alberta's future, [the NDP] decided it would be better to not cut from [advanced education], but instead look to other efficiencies.

Bexte: Students need to understand that every dollar that's going into

subsidizing their degree is a dollar that's going into government debt. Students hate student debt and I feel they are going to hate government debt just as much when they realize government debt has interest payments. Students will be happy right now that they're paying less in tuition but they're going to be paying for it through interest payments later on.

2. Increased spending on post-secondary education

The provincial government will provide Alberta's post-secondary institutions with \$5.7 billion in funding in 2015-16, with that number increasing by two per cent to \$5.9 billion in 2016-17.

Bexte: Like I said, students hate student debt and they're going to hate government debt as well when they're the ones paying taxes. But this increase isn't nearly as substantial as we've seen in other departments in the government — a two per cent increase relative to inflation isn't that big of a deal — so I'm not going to complain about that.

Carter: For years, the post-secondary portfolio has been seen as superfluous and thus a place to cut when times are tough. Alberta's future is within these institutions — they are not superfluous and they should not be open to deep austerity cuts. With increased funding, we can hold the line on tuition and begin to improve decaying buildings and increase services for students.

3. Reintroduced the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP)

The NDP brought STEP back after the summer jobs program was cut by the PCs in 2013. Under STEP, small businesses and nonprofits can apply

to receive a \$7 per hour wage subsidy to supplement the costs of hiring students over the summer. The program is expected to support around 3,000 summer positions, but will cost taxpayers \$10 million.

Bexte: [STEP] seems like another way for the NDP to try to solve a problem that could be solved by easier means. By lowering taxes on businesses, businesses are going to be in a better position to hire students. The rhetoric the NDP have spun with this is that it supports 3,000 jobs. I think it would be much more useful to have a government program that creates 3,000 jobs rather than just supports them. And you can do that by lowering taxes.

Carter: [STEP] was talked up quite highly in the high school I went to because it was a very efficient program at getting young people into the workplace. It incentivized private business to step in to get young people work experience. When it was cut, it was just another sign of a narcissistic government saying 'we don't want to pay for this.'

4. Marlin Schmidt replaced Lori Sigurdson as the Minister of Advanced Education

Marlin Schmidt was sworn in as a cabinet minister in early February 2016. Unlike his predecessor Lori Sigurdson, Schmidt's only responsibility is the Advanced Education portfolio. Schmidt is notably the eighth minister to hold the position in just five years.

Carter: The fact the government has decided to not only increase the budget [for post-secondary], but also to give it its own dedicated minister — something that hasn't happened in a while — really speaks to their interest in helping students thrive in a

tough economy they're going to be graduating into.

Bexte: Marlin Schmidt used to be a bureaucrat with the Alberta government as a groundwater contamination specialist. This goes to show that Rachel Notley doesn't have enough experience in her cabinet to put on a piece of toast. Accidental MLAs are being thrust into positions they have zero experience for. Rachel Notley is caught in the middle, trying to shuffle what little experience she does have into portfolios that seem important at the time.

5. Renewed mental health funding for one year.

In 2013, The PCs granted \$3 million to the U of C over three years for mental health initiatives. The funding was set to expire this year, but after a lobbying campaign from the Council of Alberta University Students, most of the mental health funding to universities was renewed for one year. The U of C is set to receive \$900,000 next year to go towards mental health initiatives — \$100,000 less than the previous three years.

Carter: There are a lot of things a lot of Albertans would like to do, but when we're missing 32 per cent of our revenue, there are a lot of things that can't get done. Mental health is of course very important, and the fact that this grant is coming out is definitely a boom for students. I'd be hopeful that in the future we'd see a more concrete plan to help mental health on campus.

Bexte: Mental health needs a lot of attention. Our party really supports mental health initiatives on campuses. We'll see how this money is spent, is the more important way to look at it, rather than just how much it is.

6. Changed the Board of Governors member application process

Schmidt recently made headlines when he rejected the reappointment requests of three U of C BOG members, stating that from now on, board members' terms would not be renewed when they expired. Members would have to re-apply through "a proper recruitment process" if they wanted to continue sitting on the board. He justified his decision by pointing out that 80 per cent of BOG members were men over the age of 65, and that the board needed more diversity to reflect the university community.

Bexte: Accidental governments love the opportunity to stack boards and positions with party faithfuls. If the McDougall Centre, the chiefs of staff or their ministries are anything to go by, [the NDP] will bite at any opportunity to fill these positions with party faithful and union bosses. That's something I think students should be concerned about. We need to be concerned about increased professor salaries and the general spending ways of the university.

