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## New website makes local music easy

**Sean Willett**  
Entertainment Editor

There is something special about local music. It has the ability to foster a sense of community among artists and fans, creating an environment where newcomers and veterans alike are welcomed, and bold new ideas are able to take root and thrive. However, the independent nature of local music can hold this community back, making it difficult for music fans to discover up-and-coming talent.

A new website, Musicyc.ca, is hoping to make this disadvantage a thing of the past. By bringing together different people and genres that make up Calgary's music scene into one location, they have done the impossible — they have made local music accessible.

"We wanted to promote local talent and local music in every genre," says Colleen Krueger, one of the founders of Music YYC. The site features artist bios, playlists and music videos for over 40 artists, with more added as the site grows. From bluegrass outfits like The Bitterweed Draw to electronic solo artists like Krystle Love B, the blossoming website already features a wide variety of local musicians.

The diversity of the website will make the task of finding local bands that fit certain musical tastes much easier for fans, allowing people to discover more of their favourite genres while giving them a chance to try something new. A randomized playlist on the website's front page offers a convenient sampling of the different talent hosted by Music YYC.

see MUSIC YYC, page 6



courtesy Brady Fullerton

The job market in Calgary is booming. With an unemployment rate of 4.9 per cent in Alberta, students' futures look bright.

## The job market looks good for grads

**Michael Grondin**  
News Editor

From non-profit organizations to the oil and gas industry, employment opportunities haven't looked this good for Albertan students since before the economic downturn. Several hundred jobs can be found on Joblink, the University of Calgary's internal job board, every day.

There has been a 76 per cent increase in the number of jobs available on Joblink since 2008 for U of C students. The last career and job expo hosted at the U of C was beyond capacity, with employers seeking the best and brightest. Mount Royal University has also received a lot of attention from employers.

According to chief economist for the

Calgary Chamber of Commerce Ben Brunnen, the economic climate in Alberta is at a high point, with an unemployment rate of 4.9 per cent, two points below the national average.

"Alberta boasts the lowest unemployment rate in the country right now. What that means is we have a very strong job market, so we're seeing a lot of confidence in the economy," said Brunnen. "With confidence coming from both businesses and consumers, and the very good employment numbers, we should expect to see a far better job market for students in Calgary and Alberta than we've seen in the last three years."

Brunnen said students may be a perfect fit for hiring in new markets, which are important for employers in Calgary.

"Forward thinking businesses in the city will be developing long-term solutions and HR strategies to alleviate their labour needs. Those businesses are going to start looking at underutilized talents, such as students and new graduates, who are eager to get some job experience and are educated and just need to hone their skills," he said. "That's the market that's going to be the future for a lot of Calgary's employers."

Recent U of C marketing graduate and former business representative for the Students' Union Chris Palmer, who works for a management consulting company, said it is an interesting time to graduate in Calgary.

"I think the fact that a lot of large employers are moving to Calgary, we have a

see JOB BOOM, page 3

# Summer UPass woes

## Why the new spring/summer UPass has major flaws

It's expensive to ride Calgary Transit. \$2.75 is a hefty fee for a single train ride and \$94 is an equally hefty fee for a monthly transit pass — especially for students. In the last few weeks, evading fares has become a difficult task for transit users. With peace officers seemingly more diligent since the beginning of May, the only choices have become paying the transit fare or paying the \$150 fine for jumping fare.

Since 2002, full-time students at the University of Calgary receive a UPass for the fall and winter semesters for a relatively small fee. Students need to ride transit only 10 times a month in order to benefit from the \$110 four month transit pass, but they can't opt out of the fee.

This year, the U of C expanded the initiative and began offering a



one-session spring/summer UPass. There is, however, a major difference with the new UPass session: it spans two semesters. Students who are full-time — taking two or more classes in either semester — will receive a UPass. This leaves students who are taking one course per semester vying for transit change.

While there should be an option for part-time students to receive a

transit pass, the qualifications for receiving the spring/summer pass are skewed. It is more reasonable for students who will be traveling to school for four months to receive the pass, than those who might only be around for one semester. If the UPass session spans two semesters, then eligibility should also span two semesters. Some students could be paying

\$266 more for transit over the spring and summer than peers who are taking the same number of classes.

Offering students a UPass in the spring/summer is a good first step, but there are still many problems — a better system needs to be put in place. Although many other universities don't have the option for a spring/summer transit pass, some of them offer part-time students a UPass, including the University of Alberta. With the price of gas, parking and tuition skyrocketing, more students should have the opportunity of cheap transportation.

