

THE

GAUNTLET

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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

NEWS

U of C researchers put out a unique request asking local dog owners for their furry friend's poop to study gastrointestinal parasites in urban areas, page 4.



ENTERTAINMENT

The Calgary Folk Music Festival is quickly approaching, and will turn Prince's Island into a musical nexus for four days of excitement, page 6.



**ONEcard
expansion
plan falls
through,
page 3**



Calgarians want housing. Now.

The Harper government announced a new string of amendments to Canada's mortgage rules that came into effect on July 9, 2012. These changes to the borrowing rules were made in part to avoid the borrowing crisis that has set the America economy into its current state of turmoil with entire cities filing for bankruptcy. While the logic behind the changes seems timely as fear of economic downturn spreads across the Canadian boarder, there are serious consequences on the renting market as Canadians have fewer buying options.

Calgary is the third most expensive Canadian city to live in. In conjunction with a rapidly growing population, the rental housing market experienced massive inflation that is making it increasingly difficult for individuals seeking a place to live in Calgary. Websites like RentFaster.ca are flooded with Calgarians desperately looking for

affordable places to live, which drives up housing prices. Another issue stems from landlords favouring certain candidates — this has caused many potential tenants to feel stigmatized.

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation predicts the current 1.9 per cent vacancy rate in Calgary will drop to 1.5 per cent by next year. While its easy to celebrate the population boom, the city has yet to make a move in order to deal with an imminent crisis of where to

house new Calgarians with a mosaic of incomes, as well as how to house current Calgarians who are already struggling to find room and board in a competitive market.

These new amendments affect all income brackets, but none as much as lower income Calgarians who are forced into less desirable rental areas that are higher in crime and further from amenities and job centers. The other problem is that house prices in less desirable areas are also increasing as the



city attempts to gentrify historically lower income areas, like the East Village renewal project. What we see instead of more options for the average Calgarian are plans for large expensive condo high-rises, which new buyers will have a hard time affording especially with the changes to mortgage rules. Once large real-estate companies buy most of the housing units in these neighbourhoods, the renting market will only continue to suffer. In many of these cases, maximum rental profits are put over providing affordable living spaces.

There must be reflection on the high cost and compromised standard of living in Calgary as things begin to get much worse for potential tenants in the city. Calgary City Council must make a move quickly to offer more affordable housing in order to compete with an inflated renting market.

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JULY 19, 2012

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Golden Spatula

Jesse Hunter for visiting us in our cave and picking an EP to review. Thanks for being nice to one of our own. You rock!

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The Cover

Design by Adrienne Shumlich and Evangelos Lambrinouidis II
News photo: courtesy Nicky King

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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:



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ONEcard expansion program halted

September goal of campus-wide ONEcard access to food vendors unattainable

Michael Grondin
News Editor

“We need more options, and we need to be able to get better food because right now there’s not much to choose from,” said second-year biology student Jess Neufeld concerning where he is able to use his ONEcard to purchase food. He is currently living in Glacier Hall.

The ONEcard allows students to use their U of C identification card as a quick and easy way to pay for food on campus, access transit and pay for printing in the library. However, students are unable to use the ONEcard at all U of C food vendors.

In the summer of 2011, a program initiated by Residence Ancillary Services and the previous Student Legislative Council aimed to improve food access for students. A portion of the existing meal plan funds of approximately \$1,000,000 were taken to be used in a new account called food funds, said RAS business manager Trevor Rempel.

Part of this program was to allow the ONEcard to have more access across campus by September 2012.

However, a plan of action has not been agreed upon, and discussions will continue concerning the fees that vendors will have to pay to be a part of the ONEcard program.

One of the proposals brought forward by the SU was placing a service fee on vendors, however, negotiations for this fee are still underway. Another proposal was to include ONEcard use in ven-



Adrienne Shumlich

Students, like Tyler Pentland, are unable to access all campus food vendors with their ONEcards

dors’ lease agreements, which was also denied.

“We talked with the Students’ Union last summer and throughout the last academic year and again this spring with the new council. We’ve been working on trying to bring more of the vendors within MacHall [on board], because that is a desirable group of vendors that students would love access to with their ONEcards,” said Rempel. “We’re try-

ing to make the meal plan a great service that students enjoy using.”