Carter: If our boards of governors are simply put back into place over and over, where is the accountability? Where is the responsibility? There are many governors who have done great work for the university and the community. If they were to go into a [competition] for their job, they would likely win because of the great work they've done. This would be a great way of weeding out governors who aren't pulling their weight and rewarding those who are.

Edited for brevity and clarity

FORT MCMURRAY FIRE »

Fort McMurray evacuees find refuge in University of Calgary residences

Scott Strasser
News Editor

More than 1,200 evacuees have found refuge at the University of Calgary after fleeing Fort McMurray and surrounding areas due to escalating forest fires.

With the majority of students not living on campus for the summer, multiple U of C residences are currently housing the evacuees, who began arriving May 6.

The U of C is one of four post-secondary institutions in Calgary currently housing evacuees.

U of C associate director of emergency management Bob Maber said Residence Services staff have been hard at work making the evacuees feel welcome.

"Staff have been working closely with the Calgary Emergency Management Agency, Red Cross and Alberta Health Services to make sure evacuees are receiving all of the assistance they need," Maber said. "Among other things, Residence Services staff have been making food orders, assigning rooms, answering questions and handling housekeeping duties."

Assistance is coming from across campus. The university

has arranged for evacuees to have access to Active Living facilities, as well as the Taylor Family Digital Library.

The faculty of veterinary medicine is offering shelter and care for pets and small animals, while the faculty of social work is offering counselling.

"Our thoughts are with all those affected by the disastrous fires in the northern Alberta, and with the firefighters and other first responders working tirelessly to contain it," said U of C president Elizabeth Cannon. "Please know the entire University of Calgary community is behind you, and we will continue to work hard to support you in any way we can."

Maber said Residence Services held a special Mother's Day lunch for the evacuees on May 8.

"Our staff prepared a special meal and two big tables of flowers and cards were also distributed to the evacuee moms," Maber said. "It was one more way we could extend our hospitality and make evacuees feel welcome — for moms, especially."

Keyano College student and evacuee Nada Al-Khaladi brought her family to the U of C after staying at an Edmonton hotel for three nights. She said the wildfire

forced her to miss her graduation ceremony, which would have taken place on May 6.

"It isn't an ideal situation as a family to stay in a hotel. We were thinking to settle in Edmonton, but then a couple of our friends called us and said, 'you know, the U of C is doing accommodation for evacuated families,' so we came here," Al-Khaladi said.

Around 88,000 Fort McMurray residents have evacuated the city since May 1. A mandatory evacuation order remains in place for the area.

By May 10 the wildfire had spread to 2,300 square kilometres — almost three times the size of Calgary.

Vacant U of C residences last housed evacuees following the June 2013 flood, when just under 1,200 people were lodged. As of 9:00 p.m. on May 8, 1,241 Fort McMurray evacuees were staying at the U of C.

Once residences were at capacity, university staff set up cots in the Red Gym in the kinesiology building to house another 148 people.

Maber said he's not sure how long the evacuees will stay.

"We will continue to provide assistance, but at this point the situation is very fluid," he said.

STUDENT SERVICES »



SCOTT STRASSER

By-election fills Graduate Students' Association executive roster

Scott Strasser
News Editor

The University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association rounded off their executive team for 2016-17 with a by-election on April 26 at the association's Graduate Representative Council.

Engineering student Abubaker Abdelhafiz won the position for vice-president academic, while health sciences student Yangyang Fang took vice-president external. The two join acclaimed president Sam Hossack, vice-president student life Adrienne Offenbecker and vice-president finance and services Arash Afshar.

The by-election took place after the March 14-15 GSA election was invalidated due to "minor procedural infractions" from the candidates running for the two unacclaimed positions. Around 500 votes had been cast before the election was annulled.

Abdelhafiz said he based his platform for the by-election on openness and sharing of information.

"The GSA does a lot of great work in releasing information and I want to bring some of my experience to help out and try to improve the process," Abdelhafiz said. "I'd also like to see more

students get engaged and involved in GSA work, especially Schulich students and international students — I represent the overlap of those two groups."

Fang said she ran her platform on "unity, diversity and exposure."

"The board seemed to me as a professional, committed and passionate group that I identified with and that I wanted to contribute to in a meaningful way," she said.

Although voter turnout in graduate elections is notoriously low, GSA Chief Returning Officer Jeremy Hexham called the by-election a success. Just over 300 students voted during the two-hour voting period.