Offering a UPass helps increase the quality of student life at the U of C, but there are some major changes that need to be made in order for students to fully benefit.

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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 is printed on recycled paper and uses falcon blood based ink. We urge you to recycle/ burn the Gauntlet.

**The Cover**  
Design by Evangelos Lambrinoudis II

### STUDENTS' UNION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

**Term: Part-time, from August 2011 to March 2012**

**Pay: Honoraria of up to \$2,000 for the by-election and up to \$3,000 for the general election.**

The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) is a contract position responsible for ensuring fair and equal elections for the Student Union (SU). The CRO will be the chief administrator of all Elections and Referenda of the Student Union and will ensure a fair democratic process exists and is upheld. The Chief Returning Officer key responsibilities:

- Administer the SU Nomination and Campaign events;
- Enforce election and referenda rules;
- Organize public forums and moderating debates;
- Training polling station clerks;
- Oversee the functionality of polling stations;
- Deliver election and referenda results.

Your work will be concentrated in September – October and January – March. Applicants must be current undergraduates attending the University of Calgary and cannot sit on any SU Committees. Preference will be given to those with experience in student, civic, provincial, or federal elections.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to the attention of Susan Judd, Council Liaison Officer  
Email: scjudd@ucalgary.ca or in person at the SU Main Office, 251 MacEwan Student Centre.

**Deadline: Friday, June 1, 2012.**



## Join the SU Team!

The Students' Union (SU) at the University of Calgary is looking for enthusiastic individuals who enjoy a diverse, exciting and rewarding workplace. The SU has full and part-time openings for:



- Part time hourly Cook – Kitchen
- Full time hourly Cook – Kitchen
- Full time hourly Cook Supervisor – Kitchen
- Full time hourly Banquet Supervisor – MacEwan Event Centre
- Part time hourly Set-up, Catering and Bartending Staff – MacEwan Event Centre



If you're interested in joining us at the U of C, please submit a cover letter and résumé to [resumes@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:resumes@su.ucalgary.ca).

# Pridgen brothers' case dismissed by court

## Students acted within freedom of speech after criticizing professor

**Michael Grondin**  
News Editor

The Alberta Court of Appeal has sided with Keith and Steven Pridgen's plea for freedom of speech after being disciplined by the University of Calgary for criticizing a professor for inaccuracies of information.

On May 9, 2012, the Court upheld that the students acted within the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

After the Pridgens were put on non-academic misconduct, their appeal was dismissed by the university's appeals process.

According to former U of C student Keith Pridgen, who was a first-year law and society student at the time, issues came up with one of their professors, which led Pridgen, his twin brother and other students to bring their issues to attention by speaking with a teach-

er's assistant, the professor, associate dean and other faculty heads.

When their issues weren't resolved, they posted comments on a Facebook page, which led the members of the group to be charged with non-academic misconduct by the U of C administration.

According to the U of C website concerning the policy, "complaints are the subject of disciplinary hearings between individual students and the university's manager of student conduct," in which "students can request an appeal of a disciplinary decision."

"Ten or 12 of us were charged, and we were all found guilty of misconduct," said Keith Pridgen. Four of them, including Keith and Steven Pridgen, appealed the punishment before the Court of Queen's Bench in 2010. "There were mixed emotions in the whole group — some people were



Gauntlet file photo

Keith (above) and Steven Pridgen won their fight for freedom of speech.

very upset."

Pridgen said they continued the appeal because they did feel they did nothing wrong. This led to a back and forth of appeals from the U of C and the Pridgen brothers. The U of C administration believed the discipline to be within the students' freedoms of speech

according to the Charter.

The administration also questioned how the case would impact other Canadian universities, according to *UToday* on Nov. 17, 2011. However, the case was dismissed by the appeals process.

"The Court of Appeal has now decided that the university's de-

cision to discipline the students should be set aside on the basis of administrative law principles," said Peter T. Linder, the U of C's external legal counsel for the case, in *UToday* on May 10, 2012.

The U of C will be revising their disciplinary policies to avoid such cases, and to act in unison with other Canadian universities' misconduct procedures.

Keith Pridgen, who graduated from political science last year from the U of C, and his brother Steven, who graduated from Mount Royal University in criminal justice, are relieved by the court's decision.

"It's fantastic to know that we were in the position of right from the get go, and hopefully this decision by the Court of Appeal will ensure that other students don't have to be put through the same process," said Pridgen. "Be confident in your rights as a student."

