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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

NEWS

The U of C will be printing affordable course packs, which offer a cheaper alternative to textbooks, again starting this Fall, page 4.



ENTERTAINMENT

The Taylor Family Digital Library houses a collection of hundreds of video games, and the *Gauntlet* has picked out the best of them, page 8.





A global event segregated

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↑he Olympics are more than an international athletic competition. The ancient Greeks started the Olympics as a celebration and exaltation of olympism, an ideal of mind, body and spirit balanced within sports,

culture and education. The goal,

it seems, was to cultivate harmo-

ny through sport and education

without discrimination, allowing

mutual understanding through

friendship and fair play to take the

place of intense prejudices. The

mission of the Olympics and the

International Olympic Commit-

tee today is to promote this ideal

on a global level. So far during the

2012 London Olympics, athletes

and countries have chosen to un-

dermine the ideals of inclusiveness

Papachristou and Swiss athlete Mi-

chel Morganella were expelled for

racist and insensitive tweets made

after losing. Papachristou's crass

joke about Africans and the West

Nile virus and Morganella's derog-

Both Greek athlete Paraskevi

and olympism.

atory tweet about South Koreans are indicative of sore losers. Insults like this only work to undermine the olympism ideal of harmonious development of athleticism.

During the opening ceremonies, London held a memorial for the lives lost during the terrorist attack on the London subways in 2005. Believing this memorial did not tie in with their coverage of sports and entertainment, NBCUniversal chose not to broadcast the memorial, instead inserting an interview between Ryan Seacrest and Michael Phelps. If the Games do not serve the interests of Americans, it is not broadcast. The Olympics are about a global community coming together, not advertising any particular country over another. NBC's decision undermines the inclusive beliefs of the Olympics.

Iran and Israel, letting the hostility between the countries affect their athletes, have refused to even practice next to one another. This directly confronts Article 6 in the Olympic Charter, which states that the Olympic Games are competitions between athletes, not countries. What kind of solidarity can be found between athletes in a friendly but intense competition when countries interfere?

The IOC has taken these problems in stride, disciplining and cooperating with the athletes or countries who fail to follow the olympism ideal. The Olympics try to be global and inclusive, but the animosities during the rest of the year seem to destroy what the Olympics are all about.

Despite the hostility brought to the Games by countries and their

representatives' actions, the 10C has made leaps and bounds in inclusiveness. For the first time, there is at least one woman on every country's team. This is a victory for gender equality on a global scale; the women on the Saudi Arabia team are showing their own country (where women are not permitted to play most sports) what is acceptable. The controversial female volleyball bikinis are no longer mandatory, allowing teams with stricter rules about modesty to be able to participate.

Olympism is not dead in the Olympics, but it is struggling to survive the bitterness that pervades countries for the rest of the year. Countries seem to only participate to show how great they are, rather than attempting a harmonious balance for a few weeks every two years. If this kind of antagonism continues to plague the Olympics, how much longer can the olympism ideal endure?

Gauntlet Editorial Board

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A popular destination for UFOs

Calgary is second highest in the country for UFO sightings

Michael Grondin

News Editor

algary seems to have become a haven for UFO sightings. There were 986 recorded UFO sightings in Canada in 2011, 26 of which were right over Calgary, making it the number two destination for UFOS in the country behind Toronto, which had 34 sightings.

Many Calgarians have recently reported strange sights in the sky, which range from bright flashes of blue and white, green and orange orbs and stars in tight formation hovering over the city's skyline.

According to the 2011 Canadian UFO survey, a typical UFO sighting lasts an average of 11 minutes, and most occurrances are reported by more than one person. The survey also stated that sightings have increased over the past few years.

However, what these objects are is contested, and whether they come from distant stars remains to be seen.

According to University of Calgary assistant professor of astronomy and physics Jeroen Stil, there can be many scientific explanations for what these sightings actually are.