Residence meal plans, the Dining Centre, Chartwells, Tim Hortons and Pizza 73 are already part of the program. In the last year, other vendors like Fuel for Gold, the U of C Bookstore, Starbucks and Good Earth locations on campus have also been added. Off-campus options are currently being looked at.

“It’s not as convenient as it

could be. If we could be able to go to La Prep, or any other place to get food with our ONEcards other than the [Dining Centre], it would just be easier,” said Neufeld. “The [Dining Centre] gets really old, really quick.”

If vendors become part of the ONEcard program, they will have to pay a service fee, as well as a rental fee for ONEcard equipment. According to Rempel, this has made some of the vendors hesitant to join.



“Many students really expressed a strong interest in this plan and in having this program expand. Because we are unable to implement the program at this time doesn’t mean we will not be able to in the future.”

– Hayley Wade, Students’ Union vice-president student life

“This would give students way more choice. The vendors have been a bit reluctant, and what we want to emphasize is that it’s easy and there’s money that can be accessed,” said Rempel. “It’s unfortunate that the gap in the card program is in the middle of campus at MacHall and we haven’t been able to agree on all the fine details or have everyone join the program.”

Canadian Sports Centre director of marketing and sponsorship David Haughton, who manages Fuel for Gold, said being part of the program is convenient for customers who use the ONEcard.

“I can’t see why [a vendor] wouldn’t want to be a part of the program, other than the fact that they have to pay fees, but it is a convenience. Being part of a food kiosk, you want to be as convenient as possible so you can cater to more people,” he said

According to SU vice-president student life Hayley Wade, the expansion program would have been beneficial to students living in residence, as they are the primary ONEcard users. She hopes that future negotiations can ease the process for expanded ONEcard use.

“Ideally, the ONEcard will still be accepted in MacHall at some point, but it’s not looking realistic for this fall,” said Wade. “Many students really expressed a strong interest in this plan, and in having this program expand. Because we are unable to implement the program at this time doesn’t mean we will not be able to in the future.”

Wade said the ONEcard program is a great service for students and talks about making it more accessible will be ongoing.

campus quips

If you could have a superpower, what would it be?



“The superpower to be any superhero.”

– Julian Rojas,
third-year
English



“I would like to be invincible.”

– Britta Lee,
fifth-year
music



“To stretch any part of my body.”

– Manthaw Ng,
third-year
kinesiology



“I’d choose teleportation.”

– Alice Huang,
second-year
business

Research calls for Calgary's doggy donations

U of C study looks at gastrointestinal parasites in urban area

Emily Ng

Gauntlet News

Faculty of veterinary medicine researchers at the University of Calgary are asking Calgary dog owners to donate their dog's poop in the name of science.

Dog owners in Calgary who live in areas near large parks were sent letters on July 11 requesting them to fill out online surveys about their dog's walking patterns. Dog owners were also asked if they would be willing to donate their dog's leavings.

The bizarre requests are for a study led by veterinary medicine assistant professor Alessandro Massolo and veterinary medicine graduate student Anya Smith. They are researching gastrointestinal parasites in dogs, as well as the relationships between domestic animals, wildlife and people in urban environments.

Massolo's lab specifically studies the methods of transmission and infection of the common water-borne parasites *Giardiasis* and *Cryptosporidium* and how they affect domestic and wild animals in urban areas. Massolo



courtesy Larry Shumlich

Some Calgary dog owners received a strange request for their dog's leavings.

and his team are hoping to find out more about the prevalence of the parasites in dogs. Particularly, which strains of these parasites are found in dogs, coyotes and rodents that go to the same parks

and whether dogs can pass these parasites to humans or other animals.

"The study is basically going to provide valuable information for dog owners, for park and wildlife

management, for veterinarians and for the public health sector as well," said Smith.

Smith also notes that these parasites, which are commonly found in a number of animal spe-

cies in North America, will not always harm dogs.

"Just because they're common doesn't mean they're dangerous necessarily," said Smith. "Animals can carry these parasites and be asymptomatic."

Calgary is an ideal location for this study because of the unique overlap of wildlife parks and urban areas, according to Smith.

"In Calgary, we have large parks where you've got coyotes and rodents and domestic animals — in this case dogs — and people all sort of overlapping in one space," she said.

Dog owners who choose to donate their dog's feces will have it picked up at their doorstep to be analyzed. If the results show that their dog is positive for either of the parasites, they will be notified. Dog owners will also receive a summarized report of the study when completed.

