

GAUNTLET



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# SLED ISLAND

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The Gauntlet is the official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute. Opinions contained herein are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire Gauntlet staff. Editorials are chosen by the majority of the editorial board. The Gauntlet is a forum open to all U of C students but may refuse any submission judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic, libelous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Grievances regarding the Gauntlet follow a three-step process which requires written decisions from the Editor, the GPS Board of Directors, and the Ombudsboard. The complete Grievance Policy is online at: [thegauntlet.ca](http://thegauntlet.ca). The Gauntlet offices are located on Treaty 7 land.

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# Universities can't hide from recession

It's no secret that Alberta is in the midst of a deep recession. When the latest provincial budget revealed Alberta's deficit could top \$10.4-billion next year, finance minister Joe Ceci warned Albertans to prepare for once-in-a-generation economic challenges.

The provincial government has tried to shelter post-secondary institutions from the recession. The NDP implemented a two-year tuition freeze last September, meaning the cost of tuition cannot be raised until the 2017 fall semester. The government also rolled back previously approved market modifiers, which would have raised the cost of tuition for some programs by more than 25 per cent in a single year — well above the rate of inflation.

These measures have made an impact. But look around the University of Calgary campus and you'll still see the recession rear its ugly head.

The Students' Union approved their first reading of their 2016-17 operating budget on June 7. This year more than last, the budget features evidence of cost-cutting measures and hardships. Bound and Copied is dealing with an increase in the cost of consignment and printing. The SU is seeing decreased revenue from MacHall concerts. Drink prices went up at the Den. A handful of SU employees were even



SAMANTHA LUCY

laid off this year.

Another noticeable example is the SU food bank, which has seen a steady increase in usage for the last few years. The service provides emergency food hampers to U of C students, staff and alumni. In 2014-15, 631 people accessed the food bank — 25 per cent more than in 2013-14 and 114 per cent more than in 2012-13.

Unfortunately, the food bank has also seen a recent decline in both food and monetary donations. The cost of food in Canada went up four per cent in 2016 and people may be less willing to part with their groceries as a result.

But it's not just the SU dealing with economic pressures — the university as a whole is tightening its belt.

Vice-provost libraries and cultural resources Tom Hickerson spoke recently about how the devaluation of

the Canadian dollar has impacted the U of C's libraries. Most transactions the department makes are in American currency, and with academic journal prices increasing 4.5-6 per cent every year, the libraries are forced to be more strategic with their budgeting.

The university unsubscribed from its Oxford Journals package — a bundle of 313 journals costing \$124,000 — last December. Hickerson called unsubscribing from the package an "evidence-based decision." He said with increased costs every year, and no increased allocations for library budgets, it's harder and harder to justify some of the libraries' expenses.

Economic recessions can lead to increased crime. This has manifested at the U of C in a recent uptake in theft.

The U of C saw a spike in theft in March. A few weeks ago, two sus-

pects were charged with stealing more than 50 credit cards from Calgary's post-secondary institutions. Many of the thefts occurred at the U of C and the suspects were identified on our campus.

What all these events prove is that universities cannot shelter themselves from economic turmoil. Steps can be taken to cushion the blow, but economic struggles persist.

That's not even mentioning the struggle to find jobs. Thousands of students graduated last week, and many will be hard pressed to find work in their respective fields.

What's important to remember is that as a community, we're all in this together. We showed that resiliency last month, when the campus came together to support evacuees from the Fort McMurray wildfires. The U of C opened its doors to over 1,400 evacuees — more than anywhere else in the province. Multiple clubs, faculties and departments opened up their services to those in need, regardless of their own hardships.

Getting through a recession isn't easy, but it's easier when everyone has each other's backs. It's important to keep that mentality in mind going forward.

Scott Strasser  
Gauntlet Editorial Board

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STUDENTS SU UNION



# NEWS

STUDENT SERVICES »

## Economic woes cause SU food bank donations to plummet

Scott Strasser  
News Editor

With high food prices and province-wide unemployment, the Students' Union food bank is feeling the pinch of Alberta's economic recession.

According to coordinator Allison Iriye, the SU food bank saw increased usage in 2015-16 from the previous three years, but has seen a heavy decline in recent donations.

"Our usage is up quite a bit," Iriye said. "Those numbers have just been going up and up."

The food bank fed a total of 631 people last year — a 25 per cent increase over 504 people fed in 2014-15.

Those numbers show a significant increase from the 346 people fed in 2012-13 and 295 in 2013-14. The usage spike coincided with increased unemployment and Alberta's slide into recession.

But as more people access the food bank, food and monetary donations to the service have declined.

According to Iriye, people donated 2,000 food items and \$900 to the food bank in May 2015. In comparison, May 2016 saw just 700 food items and \$20 donated.

Iriye said this May was unusually active for the food bank. She said the bank gave out more food hampers in May than any other month this past year.