"It's clear people are seeing something, that's beyond doubt. The question is, What could it actually be?" said Stil. "The single [biggest cause] for UFO sightings are the moon and the planet Venus."

According to Stil, there are many factors, including where the viewer stands, at what time and at what distance, that can change the appearance of certain objects or

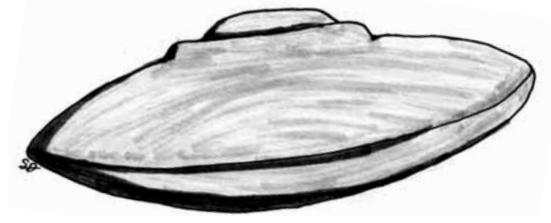


courtesy Brady Fullerton

Extraterrestrials may not be coming to visit Calgary, but strange lights and shapes are in the skies.

create illusions in the sky. He said without an exhaustive description of the event, it becomes very difficult for a researcher or scientist to understand the occurrences. "Our chances of explaining the cause of these sightings depends critically on the level of detail provided by the witness," said Stil. "If you're talking about unexplained

sightings, they are always interpreted as scientists not knowing what it is. But some descriptions are too vague to give any understanding to what is seen."



He said there is a wide range of meteorological phenomena in the summer months that can make objects in the sky look odd. For example, bright blue and white flashes may be lightning from a distant storm. He also mentioned summer clouds that glow due to extremely high elevation can also be confused for UFOS.

So perhaps aliens are not coming to check out Canada's oil capital, and instead the UFO sightings are illusions in the sky. However, whether life, intelligent or not, exists beyond the surface of our planet is another discussion.

Fifth-year U of C astrophysics student Russell Shanahan said technology on earth is too advanced to let an alien craft slip by unnoticed.

"It's seriously doubtful that alien vessels are coming to earth, because at any time right now, there are thousands of people with cameras pointed at the skies, there are satellites everywhere, there's radar all over the place, so we know what's going on in the sky. If aliens were coming here, we would know about it," said Shanahan.

He said, however, that the possibility of extraterrestrial life in the universe is very high due to the vast number of stars and planetary systems.

"There are billions of stars in our galaxy and we can only see a fraction of them," said Shanahan. "There are likely planets around almost every star, so to say that at least one of those billions of planets doesn't have life isn't logical."

Although he thinks extraterrestrial beings have not yet visited earth, he hopes one day it can be possible.

Do you believe in extraterrestrial life? Why or why not?



"They're out there somewhere but it's doubtful we'll make contact." - Adam Humeniuk, physics



"It's not impossible because of the vastness of our universe."

- Veronika Kiryanova, PhD behavioural neuroscience

campus quips



"I suppose."

Michael Seed,
 history and
 political science

Course packs will be back at the U of C

The affordable study materials will begin printing in September

Michael Grondin

News Editor

he University of Calgary will be reintroducing course packs this September after they were discontinued in September 2011 when the university opted out of Access Copyright's model plan.

Course packs are collections of selected readings and texts from different authors that were printed through Bound and Copied and the U of C Bookstore. They are designed to work with and without textbooks for classes.

This is good news for many students at the U of C, as course packs are easier to obtain and are less expensive than textbooks.

Many professors used course packs for their classes in the past, but due to copyright laws, they were unable to be printed last year.

In light of the current copyright negotiations between the university and Access Copyright, the university will be handling the copyright for course packs under existing licenses with publishers and authors.

U of C provost and vice-president academic Dru Marshall and the university administration are in the consultation process before making a decision about whether to sign on to the new agreement on



Bound and Copied will begin printing course packs this September.

the September 30 deadline.

The U of C's copyright officer Wendy Stephens will be working in conjunction with Bound and Copied to ensure publishers and authors receive credit for the texts printed in course packs.

