

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
gauntlet
VOLUME 51 | ISSUE NO. 03 | MAY 27 | 2010

Construction
the end in sight

COMPACT RENTALS
compactrentals.com
DANGER
DUE TO
EXCAVATION
DO NOT PASS
FENCE LINE

pg. 5
KEEP DRY

Homosexuals should be allowed to give blood

Blood is thicker than water, though not as thick as discrimination. But now a movement is gaining momentum to end one long established source of prejudice — the ban on homosexual men from donating blood because of the risk of spreading HIV. The Canadian Medical Association Journal published an article this week arguing that the ban should be lifted, stating screening methods are now capable of determining who should be allowed to donate, regardless of sexual orientation.

Canadian Blood Services took over from the Red Cross in 1998. The Red Cross had poor standards for screening and thousands of people got HIV and Hepatitis C. The problem with the Red Cross' methods, a commission decided, was that it failed to screen potentially harmful donors. To be safe CBS took extra precautions when they designed their screening program. Because HIV was more difficult to screen than it is now, and because transmission was most common among gays, CBS de-



ecided to ban all gays from giving blood. They argued that the risk was too high to justify the benefits of letting gays donate — because they're such a small percentage of the population, banning the group wouldn't dramatically lower blood donation.

CBS isn't to blame for designing a system meant to best protect the safety of Canadians. Obviously, the system must be as efficient as possible to minimize costs — testing all donated blood isn't an option. It's the poor manner in which CBS designed its system that is the issue. Now, with a major scientific body calling for change,

considerations should be made.

The most pressing need is to change the terms that restrict potential donors. Promiscuous people who engage in unsafe sex, regardless of their sex prefer-

ences, should be restricted from donating blood because the risk of transmitting disease is high. To ban all gays is equivalent to stating that they all consistently have multiple partners and don't wear condoms. This is wrong. Factually it's not the case: the amount of same sex couples wishing to marry is evidence of this. Even if there was evidence that gays engage in fewer long-term relationships, it would still be insufficient to justify a complete ban — the ban adds to the stigma surrounding gays in society, which is wrong for any government organization to allow.

The CMAJ argues for adjusting the

policy so that gay men in long term, monogamous relationships are allowed to donate. If the relationship ended, a temporary ban — from one to five years — would be introduced. Other methods should also be considered. For instance, gays who regularly undergo testing should also be permitted to donate. Combined, enough solutions are available for CBS to allow gays to give blood.

This paper recognizes that Canada isn't alone in its ban on gays donating blood. Many other countries, including the United States, have similar restrictions. A moderate solution is available that protects the safety of the population while allowing gays to fairly participate in an activity which other Canadians are allowed. True, the increase in donations is unlikely to alleviate Canada's blood shortage — there are other ways to address that problem. But while Canadian Blood Services only helps by distributing blood, it is hurting others in significant ways.

Editor-in-Chief: Sarelle Azuelos 403-220-7752 editor@thegauntlet.ca

News Editor: Brent Constantin 403-220-4318 news@thegauntlet.ca

Entertainment: Andrew Williams 403-220-4376 entertainment@thegauntlet.ca

Sports: Noah Miller 403-220-2298 sports@thegauntlet.ca

Opinions: Eric Mathison 403-220-2298 opinions@thegauntlet.ca

Features: Emily Ask 403-220-4376 features@thegauntlet.ca

Photography: Sydney Stokoe 403-220-4376 photo@thegauntlet.ca

Production: Isaac Azuelos 403-220-2298 production@thegauntlet.ca

Business Manager: Evelyn Cone 403-220-7280 business@thegauntlet.ca

Advertising Manager: John Harbidge 403-220-7751 sales@thegauntlet.ca

Graphic Artist: Ken Clarke 403-220-7755 graphics@thegauntlet.ca

Network Manager: Ben Li

Contributors
Amy Badry • Justin Bull • Rhiannon Kirkland
Richard "Médha Té Parave" Lam • Christian Louden
Mike Tofin • Madison Wozni • Jeremy Zhao

Golden Spatula
Christian Louden wrote a very last minute story for a grateful opinions editor. We salute you!

Furor Arma Ministrat

Room 319, MacEwan Students' Centre
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
General inquiries: 403-220-7750
http://thegauntlet.ca

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

The Cover
Photo and design by Sydney Stokoe

Slurpees, Pop, Chips, Candy,
Seattle's Best Coffee, Healthy Snacks,
Newspapers, Large selection of
Phone & Gift
Cards

NEW
stOrganic

Located in MSC (main level, west end), a convenience store
owned and operated by the Students' Union

Bound and Copied
is pleased to announce
the arrival of the
Online
Exam Bank!