## Job boom, continued from cover

demographic within the older companies that's aging and going to be moving on and, of course, those people are going to need to be replaced. That's where undergraduate or graduate students come in," said Palmer.

Palmer stressed that there are both negatives and positives to the booming job market.

"I think it's very positive, but at the same time it gives students a lot of options. For students who haven't decided on their careers yet, it probably won't make it any easier," said Palmer. "It will probably lead a lot of students to find work in Calgary that may not be the best thing for them."

Job ads posted on Joblink, the U of C's internal job board, this year:	7,300
Jobs appearing on job board daily, since the last career and job expo:	350 - 500
Alberta's unemployment rate:	4.9%

Colleen Bangs, the U of C's career services manager, says students should exercise caution when looking for new careers. She said students should think about their future when applying for

jobs, and develop strategies to ensure the best outcome.

"Students really need to think about what their long-term goals are as far as the jobs that are available. There are a lot of entry-level

opportunities available, and it's really about being strategic and getting in the right place," said Bangs. "Sometimes it may not be the perfect job that's available, but if you're thinking long term about what [these positions] may look like in a year or five years from now, a lot of students will find themselves working where they want to work."

Both Brunnen and Bangs believe students should take advantage of the tools and opportunities they have to strengthen how they look for employment. For students at the U of C, some of these tools include a co-curricular record, resume workshops and mock inter-

views through the Student Success Centre and Career Services.

"We constantly have a large number of jobs and employers looking to hire, but there's only a certain number of students that use the resources available to them, so students should really seek them out and use them because it's those things that make a difference," said Bangs.

Palmer said students should do what they love to do and approach the job market with high aspirations.

"Follow your passions, because in Calgary, a lot of students haven't had an opportunity like this," he said.

### What do you want to be when you grow up?



"A lion tamer."  
— Brayden Kooistra, third-year engineering



"Batman."  
— Diane Knapik, second-year education



"An astronaut."  
— Hassan Pirbahi, third-year business



"A teacher."  
— Brooklyn Wasylenko, fourth-year psychology

## campus quips

# U of C students get help with registration

## New Student Registration Assistance available through the summer

**Erin Shumlich**  
Editor-in-Chief

Registering for the proper courses can be difficult for new university students. Over the spring and summer, high school students that are newly accepted to the University of Calgary must begin planning their degree.

On May 14, New Student Registration Assistance opened to help new students transition from high school to university. A team of seven students will be available over the summer to help any students experiencing issues with registration.

Manager and program advisor at the Student Success Centre Lesley Gerein said NSRA offers peer-to-peer advising and orientations over the summer to help new students prepare for university life.

"It's to help first-year students register throughout the summer on the phone, or they can drop in," said Gerein. "They teach students how to register and how to select their courses for the first year."

NSRA is in its fourth year as a program and has an active role



Adrienne Shumlich/the Gauntlet

**NSRA helps new U of C students become familiar with the registration system.**

in providing proper support for students.

This year, the team will visit seven high schools in Calgary to help with registration on the spot.

"We all know that first-year students need more support because the whole thing is so new," said Gerein. "We are not only orienting them to university, but teaching them the registration process. It's a complicated thing when you are new to the system."

The Program Coordination Committee reviews courses every year to determine what is work-

ing and in order to stay competitive with other universities. Course changes are approved by

but sometimes it's a more structural degree issue and they change degree programs," said Gerein.

**// We are not only orienting them to university, but teaching them the registration process. It's a complicated thing when you are new to the system.**

—Lesley Gerein, Student Success Centre manager

March for the following year.

"Sometimes it's little things like prerequisites need to be changed,

First-year experience coordinator Aleesha Bray said course changes happen every year, and

NSRA is available for any student struggling with registration.

"Sometimes it's just really nice for students to have this peer-based model for them to discuss anything on campus — residence, how to get involved, all kinds of things," said Bray. "A lot of students have an idea of what major they want to be in, but they don't really know what that means or how to prepare."

Devan Dekeyser, a second-year geology student, said there are proper resources in place if a student is having difficulties with registration.

"There is a lot to choose from," he said. "With degree navigator, student centre and other things, it's easy."

NSRA runs until August 10, and Gerein says with faculty advising offices, there is a lot of help available for students after the program finishes.

"It actually works well in terms of the student life cycle and when it is actually busy," said Gerein. "We cover the really busy time throughout the summer."