According to Students' Union vice-president academic Kenya-Jade Pinto, course packs are generally printed for classes in the departments of law, English, French, Spanish, German, philosophy and religion. They range from \$12-60 each and are up to 20 per cent

■ I think that going forward, having Bound and Copied print course packs is nothing but a huge win. Choosing to have course packs as an option, whether

-Kenya-Jade Pinto, Students' Union vice-president academic

it be for a professor or a student, makes sense.

cheaper at Bound and Copied than they are at the U of C Bookstore.

Another benefit of course packs is that all proceeds go right back into student services, said Pinto.

"I think that going forward, having Bound and Copied print course packs is nothing but a huge win. Choosing to have course packs as an option, whether it be for a professor or a student, makes sense," said Pinto. "This service really is for students by students."

Pinto said student issues were voiced to the copyright committee concerning course packs, and the university then agreed to bring them back. She also said many of the U of C's peer universities do not have such a strong student voice in the decision making process.

"It's unique to have a student voice on the copyright committee, and it's exciting and beneficial to students that undergraduate concerns were considered," said Pinto. "We're really happy to be included in these discussions, and to have the provost hear our concerns, especially when access to materials for our classes and affordability for those materials is being considered."

The university administration will continue to consult students about copyright negotiations to ensure that beneficial resources are available in the future.



U of C showcasing the Olympic Games

Michael Grondin

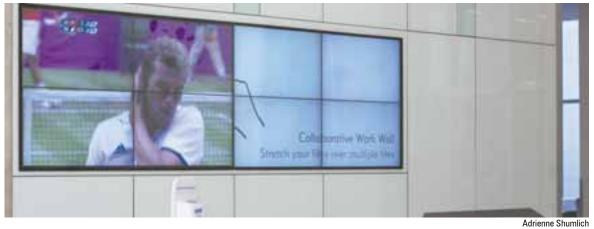
News Editor

To celebrate the Olympic spirit, many locations at the University of Calgary will be showcasing the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

The action will be displayed during open hours on large displays in the Taylor Family Digital Library and at the Olympic Oval until the closing ceremonies on August 12.

The Olympic Oval has transformed its main floor lounge into the Olympic Oval London Lounge. Anyone who loves to watch the international sporting event is welcome.

According to Olympic Oval communications and commu-



This large screen at the TFDL displays a tennis match during the 2012 London Olympics.

nity relations specialist Tracy Stewart, the Oval has had a tradition of opening up the lounge for viewing the games. Typically, the Oval only showcases the winter games as it is a winter

sports training facility, but in celebration of athletes trained in Calgary competing in London this year, the lounge is open for these games as well.

"Part of what we do here at the

Oval is train high-performance athletes, but we also have a mandate to the community, so we really wanted to make people aware that the Oval is here and people are always welcome," said

Stewart. "This is a great way to reach out to the community, and we want to reach out to more than just the university, but the Calgary public as well."

According to UToday on July 30, 2012, the TFDL wanted to use the digital media and technological resources they had to highlight the games.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for us to further test our broadcast capabilities on the screens, and to celebrate the involvement of some of our staff and alumni in the Games," said U of C director of cultural and community programs Donna Livingstone.

To join in on the Olympic Spirit at the U of C visit oval.ucalgary.ca/londonlounge

Virtual human revolutionizes learning

Researchers develop LINDSAY, an interactive medical education tool

Emily Ng

Gauntlet News

edical students at the University of Calgary have a new virtual tool to help with their studies. Researchers have developed a virtual human named LINDSAY that will give students a threedimensional anatomical view of the human body to compliment textbook learning.

The tool was named after U of C medical student Lindsay Leigh Kimmett who died in a car crash in 2008. The tool uses new technologies, like touch interfaces, to navigate the many cells and systems found within the human body.

U of C faculty of science professor Christian Jacob began developing LINDSAY in fall 2008 when he was approached by associate dean of undergraduate medical education Bruce Wright.

Jacob said the university wanted to create a tool that would make medical school more interactive, so they began working on LINDSAY to aid in studies.



LINDSAY is an online virtual human that enhances learning for medical students.

feedback from students.

