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Golden Spatula:

Rachel Woodward



This month's Golden Spatula goes to Rachel Woodward — and only Rachel Woodward. Rachel has been a consistently fantastic writer for the Gauntlet, writing several stories that may or may not be regrettable when future employers Google search her name. Stay rad, Rach.

"Scoot!!!"



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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.

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The Cover

Design by Samantha Lucy

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City should rethink stifling weed bylaws

A lot of fuss has been made about the forthcoming legalization of recreational cannabis by the government of Canada. The way Justin Trudeau's Liberal government pursued the substance's legalization allows all three levels of government to make some decisions about legalization processes in their jurisdictions — and that's to say nothing about institutions like the University of Calgary, which is working to implement its own regulations regarding on-campus cannabis use.

These discussions will likely be front and centre this summer as legalization inches closer. Though the originally proposed July 1 start date is now unattainable, Canadians could reasonably be lighting up legal joints by August or September. Calgary has already seen the start of much of this discussion in the form of City Council meetings surrounding potential bylaws regarding cannabis consumption. However, for Calgarians hoping to see rules around legalization take a form akin to those that dictate tobacco use, the proposed regulations are grossly disappointing.

The city's proposed rules largely restrict weed consumption to users' homes. Public cannabis use would only be allowed in specific, licensed locations, such as designated areas at music festivals. Those who violate the restrictions would face \$50–100 fines. Medical cannabis would be exempt.

The province has already created rules regarding where pot can be consumed long before municipalities began their own discussions. These reasonable restrictions prohibit use within certain distances from hospitals, schools and places where children frequent. Use in places like public parks or sidewalks, however, is not limited by provincial legislation.

One of the unforeseen problems with a public smoking ban is that it assumes that all potential cannabis users have access to a private space where they can safely consume the substance. Many rental properties are non-smoking, so they restrict tenants from lighting up within their own living space. Many councillors, including Ward 14's Peter Demong, dismissed this scenario as an edge case, despite over one-third of Calgarians be-



ing renters. And even if a small proportion of those find themselves without anywhere to legally consume cannabis, no one should be unable to engage in consumption of a legal substance due to their living circumstances.

The city's regulations renters are disproportionately disadvantage visible minorities — the same groups that are currently disproportionately prosecuted for cannabis-related offenses by local police services. A recent article by Mount Royal University professor Mohammed El Hazzouri points out that, according to 2011 data, 49 per cent of black Calgarians and 37 per cent of Latino Calgarians live in rental units, compared to less than 20 per cent of white Calgarians.

It's clear that the proposed bylaws would disproportionately disadvantage visible minorities — the same groups that are currently disproportionately prosecuted for cannabis-related offenses by local police services. A recent *Vice Canada* investigation found that black and Indigenous communities were overrepresented in weed arrests by the Calgary Police Service in 2015 — that year, black and Indigenous populations made up 11 and nine per cent of weed arrests, respectively, while comprising four and three per cent of the population.

Legalization may end up actually increasing the number of pot-related infractions in the city because of public consumption and driving offenses. CPS police union president Les Kaminski told the council in April that the service's funds and personnel are spread too thin to properly enforce the proposed

cannabis bylaws. Now, Calgary has asked for more funding from the province to hire additional officers to deal with legalization. The process of making something legal should not result in heightened police services. Actions like this only serve to perpetuate the criminal perception and status of cannabis, something that legalization should aim to put an end to.

Even if an increased police presence is necessary, the potential economic benefits from weed's legalization have been diminished by details in legislation. Weed bars — businesses where customers can consume cannabis — are outlawed under proposed bylaws. And zoning regulations restrict where dispensaries can operate, including not within a certain distance from another dispensary. These unreasonable limitations on consumption will negatively impact the city's and province's revenue from legalization, hurting their ability to spend on officers or other expenses.

Calgary's proposed bylaws spark a convincing argument of why municipalities should not have the ability to implement sweeping legislation surrounding a federal initiative. That weed's legal status may differ across the country — let alone across the province — is absurd. All Canadians deserve legislation that indiscriminately allows pot consumption. Unless City Council changes their stripes this summer, that won't be the case in Calgary.

Jason Herring
Gauntlet editorial board



Five things students should watch for over the next year

The 2017–18 academic year proved eventful for the University of Calgary. From sexual violence on campuses to Bermuda Shorts Day, here are the top five issues students should keep an eye out for the upcoming year.

Story by Tina Shaygan. Photos by Mariah Wilson.

Sexual violence:

Discourse surrounding sexual violence became prominent issues over the last academic year. In January 2018, the *Gauntlet* reported that convicted sexual offender Connor Neurauter had his 90-day sentencing delayed to allow him to finish his semester at the U of C. Neurauter was sentenced to 90 days in jail after pleading guilty to sexual interference on Jan. 4. When charges were first brought forward in 2016, Neurauter also faced a child pornography charge. The mother of the 13-year-old victim said the legal process took over two years in order to “accommodate Neurauter’s busy schedule,” as he missed court dates while playing for his

junior hockey team. The incident led to outrage at the U of C campus, with an online petition demanding the expulsion of Neurauter from the university garnering over 70,000 signatures.

U of C provost Dru Marshall said Neurauter was not expelled or suspended but “advised” to not return to campus and that he would be escorted off campus should he return. Marshall added that the case of Neurauter was a “complicated and difficult” situation and not one that is addressed in the school’s sexual violence policy.

The sexual violence policy, which came into effect June 2017, is intended to streamline reporting processes and includes the

position of sexual violence support advocate on campus. The U of C said the normal process would be to review policies within three to five years. However, given the significant emphasis on sexual violence policies, the school is planning to review this policy after two years in April 2019.

Members of the campus community — including students, professors and a teaching assistant for one of Neurauter’s classes — expressed confusion over the handling of the situation and the precedent it sets. Neurauter began serving his sentence intermittently on weekends on Feb. 9.

Beyond the U of C, sexual violence was a topic of discussion among Canadian

universities in general. With #MeToo and other social movements, cases of sexual violence across post-secondary institutions received unprecedented coverage. At McGill University, students organized protests and walkouts in response to the school's mishandling of complaints regarding "predatory" professors. According to CTV, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) leadership accused the leadership of their Arts Faculty of mishandling student complaints regarding sexual assault.

"The administration has made no attempt to address abuses of power in a meaningful or significant way, instead consistently citing lack of formal complaints or ongoing committee work as reason for not immediately addressing concerns," an open letter by the SSMU read.

According to the *McGill Daily*, students called on Quebec's Minister of Higher Education to address the "failure" of the institution to address sexual violence on their campus.

At the University of Saskatchewan, outraged ensued after allegations against the sole presidential candidate in the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) came to light. It was reported that the candidate, Coden Nikbakht, drugged and sexually assaulted an unspecified number of women. Outgoing USSU president David D'Eon said he would refuse to transition Nikbakht and that the USSU stands with survivors of sexual violence. Students at the U of C, including members of the Consent Awareness and Sexual Violence (CASE) club, called on the U of C Students' Union to start implementing policies to address potential situations similar to the U of S.

"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," 2017-18 CASE president Shelby Montgomery told the *Gauntlet*. "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."

The Rock:

The Rock, a famous campus fixture where students can paint messages, was a point of controversy at the U of C over the past year. Early in the summer of 2017, the Rock came into the spotlight as a group of students removed the many layers of paint that had built up over the years. Students said they cleared up the paint on the rock for a "fresh start." Students are free to paint the rocks without university censorship, with messages ranging from details about upcoming events to controversial political messages. The frequency of the latter increased following the 2016 United States presidential election, with messages like "lock her up" and "kill fascists" appearing on the rock outside of the MacKimmie Library Tower.

That fresh start, however, never fully took off. Paintings on the Rock promoting Calgary Pride were vandalized on the morning of the Pride Parade. Vandals painted a large 'X' over a rainbow accompanied by the word "pride." They also wrote the name "Sam Hyde," a controversial comedian sometimes associated with white supremacist movements, overtop

the rainbow-coloured rock.

Later in the academic year, students were greeted with paintings of the Confederate flag on the Rock. In addition to the flag, the Rock was covered with messages saying that confederate general Robert E. Lee "did nothing wrong" alongside the words "heritage not hate." A number of students covered up the flag and paintings with phrases like "Black Lives Matter," which was followed by another set of paintings including "John A. [Macdonald] is bae."

"I think the Confederate flag is a pretty explicit discriminatory message," psychology student Claire Hickie said in response to the paintings of the Confederate flag on the Rock.

The U of C released the following statement regarding paints on the Rock:

"The Rocks have become a long-standing symbol of free expression at the University of Calgary. While there is no official ownership of the Rocks, we encourage individuals who may be concerned with messages painted on the rocks to contact Campus Security who will review any hateful or offensive messages and determine next steps. That said, messages painted on the Rocks are often self-policed by students and can be painted over without due process if there is a difference in opinion, as was the case today. 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."