The City of Calgary, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Alberta Innovates Health Solutions and the Institute for Public Health are also playing a large part in the research.

The survey and sample collection will run until the end of August.

Update: student aid gets more accessible in Alberta

Michael Grondin

News Editor

The Alberta government has introduced several changes to the student aid program to decrease financial barriers encountered by post-secondary students.

According to the provincial government's website, the enhancements will make it easier for university students to reach their educational goals. All changes will be effective August 1.

The new changes include the introduction of grants designed to keep workers and students in the province. If students who took out loans complete their education, they will potentially receive a completion grant of up to \$2,000 upon graduation.

A retention grant will also be introduced, which will give about



Adrienne Shumlich

News gets better for students applying for financial aid in Alberta.

\$1,000 to graduates who remain in the province for three years, however, the professions included in this program have not yet been announced.

According to the website, the

Alberta 2012 budget has a strong investment in Alberta's students.

"We don't want costs preventing Alberta's students from pursuing their dreams," said Minis-

ter of Advanced Education and Technology Greg Weadick in a press release. "Budget 2012 reflects our ongoing commitment to making post-secondary educa-

tion accessible and affordable and to encourage graduates to make their degree work right here in Alberta."

The provincial government has removed parental earnings, savings and part-time earnings when determining loan eligibility. They have also introduced a flat-rate \$1,500 student contribution which students must be able to bring to the table when applying for loans.

"We are always looking at improving our student aid program so that it is more accessible for students who need it and so we can continue to provide flexible repayment options upon graduation," said Weadick.

Copyright agreement put off

Michael Grondin
News Editor

The long debate concerning whether universities across Canada should sign on to Access Copyright's model plan is ongoing. The University of Calgary is still in the consultation process and has delayed signing on to the agreement once again.

There is an estimated yearly cost of \$780,000 for the U of C if they sign on to the agreement. However, many stakeholders and educational institutions are concerned that the agreement will only hinder students' ability to access copyrighted materials.

According to a June 20 Canadian Alliance of Student Associations press release, Canadian uni-

versities are advised to object to the model license.

extremely complex issue. "The Copyright Committee of the [U of C] is working hard on behalf of the university community, and intends to use the next few months to continue to do our due diligence and consult concerning this complex matter," said Marshall. "The [U of C] is committed to providing our university community with the resources it needs to easily and legally access learning and research material."

Students' Union vice-president academic Kenya-Jade Pinto said the U of C administration is doing everything in its power to gather the information needed to make the right decision. She said the extra time the university has gained by postponing the agreement to September 30 has made the process easier.

"The provost continues to do her due diligence in making sure that all stakeholders on campus are being consulted and that the right decision is made," said Pinto. "It provides the university with some more time to take an in depth scan at the resources on campus that are available, and in order to make the most informed decision. By not signing the June 30 deadline, the university has effectively gained resources so the best decision can be made and really see what is needed on campus."

Marshall said the university has a lot of work that still needs to be done so that the best interests of students and stakeholders on campus are met.

"Whether or not our university signs an agreement with Access Copyright, we are doing a number of things as an institution to manage our university's copyright needs," said Marshall.

versities are advised to object to the model license.

"Increasing information accessibility is paramount to the improvement of post-secondary education in Canada. Signing an agreement with Access Copyright will increase restrictions and fees at institutions for an outmoded delivery model. The modern pace of change in information sharing and development renders such a license counterproductive," said CASA national director Zachary Dayler in the press release.

According to U of C's provost and vice-president academic Dru Marshall in utoday on July 4, the U of C needs time to make an informed decision concerning this



