

GAUNTLET



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18

Editorial

4 Administration must recognize BSD's contribution to campus life

News

6 Queers on Campus club hosts annual Gender Bender

8 On-campus project aims to deconstruct beauty ideals

12 Gender-inclusive change rooms coming to U of C campus

16 Club pushes for U of C SU policy on candidates accused of sexual violence

Features

18 Financial unsustainability forces Bermuda Shorts Day changes

Opinions

22 Reflections on a year spent studying abroad in Calgary

24 Sustainable tuition policy is too valuable to be delayed any longer

Arts & Culture

28 CUFF presents films from the underground

30 Coming Out Monologues returns to Calgary stage for ninth year

32 Local power-pop sensations plan release of debut album

36 New Music: Wye Oak, Dom Fricot and Vince Ash

Sports & Wellness

38 Dinos men's basketball win first-ever national championship

40 Foreign program lets student students ancient sport in Greece

Humour

46 Student intentionally neglects to look both ways for traffic en route to EEEL final exam

50 What unfortunate fate will befall you this Bermuda Shorts Day?

52 Diversions: Spring crossword and travel-themed criss cross

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The Gauntlet is the official student publication of the University of Calgary, published 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 process that requires written decisions from the Editor and the GPS Board of Directors. The complete Grievance Policy is online at thegauntlet.ca. The Gauntlet offices are located on Treaty 7 land.

The Gauntlet is printed on recycled paper and uses an ink made of all things we will soon grow tired. We urge you to recycle/sneak into the movies using the Gauntlet.

Letter Policy

Letters must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author's name, email address and title. Letters will not be printed if they include attacks of a strictly personal nature, statements that discriminate on the

basis of race, sex, or sexual orientation, or libelous or defamatory material. All letters should be addressed to "Editor, the Gauntlet," and be no longer than 400 words. The Gauntlet retains the right to edit submissions. Letters can be delivered or mailed to the Gauntlet office, Room 319 MacEwan Students' Centre, or sent by email to eic@thegauntlet.ca.

The Cover

Design by Samantha Lucy

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The Gauntlet's local and national sales are managed by FREE Media, an agency representing the campus press in Canada. View our Ad Sheet online for rates and publication dates. Questions about the Gauntlet's ad policy can be directed to Ron Goldberger at 403-607-4948 or online at yyc@f-media.ca.

Administration must recognize BSD's contribution to campus life

For the first time in the event's history, University of Calgary students will have to pay to enter the Bermuda Shorts Day beer gardens, the annual end-of-classes celebration put on by the Students' Union. While \$5–10 might not break the bank for most students, it's hard to justify paying cover for mediocre beer gardens on campus when students can go to literally any other bar in Calgary to get their fill of day-drinking and debauchery for free.

The SU cites the U of C's administration requiring them to increase security costs for the event and the \$88,000 loss they incurred last year as the reasons behind the new BSD cover charge. Administration requiring the SU to hire more security while not offsetting any of the costs is mean-spirited, largely because the school asked the SU to host a single BSD event in 1989 in order to contain festivities into one safe environment.

Imposing these exorbitant fees at this point goes against the harm-reduction narrative administration has created throughout the year. The administration will not offer any additional funding to support the event, but they are making the SU cover all the costs of the event and making them close The Den on BSD, which would offset losses for the SU. Meanwhile, the Graduate Students' Association will have the Last Defence Lounge open on BSD, negating all arguments for closing The Den.

In a December 2017 interview with the *Gauntlet* about the Post-Alcohol Support Space (PASS), U of C vice-provost student experience Susan Barker said, "As university administrators, the most important thing — if we do one thing in our jobs — is to keep students from harm." She also noted studies that show preventing students from drinking is not an effective method of harm reduction.



Illustration by Grace Avery-Parkman

However, adding security and increasing the costs associated with hosting the event is also not an effective harm reduction mechanism. Students who choose not to attend BSD will go to other bars across Calgary and spread the BSD mayhem beyond campus. This also means those students who wander from campus will not have access to the emergency medical services and other on-campus resources that actually reduce the harm that BSD supposedly causes. As small as the cover charge is, it will act as a disincentive to go to BSD, but not enough of one to stop some students from celebrating the end of classes by partying as hard as they can.

The U of C administration needs to recognize that BSD is not inherently bad or damaging. It's the only SU event that the majority of students participate in. For some students, it's the only time during their degree that they engage with their SU in any capacity. It brings

students together on campus unlike any other event at the U of C, which is vital to a campus that wants to create any sort of semblance of student life, "student experience" or however admin wants to denote students actually enjoying spending time on campus.

It's high time administration support the SU with the costs of putting on the event and allow them to open their own business to further offset the costs of BSD.

While every student at the U of C celebrates BSD in their own way, most are united in their anger over BSD's future being threatened by arbitrary costs imposed by administration. If the U of C wants to be considered a campus that fosters a positive student experience, they should support BSD instead of stifling the celebration financially.

Jesse Stilwell
Gauntlet editorial board



Around campus this March

From the Students' Union election results to campus-wide WiFi woes, here's what went down at the University of Calgary last month.

Recaps by Ashar Memon. Photo by Mariah Wilson.

An **early-morning fire** caused the Math Sciences building at the University of Calgary to close for the day on March 1. The U of C said the fire was quickly extinguished and that there were no injuries. Campus Security said it was searching for an unidentified male who started the fire in a washroom on the second floor of the building.

Results for the 2018 **Students' Union general election** were announced at The Den. Over 6,500 students cast a ballot in the election, yielding a voter turnout of 24.7 per cent — a slight decrease from 25.1 per cent the previous year. Sagar Grewal was acclaimed as president, Jessica Revington won for vice-president academic and Kevin Dang prevailed as vice-president operations and finance. Puncham Judge will return for the role of vice-president exter-

nal and Nabila Farid won a tight race for vice-president student life by a difference of only six votes over her competitor Helen Wang. A by-election will be held later this year for one of two Schulich School of Engineering representative positions and the Werklund School of Education representative position.

SU vice-president external Puncham Judge spoke on behalf of U of C students to City Council about **secondary suite reform**. She was among several Calgarians presenting concerns about the current approval process for secondary suites. City Council later approved a bylaw amendment to delegate the responsibility of assessing secondary suite applications to public servants instead of the council itself.

Twelve projects totaling \$1.83 million

were approved by the SU **Quality Money** Committee and sent off to the U of C Board of Governors on March 16. Quality Money is a partnership between the SU and the U of C to distribute funds for ideas that improve quality of life on campus. Some projects include redeveloping the Speaker's Corner in MacHall and a 10-session program about healthy masculinity and relationships. According to the SU, 36 applications for the program were submitted this year, asking for a record \$6.9 million.

U of C students, staff and faculty members voiced their frustration over repeated **WiFi outages** that plagued the U of C main campus. The U of C said in a statement that there was no evidence that malware was behind the problem, instead citing technical issues.



Queers on holds annual

Story by Ashar Memon
Photos by Mariah Wilson

Gender Bender, an annual event complete with a drag show and raffle prizes hosted by the student club Queers on Campus returned to Dickens Pub on March 31.

Queers on Campus co-chair Priya Lalwani said while the event's main attraction is the drag show, it's also a chance for people to "mingle, date and meet new people."

"For me, it's like a big social

gathering — like a party, cause we're having it in a bar — and it's just for people to enjoy, watch the show and party," Lalwani said.

Gender Bender was previously held at The Den before a fee-hike by the Students' Union forced the club to move the event off campus. Despite the change in location, last year's Gender Bender drew over 200 people last year, making it the club's most popular event, according to Lalwani.

"During Clubs Week, when we had our table set up, a lot

A man with dark, curly hair, wearing a light blue suit jacket, a tan vest, and a dark tie, is performing on stage. He has a wide, expressive face with his mouth open as if singing or speaking. His right hand is raised in a gesture, and his left arm is extended outwards. The background is a brick wall, and the lighting is dramatic, with strong red and purple hues. The overall atmosphere is energetic and theatrical.

Campus club Gender Bender

of people would come in just asking when's Gender Bender," she said. "Even if they're not queer at all and are not affiliated with the community, they love Gender Bender because drag shows are awesome."

Lalwani added that the drag show isn't limited to gender binaries and that anyone can perform regardless of identity. She said that beyond entertainment, the show aims to challenge traditional ways of thinking about gender.

"It's making fun of stereotypes that are associated with

gender — like girls should have long hair, look pretty, meet up to societal standards of what a woman should look like — it's making fun of that specifically," she said.

Lalwani said the club, wanting a fairytale-esque atmosphere, chose 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' as this year's theme. However, Lalwani noted the theme is optional.

"I never follow the theme personally," she said. "Everybody is entitled to have fun so they can come in whatever they feel comfortable."



On-campus project aims to deconstruct ideals of beauty

The Body Project is a program at the University of Calgary made possible through collaborative effort between the Students' Union Wellness Centre, Women's Resource Centre and the psychology department. The project, present in over 100 North American campuses, aims to help those who identify as female foster self-acceptance about their bodies and resist idealized beauty standards. We sat down with psychology student, Body Project research assistant and peer-helper Amy Barron to talk about what the program looks like, who can get involved and the personal impact it's had on her.

Interview by Tina Shaygan

Photos by Mariah Wilson and Riley Brandt

The Gauntlet: What exactly is the Body Project?

Barron: The Body Project is a peer-led program run at the U of C that aims to help young women resist pressures to conform to an unrealistic standard of beauty that is in society today. It is a researched, dissonance-based body-acceptance program that aims its efforts at giving women the tools to resist the pressure to conform to an unrealistic and unattainable ideal of beauty.

Gauntlet: What are some of those unrealistic standards? What are some of the things that the Body Project aims to combat?

Barron: First, the Body Project goes inside that idealized image and tries to break it apart. That image is things we see in magazines or on social media — it's all around us. It makes us buy products like gym memberships or different weight-loss pills and corporations make money from us feeling bad about ourselves. The Body Project tries to deconstruct those unrealistic standards because they're not achievable. Women do have pores and women do gain different amounts of weight. Natural processes like aging can really hinder women's ability to feel good about themselves or have a positive self-view. It can be really hard for women to feel good about themselves when they're constantly bombarded with these images that are unrealistic, unhealthy and unattainable. And even if you attain them, it's not realistic that you can ever keep those results up.

Gauntlet: What are the consequences of women feeling bad about themselves as a result of these idealized images?

Barron: There are so many costs to pursuing this unrealistic ideal, like time and money. There's also relationships. Feeling bad about yourself can really affect your entire life. It's very difficult to be happy for other women when you're constantly competing with them and trying to be a version of an ideal. Right



Above: Amy Barron, research assistant and peer-helper for the Body Project.

now, we're fostering that competitive environment and it's difficult to feel good about anyone, including yourself.

Gauntlet: Can you tell me what a typical Body Project workshop looks like?

Barron: They are peer-led and we were trained for quite some time and now we've trained new peer-leaders. Peer-led sessions are such a great way to get people to open up and talk about important issues rather than having someone who is in a position of authority talk about them. It's now friends talking among friends in a guided discussion.

The workshops generally have anywhere from six to 12 people and are peer-led by two or three leaders and are two two-hour sessions. The first session is more of an open discussion about what

the ideal appearance is and working on deconstructing that. There is homework during the two sessions where participants try to focus on feeling good about themselves so they're writing good qualities about themselves and writing a letter to a younger girl. And a lot of times, this letter ends up being to themselves.

In the second session, it gets fairly emotional because we read these letters out loud to the group and work further on resisting these cultural pressures. We're trying to give women the tools to further resist these pressures through life.

Gauntlet: How can students get involved?

Barron: The Wellness Centre has a Body Project page online and students



can sign up for sessions there. It is really important that participants come to both sessions to get the most benefit from this project. Anyone on this campus can go and it is free for students. Everyone can benefit from these workshops and to understand the process of deconstructing these beauty ideals.

Gauntlet: How did you end up being involved with the Body Project?

Barron: I joined in January 2017. At that point, it was just a mass email to the psychology department discussing this initiative on campus. It's a personal issue to everyone and it was easy to identify with this program. I sent in my application and explained why I wanted to get

involved. The training was a great process where I got to know the other women and be trained by someone from the Body Project collaborative. I got to make new friends and be in a group of women with different experiences, but the common theme is that our society has a problem. Then we started to run these sessions and coming up this year, we had the Campus Mental Health Strategy on our side and I was asked to be a research assistant for this so we can track the long-term effect of the Body Project.

Gauntlet: What are some of the things you've learned that you've taken to your personal life?

Barron: It's been a great experience to

see that everyone has these different experiences. While there is a diversity of women in these groups, everyone struggles with these issues. You know you're not alone and everyone is trying to fix this problem. These issues are something that people may not generally talk about so I think the Body Project is a great initiative, even just to get people talking because it is such a personal issue that everyone struggles with and getting it out in the open is helpful. It's also nice to see a change in the people who were in the groups and completed the workshops and asked to be peer-leaders because they want to spread this change.

Interview edited for clarity and brevity.

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Provost says University of Calgary stance on trigger warnings “similar to the University of Chicago’s”



Story by Tina Shaygan
Photo by Mariah Wilson

The University of Calgary provost Dru Marshall says the school’s stance regarding trigger warnings is “similar to the University of Chicago’s.”

Last year, the University of Chicago sent a letter to its incoming class saying their campus is a place to “debate ideas” and that they do not support “so-called trigger warnings.”

“Our commitment to academic freedom means that we do not support so-called ‘trigger warnings,’ we do not cancel invited speakers because their topics might prove controversial and we do not condone the creation of intellectual ‘safe spaces’ where individuals can retreat from ideas and perspectives

at odds with their own,” the University of Chicago letter read.

According to *Time* magazine, a trigger warning is an “advance notice about subject material that may be difficult for certain students to read, hear or see.”

Time magazine explains that trigger warnings are “often used at least with the stated attempt of avoiding inflicting further trauma on victims, particularly those of sexual assault.” It adds that trigger warnings “have also been criticized as means of preventing students and lecturers from exploring difficult issues together.”

During a discussion regarding academic freedom at the March 16 Board of Governors meeting, Marshall said that a current understanding of academic freedom is “quite different from its original intention and has extended

to things like criticism of administration — which [the University of Calgary] doesn’t shy away from.”

“We would prefer to go to the University of Chicago style where we encourage places to be uncomfortable and use that as an opportunity to grow,” Marshall said at the meeting.

The University of Calgary could not be reached for an interview and instead provided a statement.

“The concept of freedom of speech is a foundational principle of all great universities. The University of Calgary is committed to fostering an environment of free inquiry, open debate and diversity of opinions. The university supports students or others sharing their views about subjects — including those that are controversial — in a safe and respectful manner,” the statement read.



Gender-inclusive change rooms coming to U of C campus

Story by Tina Shaygan
Photo by Mariah Wilson

The University of Calgary will soon see the construction of a gender-inclusive change room, thanks to a Quality Money application brought forward by the Students' Union Q Centre and Sagar Grewal, current SU kinesiology representative and president-elect.

The change rooms, which will be located in the kinesiology building, will include stalls, bathrooms and showers students can use regardless of identity. According to SU Q Centre co-coordinator Melanie Trudeau, gender-inclusive change rooms on campus have been an issue for a number of years.