For more information on the U of C's New Student Registration Assistance program visit [ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://ucalgary.ca/ssc)

# Family of falcons make MacKimmie a summer home

**Sean Willett**  
Entertainment Editor

The University of Calgary's MacKimmie Library Tower will house unusual residents this summer. A mating couple of peregrine falcons have taken roost on the roof of the tower, where they will be raising their chicks over the next four months.

Callie and Gary, the two falcons nesting on top of the library tower, are regular visitors to the university, nesting on the tower in previous years. The female, Callie, has been nesting at the U of C since 2006.

Bird enthusiasts can catch a glimpse of the falcons using the live video feed set up by the university to research the birds' behaviour. The feed uses a specially positioned camera, providing a detailed view of Callie and her

nest without bothering the falcon or her young.

This year, four eggs have been laid by the couple since their arrival in March. The eggs are expected to hatch in late May.

The hatched falcons, known as eyases, will take over 40 days to lose their downy feathers and will remain dependent on their parents for the rest of the summer. In September, the falcons will migrate south to seek warmer climates.

Peregrine falcons are a protected species in Canada, and are on the endangered species watchlist. They are able to reach speeds of over 300 kilometres per hour while diving for prey, making them the fastest animal in the world.

For more information and the live video feed of the falcons at the U of C visit [ucalgary.ca/peregrine\\_falcon](http://ucalgary.ca/peregrine_falcon)



A live stream shot of a parenting falcon taking care of eggs on top of the MacKimmie Library Tower.



## Book review: *The End of Growth*

A recession is coming and we should embrace it

**Tamara Cottle**

Gauntlet Entertainment

When financial pundits look into their gem-studded crystal balls, the future may at first look cloudy, but in the end, the glimmer of hope promises infinite economic growth. Former chief economist and strategist for CIBC World Markets and blogger for the *Globe and Mail's* Economy Lab Jeff Rubin offers a blunt opposition to the notion of limitless economic expansion in his second book, *The End of Growth*.

The premise of the book is the idea that economic growth is contingent on energy costs, particularly the cost of oil. According to Rubin, energy resources connect and power our entire global village. Oil holds a special place in economies because it provides a third of the energy used on the planet, and is the most efficient energy source yet to be discovered. Despite its accolades, oil no longer spews from the ground, and we have been left with offshore wells, oil sands and shale reserves that are more difficult to access and more expensive to extract. As the march of modernization moves through the planet's population,

the global demand for oil increases exponentially, upping the cost of an increasingly scarce supply. Rubin contends that increased oil prices will result in a recession the world will not recover from.

Ten years ago, *The End of Growth* might have been used for kindling. But now, with the wounds of the euro-zone crisis, the Fukushima disaster and the 2008 financial crisis still smarting, it's not as difficult to consider. With a masterful yet colloquial voice, Rubin uses these examples to explain the complex phenomena that connect international markets in a way even those inexperienced in economics can understand.

Even without a formal education in economics, it is easy to see that the strategies used by governments to stimulate economies — running huge deficits and spending trillions on bailouts — just don't seem right. Rubin says governments should instead devise plans for inevitable economic stagnation.

Although the clouds of these prognostications may at first appear grim, there are more than a few silver linings to guide the road to hope. Rubin argues that unrestrained economic growth is unsustainable, and looks to places like Germany, Japan

and Denmark where effective strategies have been employed in times of scarcity. During their last economic downturn, Germany instituted a job-sharing program which kept taxes coming in and skilled workers in the workforce. After the 2011 nuclear disaster, Japan closed down 50 reactors for inspection, spurring a new ideology of energy conservation that is seeing more Japanese donning casual clothes at work where air conditioning and escalators have been shut down. Denmark boasts more cyclists per capita than any other state, perhaps because the tax of owning a car is as high as the cost of the car itself. Fewer cars on the road means less carbon choking the airways, and no need for redundant carbon emission standards.

The flat lining of the economy will usher in a whole host of ecological, health and societal benefits spurred by innovation toward local sustainability rather than global gluttony. In his closing sentence, "Making do with less is better than wanting more," Rubin encapsulates a new paradigm that may very well be around the next corner.

For more information about Jeff Rubin's *The End of Growth* visit [randomhouse.ca](http://randomhouse.ca)

## Game Review: *Botanicula*

An adventure that proves even seeds can be cute

**Sean Willett**

Entertainment Editor

Occasionally a game will come along that reminds me how joyous the gaming medium can be. *Botanicula* is such a game. It is a piece of beautiful art, unburdened by the grim fatalism that has been rampant in independent games in the last five years. Any darkness that can be found in the world Amanita Design created only serves to accentuate its moments of pure, childish bliss.