"Three hundred students voting in two hours is fantastic. I very much attribute this to the great job of campaigning that all the candidates did," Hexham said.

Only five of 25 executive positions were contested in GSA elections from 2011-2016. But a surprising six candidates ran in the by-election — four for vice-president academic and two for vice-president external.

Hexham said more candidates generally run in by-elections.

The GSA represents 6,000 graduate students at the U of C. It provides services, lobbies the government and manages the Last Defence Lounge.



The Gauntlet is hiring a Summer Outreach Coordinator

The *Gauntlet's* Community Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for planning events and creating promotional materials for the Gauntlet Publications Society. They will research strategies used by campus press organizations for promotions, event hosting and distribution. They will prepare a report at the end of the summer on what they have gathered and the next steps for event planning and implementation. They will report daily to the *Gauntlet* Business Manager and weekly to the *Gauntlet* Editor-in-Chief.

The position is open to students who are enrolled in full-time schooling in the upcoming year. It is full-time, 35 hours a week. It runs from June 1 - Aug. 30 2016.

Interested applicants can submit a resume and cover letter to Editor-in-Chief Melanie Woods at eic@thegauntlet.ca by May 18 at 5:00 p.m. Interviews will be conducted in late May.

More information can be found online at thegauntlet.ca/hiring.



Wanna write news?
Then write,
news@thegauntlet.ca

LOCAL MUSIC »

Check out 30 years of local music with the CJSW Local Music Library

Jason Herring
Online Editor

After months of sifting through albums and artifacts representing Calgary's musical history, CJSW 90.9 FM is launching the Calgary Local Music Library project.

The traveling installation of 300 CDs will move through eight different branches of the Calgary Public Library over the next year, inviting locals to borrow albums and explore the past 30 years of Calgary's music.

Project coordinator Kerry Maguire says over 600 releases were submitted, meaning that less than half of the total submissions made their way into the installation. She says choosing which releases to keep made for difficult decisions.

"It was really hard. Obviously, we're not experts on everything, so it took a lot of research and going out of our comfort zones into genres we maybe don't know as much about," Maguire says. "We tried to get jazz, world music, metal, folk, rock and experimental stuff. I know it's impossible to cover everything, but I think we did a pretty good job."



Kerry Maguire and Chris Dadge sorted through over 600 submissions of local albums and musical artifacts.

MICHAEL GRONIN

Chris Dadge, a prolific member of Calgary's music scene known for his work with artists such as Lab Coast and Chad VanGalen, also helped curate the library.

"Once we had the whole collection in hand, there were maybe 100 or so releases I was familiar with already and I knew they had to be in there, so that was easy," Dadge says. "Then it was a matter of making sure each album was tied to the community in some way, which helped guide the

selection process. Like, if a band had four albums and only one was recorded in Calgary, it's an obvious choice."

Despite Dadge's long-standing veteran status in the local music scene — the musician's name appears in the credits of many albums in the library — he says the experience opened him up to a lot of new music.

"I sat and listened to stuff for hours — couple hundred albums, for sure," Dadge says. "I discovered



some really great music and it was a lot of fun to work on."

To celebrate the project's launch, CJSW hosted a concert at the Memorial Park Library, the first branch where the library will reside. The free, all-ages event highlighted music from Laura Leif, Art Bergmann and Monty — artists featured in the library.

Maguire says smaller concerts are in the works for the launch of the installation at each of the seven other branches — such as

Crowfoot and Westbrook Public Libraries — during the tour of the archive. Each branch that the archive visits will feature a listening station, and all CDs will be lendable to those with a library card.

The Local Music Library is funded through a \$30,000 grant from the Calgary Foundation.

For more information about the project and the launch show, visit cjsw.com/local-library-launch

LOCAL ART »

Pass through *Portal* at Calgary's EMMEDIA galleryHayden McBennett
Gauntlet Entertainment

Two-time Governor General Visual and Media Arts award nominee Sandra Vida will bring her interactive installment *Portal* to EMMEDIA Gallery from May 19 until June 18, with an artist talk on May 28.

Vida has created multimedia video installations for over 30 years, mastering the seamless integration of different media.

Her latest work allows the audience to literally pass through a video projection.

"What I like about producing work through the use of technology is you sometimes get to create magic," Vida says. "And it's the magic I'm interested in — the technique itself or the technology that allows me to do that. I don't want the audience to see the layers that went into producing that. It's up to me to figure out the mastery."