"We teach with cadaver speci-"Once you bring it to life it mens, so [students] go in the lab," ing learning experience."

The integration of LINDSAY can also expand beyond the classroom. Jacob foresees LINDSAY as a potential educational tool for patients because it allows users to pinpoint parts in the anatomical system. Capabilities to upload personalized data are currently being discussed.

"We are already working on some integration with CT scans," said Jacob.

Ten undergraduate students are helping develop LINDSAY over the summer. The faculties of medicine and science played the

largest role in its development.

Jacob also encourages students in all disciplines to participate in the tool's development.

"We are always looking for students that are interested in working with us. It can be in any capacity. It can be as an undergraduate student," said Jacob. "We need people from very different areas."

Wright hopes this tool will revolutionize medical education, according to UToday on July 17,

"In five years from now, I want LINDSAY to be a one-stop shop where students can learn all aspects of the anatomy and physiology," said Wright. "This isn't just a tool to be used in medical school. It's part of our vision to go beyond the practice of medicine and into other subjects. The software is dynamic and robust and can be set up anywhere learning needs to happen."

A high school in Cochrane has also used the software in a biology class.

The tool will be available as an application for smartphones and tablets in the future. They anticipate it will be fully available later this year.

For more information visit lindsayvirtualhuman.org or ucalgary.ca/news/utoday

There's a real gap between textbook anatomy and what students see in real life the LINDSAY software connects the dots between the classroom and real life.

Heather Jamniczky, anatomy assistant professor

becomes much more interesting and of course much more interesting for students," said Jacob.

LINDSAY is currently available as desktop and mobile versions and can be customized to the specific needs of medical students. Jacob and his team are currently integrating physiological features into the interface. Current prototypes illustrate blood circulation and oxygenation.

Assistant professor of cell biology and anatomy Heather Jamniczky has been using the desktop version of LINDSAY in her lectures. She said the technology has given her students a realistic representation of human anatomy that has garnered a lot of positive

said Jamniczky. "But you look at the picture and you look at the body on the table and it is totally different. At least this way they get a much better sense of what it would look like."

Jamniczky said that LINDSAY is not meant to replace laboratory work, but to enhance learning in the classroom.

There's a real gap between textbook anatomy and what students see in real life — the LINDSAY software connects the dots between the classroom and real life," said Jamniczky. "Students have been really enthusiastic and it seems to improve their ability to make the connections. It pulls everything in and provides a much more engag-





ENTERTAINMENT

Everyone calm down, the Plaza is okay

The Kensington landmark is not going away any time soon

Entertainment Editor • @Willetton

ver the past few days, cinema lovers across Calgary have been thrown into disarray by some rather alarming news: the independent Plaza Theatre is on the verge of closure. According to local news reports from sources like CBC Calgary, the beloved Kensington fixture is facing its impending doom due to an inability to afford the costly transition to a digital projector. The response this has elicited from fans of the theatre has been tremendous, but as it turns out, it may have been a bit of an overreaction.

While it is true that the Plaza Theatre, known for screening independent films and Hollywood classics, cannot afford the \$100,000 digital upgrade, it does not mean that the theatre will be closing down any time soon.

"I think the news was overblown," says Logan Cameron, an employee at the Plaza. "There were some mixed words, and people may have got the wrong idea."

Cameron, along with the other staff at the theatre, was just as surprised as everyone else to hear news of the Plaza's impending clo-

"The media knew about it before we did, it was a real shock to us," says Cameron. "When the news media showed up at the the-



While the Plaza Theatre is in no immediate danger, it still needs community support.

atre we were all surprised."

The upgraded projector will be needed to exhibit first-run Hollywood films, which are quickly abandoning the traditional 35 mm format in favour of digital hard drive distribution. However, this issue is more of a long-term concern for the Plaza Theatre than a pressing problem — the theatre can still exhibit 35 mm, DVD and Blu-ray formats. While the costly transition will eventually have to be made in order to avoid obsolescence, it is far from an immediate threat to the theatre's existence.