The game is a point-and-click adventure for PC, Mac and Linux, and is similar to the studio's previous releases. It is set in a tree inhabited by a plethora of strange and quirky creatures — some are

plants, some are bugs and some are a mix of both. The story follows five of these adorable beings as they attempt to protect their tree's last remaining seed from an evil, spider-like monster.

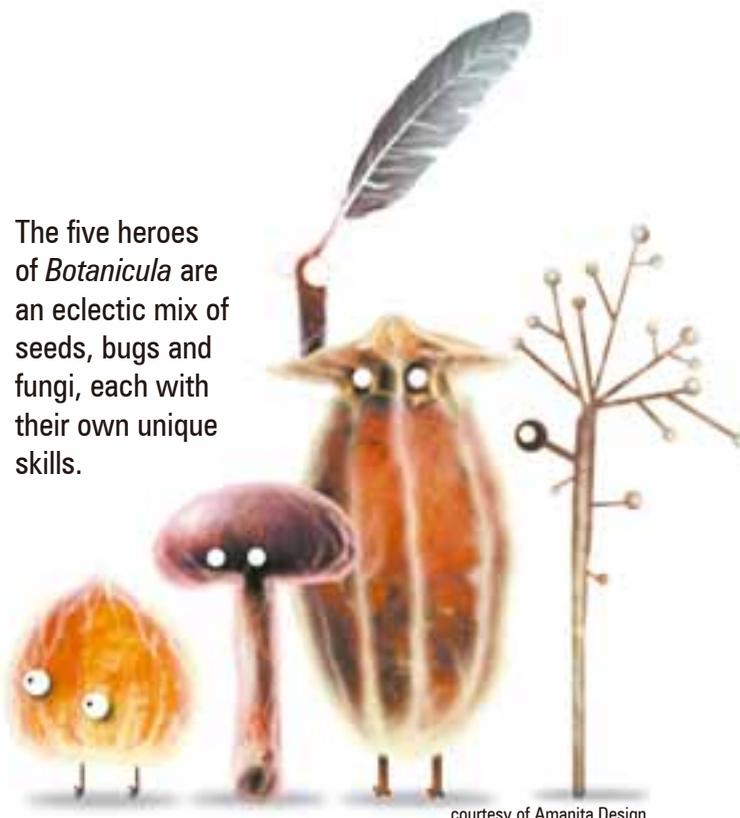
All of the actions in *Botanicula* are handled by the cursor, often in very clever and inventive ways. With no tutorial or instructions provided to the player, the game encourages experimentation and discovery. Curiosity and cleverness are rewarded with vivid spectacles or delightful scenes of the tree's inhabitants at play. With little danger facing your quintet of characters through most of their quest, the game takes on a very relaxing pace. I never felt rushed while playing *Botanicula*, and was able to take my

time to work out the game's puzzles.

The most distinct aspect of *Botanicula* is undoubtedly its visuals, which often straddle the line between cute and creepy. Thankfully they tend to favour the former, and I was often surprised at how charmed I was by the game's unusual cast of characters. The music pairs perfectly with the visuals, featuring a post-rock soundtrack reminiscent of Icelandic musician Jónsi.

Playing through *Botanicula* feels like wandering through the woods as a child — although things sometimes got dark, I felt a sense of wonder and adventure that was never dulled. It is a game that reminds me of why I love games, and is a perfect example of the direction independent games should be taking.

The five heroes of *Botanicula* are an eclectic mix of seeds, bugs and fungi, each with their own unique skills.



courtesy of Amanita Design

# Music YYC, continued from cover

The site will also be a boon for bands, exposing their music to new audiences that might have never discovered it otherwise. Self-promotion is often difficult for independent artists, who lack the money and resources that come with bigger labels. With their music in an easy-to-access central location, local artists now have access to a new channel for building their following without any additional costs to them.

In addition to the site, there will also be a blog devoted to showcasing local talent. Titled The Common Room, the blog will feature videos of musicians playing short acoustic sets accompanied by audio recordings of interviews and extended biographies of the artists. The filming will be done exclusively in Commonwealth Bar during the day, when it is closed to the public.



courtesy of Kevin Kirkpatrick

Kaleem Khan, also known as Baleen, performs an acoustic set in an empty Commonwealth.

