



Faculty of medicine dean speaks out about budget cuts

Zainab Takuma
Gauntlet News

The recent 7.3 per cent provincial budget cuts for Albertan post secondary-education have received a lot of media attention. However, cuts in the University of Calgary's faculty of medicine have drawn comparatively few comments. The U of C faculty of medicine dean Jon Meddings recently spoke out about the cuts to his faculty, explaining his concerns regarding the unnecessary risks they pose to Alberta's future health-care system.

The university's faculty of medicine is currently dealing with a \$13-million cut from the Alberta Heritage Foundation and a \$10-million cut from the Academic Alternate Relationship Plan, all of which were imposed

prior to the budget cuts from the provincial government earlier this year. The faculty will also lose \$2 million in provincial funding, resulting in the loss of 15 admission spots for medical students. This was announced to the public on May 15 with the rest of the U of C's budget cuts.

Meddings said this series of budget cuts over the last three years put the faculty of medicine in a vulnerable position, even prior to the 7.3 per cent post-secondary cut announced earlier this year.

"There are four sources of funding that have been cut. The budget [this year] is the one everybody focuses on. If the other [financial cuts] hadn't happened, this would have just been a blip on the radar," said Meddings. "The provincial budget cut is just under \$2 million, so it's actually peanuts, but all

of that together causes us to make some major changes because we cannot manage with that."

In response to these budget cuts, the faculty of medicine plans to drop 50 people from its medical research team within the next four years. Meddings said the drop won't have an immediate effect on Alberta's health-care system, but the province could suffer from this decision within 10 years.

Meddings described Calgary's stroke care as an example of small investments having a big impact on public health.

"The reason that we have exceptional stroke care in Calgary isn't because we have an amazing health-care system. The reason it is superb here and not Red Deer, which has the same health-care system, is that the Alberta Heritage Foundation recruited

a group of six stroke specialists in the 1990s who were researchers here," said Meddings. "Our great stroke care is due to the fact that we invested in the '90s in medical research and studied stroke. We're going to have to do things like that [at the U of C] with 50 fewer people now, so it won't have an effect today, but in 10 years, we'll suffer because of that."

There are talks about bringing in international and out-of-province students to fill up the 15 medical spots that were going to be cut. These students pay more for tuition, making them more affordable to the faculty of medicine when they are receiving less in provincial funding.

The total cost to put a student through medical school is \$95,000.

Meddings said out-of-prov-

ince students are being considered to fill these 15 spots, with special interest in students from the Northwest Territories and the United States.

"The one that had the most appeal and we've talked about the most was to take Americans in and then send them back to the U.S.A. after they'd finished their training," said Meddings.

Even though the prospect of bringing in students from the U.S.A. would be beneficial to the medical school, Meddings said that the idea would be politically unpopular, as the university would not be training people that want to work in Alberta or in rural family practices.

The faculty has not reached any conclusions yet as to whether they will recruit medical students from out of province.

see MEDICAL SCHOOL, page 3

Regulation needs a renovation

For some, talking about secondary suites feels like beating a dead horse. However, the topic is still relevant because the system is still broken. Students and other residents of secondary suites are still living in unsafe conditions across Calgary.

Secondary suites refers to an additional living area separated from the main dwelling within a residential house.

Secondary suites are a problem because the current regulations require extensive hoop jumping. Prospective dwellers must go before city council, ensure the property is properly sized and meet stringent building codes.

Secondary suites have always been legal but due to strict regulations many homeowners or landlords have developed secondary suites on their properties without getting a permit — suites are only inspected if the city receives a complaint. While there are perfectly safe, albeit illegal, suites in

the city, there are also ones without fire alarms and barred basement windows. Many of these suites have maintenance problems and tenants who can't report negligent landlords because they will be kicked out of their homes, which will then be shut down.

Secondary suites offer affordable housing to students and other people with low incomes. Owning a secondary suite could also allow an elderly homeowner to remain in their home by having a second tenant who could contribute to home maintenance in exchange for reduced rent. Secondary suites also present a chance for Calgary to increase its inner-city population density instead of sprawling further outward.