SEARCH AND PURCHASE
MID-TERMS AND FINAL EXAMS ONLINE ANY TIME.
CURRENTLY THERE ARE 11,327 PAGES OF EXAMS AVAILABLE.

Check it out at
EXAMS.SU.UCALGARY.CA

Bound
AND COPIED

Taylor alters traditional meaning of libraries

Details emerge on the new digital library as construction nears completion

Richard Lam
Gauntlet News

As construction for the Taylor Family Library project approaches its completion, plans for moving in are being formulated.

“The move in to the building is probably one of the most complex any library system has ever done before,” said Tom Hickerson, vice-provost of libraries and cultural resources at the University of Calgary. “In the same general time frame, [we will be] moving a large collection of books and journals from six different locations in two different cities.”

The majority of the MacKimmie Library block and tower contents will be moved out and into the upper floors of the Taylor. The texts will be joined by the Nickle Arts Museum, which will occupy its new home in the first two floors of the TFL.

The convergence of services means that the bulk of university archives, special collections and university press will now be under one roof. A new Centre for Student Success will also attempt to streamline support offered to students, from academic advising to tutorial assistance with writing and information literacy.

“A lot of organizations that have archives, museums and libraries all together realize that their collections aren’t talking to each other,” said program manager Jackie Bell. “[We] are trying to combine the collection in ways that the user — the student or faculty member — can find out what the collection is in a richer detail ... Our librarians and our curators will have a greater depth

of knowledge in terms of the richness of the collection and the depth.”

Local and international surveys and focus groups were conducted by the university, consulting with students and faculty members regarding what they need in their libraries. Requests for study space, group rooms and technology resulted in three floors of various types of student space that include multimedia labs with editing suites, screening rooms and even touch tables.

“Librarians also feel that there is a need to get to know what the new technology has to offer,” said Ali Shiri, a professor of digital libraries at the University of Alberta. “It opens up new horizons. The traditional view of libraries, where you sit at the back of the desk and you hand in a book or receive a book, that is not anymore the case.”

“One of our main challenges is to find media that is presented in a way that students can make of use of it in a secondary way,” said associate vice-provost for collections Helen Clarke, describing resources that combine, reuse or remix media for presentations or student use. “We’ve been able to acquire new media that people can sort of experience in the same way that people experience a journal or a book of text.”

Construction of the High Density Library will be completed off campus in June with resources moving shortly after. Used to store lower-demand books and journals, students will request items from the facility to be delivered to main campus.

“We do intend to be able to deliver for pickup, in the Taylor or elsewhere on campus, any book



Sydney Stokoe/ the Gauntlet

The TFL is set to officially open in September 2011, but library services will be available in May.

or journal in the high density facility within one service day,” said Hickerson, addressing student concerns that delivery times may impede quick access for research. “So it’s not that that material is in any way limited access.”

In determining what items would go to the high density storage and which would stay in the Taylor, a variety of consider-

ations were taken. For journals available in digital form, the physical copies would be considered low-demand. Circulation patterns were analyzed and the least popular items were assigned to move to the HDL as well.

Bell added that the HDL will have a reading room where students can visit the facility, located at Spy Hill next to the new

veterinary medicine facility, and request books to browse while there. However, they will not be able to physically enter the warehouse.

With the move towards digital content and off-site research, students face a fundamental shift from traditional methods of browsing and flipping through *see MOVE TO DIGITAL LIBRARY, page 6*

Would you use the library less if you had to wait a day for the books you needed?

campus quips



“No, I don’t think so.”
– Tina Nguyen,
first-year
engineering



“Yes.”
– Marcin Malec,
first-year computer
science and
business



“No, I would use it equally. You just have to be organized.”
– Adrienne Cunnings, research assistant



“Not really.”
– Impyo Lee,
third-year
accounting

Students' Union still hopes for secondary suites

Expanded housing proposal may be put on hold due to municipal election

Jeremy Zhao
Gauntlet News

While a new students' council has taken office, many important issues raised by previous councils, such as secondary suites, are still a priority. Students' Union vice-president external Hardave Birk plans to capitalize on the upcoming municipal election to build on the progress of secondary suites.

Birk said that a plan drafted by the Urban Calgary Students' Association, a campus club devoted to urban issues, is "a great solution" for addressing the need for affordable housing for students. The plan calls for any area within 400 meters of an LRT station to be rezoned to allow secondary suites. Renters in these suites would be barred from parking permits to combat complaints of parking shortages in areas with secondary suites, and only owner-occupied suites would be allowed. Urban CSA suggests a pilot project be conducted at one LRT station to determine the idea's success.