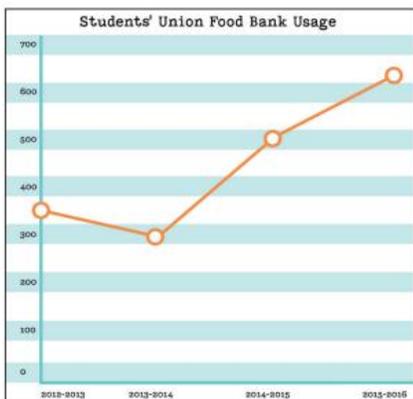
"It's quite a bit of a drastic jump from last May. Usually the spring and summers are quite quiet, so this was a bit of a shock," she said.

Iriye said the food bank's recent struggles could be due to a combination of factors.

"The economic situation in Alberta is not the greatest right now," Iriye said. "I know a lot of donors are possibly not in the position to make donations. People donate when they can. They just can't right now."

Increased food prices could also be a factor. The national consumer price index saw a four per cent spike in food prices in January 2016, largely due to the decreasing value of the Canadian dollar.

Fruits and vegetables saw the biggest price spikes, with tomatoes increasing 30 per cent in price from 2015. Broccoli, cauliflower, celery and peppers all



The SU food bank started as a student club in 1993. Jarrett Edmund (top) and Samantha Lucy (bottom) went up 23 per cent.

According to Iriye, fruits and vegetables are among the food bank's most in-demand foods, along with canned meat, pasta and cereals.

While the food bank doesn't hold any large food drives in the

city level — the Calgary Food Bank forecasts its highest ever demand this summer. The CFB has already fed 130,000 people since August 2015 and expects that number to reach 170,000 by the end of their fiscal year on August 31. CFB spokesperson Shawna Ogston

**It's quite a bit of a drastic bump from last May. Usually the spring and summer are quite quiet, so this was a bit of a shock.**

— Students' Union food bank coordinator Allison Iriye on the service's increased usage.

spring or summer, Iriye said the July 12 Calgary Stampede President's breakfast should help.

"They'll be collecting donations for us there," Iriye said.

The SU food bank's problems are consistent with those seen at the

said reaching 170,000 would beat the organization's previous high of 147,000 people fed in 2011.

"Our numbers are constantly rising," Ogston said. "When a recession hits, it takes a good couple of years for people to get onto their

JARRETT EDMUND (TOP) SAMANTHA LUCY (BOTTOM)

feet. So they've exhausted all their resources and unfortunately have to come to us."

The SU food bank is open seven days a week and is located in the SU volunteer centre. U of C students, staff and alumni within their first two years of graduation are eligible to use it.

The food bank was founded in 1993 as a student club, but later expanded into a subsidized program due to rising demand and popularity.

The food bank also coordinates free breakfast in the Q Centre on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the fall and winter semesters.

"We try to provide a nice, wholesome breakfast with toast, fresh fruit, yogurt, juice boxes," Iriye said. "Usually we provide a snack for later as well. And usage for that has gone up quite a bit too."

## short form

When was the last time you donated to a food bank?



"It's been less than a year."

— Akshat Yugin  
first-year engineering



"Last week in Chestermere."

— Sherry Jessel  
second-year history



"I don't remember, but last week I volunteered with the homeless."

— Sid Ahuja  
second-year civil engineering



"Maybe around a year ago."

— Suman Mishra  
second-year civil engineering



# Ransomware — it's not as rare as you think

Jason Herring  
Online Editor

Scott Strasser  
News Editor

On June 7, the University of Calgary admitted to suffering a ransomware attack — a form of cyberattack that encrypts computer files until a specific sum of money is paid to the attacker.

In order to regain access to the encrypted files, the U of C paid a \$20,000 ransom to an unknown source who hacked the university's computer systems over the May 28–29 weekend. The ransom was paid in bitcoin — an electronic currency that doesn't leave a paper trail when exchanged on secure networks.

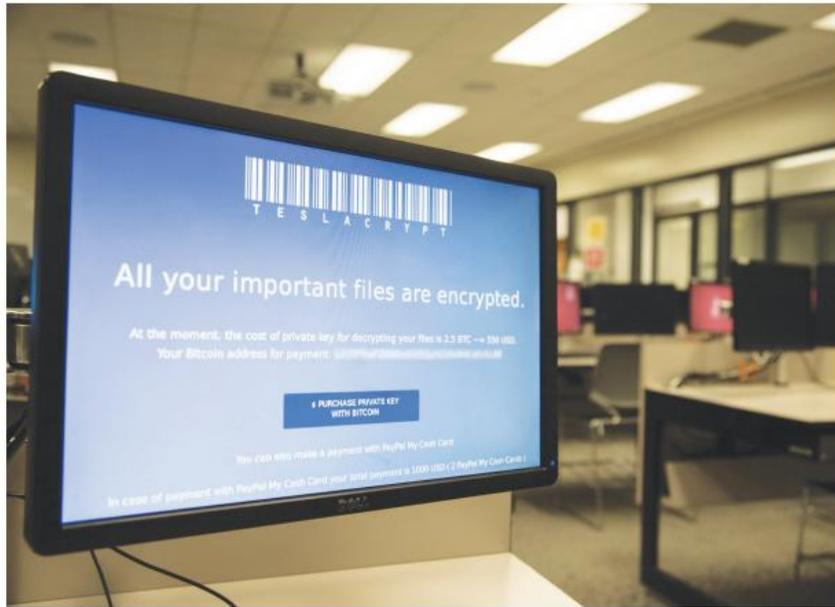
Once the ransom was paid, the attackers supplied the U of C with decryption keys that can be used to restore access to the system.