Calgary mayor Naheed Nenshi campaigned on a promise to update secondary suites, and he has tried many times to get city council to agree to a revision. He wants to put the issue before council once more before his term ends in



September. He's proposing baby steps: suite-friendly zoning with-in walking distance to post-secondary schools and major transit stops.

Nenshi has also previously suggested common-sense rules requiring a parking space, fire and building codes and a live-in owner.

Edmonton relaxed their zoning in 2009 and has since granted

permits to 1,000 new regulated suites. While 1,000 in five years might not have an immediate effect on Calgary's estimated 25,000 to 60,000 illegal secondary suites, it would be a start.

The contrary argument posits that secondary suite owners won't comply with safety regulations even if regulations are relaxed. There are landlords who have many rental properties, don't reside in the house and aren't willing or able to renovate.

But current regulations can't be left as they are, because people are living in unsafe housing with no legal avenues to complain.

The City needs to relax and rethink the regulations. Practical safety measures need to be enforced, tenants and landlords need rights, and the red tape and hoop jumping has to stop so a workable solution can be found for this pressing problem.

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Golden Spatula

Erin Foreman wins the golden spatula for her enthusiasm. Also for bagging 20 rabbits with an automatic crossbow.

Furor Arma Ministrat

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den bottle shop est. 1962

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Schulich Engineering building to expand

Renovations will add four new floors to the building by 2016

Sean Sullivan
Entertainment Editor

University of Calgary's Schulich School of Engineering is hoping to open the doors on a \$158-million renewal and expansion of their nearly 50-year-old building during the 50th anniversary of the university in 2016.

The four-floor expansion will provide two new floors of research facilities as well as two floors of new classrooms and teaching space — a total of 15,500 square metres — while older sections of the engineering building will be renovated.

"We're in need of that expansion — we've been in need for several years now," engineering dean Guy Gendron said. "It means better teaching space as well as better research space. We definitely need these two kinds of space. Our research is expanding every year and we need new space that will accommodate that research."

The school is hoping the expansion will allow an increased enrolment of about 10 per cent. SSE has seen a 23 per cent increase in applications since last year, from 2,600 to 3,200 applicants — an increase of almost 600 possible students.



Courtesy of Gibbs Gage Architects/ Diamond Schmitt Architects

Concept photos for the expansion of the Schulich engineering building. There will be 15,500 square metres of new space.

A video on YouTube shows that the new expansion will be built on the Firesticks Courtyard connecting the two sides of the existing U-shaped building. The expansion will include new advanced lab space, social and event space and sustainable initiatives such as solar cells and a green roof for gardens.

Gendron said the SSE has been moving to a more hands-on approach to undergraduate classes and the areas will emphasize collaborative learning with large, open spaces and workrooms.

"What we have currently in our

buildings are classical classrooms and lecture theatres," Gendron said. "What we will have in the new building is a series of several project rooms where we'll be able to divide students in smaller groups of eight to 10 people."

"That's what our expansion will allow us to do," Gendron said, "to have more hands-on courses and project-based learning so that students are not passively listening to a lecture, but are really engaged in their learning."

In addition to collaborative environments in undergraduate classrooms, the new expansion

will provide club space centred around the main machine shop for the several engineering clubs currently scattered around the engineering building and the rest of campus.

The renewal and expansion is the U of C's highest priority for capital funding.

The first phase of the project, to bring the current engineering building up to current building codes, was completed in 2011.

To date, the university has contributed \$5 million to the project and \$14 million was raised through Schulich's Engineering

Leaders campaign for Phase 2. The remaining \$142 million for the project has been approved by the Alberta Government and the university is currently working with the province to develop a funding model.

The project was supposed to break ground this spring but has been delayed and no longer has a projected start date.

Gendron pointed out that construction costs are expected to increase in Calgary over the next few years and that the cost of the project will increase the longer it takes to complete.

Medical school budget cuts, cont'd from cover

Meddings said, however, that the budget cuts will not be an issue for the province as long as they are eventually replaced.

"I think in the big picture, it's more than the medical students. The big picture is that in Alberta if you want to have an economy that's not just resource-based

anymore and that is a knowledge-based economy, what you need is an educated population," said Meddings. "So, cutting the one system that educates your population, the post secondary system, does not make a lot of sense to me."