Progress with civic leaders and administration has been slow. Birk admitted that it does take time to meet with all the stakeholders in order to get the process going.

"The best we can do right now is to get it on the radar of

all Calgarians," said Birk. "We want to make it an election issue."

Birk is also meeting with other post-secondary institutions in the Calgary Student Caucus to gain their support on the initiative. The Calgary Student Caucus includes representatives from Mount Royal University, SAIT and the Alberta College of Art and Design.

Birk noted that most Calgarians do support secondary suites, and most aldermen are on board with looking at ways to increase the number of these units, as long as there is support from the community associations.

Kay She, the previous VP external, believes the SU made great strides this past year on secondary suites despite other pressing issues, such as the tuition increases. She said the SU was able to present its plans to the Brentwood Community Association and meet with various aldermen on council to address the issue.

"Secondary suites have always been an important issue for students," said She. "We felt this was an innovative and cheap way to increase secondary suites."

She indicated this plan would appeal to a very niche market, but also cater to students. She pointed out that many students don't have cars and accessible transit will give students more options. The plan also addresses community associations' problems with noise and litter associated with frat houses because owner occupancy would act as a deterrent.

The municipal election year has brought the issue to a standstill as politicians prepare for re-election, but She is confident



Sydney Stokoe/ the Gauntlet

Secondary suites are seen as a way to create available, affordable student housing.

that the new VP external will "have the opportunity to bring this forward as an election issue."

MRU business professor Naheed Nenshi took a different stance, saying that city council is terrified of negative feedback from communities that would result if sec-

ondary suites were legalized. He said the ideas proposed by the SU and Urban CSA are only band aid solutions.

"We need to solve it for everyone, not just for students," said Nenshi.

Nenshi believes a more ambitious plan can be achieved in Calgary. He cited Edmonton as an example where a recent bylaw amendment will increase affordable housing for the city and students. Edmonton's zoning bylaw now removes location restrictions on secondary suites in mature neighborhoods.

Ward Eight Alderman John Mar said that the issue of secondary suites in Calgary has made council "very divisive." He agreed with Nenshi that this is "not just a

student issue, but a Calgary issue."

"It's going to be an ongoing issue for many years to come," said Mar. "There's a lot of fear of the unknown."

Mar also said that the city has some programs in place to encourage secondary suites, such as a grant program available to homeowners which was extended earlier this month. A successful secondary suite applicant would be reimbursed up to \$25,000 to develop or upgrade a suite.

While the SU hopes to garner more attention about affordable housing in the upcoming municipal election, Mar believes most Calgarians will be focused on the mayoral race rather than student housing.

**LSAT MCAT
GMAT GRE
Preparation Seminars**

- Complete 30-Hour Seminars
- Convenient Weekend Schedule
- Proven Test-Taking Strategies
- Experienced Course Instructors
- Comprehensive Study Materials
- Simulated Practice Exams
- Limited Class Size
- Free Repeat Policy
- Personal Tutoring Available
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

OXFORD SEMINARS
1-800-269-6719
604-683-3430
www.oxfordseminars.ca

Travel The World With Global Tesol
Your Adventure Starts Here

- Get TESOL Certified in Five Days
- Study In-Class, Online or by Correspondence
- Overseas Job Guaranteed!

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INFORMATION PACKAGE!
1-888-270-2941
globaltesol.com

Next Course @ U of C: June 9 - 13 • FREE Seminar: Please call for info

Future focused on existing infrastructure

University of Calgary Facilities Management and Development vice-president **Bob Ellard** has been with the school for the past two years. He talks about current projects, the future of expansion and how the recession was good for the U of C.

Brent Constantine

News Editor
with files from Eric Mathison

Gauntlet: There's a lot of construction going on around campus. Can you go over what's happening?

Ellard: The [Fok Ying Tung] International House is effectively complete; we're just tidying up the parking, so that should be done within a matter of weeks.

The Taylor Family Library construction should be done in September of this year. It'll take some time to move the MacKimmie Library and the Nickle Arts Museum into the new building, so we will not have the TFL open until September of 2011.

In doing that, we will close the MacKimmie Tower and the Nickle Arts Museum May 1 of next year. We had to pick a date when we weren't operating multiple buildings because we don't get additional money from the province to operate the new building before we close the old ones.

Tied in with that is the Taylor Family Quad, which is under construction now. We timed it so when students come back to classes it'll be — I'm cautiously optimistic it'll be done. It'll certainly be open. It might not be 100 per cent done but it'll certainly be usable.

The [Energy Environment Experiential Learning] building will be completed in the summer of 2011 and we haven't looked at the detail of how we will actually start to occupy that building because it's more than one faculty that's in there. To what extent people will be moving over, we're probably three or four months away from knowing that for sure.