"The Q Centre is not the first one to bring this up by any means," Trudeau said. "There have been various student activist groups who have brought this up to the Faculty of Kinesiology before."

The project, which costs approximately \$430,000, is on track to be completed by the

end of summer 2018. Grewal said that while not a perfect solution, he hopes gender-inclusive change rooms can spark change in other areas of campus.

"It's a step in the right direction," Grewal said. "Our hope is that the creation of these spaces will lead to making sure gender-inclusive bathrooms and change rooms will be incorporated in any new building designs. We hope to use this as an advocacy push to ensure that student rights are recognized in any future developments."

Trudeau added that she thinks accessibility is an important issue on campus.

"All students are paying for these services but obviously not all students are accessing them," Trudeau said.

Grewal also emphasized that while all students may be paying fees for services like Active Living, not everyone is able to use them.

"There are students who are paying fees just like everyone else for spaces such as the Fitness Centre but don't have spaces

to change to actually use them," Grewal said. "There is definitely a big barrier for them to access these facilities, which they have a right to access."

Grewal added he hopes to see barrier-free facilities, in general, be addressed in any future renovations on campus.

"We are going to be seeing more renovations in the Faculty of Kinesiology, so hopefully [those renovations] make it more accessible for [people with] disabilities because that's always a big concern," Grewal said

Both Trudeau and Grewal said the feedback they've received so far has been positive.

"A lot of students think that it's a step forward and is making our campus inclusive for all people," Grewal said. "We hope to make our facilities inclusive to anybody who visits our campus."

"There is always a potential for a negative reaction when you do any kind of social change, but on our end, people are quite happy," Trudeau added.



Philosophy class tasks students with role-playing as historical figures

Story by Jason Herring
Photo by Mariah Wilson

For many students, learning about history and philosophy can be an impersonal experience made difficult to study because of the distance between them and the events and ideas they're discussing.

That's the idea behind 'Reacting to the Past,' a historical role-playing game philosophy professor Nicole Wyatt implements into many of her classes. In some games, students take on the roles of figures during conflicts like the French Revolution or the debate on naturalism and evolution. In Wyatt's Winter 2018 PHIL 499: Philosophy of Race and Gender class, students focus on figures and events from the pre-Civil War movement for the abolition of slavery.

"The basic motivating idea is that all classes are sort of boring and that it's often quite difficult to get students to engage in issues that seem remote," Wyatt said. "It's inspired by live-action role playing. For each game, there's a defined set of roles and each student gets assigned a role."

Every student's role has a defined set of 'win conditions' that they set out to accomplish throughout the game. Over the course of about a dozen classes, the students interact in meetings and react to historical events, as well as written work published by other students playing their roles.

In Wyatt's current class, students play roles like Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave who became a national figure in the abolitionist movement, and John C. Calhoun, a former United States vice-president steadfast in his defense of slavery. Hamish Tregarthen, a third-year anthropology and philosophy student currently enrolled in PHIL 499, plays the role of famous poet Edgar Allan Poe. Tregarthen says that the class's game is effective at encouraging in-depth learning.

"One really interesting thing about it is, as cheesy as it sounds, it brings history alive. Why would I, even if I was learning about literature at the time, care what Edgar Allan Poe wrote about Washington Irving in a 1942 let-



ter, unless I, of course, am Edgar Allan Poe?" they asked. "And that character is really fun because he's an independent and he's a drunk."

Wyatt, who is also the head of the University of Calgary's philosophy department, admitted that she is often nervous about whether students will commit to playing the game. But she said that students have always bought into the game in her experience — in many cases, largely because students get caught up in a desire to win.

"And I don't tell students this up-front, but in my experience they do far more work than they would normally do if I was just lecturing or having class discussions on this material," Wyatt laughed.

Students often bring a small dramatic flair to their roles as well. This ranges from adopted accents or styles of speaking, such as a generic New York City merchant who only speaks in a Donald Trumpian accent. For Tregarthen, the character of Edgar Allan Poe, as well as other members of Poe's writers' guild, is represented by wearing corsages in class during role-playing.

Many historical characters featured in the game exhibit racist views, as the game focuses

on both sides of the historical argument surrounding slavery.

"This is in some ways one of the more challenging games to play because it forces some people to adopt people who express views that all the people in my class would find morally repugnant," Wyatt said. "But on the other hand, if we want to understand a lot of our contemporary views about race, they have their origins in these 19th-century debates and discussions."

Aside from the game, which originated at New York City's Barnard College in the late 1990s, PHIL 499 has another unique aspect. Wyatt uses 'scaffolded grading' to assess her students. Scaffolded grading gives students the opportunity to choose what grade to pursue and only requires students to complete work relevant to the grade being sought. This work is then graded on a pass/fail basis.

"This way, you don't have to produce a term paper you don't want to write and the professor doesn't have to read a term paper you don't want to write," Tregarthen said.

Wyatt says that in her experience, scaffolded grading produces a similar distribution of grades to traditional grading schemes.

Tuition freeze backfill, infrastructure funding among highlights of NDP post-secondary budget



Story by Tina Shaygan
Photo by Louie Villanueva

Alberta Minister of Finance Joe Ceci presented the 2018 budget to the legislature on March 22. The \$6.1-billion post-secondary budget increases post-secondary funding by two per cent, extends the tuition freeze for a fourth year and provides \$7 million in scholarships for “technology and other emerging sectors.” The budget includes \$17 million in backfill funding to make up for the difference caused by the extension of the tuition freeze.

The budget also includes \$8 million in funding for post-secondary mental health initiatives across the province and allocates \$11 million for Indigenous training providers and targeted financial support for Indigenous adult learners.

Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt said the main goal of the post-secondary budget is to “continue investment in higher education.” He added that alongside the tuition freeze, the

results of the tuition and fees review — which was proposed by the New Democrat Party in the fall of 2015 — would be available in the “very near future.”

“Investing in higher education is a key part of making sure we achieve our goals for economic diversification,” Schmidt said. “We want every Albertan, regardless of their situation, to be able to access higher education.”

University of Calgary president Elizabeth Cannon said in a statement that the school recognizes the government’s “commitment to post-secondary education.”

“The U of C recognizes the importance of the Government of Alberta’s funding commitment to post-secondary education,” Cannon said. “Stable and predictable funding is critical to providing access to quality education for students, enabling them to become leaders in our community.”

The budget provides \$641 million for post-secondary infrastructure, which addresses the MacKimmie Complex at the U of C campus. The school will receive \$262 million for the MacKimmie

redevelopment starting in 2018–19.

Schmidt added that the government is also looking at compensation for university executive compensations in Alberta.

“We want the money that we spend on higher education to go to students and classrooms. That’s why we’re going to take action to reign in executive salaries in the higher education system,” Schmidt said.

Previously, the minister called university executive compensations in Alberta “out of line.” Earlier this week, Schmidt criticized University of Alberta for increasing its student fees while maintaining executive’s compensation.

“It’s concerning to me to see the president lining his own pockets while he’s cutting money being spent on classrooms and students,” Schmidt told the *Edmonton Journal*.

The NDP’s new budget aims to close Alberta’s deficit by 2023. According to the *CBC*, Alberta is expected to finish the current fiscal year with a deficit of \$9.1 billion, bringing the forecasted debt to \$41.7 billion.

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U of C students call for SU election policies on sexual violence

Story by Tina Shaygan

Photo by Mariah Wilson

University of Calgary students and members of Consent Awareness and Sexual Education (CASE) club are supporting current University of Saskatchewan's Students' Union (USSU) executives and asking for updated election policies at the U of C as numerous allegations of sexual assault against the president-elect of the USSU have come forward.

According to the *Sheaf*, a post appeared on Facebook claiming that Coden Nikbakht, the sole presidential candidate for the USSU, used drugs to sexually assault an unspecified number of unnamed women, among other allegations. The current USSU president, David D'Eon, is refusing to participate in Nikbakht's transition and hundreds of other students have protested Nikbakht's presidency.

CASE president Shelby Montgomery said the situation at the U of S should be alarming for students at the U of C.

"I'm not only concerned that this happened, but also it could happen here," Montgomery said. "At any university, what could happen if you don't have a policy and perhaps don't have allies in office?"

CASE vice-president operations and finance Briana Stallcup said the situation at the U of S shed light on a need for more updated election policies on our campus.

"[Sexual violence] is such a specific issue that you can't address it with the same rules and codes that apply to other types of violations," Stallcup said.

Montgomery added that she wants to see the U of C Students' Union to develop policies that would address situations like this if it were to happen.

"We know that campus sexual violence is a huge issue nationwide. Ideally, the SU would create its own policy to prevent this from happening," Montgomery said. "To say, 'We are not for abuse on campus and therefore, we have this policy to prevent known-abusers from coming in to our [executive] body,'"

Both Stallcup and Montgomery said they strongly support the actions taken by the current USSU executive team.

"I think it's wonderful that their top priority is clearly students who are at risk of being harmed or students who have been harmed. They're doing their job. It might not look like it on paper, but this is exactly what they're supposed to do," Stallcup said. "They're being great advocates right now."

"For the USSU current president to take the stance that they have, that is great allyship and great activism that will have consequences," Montgomery added. "Myself, but also the CASE club, stand in solidarity and strongly support their stance."

Montgomery said she believes there have been a lot of improvements on campus around sexual violence and the USSU case demonstrates that the work is not done.

"I honestly think we have so much work to do in our culture that we just haven't hit it all," Montgomery said. "A lot of people have been working against sexual violence and I really think it's one step at a time. It's just

chipping away at the systematic rape culture that has prevailed all our institutions."

The U of C SU declined requests for interviews, instead releasing a statement attributed to SU president Branden Cave.

"We will not comment on the situation at the University of Saskatchewan at this time," the statement read. "The position of president-elect is not a position recognized in our policies or bylaws. If a student were elected and allegations of any kind were made, once they took office a complaint could be filed under the SLC Code of Conduct. Once this was done the organization would investigate the allegations and penalties could include written warnings, docking pay, suspensions of powers or privileges and impeachment. If the university's non-academic misconduct and sexual violence policies found that a person had done something wrong that could certainty factor into the SU's investigation of the complaint."

Montgomery added that explicit election policies dealing with sexual violence will be a point of advocacy for CASE in the future.

"We also advocate for restorative justice. We don't want abusers in office but do I believe no one can ever reclaim their place in society after they've abused someone? No, of course not. But known abusers who haven't done the work, essentially, yes," Montgomery said. "I will be handing [this issue] to the next [CASE executive] team and this is something we should be advocating for. This is an important time to learn from the cases of other places before it's our problem. It could be us — let's not figure it out then."



Campus club aims to help transition Calgary-area refugees and newcomers

Story by Hannah Brunn
Photos by Mariah Wilson

Pangaea, a University of Calgary student club that focuses on helping newcomers to Calgary navigate life in the city, hosted its annual training event on March 7 where volunteers came together to learn about cross-cultural sensitivity, bilateral learning, Syrian culture and mental health. The event aimed to equip Pangaea's volunteers with the tools they need to support Syrian refugee families who are now living in and around Calgary.

Pangaea states its mission is to "facilitate a safe and caring environment to build international friendships and cultural understanding." The club's profile says one of the ways they work to foster cultural understanding is through mentorship programs between refugees or newly landed immigrants and resident Calgarians.

Sarah McColman, co-president of Pangaea, said although there are other programs designed to do things like help families receive health care and enrol children into schools, Pangaea is unique in the fact that it goes beyond basic needs and focuses on giving refugees a sense of community and home.

"The idea is to make something lasting, to make it rooted in community," McColman said. "I think people are happiest when they feel like they are seeing people and being seen at the same time."

Volunteers are matched with a refugee or immigrant family along with a mentor, who helps the volunteer with

tasks like planning community events, tutoring children and building a support system for the family. Pangaea's president and founder, Manisha Bharadia, emphasised the importance for volunteers to open themselves up to learn new things.

"It's equally important that we learn about where they came from and their culture and lifestyle as well. This is part of Pangaea's bilateral learning, where although one will be teaching families about Canadian life, volunteers are expected to learn about Syrian culture as well," Bharadia said.

During the training event, volunteer Hannah Nesbitt, a volunteer, and Amy Chen, vice-president external and volunteer mentor, recounted their experiences with their assigned families. Nesbitt talked about how the family has been as welcoming as they are eager to learn English and about Canadian life while also teaching Nesbitt about their own culture and language.

"It's cool to try and communicate with them. I am also learning a lot of different Arab words," Nesbitt said.

During the training event, Nesbitt also told the group about how rewarding this volunteer experience has been, namely through seeing the improvement in the children's schoolwork and building connections with the family.

Meanwhile, the club's mental health ambassador Shannon Giorgini discussed ways to identify signs of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder in family members with volunteers.

"We look at promoting well-being, ear-

ly identification of signs and symptoms and creating an environment where we can support people with mental health issues," Giorgini said.

Promoting wellness and healthy lifestyle was a recurring theme throughout the night with explanations of programs such as the Scavenger Hunt and Spread the Love, which allow families to engage with the Calgary community.

The second half of training was headed by Pangaea community facilitator Asalah Alareeki, who spoke about Syrian culture, taught some common Arabic words and discussed the importance of removing any biases or stereotypes one may hold. Alareeki based her talk on making volunteers knowledgeable about Syrian culture and comfortable with the interactions they will be a part of.

Alareeki also encouraged participants to educate themselves on the differences between various cultures. Alareeki said volunteers should learn about Islam before starting with a family.

"A lot of people might not know that Islam preaches care of mental illness, mental health, women's rights and education," Alareeki said.

McColman added that a rewarding part of the experience is the human connections made.

"At the end of the day, it's not people helping people who need help, it's humans knowing humans, and the beauty that comes from that," McColman said.

To learn more about Pangaea and their programs, students can visit www.pangaeayyc.com or to their Facebook page Pangaea, Connecting Humanity.





FERMUDA SHORTS DAY
FRI APRIL 12
PARTY TIME

The growing financial unsustainability of Bermuda Shorts Day

This year, the Students' Union implemented paid entry to their annual Bermuda Shorts Day event in response to the growing cost of hosting the festivities. In 2017, the union lost over \$88,000 putting on the event. What caused the iconic undergraduate event to start hemorrhaging money and what does that mean for the future of a beloved campus tradition?

By Jason Herring. Photos from the University of Calgary archives.

As an end-of-year student tradition Bermuda Shorts Day outlives the University of Calgary itself. The festivities date back to 1961, five years before the U of C became independent from the University of Alberta. Alan Arthur, a campus freshman and an incoming editor of the *Gauntlet*, had just bought his first pair of Bermuda shorts and wanted to celebrate spring with his classmates. He wrote a message on the blackboard in the school's main hall: "Everyone wear Bermuda Shorts."

"Many of the university's 250 students did," reminisced Maurice Yacowar, another former *Gauntlet* editor, in 2005. He recalled spending the day in "various juvenile frolics," including being a finalist in a marbles competition. For a small group of students at a brand-new and sparsely populated campus, the day served as a sort of coming-of-age.

"Paradoxically, we declared that new independence and maturity through a day of silliness that we could not have gotten away with in high school," Yacowar continued. "We felt older for the freedom to act juvenile."