Yet despite the problem not being as pressing as some may have

believed, it still remains an obstacle the Plaza will eventually have to overcome. As for how the independent theatre will be able afford the upgrade, there is still a fair bit of uncertainty.

"Right now it's up in the air," says Cameron. "The owner of the Plaza is on vacation and we haven't heard from him."

One of the options available to the theatre is to raise funds through the devoted Calgarian film community, which has already began to show its support through the "Save The Plaza Theatre" online campaign. Hosted by the popular crowdfunding site Indiegogo, the campaign

was started by local photographer Benjamin Laird and burlesque artist Raven Virginia.

"We both saw the article at the same time, and we both started commenting about it on Facebook at the same time," says Laird. "So we thought that maybe together we could do something about this."

The campaign, which has a fundraising goal of \$20,000, hopes to raise awareness of the Plaza Theatre's plight while helping to begin funding the transition to a digital projector. Over \$1,000 has been raised so far.

"For the purposes of this campaign, which is to test the waters to see how the community feels, we thought a \$100,000 goal would be a little too ambitious," says Laird. "It's not like the Plaza is going to close tomorrow if something doesn't happen. But this is an ongoing concern, and I felt like I needed to take the initiative and actually do something. Even if the only thing the campaign does is raise a little awareness and start some conversations, I think it would be worth the time."

The 2011 closure of the Uptown Theatre left the Plaza as one of the only two remaining independent theatres in Calgary, along with the Globe. Because of this, it is easy to see why people would be concerned to hear the Plaza may be in danger. But while the initial reaction to the news may have been slightly overblown, it does not mean Calgarian film fans should sit idly by. The Plaza Theatre can only exist if the community continues to show its support, and there is no better way to do that than to head down to Kensington and see a film.

"You don't have to look too far to find films playing on a big screen with vibrating chairs and 3D, but these independent theatres are rare," says Laird. "If we take these places for granted, they're likely to disappear."

> For more information about the Save The Plaza Theatre campaign visit indiegogo.com/savetheplaz

$spun_{\frac{}{\text{ALBUM REVIEWS}}}$



Bonnaventure James

Buena Aventura April 2, 2012 Independent release

Bonnaventure James's humble beginnings at a University of Lethbridge music class have morphed into something more sophisticated and infinitely more exciting. One of the newer electronica artists in the Calgary music scene, Bonnaventure James has independently released his first EP. Buena Aventura. It is a glorious tribute to electronica, with a marvellous concoction of dizzyingly different beats, catchy melodies and a harmonious chorus of voices.

Some songs like "Never Look Back" follow a conventional pop routine with trodden lyrics, while others like "Cola," which is about falling for an underage girl, follow slightly more offbeat topics. The choruses are mostly infectiously catchy.

Not all the tracks have a bubbly, light-hearted feel to them, however. "Radio Silence" has a darkly introspective take on a catchall of personal memories, with remnants of a relationship gone sour. It's like an electronic version of Gotye's "Somebody that I Used to Know," with lyrics just as questioning and resigned.

The greatest part about the al-

bum is the way it bounces from light to dark, heavy to fun. Immediately following the melancholy, "How Dare You," which features lyrics that serve as a tongue-incheek mockery of contemporary texting, there is the more upbeat "Poor House." The song's topic may be fairly depressing, but the beat is much more lively.

Buena Aventura proves that Bonnaventure James is a wonderful addition to Calgary's music scene, and is a worthy addition to any electronica-lover's collection. Like the EP's title suggests, it is indeed a beautiful adventure.