There's the Phase Six Residence, we call it 'Phase Six' because we don't have a name for it yet. That will be done at the end of this year, but we're not going to open it until May of 2011.

We will take occupancy of the Downtown Campus August of this year, 2010, and we'll be offering classes starting in September 2010, with the exception of the top two

floors. They won't be able to open until January of 2011 just because of the way the construction is sequenced.

G: I've been at the school for a few years now and there seems to be a lot going on construction-wise. Is this the end point of a bunch of different things that have come up, or was everything intentionally timed?

Ellard: You're correct in your observation in that we're finishing up a big slug of grant work that was provided four or five years ago to the university. And while it's not the end, it's probably the end of an era of new construction.

G: So that does the future of expansion look like at the school?

Ellard: It's a bit of a domino effect as we go, starting with the closure of the MacKimmie. If we brought in senior administration that would mean a major group of people coming out of the Admin Building and that would then join our list of buildings to be refurbished.

Most of our buildings are 40-plus years old. I don't need to name buildings, but a lot of them have outlived their initial design life so we're going to move into repurposing them.

We've got some buildings that are just horrendous, bad examples of what you can do and we have to fix them. Instead of building us a new building and tearing down an old building and building another new one we're going to keep our campus footprint small — we're going to take the sustainable route and we'll get another 80 to 100 years out of these repurposed buildings.

We're going to do bit of a checker board around campus and I'm going to say it's at least a 10-year program. It's probably even longer than that, but the target will be to improve the quality of the buildings we have starting with the worst.

G: What about some of the other older buildings on campus? The Schulich Engineering Building is going through some fairly major renovations, is that part of your repurposing plan?

Ellard: We have designed a major addition and repurposing of that building. We have \$25 million right now that's being spent there and we have another \$145 million that we don't have identified yet that will be a major addition. So when Schulich is complete it'll be the first of our repurposed buildings.

The second one will most likely be Science A because some of the folks from Science A will go into the EEEL building. When that happens we have swing space within the building to then decant some of the functions, start some of the new construction.

So Schulich, Science A and MacKimmie in that order.

G: What are the plans for the Nickle Arts?

Ellard: We have no use for it right now, but we have a number of things in mind. Lots of people have lots of ideas, so we're hiring a consultant right now who'll work with us and all the stakeholders.

The building is one of the oldest ones on campus, it has a long list of functional and technical issues. That will probably take a year and a half to get that all sorted out.

G: And what about MacEwan Hall?

Ellard: We're still 8–9 months out from talking about what's going to go on, but my hope is that when it's redesigned it will reflect a lot of things that maybe aren't there as prominently as they could be — true student services. And that won't be at the expense of retail or other functions, but the building is not properly thought out, it just sort of happened over time.

G: Did the recession put a lot of the university's plans off the table or screw them up?

Ellard: I wouldn't say it screwed it up, at one point we had one billion dollars in construction, we still have the better part of that now.

So when the recession hit and the province said, "There's no more capital," they didn't take back any of the capital they'd given us previously. We were able to see the projects through to completion that we had on the go.



courtesy U of C

The U of C will begin refurbishing old buildings in place of new ones.

It also gave us some breathing room to say, "What are we going to do in the future? We're not going to simply continue to build new

buildings, that's not the right thing to do."

So this notion of repurposing see FUTURE OF THE U OF C, page 6

PREMIERE STUDENT LIVING

SPACE AVAILABLE FOR U of C STUDENTS

Close to University of Calgary	On-site laundry facilities
On the C-Train line	Recreation lounge
Walk to class	Study lounges
Private bedrooms	Roommate matching services available
Fully furnished units	Individual leases
Internet, free local calls & cable service included	

FIND OUT MORE
403.294.8033 // uofc.ca

FURTHER YOUR PASSION
PBIT

Move to digital library, continued from page 3

books, Clarke is among those responsible for making the change as easy as possible.

"We're trying to make sure that we keep as good a monograph collection in the Taylor as we can, and then we're looking at technology to be conducive to that browsing experience, outlining the ongoing enhancement of catalogue records to contain indexes and previews as well as having an effective user interface," said Clarke.

Technology seems to be the key in modern libraries, with Shiri predicting more visual user interfaces and features as they move toward interactive and

information-rich systems. But Shiri warned that simply digitizing information isn't enough for users.

"You may have the largest, the most authoritative, the most comprehensive digital collection but a very bad user interface, so users are not going to be able to find information," said Shiri.

In the end, it comes down to more efficient and thorough keyword retrieval techniques and algorithms that are centered on the user's needs.