Bermuda Shorts Day has evolved a lot since then. In the 1980s, a travelling tiki bar allegedly dispersed drinks to students across campus. A recently shuttered tradition saw engineering students race couches down the hill in

Saint Andrews Park. Most notably, in 1989 the U of C asked the Students' Union to contain some of the day's chaos by hosting a single celebration on campus, but even that core event has seen its fair share of change.

These days, BSD is characterized by students taking swigs from flasks in the back of last-day-of-class lectures, walking around campus in gaudy and elaborate outfits and attending the SU's parking-lot beer gardens. This year's celebrations on April 13 look to deliver much of the same debauchery that's come to be expected in past years.

This year, however, BSD is at a crossroads. Citing increasing costs to host the event coupled with a lack of co-operation from U of C administration and a decline in alcohol sales, the SU implemented a ticket cost for their BSD event for the first time ever this year. The first 5,000 students who purchase their admission online before April 6 will pay \$5; afterwards, the SU will sell additional wristbands for \$10 in MacHall from April 9–12 in the MacHall North Courtyard.

The U of C first began charging the SU for use of the Lot 32 parking lot on the southeast corner of campus in 2009. Previously, BSD usually took place in the green space south of MacHall. The construction of the Taylor Family Digital Library, however,

forced the event to move. According to former SU executives, the university charges the SU the value of every stall, twice-over — the amount that the U of C says they make from the lot during an average day — in addition to services like traffic workers and signage. In 2017, those costs amounted to nearly \$10,000.

In 2009, the SU dealt with the heightened costs of relocating BSD by obtaining \$90,000 over three years from Quality Money, a joint program between the SU and the U of C that provides money to programs that "enhance the student experience." Funding BSD through Quality Money created controversy at a time as many students and elected SU officials argued that using university money to pay for a student party was inappropriate. Alternatives, including paid admission and a smaller event, were considered.

Though Quality Money served as a temporary solution back when BSD was first hit with unexpected extra costs, current SU vice-president operations and finance Ryan Wallace doesn't believe it's the right course of action now. Still, he doesn't discount any options.

"In terms of exploring things like Quality Money, I think we're willing to explore any option," Wallace said. "But I'm not too sure that aligns with the purpose of Quality Money."

Discussions of making BSD a pay-to-enter event have persisted since the event's venue change in 2009. Several former SU executives,

including 2016–17 vice-president student life Patrick Ma, confirmed having discussions about introducing tickets to mitigate some of BSD's ever-increasing financial losses. In those instances, push-back from executives prevented the SU from implementing the changes. But now, according to Wallace, the organization can no longer justify routinely running losses that are ballooning towards six-figures. He says the biggest concern comes from the potential of the deficit to start taking money away from other SU services.

"We don't want the deficit from BSD to run into other programming run by the SU and where the levelling is getting to now, it's starting to get to that point," Wallace told the *Gauntlet* at the time of the BSD ticket announcement.

Two other major changes contributed to the continually increasing costs of hosting the Bermuda Shorts Day event for the SU. The first increased costs of security. In addition to paying for their own security at the beer gardens they host, the SU also pays for Campus Security and Calgary Police Service officers to patrol the campus at large. Over the last three years, the SU has spent about \$7,000 annually on Campus Security and about \$18,000 annually on CPS. According to Wallace, this is a requirement set by the U of C for the SU to hold the event. The U of C currently does not contribute to the cost of increased security around campus during BSD.

The SU has taken a notably combative stance with the U of C when talking about the costs of security. "The university is unwilling to help us with expenses related to the event, even though they benefit from the event being put on," reads a line on their website's 'frequently asked questions' section. Wallace also expressed frustration with the school's stance on security for the event.

"It's a well-known fact that students drink on the last day of classes. Our proposal has been to the university that we should share in those costs a little bit more or they should be covered more by the university, as they're monitoring the larger campus," he said. "Our responsibility is the event and we cover the security costs for that."

The U of C did not grant the *Gauntlet* an interview with Campus Security officials to discuss security arrangements for BSD. However, in a 2016 *UToday* article titled "Correcting with facts: BSD and the Den," the school contends that they already help cover much of the security expenses.

"The SU does not pay for all security and CPS presence on campus on the last day of classes. The university also covers a significant portion of the expenses," the article reads. "However, the SU pays for additional security and CPS personnel associated with the beer gardens, but it does not pay for the full complement of campus security during this day. The remaining portion is paid for by the university."

The other major contributor to BSD's growing deficit is a decline in bar sales. Over the last five years, the amount of drink sales in the beer gardens has fallen significantly. In 2013, students bought an average of about three drinks during BSD. That number fell to an average of about one-and-a-half drinks in 2017. Though inclement weather was partially to blame for low attendance in 2017, these decreasing bar sales were the main contributor to an almost \$30,000 decline in revenue over that five-year period.

Those trends are similar to decreasing alcohol sales at events like the University of British Columbia's Block Party, an event

whose 2016 iteration ran a deficit over \$200,000. Generally, students seem to be drinking less now both at students' union-hosted events and at students' union-run bars than in past years. The latter is evident at both McMaster University, whose students' union partially switched their food-service efforts from beer to coffee and at the SU's Den and Black Lounge, which has notably shifted its marketing away from alcohol and towards food. The reasons for the decline in on-campus bar sales is unclear — though various sources for this story speculated that increased pre-drinking or declining drinking overall among university students was to blame, there's little evidence to support any theory.

A similar issue is the closure of the SU's bar, The Den, on BSD. The SU closes the restaurant because they say the U of C requires additional security changes for the area around The Den if they serve alcohol. Those costs were too high, according to 2015–16 SU president Levi Nilson, who tried to open The Den on BSD in 2016 but was told by the U of C that they would revoke the SU's liquor license if they went through with operating the bar.

The Den has not opened during BSD since 2009. The SU now says they want to keep The Den open in order to generate some off-setting revenue but that the U of C won't let them do so. The U of C declined to provide additional comment on The Den, instead



citing the same *UToday* article mentioned above, which says that the event's move to lot 32 was predicated on The Den not being open during BSD.

Despite the dire situation it now finds itself in, BSD wasn't always a drain on the SU's finances. Decade-old *Gauntlet* articles routinely refer to the event as one of the SU's "biggest profit-generating events," though Wallace disagrees with the notion that BSD was ever profitable.

"BSD has never really made money. It's always kind of been at par with the expense," he said.

Though Wallace wasn't sure of the first year that BSD ran a deficit, he cited 2009's change in venue as the point in which costs started to become tough to manage.

"That's when things started to become less manageable for the SU and when we started to question the sustainability of the event," Wallace said.

The future of BSD is anything but certain. Wallace wasn't keen to speculate on the long-term outlook of the festival, saying that the outcome of this year's event and student response to ticket prices will shape next steps for the SU.

Patrick Ma, 2016–17 SU vice-president student life, said he would prefer to see one of two scenarios for the event five years from now. The first, he says, is a return to the previ-

ous free-entry model, even if it comes at a loss to the SU. He argues that the popularity and yearly success of BSD justifies paying up.

"I do understand that the SU has been put in a tough position, especially with the decreasing alcohol sales and increasing costs," Ma said. "However, at the end of the day, BSD is one of the reasons why the SU exists, and they should be more than willing to foot the bill, even if it's \$80,000."

Ma's other preferred solution would be an expanded event with higher-priced tickets. This would be similar to something like the University of Lethbridge's start-of-year Shine on Summer Festival, which in 2017 featured artists like Dallas Smith, Corb Lund and Mother Mother. Wallace floated the same idea, noting that the SU's introductory BSD fee pales in comparison to those at other Canadian universities.

"If you're going to charge for the event, at least make it big," Ma said.

Tristan Bray, the 2016–17 SU vice-president external, was less optimistic about BSD's long-term future, predicting a cycle where heightened ticket prices would bring lower attendance, which in turn would force even higher ticket prices.

"Five or 10 years down the line, it's gonna be very, very hard to even justify having and holding BSD," Bray said. "I think the first step of charging students to enter is the first step to that decline."

In the more immediate future, concerns about ticket prices bringing inebriated stu-

dents into the community were heavily expressed. Ma and Bray both cited worries about students instead celebrating the end of classes in parties at D-Block, a stretch of student-rented housing in the community of University Heights just south of the U of C.

"There are not medical resources there and it's a problem for the community and it increases risk for the students," Bray said. "By not allowing or providing any assistance to the SU in the creation and the hosting of BSD, [the U of C] is pushing students off campus and they're pushing students into unsafe situations at parties such as D-Block."

Wallace said the SU recognized this risk when negotiating BSD arrangements with the university, though he says this argument proved ineffective.

"When we were contemplating charging for the event, we said, 'This brings with it the risk that students are going to be drinking at other off-campus events.' However, they didn't seem to respond to that," Wallace said. "I think that is a risk and I hope that students still see the value of coming to BSD because it's a safe place to [drink]."

Along with current SU vice-president student life Hilary Jahelka, Wallace has fielded countless inquiries from students about changes to BSD. He says many of those students were frustrated with the price tag, but thinks that the student body largely understands why the SU implemented these changes.

"I know students are disappointed," Wallace said. "I know that some students aren't happy that they need to pay this year, although there are some students that see the value of going to BSD and they see \$5 being a worthy investment for a fun last day of classes. That's reassuring that students do really enjoy the event still, which is important because at the end of the day we just want students to be safe and BSD is the safest place on campus."

Though he's not a student anymore, Bray is among those expressing disappointment with the situation. While he recognized his lack of knowledge of what goes on in closed-door meetings, Bray directed blame at both the SU and the U of C.

"I'm just disappointed. I'm disappointed that the administration won't provide any assistance and I'm disappointed that the SU didn't push a little harder," Bray said.

The SU expects to run about a \$50,000 deficit on this year's BSD event.



Reflecting on studying abroad in Calgary



By Siobhan Fletcher
Photos by Mariah Wilson

Stepping onto a nine-and-a-half hour flight to the other side of the world alone can be a daunting experience, especially when that flight is taking you to a foreign university where you don't know anyone for several months. Not to mention the thoughts like, "What if I don't make any friends?" that creep into your mind.

That was exactly the situation that I — like so many other international

students — found myself in on Sept. 2, 2017. I'm from the United Kingdom, where I study American and Canadian literature, history and culture. When it came time to pick where to go for my year abroad, Canada always won out. I applied to the University of Calgary, enticed by the Banff National Park, snow and a desire to experience something vastly different, which I am glad to say I found — though I could have done without the sub-zero weather and the midterms.

The U of C has been a welcoming community to join, especially the International Student Services department that is willing to make sense of anything that could trip a student up along the way. In addition to organizing multiple fun trips, they also provide ample opportunities to encourage other students to visit new countries. Along with fantastic resources like the Students' Union Q Centre — which is not paralleled by anything I have ever encountered on campuses elsewhere —



“There is definitely a sense of belonging and inclusiveness present on campus here.”



there is definitely a sense of belonging and inclusiveness present on campus here, which has been eye-opening and encouraging for me, because I can now take these ideas and help implement them across the pond.

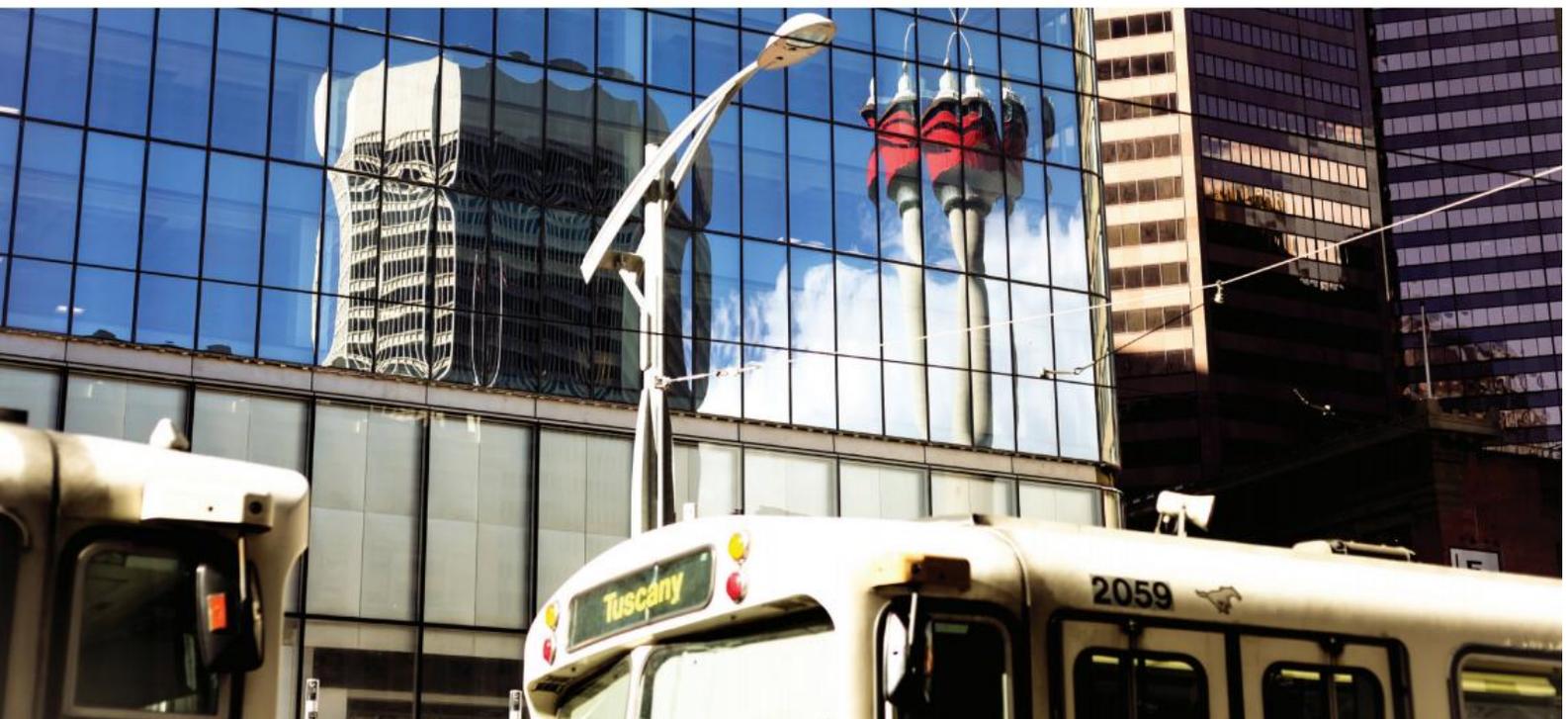
However, it is worth noting that being on an exchange for an entire year is a mixed emotional bag, full of unbelievable highs and lows – much like life in general. Contending with being so far away from everything you know is something you should consider if you want to do a year abroad, as it's no small feat. My fellow exchange students and

I were warned before we departed that there would be culture shock wherever we went, but I didn't believe that Canada would feel too different from home. The reality is that whenever I hear an accent that I recognize instinctively here, my heart soars.

Despite the challenges, I could not recommend doing a year abroad enough if you ever have the chance. I have met incredible people from all over the world who I otherwise never would have had the pleasure to know. I have tried things I never would normally get to, like snowboarding and tubing on real

snow, having a genuine Thanksgiving experience and going to the theme park inside West Edmonton Mall.