Beyond the U of C, controversial messages around campuses have been a heated topic as clashes occur between free speech



and hate speech around North America. The University of Michigan, which houses a campus fixture similar to the Rock at the U of C, saw anti-Latina paintings in September. The anti-Latina paintings led to a community gathering to paint over them with inclusive messages, according to *Michigan Daily*.

The University of Tennessee saw paintings such as “white pride” on their campus rock, another fixture similar to the one at the U of C. The University of Tennessee responded that while they disagree with the message painted on the Rock, those who had painted them were protected by their First Amendment right. And in November, the University of Toronto was the subject of white nationalist posters on its campus, *CityNews* reported.

According to a study by the Anti-Defamation League, white supremacist groups targeted college campuses in 2016 at an unprecedented rate. While the instances were mainly observed in the United States and larger campuses such as the University of Toronto, it is likely that it will remain an issue at the U of C in the coming year.

Cannon’s resignation:

Earlier in January, U of C president Elizabeth Cannon announced her resignation, effective Dec. 31, 2018. Cannon’s resignation was met with mixed reactions, similar to perceptions from her tenure at the U of C. Cannon’s landmark at the U of C included launching the Eyes High Strategy — a plan intended to establish the U of C as a top research university in Canada. Over the years, Cannon’s term was marked with controversies, including coming under fire for ties to the energy company Enbridge, her salary and the U of C’s drop in international rankings.

In 2015, a *CBC* investigation revealed that Enbridge had significant influence in shaping the Enbridge Centre for Corporate Sustainability on campus as a result of a large donation from the energy company. According to the *CBC*, documents obtained revealed academics leaving the U of C in response to corporate influence and “a university bending over backward to accommodate the apparent public relations ambitions of a corporate patron.” In response to the *CBC* report, the U of C launched an internal investigation led

by retired Justice Terrence MacMahon, which cleared Cannon and the U of C of any wrongdoing.

However, in October 2017, a report by Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) found the U of C’s relationship with Enbridge to have compromised academic integrity on campus. The U of C Board of Governors responded they “considered the matter closed” and cited the MacMahon report as “comprehensive” while claiming that “the CAUT investigation lacks legitimacy.”

In July 2017, the U of C dropped from 196th to 217th place on the QS World University Rankings, making it the second-lowest position the U of C has ever fell to on the QS rankings. The U of C blamed the drop on the addition of 43 new universities to the list, stating that other Canadian universities saw a drop in their rankings as well. However, some faculty members put the blame on Cannon’s leadership, including a legal battle with the SU and the controversies surrounding the U of C ties to Enbridge.

Other controversies of Cannon’s presidency include her salary, which is among the highest for university executives in Canada alongside the University of Alberta president. In April 2018, provincial Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt announced new regulations for post-secondary executive salaries. Earlier in the year, Schmidt called Alberta post-secondary executive salaries “out of step with the public service, the national average and the expectations of Albertans.”

Under the new rules, the presidents of the U of C and the U of A can both earn a minimum salary of \$349,800 and a maximum salary of \$447,000. Additionally, they will be able to receive up to about 20 per cent of their base salary in benefits. Cannon currently makes \$480,000 in base salary as well as an additional \$417,000 in benefits, while U of A president David Turpin has a \$500,000 base salary and receives \$324,000 in benefits. The changes to post-secondary executive salaries took place on April 15 for new and renewing contracts, meaning that Cannon’s replacement is impacted by the new regulations. Cannon’s replacement is chosen by a committee that includes members of the Board of Governors, faculty members and SU president Sagar Grewal.

At the U of A, students protested university budget cuts and increases to international students and residence fees while criticizing Turpin’s salary. According to the *Gateway*, a town hall with Turpin ended with protestors gathering outside of his office. Protests continued throughout March as students called on to the provincial government to reject U of A’s proposed budget. Schmidt expressed disappointment with the decisions made by U of A while also criticizing Turpin for his salary.

Beyond Alberta, post-secondary executives across Canada have seen a pushback to their salaries and compensation benefits. According to the *Eyeopener*, Ryerson University president Mohamed Lachemi made over \$410,000 — almost double the amount that Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne made.

With prominent national and provincial conversation concerning post-secondary executive salaries and several points of controversy of Cannon’s term, U of C students can reasonably expect for Cannon’s replacement search to remain an important issue on campus for the coming year.

Election policies:

SU position vacancies became a prominent issue at the U of C this year. SU election results were announced at The Den on March 8 after a new executive team and faculty representatives were selected by the student body. The election saw a voter turnout of 6,552 undergraduate U of C students, or 24.8 per cent. With the acclamation of Sagar Grewal as the new SU president, students elected the other four executive positions and faculty representatives. One of the two positions of engineering representative was announced vacant alongside the position of Werklund School of Education representative. However, the resignation of Puncham Judge as both the current and incoming vice-president external leaves the position vacant for a second time this year.

Judge, originally a Faculty of Arts representative, was appointed as the VP external by the Students’ Legislative Council when Shubir Shaikh resigned in the fall due to personal reasons. When applying for the position, Judge cited interest in running again in 2018. Judge taking over as VP external left the position of an arts representative vacant, which was filled once again via Nominations Committee through applications.

Judge ran for the position in March 2018, winning against her competitor Emma Hopper with 52 per cent of the vote. However, she resigned in April before officially taking office for a second year. The SU did not provide a reason for Judge's resignation, but 2017-18 SU president Branden Cave said her resignation was for "personal reasons."

According to Cave, the process for filling the vacant position is through the SU's Nominations Committee — the SU committee that appoints candidates to various committees and boards and deals with vacancies on SLC — to appoint an incoming faculty representative to the position. Cave added that the general student population can run for the position in the byelection in October. The SU holds byelections in order to elect students to positions that were left vacant after the general election or because an elected official has stepped down. When Shaikh resigned in September 2017, the deadline for a position to be eligible for the byelection had passed, leaving the position only available for application to SLC members.

The SU VP external advocates on behalf of undergraduate students at the U of C to all three levels of government. The VP external is also the SU's delegate, along with the SU president, on federal and provincial advocacy groups such as Canadian Alliance of Students' Association and Council of Alberta University Students. During the 2018 SU general election, both Hopper and Judge emphasized the importance of position in the lieu of upcoming provincial and federal elections. In the past, VP external has been in charge of initiatives such as 'get-out-the-vote' campaigns and advocating to all levels of government for issues such as market modifiers and secondary suites.

Along with vacancies, a large number of acclamations this past year brought forward the discussions of a yes or no vote for SU positions with only one candidate putting their name in the ring. Grewal told the *Gauntlet* he would have been fine running a campaign and a yes or no vote is "something that's worth thinking about." Former SU president Levi Nilson, who was also acclaimed to the position, has previously

echoed the same sentiment.

With two executive vacancies in recent memory and an increasing number of acclamations in SU general elections, adequately addressing such situations will likely remain an issue to look out for in the coming year.

Bermuda Shorts Day:

For the first time ever, students at the U of C had to pay to enter the beer gardens this year at the annual Bermuda Shorts Day — an end of the year celebration hosted by the SU that has seen attendance of over 8,000 students in the past. In March, the SU announced they will sell wristbands for \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door for the previously free event, citing concerns of financial sustainability and a lack of co-operation from the U of C.

Over the last number of years, the SU has seen the cost of BSD increase substantially. In 2017, the SU reported a net loss of nearly \$70,000. Then VP operations and finance Branden Cave noted declining drink sales as the reason for SU's loss. The SU also pays

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for security and lot rental for the event. Other expenses include providing free water bottles for students, along with renting ATMs and portable bathrooms for the event.

“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,” 2017–18 SU vice-president operations and finance Ryan Wallace told the *Gauntlet*.

Wallace, along with 2017–18 SU vice-president student life Hilary Jahelka expressed their frustration with the U of C as they worked to implement the new charge for the event. Jahelka and Wallace cited the U of C’s unwillingness to help cover the costs and said they were concerned as they believed BSD provides a safe environment for students.

“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,” Wallace said.

This year, U of C students noted a larger-than-usual attendance at “D-Block,” a term which generally refers to the residential area surrounding the U of C campus such as University Heights.

Third-year communications student and D-Block resident Kat Katsner noted the presence of CPS in the area. She added that students frequently requested to use residential homes’ bathrooms.

“It was very fun and a ton of people,” Katsner said. “[There was] lots of security — even one cop on a roof.”

Fourth-year health sciences student Lauren Hebert said her attendance at D-Block was not due to the newly implemented cost of BSD, but rather how fun the gathering was at D-Block.

“I haven’t formally attended D-Block in the past, but found it to be quite a big event this year,” Hebert said. “We were having fun so we just ended up staying and never made it to the gardens.”