The malware attack disabled access to the AirUC-Secure wi-fi network, Office 365 webmail, Exchange Email and Skype for Business. It took until June 7 before email issues were fixed. As of June 14, all files are not fully recovered.

The attack coincided with the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, which the U of C was hosting at the time. While the event had its own wi-fi network that was unaffected by the malware, many Congress attendees noticed the computer issues.

According to U of C computer science professor John Aycock, paying the ransom was a strategic decision by the university.

"Ransomware encryption is at the point where, unless the bad guys made a really serious mistake, you won't be able to undo it yourself," Aycock said. "As soon as you look at the



Ransomware attacks are growing more prevalent at large institutions.

whole organization, thinking that everyone in the university loses a couple files, that starts adding up. Some of those files are going to be important, irreplaceable or hard to replace."

**// This attack is part of a disturbing global trend of highly sophisticated and malicious malware attacks.**

— June 7 statement from University of Calgary vice-president finance and services Linda Dalgetty

Another factor that motivates paying a ransomware hacker is whether the amount of work required by support staff to fix the problem is more costly than the ransom itself. In cases of post-secondary institutions, Aycock said it's usually more logical to pay the ransom.

"If you just think of this in terms of the amount of time you have to pay people to recover from this, on the scale of a large institution like the U of C, then the \$20,000 the

university paid looks like a bargain," Aycock said.

In a June 7 statement from U of C vice-president finance and services Linda Dalgetty, the university said these kinds of attacks are becoming more prevalent worldwide.

"This attack is part of a disturbing global trend of highly

sophisticated and malicious malware attacks against organizations including NASA, law enforcement agencies and large health-care institutions," the statement read.

Hospitals are an especially common target for ransomware and other data breach attacks, as they rely on up-to-date records of their patients. Losing immediate access to critical files can create problems much larger than having to pay a hacker thousands of dollars. For a hospital, not paying a ransom can put lives at risk.

In February 2016, the Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Centre in California paid \$16,900 USD worth of bitcoin when they were hit by a ransomware attack. The centre had lost access to email and digital patient records.

When the story about the U

of C broke, many questioned the university's decision to go public with their willingness to pay the ransom, stating it makes the university appear vulnerable to future attacks. According to Aycock, ransomware attacks often go unreported due to fears of bad publicity.

"When you're reading about these things, you're reading about them from institutions who have confessed to paying the ransom," Aycock said. "In all likelihood there are many more who have been hit by it and paid the ransom and don't make it public or perhaps are afraid to because they think it might do damage to their reputation."

Despite paying the \$20,000 ransom, services still aren't fully restored at the U of C. IT had to recreate over 9,000 new Office 365 email accounts for U of C staff due to the attack. IT is still working to evaluate the attacker's decryption keys and save as many files as possible.

Ultimately, Aycock hopes the attack teaches a valuable lesson in data security for other institutions across the country.

"The university is acting in one of its key roles — the university is supposed to be about teaching and research and it's teaching a valuable lesson to the community," Aycock said. "It didn't come at zero cost, but I think it's a valuable lesson if people say, 'hey, I've got to shore up my backups and take action against this.' That could save a lot of people money down the line."

Due to the attack's criminal nature, the Calgary Police Services are now involved with the investigation. As the investigation is ongoing, neither the university nor the CPS will comment on the case's specifics.

## UNIVERSITY DISTRICT »

# West Campus announces builders

Scott Strasser  
News Editor

The West Campus Development Trust announced their building partners for University District at an event on June 14.

WCDDT president and CEO James Robertson said the first phase of University District is moving forward. Brookfield Residential and Truman Homes will be supplying units for the new community.

"We are going to start putting utilities in the ground in the next couple of weeks. The sites will be ready for building in the fall," Robertson said.

Brookfield Residential will build 131 townhouses on a five-acre

section, while Truman Homes will build approximately 150 units of both townhouses and condominium-style apartments.

Jaydan Tait, Brookfield Residential's vice-president Calgary infill communities, credited the work done so far on the project.

"We're at the point now where the master plan is done," Tait said. "We've done many months of work to get to a point where we have a program and a plan. If we can get our approvals done with our partners at the City of Calgary, we should be able to start in one year."

The announcement took place at the University of Calgary's lot 59, the future site of University

District. The event featured live music, food trucks and mini-golf.

"We wanted to appeal to everyone, like our community does," Robertson said. "The event is to say thanks to all the people who contributed and let them know we're moving forward."