Most importantly, studying abroad gives you a sense that you have achieved something tangible, especially if you step outside of your comfort zone and do it alone. I can say forever that I travelled thousands of miles away from everyone I know and managed to thrive for a year despite the ups and downs. If you ever find yourself in a situation where you have the chance to study elsewhere for a year, make sure you take the plunge.



Sustainable tuition policy is too valuable to be delayed any longer

By Jesse Stilwell

Since 2015, students in Alberta have awaited a sustainable tuition policy. Just last week, Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt claimed that it will be a reality in the “very near future.” For students’ sakes, it is imperative this policy comes into effect well before the 2019 election.

It’s important that the Alberta government doesn’t rush this policy, but time is running out. The longer tuition is frozen, the more it will jump when the freeze is lifted. It’s obvious to most student advocacy groups, the government and Alberta’s institutions that the tuition freeze is merely a Band-Aid fix to post-secondary affordability woes. All of the students who have just started their post-secondary studies or are mid-way through them live with the knowledge that after the next academic year, they have no idea what tuition and other fees will look like. This means they cannot estimate how much debt they will be in upon graduation if they are relying on student loans, whether they can make financial decisions that have long-term implications and, for some, if they will even be able to afford to finish their studies after the freeze is lifted. This is an unfair and unnecessary stress on students that can be fixed with well-crafted regulation and policy.

Tuition regulations are in place in other provinces, such as British Columbia’s two-per-cent tuition increase limit policy. New Brunswick just signed four Memorandums of Understanding with their universities to create predictable tuition schedules. Ontario’s government extended their tuition framework and cap for two more years in December 2017 – and there are countless examples from other countries and provinces. Tuition policies are not uncharted waters. There are models for Alberta to follow that allow for flexibility and reasonable growth so that both students and institutions can sustainably meet their goals. It’s



Illustration by Samantha Lucy

difficult to understand why Alberta has gone so long without regulations on tuition. Some provinces’ policies pre-date 2015, when the ‘student-friendly’ New Democratic Party took government.

The tuition policy needs to be strong, stable and account for all actors within the post-secondary system. If the government changes after the 2019 election, policies could be put on the chopping block or amended so they are no longer effective. In 2015, Nova Scotia waived their tuition cap for one year, allowing institutions to make large, one-time hikes to fees and tuition for no good reason. It’s not difficult to imagine the United Conservative Party acting in a similar fashion if they are elected since they were more than willing to hike tuition and implement market modifiers in their previous Progressive Conservative days. It is in students’ best interest for institutions to grapple with the massive changes the policy brings to tuition well before the election.

This policy should not be jeopardized by becoming an election issue. The NDP have shown that they understand the value of post-secondary education by supporting diverse paths to education and seriously proposing regulating tuition. The conservative movement in Alberta simply hasn’t done this in the past 40 years and it’s unlikely they will in 2019. If the NDP keeps dragging its feet on tuition policy, it’s possible that little to no regulation will be in place by the time the election is over. Students are an important part of the population and deserve to know their financial futures as soon as possible.

Predictable and sustainable tuition is not just a collection of buzzwords. It’s an important aspect of being a student and the provinces that have these regulations in place are able to draw students out of Alberta. Students should not live in a state of financial ambiguity. Here’s hoping the “near future” that Schmidt described is as near as we hope.



Thoughts From Around Campus



Photo by Mariah Wilson

This month, students are talking about Emma Watson, assignments, study music and rolling backpacks

Tests are better assessments than essays

How many students have pulled an all-nighter finishing a paper? How about studying for an exam? University and procrastination does that to the best of us. But which is worse — exams or papers?

On the morning of the last day of classes, I'd much rather face off with a heaping pile of lecture notes than a blank Word document. There's no comparison. Sure, cramming for a test might involve making a futile attempt to consolidate a large amount of information in a short period of time. But that's nothing compared to having to collect and present all that information myself — which is exactly what I would have to do if I were writing a paper.

In general, tests are better than papers because all you need to do is study the material. After years of practice, your brain will have mastered these skills and can pull out information during exams that you didn't even know you knew. And if the test is multiple choice, you can use your best guessing skills to do okay!

On the other hand, when you find yourself scrambling to finish writing a paper last minute, you can't call it quits until the assignment is complete. I'm much happier nowadays because my degree favours tests over papers as a form of assessment.

— Jill Girgulis

Essays best show students' skills

Based on my experience in university, if you invest time and energy into writing a decent essay, chances are you'll get a decent mark. Essays allow professors to gauge students' understanding of course material and allow students to show off their critical thinking skills more so than multiple choice exams. Tests are more reflective of students' ability to memorize facts. When studying for tests, students don't know what will be tested until they sit down and see all the questions, which can lead to unexpected material coming up. At least with essays, the guidelines are clear. Students either have the freedom to choose their topic or are directed to a specific topic.

Then it's up to the student to decide how much effort they put in.

Writing an essay also allows the students to demonstrate their thought process to their professor, allowing the prof to more accurately pinpoint what students aren't understanding in the material — something that is missing from a machine marking a Scantron sheet.

— Nikayla Goddard

Emma Watson does not effectively advocate for sustainability

I know this won't be a popular opinion, but I dislike Emma Watson. As someone who has been passionate about environmental issues for my entire life, I find her sustainability efforts self-serving. While her interest in sustainable fashion can be seen as a step in the right direction within the show-business community, it does nothing to help the planet. By itemizing her outfits on her Instagram account in a *Vogue*-esque style and wearing pieces that cost over \$1,000, she presents sustainable fashion as exclusive to the rich. Instead, she could take advantage of her huge following to encourage supporting organizations that create clothing that is affordable for the masses. It's unlikely a teenaged Watson fan has the means to spend \$250 on a new shirt, but they may be able to afford an extra \$15 on an item locally made from eco-friendly materials.

Also, don't even get me started on how Emma Watson brags about taking multiple baths each day when there are water shortages occurring across the globe.

— Mariah Wilson

Rolling backpacks are worthless

People should be allowed to wear whatever they want. People can express themselves through their clothing unless it somehow impedes someone else.

But with every rule, there is always an exception. In this case, it's those god-forsaken rolling backpacks. These backpacks look like the suitcases you drag through the airport,

except instead of carrying clothes and toiletries, they hold stuff people are perfectly capable of carrying on their backs.

These backpacks are a tripping hazard and take up valuable space in crowded hallways. There is no good reason for a student to spend extra money on a rolling backpack instead of carrying a classic knapsack or tote bag. If you carry one of these bags, please stop willfully tripping people and being annoying.

— Jesse Stilwell

How to pick the best study music

In April it can be difficult to focus on studying. Sometimes all you need to get back into it, is a change of sonic scenery. Listening to the right study music can make or break a study session. Here's what to look for in academically stimulating tunes:

The best study music is instrumental. Having lyrics playing in your ears is no different than sitting beside some inconsiderate loudmouths on one of the TFDE's quiet floors. Instrumental songs help you stay focused on your material and nothing else. This is part of the reason that classical music is often recommended, although almost any genre has its share of instrumental songs.

If you're listening to music that's riddled with key changes, it can throw you off your intellectual groove. A nice ambient track can almost hypnotize you into boosting your word count or finishing off your assignment. Try playing a chill hip-hop beat mix and you'll see what I mean.

You can also find tunes with themes that go along with your work. Writing a history paper about the Napoleonic wars? Throw on Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*. Working on a lab report? Throw on some sci-fi inspired synth-pop. If you can find music that complements what you're studying you'll find yourself more engaged and less likely to catch yourself staring out the window, fantasizing about dropping out and starting your own tie-dyed clothing line.

— Kayle Vant'Klooster

Budget increase won't solve Calgary's snow management issues

Story and photo by Mariah Wilson

Recently, it's been challenging to navigate Calgary as a pedestrian. The abnormally large amount of snow that's fallen this winter, along with the subsequent melt, has blocked access to sidewalks, driveways and bus stops. The current state of these spaces is especially problematic for people with mobility issues, such as the elderly and those with disabilities, as it inhibits them from accessing the services they need to get around the city. Students who take transit to campus everyday know that having to walk through two-foot-high snow mounds or jump across a deep puddle to access public spaces is less than ideal.

It may seem like the snow has hardly been removed from our streets, yet *Metro Calgary* reported that the city has already spent \$17 million of their \$38.8-million snow-clearing budget for 2018. This is more than they planned on spending this early in the season. As a result, Ward 11 Councillor Jeremy Farkas has advocated for increasing this budget to expedite clearing of pedestrian areas and bus stops. While it's important to have safe pedestrian areas and better access to transit stops, simply throwing more money at the problem will not guarantee a permanent fix.

It has been reported that only \$2.5 million of Calgary's \$38-million snow-removal budget is allocated for sidewalk-clearing services for the 400 kilometres of pathways throughout the city. If Calgary were to increase its snow removal budget, there would need to be specific procedures in place to ensure that an increase would go towards sidewalk-cleaning services. Without these procedures, the increased funds could go towards already adequate snow-cleaning services, like clearing the major roads, leaving pedestrians with the same conditions as before.

There's also more considerations for snow removal than just clearing all of the paved areas in the city, including the issue of where to put the excess snow and the environmental impacts of letting polluted snow melt into the ground. At the moment, the city has three snow storage facilities, which are empty plots of land the size of a football field where snow is left to melt. The *CBC* reported that these plots have so much snow piled onto them it's unlikely they'll completely melt anytime before August. This system will be unsustainable if we have more winters like 2017-18's. The snow from the streets that gets dumped contains debris and salt with harmful chemicals, which leeches into the ground and can ruin the land for future



use. Southern Alberta is known for having degraded soil and this simply adds to previously existing problems.

Fortunately, Calgary is looking into alternative methods of snow removal and maintenance, such as using beet juice as an anti-icing agent on the roads. This works by binding to the road surface to break down snow and ice. Currently, the city primarily uses salt to control the ice and snow on roads, but this has been proven to be harmful for both our infrastructure and environment. Looking for alternative methods is the best way to address Calgary's snow problem, not hastily hiking the budget.

Campus quips: What are your thoughts on the BSD cover charge?



"They could've raised the money in other ways."

- Erwin De Guzman, first-year philosophy



"I'd rather a cover charge and not be \$88,000 in debt."

- Alisha Ostberg, fourth-year communications



"I don't know what to expect at BSD so I'm wary of the charge."

- Brennan Chow, first-year communications

Tips for interacting with former lovers

By Lady Marmalade

Relationships can be messy. The beginning and end of relationships can especially be blurry and difficult to navigate. People disagree on whether one should or shouldn't interact with an ex-partner and most of these views are based on personal experiences. There's a lot to keep in mind when it comes to being involved in any capacity with an ex and it's important to keep in mind that each situation is different. Here are some tips and tricks for navigating interactions with your ex:

Time will heal — no matter what:

Whether or not you are hoping to reconnect with an ex, it's important to let things cool down after a breakup. Even if things ended amicably, take time to sort out your emotions and reflect on the relationship. This will make it a lot easier to work with your ex later on because your feelings will be clearer. Take time to heal so you can think more clearly. You might even find that after some space, you have

less interest in speaking with that person, even as friends.

Be honest with yourself:

Whether you reach out first or your ex does, be honest about how you're feeling. Being "just friends" might turn out to be harder than expected. Depending on how serious and lengthy your relationship was, going back to friendship can be almost impossible. Feelings stay dormant and may re-emerge by spending time with that person again. Some people are good at being friendly with former flames, but if you feel like that is something you can't do, be honest about it as quickly as possible. It's easier to cut the cord before anything serious starts to develop. Don't rush into anything, even if it's just friendship.

Sharing the interactions:

After a breakup, it's super easy to bad-mouth your ex to friends and family. This might not be a good idea because so many couples end up back together after a breakup. That transition period of eas-

ing a person back into your life — either as your significant other or a friend — can be difficult because nobody in your life is fond of that person after you gossiped about them. Friends often convince each other to not get back with their ex, so it's a humbling moment to come back and ask the people in your life to forget your past too. Be careful about bad-mouthing your ex to your friends, because you might be doing damage control down the road.

Have reasonable expectations:

Always remember that the heart is a complex thing. Being alone is hard and time can do funny things to your emotions. If you discount someone's ability to change, you're also saying that you don't have the capacity to change, which we all know isn't true. People grow and learn lessons. So take your time when reconnecting with an ex and be clear about your intentions. Just looking to have sex? Be clear about that and set boundaries. Looking for more? Open the conversation. Take your time to feel things out and put the situation into perspective.

The Gauntlet's Annual General Meeting

Monday, April 16
1-3 p.m.
**MacHall Council
Chambers**

**ALL MEMBERS
WELCOME!**



Students-at-large:

Interested in governance and policy? The Gauntlet is looking for THREE students-at-large to sit on our Board of Directors for the 2018-19 year. Candidates must be enrolled as a U of C student in the upcoming year and be available to attend one board meeting each month. Interested applicants can forward a resumé and cover letter outlining their experience to Gauntlet editor-in-chief Jason Herring at eic@thegauntlet.ca. This position will be elected at our Annual General Meeting. Candidates are encouraged to attend the AGM.



CUFF: Get stuck in your seats with screenings straight from the underground

Story by Matty Hume
Photos courtesy CUFF

Some folks are lucky enough to call a massive film-head a friend — a pal who knows when the festival circuit features are playing at the community theatre and orders the best foreign flicks — and you're somehow never disappointed by what they make you watch. For one week each year for the past 15 years, everyone has that friend in the Calgary Underground Film Festival (CUFF). Running from April 16–22, CUFF includes 40 flicks from the coolest recesses of the world, plus panels with many of the film's directors and an independent video game arcade, all at the Globe Cinema.

CUFF co-founder Brenda Lieberman says that despite massive growth over the years, the festival stays true to its programming and spirit.

"Our mandate has always been the same," she says. "We try and focus more on genre films, slightly more provocative or boundary pushing films in some form or another."

Cameron Macgowan, a lead programmer for CUFF, has a unique perspective gained from going from a fan in the audience to a curating mind for the festival.

"I fondly remember at the end of a lot of screenings the audience would help pack up the chairs or would chat with the filmmakers or whoever was in attendance. It really had this great vibe that we still try to hold onto today even though we're getting more popular," he says. "We're not a big organization, we're just a bunch of film nuts who want these weird movies shown in our city and now have the capacity to do so."

Most of these 'weird movies' truly fit the underground moniker, so much so that three of the films screening at CUFF 2018 are world premieres — *Paper Year*, *Slave to the Grind* and *The Secret Poppo*.

Paper Year is film from Rebecca Addelman, who hails from Ottawa and boasts writing credits in shows like *New Girl* and Netflix's *LOVE*. Macgowan says

Paper Year follows in the same stylistic footprints as *LOVE*.

"This is kinda based on [Addelman's] first-hand experience of trying to make it in Los Angeles while being married to kind of a floundering artist. It kind of looks like a romantic comedy on the outside but like the show *LOVE*, it's quite dark in a way," he says. "It's not really a love story, it's more about what happens when you try to live with someone who has different baggage from you. A lot of people are calling it a 'feel-bad romance.'"

Slave to the Grind is a documentary that explores the metal music sub-genre of grindcore, a film that Macgowan says is more accessible than people might think.