Fourth-year science student Tyler Magwood echoed the same sentiment.

“I haven’t been to D-Block much before,” Magwood said. “It was a great way to spend my last BSD. [There were] a lot of people doing outrageous things, which is always fun to watch and take part in.”

2016–17 SU vice-president student life Patrick Ma previously told the *Gauntlet* he sees BSD evolving in one of two ways: a return to the previous free-entry model or an expanded event 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.

“If you’re going to charge for the event, at least make it big,” Ma told the *Gauntlet*.

According to the SU, they distributed 4,950 wristbands and saw 4,232 students attend this year’s BSD. In 2017, 8,880 wristbands were distributed and 5,871 students were in attendance.

Following the first year of a changing BSD, the evolution of the signature campus event will likely remain an important issue in the coming year.

MacHall Ballroom to receive up to \$2 million in renovations



Story by Ashar Memon
Photo by Mariah Wilson

This time next year, the MacHall Ballroom will look almost unrecognizable.

The Students' Union will begin extensive renovations to the Ballroom between January and April 2019. The Ballroom was first built in 1969 and has not had any major renovations since.

The 2017–18 Students' Legislative Council approved an extrabudgetary expenditure of up to \$2 million for the renovations, which 2017–18 vice-president operations and finance Ryan Wallace said will come in the form of a loan.

"We always put money into our spaces to keep them up to date," Wallace said. "But this would be the most extensive renovation that we've done in that space."

The Ballroom hosts events throughout the year for campus members and the greater public, from student club events to concerts. According to the SU, 169 events were held in the Ballroom in the 2016–17 academic year.

The renovation plans will address several problems currently plaguing the facility, such as insulation falling from the ceiling, holes in the floor and a faulty sound system. The plans also include renovating the stairway leading up to the Ballroom to ensure it follows safety standards.

Wallace added that he thinks the SU is in a good condition to take out a loan.

"The SU has had debt in the past — we've had a mortgage on the building in the past as well," Wallace said. "We're confident that with the low interest rates right now, this is a good time to do a big project like this."

Wallace added that plans to renovate the Ballroom were put on hold amid the dispute with the university over ownership of MacHall. Since the dispute was resolved in February, he said the SU felt their role in the building was solidified and they could resume the renovation plans.

According to documents provided by the SU, a Quality Money application was submitted in 2017 to address safety concerns in the Ballroom. The application was denied, as the SU expected a resolution to the MacHall dispute to become a "stronger possibility."

Wallace added that the SU expects to collaborate with the university in completing the renovations.

"Hopefully, we will be coming to them and asking them for support on this application, which may include financial support," he said. "The \$2 million that was approved by SLC is acting as a catalyst to hopefully have more funding moving forward."

The SU projects that the renovations will attract more events, as well as allow it to tap into different markets, such as summer weddings, increasing its annual revenue by \$327,000.

Wallace added that the January to April timeframe for the renovations was chosen because the Ballroom typically hosts fewer events within that window.

The SU expects to redevelop the entire MacHall building within the next 10 years. Wallace said the Ballroom likely won't be a part of that redevelopment but will instead be integrated into future plans.

"Students are going to get to see a piece of what their future students' centre might look like and hopefully we'll expand as future renovations happen in the building," he said.

Mackimmie Block to undergo renovations

Story by Ashar Memon

The University of Calgary has begun a large-scale redevelopment project of MacKimmie Tower, which will last until summer 2019. The renovations are part of a larger plan to redevelop the MacKimmie Complex and the Professional Faculties Building.

This summer, the link between Murray Fraser Hall and MacKimmie Tower will be removed. In March, a large crane was needed to remove the exterior panels on the tower, along with the roof to make way for two additional new floors.

After construction of the tower is completed in summer 2019, work will begin on MacKimmie Block and the link which connects it to the tower. U of C expects to finish construction of the entire MacKimmie Complex by 2022. And after that, the school will begin the redevelopment of the Professional Faculties building.

"This is one of the largest construction projects in recent campus history,

so we are thrilled to reveal to the campus community how the heart of main campus is being transformed with this project," associate vice-president Boris Dragicevic said in a *UToday* article ahead of an open house for the project in March.

The tower's new occupants will include the Faculties of Graduate Studies and Social Work. It will also provide a permanent space for the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, which is currently temporarily housed in MacHall.

In April 2016, the Alberta government announced initial funding for the planning stages of the project. Last year, the province committed \$270.6 million over four years for its construction.

"By investing over \$270 million, we'll be bringing the building up to code and putting those spaces to use to deliver to students' needs," Alberta Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt said when he announced the funds in March 2017.

Previously, the tower was plagued by several issues. Since 2013, the tower's top seven floors were barred from public access due to building code concerns. In 2015, a part of the tower was evacuated after a sewer backup caused flooding in the basement.

In May 2017, offices and services were relocated to locations on- and off-campus in preparation for the redevelopment and in September 2017 the tower was closed for interior "pre-construction activities."

The tower will be an "energy-efficient zero carbon building," the U of C says. The project will try to receive certification with Canada Green Building Council, a prominent environmental non-profit which advocates for sustainable building practices.

"More than 95 per cent of the construction materials will be recycled, such as the concrete, rebar and other materials," Dragicevic said in another *UToday* article.

The MacKimmie complex was originally constructed in 1963 and the tower was built in 1972.

Swann Mall renovations displace campus landmarks, including Rock, Prairie Chicken

Story by Jason Herring

The Prairie Chicken will make a rare migration this summer. Construction on the University of Calgary campus will displace a number of iconic campus landmarks, including the Prairie Chicken and the Rock.

Redevelopment of the MacKimmie Complex and Professional Faculties building will close Swann Mall — the green space between the MacKimmie Complex, Administration, Murray Fraser Hall and Science A — until Aug. 26. The area will be excavated for underground utility and landscaping work. It will partially reopen to pedestrian traffic at the start of the upcoming fall semester.

The Prairie Chicken, which has been

on campus since 1975, is an iconic piece of campus art, situated atop the hill outside Science A that is well-populated by lounging students on warm afternoons. The 4.5-ton sculpture will leave its home during the summer and be stored by the U of C elsewhere until its reinstallation in 2022. Additionally, the hill where the Prairie Chicken currently sits will be flattened as part of the landscaping of Swann Mall. The U of C would not specify where the artwork is moving to.

The Rock — a campus mainstay that students paint messages on — will also move from its current space outside MacKimmie, but will find a temporary home between Science A and MacHall. The flagpole outside MacKimmie will move permanently to a space near the U of C's main entrance off 24th Ave.,

while the Canadian flag that the school puts to half-mast will move to a flagpole outside of the Rosza Centre.

Other Swann Mall artifacts, such as the "Garden of Learning" sculpture currently situated outside the Administration building and memorial plaques on benches and trees, will also be stored by the U of C in an unspecified location.

In addition to these objects, students may have noticed the removal of trees from the Swann Mall area starting in early April. The U of C says those trees were removed early so as not to impact nesting birds. The school has also said that, after consultation with an arborist, it will retain only about one-third of the trees currently in the area. However, it will add about 150 new trees to the redeveloped area.



University of Calgary to offer free LSAT prep for low-income students

Story by Tina Shaygan and Ashar Memon. Photo by Mariah Wilson.

The University of Calgary Faculty of Law will begin offering a free Law School Admission Test (LSAT) prep course for “high-potential, low-income” students.

According to the faculty’s director of recruiting and admission Catherine Valestuk, the idea was inspired by similar programs run at the University of Toronto and York University and is sponsored by the law firm Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

“We know there are access-to-justice issues across the country,” Valestuk said. “We know that some of those are socioeconomic. It’s a small thing in many ways, but it’s an exciting step.”

Valestuk added that the faculty currently has funding to offer the course for three years. She said the 15-week program, which will run over the summer, is best for students looking to take the September LSAT and will provide assistance with law school applications along with preparation for the test.

In addition to teaching LSAT material, Valestuk said the course will feature a panel by current lawyers to talk about their experiences, as well as other “enrichment experiences” to better inform students about the work of lawyers and

law students. Valestuk added that the student-run Students’ Legal Assistance program at the U of C has also offered shadowing opportunities for students in the program.

The course will accept 15 applicants this year as the faculty assesses its success, Valestuk said. She added that there will be attendance taken throughout the course and participants have to attend a majority of the sessions in order to remain enrolled in the course.

“We’ll consider it a success if somebody gets into a law school,” Valestuk said. “It doesn’t have to be our law school.”

Valestuk said a “high-potential” student is defined as those with at least a B+ cumulative grade point average in their last two years. Low income cut-offs will be defined by Alberta Student Loans’ guidelines.