Manal Sheikh

Book Review: *The Shore Girl*

Albertan gothic novel is interesting, but not perfect

Sarah Dorchak

Production Editor • @StegoSarahs

or her first novel, University of Calgary alumna Fran Kimmel delivers an experimental piece of fiction about the life of Rebee Shore. Rebee is a girl from a fragmented family. Her father's identity is unknown, her mother's whereabouts are usually a mystery and her interactions with others are hesitant and wary. From the outset, The Shore Girl doesn't leave the best impression, but Kimmel's experiences bring a refreshing authenticity to the novel, helping it stand out as a worthy piece of Canadian literature.

Each chapter of *The Shore Girl* is told from a different character's perspective, offering insight into Rebee's life. However, because the first chapter is told from the perspective of a five-year-old Rebee, the book starts in a way that is very alienating. Five-year-old Rebee uses poor grammar, like a toddler would, and other characters use their own colloquialisms. This is an interesting stylistic choice for Kimmel to include, but starting off with such a distant perspective might push some readers away.

I was more interested in the narrators themselves rather than what they had to say about their interactions with Rebee. The way each narrator is fascinated by the girl comes off as obsessive and creepy. While Kimmel allows her narrators their own backstories and motivations, making them more rounded characters, this format turns her novel into what feels like more of a short story collection. This structure creates a tie with another Canadian writer, Alice Munro, and her novel Lives of Girls and Women. Munro's work was first published as a novel and later as a short story collection — The Shore Girl could also work well as either.

Kimmel's Calgarian and Albertan roots are clearly seen in this novel. The locations and atmospheres ring true to rural Alberta, helping the novel remain genuine. However, the Shore family's expe-

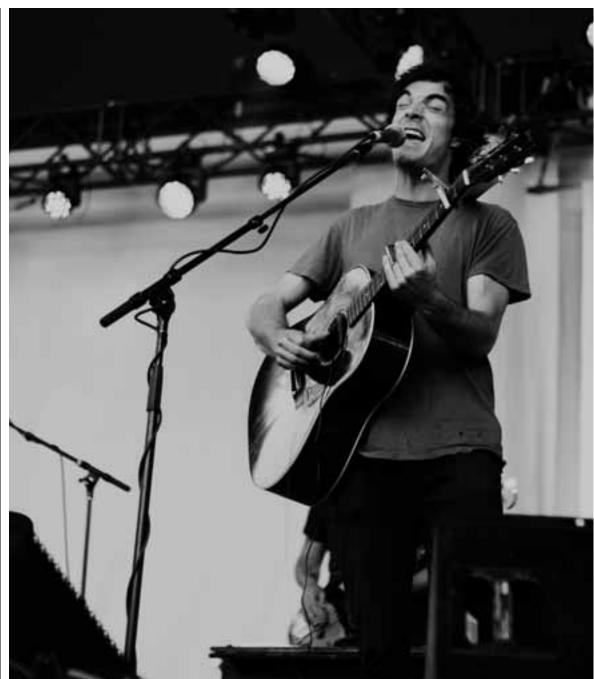
riences seem too extreme in the beginning, making the book seem slightly amateurish. It's as if there is more focus on making the reader's sympathize with the characters rather than making Rebee's family realistic. This could be a failing on my part, however, in having disbelief about a family being this fragmented.

Kimmel graduated with a Sociology degree and has worked as a youth counsellor, so it's likely those experiences informed her writing. Despite this, Kimmel's inexperience in writing fiction shows — her descriptions of Rebee end up putting the girl on a pedestal. Perhaps this is why the narrators seem more interesting to read about than the titular character.

Kimmel's inexperience in fiction writing also shows in the structure of her novel. Though she puts effort into experimenting with narrative, the book ends with all of the conflicts wrapped up a little too nicely. Given the dysfunctionality that pervades almost every aspect of Rebee's life, the ending should have had some unexplained mysteries to it. Kimmel seems to attempt this by keeping the narrative reliant on memory, making the narrators themselves unreliable. However, the ending still wraps up with no stray ends.