"You don't necessarily have to be huge fan of grindcore music to enjoy this," he says. "It goes out of its way to show what a progressive music movement this is and how inclusive that genre is, despite sounding quite aggressive to the untrained ear."

Slave to the Grind includes interviews and performances with Calgary grindcore legends WAKE, who will be attending the screening.

The final world premiere is *The Secret Poppo*, a mind-bending noir adventure from the trio of directors who made *Meathead Goes Hogwild*, a 2016 CUFF selection. Macgowan says *The Secret Poppo* is line with fan favourites such as *Inherent Vice* and *The Big Lebowski*.

"This is an extremely trippy movie. It's kind of the most zen-Buddhist take on film noir imaginable," he says. "They wrote the film around this unique fellow that they met in Chicago. It's almost more of a documentary about how strange and lovely this man is himself. They improvised this noir movie around his personality."

Other stand-out films featured at the festival include *Revenge*, a bloody grindhouse revenge thriller from French filmmaker Coralie Fargeat, and *Tigers Are Not Afraid*, a modern fairy tale from Mexican filmmaker Issa López.

"*Tigers Are Not Afraid* is a beautiful

"We're not a big organization, we're just a bunch of film nuts who want these weird movies shown in our city and now have the capacity to do so."

**— Cameron Macgowan,
CUFF lead-programmer**

movie from Mexico. Any fans of *The Devil's Backbone* will definitely want to check that out," Macgowan says. "Her next film is being funded by Guillermo Del Toro, so he's a big fan of this film."

In addition to the films themselves, CUFF also features the CUFFcade, a collection of video games from independent developers from Calgary and beyond in custom arcade cabinets.

"The world of independent filming and the world of independent video game making are both very rough around the edges and fuelled by passion," Macgowan says. "A lot of these games are typically released on Steam, but the opportunity to play multiplayer games in an arcade cabinet beside an actual person who you probably just watched a movie with, it just really brings the sense of community home."

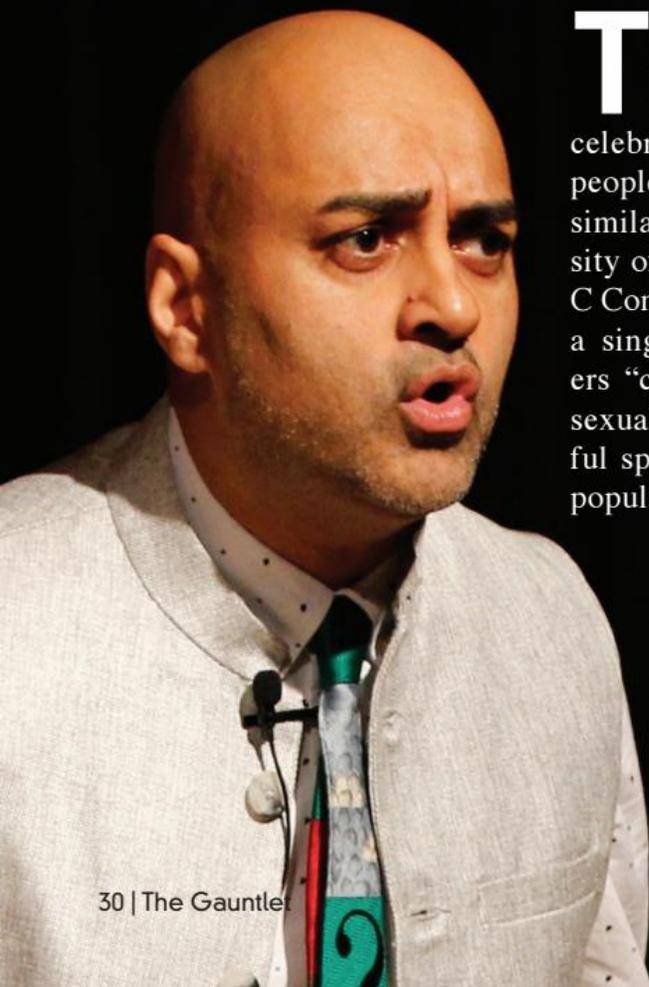
CUFF runs from April 16–22. For the full schedule, film lineup and tickets, go to calgaryundergroundfilm.org and find physical CUFF programs scattered across the city. Regular admission is \$10 per film or \$8 with a student ID.





The Coming Out Monologues continue to shine after ninth year

Story by Trevor Landsburg
Photos courtesy Tet Millare



The Coming Out Monologues returned for its ninth year in Calgary, celebrating the voices of LGBTQ+ people in our city. Inspired by a similar event from the University of California, the first U of C Coming Out Monologues was a single night where performers “came out,” revealing their sexual identity through powerful speeches. The event was so popular that it became an annual event at the University of Calgary, growing so much that it moved off campus by 2013.

The 2018 Coming Out Monologues ran in the John Dutton Theatre downtown from March 21–23. The event

included a variety of performances including spoken word, dance and performance art that celebrated the diversity of sexual and gender expression within the LGBTQ+ community.

Performer Hanako Rodgers, who was involved with the project for the first time this year, says the event had a powerful impact on them.

“I’ve had an amazing experience with the Coming Out Monologues,” Rodgers says. “It’s been so affirming and validating to spend time with some amazing individuals on a weekly basis. It’s helped me feel more comfortable not only in my writing but with my identity as well. It’s been so lovely to share our vulnerability with each other.”

For Rodgers, having a supportive community of queer people is extremely important and the Coming Out Monologues is an expression of that community.

“The queer community as a whole is so welcoming and so validating, and the Coming Out Monologues crew is no different,” Rogers says. “By the end of the of the last performance, we learned so much about each other. We were vulnerable with each other, we all experienced a whole array of feelings and we were so proud of each other.”

The Coming Out Monologues focus on the power of individual stories and how community can be found through the expression of personal experiences. Performer Mel Vee was inspired to be part of the Coming Out Monologues after attending the 2017 performances and coming out as bisexual.

“I did not realize how much I needed the Coming Out Monologues until I saw my fellow performers on the stage the Wednesday night, sharing their hearts and being vulnerable.

That’s when it hit,” Vee says. “At first I felt like I was ‘using’ the experience or taking up space, but then I realized that is probably internalized biphobia cropping up and I learned to trust the experience and acknowledged that I have something valuable to offer and receive.”

For many LGBTQ+ people, coming out and voicing their story in the community is invaluable and lifesaving but requires external support. Vee speaks to the importance of backing the event.

“Support the Coming Out Monologues! Having your being and identity affirmed can be life-saving for LGBTQ folks,” Vee says. “Support the work of QTPOC [queer, trans, people of colour]. We’re marginalized in complex ways and we need support.”

Both Vee and Rodgers emphasize the sense of community the Coming Out Monologues provided them with.

“Most of the performers are so open to friend-

“We were vulnerable with each other, we all experienced a whole array of feelings and we were so proud of each other.”

— Hanako Rodgers,
Coming Out Monologues Performer

ship, building community and supporting each other in our various endeavours, both queer and not,” Vee says.



Pre Nup, Calgary's next power-pop sensation, sets full-length release date

Story by Matty Hume

Photo courtesy Finding Charlotte

If you've been to small shows in Calgary over the past decade, you've probably soaked up the punchy sounds of bands like Grown-Ups, Lab Coast and Sissys while chomping an A-Bomb at Tubby Dog. If that's the case, then you'll recognize every member of Calgary's next pop-rock sensation, Pre Nup. After a massively popular four-song 7", Pre Nup will release their first full-length record, *Oh Well*, on May 4.

Pre Nup is the poppy project of married duo Josiah Hughes and Sara Hughes (Grown-Ups), with help from good pals Darrell Hartsook (Lab Coast, Sissys) and Chris Dadge (Lab Coast, Alvways, Chad VanGaan). After the fast-paced angst of Grown-Ups, Josiah says Pre Nup is more in-tune with the Hughes's true selves.

"It wasn't really true to us to be aggressive and angry. We were getting tired of so many bands coming out that were trying to be rockin', like rock and roll vibes, so the idea was trying to make something way more poppy or wussy," Josiah says. "The first thing I was thinking of was to do something like Belle and Sebastian. I'm obsessed with

melody and classic songwriting."

Despite the laid back intention, the poppy sonics of Pre Nup quickly took on a quicker pace and a bit more pep.

"Sara especially is so impatient in a good way. She kind of made all the songs three times as fast as they were originally written," Josiah laughs. "The influence of us getting bored easily and loving punk still came in. It helped me write better songs and in general, we just love when people get to the point."

The outcome is a delicious 10-track LP that's equal parts melancholic reflection and head-shaking power-pop. Opener "Admit" sets a pace that carries the record all the way until closer "Life in Hell." It's an album worth chewing through in one sitting every time you put it on and will make you eager to tap your feet at every show they play in town. It's a fully realized record with evident care and thoughtfulness.

Josiah says *Oh Well* benefits from a more contemplative writing process than the self-titled 7" debut.

"While the songs are way shorter and to the point, I also wanted to pack as many ideas into each song as possible," Josiah says. "For the 7", I wasn't really think-

ing about there being two guitars all the time. But on the LP, I really thought about packing the songs with ideas so there's so much going on at once. We also just spent forever on it."

By "forever," Josiah means a solid year of careful attention and recording around Dadge's busy schedule. Over the past year, Dadge has been busy drumming for jangle-pop stars Alvways and touring with Calgary's legendary Chad VanGaan. Josiah sees the drawn-out process as solely a benefit and says it allowed for a more thoughtful creative process.

In addition to musical duties and penning for *Exclaim!* magazine, Josiah co-hosts the ever-growing comedy and music podcast *Blink-155*, which devotes one episode to each of Blink-182's 155 songs.

Oh Well is scheduled for release on Debt Offensive/Jigsaw Records on May 4 and Pre Nup is throwing a release show and party at Tubby Dog on May 12. While you're waiting in anticipation, check out the self-titled 7" and other singles on Pre Nup's Bandcamp, plus check out the video for "Wrong Your" on Vimeo — where the band jams in the centre of Real Canadian Wrestling's ring at the Royal Canadian Legion #1 downtown.



U of C's Daniel Szefer wins the 2018 Concerto Competition

Story by Jill Girgulis

Photo courtesy Citrus Photography



The 2018 edition of the annual Concerto Competition took place on March 13 at the University of Calgary. The contest, which started in 2006, is a collaboration between the U of C, the Mount Royal University (MRU) Conservatory and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO). Each year, the winning musician receives mentorship and the chance to perform with the CPO in an upcoming season.

"Providing critical performing opportunities for young artists is one of the most important roles the CPO plays in the community. We are proud to partner with the University of Calgary on this project and each year look forward to the event as a chance to discover wonderful local talents," says Paul Dornian, CPO president and CEO. Dornian, along with the CPO's resident conductor Karl Hirzer, served as the two-person jury for the night's competition.

The evening featured performances from four rising musicians in Calgary — two U of C students and two high school members of the MRU Conservatory. Each finalist had the opportunity to perform all or part of a concerto with accompaniment from the CPO.

Sua Kwoun, a cellist from Bishop Carroll High School in the MRU Conservatory, opened the show with Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme for Cello and Orchestra*. Her musical endurance was put to the test with the piece's extensive nature and she rose to the challenge, entering the final variation with even more energy than she started with.

Up next was oboist Cameron Wong, from Western Canada High School and the MRU Conservatory. He presented the second and third movements from Strauss's *Concerto for Oboe and Small Orchestra*. Wong, one of the youngest finalists and the only wind soloist of the competition, gained confidence as the performance progressed, concluding his solo with a remarkable flourish. Seated only a few feet behind Wong during the piece was David Sussman, the CPO's assistant principal oboist, who also happens to be Wong's teacher. Witnessing Sussman beaming with pride while playing alongside his student was a truly heartwarming experience.

Daniel Dastoor, a U of C violinist, performed the first movement of the well-known *Violin Concerto in D major* by

Tchaikovsky. Dastoor's solo experience was highlighted by the movement's several instances of complete orchestral silence, during which the young violinist was given the space to display his proficiency.

To round out what had already a spectacular evening, U of C pianist Daniel Szefer performed the first movement of Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor*. The piece began with a nearly three-minute orchestral introduction. This served to increase the anticipation of finally hearing Szefer's first strike of the keys. After this commanding opening, it was hard not to enjoy the remainder of the performance that followed.

After a short intermission in the lobby of the Rosza Centre, audience members were invited back into the Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, where Szefer was announced as the competition's winner.

"It's always inspiring to see young talent achieve impressive performances and this was certainly the case during this year's competition," says Hirzer. "Daniel Szefer's rendition of Chopin displayed his natural comfort on stage and clear technical control of the piano."

Local electronic producer StegoSarahs talks new album and creative process

Story by Thomas Johnson

Photo by Mariah Wilson

On Bandcamp pages, the space beneath the tracklist is usually reserved for a lengthy write-up. But on the StegoSarahs page, there sits a handful of words that are the purest distillation of her latest album — “The goal was to make things simpler.”

Simple Subtraction arrived in August, only seven months after her debut, *Experimentations*. Despite the short interval between releases, Sarah Rowe, the CJSW 90.9 FM production coordinator, approached her sophomore album in diametric opposition to her debut.

“*Experimentations* was more goofing around in the audio-editing software and figuring out how to make music in general. I found I was putting in sounds for the sake of having sounds,” Rowe says. “Doing that and becoming more confident and comfortable with making music, I wanted to revel in that feeling of being comfortable with what I was doing [with *Simple Subtraction*]. There’s not as many different sounds or loops or things like that in there but I think it comes out a little more polished.”

Though wary of genre classification, elsewhere on her Bandcamp page she describes her sound as “left-field electronic with a post-IDM feel.” It’s a fitting descriptor — *Simple Subtraction* and *Experimentations* are quirky and heady dance records fuelled by an infectious curiosity of sound. In stark opposition to the fluid, off-the-cuff freewheeling done on *Experimentations*, *Simple Subtraction* is tight and structured. Despite being 10-minutes longer than its predecessor, *Simple Subtraction* feels even more concise. It’s a lean piece of music, clocking in at just under 33 minutes. Songs progress linearly with textures shifting from their beginning to a logical endpoint. Bleeps, ticks or throbbing baselines feel right where they should be and each synth has a purpose. An emphasis is placed on the individuality of the songs and how they stand solo as opposed to how they homogenize into the album.

“With *Simple Subtraction*, it feels like each song stands better on its own. I guess they kind of contribute to the whole album but I didn’t approach them in that way,” she says.

Rowe found inspiration through Brian Eno’s “Obliques Strategies,” a deck of cards intended to promote lateral thinking in

the throes of mental blockage. On each card is an outside-the-box idea to spur unorthodox problem solving. “Try faking it!” “Ask your body” and “Discard an axiom” are all examples of the challenges presented by the cards. *Simple Subtraction* is built entirely off this approach.

“You flip one and it says, ‘Breathe more deeply.’ So when you read that how does it impact how you think about your current problem, your current creative block? What I decided to do was get the cards, flip it and whatever it said, that would inspire what the song would be,” Rowe says. “The song titles fall under those cards. Whatever the card was, that’s the song title. If this was to be a song, what would that sound like?”

Simple Subtraction is a great success, charting in *!earshot* magazine and many campus radio charts from Victoria, British Columbia to Kingston, Ontario.