Each summer the course will be taught by a current U of C law student. Third-year law student Kaye Booth will be the program’s inaugural instructor. Valestuk said Booth had a “killer” LSAT score and a background in teaching.

“I have no lawyers in my family and met very few lawyers before coming to law school,” Booth said in an email. “I know that if I had more opportunities to meet

lawyers and law students, be inside the law school and learn more about what law school would be like, I would have been far less intimidated about my transition into law school.”

Valestuk said that the faculty has more plans to make applying to law school more accessible for students from all backgrounds, some of which will be introduced later this year. Valestuk said programs such as the Student Assistance Fund offer \$5,000 upon demonstrated financial need for things such as travel expenses for family illness or bereavement, tuition support or medical and dental expenses. She said students with financial need can also apply for a Differential Tuition Bursary that can reduce the cost of tuition for them.

She added that more law schools around North America are recognizing the role of diversity in keeping law schools and the greater legal community more relevant to the general population.

“We know that a diverse student body is a good thing,” Valestuk said. “We know that having students from lots of different backgrounds and different perspectives makes for a more vibrant learning environment and a better law school.”

Arts Lounge to get major facelift

Story by Ashar Memon

Arts students can look forward to an upgraded study space this fall after the University of Calgary renovates the Arts Lounge over the spring and summer.

The Arts Lounge is a student-run space located on the main floor of the Social Sciences building. It was established in February 2013 through a grant from the Quality Money program — a partnership between the Students' Union and the U of C for projects that improve quality of life on campus. The Arts Lounge underwent minor renovations in 2014 to add more furniture.

Faculty of Arts associate dean of research and infrastructure Brian Moorman said the current renovations will add new interior finishing and millwork, along with sound baffling in the ceiling. It will also see the creation of two new bookable workrooms.

"The renovations are part of an initia-

tive from the Provost's Office to improve student spaces on campus," Moorman said in an email. "This helps create some equity across faculties."

The renovations are expected to cost \$380,000. Funds will be drawn from the U of C's Facility Alteration Request program, which was established by U of C provost Dru Marshall in 2012.

Moorman said that construction is expected to be completed before classes begin in the fall semester. He added that the renovation plans were made in consultation with SU Arts representatives and the Faculty of Arts Students' Association (FASA), which manages the space.

"It has been a student-driven design process," Moorman said.

FASA vice-president operations and finance Graham Duff said the club had been considering renovations for quite some time.

"I actually had a list of things that had been brainstormed with the last two lounge managers because we had been in-

terested in putting forward a large Quality Money grant," Duff said.

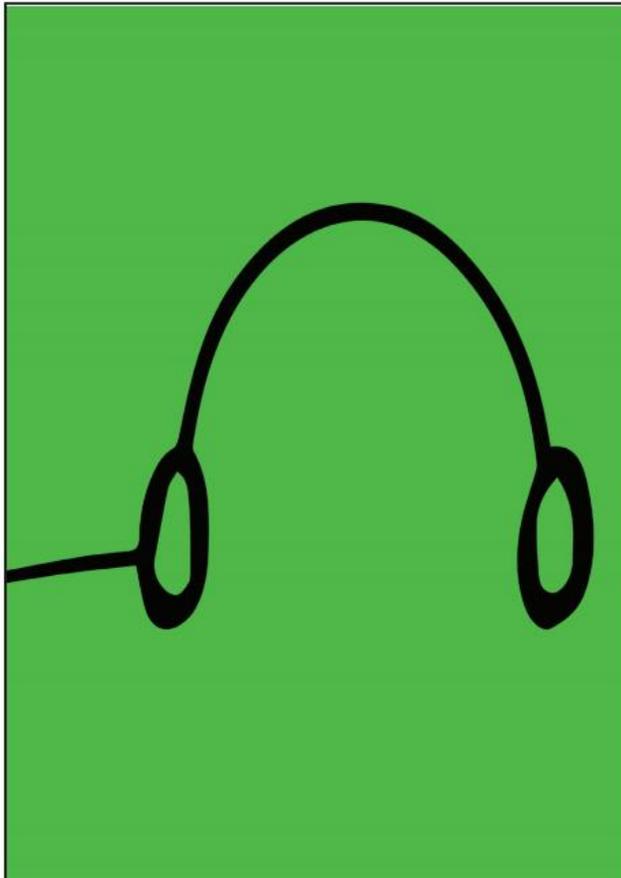
Duff said the renovations will also include new tables, seating and a printer connected to the university's current wireless printing network. The kitchen will also be upgraded to include more micro-waves and kettles.

FASA has managed the Arts Lounge virtually since its inception in 2013, according to Duff. He added that FASA will continue to manage the space after the renovations.

"It is the informal arrangement between us and the faculty, which we are grateful for, but we also think it's the best way that students can manage the student-managed space," he said.

FASA doesn't expect to change its management responsibilities as a result of the renovations. However, Duff expects the responsibilities to grow as the space becomes more popular.

"Hopefully it will just be a nicer-looking lounge that is more useful for everyone," Duff said.



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What the Health and Dental survey means for student insurance

Story by Matt Hume

Photos by Mariah Wilson

At the April 10 meeting of the Student Legislative Council, outgoing Students' Union vice-president operations and finance Ryan Wallace presented results from a SU Health and Dental Plan student survey, launched at the beginning of the winter 2018 semester. The survey is a follow-through on his original campaign goal of reviewing the existing Health and Dental Plan in an effort to mitigate financial losses and ensure students' needs are met within the plan's coverage.

According to Wallace's third-trimester report, the survey is a response to two issues regarding the existing insurance plan. The first issue was the discrepancy between the cost of providing the program and the fees collected from students. The second issue involved students who begin programs in the summer months and don't have access to their health and dental plan until September.

According to Wallace's report from October 2017, 2,500 of students are estimated to utilize the plan's dental benefits. Of the nearly 16,400 currently covered by the Health and Dental Plan, 2,566 made insurance claims during the 2016–17 fiscal year. For every student over the estimation, the SU faces a \$400 charge. The overage of 66 students resulted in a \$26,400 charge to the SU — a large increase from the \$9,695 overage charge in 2015–16. The overage charges are covered by the SU's Health and Dental Reserve Fund — which exists for this very reason.

According to Wallace, the survey had 2,426 individuals, or 14.8 per cent of the students currently covered by the SU Health and Dental Plan. Fifty-two per cent of respondents said that the SU Health and Dental Plan is their only option for affordable insurance. In addition, Wallace said that respondents



highlighted an interest in expanding dental and vision coverage.

The SU Health and Dental Plan is provided by Gallivan: Student Health & Wellness. For \$193 per year, full-time undergraduate students under the age of 70 are eligible for coverage through the plan. According to the SU, the \$193 annual rate is the least expensive coverage when compared to other Albertan institutions such as the University of Alberta at \$235 per year and Mount Royal University at \$265 per year. The SU also reports that the health plan and dental plan fees have not increased since 1993 and 1991, respectively.

Prescription drugs are additionally relevant considering a 1994 referendum in which U of C students voted to approve a reduction in prescription drug coverage, mitigated by the National Managed Drug Formulary which qualifies many prescription medications for insurance coverage. For the under-

graduate demographic, a common connection to prescription drug coverage is mental health.

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, anxiety disorders affect five per cent of the country's household population. In a 2010 article in the Statistics Canada Catalogue, Stats Canada analyst Heather Gilmour reported that the 15–24 age group is more likely to experience mental illness than any other demographic. Additionally, the lowest income group of Canadians are three to four times more likely to report poor mental health than the highest income group.

In a 2016 article for the *Canadian Journal of Psychology*, researchers found that only half of Canadians undergoing a major depressive episode receive "potentially adequate care." Such care includes consultation with a health professional and prescription medications. According to a 2014 survey on living with

chronic illness in Canada, the Government of Canada stated that 23 per cent of Canadians did not consult a health professional at all about their mental disorders within the past year, while 93 per cent of Canadians with mood or anxiety disorders have or were currently taking prescription medication and only 23 per cent received psychological counseling. The existing coverage under the SU Health and Dental Plan reflects these trends.

Students can be reimbursed at 80 per cent to a maximum of \$3,000 for prescription drugs. Alberta College of Family Physicians figures show many common medications for mental health treatment and beyond fall within the current coverage. Antidepressants can range from \$140 per year for citalopram — which is covered by both Alberta Blue Cross and Indian Affairs — to \$1,120 per year for treating extreme cases of depression with desvenlafaxine, which is not covered by Blue Cross or Indian Affairs. Anti-anxiety medication is even less of a burden under existing coverage, with most medications sitting at approximately \$80 per year. Contraceptives often range from \$200–340 per year, which is well within the Health and Dental Plan's coverage.