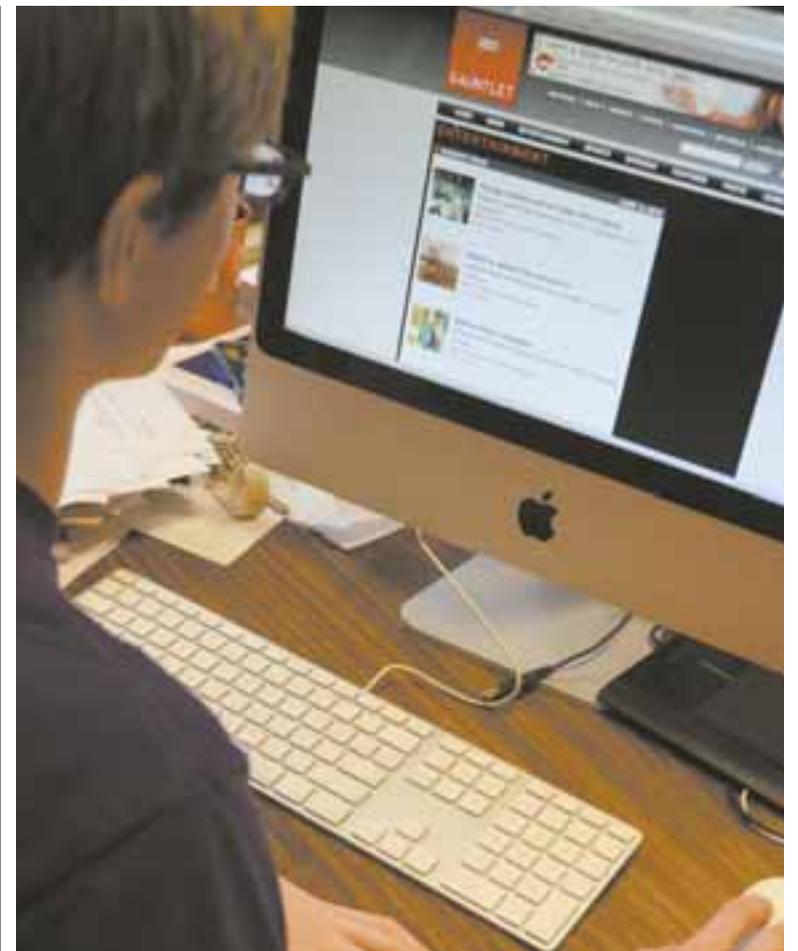
Adrienne Shumlich

The best options for students' copyright access is investigated

The U of C opted out of Access Copyright's previous plan in 2011 after the prices increased, but in April 2012, the copyright collective introduced a new agreement that is stirring debate nationwide.

On May 15, the university signed a letter of intent, meaning the U of C remains interested but does not have to formally sign the agreement, prior to the deadline on June 30. Again, the U of C administration is continuing to speak with stakeholders before a decision is made. The next deadline to sign on is September 30.

The model agreement allows educational facilities to reproduce digital and printed works while acting within copyright.



Michael Grondin

The Gauntlet gets spiffy online

We, the *Gauntlet*, have a brand-spanking new website to cater to all your online *Gauntlet* needs. You can read our delicious campus news, tasty entertainment pieces, salty opinions, hot and melted features, spicy sports profiles and sweet, sweet comics. You can get your fill on everything campus, calgary and even the world. Just head to the Gauntlet.ca to get your read on, sign up to volunteer or advertise. You want it and it's yours, faithful readers.



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Folk Fest is coming and can't be stopped



Prince's Island prepares for one of Calgary's biggest music festivals

Adrienne Shumlich

Sean Willett
Entertainment Editor

Every year in late July, Prince's Island Park is covered with tarps, and these tarps are covered with music fans. They arrive in droves of hundreds to attend one of the biggest festivals in Calgary, and one of the most important musical events in Canada: the Calgary Folk Music Festival.

Founded in 1980, the CFMF features a mix of artists from a variety of different musical backgrounds gathered from around the globe to perform over the course of four days, from July 26–29. With some events at the National Music Centre, the festival takes place almost entirely on Prince's Island, which is filled with food vendors and other attractions for the duration of the event. However, despite always being in the same place at the same time each year, the festival is far from stagnation.

"Everything is new every year, even with the same format we have almost completely different performers," says Kerry Clarke, CFMF's artistic director. "We have a lot of artists who have never been to Canada or have never

played in Calgary coming to the festival."

Artists performing this year include Beirut, Iron and Wine and Jimmy LaFave, along with local acts such as The Magnetic North and Lorrie Matheson.

A popular feature of the festival that ensures every year is a unique experience is the collaborative music sessions. These

/// I think it links people, so many people are at home listening to music on their iPods, and the Folk Festival is something that brings people together to have a shared musical experience.

— Kerry Clarke, artistic director for CFMF

sessions bring different musicians together playing on stage, often for the first time.

"We do the collaborative sessions where we put artists together to create different styles and themes. You are guaranteed to hear something brand new at the festival, something you will probably never see again," explains Clarke. "What results from these collaborations is something entirely unique, and every year that is new."