University District, formerly known as West Campus, is a new residential community that will be built on the vacant land west of the U of C. The area is bound by Shaganappi Trail, 16th Avenue and 32nd Avenue.

Construction of University District is expected to last about 15 years.

"Really, it will depend on the market and how fast we go, but 15 years is the expected time," Robertson said.

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Students' Union Program for Education Related Work



## RESEARCH »

# U of C researchers co-found academic search engine

Scott Strasser  
News Editor

A new meta-analysis search engine co-created by University of Calgary researchers went public on June 8.

MetaBUS is a collaborative effort between researchers at the U of C, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and Virginia Commonwealth University. The program was unveiled at the U of C on June 2 and seeks to simplify meta-analysis and make scientific findings more accessible.

Meta-analysis is the process of summarizing findings in a particular academic field. Traditional approaches involve scouring academic journal publications to find related results. Once collected, a computer algorithm is needed to organize data and direct future research.

MetaBUS is designed to speed up that painstaking process.

"By using metaBUS, summarizing research will now only take minutes rather than years. [It] puts the focus on curating new knowledge, rather than trying to sift through past findings," said co-founder and Haskayne School

of Business professor Piers Steel.

The 25-member metaBUS team spent four years developing and testing the product. The team coded nearly one million applied psychology findings in journals dating back to 1980.

Steel said metaBUS is a response to the inaccessibility of scientific research.

"People have been asking, 'why has there been an internet revolution in communication for everywhere but academia?'" he said. "We have all these problems of accessibility."

According to the metaBUS website, academic journals are often behind a paywall and are difficult to access for people not affiliated with a university.

Steel said the complex language used in scientific journals is often another problem.

"MetaBUS is a way to solve these issues," Steel said. "We can take any topic that science has focused itself on, get it out from behind the paywall, take it away from this scientific language and reexpress it in terms and ways you could find useful."

VCU professor and metaBUS co-founder Frank Bosco said the

search engine's goal is to make science faster.

"MetaBUS expands the scope of academic research to an unprecedented size and scale," Bosco said. "We believe [it] will enable scientists to answer large-scale calibrating questions that were previously impossible to address."

Free beta accounts for the search engine were made available on June 8 for users who register on the metaBUS site.

While his team has focused on applied psychology thus far, Steel said the goal is to expand into other fields.

"It's now about taking science from behind the paywall and making it relevant to everyone in their everyday decisions," Steel said. "As long as science has been focused on it, we can express it."

MetaBUS won the 2013 Digging into Data Challenge. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Centre for Advanced Leadership in Business.

For more information and access to a beta account, visit [metabus.org](http://metabus.org)

## CLUBS »



FABIAN MAYER

## Rocketry club blasts off to international competition in Utah

Scott Strasser  
News Editor

The University of Calgary's student rocketry club is in Utah to compete in the world's largest intercollegiate rocket-launching competition.

Five members of the Student Organization for Aerospace Research (SOAR) are in Green River, Utah from June 15-18 to participate in the Intercollegiate Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC), an annual event put on by the Experimental Sounding Rocket Association.

The IREC marks SOAR's first high-powered rocket launch. The roughly-30 member team held their inaugural launch in late April, when they sent their prototype rocket just over 1,000 feet into the sky. It reached a maximum velocity of about 360 km/h.

The club has been hard at work preparing for the IREC since the April launch. While that rocket used a class G engine, SOAR vice-president public relations Nathan Meulenbroeck said the competition rocket will use an L engine, 32.3 times more powerful than the prototype.

If their competition launch is successful, SOAR's rocket will break the speed of sound.

"We're aiming for an altitude of exactly 10,000 feet and the rocket [to] reach more than Mach 1.1 during its burn time," Meulenbroeck said.

Now in its tenth year, the IREC is a keystone event for intercollegiate rocketry clubs.

"We provide an opportunity for students to design, build and fly rocket projects," said IREC director of competition Matthew Ellengold. "We really emphasize student design and construction. Students have an opportunity to take things they learn in the classroom and apply them through hands-on experience."

Ellengold said upwards of 60 rocketry teams will compete in this year's

IREC from universities around the world, including the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Egypt, Australia and Turkey.

"We've always had strong representation from Canada, but the branching out from North America is a recent development," Ellengold said.

The IREC includes basic and advanced categories. In the basic category — which SOAR is competing in — rockets must carry a 10 pound payload and teams lose points for every foot above or below 10,000 feet that their rocket reaches.

Teams in the advanced category set an altitude between 10,000 and 23,000 and lose points for every foot above or below they are from that target. Teams are judged on both theoretical design work and flight performance.

**■ We're aiming for an altitude of exactly 10,000 feet and the rocket [to] reach more than Mach 1.1 during its burn time.**

— SOAR vice president public relations Nathan Meulenbroeck

Ellengold said competing in the IREC is a great opportunity for students interested in rocket launch engineering.