In the case of treatment from health practitioners, the SU Health and Dental

Plan allows students to be reimbursed at 80 per cent to a maximum of \$20 per visit for a maximum of \$300 per year. And when the cost of private counseling or therapy can range from \$50–240 as reported by Informed Choices About Depression, the current plan is reflective of discrepancy between treatment through medications and professional therapy.

Regardless, the primary concerns from students, according to Wallace, fall under vision and dental coverage. The current SU plan reimburses students at 100 per cent at a maximum of \$50 for an eye exam and a maximum of \$150 for glasses and contacts once every two years. Dental coverage is similarly snug, allowing students to be reimbursed only at Dental Choice locations at 100 per cent for a maximum of \$750 per year. When a dental checkup and cleaning can cost upwards of \$260 in Alberta, and cavity fillings as high as \$250, the cost of treatment can add up quickly.

Still, the yearly fee of \$193 per year for the SU Health and Dental plan is comparatively low — sitting \$72 dollars lower than MRU. A financial analyst at a Calgary Co-operators Insurance location told the *Gauntlet* a basic health and dental plan for an average individual whose employer has opted to pay half of

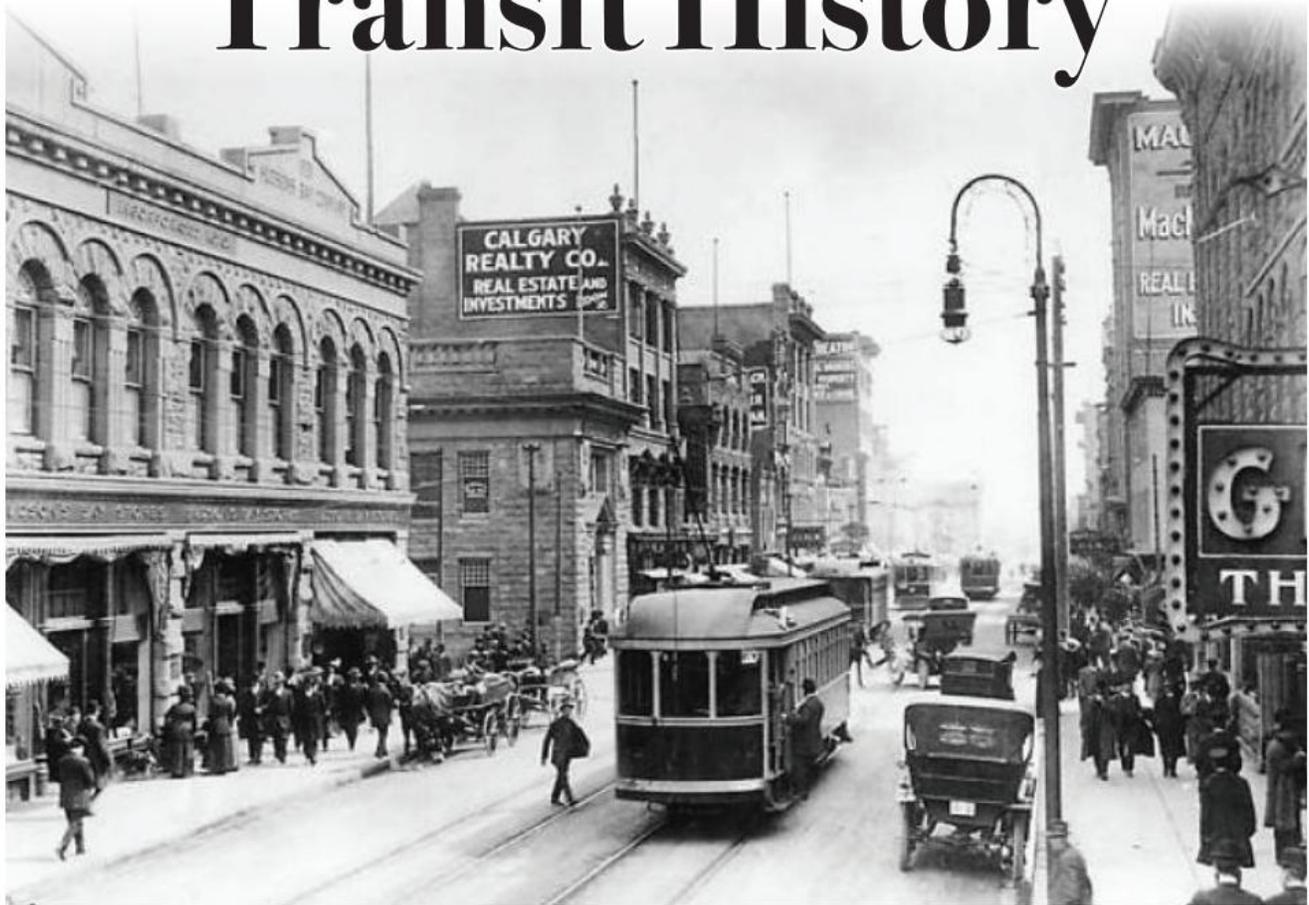
the fees would still be paying approximately \$480 per year. The analyst also suggested that a quote for an individual health and dental plan from a Blue Cross competitor would start at around \$936 for a 20-year-old male. And in regards to the massive overage charges to the SU over the past two years, a company like the Co-operators would not charge overage fees for a group plan, but would “adjust” premiums based on the extra rates in the next year. Considering the static longstanding static fee for the SU’s plan, leaving a provider like Gallivan may do more harm than good in the long term.

According to his April 10 report, Wallace hopes the SU will continue to consult with students to assess their needs and assess a new health and dental fee that minimizes the overage charges incurred over the past two years. Wallace also states that the SU and U of C are moving to implement a “rolling 12 program,” meaning a new 12-month financial period will begin on the first day of each month, potentially addressing the problem of summer students being ineligible for coverage until the fall.

Wallace’s report indicating the findings of the health and dental survey can be found on the SU website.



The City of Calgary's Transit History



Story by Mariah Wilson

Public transit is a vital part of any urban environment. It can define a city through its integration of public art, like in the underground tunnels of Stockholm, or its impressive speed, like the blazing maglev train in Shanghai. Whether people find their city's public transit charming or down-right frustrating, it provides them with the mobility and accessibility they need to navigate the places where they work and live.

But public transit is much more than simply the bus routes and LRT lines that we interact with everyday. Through the city's 109-year history of public transportation,

we can observe the ways we get around and the structure of our city. Here's a brief history of Calgary's transit development over time.

Streetcars

In 1909, the city began operating 12 streetcars to provide its growing number of residents with a means of transportation, as most working-class Calgarians couldn't afford personal vehicles. It debuted as the first skyscraper was built in Calgary — the six-storey Grain Exchange on First St. SW. Even from the early 20th century, it's evident how the corporate development of

the downtown core influenced the urban form of public space and public amenities. The creation of these streetcars was the first step in Calgary becoming a truly modern city.

The streetcar system was dubbed the "Calgary Electric Railway" and had a terminal point at the Stampede grounds. It wouldn't be renamed "Calgary Transit System" until 1946 when diesel and electric-powered buses became more popular. At this junction, transit served communities as far north as Tuxedo Park and as far west as Parkdale.

A 1998 PBS documentary titled *Calgary*

Remembered features interviews with residents who grew up with the streetcars, warmly recounting the joy and amusement they experienced from the new mode of transportation. One resident remembers holding onto the back of one of the streetcars while riding his bike. Another remembers splitting their streetcar ticket in half to take two rides when in economic straits.

Communities such as Marda Loop and Bowness would not have developed into their current form without the influence of the streetcar system. Marda Loop was the turnaround point for the Marda line. Through this, it became a thriving core for urban life and street activity. The former town of Bowness, on the other hand, was not annexed into Calgary until the 1960s. At the time, it received streetcar service in return for building a steel bridge and giving the city some of its land, which later became Bowness Park. James Hextall, the landowner of Bowness, wanted to develop it into a community where “the wealthy could enjoy the pleasures of a large country home on the banks of Bow River.” Bowness has since become a thriving community within Calgary. Today, the steel bridge that carried streetcars over the Bow River between downtown Calgary and Bowness is named the James Hextall Bridge and is used for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Even though Calgary’s last streetcar retired from official public transit use in 1950, you may still have rode it — the restored trolley now operates at Heritage

Park where it shuttles park visitors.

Buses

Calgary first started offering a bus service in 1932 by introducing gas-fuelled buses to connect communities that didn’t have access to streetcars. During the 1940s, electric buses and electric trolley buses were added to the mix. These buses were eventually replaced by diesel buses between 1950 and 1975, as the city grew by half-a-million people and needed a more reliable and economically feasible service. Our current BRT system and 305 route are considered the replacements for the Blue Arrow service that was introduced in 1972, providing limited-stop routes for quicker service.