Portal explores the transition

from one phase of life to another through themes of mortality and aging. Vida hopes it will resonate with those of all ages.

"Even though I'm entering the twilight of my life, so to speak, there's still a lot that I want to talk about, a lot I want to experience. I still feel a very strong creative force in my life," Vida says. "Through my lifetime of experience, [a younger person] might gain something about the commonality of times of transition in any phase of life."

Vida studied English, psychology and art at the University of Calgary. Her work often incorporates social commentary with her personal narrative. She followed this trend while creating *Portal* and reminiscing about her past.

"When I went to the university, I was very interested in what makes people tick and why people are the way they are and how they are in groups and why they get themselves into such messes," Vida says.

Vida uses projection to create tangible and visual art in *Portal*, showing until June. COURTESY SANDRA VIDA

"I've found that there are lots of clues in literature. I really like that part of the creative process — kind of taking all of this broad research and honing it in to fit the message you're trying to portray."

Vida is solidifying her position as a community advocate of the

arts. She believes artists play an important role in society.

"For too long artists have been seen as separate from the rest of society, slaving away somewhere, but I really think artists are recognizing — and so are the public — that we need to be more integrated

and bring the arts into every phase of life," Vida says.

Portal will show at EMMEDIA gallery until June 28. Admission is free.

For more information on *Portal* and Sandra Vida's work, visit emmedia.ca

LOCAL MUSIC »



JARRETT EDMUND

Lab Coast's new album brings light to basement recordings

Jarrett Edmund
Photo Editor

Lab Coast released their fourth full-length album, *Remember the Moon*, on April 29. It is their first album to be released under Calgary record label Wyatt Records.

Lab Coast founding members and long-time friends Chris Dadge and David Laing have made music for over a decade. Originally performing as the Bent Spoon Ensemble alongside Scott Munro and Kevin Lee, Dadge and Laing collaborated with countless musicians including Chad VanGalen and members of The Preoccupations (formerly Viet Cong).

Their combined works were comprised of live recordings and one-off sessions, all released under the record label and artist collective Bug Incision. After touring England in 2007 as a two-piece saxophone and percussion improvisation group, Dadge and Laing began recording songs that would eventually become their first album as Lab Coast. The moniker was one of many happy accidents.

"Scott and Chris used to work at the SAIT bookstore and they would have to write up 'Lab Coasts' quite often," Laing says. "Chris had this dyslexic thing where he kept writing

'Lab Coast' accidentally. It happened often enough where it just stuck."

Dodge and Laing are joined by guitarists Sammie Smith and Henry Hseih with Darrell Hartsook on bass. *Remember the Moon* is a rousing blend of lo-fi garage rock and summer balladry. Laing's lyrics serve as the centrepieces to Dadge's carefully crafted soundscapes. Although Lab Coast has become known for basement recordings, *Remember the Moon* lets in a lot more light.

"The scope has widened for this one" says Dadge.

The resulting songs are snippets of personal reflection or sometimes simple recantations of the visual stimuli Laing experiences on long walks.

"What I like about it is that it's a glorification of mundane events, it elevates a normal everyday occurrence into something that can be showcased," Laing says.

Remember the Moon is a diverse collection and a testament to Dadge's penchant for experimentation.

"There's samples of snare drums played back on sampling keyboards, there's drums recorded at different speeds, sometimes a bass drum isn't actually a bass drum, there's pitch-shifted

percussions," says Dadge.

Despite the attention to detail, *Remember the Moon* never derails the listener. Laing says songs are fun, accessible and even addictive.

"Bored Again' is one of those songs," Laing says. "I could sing it 10 times over and never get tired."

Much like Lab Coast's roots in improv, *Remember the Moon* serves as a rejection of the conventions of formulaic music.

"It's the result of a guiding principle. We don't like to overstate things or use a huge amount of repetition," says Dadge.

Laing agrees. "Often the weird sounds are more reflective of the stuff we used to do a lot with improv. Eerie things happen and we keep them," he says.

Another happy accident occurred during the recording of the final song on the album.

"We were recording in the basement and the neighbour next door was watering the garden on Chris's house and the sprinkler was hitting the window. It ended up sounding great," says Laing. "Stuff like that you can't plan."

Remember the Moon is full of surprises. Lab Coast's latest is poised to become one of Calgary's most unforgettable records.