Another student concern is the reduction of library resources due to budget cuts across the

university. Clarke admits that cuts have been made, but said they were focused on print journals already electronically available and databases that had low use.

"We are sheltering things that actually have content at the expense of things that are more reference-type tools," said Clarke.

Any potential cancellations to journals or books are dependent on the state of the Canadian dollar in the fall 2010 semester. Database re-acquisitions, such as the fairly popular but expensive Scopus database that was recently cut, are

also dependent on the future budget.

Concerning future plans for the MacKimmie and Nickle Arts buildings after their moves, campus infrastructure vice-president Steve Dantzer said the university will be working with the Students' Union, the Graduate Students' Association and a consulting group to examine the future use for these buildings.

"We don't know what the future of the Nickle Arts building is at this point," said Dantzer.

Major renovations for the MacKimmie tower are planned, but may be slow to implement because of reductions in provincial

support due to the recession.

Shiri said buildings like the TFL are the future of credible information sources, a statement echoed by the university.

"I think it'll be really a building focused on being a centre of learning for the 21st century," said Hickerson. "And I think we're realizing that while balancing traditional interests and traditional values as well."

The MacKimmie tower is set to close May 2011, with the Taylor Family Library beginning to offer services immediately afterwards, before its official opening to the public September 2011.

Future of the U of C, continued from page 5

existing buildings came along and we're actually able to, I think in the long run, provide a much better campus.

G: *That brings up some of the environmental initiatives at the school. I know with the EEEL building, there are some new energy consumption changes.*

Ellard: Our buildings that will open in the next two years are done to a very high level of energy efficiency and we're exceeding national energy standards in all of our buildings. So when we look at

our new buildings and look at our old buildings it's quite a dramatic comparison.

We're spending about \$25 million re-lamping buildings, putting in new control systems so we can monitor lighting systems, we can shut buildings down, we can shut down portions of buildings — just do a better job of managing the energy.

Something we're just starting to roll on now, we're in the consultative phase with the faculties, is changing our hours of operation.

Right now all of our buildings are operated 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, and there are no appreciable differences between what you would see on December 25 and what you would see on a Wednesday afternoon in February. We're not going to close our buildings, but we're going to change how we operate them. We're not going to operate our buildings in the future the way we do now. Over the next year and a half, we will save millions of dollars of operation.

G: *What's something else your de-*

partment is planning that students might not know about?

Ellard: We wanted to put more emphasis on people using bikes coming to campus and giving them a proper and safe location to store them, so we're going to develop a series of bike shelters. But in doing that, we'll take certain areas where the bike shelters will be in close proximity and those will be no ride zones. I don't know if you walk there on a busy day and someone comes riding through on a bike, but it can be a little danger-

ous. We're hopeful we can have this up and running for this time next year.

G: *With all of this construction going on, a lot of students might feel inconvenienced, especially over the summer.*

Ellard: With all of this comes a level of inconvenience. Prime example, you can't walk across campus the way you might want to, but four or five months from now that'll be better. And I think people will see that's it's worth the inconvenience.

o p i n i o n s

Proposed intellectual property laws too restrictive

Christian Loudon
Gauntlet Opinions

In 2008, Canadians across the country continued to freely and legally pick digital locks on electronic media as the much-criticized Bill C-61 on copyright reform was tabled.

The bill died when parliament dissolved later that year, signaling a federal election, and the Conservatives vowed to resurrect C-61 if reelected. This past summer, nationwide consultation brought optimism as to what this new bill might look like. Voters across the country advocated for flexible laws to address the concerns that led to protests during then-Industry Minister Jim Prentice's annual

Stampede Pancake Breakfast in 2008.

The problem with C-61 was that it would have made it illegal to circumvent digital locks. This means any digitally encrypted electronic files would be illegal to copy, as protection of digital locks supersedes even legal fair dealing uses such as research or private study.

Following the consultation, two plans were proposed. Industry Minister Tony Clement suggested reform that would be flexible in terms of digital lock circumvention, which was in line with the feedback gathered during the consultation. Heritage Minister James Moore proposed what copyright blogger and internet law expert

Michael Geist calls a rehash of Bill C-61.

While the full details of the new bill have yet to be revealed, Geist reported it would take a form similar to C-61, with little or no implementation of the summer consultation recommendations. This follows and seems to confirm reports from early this month that Prime Minister Stephen Harper had rejected Clement's proposal to implement the consultation recommendations in favour of Moore's rehashed C-61.