Over the past few decades, Calgary Transit’s bus service has seen its share of controversy, strikes and milestones. The Amalgamated Transit Union reported that in 1961, employees of the Calgary Transit System were forced to “engage in one of the longest municipal transit strikes in Canadian history” — a 37-day affair. The union referred to then-mayor Harry Hays as an “arch conservative” for running on a campaign that would reduce the city’s transit expenses during a period of high inflation. When the transit workers asked for



of downtown Calgary to protest increased ridership fees imposed by Calgary Transit. Their November 1968 protest demonstrated the students’ dissatisfaction with the city’s decision and the need for affordable ways to get around the city.

Light Rail Transit (LRT) / CTrain

On May 25, 1981, Calgary opened a 10.9-kilometre CTrain line running from Anderson Road to Seventh Ave. SW one of the first municipal transit systems in North America to operate a light rail system. Over the years, the CTrain system has grown to encompass far-reaching areas of the city and now boasts 56.2 km of track between both the blue and red lines. The city plans to expand the LRT system with a green line that will run north-to-south, with funding from the provincial and federal government.

Similar to the proposed design of the new green line, which will have its downtown section underground, the original CTrain line was planned to run underneath Eighth Ave. instead of Seventh Ave. above ground. The tunnels were constructed but later abandoned after the city ran \$23.3 million over their intended budget. In 2008, *Global News* reporter Doug Vaessen explored these tunnels with then-mayor Dave Bronconnier by climbing down a ladder from the City Hall parkade. Vaessen claimed the tunnels were made “to link the trains on the northwest and the south lines with the tunnel continuing down Stephen Ave. to 10th St.” The *Calgary Herald* poked fun at these tunnels in February of 2008, saying that these empty tunnels “will probably remain [as] just another lonely shrine



an eight-per-cent wage increase to reflect the growing inflation rates, Hays responded, “I’ll see you in Hell before you get another penny.” A resolution was finally reached when the city agreed to a nine-cent wage increase for all transit employees.

At the tail end of the 1960s, post-secondary students

Features

to all of Calgary's would-have, should-have, could-have done."

The City of Calgary has hinted at the potential of using these tunnels for future LRT expansion, but hasn't yet made it clear if and how that would happen. Additionally, Seventh Ave.'s transit-heavy designation has made it a place where once-lively street activity has moved to malls and other indoor areas. In Stephanie White's book *Unbuilt Calgary*, she describes how having sidewalks "squeezed by a street wall of either the inhospitable bases of office towers or downmarket pawn shops is all too narrow and too inconsistent."

Political controversy also surrounds discussions around expansions to the CTrain system in the last decade. In 2010, Bronconnier abstained from making any decisions on the location of the West LRT Sunalta station, as he owned a commercial property whose value would increase by 15 per cent if the station was built nearby. In the end, council decided to include Bronconnier's property within the area of

rezoning. Bronconnier claimed to have owned that building since his days as an alderman in the '90s — around the time that redevelopment plans were in talks at City Hall.

A more recent political standoff took place during the 2017 mayoral election. Runner-up Bill Smith campaigned during the election on re-evaluating the already-approved green line LRT. At the time, provincial infrastructure minister Brian Mason told press outlets that funding for the project wasn't guaranteed if details of the project changed. These are two examples of political battles surrounding and arguably shaping aspects of the city's public transit infrastructure.

Looking ahead

Within the last 100 years, Calgary's transit system has changed dramatically to keep up with the evolving demographic and urban form of the city. In many ways, the city's transit has shaped the social landscape of the city and has encouraged cer-

tain lifestyles that are uniquely Calgarian.

The city has proposed a transit plan called RouteAhead that outlines a 30-year plan for the city to increase pedestrian-friendly areas, increase the frequency and accessibility of public transit and increase the sustainability of the system as a whole. But beyond the to-be-built green line, there aren't many specifics available about what the city's public transit future looks like. Who knows? Maybe we'll even develop a high-speed rail system between Calgary and Edmonton.

While it's practically a local pastime to complain about Calgary Transit, the city's transit system is worth celebrating. In the 2017 Transit Report Card of Major Canadian Regions, an annual grading of the country's transit systems, Calgary received an A+ — on par with Vancouver and behind only Montreal. And while there is certainly more work needed to create a city that's as mobile as we deserve, Calgarians should be proud of the 100 years that have gone into creating our current network.



Photo by Peter Cox

Students should prioritize their wellness amid relentless academic stress



By Jesse Stilwell
Photo by Mariah Wilson

Exams often make students engage in some unhealthy practices in order to achieve success. It can seem impossible to maintain a healthy diet, an exercise schedule and spend time with friends and family, all while reviewing for multiple important exams. Some curriculums force this level of stress on students for entire semesters, causing them to scramble to just get by rather than thrive.

Academica Group recently surveyed 3,000 students and recent graduates from Alberta post-secondaries to compare their quality of life. They drew comparisons between employed students, unemployed students and employed graduates.

The results aren't surprising. Employed students reported low levels of physical activity and infrequent social interactions, as well as low-quality diets. Unemployed students weren't much better. But graduates were doing quite well — 33 per cent reported they had spent quality time with friends or family in the past 24 hours. Only 25 per cent of stu-

dents, employed or not, had seen a loved one in the past week.

University is supposed to prepare students for life after education. Graduates should be critical thinkers who are prepared to question the world around them and make it better. On that note, students should question the overwhelming stress and ensuing unhealthy habits and why the current state of academia necessitates such circumstances.

Students are taking more time to finish their degrees, giving themselves more room to enjoy their studies and actually get something out of the experience of being on campus. Five years to complete a degree is the new four and no one should be ashamed of taking extra time to get through what could be among the most difficult years of their lives.

Students are encouraged to engage in multiple extra-curricular activities and opportunities to build resumés that stand a chance post-graduation of finding a job and building a life because academics are no longer enough. This means that even though universities are

offering more and more resources to improve student wellness, it can be difficult to find the time to take advantage of these by going to a counselling appointment, having some fun at puppy rooms or even just cooking a nice meal.

University should not be a race or a test of students' wills to survive. The mental health crisis that students are enduring is a product of society's relentless pursuit of capitalist success. It shouldn't be taken as a sign that someone is slacking off if they choose to go out with friends on weekends instead of studying and it shouldn't be a luxury to enjoy a workout during midterm season.

Universities must continue to emphasize student experience and student wellness if education is going to be sustainable. Students shouldn't question themselves if they choose to take one less class each semester in order to give themselves more time to enjoy their time on campus. Universities should strive to help students get closer to the results that graduates reported in terms of their self-care and time spent with friends.

Canadians should be wary of potential election meddling in 2019

By Kayle Van't Klooster

Recent actions by the consulting firm Cambridge Analytica should worry Canadians. The company was founded in 2013 by Robert Mercer and Steve Bannon. The pair has proven to be an effective political operative and they're partially responsible for the recent surge of far-right politics across the world. Bannon also founded *Breitbart*, a controversial far-right publication which rose to prominence after the election of United States President Donald Trump when Bannon was named White House chief strategist. While Mercer's career has been less public than Bannon's, his work to promote far-right policies around the world has been very effective. The pair have supported far-right movements in the Netherlands, France, Germany and many other countries.

The activities of Cambridge Analytica

became well-known recently after an explosive, investigative piece by the British broadcaster Channel 4. This was the result of a concerted effort by the firm to remain as secretive as possible, achieved by operating through dummy-corporations, auto-deleting communications like emails and failing to report their electoral contributions to appropriate authorities. All this secrecy makes it difficult to decipher how serious of a threat these operatives are to democracy and complicates the process of distinguishing facts from conspiracy theories. The public has only gotten bits and pieces of the story behind Cambridge Analytica's activities.

With provincial and federal elections scheduled for 2019, Canadians have a right to know whether similar tactics are being employed to influence the outcomes of Canadian elections. After successes in the Trump and Brexit cam-

paigns, Cambridge Analytica, as well as any other emerging firms with similar goals, have incentives to attempt to influence elections north of the border. Canadian politics are already heavily influenced by events in the U.S. and it would not take much to retune the instruments of disinformation that wreaked havoc on the American elections to take place in Canada. *Rebel Media*, a Canadian online publication similar in content to *Breitbart*, has already been alleged to have connections to the online effort to influence the French election.

In today's world there is a constant torrent of information at everyone's fingertips, but it's essential that we all employ critical thinking to determine what is fact and what is intended to confuse voters politically. Always remember to check your sources and the evidence when reading anything online. You only have one vote. Make sure it's informed.



Calgary's Olympic bid process is reckless

By Derek Baker

The City of Calgary is currently exploring options for a bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympics. After a fiery City Council meeting on April 10, which presented Calgary's bid corporation's (BidCo) current public engagement status, city councillors voted 9–6 in favour of continuing to explore the city's potential bid on April 16.

The process of examining whether the city should bid to host the Games has been an absolute mess, to put it bluntly.