FOLK FEST »

All ages welcome at BassBus Folk Explosion

Rachel Woodward
Entertainment Editor

As the city prepares for this summer's 36th annual Calgary Folk music Festival, BassBus has joined forces with Folk Fest to bring an accessible, all-ages dance party to the city.

The two parties will collaborate to present the BassBus Folk Explosion on May 13 at Festival Hall. BassBus originally started as an old school bus converted into a portable stage used to promote music and hold events with companies such as Cirque de Soleil, High Performance Rodeo and Market Collective.

For the BassBus Folk Explosion, the local music promoters, known for diverse electronic parties in eclectic venues around the city, will bring an electronic twist to the typical rootsy vibe of Folk Fest and FolkU.

Folk Fest marketing manager Matt Olah says the futuristic aspect of BassBus will bring a unique atmosphere to the event.

"One of the things that the Calgary Folk Fest is known for is [pil-ing] a bunch of artists together and getting them to play together," Olah says.

Olah says event organizers wanted the event to be accessible to all ages.

"We thought we would try to practice what we preach and we wanted to collaborate with another arts group," he says. "It's no secret that there's a huge shortage of all-ages venues and stages in the city, so we want to try and do our part to have a few

of those a year."

Beach Season, The Dumps and Helium Fly will all feature as part of the BassBus Folk Explosion.

Olah hopes that the variety of acts performing will highlight the diversity of genres that can collaborate and work well together.

"BassBus are known for putting on their electronic shows," Olah says. "We are, of course, known for putting on rootsy and folksy shows, and that's why we wanted to approach them because it was way outside of what we normally do and we wanted to find artists that might be a good bridge between our two groups."

FolkU is a pet project of Folk Fest. It aims to reach out to younger folk audiences and provide mentorship opportunities. They work to educate and provide musical experiences to young up-and-coming musicians.

"We started out as more of an instructional series and we got some feedback that kids get enough school, but I think in music they just want to have fun and have an outlet," says Olah. "Let's just put together some shows where we try to make the show accessible or give them a stage so they have somewhere to showcase their skills."

The event will be held at Festival Hall on May 13. Big Rock Brewery will provide "adult beverages" at the show. The doors open at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

For more information about the BassBus Folk Explosion, and to buy tickets, visit calgaryfolkfest.com

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Students' Union Program for Education Related Work

STAFF PICKS » MAY 12-19

Thursday, May 12:

Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet), written by Canadian playwright Ann-Marie MacDonald, follows a Shakespeare-loving graduate student who attempts to alter the fate of female leads in Shakespearean plays.
Time: 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Place: Vertigo Theatre

Thursday, May 12:

Telus Spark hosts its monthly Adults Only Night. The theme is Future Humans and the evening will look at futuristic living. This will also be the last month that Vital Body Worlds will be on display.
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Telus Spark

Friday, May 13:

The Calgary Arts Academy is hosting their inaugural spring fundraising event this week. The event will feature live bands, live art up for auction and local music.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Victoria Pavilion at Stampede Park

Sunday, May 15th:

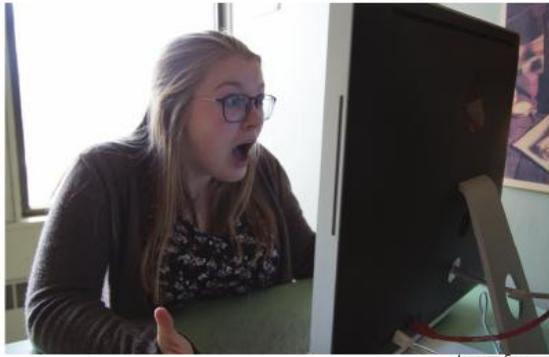
A night of spoken word poetry will be presented by Calgarian artist Miranda Krogstad and guests, including local spoken-word poets such as Paul Finklepoet and Safráz Ladak. Tickets are \$15 at picatic.com.
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: West Village Theatre

Sunday, May 15:

This is the last day to purchase used books from the Servant Anonymous Society of Calgary's 14th annual used book drive and sale. All proceeds go towards supporting women and girls affected by human trafficking.
Time: Until 5:00 p.m.
Place: Crossroads Market

Thursday, May 19:

4 Worlds, the newest contemporary dance-fusion production from The Ember Dance Company features critically-acclaimed choreographers and is inspired by science fiction and dynamic motion.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Mount Royal University

CAMPUS WELLNESS »


JARRETT EDMUND

D2L dot gives student actual heart attack

 Jill Girgulis
 Checks D2L hourly

Exams wrapped up a few weeks ago, but that didn't stop one student from feeling the effects of the notorious red dot.