The first artist showcased on this blog will be University of Calgary student Kaleem Khan,

who plays under the stage name Baleen. Since Khan relies mostly on acoustic guitar to produce his

music, performing an acoustic set was not difficult for the experimental-folk musician. However,

the cameras were a new experience entirely.

“It was really exciting to be a part of something like this,” explains Khan. “But it was a different experience — I’m not used to having cameras on me.”

The video will be posted on the website in the next few weeks, with more artists to be featured afterwards. With this additional content, Music YYC will become an even more important tool for both fans and artists. Khan is eager to see the final result of his work.

“I think what was really cool about it is that I don’t know what to expect,” he says. “I am the first artist to be showcased, so I’m really excited to see what ends up coming out of it.”

To hear Kaleem Khan’s music and to discover more local artists visit [musicyyc.ca](http://musicyyc.ca)

## spun ALBUM REVIEWS



**From Birch to Yew**  
*Whisper in the Trees*  
April 5, 2012  
Independent release

Though it is not exceptionally unique, local artist From Birch to Yew’s self-released seven track debut album, *Whisper in the Trees*, is a strikingly earnest collection of tunes. What it lacks in sheer originality, it makes up for with the beautiful simplicity of talented songwriting.

Standout tracks “Company of Mine” and “The Gargoyle” both feature singer and multi-instrumentalist Norika Yue’s ability to effortlessly croon with minimal accompaniment. The strongest

moments on the album are when tracks become fully formed ideas with percussion, piano and other guitar parts enticing the listener to attend a live show.

Yue clearly wears his influences on his sleeve. At first listen, he has obvious similarities to the Canadian Dallas Green — something Yue has probably grown extremely tired of hearing. The quality of Yue’s vocals are the driving force behind the album, though perhaps the next release will be a chance to show some more versatility. There is an endearing quality to the production on this release, with Yue vacillating between unrepentantly poppy choruses and fingerpicked campfire tunes.

Lyrical speaking, Yue is clearly hunting bigger game with intelligently designed songs that creatively navigate well-worn roads without sounding too hackneyed. Sometimes less is more and with Yue’s natural gifts, hopefully we can expect a more albums of From Birch to Yew.

Taylor McKee

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# Film Review: *Dark Shadows*

Tim Burton's latest film is definitely a Tim Burton film

**Morgan Shandro**

Illustrations Editor

Watching the trailer for director Tim Burton's latest film *Dark Shadows*, one might infer that the movie is a raunchy sex comedy that derives the majority of its jokes either from the concept of supernatural copulation or the inevitable culture shock that comes from being reintroduced to the world after a two century-long absence. Fortunately, the movie is not as one-dimensional as the advertising made it sound. The mixture of supernatural tropes into the comedy genre creates a distinctive campiness reminiscent of the '60s tv show the film is based from the same name, and Burton manages to use this to his advantage.

*Dark Shadows* is a textbook example of Burton's easily recognizable style: quirky characters with pale faces and dark, sunken eyes traipse about gloomy, expressionist sets. The casting of Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter are also quite unsurprising, and the prominence of vampires, witches, ghosts and other supernatural beings make it apparent that Burton is in his element. Fans of the film-



maker will not be disappointed.

Since the movie is based on an old tv drama, it features a large cast of the same eccentric characters. Most of these are members of the Collins family, descendants of

Depp's character, an immortal vampire named Barnabas. The Collins, along with several other individuals employed by the family, live in a mansion where the movie is set. The mansion's residents, as well

as the villain of the film, a witch named Angelique (Eva Green), are all given interesting characterizations and backstories. However, this becomes the film's main weakness. Characters introduced

throughout *Dark Shadows* are given a few lines of dialogue and are then promptly forgotten about for the majority of the movie. When they return, the result is rather anticlimactic, if anything. It feels like there is something missing from the subplots, and many of the characters simply do not have enough screen time to invest in them. The movie spreads itself too thin, and by doing so, weakens its overall impact.

That being said, *Dark Shadows* still manages to be entertaining by virtue of the talented cast and the amusing situations that are brought about by an immortal vampire living in the '70s. The movie clips along at a good pace, though with the numerous subplots it sometimes loses direction. Then again, the direction is never very clear in the first place. Perhaps this is for the best, as it keeps the audience engaged as they try to guess where the plot will take them next.

As another addition to the ocean of vampire-themed media, *Dark Shadows* will not rouse major emotion. However, if you enjoy spooky supernatural comedies you will likely find it enjoyable.