Students' Union faculty of

medicine representative Jay Wang acknowledged the effect the financial cuts will have on the school's medical program.

"The faculty of medicine is quite complicated, the funding does not only come from the university and the government," said Wang. "There are many

sources of funds and if all of them are being cut to some certain degree, it will be challenging for the faculty."

Wang added that present students will not see an immediate effect from cuts, however, he believes they will affect the school farther down the line.



Michael Grondin

Dr. Jim Meddings in his office.

What building needs renovations most at the U of C?



"Scurfield. The main area could look a lot nicer."

– Sumeet Brar, fourth-year business



"Math Sciences. It's just a little dim — it could use windows."

– Patrick Wee, third-year neuro-science



"Science Theatres. I hate the little desks."

– Sarah Bergeron, first-year geoscience



"The MacHall seating area. It's very boring."

– Sherin Mohammed, first-year arts

campus quips



Over 200 people attended the rally at the University of Calgary.

Michael Grondin

Campus protest held in solidarity with Brazil

Michael Grondin

Photo Editor

“Change Brazil” was the chant of a crowd of roughly 200 people at the University of Calgary on June 18, 2013. The crowd marched in support of the current protests in Brazil.

On the same day, over 200,000 people took to the streets in Brazil in one of the largest protests the nation has seen in over 20 years. People in over 30 of Brazil’s cities are fighting to change poor public service and corruption. Two of the largest rallies were held in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

At the U of C, supporters marched around campus in an attempt to bring attention to the challenges the nation faces to students and members of the U of C community.

Brazilian born U of C biological sciences graduate Gedimar Barbosa said showing support for the people in his country who are taking action in the streets is important.

“We want to show people the problems our country is facing right now and also give support to the people that are on the streets fighting for better conditions in health, education and politics in Brazil — fighting for a better life,” said Barbosa.

At this time, Brazil is preparing for the 2016 Summer Olympics and the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Barbosa said that Brazil is much more than a place for sporting events and parties, adding that the status quo of corruption, violence and poverty needs to come to an end.

“We are working to change

and build a new country. Brazil is not just soccer or carnivals, it’s not just about the World Cup,” he said. “We are people, we are a nation, we are strong and we are going to make changes for us and for our children to live better lives.”

Biological sciences graduate Vaneska Grechinski attended the rally. She said it is important for everyone to support the protesters in Brazil by staging demonstrations of their own.

“Everybody is in the streets in Brazil in more than 30 cities and we are showing our support here from Canada,” said Grechinski. “We are showing that we are proud and that we are with them. Year after year after year, we have been quiet and it’s now time to wake up.”

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G News round up

Hayley Wickenheiser graduates after 16 years

After 16 years at the University of Calgary, team Canada women’s hockey captain Hayley Wickenheiser recently walked the stage for her convocation, receiving a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology.

During her 16 years at the university, Wickenheiser built a distinguished hockey career that included four Olympic gold medals and seven world championships. She also was the first woman to score a goal in a men’s professional hockey league.

She played three seasons with the Dinos and was crowned western Canada’s most valuable player last year by Canadian Interuniversity Sport.

Wickenheiser, who is 34 years old, plans to attend medical school in the near future.

Details released about West Campus development

The University of Calgary released new details last week about the West Campus development with the revelation that it will feature 6,500 new homes and two million square feet of retail and office space.

The new developments will be built on the 150 acres of land located just west of the U of C’s main campus.

Developers hope that once it is completed, the space will be similar to the university village located on campus at the University of British Columbia, encompassing both retail and housing needs for students.

Construction for the project is expected to begin within the next two years. Pricing on the units has not yet been announced.

New scholarship honours former student

A new scholarship has been created in honour of Danielle Kendall, a former U of C student who lost her life during a mountaineering accident in Ecuador. The Danielle Kendall Scholarship will be given to one student in the Schulich School of Engineering who also runs track and field — Kendall took part in both.

Her mother announced the new scholarship on June 11 before walking the stage in her late daughter’s place for convocation.

The monetary value of the scholarship has not yet been announced, as her family is currently trying to raise the necessary funds. Donations for the scholarship can be made by going to ucalgary.ca/danielle.