Controversy intensified in March when a false report claiming federal and provincial funding for the bid corporation was secured was published and then removed by the city, frustrating councillors and the public alike.

Concerns about the neutrality of BidCo have also been raised. The point of the Olympic BidCo is to determine whether hosting the Games is in the city's best interests and whether or not Calgarians support the bid. However, the exploratory committee has been called out for their seeming lack of neutrality on the matter. During the April 10 council meeting Ward 7 Councillor Druh Farrell was sharp in her criticism of the perceived lack of neutrality of BidCo's public engagement plan and the composition of the corporation itself.

The engagement plan has been revised

to stress neutrality, though this is an empty aspiration given the already preconceived bias of the committee. In the *Calgary Herald*, Ward 4 Councillor Sean Chu noted that even after the revisions the public has already lost trust and credibility in the process.

The city has reportedly already spent around \$6 million on this botched process. In mid-March, Council voted to inject another \$2.5 million of funding into BidCo. What any of that money actually goes towards is not transparent, as BidCo is not subject to Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

This city is under enormous financial constraints. In 2018 alone, the city is projected to deal with a \$170-million shortfall. The estimated cost for hosting the Games is \$4.6 billion. The provincial and federal debt is also growing, further constraining their funding ability. From a simplistic budgetary point of view, hosting the Olympics in the current situation is reckless.

Arguments in favour of hosting the Olympics in Calgary usually fall into three general categories. First, investment in the Games and resulting attendees is claimed to bolster a city's infrastructure and economy. Second, there is the nostalgia factor for Calgarians who experienced hosting the 1988 Calgary Games. And third, there is some claim to "prestige" by

putting Calgary on an international stage.

The economic impact of hosting the Olympics is not conclusive and varies from host to host. A longform piece by James McBride from the Council on Foreign Relations notes that hosting Olympic Games has not increased long-term employment and has left cities — and countries — straddled with massive levels of debt. Going off recent Games, a net economic benefit of hosting is implausible.

The other two claims are emotional in nature. Myself and many other younger Calgarians who were not yet born and those who moved here after 1988 do not feel the nostalgic desire to recreate the previous event. And it's simply ridiculous for Calgarians to have such an inferiority complex about their city that they need the validation and recognition of the world through hosting the Olympics.

Calgary's potential bid will likely culminate in a plebiscite held in the fall, asking whether citizens support the bid or not. Though the result would be non-binding, it would give a clear indication to councillors whether or not Calgarians wish to see the city host the Games. Ultimately, the will of the electorate should be followed, regardless of the outcome. Hopefully, citizens will be able to make an informed choice, provided by ample and neutral information about the potential risks and benefits of the games.

Campus quips: Should Calgary bid for the 2026 Olympics?



"I'm indifferent. Olympics are great for national spirit."

– Lilli Carr, third-year economics



"The benefits are overstated. It's an outdated ego competition."

– Karan Brar, first-year natural science



"As a sports fan, I support the bid at the right cost."

– Rushil Krishna, fourth-year political science



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It is about the real value of a real education,
which has almost nothing to do with knowledge,
and everything to do with simple awareness;
awareness of what is so real and essential.

– David Foster Wallace



Faculty of Arts

Welcome to the alumni family! You are now a member of a talented and diverse group of Faculty of Arts graduates who have built extensive knowledge and skills. Through your hard work and perseverance, you have laid a foundation for deep understanding of the human condition and you are poised to make valuable contributions to your community. We are so proud of all you have accomplished during your time on campus and look forward to staying in touch.

- Richard Sigurdson, Dean

Environmental Design

The faculty and staff of the Faculty of Environmental Design congratulate our 2018 graduates at having achieved this important milestone on the way to professional careers in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and planning. Leveraging the disruptive power of design thinking, you will help transform the quality of our buildings, cities, and landscapes.

- John L. Brown, Dean

Graduate Studies

Congratulations to all students who earned graduate degrees this year. Your research has made a lasting contribution to knowledge in your field of study, and the advanced training you received has prepared you to become a leader, whether in research, your profession or your community.

- Lisa Young, Dean

Haskayne School of Business

Congratulations! You have worked hard and learned so much.

The staff and faculty of the Haskayne School of Business are proud of your accomplishments, and we respect and admire your determination and commitment. Yet, even while you celebrate your accomplishments at Haskayne, this is only the beginning of an exciting future of new opportunities. As you become an alumni of the Haskayne School, I invite you to proudly follow in the footsteps of nearly 25,000 Haskayne graduates who are improving our world in over 80 countries. I encourage you to stay connected with your school, to be active in our alumni communities and networks, and to always remember Mr. Haskayne's words of wisdom: "At the end of the day, the most important thing is your reputation." Use your education to make a difference on our world, and to build a great reputation for yourself.

- Jim Dewald, Dean

Kinesiology

On behalf of the Faculty of Kinesiology, I would like to offer the graduating kinesiology students my sincerest congratulations. We are very proud of what you have accomplished. Your energy and enthusiasm for learning has helped to shape the faculty and the University of Calgary. As our newest alumni, my wish for you is that you will continue to lead the way to an active and healthy life for yourself and others, and that you will continue to share your love of learning. I wish you all the best in the future, and hope you will stay in touch so we can share in your achievements.

-Walter Herzog, Interim Dean

Nursing

To our nursing graduates and newest alumni: congratulations and best wishes on your convocation from the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary! We share your excitement and pride in this achievement and look forward to your leadership in health care.

- Dianne Tapp, Dean

Schulich School of Engineering

Congratulations on your achievements. You have shaped our school with your passion, innovation and dedication. Be proud of joining the thousands of engineering alumni who are using their skills to make this world a better place. And know that we cannot wait to see what you will achieve next.

- Bill Rosehart, Dean

Science

On behalf of all members of the Faculty of Science, congratulations on completing your science degree! As you embrace this new life chapter, you will discover that a career in science presents many exciting opportunities and stimulating challenges. I trust that you will be guided by your curiosity, creativity and critical-thinking skills to make a meaningful impact in your profession and community. We look forward to keeping in touch and hearing about your successes as you join a dynamic and rapidly growing network of alumni.

-Lesley Rigg, Dean

Social Work

On behalf of the Faculty of Social Work I'd like to offer you my personal congratulations and gratitude. You've thrown your heart and soul into your degree, and I thank you for your energy and commitment. We hope your education has given you the tools you need to create a rewarding future as social work professionals. Take what you've learned to become agents of positive change in your community, reflecting the values and commitment we share as a profession. All the best.

- Jackie Sieppert, Dean

Werklund School of Education

On behalf of the Werklund School of Education, I extend congratulations to all of our graduating students. To succeed in today's complex world requires constant learning. Although this part of your journey has come to an end, we understand that your education will carry on. We are confident that whichever path you follow, you will continue to advance your knowledge and make a positive contribution to the community.

- Dennis Sumara, Dean

Students should take advantage of available conference funding

By Kent Wong

Photo by Mariah Wilson

As a University of Calgary student, you're eligible to receive funding to attend academic conferences. Initiatives to fund students' attendance include programs like the Schulich Activity Fund. Similar opportunities are available in the Faculties of Arts and Science. This funding doesn't necessarily have to go towards travel — it can be used to pay for other expenses such as research equipment. Regardless, neglecting to apply for these programs that can supplement degrees can cause students to miss out on valuable opportunities.

Applications for faculty-specific funding are usually found on the respective faculties' websites. The U of C and the Students' Union also provide funding for undergraduates, with applications on their websites as well. These applications usually involve a short form and a written component about why a student deserves the funding and how the opportunity will enhance their studies.