"It's hard to find another forum like the IREC that centers on launch vehicles and rocket propulsion technology," Ellengold said. "It's a unique opportunity to come together and talk shop."

Meulenbroeck said SOAR's goal is to eventually enter IREC's advanced category.

"This flight is set to be a kind of beginner flight for future rockets," he said.

## STUDENT INITIATIVES »

## U of C graduate students' start-up breaks down barriers

Shelbi Bartlett  
Gauntlet News

A company founded by two University of Calgary graduate students could participate in a global contest focused on breaking down social barriers for the disabled community.

Sue Crawford and Michael Purdy created Enable to match people with disabilities with caregivers through an online platform.

Crawford and Purdy applied for their start-up company to feature at the Global Healthcare Innovation Academy Wildcard Competition, which takes place at Telus Spark in Calgary August 25-26.

Crawford is already a registered nurse and has provided respite care for three different families. She said there are multiple issues when it comes to caring for those with disabilities.

"I've had this idea for quite a while," Crawford said. "It has been a pain point for a lot of families. They don't know where to get caregivers and there's just not enough traction in the community for caregiving roles."

Crawford said families can find caregivers through other platforms, but can end up paying \$50-\$60 an hour for highly-trained individuals.

Crawford said another issue is that while one in seven people over the age of 15 report having some form of disability, public spaces aren't always accessible.

"People with disabilities don't use public spaces in the same way or the same amount as people without disabilities," Crawford said.

Purdy, a biomedical engineering master's student, said people can be intimidated if they feel they don't know how to interact with people with disabilities.

Crawford and Purdy said Enable's goal is to engage people with disabilities in the community through casual activities with their caregivers, such as playing sports or going out for drinks.

"You don't need a [registered nurse] playing Frisbee," Crawford said.

While Enable will target U of C students to become caregivers due to their flexibility and desire to build their resumes, the platform will also

accept other community members as caregivers.

The service aims to match people based on availability, interests and training.

Crawford said Enable will perform police record checks and vulnerable sector searches before hiring applicants as caregivers.

"Families will also be encouraged to interview the support workers beforehand to ensure they're a good fit," Purdy said. "I think we'll have a larger care-pool [than formal caregiving organizations] because we won't need highly trained people."

Lynn Slater, who has a teenage daughter with a disability, sees the potential in Enable.

"Although my daughter has disabilities, she wants what all kids want — acceptance, fun, making memories and the excitement of sharing new adventures, away from her everyday world," Slater said.

Along with the GHIAWC, Crawford and Purdy will also enter Enable in Alberta BoostR, a crowd-funding platform created by ATB Financial.



## SLED ISLAND »



COURTESY: SARAH CREIGHTON (TOP RIGHT) MARC SETHI (TOP LEFT) CASEY LEWIS (BOTTOM LEFT) NICOLE STRAUB (TOP RIGHT)

## Artists to catch at Sled Island 2016

Sled Island kicks off its 10th year as one of Calgary's most beloved summer festivals from June 21–26. This year's lineup is packed to the brim with musical acts of all genres.

The festival is curated by Peaches — an eclectic Canadian electronic musician who performs her art as passionately as she makes it. Sled Island executive director Maud Salvi says Peaches' influence made a big difference to this year's lineup.

"I feel like you can sense the Peaches touch even in some of the stuff she didn't directly choose," Salvi says. "There's definitely more dancey stuff. Someone in the office said this is the sexiest lineup of Sled Island."

Deafheaven and Guided by Voices are among notable headliners.

The festival takes place at venues throughout downtown Calgary, which means Sled Island music will fill theatres, bars, parking lots, patios and nightclubs for six days and nights.

It can be tough to narrow down which acts to catch during the hectic festival, where something is happening almost all the time.

"The lineup can seem overwhelming," Salvi says. "But we try to make it easily walkable or bikeable so people can venue-hop and see as many shows as they can," Salvi says.

With that in mind, here are our four picks to keep on your radar at this year's Sled Island.

**Chastity Belt:**

**When:** Wednesday June 22 at 1:00 a.m. (Thursday morning) and Thursday June 23 at 11:30 p.m.

**Where:** Broken City and Tubby Dog

Washington-based band Chastity Belt are no prudes. Fueled by booze, rock and irony, they have all the necessary ingredients for a grunge-rock trifecta.

Hypnotic guitar loops buzz over Julia Shapiro's poignant lyricism, punching at stereotypical notions of femininity. "We're just a couple of sluts. So what? We like to fuck," sings Shapiro on the song "Cool Slut."

Their latest record, *Time To Go Home*, is more than just an apathetic stab at the patriarchy — it also takes aim at apathy itself. "Is it cool not to care?" repeats Shapiro on the late cut "IDC."

It is a question rarely considered by a genre known for its bravado, and this sense of self-awareness gives Chastity Belt an edge over the seemingly infinite number of male-only garage bands that dominate the business.

"He was just another man trying to teach me something" sings Shapiro on album opener "Drone." Head down to Broken City and Tubby Dog and educate yourself — or whatever.