New U of C research begins on climate change

Four U of C scientists have begun new research into the effects of climate change on cold region ecosystems, with funding coming from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. The four scientists will receive \$418,100 to fund their research, with the money coming from a national environmental research pool valued at \$32 million.

The research will focus on how weather patterns in the north are changing local water cycles and ecosystems. The research will be conducted by professors in the departments of physics and astronomy, biological science, geoscience and geography. The projects are expected to span the next five years.



courtesy 52nd Street Project

Young actors performing *Twelfth Night*

Erin Foreman
Gauntlet Entertainment

A young group of actors are travelling 3,300 km to perform William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* at the University of Calgary on June 29. The performance is the final leg of New York theatre company 52nd Street Project's Teen Ensemble program, a theatre troupe comprised of 10 high school students between the ages of 16 and 18, all of whom have been members of the company since they were 10 years old.

The 52nd Street Project is a not-for-profit community-based theatre company that for the past 32 years has been working to create original theatre with kids from Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen neighbourhood. Kids start as young as nine years old and are matched with volunteer writers, directors and actors from the community — many of whom are film and Broadway veterans. The

company provides a mentorship-based program for children to learn in, while still offering an arena where they can develop and work on their individual voice.

"It's all about giving them an experience of success, surrounding them with wonderful, talented artists," associate artistic director Megan Cramer says, who is directing this year's Teen Ensemble production.

These kids have the opportunity to stay with the company until they finish high school. They spend their final two years at the company in the Teen Ensemble.

"We teach them how to write a play and take them on a weekend retreat where they write a play for two adult actors to perform," Cramer says. "Then, we produce those plays here with volunteer professional actors and the kids get to see their plays fully realized on stage, which is a really wonderful thing"

For their final production, the Teen Ensemble will be perform-

ing first in New York, then in Calgary and Banff. Calgary is the furthest west the ensemble has ever ventured on their tour.

"I know it's very far away and very pretty and I'm really excited to go there," 16-year-old Lily Chapstick says, who plays Feste the Fool in *Twelfth Night*. "I love going to new places and it'll be really interesting to perform somewhere other than New York and to explore this part of the world I've never seen before."

Although the Teen Ensemble is performing a Shakespeare play, their goal was to bring as much of this particular ensemble's personality to it as possible so it really feels like them.

"You're literally having to disguise yourself as a boy when you're a girl, showing a lot of false love rather than being true about your feelings, and they really dug into that and identified with that," Cramer says. "And of course we got into all sorts of fun debates about men and women, love and love triangles."

"It's made me better at being open to different things and people," 17-year-old Alvin Garcia says, who will play Duke Orsino. "And I feel that it made me a better person."

This is Cramer's first time directing the Shakespeare play, although she was involved with the last three ensemble groups in other ways.

"It has been an enormous creative challenge and opportunity for me," Cramer says. "Especially this time around because I've been here eight years, I've known all of these 10 teenagers since their very first day here so I feel such a strong emotional connection to them and I also feel like I really understand them. I really wanted to be able to be a part of this creative process with them, so it's been really fun."

Cramer started as a volunteer and mentor before she became a member of the staff where she has worked for eight years.

Cramer says a lot of how kids

get involved is word of mouth. The company gets a lot of the neighbourhood kids because of the great relationship they have with the elementary school across the street.

Kids also get involved through friends, family members and now children of past members since the company has been active for so many years — kids they call "legacies."

The program is free for the kids — the company is passionate about serving kids who might not get that opportunity to get this kind of experience anywhere else.

Twelfth Night by the 52nd Street Project is showing at the F.R. Matthews Theater at the University of Calgary on Saturday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m. The performance is free.

After Calgary, they will continue on their Canadian tour at the Margaret Greenham Theatre at The Banff Centre, on Wednesday, July 3 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors and \$10 for children.



Susan Anderson

Recording studio has big dreams

Susan Anderson
Editor-in-Chief

Fifteen minutes east of Calgary, down a long gravel road is a big red house. There aren't any signs explaining why the building is there or what its purpose is.

Passersby may wonder which Calgary oil tycoon may live there, not guessing that inside the red walls is hidden a half million dollars worth of microphones and Beatles memorabilia.