New this year to the festival is the

Apache Talk Tent, a stage specifically designated for comedy and other spoken arts, including interviews with some of the musicians.

"It includes comedians, spoken word poets, community organizations and artist interviews," says Clarke. "We've got Richard Flohil, a publicist that has worked with Folk Fest in the past, and he is going to be doing some more

serious discussions with the artists, and sharing their stories of the road. We also have Atomic Improv, who are from Edmonton, and are involved in the *Irrelevant Show* for CBC Radio."

Other artists performing at the Talk Tent including *Kids in the Hall* star Kevin McDonald and cjsw's comedy program *Am I Right??* There will also be a special tribute to the legendary folk musician Woody Guthrie, entitled *Walking Woody's Road*.

"Walking Woody's Road is a tribute to Woody Guthrie on what would be his 100th birthday," says Clarke. "There is going to be a performance on stage of the show, with the performers playing some songs of his along with a narration, and an additional portion at the Talk Tent."

Of course, despite this new addition to the Folk Fest, the main focus remains the diverse and talented group of musicians playing throughout the festival. Despite many of the artists being relatively unknown in Calgary, Clarke assures they will all be worth the price of admission.

"So many people who come for the first time say, 'I had no idea,' she explains. "They just don't realize the magic of this festival, and the discovery element that comes with it. Some people on the fence may not see some of their favourite performers or enough of their favourite performers. When they come, they will see that there are a lot of artists that they haven't heard of before, but will probably end up loving"

This gathering of talent is also beneficial to the artists themselves, who are given a chance to collaborate with international artists they may have otherwise

never met.

"For artists, it really helps to advance their careers," says Clarke. "Festivals are regarded as really coveted places to play, people are paid well and treated well, and they get to collaborate with other artists. I think the local artists in particular benefit the most since they get to collaborate with musicians from all over the world, which opens up a lot of new opportunities for them."

With the summer heat reaching its scorching zenith, the CFMF is a terrific way to enjoy the warmth while it lasts. With over 50,000 attendees in past years experiencing the music of over 70 performers, it is a Calgarian event unlike any other.

"It is a really amazing community event, with people from all ages and all walks of life," says Clarke. "It really is the music festival of the summer, there is so much to see and do and so much variety. I think it links people, so many people are at home listening to music on their iPods, and the Folk Festival is something that brings people together to have a shared musical experience."

For more information about the Calgary Folk Music Festival, including a schedule and lineup, visit calgaryfolkfest.com.



Peer Support
Peer Support
May 15, 2012
Independent release

What is better than eating locally grown food? Listening to locally grown music. Peer Support is a self-described “five-piece melodic indie rock act from Calgary with influences as diverse as the city that they call home.” The tight-knit group has recently released their first self-titled EP, a three track album that feels like a deep breath of fresh air in a city experiencing a post-Stampede smog.

The album’s first track “Krem-lin Gremlin” begins with a burst. The first note propels an energetic rhythm that supports a pleasing introductory guitar melody, captivating listeners even before the deep resonant voice of Taylor McKee is infused into the sound. The whole album is filled with a lyrical flow that does not rush or override the other components of the sound. The result is an incredibly pleasing experience, that is easy to listen to and enjoy.

The second track “Parts Unknown” is a transition into an intimate and reflective musical space infused with an anthem-like collection of voices. During these first moments of the recording, a chanting acapella progres-

sion rises up, setting the stage for a song that seems to rise up in resistance against a fragmented familiarity that stalks the waves of radio. A persistent and powerful back beat carries listeners through smooth melodic transitions, causing you to want to tap your feet. The sound bravely immerses itself in hardship — never lingering in, yet never avoiding, a familiar loneliness. Strings and horns emerge, deepening the sound before the track concludes with the same hymn-like vocals it began with.

The final song “Augustine” showcases the band’s diversity with a hard-edged mood coming through the gritty guitar, confident percussion and aggressive vocals. The tempo is a steady canter, and the timbre is infused with a silky voice that subtly sweetens the track. Vibrant guitar takes precedence, causing heads to rock until the final note fades.

The sense of liberty in this album is impressive, even before arriving at the first chorus of the first song. A communion of distinct artistic stories bleed together and the result is Peer Support, a band of friends. This three-song EP is just a taste of what will hopefully be a full-course Peer Support meal in the future.