Jarrett Edmund

**The Shiverettes:**

**When:** Wednesday June 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday June 26 at 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** The John Dutton Theatre and The Palomino

Feminist punk band The Shiverettes is bound to be one of the festival's rowdiest acts with their politically charged discography.

The band rocked the local punk music scene last year with the release of "Stephen Harper, Suck My Dick." The track featured pointed lyrics like, "Women are missing, women are murdered," paired with hollering vocals and a janky guitar. The song quickly became an anthem within the progressive music scene, voicing the concerns of the politically dissident in an election peppered with social issues surrounding missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada.

Hailing from Calgary, the band expresses an important voice of discontent with Alberta's political elite, and expresses a kind of unrest that is definitive of the punk genre.

It's obvious that The Shiverettes have a tough skin. The kind of music they produce is not only brave in a time when the punk aesthetic has largely retreated — its impassioned, feminist discontent is also quintessentially Canadian.

Emilie Medland-Marchen

**Julia Holter:**

**When:** Thursday June 23 at 10:00 p.m.

**Where:** Theatre Junction GRAND

There's a reason Julia Holter will play her set in a theatre instead of one of Sled Island's many rowdier venues — her unique brand of baroque pop is best served in an environment where the audience can hear every detail.

Holter will likely play material from her exceptional 2015 release *Have You in My Wilderness*. The album's ability to evoke deep emotions of romance, anxiety and longing through inviting pop tracks made it one of last year's best records.

The musician's other work may be even better on a live stage. Previously, Holter released a number of albums that explore more experimental pop alongside heady spiritual themes. While these tracks are harder to swallow, they're sure to feel transcendent on stage.

Holter creates some of the best sounding songs I've ever heard. Her music is meticulously arranged, and each listen reveals another layer. If Holter can make her songs sound half as good live as their in-studio versions, festival-goers are in for a real treat.

Jason Herring

**Kaytranada:**

**When:** Friday June 24th at 11:00 p.m.

**Where:** Flames Central

Montreal-raised, Haitian-born producer Kaytranada will bring his alternative electronic jams to Flames Central. With the release of his debut studio album, *99.9%*, Kaytranada has mastered his distinct, vibrant sound while maintaining an undercurrent of Haitian island vibes.

Although many of his remixes and collaborations suggest a conformation to the always changing hip-hop genre, Kaytranada continually diverges from the constructs of the genre.

With a splattering of funk, R&B, hip-hop and house, this is the perfect show anyone who has a hunger for fun. Audiences can also expect a kick of nostalgia along with Kaytranada's renewed remixes of Missy Elliot and TLC classics.

Kaytranada's beats dive into a dreamy, lightly psychedelic state — the perfect vibe for a summer evening among friends.

Kaytranada is known to keep the crowd on their feet and loving it. He last played at the Hifi Club two years ago, and if you missed that show, you'll certainly want to make this one.

Hayden McBennett



LOCAL ART »

# Twelve artists interpret Snow's "Poem"

Georgia King  
Gauntlet Entertainment

Twelve Canadian artists collaborated to interpret Michael Snow's 1957 writing, "Poem," using an eclectic mix of visual art complemented by sound and film.

Electronic music composer Mark Templeton curated the collection, titled *VARIATIONS*, showing at the Arts Commons Gallery until August 31.

"I just sort of stumbled across this poem and liked the simplicity. I thought it would be a good thing to anchor the works to," Templeton says.

Knowing he wanted Canadian contributors, Templeton sought out artists he was drawn to.

"It happened that some of them already had a connection with Snow," he says.

Michael Snow is a Toronto-based artist who works in photography, sculpture, music and experimental filmmaking.

Despite having work featured in museums from Paris to New York, Templeton says the 86-year-old



Twelve artists will demonstrate "Poem" through sound, film and other media. COURTESY ARTS COMMONS

Snow remains refreshingly humble. "He's been very supportive of the whole process," he says. "To be honest, when you send an email like that, in the back of your mind you're not really expecting a response. He seems excited about the work and really seems behind it."

Vancouver student Evangeline

Belzile is one of the visual artists working on the collaboration. Belzile said she was attracted to the project because of its large scale.

"There's so many of us that don't get a lot of recognition so whenever there's a chance to work together, I think it's a great thing to do," she says.

Belzile worked alongside composer and vocalist Ian William Craig.

"Interpreting the poem, I was thinking a lot about memories — like how they're there and then they're not," Belzile says.

Using an archival approach, Craig and Belzile paired Belzile's old family footage with some of

Craig's early tapes to interpret Snow's poem.

"I think no matter what, visual art is always kind of important to view because everybody — no matter who they are — is going to get their own idea from it. It would be different for everyone."

Templeton says he fights for public presentation of films in a time when most media is presented through the internet in private settings.

"I always liked the idea of having work that was released in a physical format and the opportunity to have the work exhibited in a gallery setting or a screening," he says.

The Arts Commons Gallery of Alberta will feature *VARIATIONS* until August 31 where the twelve narratives will be streamed day and night on three public monitors.