Chapter seven is the biggest culprit of gratuitous exposition, where almost every aspect of the Shore family's background is presented to the reader on a silver platter. "Look how nicely structured I am," the novel seems to proclaim. Maybe it's due to the influence of postmodernism, but I would prefer there to be some unexplained, unattainable exposition in this novel.

Overall, *The Shore Girl* is a decent first novel with a strong background rooted in real life experiences. It's unfortunate that Kimmel's inexperience as a writer allows this book to lose its hold on the reader, but for a first attempt at a novel, it is still an interesting look at a kind of Albertan gothic literature.



Adrienne Shumlich

Folk Fest is the best, it ain't a contest

The Barr Brothers were one of the many bands that performed at this year's Calgary Folk Music Festival. The annual festival gathered musicians from across the world to perform at Prince's Island Park on July 26–29, which is packed with vendors and attendees for the entirety of the four-day long festival.



An introduction to video games

A guide to some of the best games the TFDL has to offer



Michael Grondin

Sean Willett

Entertainment Editor • @Willetton

ne of the much touted features of the Taylor Family Digital Library has been its Interactive Digital Media Collection, a vast collection of both retro and modern video games available to students for research and entertainment purposes. The collection is the largest of its kind in Canada, and is a major step forward towards further legitimizing video games as an art form, and facilitating students' research on the medium.

Yet despite being promised since 2010, the game centre that would allow students full access to the collection is still not fully completed. In a fashion true to the troubled history of the ultra-modern library, the consoles needed to play the retro games have still not been installed, and will most likely not

be available until the Fall semester.

However, the TFDL has not completely failed to live up to its promise — a group of six high-end PCs have recently been installed near the Digital Media Centre. These computers can be easily accessed by all, and do not require any sort of reservation. They provide something that would be almost impossible to find anywhere else: free, immediate access to hundreds of the most important video games of all time.

This can understandably be a bit overwhelming, especially to those unfamiliar with the medium. To this end the *Gauntlet* is proud to present a list of five games that have helped to define and shaped video gaming throughout its history, all of which are available to play at the TFDL. These games can be enjoyed by both dedicated gamers and newcomers alike, and serve as a good introduction to the best

that the medium has to offer. All that is required to try these games is a few spare hours and a pair of headphones.

Half-Life 2

Valve Corporation, 2004

Although it is a first-person shooter, *Half-Life 2* is very unlike others in the genre. The narrative is presented in a very unobtrusive manner, unfolding slowly as you lead an unlikely agent of fate against an extraterrestrial force that has enslaved mankind. It is considered one of the finest examples of storytelling in games, and is an experience defined through moments of silence and quiet contemplation.

realMyst Cyan, 2000

A graphical update of the 1993 classic, *realMyst* is an exploration game that focuses on complete immersion in its beautifully real-

ized virtual world. With a story that presents itself through cryptic messages left by a group of enigmatic strangers, the player is led through a series of mind-bending puzzles that require an equal amount of cleverness and patience to solve.

Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time Ubisoft Montreal, 2003

Effortlessly combining a gripping story, perfectly tuned gameplay and stylish aesthetics, this Canadian adventure game is considered to be as flawless as it is fun. It tests players on both their reflexes and their wits as they lead the titular prince on a quest to rid his kingdom of an ancient evil, wielding the power to manipulate time itself.

Far Cry
Crytek Studios, 2004

While not as cerebral as the

other games on this list, *Far Cry* is still notable for being one of the best examples ever released of the action genre. It set a new benchmark for technology in video games, with graphics and artificial intelligence that far outshone anything else at the time. For better or for worse, it served as the precursor for many modern first-person shooters.

*Psychonauts*Double Fine, 2005

There are only a few video games that can be considered true comedies, and *Psychonauts* is one of them. The story takes place at a summer camp for psychics, where the player must enter the dreams of various characters to unravel a sinister conspiracy. Every aspect of the game is steeped in dark humour and trippy visuals, which have cemented the quirky platformer as a cult classic.

Imaginary Anomaly - Morgan Shandro



COMICS