## Film review: *What to Expect When You're Expecting*

**Sarah Dorchak**

Production Editor

There have been a string of films in the past few years attempting to showcase real-life situations rather than unrealistic scenarios perpetuated by popular culture. These movies, like *Knocked Up*, *Bridesmaids* and even *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, don't attempt to sugarcoat people's actions or emotions. "This is life," these movies proclaim, "it's dirty, messy, confusing, heart-breaking and never straight-cut." *What to Expect When You're Expecting* attempted to be such a movie by exploring the real problems and circumstances behind pregnancy, but fails miserably due to its star power.

Similar to the movies featuring genuine human actions and emotions, there has been a sudden increase in the past two years of mov-

ies flying solely on the coattails of their star power. *New Year's Eve* and *Valentine's Day* are two shining examples of films that shove a dozen popular stars into multiple plotlines in order to appeal to a wider audience, resulting in a convoluted and unwatchable film. *Expecting* falls prey to this mistake.

There are so many stories that are weaved in and out of *Expecting* that, even though each character is taking a big step in adulthood, you have little time to care about any of them. Even if you start to care about one or two of the plotlines, none of them are developed enough to be satisfactory. The depth of each character's journey is sacrificed for breadth, and the film is weaker as a result.

Two of the stories — one featuring Elizabeth Banks and the other featuring a house-husband group a la *Fight Club* — were so complex

that each of the stories could have made decent 90-minute films. The other plots had only about 20 minutes of screen time each, creating neglected characters and an uninterested audience. Combine all these plots and you have a 110-minute long film with no real heart.



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# A diamond in the rough

## Dinos baseball club reach semifinals despite challenging regular season

**Taylor McKee**  
Sports Editor

The 2012 season was one to remember for the University of Calgary baseball team. The Dinos finished their season on May 13 in the semifinals of the Canadian College Baseball Conference after losing to the Vancouver Island Baseball Institute in the ninth inning. The road to the semifinals, however, was unconventional.

The team's regular season was an absolute nightmare. Winning five of their first nine games, the Dinos were off to one of the best starts in club history. Then, through a combination of tough losses, injuries and mental fatigue from a strenuous travel schedule, the Dinos lost their next 17 games and finished in last place in the conference with a record of 5-21. This earned them a fifth seed going into the national championship in Kamloops and an exceedingly tough schedule in the tournament that included matchups against the top two teams.

The Dinos head coach for six years A.J. Fystro said the team was better than their record reflected. "We always believed we had an opportunity to play better," he said. "We knew we were better than what we had showed. We honestly believed that everyone had counted us out."

The Dinos lost their first game in

nationals 6-1 to the top seed from Lethbridge but defiantly topped the second-ranked squad from Kamloops 7-6, a team that had beaten the Dinos six-straight times during the regular season. In their third game, the Dinos shellacked VIBI from Nanaimo 16-1 and secured a berth in the semifinal. That game was essentially meaningless for VIBI, but the victory

marked the first time the U of C baseball club reached

the semis of a national championship.

In the semifinals, Dinos third-year left-handed pitcher Riley Schaaf threw 133 pitches, 91 of them for strikes, striking out 13 VIBI batters and walking none. However, the Dinos could not hold the ninth inning lead and their championship run ended. Considering their regular season, the Dinos's showing in Kamloops was a resounding success.

It would be difficult enough to compete with better funded baseball academies from British Columbia if baseball was the only thing Fystro and his players had to worry about. Unfortunately, off-the-field complications forced

the club to deal with a myriad of problems. Due to renovations to Foothills Stadium in the wake of the departure of the Calgary Vipers, the home field for the Dinos suddenly became unusable for games or practices. This meant the Dinos played a grand total of zero home games this season and had to practice indoors.

In addition, the Dinos are a club, not a varsity team, and are therefore subjected to expenses that must be covered by the players. "It definitely is a challenge. Not a lot of people realize the struggles that some of these club teams

season, but through the hard work of the coaching staff and the commitment of the players, the program is starting to grow and develop talent at a high calibre. This year's squad was young, featuring only two graduating players. Fystro has a lot of confidence in the talent of the Dinos moving forward.

"We knew our recruiting class was probably the best we had in the past six years and we were very high on the guys that were coming in," Fystro said. "The growth in this program over the last six years has come to where we are not just getting the athlete that is a scholar.

where. "If a player tells me he is coming, I just have to hope that he is," Fystro said.