Arts Commons will host a reception and art party called *Happenings 5* on August 11 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [artsccommons.ca](http://artsccommons.ca)

TRY THIS »

## I spent 90 minutes in a float tank

Rachel Woodward  
Entertainment Editor

I am a relatively anxious person. Finding new ways to be more calm in my day-to-day life has always been a goal of mine. I've done yoga and used breathing techniques for a while, but I thought it was time to try something a little more extreme.

People have used sensory deprivation tanks for various reasons since their invention in 1954 by Dr. John C. Lilly. Users enter a dark, quiet tank of water with over a thousand pounds of dissolved epsom salts, allowing them to float effortlessly. Deprived of all senses, they sit alone with nothing but their thoughts.

In early March, I decided to spend a 90-minute session in one of these tanks. I carried many misconceptions into this experience, expecting to sit in a cold, small area where I was more or less trapped for the entire period of isolation. But the experience turned out to be the opposite of what I expected.

I chose to experience my first float at Float Life in Kensington. Dustin Ryan, the facility's co-founder, began floating two and a half years ago. He started doing so to help with his own anxiety and discover greater self-awareness.

"At that time, I was really into personal development, meditation and different states of consciousness. Floating really appealed to me," he



The tank resembles a bath more than a coffin. COURTESY FLOATLIFE

says. "It's something that you can do without taking any drugs — you're in control of the entire experience, you can get out whenever you like, but after you float a couple of times, you can get into some really unique states of mind that you can't necessarily get into anywhere else."

When I arrived for my first float session, the room felt more like a spa and less like a coffin. The pod is spacious and you have options to listen to relaxing music or keep a coloured light on. The door is hydraulic, and you are able to leave it open as much as you like.

Initially, I assumed I would stay as safe as possible by leaving the lights and music on, but after a few moments, a feeling of intense relaxation washed over me and I decided to try being fully deprived of my senses.

While being alone with my thoughts for 90 minutes was daunting, it ended up being extremely therapeutic. The escape from technology that so firmly

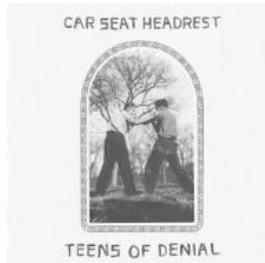
holds my attention was a welcome relief. At times, I was stressed, and at others, restless. But leaving the tank, I felt like a new person.

When the music turned on in my pod to mark the end of my float, I felt like a baby emerging from my mother's womb. I showered the salt water out of my hair and sat with a cup of tea in the entrance room.

For days after my experience, I was relaxed. I had less anxiety going through my week and felt like I was more comfortable going without my phone or laptop when it wasn't necessary. My experience may not be common for first-timers, but it is something I feel everyone should try. It was a leap into the unknown for me, but ended up being thoroughly comforting. Floating is unlike anything I've experienced and is something I plan to continue doing in my life.

For more information on float tanks, visit [floatlife.ca](http://floatlife.ca)

NEW MUSIC »



Car Seat Headrest  
*Teens of Denial*  
May 20, 2016 (Matador)

Will Toledo has broken into a new phase in his career. The prolific 23-year-old songwriter, who records music under the name Car Seat Headrest, moves away from his characteristic lo-fi production on his 13th — and best — album, *Teens of Denial*.

Most of Toledo's past albums were recorded with a lo-fi sound out of necessity rather than choice — he recorded the vocals for his early songs on a laptop in the backseat of a car because he was too embarrassed to sing in front of his parents. The sound stuck. But even though the singer sounds much more clear on his new record, the dry wit and adventurous songwriting that originally made Car Seat Headrest exciting hasn't changed.

Toledo is a master of stretching songs into epics by building tension that breaks into a cacophony of distorted guitars or a guttural yell. Early album highlight "Vincent" accomplishes this handily, letting an extended intro simmer until it boils

over in a jumbled array of brass and fuzzy guitars.

As a lyricist, Toledo embraces the role of the apathetic partygoer, usually indulging in one substance or another. He often incorporates a wry sense of humour into his tracks, and the comedic timing is brilliant. "I've been waiting all my life," Toledo croons on "Not What I Needed," before dropping an unexpected punchline — "I've been waiting for some real good porn."

Elsewhere, the album varies in tone. "Destroyed by Hippie Powers" documents a bad drug trip while Toledo reflects on how music changes with age, and "The Ballad of Costa Concordia" serves as a confessional with confused and accusatory lyrics questioning past decisions.

The crowning achievement of *Teens of Denial* — and of the Car Seat Headrest discography — is "Drunk Drivers/Killer Whales." On the track, Toledo abandons his distant lyricism in exchange for a track that emanates hope for change. "It doesn't have to be like this," he wails as the song reaches its emotional peak. The moment feels anthemic and universal in the way that all classic indie songs do.