The rationale behind the proposed bill is to bring Canada in line with the International Property Organization's intellectual property treaties. But Geist believes this can be achieved without tak-

ing the heavy-handed approach of the pervasive Digital Millennium Copyright Act of the United States that the forthcoming bill — in this and its previous incarnation — is so often compared to. Specifically, Geist says we can get around this by simply making it legal to circumvent digital locks when using the material for purposes that wouldn't ordinarily be considered a violation of copyright, i.e., when used under the provisions laid out in fair dealing.

Though the proposal promises to correct some of the more counterintuitive aspects of current law, such as making format shifting — such as ripping a CD onto a computer for transfer to an MP3 player — legal, it doesn't

do enough to address the reality of an era with a growing trend toward the use of digital media. This is unacceptable and would rank Canada alongside the United States as having the most stringent copyright laws in the world. Beyond that, the changes are widely believed to be unenforceable, and seem largely supported by interest groups, rather than the majority of Canadians.

Clement has admitted to be among those ordinary Canadians made criminals by current legislation, and if the new bill shapes up as expected, we can rest assured the cadre of criminals will grow to include everyday students, journalists, researchers and documentary filmmakers.

Otafest anime-niacs take over campus

Madison Wozni

Gauntlet Entertainment

Every year, the University of Calgary is surrendered to a troop of flamboyant characters in colourful costumes. This takeover is affectionately known as Otafest.

Otafest premiered in 1999 as a non-profit Japanese animation film festival hosted by the Dedicated Otaku Anime club and expanded over the years to feature Cosplay and talent competitions, fashion shows, live action role-playing and an endless list of obscure, but loved events and panels.

"I'm impressed, honestly," says Constantine Vlahos, president of the campus Anime Club. "It started off as 30 or 40 people and now it's well over 4,000."

As it grew, Otafest became its own organization, the Ota-

Friday Evening: It's Finally Here

Wandering along the registration line has always been a consistent sign of the devotion of Otafest attendees. For the past few years, the line has extended from the science theatres foyer all the way into the administration building for the entire weekend. With attendance originally expected to break 5,000 people this year, it's no wonder that everyone wanted their classic white and pink wristband early.

As a first-time volunteer, I didn't miss waiting in line, but I certainly felt a pang of nostalgia over hours of missed spontaneous role-playing with complete strangers. Luckily this feeling did not last long, as I ushered friends off to the opening ceremonies. It is always amusing to see organizers try to rile up the already devout and animated Friday con-goers. It certainly didn't

together a high calibre performance and get up in costume in front of 600-plus people and judges.

Sunday: Awards Night Extravaganza

The day started with an unsuccessful attempt to sign up for Cosplay Chess, an increasingly popular event, but it ultimately allowed me to instead participate in the Super Smash Bros. Brawl tournament.

On a bit of a high from my success in the games room, I grabbed some quick lunch on a packed Prairie Chicken hill full of screaming cosplayers and photographers.

Otafest organizers aren't expecting the event to grow significantly in the future, despite attracting higher-profile guest stars every year.

"[The] Anime industry had its little bubble about five years ago and now it's dying down," says Shawn Hansen, Otafest's special events coordinator.

He went on to say that large conventions, while popular, are "just a fairly niche thing."

I have never before been so impressed with the quality of performers attracted to the once small-time competition, the Otafest Idol finals. As a first time judge, I was proud to see them through to the finals. It was a unanimous decision to award Maria Rosvick with first place for her chilling performance of "Hemisphere" from *RahXephon*.

The most notable award recipient of the night was Mary Jane

///I'm impressed, honestly. It started off as 30 or 40 people and now it's well over 4,000."

— Constantine Vlahos, anime club president

est Film and Cultural Planning Committee. The committee is made up of volunteers who, for one weekend each year, experience a curious addiction to sleep deprivation while organizing a conglomeration of passionate fans and dedicated media guests.

The only way a proper picture beyond this introduction can possibly be shown, is by reciting my own tales from the past weekend. Enter exhaustion and exhilaration.

Thursday Night: The Final Countdown

The best way to prepare for a weekend of Cosplay is obviously to stay up all night finishing your costume while blasting music from your favourite anime.

After years of relying on close friends completely immersed in Japanese culture, I finally took the dive — I picked a costume and made it myself. This taught me that spray-paint should not be used in a windowless basement, and that showing up to Otafest already sleep deprived is really just an exciting rite of passage into almost religious devotion to anime.

take much to get ear-splitting cheers out for the special guest introductions.

Vlahos was happy with how the event unfolded.

"I think it's a lot better here than at most conventions, just because we have more people volunteering and all the major events requiring volunteer effort tent to run smoother," he says.