Jesse Hunter

Book Review: *Trifles*

Nhial Tiitmamer
Gauntlet Entertainment

Families new to Canada often experience a disconnect between generations. Parents raised in another country may have difficulties raising their children in a place so unlike their home. Conversely, their children may feel alienated by parents who don’t understand their lives. People who have experienced this disconnect, as well as those who are curious about the lives of immigrants in Canada, may be interested in reading *Trifles*, a 2010 novel about the trials and tribulations of immigrating to our multicultural society.

The book was written by Kuir Garang, a Sudanese Canadian author, poet and musician. Garang treats readers to a riveting look at parenting in multicultural Canada from the standpoint of someone who has worked as an in-school settlement worker in Calgary.

Trifles features two main characters, 10-year-olds Adut and Angelina, a duo that Garang describes as having a friendship which defies “sanity, reality.” Angelina is a daughter of European Canadians, Oliver and Jacqueline. Adut’s parents are South Sudanese Canadians, Ayen and Kuot.

Although Canada is known for embracing multiculturalism, Garang describes a common situation — people from similar backgrounds clinging to each other. Anyone who goes beyond this comfort zone to befriend people from different racial backgrounds can sometimes be ostracized by peers. Because of their relationship, Angelina and Adut have been branded as outcasts for making friends with people outside of their respective communities.

Despite the close bond between Adut and Angelina, their parents refuse to accept their unconventional friendship. A father of a four-year-old daughter himself, Garang has a knack for writing dialogue between parents and their children. The conflicts between Angelina and her parents feel very real and deeply personal, and allow the reader to identify with both sides of the dispute. The issues presented have no easy resolution, just like problems faced by real families.

Anyone who has experienced life as an immigrant in Canada can truly connect with *Trifles*. Does multiculturalism exist only in theory? Garang explores this question. Multiculturalism is an idea discussed at dinner tables and in-

stilled in children as they grow up to understand and respect people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. This level of multiculturalism seems to be absent in many communities in Canada, as shown in *Trifles*.

A European Canadian friend once told me that his mom swore to kill herself if he brought home a non-European girlfriend. I was given similar instructions when I moved to Canada — to marry inside my own community. *Trifles* brought to light real-life experiences that immigrants face every day.

Garang wants his readers to learn that multiculturalism isn’t only about the food we eat or the clothes we wear — it is more about how we understand and relate to each other. As Adut says, “you can only know the best of people if you come close to them.” Garang shows us that parenting in a multicultural society should be about teaching children to learn from each other and embrace other cultures.

Although it is set in Canada, the lessons learned in *Trifles* can be applied anywhere. The novel is literature, philosophy and reality. It is perfect for people who want to better understand the nature of multiculturalism and want to help improve it for future generations.

Here at CJSW, we're glowing with pride. Calgarians - through FFWD Weekly - have voted us the Best Radio Station in Calgary, the Best Fundraiser, and the Best Radio Personality: Chad Saunders.

This is really, really cool. And we wouldn't be here without our listeners, so thank you for keeping CJSW awesome.