*Teens of Denial* is full of moments of joy, despair and vulnerability. Toledo is an expert at extracting these emotions and turning them into beautiful, disjointed songs. That was the songwriting that drew fans to his music during the early lo-fi days, and the new album's clear production shines a brighter light on Car Seat Headrest's brilliance.

Jason Herring



## QUIDDITCH »

## University of Calgary quidditch player to represent Canada at World Cup

Emilie Medland-Marchen  
Sports Editor

When asked about quidditch, you might think of flying broomsticks and Harry Potter. But quidditch has recently gained steam as a legitimate sport outside of the imagination of J.K. Rowling.

Rachel Malone is the former coach and founder of the Calgary Mudbloods quidditch team at the University of Calgary. She was recently selected to attend the 2016 Quidditch World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany from July 23–24 as an alternate chaser. The *Gauntlet* spoke to her about her quidditch career and how she was selected to represent Team Canada internationally.

**The Gauntlet:** This is a question you probably get all the time, but what is quidditch exactly?

Rachel Malone: Quidditch is inspired by the sport that was written by J.K. Rowling. [It] started in 2005 at Middlebury College. There was a group of students there who were tired of playing bocce at mid-



Rachel Malone (left) leads the Calgary Mudbloods in a practice on campus.

EMILIE MEDLAND-MARCHEN

night, so they were like, 'Hey! Let's try and figure out quidditch!' That team then went around and taught a lot of teams in the northeast U.S., and it slowly grew and grew. In Canada, it started out at McGill University — they were the first Canadian team to start playing — and now it's played all across Canada.

**G:** Do you have any previous sporting experience?

RM: I actually was a competitive swimmer for nine years, so that gave me some high-level athletics training. I've also played a bit of soccer here and there, a lot of quidditch players come from different athletic backgrounds. We get a decent amount of rugby players, and basketball players are always transferable. We've gotten hockey players, football players — that kind of stuff. But we also get a lot of people who have never played sports, so quidditch is kind of interesting in that sense. You get people from all walks of sports.

**G:** What was the selection process for Team Canada like?

RM: The western tryouts had about 45 people there. And the eastern had close to 100. There was about 150 athletes vying for about 21 spots on the main roster and then 21 spots on the alternate roster.

**G:** In an interview with *Metro* you mentioned that quidditch has a lot of diversity compared to other sports. Can you explain that a little bit more?

RM: One of the things that is honestly my favourite part about quidditch is the fact that in the *Harry Potter* books, it was a mixed gender sport. You had men and women playing on the same team. And so when it was started in the U.S., they were like, 'Let's keep that. Let's properly make a fully mixed gender sport.' So that was really awesome. They codified what they call 'Title 9 3/4' — playing off of 'Title 9' and 'Platform

9 3/4' — which is codified in the yearbook as the 'Four Maximum rule.'

The Four Maximum rule states that you cannot have more than four players on the field at a given time identifying as the same gender. It further states that the gender a player identifies with is the gender they play as. So it's one of the most welcoming sports. It's one of the first sports to recognize that gender isn't a binary, which is awesome. And that just sort of promotes a lot of diversity in that sense. I think one of the Portland community teams has six different genders playing on their team. We had a number of non-binary players playing on our team this year, so that was really cool. I've learnt so much more about gender through playing quidditch.

**G:** How do you prepare for matches, and do you find that the approach is different than to other sports?

RM: Quidditch is entirely a team sport. You have three different teams that are basically working together to try and achieve one goal. So practice-wise, it's a lot of basics — like throwing, passing, catching, that kind of stuff. You want to train contact pretty well, so you want to make sure you understand good contact. But we do the same sort of dynamic warm-ups that any soccer player or any rugby player would do.

**G:** Quidditch has struggled a bit with gaining legitimacy as a sport in Canada. Why do you think it's treated differently than other more conventional sports?

RM: I think its roots are a large part of it — just the fact that it looks a little bit weird to people who don't know it, or people who don't understand that just because a sport came from fiction doesn't mean that it's fiction itself. A lot of people think that quidditch is LARPing — like live-action role playing, or something like that — and that's not it at all. We don't think that we're flying, we don't think that we're in the *Harry Potter* books. We might have joined it because it's from the *Harry Potter* books. A lot of us are super nerdy athletes, but we're also athletes. You can be both. I think a lot of people have trouble wrapping their heads around that.

**G:** What are you most excited for at the World Cup in Frankfurt?

RM: I'm really excited to see a lot of the other teams. This is going to be my first really big tournament. There's 25 countries coming, so it's going to be really big. It's also going to be my first time in Germany, so I'm really excited to go to Germany just in general.

But I'm really excited just to see players from all over the world. I knew when I was joining quidditch that I was going to be joining a global community. But this is going to be my first time properly experiencing that. There's teams from Pakistan, Uganda, Peru, Mexico, Australia, Korea — all over the world, and all over Europe too. It's going to be really, really interesting seeing that many countries there, playing such a fun, exciting sport.



Quidditch is played with three hoops and balls. EMILIE MEDLAND-MARCHEN

Edited for clarity and brevity