The building is home to a new Calgary recording studio called OCL Studios that opened in February.

The owner, Dan Owen, who also owns Owen Construction Ltd., wanted to build a recording studio for his friends. The initial budget was around half a million dollars, but once work began, Owen realized that wasn't enough to complete his dream. The final budget ended up around \$3 million. Owen quickly realized that he had a commercial entity on his hands, the chance to open a business and have artists from all over the world record in his world-class facility.

The studio is 8,000 square feet with a main tracking room and three different isolation booths. There is a smaller side studio for voice-overs and other smaller editing work.

Upstairs is a 1,200 square foot grand hall that has many uses ranging from dining with artists to recording a choir ensemble —

the room is wired into Studio A downstairs.

The studio is definitely not limited in terms of space. This ample room comes in handy when large groups, such as the New West Symphony & Chorus come and record. The New West Symphony & Chorus consist of a 24-piece orchestra and a 50-piece vocal choir and they all can be recorded in the state-of-the-art facility.

There are private bedrooms, holding up to 10 people, in case recording artists want to stay for several days while making music. OCL is the only residential recording studio in western Canada, which means they offer a unique chance to get away from the city.

The studio manager is Greg Godovitz, who is a welcoming host full of stories about his 49 years of experience in the music industry. He is a musician, songwriter and producer with a keen ear for music.

"All of us here are very into nurturing Alberta-centric artists. Of course we are looking for some of the bigger-name acts from out of province and out of the country to come here," Godovitz says. Godovitz is keen to work with talented young artists and is impressed with the amount of raw talent he sees in Calgary.

The studio is young, but they are striving to be a place where large Canadian and international bands can come and record.

The studio's location outside of Langdon is not a typical place to find a recording studio, but Godovitz sees this as an advantage.



Susan Anderson

"Our studio caters more for the people who want to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city, to come out to a secluded rural area to do their magic," Godovitz says. "There are very few distractions out here, except for the distractions you make yourself — meaning making music."

However, the Rocky Mountains and prairie views could be considered distracting, he adds.

The studio is a place where bands can rehearse for upcoming tours, make videos featuring the scenic splendor and get inspired for song writing. They can get away and create music.

"This was a place that was tailor-made for big acts — the Stones, Paul McCartney, Elton John, Foo Fighters, even Canadian acts like Rush or Nickelback," Godovitz says. "It's the kind of place where the big bands, who would get bothered in the city, can come and no one's going to know they're in here, until of course after they leave. It would be nice to get a major international artist in here to get the ball rolling to let

people know this place exists."

OCL is eager to accommodate any artist however.

"That is ultimately our aim, to get as many varied artists and styles of music in here as possible," Godovitz says.

Godovitz doesn't believe that artists have to be in major cities to record music, such as Los Angeles, New York or Nashville.

"In a country-centric province like Alberta, it's always Nashville this, Nashville that. To my way of thinking, there are a number of world-class studios — not just OCL — in Calgary and Alberta and some of the best musicians, whether they are country players, blues players, rock players or classical players — there are thousands of them here," Godovitz says. "We don't have to go to Nashville anymore, we've brought a little bit of Nashville to Alberta. This is a world-class facility in a world-class town."

Godovitz says it's a great place to spend a 10-hour workday and then relax and watch the sunset with a beer.

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No regular printing
for those months.

Putting scars on display

courtesy Megan Slater

Adriana Sveen

Gauntlet Entertainment

Recent Alberta College of Art and Design graduate Megan Slater's *Stretch* is showcased in Stride Gallery's +15 Window space in the Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts until July 18.

At a glance, *Stretch* is an intricate and interconnected web of nylon fragments, but the exhibit hints at the contrast between flexibility and delicacy, a contrast shared by nylon fabric and the human constitution. When pushed to their limit, both the fabric and the human psyche will react in unforeseeable ways. Both

the fragments and the memories that inspire them seem unpredictable. The result is simultaneously chaotic and compelling.

"You can make [nylon] do a lot of things, but if it doesn't want to do it, it's not going to," Slater says. "It fights back. It's weird material."

Slater works with every-day leg accessory variety of nylon. Much like human resilience, the nylon is both flexible and fragile, baring the scars of its exposure to pressure and change. As a material for conveying meaning, the nylon serves to react and amplify those reactions when exposed to stress and tension.