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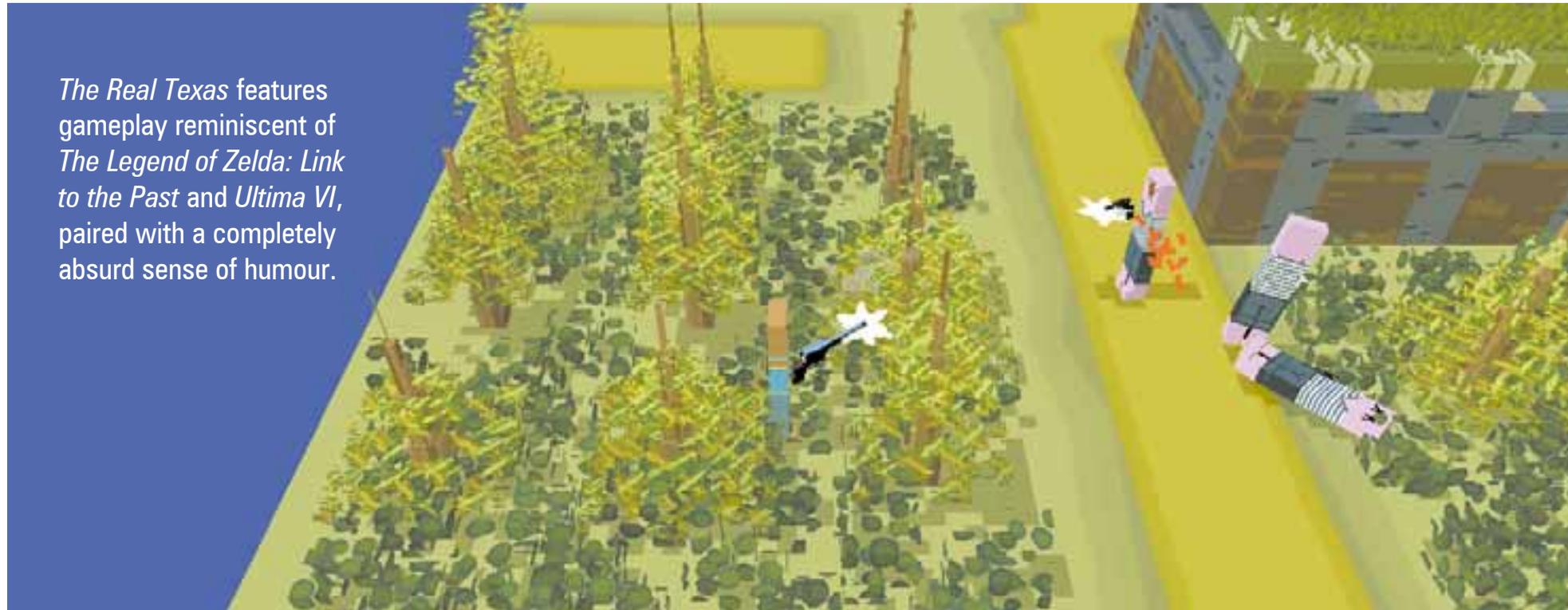
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Game Review: *The Real Texas*

Ever wondered what purgatory is like for a Texan cowboy visiting a castle?

The Real Texas features gameplay reminiscent of *The Legend of Zelda: Link to the Past* and *Ultima VI*, paired with a completely absurd sense of humour.



courtesy Kitty Lambda Games

Sean Willett

Entertainment Editor

One of the many benefits of an independently published game is the freedom it allows developers — there are more opportunities to try new things when the people making a game are unrestrained by the demands of investors and shareholders. *The Real Texas* is a glowing example of the results of this kind of freedom, a game miles away from anything found on store shelves.

Created by Calvin French of Kitty Lambda Games, *The Real*

Texas features a fairly even mix between adventure game-style puzzle solving and dungeon-crawling combat. The puzzles are consistently challenging and rewarding, with the solutions never impossibly difficult to decipher. Unfortunately the combat system is not quite as satisfying, and can become quite frustrating when dealing with certain enemies.

However, what really makes the game shine is the writing, which manages to expertly straddle the line between absurd humour and touching poignancy. The plot follows a disgruntled Texan who takes a vacation to an English

castle to escape his dreary office job. Soon after arriving, he discovers the castle is eerily abandoned, with an ominous blue portal hanging in the centre of the main hall. Through the portal lies the town of Strange — a Kafkaesque purgatory that appears to be a mix between modern-day Texas and medieval England.

Yet, despite Strange being so bizarre, the inhabitants of the small town are surprisingly normal. Their problems, which range from a man struggling with past heartbreak to parents trying to connect with their rebellious son, all feel very real and relatable,

and serve to normalize the eccentricities of the realm they inhabit. Soon enough, one begins to question what is real and what is fantasy, as the lines between reality of the castle and the impossibility of Strange begin to blur. Issues of metaphysics and morality are discussed as wizards turn into giant monkeys and aliens plead for you to find their TV. It all amounts to a very surreal and thoughtful experience.

The aesthetics in *The Real Texas* are simple but charming, with characters and environments rendered in a cute, blocky style that fits the tone of the game perfectly.

Likewise, the music features a mix of simple yet charming retro melodies. Notably, the game has essentially zero noticeable bugs, due to an extended development period French used to polish the game to perfection.

Although its surreal atmosphere and unconventional gameplay mechanics may not appeal to all, *The Real Texas* is packed with enough humour and personality to make it worth the time of anyone who wants to take a vacation from the ordinary.

To purchase *The Real Texas* visit therealtexasgame.com.

COMICS

Imaginary Anomaly – Morgan Shandro