The excitement of having Todd Haberkorn (voice actor for *Ouran High School xxxHolic* and *Soul Eater*), Michelle Ruff (voice actress for *Bleach*, *Chobits*, *Code Geass* and *Street Fighter*) and Scott Ramsoomair (creator, writer and artist of *VGCats*) at the convention, was impossible to miss.

Saturday: A Little Bit of Cosplay in the Sun

Saturday was arguably the most exciting day for Otafest-goers, featuring the masquerade and cosplay competition. These two events were once one and the same, scattering those wanting to exhibit their costumes and sewing skills amongst the performances of skits, songs, dances and an assortment of other entertaining and sometimes interpretive acts.

It takes a lot of guts to put



photo courtesy of Justin Bull

Brown was crowned Miss Otafest after eight years of wearing vinyl.

Brown, dressed as Asuka from *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, placing first in advanced for the Masquerade and finally winning the coveted title of Miss Otafest after eight years.

Looking back at the five years I attended Otafest as a guest, I

never before felt so entwined in the unique experience that is an anime convention. The long weekend came to an end, I was (and still am) physically, emotionally and mentally drained. It's not hard to become caught up in the fanaticism.

Teach English Abroad

TESOL/TESL Teacher Training Certification Courses

- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- ESL Skills Development
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Interactive Teaching Practicum
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Money-Back Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

OXFORD SEMINARS
1-800-269-6719/604-683-3430
www.oxfordseminars.ca

lounge

It's **Beergarita** time!

Join us on our newly furnished patio!

VOX
90.9 fm
cjsw
cjsw.com
TOP 20
* canadian artist ** local artist
for the week of may 17, 2010

- 1 **THE SADIES*** *Darker Circles* (Yep Roc)
- 2 **WOODS** *Echo Lake* (Woodsist)
- 3 **THE MANIPULATORS*** *Ease Up On The Breakdowns!* (Neptoon)
- 4 **SLAM DUNK*** *Slam Dunk* (Old Life Records)
- 5 **PINE TARTS**** *Two Moons* (Self-Released)
- 6 **XAVIER RUDD & IZINTABA*** *Koonyum Sum* (Salt)
- 7 **MAN LEGS**** *Animals* (Self-Released)
- 8 **COMMUNIST DAUGHTER** *Soundtracks To The End* (Grain Belt)
- 9 **GRAND TRINE*** *Sunglasses EP* (Divorce)
- 10 **YOUTH CRIME*** *Youth Crime* (Self-Released)
- 11 **WILD MOCCASINS** *Skin Collision Past* (Self-Released)
- 12 **OBSYDIAN*** *The Grottesque Presage* (Self-Released)
- 13 **HANNAH GEORGAS*** *This Is Good* (Hidden Pony)
- 14 **HOLE** *Nobody's Daughter* (Mercury/Cherry Forever)
- 15 **THE FALL** *Your Future Our Clutter* (Domino)
- 16 **HAIDUK**** *Plagueswept* (Self-Released)
- 17 **THE NEW PORNOGRAPHERS*** *Together* (Last Gang)
- 18 **MGMT** *Congratulations* (Sony)
- 19 **WARBEAST** *Krush The Enemy* (Housecore)
- 20 **RYAN BOURNE**** *Supermodern World Of Beauty* (Saved By Radio)

HIP HOP/SOUL/FUNK

- 1 **JAMIE LIPELL** *Compass* (Warp)
- 2 **ERYKAH BADU** *New Amerykah, Pt. 2: Return Of The Ankh* (Universal Motown)
- 3 **ANIMAL NATION*** *Understanding More About Nothing Than Anybody Ever Thought Impossible OR: How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Music* (Self-Released)
- 4 **RELIC*** *The Green Light* (Gamma Delta Productions)
- 5 **SAGE FRANCIS** *Li(f)fe* (Anti-)

WORLD

- 1 **BALKAN BEAT BOX** *Blue Eyed Black Boy* (Nat Geo Music)
- 2 **DELHI 2 DUBLIN*** *Planet Electric* (Self-Released)
- 3 **PIPESTONE** *As The Rez Turns* (Canyon)
- 4 **ASANI*** *Listen* (Self-Released)
- 5 **GRUPO FANTASMA** *Ei Existential* (Nat Geo Music)

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY



haiduk

Maybe it was Dio's death that spawned a flood of plays for metal. Either way Haiduk is the top Calgary metal guy this week. His stuff is pretty dark and intricate. *Plagueswept* is his first release, a collection of rough demos that show a lot of promise. www.haiduk.ca

CJSW SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
FREE AT OLYMPIC PLAZA
PART ONE: SAT. JUNE 5 @ 7 PM

- * MANNEQUIN DEPRESSIVES
- * THE POLYSHORES
- * WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE?
- * THE LIONS

RADTASTIC!
YOUR GUIDE TO ALL THINGS MUSIC AT CJSW 90.9 FM
To be added to the weekly email list, contact Kat Cardiff, interim Music Director at cjswfm@ucalgary.ca



s p u n ALBUM REVIEWS



Japandroids
Post-Nothing
(Polyvinyl Records)

The lyrics of Vancouver garage-rock duo Japandroids match their instrumentals perfectly — both are relentless and raw. The band weaves stories with the most basic human emotions — songs about leaving, loss and the primal and sometimes childish reactions to these emotions.