Slater discovered nylon to be an apt medium for emotional re-

lease and catharsis after drawing inspiration from such visual artists as Quebec-born Nadia Myre — Myre embarked on an experiment in 2005 to document human scarring. Participants in Myre's project were asked to document their physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual scarring on a piece of linen, while providing an accompanying written narrative of their experience.

"I think about the scars, events and experiences that have happened to a person," Slater says. "How do you go about accepting [them] and dealing with them?"

Slater says she wasn't sure why she liked working with nylon at the

beginning but that it helped while she was going through a tough time.

"Before I graduated from high school, I had two grandparents die very suddenly and very traumatically. It was a hard time," Slater says. "I was really interested in how that affected me personally and the way those experiences had transformed how I existed as a person in society."

For Slater, working with nylon became an emotional release that allowed her to escape from the loss of her grandparents.

"I had trust issues," Slater admits. "I questioned how I was conducting these feelings into the world. I guess that's what my work

is to me now. It's this strange, therapeutic thing."

Slater says the process of developing her art is like an extraction or surgical removal that frees her of painful memories.

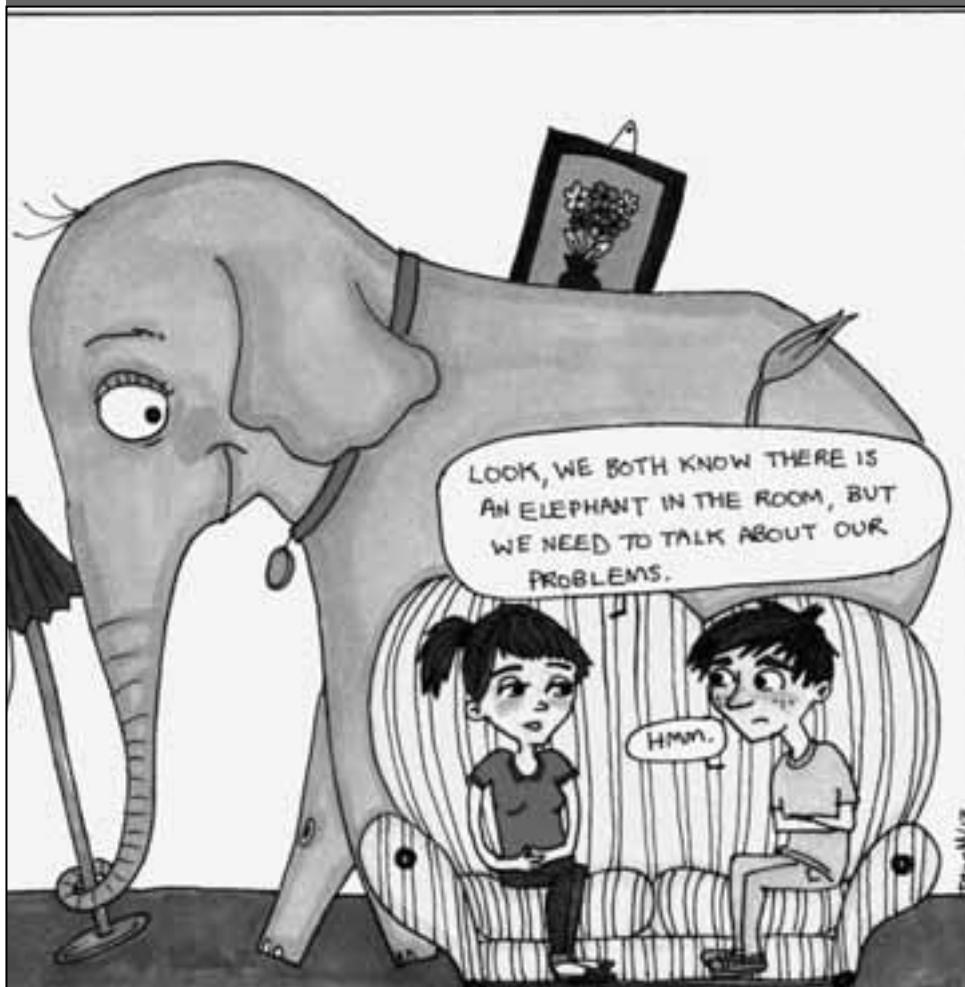
"When removed from the body and placed on another object, [a scar] doesn't have the same power. It holds power, but it isn't solely on you," Slater muses. "Looking at the art, even if people don't get the specifics of the events, they can still sense the feeling and raw emotion and walk away with something."