Rowe splits her time between her output as StegoSarahs, production duties at CJSW, co-hosting the horror movie podcast *Scream Scene* and helping to produce the score for CJSW’s radio drama *Darkside Drive*, which wrapped up its second season in January. Find *Simple Subtraction* on the StegoSarahs Bandcamp page.



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Calgary





Wye Oak
The Louder I Call, the Faster It Runs
 April 6, 2018
 (Merge Records)

The 2018 lineup for Sled Island — Calgary’s shining yearly music and arts festival and without a doubt the best week of the year — made me practically scream with excitement. High on my most-anticipated list is Baltimore’s Wye Oak. Their 2011 album, *Civilian*, was a personal high school favourite

and both one of the most compelling and overlooked slices of early-decade indie rock.

Luckily for nostalgic fans like myself, the latest from the duo — comprised of Jenn Wasner on vocals and guitar with Andy Stack as the jack-of-all-trades elsewhere — is a gorgeous distillation of everything that makes Wye Oak a force to be reckoned with. *The Louder I Call, the Faster It Runs* routinely and effortlessly crafts pop earworms out of elaborate arrangements, usually consisting of Wasner’s longing voice atop frantic drums and an off-tempo guitar or keyboard riff.

Wye Oak demonstrate that knack for songwriting as soon as the album kicks off with “The Instrument,” a high-energy song that refuses to sit still, slowed only by throbbing bass undertones employed during its chorus. The title track follows, switching keyboard arpeggios during early verses for a distorted guitar riff that drowns the track’s final minute in a shoegaze daze.

The arrangements on *Louder* are remarkably busy but each piece fits together like a jigsaw puzzle. Despite heavy instrumental flourishes on each track, Wasner’s voice remains the main attraction, with her melodies given ample space to breathe.

Also among album highlights are the marching drum containment of “Say Hello” and its subsequent levity as it explodes away from its rhythmic rigours, and “I Know It’s Real,” a song heavy with heartache that closes the album perfectly.

Wye Oak are playing Sled Island on June 21 at the beautiful Central United Church — a venue almost as magical as the music Wasner and Stack are bound to conjure within its walls. There’s no better way to get hyped for that show than with *Louder*, an album whose lush nature makes it a wonder how the duo will translate it for one of Calgary’s best stages. I can’t wait to see how they’ll pull it off.

Jason Herring



Dom Fricot
Deserts
 April 5 2018
 (Independent)

Dom Fricot, a Vancouver-grown singer-songwriter, takes a giant leap forward as an artist with his third release, *Deserts*. Moving towards a more experimental and electronic sound, Fricot’s 2018 release is a well-rounded and emotional journey through heartache and loneliness that is

bound to strike a chord with those who listen along. *Deserts* will be released in three parts, with the first one hitting the online soundwaves on April 5.

Fricot’s 2012 EP, *If Baby Could Walk*, featured soulful songwriting and catchy, striking melodies. Since then, his 2014 release, *Sweet Little Fantasy*, demonstrated a more mature sound with polished soundscapes and heartfelt revelations. *Deserts*, however, presents truly gripping lyrics and a move towards a more produced sound that delivers audiences a refined body of work.

The album opens with “Echoes,” a highly produced track that moves away from Fricot’s signature acoustic sound. The track nods to retro synth beats, starting the album off with mellow vibes that Fricot weaves throughout. “Help is Needed” is a gentle shout for change, with Fricot relaxing into the comfortable nature of the track.

“Time Flies” and “Measure Up” continue the mellow electronic style of the album, which is a welcome change from Fricot’s

previous releases. Fricot finds a way to meld his soulful lyrics and warm voice with beautiful melodic underlay and trance-like beats.

“Meredith Clark” stands in as a league of its own on the album, with dark vocals and eerie strings accompanying sinister lyrics and a strange, sensual ambiance. The track maintains the mood of the songs that precede it, while diverging into the darker side of Fricot’s music.

The album ends with two tracks that feel reminiscent of Fricot’s earlier albums and are sure to leave all who listen with full hearts and tapping toes. “Hold You” has simple and effective lyrics and “Slippery Slope” shows off the singer’s vocal talent and ability to evoke vast emotions with simple lyricism. *Deserts* is an enthralling musical journey. Be sure to catch Fricot this spring in local bars like the Ironwood Bar and Grill, where he frequents as a solo act and with his folk music troupe, Folk Road Show.

Rachel Woodward



Vince Ash
Do Or Die
April 6, 2018
(POW Recordings)

Grit won't age but it will refine. Under pressure, coal turns to diamonds, sand to pearls and so on. These past few weeks have been replete with slander against Tupac Shakur, ironically by young rappers whose careers are largely built off of the unrefined realism of the late icon. Lil Xan piped up

that Tupac was "boring," while brilliant weirdo 03 Greedo later added some nuance to the discourse, noting that Pac, whose music still ripples across many a pond, was theatrical in ways that may discredit the lifestyle he preached. The debate between old guard and new is a conversation as tired as it is reductive. A comparison to Tupac should not be used haphazardly and must be considered with the highest regard.

That being said, Vince Ash, the latest POW Records signee, deserves that comparison. Despite hailing from small-town Indiana, Ash sounds steeped in California lore. *Do Or Die*, his debut, is an eon reflected in a third of an hour. Ash reflects on his life circumstances and the decisions that led him there. His ruminations are only disturbed by gunshots, like 20/20 vision through the barrel of a Beretta. It's in the timbre of his voice, his accent and the grain of his growl. Within seconds, his mission statement is made clear: "I'd rather be carried by six than judged by 12."

Ash raps headstrong and breathless, as if each bar is drenched in blue and red neon. The album's back half attempts to reconcile the rush of brash hedonism present in the first half.

"I-80," the daring outro, actually goes as far as to sample Tupac's legendary "The Rose That Grew From Concrete" and the similarities are, to say the least, unsettling. Pac was, and remains, the prototypical gangsta rapper. Whether his music ages is irrelevant — his influence is secure. He painted the blueprint with blood and tears and the format will never feel dated. Twenty-odd years later, his impact is still worn on the sleeve or tucked into the waist of any aspiring rapper. And even without the shadow of the late Shakur looming, *Do Or Die* would still be a heart-pounding album. Vince Ash is as unflinching as brushed steel and harder than pavement.

Do Or Die will be unchained on April 6 via POW Records. Real recognize raw.
Thomas Johnson



TOP 30

The top 30
albums
played on CJSW
90.9 FM in
March

Tune in to
CJSW 90.9 FM and
online at cjsw.com

1. Dominic Pierce - **Hoop Loop\$** (Inner Ocean)
2. FRIGS - **Basic Behaviour** (Arts & Crafts)
3. Aidan Baker, Gareth Davis - **Invisible Cities** (Karlrecords)
4. Suuns - **Felt** (Secretly Canadian)
5. Ought - **Room Inside the World** (Merge)
6. Cousin Harley - **Blue Smoke: The Music of Merle Travis** (Little Pig Records)
7. Miesha and the Spanks - **Girls Girls Girls** (Saved by Vinyl)
8. Stegosarabs - **Simple Subtraction** (Self-Released)
9. Yamantaka // Sonic Titan - **Dirt** (Paper Bag)
10. Trigger Warming - **tone ether** (Self-Released)
11. Yabra - **Astral EP** (Self-Released)
12. Jayne Murray - **I Cleaned My House** (Self-Released)
13. Tricia Edwards - **Intaglios** (Self-Released)
14. Nap Eyes - **I'm Bad Now** (You've Changed)
15. James Hunter Six - **Whatever it Takes** (Daptone Records)
16. Beaver Squadron - **Beaver Squadron** (Self-Released)
17. Amp Sessions - **Beats for Broke People Vol 3** (Self-Released)
18. a fawn at dawn - **Belongings** (Self-Released)
19. Helena Deland - **From the Series of Songs "Altogether Unaccompanied" Vol. I & II** (Luminelle / Fat Possum)
20. Beams - **Teach Me To Love** (Be My Sibling)
21. Scenic Route to Alaska - **Tough Luck** (Poptrip Records)
22. YoshimiO, Susie Ibarra, Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe - **Flower of Sulphur** (Thrill Jockey)
23. Mint Field - **Pasar De Las Luces** (Innovative Leisure)
24. Belle and Sebastian - **How to Solve Our Human Problems** (Matador)
25. Duds - **Of a Nature or Degree** (Castle Face)
26. Preoccupations - **New Material** (Flemish Eye)
27. Devin Cuddy Band - **Amy's Dream EP** (Cameron House)
28. Rhye - **Blood** (Loma Vista)
29. Texture & Light - **Eat Magic EP** (Self-Released)
30. Beach Body - **Plain Life EP** (Self-Released)



Dinos men's basketball team win first U Sports championship title

Story by Christie Melhorn
Photo by Trevor MacMillan

A sense of community spirit filled the University of Calgary campus after the Dinosaurs men's basketball team earned their first ever national championship on March 11 in Halifax. The 79–77 win over the Ryerson University Rams came with only nine seconds left on the clock when fourth-year guard Mambi Diawara executed the game's final play.

Head coach Dan Vanhooren says it's taken a few days to digest the magnitude of the win. He says it's a product of the amount of work and commitment invested into the program since its establishment.

"In the moment, I don't know if you truly realize what you've accomplished. Having some time to reflect on it, it's massive — our first one in history," Vanhooren said. "But this all started 53 years ago. There are so many people who have spent a lot of time building a foundation here. The championship came from that and was just the cherry on top."

Much of the game was a blur but Vanhooren says a few key memories stand out

from the game.

"It was overwhelming and emotional," he said. "Seeing Lars [Schlueter] play so well was a major component for us winning. When he's hitting those shots, it really opens up the floor for other players," he said. "It was just so fun watching them all — David Kapinga's big smile. Jhony [Veronne] wearing the U Sports banner like a cape."

While earning a U Sports title takes great skill, Vanhooren credits the team's distinct and wholesome spirit to their success.

"This isn't the most talented team we've had. It's cliché to say, but there's a massive impact of the right kind of unity a team can have," Vanhooren said. "Will I go and recruit the most talented kids now? Probably not. I'll find the ones who fit our team culture."

Vanhooren commented on how fourth-year guard Kapinga's backstory helped shape the team's identity.

"[Kapinga] is a refugee from the Congo. He has a unique positiveness about him. His whole approach is so energized," Vanhooren said. "For [the Dinosaurs], this is about educating young men and women. Athletics does a really great job of that. Having [Kapinga] on the

team in itself is a hugely educational to the guys around him about privilege."

While the men's basketball team's 2017–18 season was full of feats, Vanhooren emphasizes that the team's relationships and self-growth underlying them are their most valuable achievements.

"The important piece of [the Dinosaurs athletics program] is the relationships. And when we don't see the importance of that, that's when we fail," Vanhooren said. "This one championship solidified and justifies all the work that came before. I can't tell you how pleased and humbled I am by it."

The spectrum of struggle and success a varsity team experiences together creates life-long bonds, regardless of results. Vanhooren says he hopes to share those bonds with his players once they've moved on from the U of C campus.

"As an athlete and a coach, there's so many people you meet and go through hardships with. It's those moments that keeps everyone working towards goals," he said. "Our goal here is building good young men. I have many deep relationships with them and hopefully they'll last until I'm greyer!"

Rock climbing to receive its Olympic debut in the Tokyo 2020 Summer Games

Story by Danielle Grant

Photo courtesy The White Mountain School

Last month, Bolder Climbing Community in Calgary's southwest hosted the Alberta Open Bouldering Championships. House music boomed through the facility and spotlights illuminated competitors as they scaled the walls with impressive athleticism. Due to popular interest, the event was even livestreamed. Competitive and recreational climbing have recently gained significant, global mainstream popularity. This will likely only grow with its Olympic debut in Tokyo 2020, which will feature a completely new event format in the realm of competitive climbing.

Rock climbing consists of numerous disciplines. Traditional climbing grew out of mountaineering and utilizes ropes and harnesses to scale natural grooves of a rock face. Outdoor sport climbing involves following a route bolted onto rocky surfaces. Indoor lead climbing is similar but is performed on artificial structures. Speed climbing challenges athletes to sprint up standardized indoor routes and demands incredible coordination. Bouldering doesn't require ropes or safety equipment and is generally kept closer to the ground.

The three major disciplines showcased in the 2020 Games are indoor lead climbing, speed and bouldering. While this seemingly invites a diverse range of climbers to the Games, there's a catch — all three disciplines will be combined into one overarching event, leaving climbers reaching for one medal. Rather than dividing the events, as is tradition in climbing competitions, each of the 20 men and 20 women competing will tackle each route separately, with the highest overall scorers taking gold. This is currently unheard of in the climbing community.

The International Federation of Sport Climbing initially proposed that eight medals be awarded to the champions of each discipline. Most elite climbers specialize in one area with occasional crossover but competing in multiple is rare. This has stirred a lot of controversy in the professional



climbing community. According to BBC, two-time Bouldering World Cup champion Shauna Coxsey claimed combining the events is “like asking Usain Bolt to run a marathon and then do hurdles.”

Climbing's inclusion in the Tokyo 2020 Games is meant to entice younger audiences, attract sponsorship and push international exposure. While the multi-event structure is a change and huge challenge for athletes, it was a calculated effort by the Olympics to prevent one discipline from garnering more attention and overshadowing the others.

Apart from the event's problematic design, many are also hesitant about climbing in the Olympics for more fundamental and personal reasons. At its core, climbing is a mountain sport that beckons an adventurer's spirit. Some fear the heavy regulation of many Olympic events will impact the

freedom and creativity characteristic of climbing, presenting the sport inauthentically. However, this puritanical view is not unique to climbing. The debut of other ‘unconventional’ sports in the 2020 Games, such as surfing, are being challenged by athletes who believe the tournament's principles contradicts the fibre of their sport.

Despite opposing views, climbing will debut in Tokyo 2020, and gain exposure among a vaster audience. Some of Canada's competitors will likely come from Alberta, as the Rocky Mountains backdropping our province have cultivated an entrenched and skilled climbing community. The new Calgary Climbing Centre opening this spring is also rumoured to be an Olympic training gym, making our city a potential hub for an entirely new crop of Olympic superstars to watch in Tokyo 2020.

New U of C study abroad in Greece explores the social impact of sports



Story by Christie Melhorn
Photo by Carole Raddato

Dancing on homemade stilts and biting into ravioli filled with squid ink are just a couple of my favourite experiences while studying abroad. Learning about carnival tradition in the Caribbean and food culture in Spain through the University of Calgary's Study Abroad program challenged and rewarded me in multiple ways. Applying sociocultural theories to in-field experiences brought fresh relevance to course content and revealed parts of my personality that I didn't know existed.

This spring, U of C is launching a study in Greece called Sport and Culture in the Ancient World. The program intends for students from all faculties to explore the sociopolitical significance of sports across time and space.

U of C classics and religion professor

“Society shapes sports but sports also shape society. And you can't study sports without studying the history behind them.”

— U of C classics and religions professor Reyes Bertolin-Cebrian

Reyes Bertolin-Cebrian and MEI International Academy instructor Scott Norris will lead the study which departs Calgary for Athens on May 15. Bertolin-Cebrian currently teaches Greek and Roman Studies (GRST) 311: Sport in Ancient Greece and Rome, a course that examines the historical impact of ancient Greek sports. She has also extensively studied Olympic culture in Australia. Norris, who has a kinesiology background, has seven

years of experience guiding high school programs in different parts of the world, including Greece. They designed the program to give students a more visceral academic experience than in a traditional classroom.