Third-year health sciences major Christina Lang experienced minor cardiac arrest on Monday evening after logging on to her Desire2Learn account for the 47th time to see if her BCEM 394 grade had "finally been fucking posted."

"I'm feeling better now," Lang said. "I had this crazy out-of-body experience. My life — mostly images of me studying the biological mechanisms of metabolism — flashed before my eyes."

Lang is 21 years old with no previous indications of heart disease.

"I think it's a fear conditioning thing," Lang said. "For the last three years, I've unintentionally trained my body to seize up whenever the little red dot appears on my D2L page."

Taylor Family Digital Library staff member Suzanne Greenfield discovered Lang sprawled on a desk in front of the Student Success

Centre around 4 p.m. Greenfield initially thought Lang was just taking a nap. She determined she was unresponsive when she poked her with a pen.

"At that moment, she didn't really look like a successful student," Greenfield said.

Lang's phone, tablet, laptop and smart watch all displayed the UCalgary D2L homepage.

"It was pretty terrifying," Greenfield said.

Lang will begin rehabilitation next week. She also has plans to help future students avoid the heart-stopping effect of the D2L notification.

"I'm working on an app that turns my phone into a kind of pacemaker," she said. "That way, whenever a D2L alert comes in, my heart rate will adjust accordingly."

Lang envisions a future career in biomedical engineering. She already has plans to market the life-saving device.

"I'm calling it 'Desire2Live,'" Lang said.

In all the excitement, Lang forgot to actually read the posted BCEM 394 grade on D2L.

COURTROOM DRAMA »

SU and U of C give 'em the ol' razzle-dazzle

 Derek Baker
 Flunked out of circus school

Operation of MacHall remains in the hands of the Students' Union after a court hearing made as little progress as mediation. The SU sought an injunction to maintain control of the student centre for the duration of the ownership lawsuit.

Despite eventually being postponed, the injunction proceedings took place in a very lively fashion, with both the SU and administration trying to give the courts the ol' razzle-dazzle.

"Look, we clearly have a good case, but that obviously hasn't gotten us anywhere," SU vice-president operations and finance Branden Cave said. "So we decided to spice it up a little."

Entering on the back of an elephant, SU president Stephan Guscott gloriously led a crowd of rambunctious students into the courtroom. SU vice-president student life Patrick Ma then proceeded to pump up students with sunglasses and thundersticks to foster student engagement.

"We wanted to show the administration that we mean business," Ma said. "There is a misconception that students are unprofessional, and therefore unsuitable to run the operations of MacHall."

Ma led the crowd of impassioned students in a rousing thunderstick rendition of "We Will Rock You" until silenced by the judge's gavel.

Guscott and Cave began their case by performing a daring trapeze act. The duo awed the crowd as they flipped across the courtroom.

"I can't believe we elected these literal circus clowns as our student executives," said Bob Beuller, a



"I love to bang," said the gavel, who bangs frequently. COURTESY JOE GRATZ

third-year student singled out by Guscott to partake in the audience participation portion of the SU's case. Beuller was placed in a box and sawed into two pieces, 55 per cent and 45 per cent in proportion. Guscott cited this as further evidence to support the SU's ownership claim.

Guscott and Cave also engaged in a lengthy mime routine detailing the entire history of the ownership dispute. The routine concluded with a profound tableau of the pair stuck in an invisible box.

"It's a metaphor," Guscott said. "The administration trapped us inside a box over the course of the negotiations and the lawsuit is our only way out."

Not to be outdone, the U of C legal team was well prepared for their case. Noted for their impressive fire-breathing abilities, administration exhaled a heated inferno in an attempt to intimidate the SU into submission.

Administration thanked Enbridge for their generous donation of oil

used for the trick.

The gallery held their breath as U of C president Elizabeth Cannon carried out a fearless tight-rope act above the stands. Clad in a sequined leotard, Cannon dropped buckets of confetti made up of shredded 1969 ownership agreements over the gallery.

"The SU thinks they are the only ones hip enough to engage with hashtag myUCalgary students," Cannon said. "We want to assure everyone that we too are oodles of fun, and that the experience that students experience will remain a positive experience with our control over MacHall."

The court performances by both sides were so spectacular, another date was scheduled.

"We got a great response from the audience. I really think we've tapped into something special," Guscott said. "If we keep putting on shows like this, I think we can continue to have these court hearings for years to come."

It goes without saying - Dawn Muenchrath