Stretch is on display at the Stride Gallery +15 Window at the Epcor Centre until July 18. Viewing is free of charge.

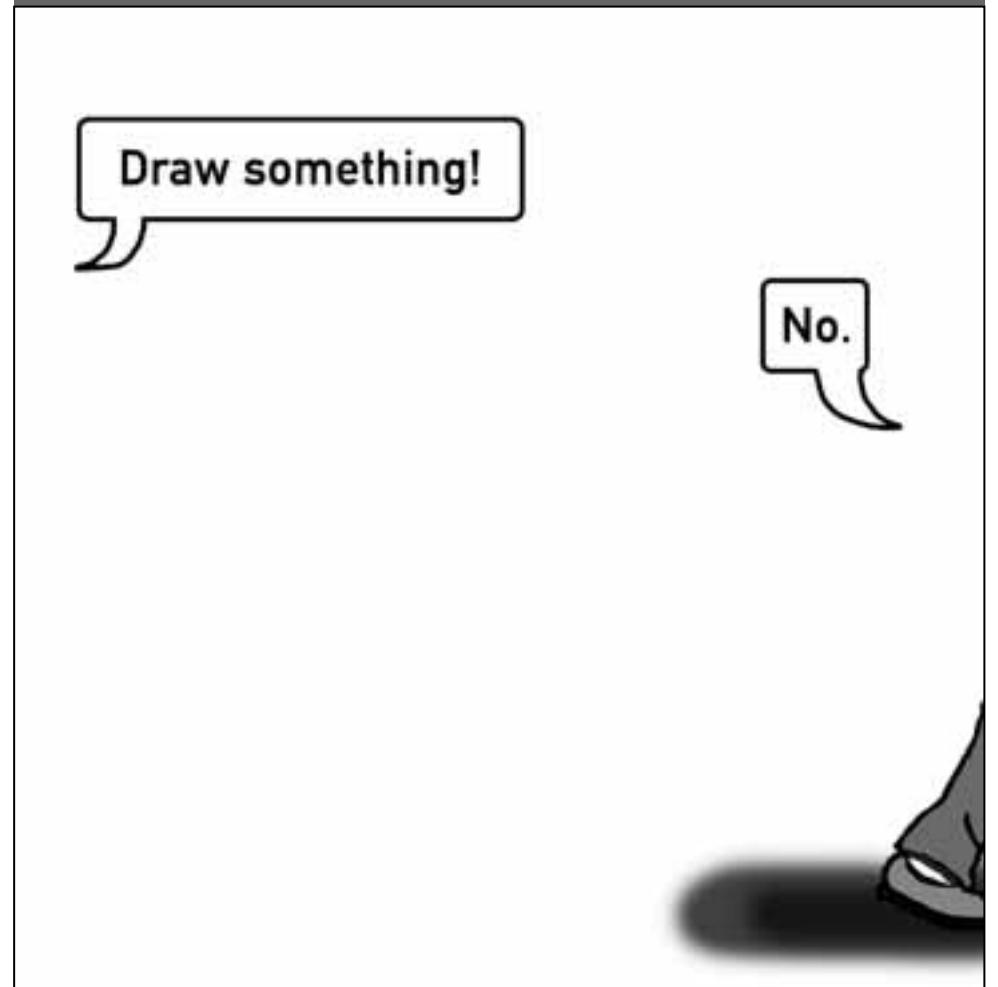
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It Goes Without Saying — Dawn Muenchrath



Because I don't wanna — Sean Sullivan



"OLD WEIRD BOAT GAME"



Calvin French talks about sampans, Calgary's indie scene and what really makes weird weird.