“Studying ancient history can be really abstract — it's just a bunch of names and places. If you want to really understand it, you need to go to places like Athens and Delphi,” Norris said. “You can learn about them in books and in lectures but only when you go, you understand why certain places are sacred or have certain meaning. Pedagogically [studying abroad] is more sound and way more fun.”

Students attending the program will receive credits in GRST 311 and GRST 337: Early Greece, which covers historical events in Greece from the Bronze Age to the Persian Wars. The study also includes GRST 491 — an independent, in-field study about a topic related to the program.

GRST 311 — open to all faculties — is notoriously difficult to get into because of its popularity and reputation. That reputation should carry over in Greece, where students will complete assignments rooted in holistic learning principles and receive lectures at famous sites, such as the city of Marathon, where the event received its name.

“[Ancient Greeks] defined themselves by their athletics in a way no other culture does.”

— MEI instructor Scott Norris

“Everywhere that we go, there is stadia. We’ll be running on the track [at the Ancient Olympia Archaeological Site] — but with our shoes and clothes on. Not like the traditional ancient Greek way,” Bertolin-Cebrian said. “Students will also recreate other ancient sports. We expect them to demonstrate things like wrestling matches.”

Based on my personal experience, being

physically present in the environments you’re studying brings greater interest in course content and personal fulfilment. I still remember choreography created by emancipated Afro-Caribbean slaves that I learned in mirrorless Trinidadian studios. As with dance, studying sports provides great insight on how our physical reality shapes our cultural framework and sense of self. Throughout the program, students will specifically gain a greater understanding of the significance of athletic identity.

“Society shapes sports but sports also shape society. And you can’t study sports without studying the history behind them,” Bertolin-Cebrian said. “Sports psychology in ancient Greece is not studied well but there are inscriptions there about the importance of being tough and making the right decisions. There are many anecdotes about athletes who commit suicide because they can’t compete.”

“[Ancient Greeks] defined themselves by their athletics in a way no other culture does. And it still holds there,” Norris added. “The honours received for winning is enormous and even gives people advantages in the professional lives. If you’re a politician

and an Olympian, you’re more likely to succeed.”

Bertolin-Cebrian says that establishing sports as an academic discipline is long overdue.

“It’s about time sports are recognized as an academic discipline. We’ve been studying classic [texts] for the last 300 years but only in the last 50 have we been studying sports academically,” she said. “Political systems, philosophies, ideologies and religions all change. But some sports are still the exact same from ancient times and should be examined by departments and perspectives including but also outside of kinesiology.”

While the program is almost at capacity and the deadline to apply has passed, there is potentially room for a few more applicants. Regardless, it will likely be regularly offered in future spring terms at the U of C.

To learn more about Sport and Culture in the Ancient World, visit the Centre for International Students and Study Abroad in room 275 on the second floor of MacHall between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 pm or email group.study@ucalgary.ca.





Stax Cycle Club puts a fresh twist on spin

Story by Christie Melhorn
Photos courtesy Stax Cycle Club

Before taking a spin class at Stax Cycle Club, the last time I clipped into a bike I ended up wiping out over a rocky slope — and my cousin was far more concerned about the state of her fancy road bike than my shredded leg. I collected some sweet scars and stories from that experience but it had been years since I went on an intense ride. However, the class I recently took at Stax reminded me how much of a killer workout cycling is. And more importantly, the club's wholesome community makes for an all-around satisfying experience.

Though I'm a night owl by nature, I signed up for the 6 a.m. Stax 50 class instructed by Sonja Olson. My grogginess was quickly shaken off by the bright lights and sleek white interior of CityFit, the fitness facility that Stax shares a space with. I was warmly welcomed by the front desk staff who fitted me with a nifty pair

of cycling cleats. After stowing my things, I found a seat in Stax's group class studio. A band of blue light illuminated the dim space, casting shadows along the triangle imprints that texture the studio's back wall. Three rows of bikes face the mirrored front wall, the last of which rests on a tier, providing direct line of sight to the instructor's podium. The space is small and intimate but reasonable distance between the bikes prevents crowding.

I picked a bike beside the centre podium, which was occupied by another Stax instructor, Jessica Ecclestone. Recognizing it was my first class, Ecclestone checked that my cleats fit properly and adjusted my seat for my height. I appreciated her ensuring I was comfortable and could get the most out of my workout, especially since I'm so unfamiliar with spin. Most of the other riders in the room were Stax regulars and the air was thick with anticipation for class to start.

After a short but sweet warm-up, we alternated between sprint intervals and

heavy rides that kept our heart rates in flux and our minds engaged. I often avoided spin because I'm not keen on seated workouts. However, I was pleased that we spent most of the class hovering over our seats. This gave a killer booty burn that made me grateful for the brief moments we were sitting.

Olson's playlist of '90s rap remixes and electronic music created a cool, laid-back vibe that carried me through a challenging ride. We did mini push-ups against the handlebars and backwards jacks that fit nicely with the deep bass and fast tempos resounding in the room. The studio's default blue light flickered between green and purple in tandem with the song's choruses, adding an extra sensory edge and motivation boost.

The warm dynamic between Olson and the other riders reflected Stax's family-like atmosphere. While cheering us on, she encouraged us to up our bike's tension as much as possible. However, she reinforced the importance of listening to your body



and not forcing a painful workout. If we got lost, Olson advised us to follow Ecclestone, whose presence also helped anchor the class. Whenever I got disoriented, I tried to synchronize with her, which motivated me to push harder than I may have otherwise.

The latter half of class involved an arm workout, giving us a nice break from the intense cardio. Free weights were fitted onto our bikes ahead of time to prevent a cumbersome interruption in the middle of class. We performed variants of bicep curls, lateral extensions and tricep rows. Normally, I would gladly run another hour before lifting a weight, but that circuit felt great. The studio's humidity made my muscles feel less tense like in a traditional gym setting. Olson's guidance also kept me

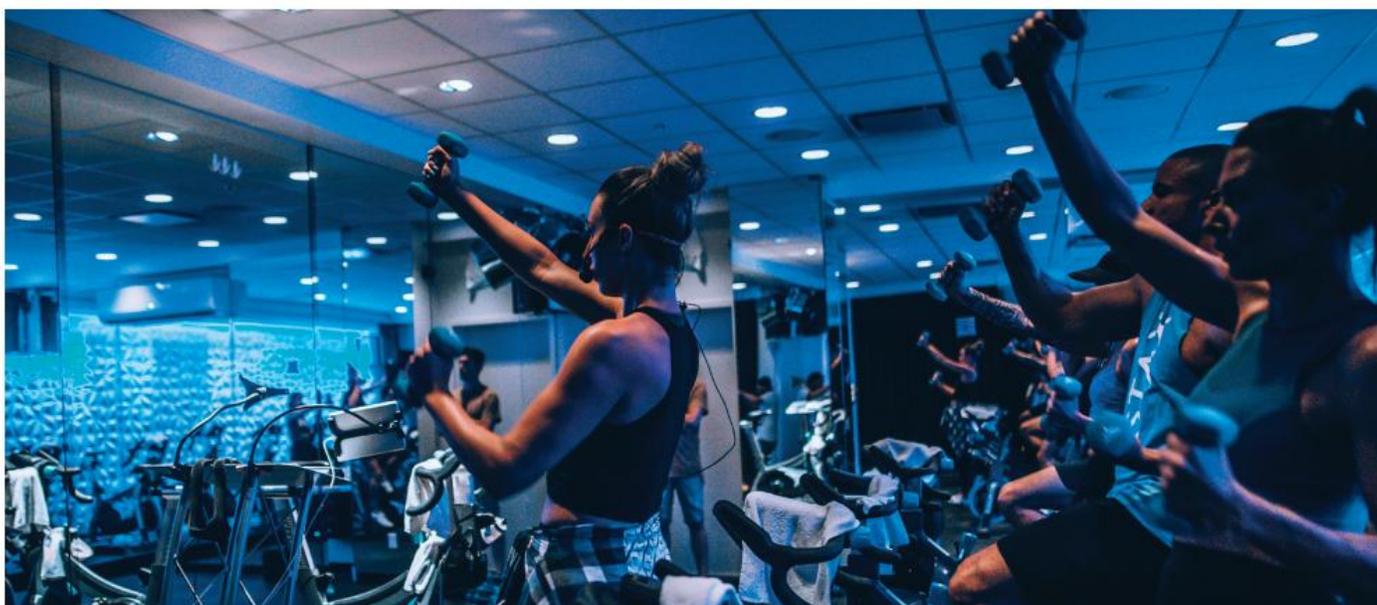
accountable to complete each set instead of get bored and stop like I do when working out solo.

At the end of the ride, Olson congratulated me on my first class, which was followed by a round of applause from the rest of the room that I really appreciated. We finished off with a stretch series against the bike that helped work out every little knot. As I clumsily unclipped from my pedals to get a sanitary wipe for my bike, another lady grabbed one for me, saving me the trip. After my eyes adjusted the brightness outside of the room, I saw Olson waiting for us with a tray of damp face towels and she high-fived us as we filtered out.

The communal vibe carried over after class. A few of us lingered and chatted on

benches in the foyer. In the locker room, other women from class shared the mirrors and passed around a bag of snacks as they prepared for the day. They exchanged stories about dating prospects, travel plans and general life things. The atmosphere was sisterly and refreshing, making me feel immediately comfortable despite being in a vulnerable space. It added another layer of unexpected satisfaction to my experience.

Overall, Stax converted me into loving spin. I will definitely return for the awesome workout and community. If you're interested in checking it out, you can drop in for \$17.50. Students also receive 15 per cent off Stax's five and 10 class cards, costing \$63.75 and \$123.25, respectively. For more information about Stax, visit staxcycleclub.com.



Brain-boosting snacks available on campus to help you survive exams

Story by Christie Melhorn

With exams approaching, the semester is getting shorter but the late night study sessions are getting longer. The stress of looming assignments and tests can either ruin your appetite or trigger a sugar-binge. Either way, fueling up with tasty, wholesome snacks can keep your focus sharp and prevent hanger from destroying your sliver of a social life. A lot of fancy protein bars and yogurt parfaits pose as being healthy but are actually glorified desserts loaded with refined sugar — and usually don't taste that great. Sitting on campus feeling slimy all day from inadequate nutrition is generally unpleasant, let alone when you're overwhelmed. Here are some foods recognized by *Forbes*, *Readers Digest* and *Healthline* as ideal study snacks that are

all available on campus and that you won't break the bank spending money on.

Bananas:

Bananas are hit or miss with most people but are worth snacking on during crunch time. They contain a fibre called pectin that stabilizes blood sugar while fueling your brain with a reasonable amount of glucose. This can satisfy your appetite while keeping you alert and engaged. You can buy bananas at Stör, Bake Chef and La Prep. Starbucks also sells them — you just need to ask for one.

Nuts:

Unless you're allergic, you can't go wrong with a handful of nuts as a study snack. Each type has particular brain-boosting benefits. Walnuts are loaded with omega-3 fatty acids that enhance memory and

prevent cognitive decline. The vitamin-E content in almonds can protect brain cells from damage and regulate blood sugar, cushioning a mid-study session crash. Peanuts are also rich in vitamin E and antioxidants linked with higher mental function. On top of that, the fat content in nuts keeps you feeling full longer, preventing distracting hunger pangs. You can buy packaged and seasoned nuts at Stör, the IDA Pharmacy and Starbucks. While they taste great, be mindful the high salt content is dehydrating. And if munching on raw nuts isn't appealing, Kind Bars or Justin's Peanut Butter Cups are also available at Starbucks — just know they're pricey.

Avocados:

For the last year, our Instagram feeds have been coloured green by posts of

Surround yourself with tacos.

Not negativity.

\$2.75 Tacos
\$5 (personal) / \$10 (shareable) Tater Tots
\$5.50 (bottle) / \$20 (bucket) Sol

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avocado everything. Their enduring popularity makes sense beyond their aesthetic appeal. Avocados are high in monounsaturated fat and potassium that can steady blood flow to the brain.

Their creamy texture is also pleasant and they're incredibly filling. While I've yet to learn of somewhere that sells whole avocados on campus, cups of guacamole are available at Starbucks and Stör. Sushi

Express sells avocado rolls and most of their rolls contain avocado. La Prep also sells wraps with avocado chunks in them.

Eggs:

Eggs are one of the most affordable, filling and diverse snacks. They're delicious on their own and are a valuable ingredient in any type of meal. Eating eggs stimulates the production of acetylcholine — a neurotransmitter that improves memory. They're also loaded with the antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthin that maintain eye health, which can't hurt after endless hours of staring at a computer screen. Stör sells hard-boiled eggs for \$1.25. Buying pre-cooked eggs freaks some people out but they're actually pretty good. If you need a meal, grab a hearty, eggy breakfast sandwich from Brew and Blends or Good Earth that trumps the processed varieties at Starbucks and Tim Hortons.

Blueberries:

Blueberries are packed with antioxidants believed to mitigate neurodegeneration from aging. Raw, whole blueberries are difficult to find on campus but are usually an ingredient in snack bars. The IDA Pharmacy sells blueberry Elevate Bars that give a nice energy boost. At Stör, you can get blueberry Jumpstarter chia pudding and True Nature blueberry bars — they're a little sugary but at least made with whole ingredients. Stör also sells Brookside dried blueberries coated in dark chocolate, which can give you a nice dopamine pump. Just be warned — they're addictive and crushing the entire bag in one sitting will make you feel sluggish and gross.



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Student purposely doesn't look both ways crossing road to EEEL en route to final exam

Story by Derek Baker

Photo by Mariah Wilson

Second-year biological sciences student Todd Turner made a bold move this morning on his way to his organic chemistry final in the Energy, Environment and Experiential Learning (EEEL) building. Though he normally crosses the road from ICT to EEEL carefully, this time, he made an active effort not to look both ways for incoming cars.

"I just thought to myself, 'If I get hit by a car, that's just the world's way of telling me that I shouldn't have to write my o-chem final,'" Turner said, still visibly shaken from the aforementioned test that he just finished writing. "I have no idea what's going on in this class and was not at all prepared for the test."

Despite the distressing nature of his desire to be hit by a car, Turner claimed the moment he stood at the curb, was his only true moment of clarity the entire semester.

"I didn't want to be hit too hard, just hard enough that it would be a valid excuse to defer the final or something," Turner said. "We're talking about maybe a broken wrist or bruised shoulder. Nothing too bad."

Contrary to his purportedly calm demeanor, those who observed Turner while he crossed the road described a different scene.

"Todd and I were walking to our final together, when all of a sudden he just stopped in the middle of the road," said Heather Hope, a good friend of Turner. "He then faced the oncoming traffic and started shouting, 'Come at me! C'mon, hit me!'"



Other onlookers said that they heard Turner proclaim, "Just fucking hit me already," "I am \$30,000 in debt and need the lawsuit money" and "who the hell still drives a Saturn?!" after a car manoeuvred around him. Turner denies any of this happened.

