

Spinning tracks and hitting the stacks

During the day, U of A law student Luke Morrison analyzes case files; but at night, he's a pioneer for Edmonton's house music scene

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Arts & Entertainment Writer

The next time you venture over to the Powerplant instead of studying for that upcoming mid-term, you might feel a little less guilty about neglecting your studies. After all, Luke Morrison knows all about balancing a heavy course load with extracurricular activities.

"I think we've been slower to embrace the idea of DJs in general—more skeptical of it than in Britain and Europe. [But] the idea of paying 20 bucks to go see a guy play records is slowly being accepted."

LUKE MORRISON

Morrison is a successful DJ who's been receiving international praise from, and touring with, the likes of Pete Tong and John Digweed. In addition, Morrison is a second-year law student here at the University of Alberta, who made the Dean's List last year after finishing an honours degree in Political Science. Indeed, it seems that finding time for both work and play doesn't seem to stress

him out all that much.

"When I first came to law school, my professors were like, 'We want you to have a life outside of law school,' and I've found that they've stuck by their word," Morrison says. "But they definitely do give you a lot to do, and a lot of material to cover.

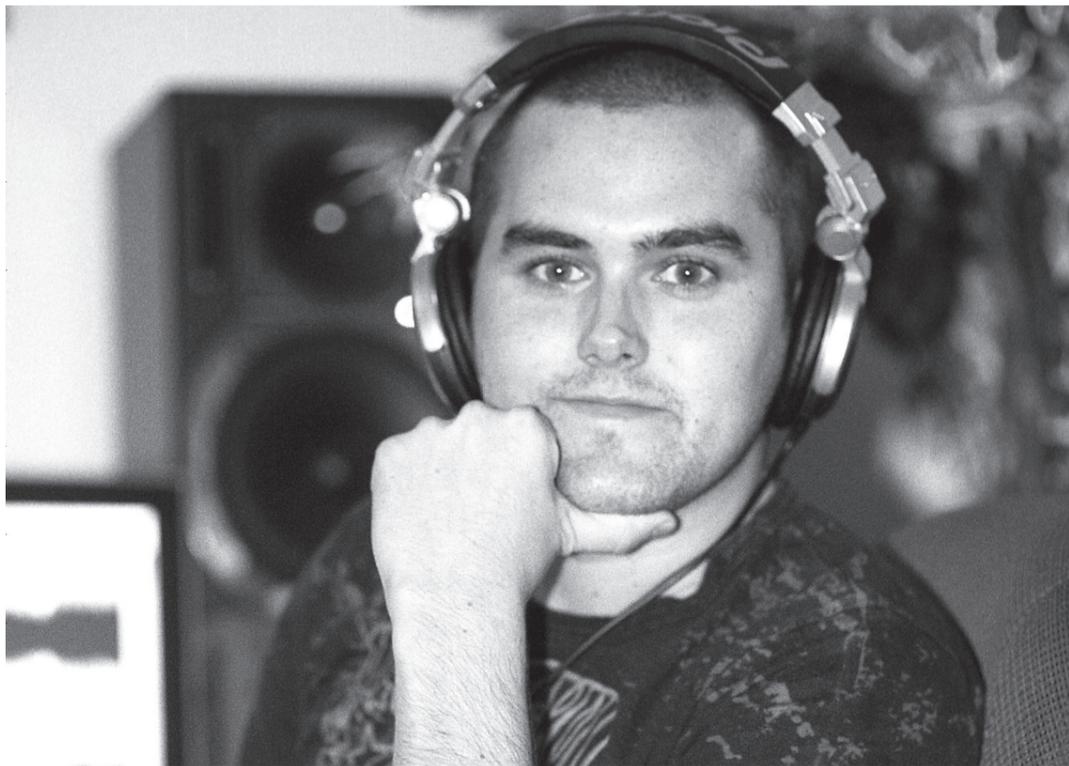
"It's kind of like a juggling act, just being organized and sort of prioritizing things," Morrison continues.

And rather than putting aside the books in favour of the turntables when he's pressed for time, Morrison has been known on occasion to read through law cases while DJing, one screen brimming with the tracks he's playing and the other with law material.

"Yeah, that was during finals. I try not to do that too much," he laughs.

Morrison, a disc jockey that spins house music—a sexier, more organic sub-genre of electronica that began as an offshoot of disco—at The Bank Ultra Lounge and broadcasts live on local radio station The Bounce every Friday night, speaks positively about the growing electronica scene in Edmonton and Western Canada. Slowly but surely, country and rock listeners have been discovering house music, thanks in part to DJs like Morrison.

"If you asked me [about house music] four years ago, it'd be a different story, but I'd say the scene [in Edmonton] is now on par with Toronto, Montréal, even a lot of the bigger cities in the States," Morrison says. "I think we've been slower to



BRIAN PARKER

I'M JUDGING YOU But not in the hipster kind of way. Luke Morrison simply wants to share his love for house music.

embrace the idea of DJs in general—more skeptical of it than in Britain and Europe. [But] the idea of paying 20 bucks to go see a guy play records is slowly being accepted."

Morrison acknowledges that the burgeoning electronica scene has been helped by the recent trend of influential names collaborating with electronica producers, such as

Madonna working with Stuart Price on her latest effort, *Confessions on a Dance Floor*. Big names have begun to play Canadian venues and build relationships with Canucks that end up playing alongside them—a trend Morrison hopes will continue.

"I opened up for [Pete Tong] once and played this remix, and at that point when he was just coming on,

he asked, 'Oh, what was that, mate?'" Morrison says. "I didn't really think much of it, and about a week later he called, and I thought it was just one of the guys fooling around. I was like, 'Yeah right, Pete Tong ... sure, and I'm Mick Jagger, what's up,' and he's like, 'No, it's Pete Tong.' I sent him that remix and he really liked it, and we've kept in touch ever since."

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