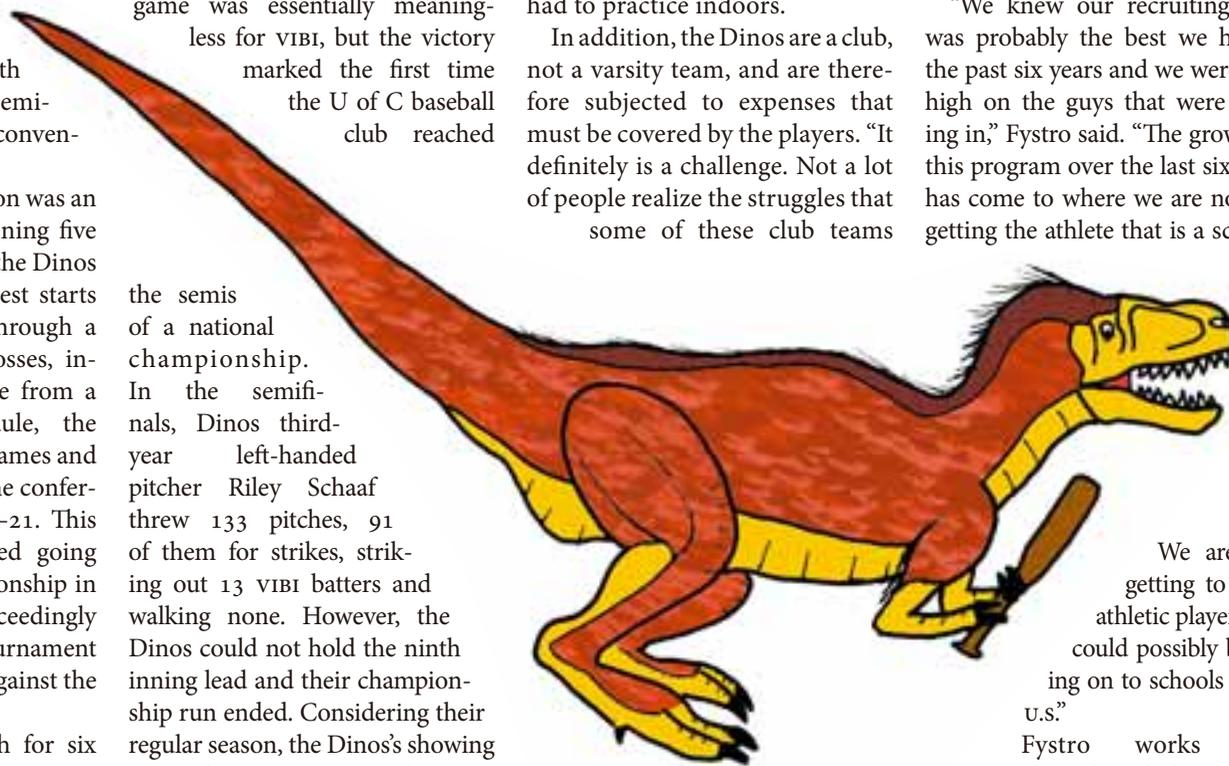
The strain of trying to develop talent while being financially hamstrung clearly weighs heavily on the mind of Fystro, who said that the purpose of the club was to give players an opportunity to succeed at the U of C or elsewhere. A huge boost for the program is the evolution of Schaaf, who Fystro believes has the talent to become a professional prospect.

"He's a six-foot-seven left-handed pitcher. He came into our program two years ago and was 160 or 170 pounds," Fystro said. "Now he's a 240 pound specimen. I think this kid could be the first kid drafted straight out of our program."

If Schaaf or any other player is drafted directly from the U of C, it would be a huge compliment to the work ethic and commitment of the team's coaching staff, making the recruiting job a lot easier.

Clearly frustrated by the performance of his club in the regular season, the next season has already begun for Fystro who is optimistic about the future of the program.

"A lot of good things are happening and it's definitely a work in progress every year," Fystro said. "You just hope that somebody out there is willing to help these young men out and give them an opportunity to further their dreams."



We are also getting to those athletic players that could possibly be going on to schools in the U.S."

Fystro works year round, and said that he will begin recruiting as early as next weekend, which is another challenge for the U of C. The new recruits are not required to sign a letter of intent, like the system in the NCAA, guaranteeing their attendance at the U of C and prohibiting them from playing else-

have," Fystro said. "Our players have to pay to participate. You can imagine the cost with us having to travel to B.C. for the first four weekends of the conference."

In club history, the Dinos have not won more than nine games in a

COMICS

### Imaginary Anomaly — Morgan Shandro