"What type of crazy person would do such a thing?" Turner said while hiding a 'Caution: Wet Floor' sign around the corner, ready to 'accidentally slip' on the 'unmarked freshly mopped floor.'

"Sure, I might have a little bit of student debt, but I'm capable of finding much more innovative ways of paying it

back than car insurance fraud."

This is not the first time Turner has tried to get out of writing an exam through unconventional means. Last semester, Turner reportedly brought two pecans, which he is deathly allergic to, in a small ziplock bag to his BIOL 311 final. He said he planned on eating them if things weren't going well, then jab himself with an EpiPen to hopefully get out of writing that exam, too.

Despite his most creative efforts, Turner still only scored 43 per cent on his organic chemistry final. He must now retake the class in the summer.

An introvert's guide to surviving Bermuda Shorts Day

Story by Aneeka Sandhu

It's that time of year again. For one fateful day in April, the University of Calgary campus fills with day-drinking students, littered beer cans, music blasting from every corner and everyone chanting, "BSD! BSD! BSD!" Your worst nightmare, right?

Bermuda Shorts Day is either your idea of heaven or hell. If you're an introvert who finds pleasure in being alone, a campus full of loud, half-drunken students is a nightmare. If this is how you feel, here are a few steps to get you through the day in one piece.

Find refuge on the sixth floor of TFDL:

Usually a prime spot sought out by students, it's a struggle to find a seat on any of the top two floors of the Taylor Family Digital Library during a regular school day. However, with half the campus lying half-drunk

along some pathway or throwing up in the nearest garbage, TFDL transforms during BSD to a secluded haven for some alone time. BSD is the one day in which no one bothers turning up to class, let alone study, leading us on to the next step...

Actually go to class:

If your professor hasn't already cancelled class due to the expected low attendance, you might as well show up. Today might be the day you'll get to know the prof well enough to ask for a reference letter. Even if going to class was your plan all along, you still have every right to be pissed at that one professor who scheduled a quiz on BSD.

Avoid large crowds:

This is where you let your inner hermit come out. If you hear a group of loud students having fun between themselves,

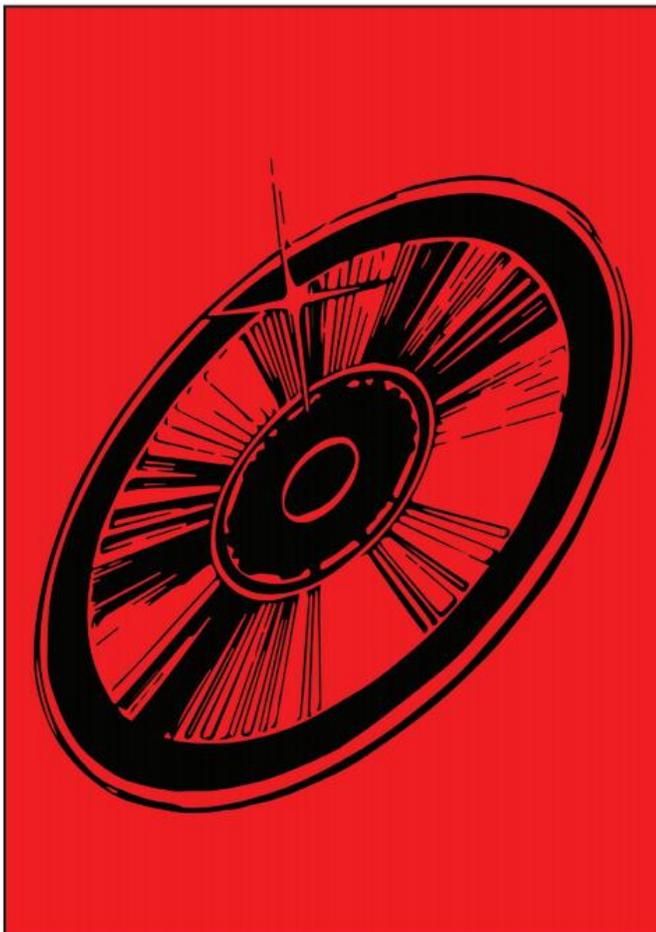
avoid them at all cost. If you're not quick enough, you'll be swarmed by inebriated students clad in Hawaiian shirts and dollar-store leis. When confronted with the situation, run to the nearest washroom as soon as possible — once again, leading us on to the next point...

Find the perfect washroom:

Find the cleanest washrooms if you plan on spending a large amount of time watching your favourite YouTube vids in the stalls. Just make sure your hideout isn't too popular or you may encounter students puking up their 7:30-a.m. jello shots. A good option would be Social Sciences — the older, more rundown the washroom, the better.

Sleep in:

The easiest way to avoid any BSD drama is to not come in at all.



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City Council proposes divine intervention to pay for Olympics

Story by Evan Lewis

The formal bidding process for the 2026 Winter Olympics will begin any day now and Calgary City Council is still working to persuade citizens that it's worth the cost. Requests have been made to the provincial and federal government for funding the Games, with uncertain feedback. As a result, the city has now proposed another alternative — divine intervention.

"It would take a miracle, literally, to pull off these games without debt," Mayor Naheed Nenshi tweeted last Thursday. "And since we at City Council consider all of our options, we're taking a look at a literal miracle. #HolyOlympicsCalgary"

Council has since been in talks with a number of gods and goddesses from a variety of pantheons and belief systems. Generally, divine intervention occurs alongside some kind of lightning bolt, fire or soft murmuring that echoes through all of nature. Much of the negotiations have been spent trying to balance these needs with the fact that the gods will just magically make a couple of zeroes appear on the end of the available funds to pay for the Olympics.

Oddly enough, this proposal has brought about an unexpected alliance between the Calgary Atheist and Skeptics Group and a variety of fundamentalist religious groups, both protesting the use of divine intervention.



David Newall of the Christ Reborn Church expressed his criticism with relying on any deity to fund the Olympics.

"Listen, clearly City Council has misunderstood the way our God works. He doesn't get involved in the minutiae," Newall said. "Instead, he goes quiet for hundreds of years and only intervenes when it's convenient! It's a far more effective method, in my opinion."

Meanwhile, the Atheist and Skeptics Group made their way into City Hall and protested by covering their eyes and repeatedly muttering, "They're not real if I can't see them." Much like the city councillors, the beings of immense power did their best to ignore the atheists.

One pantheon voluntarily excluded themselves from the proceedings. When asked about the situation, Hermes, Messenger of the Greek Gods, Possessor of the Winged Sandals, and Wielder of the Caduceus whined loudly into the phone.

"It's not faaaaair. Why can't we ALWAYS have it in Greece? It sucks. This sucks." He then hung up, having failed to comment on the Greek gods and goddesses' lack of attendance at the Calgary negotiations.

The exorbitant price tags of past Olympics points to costs only going up with the 2026 Games. However, with a little bit of luck and several dozen deities on its side, Calgary may be able to escape the significant losses the Games could incur.





U of C IT hands out ethernet cables to everyone, solves WiFi woes

Story by Derek Baker
Photo by Mariah Wilson

Students frustrated with the broken WiFi on campus over the past few weeks no longer need to worry. To solve the problem, University of Calgary IT Services are going old-school. Starting next week, every student will be given an ethernet cable to connect to the U of C's network.

"Wireless internet? That's too fancy for this school," IT spokesperson Joe Java said.

The ethernet cords that have been ordered are reportedly "really, really long" to ensure students can connect anywhere at school. The plan is to have students plug in to a central place on campus, then have everyone go about their day.

"It'll be just like the WiFi still works. Just ignore the tangled mess of cables

strewn around everyone's feet," Java continued.

Java also assured that the cables will reach anywhere students need to be, including students at Spyhill Campus.

Several students have attributed the lack of internet connectivity with a sharp increase in stress and anxiety levels. Jared Backer, a fourth-year zoology student, explained how the broken WiFi harmed his studies.

"Panic washed over me when I realized I wouldn't be able to answer the Top Hat clicker question in time," Backer said, still frantically refreshing the webpage to try to connect. "I need all the participation marks I can get."

However, the lack of WiFi access during class time has actually benefited several students.

"Me and the whole row of people behind me weren't able to watch Netflix during lecture these past few weeks,"

first-year sociology student Graham Goldman said. "I actually paid attention in lecture and I did well. Who knew?"

Despite the inconvenience caused by the cables, others on campus are glad to go wired. Members from the Tinfoil Hat Club celebrate the decision, calling it a "big win" for personal freedoms.

"The wireless signal is just another method the government is controlling our minds," Tinfoil Hat Club president Emmanuel Shenton said. "Wake up, sheeple!"

IT Services will continue to work on repairing the wireless network, though no estimated timeline for when everything should be back to normal has been announced. However, whatever time router repairs are scheduled for is "definitely whenever you need it the most, like when you need to submit an assignment."

What mishap will befall you on Bermuda Shorts Day?

By Frankie Hart



Aries
(March 21 – April 19)

A peer will throw up on your shirt. If the resulting shape resembles a heart, it's a good sign for your love life. If it's a dollar sign, financial success is on the way. If it's a skull, throw that shirt out — now.



Leo
(July 23 – Aug. 22)

Anticipating weed legalization, you'll try making your own edibles. Your desire to be the host with the most will result in you burning down your residence, but your weed-infused turducken will somehow survive.



Sagittarius
(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

You'll roleplay BSD in your Dungeons & Dragons campaign instead of attending. By the end of the night, the barbarian will accidentally drown the bard while trying to perform a keg stand. RIP Alexander Bangkovic the Eccentric.



Taurus
(April 20 – May 20)

Your obsession with holographic material and insistence on wearing everything shiny will be your downfall. You'll blind the DJ during their set.



Virgo
(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

In a drunken stupor, you will forget that The Den is closed for BSD and inevitably find yourself crying outside The Den's doors, begging whichever gods will listen for some crispy tot boys.



Capricorn
(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

In protest of the new ticket fee, you'll stick it to the man and hold a dance marathon outside of admissions. You'll be the only one to show up to said marathon and will dance until you pass out.



Gemini
(May 21 – June 20)

You'll meet up with everyone at an afterparty. There's a ball pit. Multiple atrocities are committed in the ball pit. You'll pretend the liquid that ends up on your legs is simply someone's spilt drink.



Libra
(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

As a BSD purist, you harken back to its origins, while rebelling against gendered fashion. So, you'll show up in full drag, upgrading your Bermuda shorts to booty shorts. Slay.



Aquarius
(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

They said it could never be done. They said some planets just couldn't be reached. But here you are, actually being arrested by the fashion police for your crimes on BSD. Are you sorry?



Cancer
(June 21 – July 22)

You'll wake up early to prepare the best BSD look ever, only for no one to acknowledge your outfit to any extent. Wack.



Scorpio
(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

You've spent this year stressing so much that you're too tired to party. Instead, you'll spend the day sleeping. You'll have a pretty sick dream, though.



Pisces
(Feb. 19 – March 20)

You'll search the library's witchcraft books for sunny weather incantations. You'll mispronounce a word and immediately be struck by lightning.

Filbert Cartoons – L. A. Bonté





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Spring crossword



By Frankie Hart

Congratulations to Amal, Kristine and Sally for being the first group to submit last month's campus art quiz! Send a photo of a completed crossword AND criss cross puzzle to humour@thegauntlet.ca to be congratulated in our next issue. Also, be among the first three submitters to win a *Gauntlet* mug!

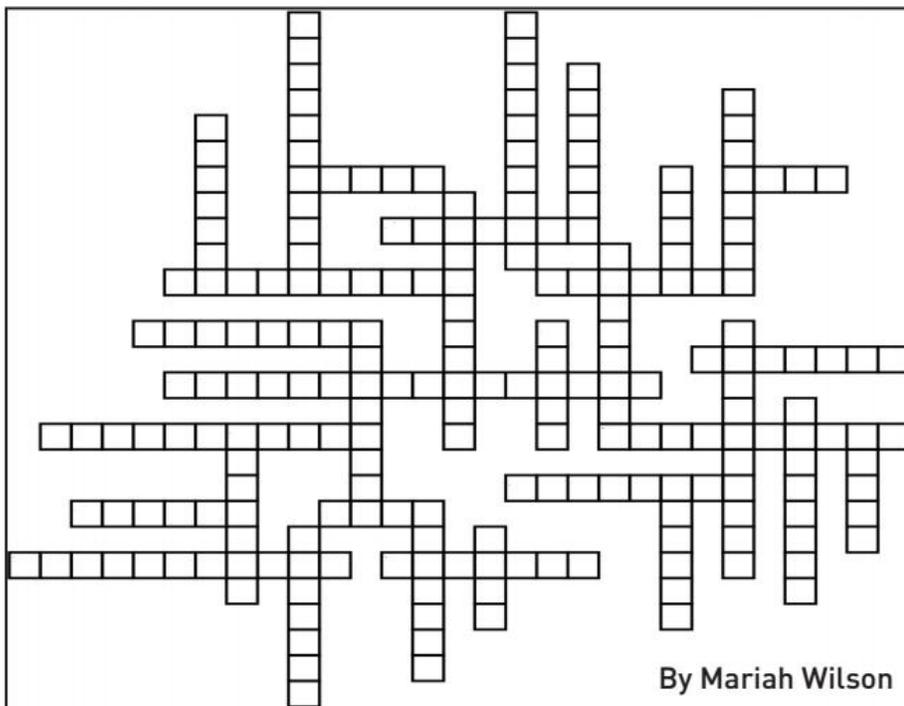
ACROSS:

- 3. The first day of spring is technically called the _____ equinox.
- 6. Spring season is the most popular time for these onomatopoeia marshmallow birds.
- 8. You truly know that spring has sprung on campus with the event named after this piece of clothing.
- 9. Spring may come early if this handsome and distinguished Pennsylvania boy does not see his own shadow.
- 10. The pollen and grasses of spring are well-known for triggering this type of allergic nasal inflammation.
- 11. Along with flowers, spring also brings this twisty weather phenomenon.
- 14. Eggs, commonly painted during Easter, are largely made of this compound.

DOWN:

- 1. What historical figure can we blame for daylight saving time?
- 2. In Japan, the blossoming of _____, also known as cherry blossoms, signals the beginning of spring.
- 4. Feeling especially restless or excited? You might have Spring _____.
- 5. In Greek mythology, the beginning of spring means the return of the goddess _____ from Hades.
- 7. "Spring" is the first of the *Four Seasons* by this composer.
- 12. Babies born at the beginning of spring will have this astrological sign.
- 13. With the coming of spring, mammals like rabbits will shed their winter coats, turning them this colour.

Travel-themed criss cross puzzle



By Mariah Wilson

Instructions: Each line of the puzzle contains a certain number of boxes. Count each to see which words they correspond to. Words are listed in alphabetical order within categories based off of their length. Place words into the grid so that they fit together.

4 letters: Bali, Fiji, Peru

5 letters: Egypt, Italy, Japan, Malta

6 letters: Athens, Zambia

7 letters: Croatia, Finland, Germany
Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Morocco,
Tel Aviv, Toronto

8 letters: Abu Dhabi, Brussels,
Colombia, Los Cabos, São Paulo,
Shanghai

10 letters: Greenville, Montenegro,
New Orleans, San Antonio, Uzbekistan

11 letters: Albuquerque, Buenos
Aires, Pyeongchang

16 letters: Walla Walla Valley