By Sean Willett

When attempting to describe the games of Calgarian independent developer Calvin French, the word 'weird' is one of the first things that may come to mind. Their subject matter is by no means the standard fare of mainstream games — the strange blend of magic and metaphysics found in French's 2012 game *The Real Texas* garnered equal amounts of critical acclaim and confused head scratching and the neon-laced zen of his latest game, *Paradise Perfect Boat Rescue*, will surely be considered by many as another exercise in weird.

However, this peculiarity is far from purposeful.

"The 'weirdness' in a game pretty much already exists by the time I'm making it," explains French. "I don't ever intentionally make anything weird and I didn't even notice that *The Real Texas* was weird until after I had released it. People were saying that it made no sense and was illogical and I was just like, 'What?' It all made sense to me within the game's internal logic."

Even though the concept for *Paradise Perfect Boat Rescue* at first seems fairly normal — the player is tasked with ferrying people between islands on a small boat known as a sampan — the details of the game instill an extra sense of strangeness. Your passengers complain and bicker nearly constantly, some islands are named after ice cream flavours and the player is occasionally treated to pieces of surprisingly profound wisdom from a man named Boatmaster Taro. All of these aspects add up to an unexpectedly surreal experience, one that French explains was partially inspired by a trip to Hong Kong.

"I went on a sampan ride in Hong Kong once, on this cool little weird boat that was kind of like the boat in the game," says French. "They would drive you out to some island, and then you could just hang out and have a picnic on this little island. The game was

largely inspired by that, and there are quite a few references to Hong Kong in there."

The game that would eventually become *Paradise Perfect Boat Rescue* was originally developed in 2010 in an attempt to get \$500 from an Intel promotion, but French had shelved the game because he was unable to properly code the physics for the boat. French rediscovered the project earlier this year, however, and realized that it was something he could use.

"In March I was digging around my projects folder and found this old weird boat game," says French. "I realized there was a lot there — it had a lot of detail, all of the sound effects were put in and it looked pretty nice. I knew then how to implement the boat physics because I had become more knowledgeable about this kind of thing. So I fixed it, and I was surprised because it actually worked incredibly well."

French deliberately intended to make the game much shorter and simpler than the sprawling *The Real Texas*, in an attempt to avoid a similarly lengthy development cycle.

"What I needed to do with the game was just get it out," explains French. "My habit is to take a really long time to develop ideas fully, which is what happened with *The Real Texas*. I didn't want to do that, to fall into that trap, so I actually set a firm release date for May."

While the game at launch was rather short, French has been putting out weekly updates for *Paradise Perfect Boat Rescue* which add new levels, features and pieces of the story. French hopes this episodic structure will draw people back to the game every week.

"It's like a tv show, but a crappy tv show," says French. "Not like a well-produced show — no *Game of Thrones* or anything. Just something that makes people go, 'Oh, that was fun!'"

French has been working full-time as an independent developer since the success of *The Real Texas*,

which allows him the time needed to make weekly updates for *Paradise Perfect Boat Rescue*. A graduate of the University of Calgary's computer science program, French is one of only a few full-time video game developers based out of Calgary — a city that lacks the same kind of game scene that many other Canadian cities have.

"There's a small community, but I think because there is not a big professional game development scene in Calgary not much can

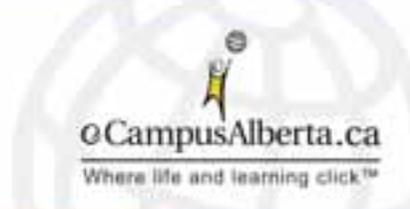
grow up around that," says French. "There are a few indie developers around — people who do it on the side or in their free time — but the scene isn't that great."

As the video game industry grows in Canada and more developers begin to flock to Calgary, the city's indie game scene is bound to grow as well. But even so, it would be hard to imagine another Calgarian — or another developer, for that matter — making games as uniquely weird and charming as French's.

courtesy Kitty Lambda Games Inc.

"What I have realized is that I should just embrace it," says French. "I'm not going to analyze everything. I'm just going to make the things I want to make. Not everything has to be streamlined, or have purpose or meaning. For me the approach is more subconscious, or a stream of consciousness. Why is *Paradise Perfect Boat Rescue* the way it is? Because it just is."

For more information on *Paradise Perfect Boat Rescue*, visit paradisepfectboatrescue.com.



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