“Heart Sweats” chronicles a breakup. Guitarist Brain King croons a series of insults about a former lover, but then quickly backtracks with his mantra “... and still my heart sweats.” The song is the perfect example of the no-frills approach that defines the band. It crescendoes with King yelling the chorus while crashing drums and vicious guitar match his emotional intensity.

Drummer David Prowse shares the vocal responsibilities with King and here again Japandroids find success. A perfect example is the song “Sovereignty,” which concludes with Prowse matching King’s intensity, delivering his lyrics through a fuzzy wall of sound.

These aforementioned songs are standouts, but that’s not to say the rest of their 36-minute debut album is worth skipping. Japandroids have managed to create a unique sound and their music is so compelling that it’s easy to forget they are just a two piece.

..Andrew Williams



Arctic Monkeys
At the Apollo
(Domino Records/Warp-Films/Bang Bang Films)

At the Apollo is a DVD-CD combo from the Arctic Monkeys featuring two shows. The first is a CD recorded live from a 2006 show in Texas, shortly after their debut album, *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*, was released. The DVD was filmed in 2007 — the year the Arctic Monkeys released their second album *Favourite Worst Nightmare*.

The CD starts off slow. On the first song, “Riot Van,” the band’s music is lost behind cheers from the crowd and Alex Turner’s vocals overpower the instruments. The rest of the songs are well balanced, but sound a little washed out compared to a studio-produced album.

The DVD has rich footage of the Arctic

Monkeys on tour. The live music does much better with visuals to keep it company. The *At the Apollo* DVD is more interesting and the recording quality is higher. It lets the viewer feel like they’re at a concert without getting out of their pajamas.

..Rhiannon Kirkland



Soulfly
Omen
(Roadrunner Records)

You’re sitting around the bonfire. The logs are crackling and the flames’ warmth is ever so soothing. Here come the hot dogs! You meticulously peel the plastic off your wiener and press your sharpened stick through the centre of the processed pork product. Your wiener slowly enters the fire, directly towards the glowing amber coals. You look around. Good thing nobody’s watching, because your going to burn this bitch on the outside leaving it raw on the inside due to some mild perversion you’ve had as long as you can remember. If you

like it raw, then consider giving Soulfly’s newest album, *Omen*, a hard, thorough listening.

Max Cavalera brings the gnarly out on this one. *Omen* brings the thrash, a sound that takes the listener back to Cavalera’s earlier work with Sepultura. “Bloodbath & Beyond” includes a hook that ties in with contemporary culture — contrasted with the tribal nature of Soulfly’s music makes it an innovative listen. The guitar progressions, leads and pure cadence are so thrash it’s disgusting. This is clearly de-

picted in the track, “Vulture Culture.” Also, for all you progressive fans, Greg Puciatto of Dillinger Escape Plan brings the gnarl throughout the standout track, “Rise of the Fallen.”

Omen is an intense, relentless and gruesome listen. If you are a fan of Cavalera, or old school thrash metal in general, this album will not disappoint. Who cares what the girls might think. Roll your windows down, turn your stereo up, blast this album and bring the thrash into the atmosphere.

..Mike Tofin



Olenka and the Autumn Lovers
Papillonette
(Oh! Records)

Papillonette has a rich, folksy blend of Olenka and the Autumn Lovers’ French, Polish and Canadian roots flowing throughout their music.

The lyrics are full of sumptuous narratives as singer/songwriter Olenka Krakus takes on different situations and characters, telling their story.

Some of the songs are dark and mel-

ancholic. “Blue” is a song about running away from your problems and feels exactly as the name suggests. Krakus’ beautiful voice and the band’s soft melodies balance out the sad lyrics to give it a bittersweet tone. Other songs are upbeat and cheerful. On “The Decline,” layers of vocals and acoustic guitar create a rise and fall that peaks at the chorus and

then slowly falls throughout the verses. “Tennessee” sounds full of hope and adventure.

Each song builds on the one before and adds something new, like chapters in a story. The story has its highs and lows, but is always beautiful and melodic.

..Rhiannon Kirkland