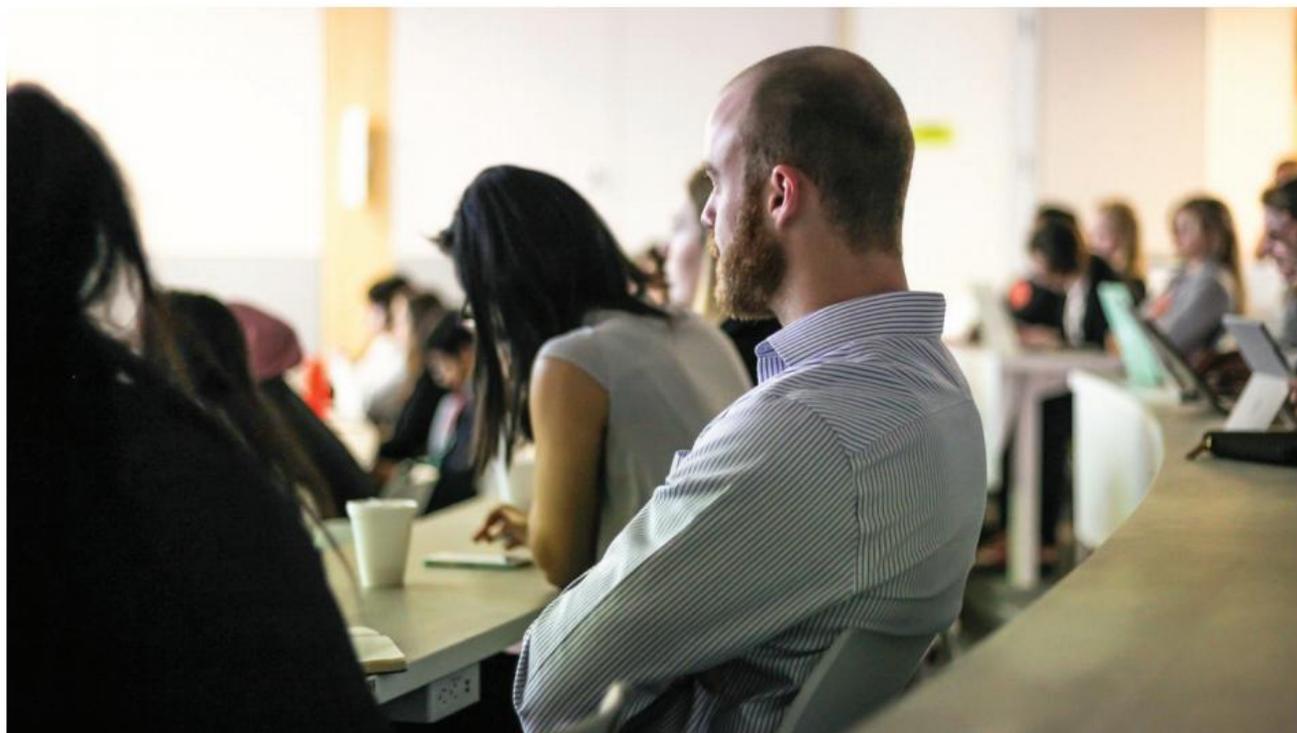
Gaining industry experience during your degree is an important pursuit that many students miss out on. Students enrolled in anything from communications to math have their perceptions of the outside world shaped only by their professors, who may have worked in academia. At most conferences, there is a networking portion where employers and sponsors have booths similar to career fairs. Students can attend technical workshops and learn about relevant skills in their field. If you've ever complained about a lack hands-on learning in favour of theory overload in classrooms, then an industry conference can demonstrate practical applications of your degree.

By attending such an event, you can also meet like-minded peers in your field. You can also listen to speeches that would make others in your faculty envious. Melinda Gates of the Gates Foundation and Dr. Fei Fei Li, the director of Stanford AI Lab and chief scientist at Google Cloud were among the speakers at Grace Hopper 2017, a conference dedicated to bringing research

and career opportunities to women. More important than those onstage are the people you get to meet. From those at hiring fairs, vendors and fellow conference-goers, there's bound to be someone you connect with.

Funding flexibility is also extremely valuable. Recent Innovation Development and Experiential Activities in Science (IDEAS) fund participants received funding to acquire equipment for research on water quality in Calgary. Others went to Australia and Guatemala or launched the Calgary Hacks hackathon. Thinking of grad school? Making use of available funds and having a cool undergrad research project would definitely help your application stand out above the crowd.

Conference funding at the U of C will become more competitive as more become aware of the opportunities available. Research is vital to the student experience and students should be encouraged to apply. It's a wonderful opportunity to expand your degree that shouldn't be ignored.



When to get off toxic dating apps

By Lady Marmalade

If you've been on Tinder for a while, you've probably matched with a few people and even met up with some. Regardless, if you are currently on the app, there's a chance that you haven't found love yet. If this is true, you've probably fallen into the habit of swiping simply as a hobby and finding yourself hating the app. But why can't you find the nerve to delete it? Life could be easier — there would be none of the near-constant rejection, you'd feel less superficial about the act of swiping and you'd probably have more free time on your hands. Yet the app still remains on your phone, sucking up your energy, your time and maybe even your self-respect.

The most obvious answer is that you crave making human connections or the sweet, sweet dopamine rush that you get when you match with a real cutie. You probably don't go through and delete old message threads or unmatched with people

you never connected with because of the off-chance someone discovers you deep in their account and realizes they missed out on a gem. Still, it can feel like nobody you talk to has similar goals or intentions. And being ghosted or catfished is seriously disheartening.

People often say that they are sick of the app but can't seem to bring themselves to delete it. They justify it based on a fear of missing out — what if they miss a message? Or a connection with “the one”? The amount of unknowns that dating apps create puts you in a strange limbo of feeling confident and completely in the dark. Unless you find someone you click with and you live happily ever after, it's a cycle that is at best annoying and at worst seriously demoralizing.

It's fine to spend some time looking through your options around the city, unless you're spending all hours of the day swiping mindlessly. While there is something fun and distracting about

looking through the attractive people in your area and having some laughs, if you feel like being on the app is starting to wear away at your faith in humanity, it might be a good call to take a break. You can “hide” your profile within the app so you don't have to delete it but you also won't show up in the feed of profiles being swiped. It might be good to set aside a couple of days to spend your time unplugged, just to see if you feel different about the app after some time apart.

Long story short, don't punish yourself for spending a long time on Tinder or other dating apps. If you're single, there's no harm exploring your options. But if you feel like you are starting to have a toxic relationship with the apps, do your best to take a breather. You might notice how much time you were actually spending on them in the first place.

Don't put too many expectations out into the world of dating and sex. Keep an open mind and good things will come your way.





One season to rock them all

Story by Thomas Johnson
Photos by Scott Christensen (left)
Mariah Wilson (right)

Festival season, the only season that matters, is nearly upon us. As the snow recedes and its flooding washes away the spectre of school, five-hour daylight and the scourge of seasonal affective disorder, we welcome Calgary's annual festivals back into our collective minds and communities. Sled Island will occupy June 20–24 for its 12th iteration. Over July 26–29, the Calgary Folk Festival will return for its 39th year. Both continue their streak of offering a broad range of musical taste, while maintaining the singular spirits that have allowed for such impressive tenures. Remember to pack sunscreen.

Sled Island:

Since 2007, the sheer breadth of Sled Island has drawn acclaim from noted international publications like Uproxx, Thump, Drowned In Sound, and, uh, the Gauntlet, who have lauded its expanse and the joy of discovery it thrusts upon attendees. The numbers themselves are

staggering — five days, 35 venues, 250+ individual acts, and one great city.

Sled Island's unique format is the source of its success. Every year in preparation, Sled Island chooses a guest curator to help decide which artists will play. This year, long-standing San Francisco punks Deerhoof are helping to deliver the weird to Sled.

"I felt like they gave us a good diversity that reflects their own career and influences. They've worked with so many other artists from rock and noise acts to contemporary symbols and classical musicians. They're very eclectic in their tastes and we got a good representation of that," says Maud Salvi, Sled Island's executive director. "They've been really great to work with. We're very happy with the list of people they suggested and we were able to bring. They will be here for the entirety of the festival."

The complete lineup was released on April 17. Its comprehensive blend of rugged punk, electronic and all-around

weirdo goodness should satiate about every demographic in the city. Headliners include psych-rockers Flaming Lips, alt-darlings Dirty Projectors and Grouper, who has been on Salvi's must-get list for quite some time. Of further note are afro-futurists Shabazz Palaces, who Salvi mentioned she's particularly excited for.

"I'm really happy to have Shabazz Palaces playing at the Legion specifically, I think it's gonna be a really nice setting for them," she says about the Seattle duo.

A late announcement was made for the cosmic bassist Thundercat, who calls Los Angeles his home despite hailing from somewhere beyond the known universe, who will play in Calgary for the first time. He will be warping your perception of space and time at the Palace in support of his acclaimed 2017 jazz-fusion album, *Drunk*. And if you can't get enough of campus, The Flaming Lips will bring their dazzling glow to MacHall.



“This year we have a few more headliners. About three each night. We’re not relying on three big ones. It’s more spread out.”

— Kerry Clarke, Calgary Folk Fest artistic director

Calgary Folk Festival:

Since 1980, the Calgary Folk Festival has been providing the heart of Calgary with a holistic atmosphere wherein whole families can enjoy a weekend of live music en masse. For four days, Prince’s Island Park transforms into an inner-city utopian oasis booming with life. Roots, independent and world musicians flock to eight stages — six throughout the day and two in the evening — congregating among comedians and spoken word artists, startups and culinary experts, record peddlars and animators in and around the artisan market and beer gardens. For a weekend, you’re hoisted away from the city surrounding you and transported to a sylvan getaway. And though it’s not the only attraction, the music is, of course, a main draw.

“I think we’ve got a lot of diversity and breadth to the lineup,” says Kerry Clarke,

Calgary Folk Fest’s artistic director. “We’re bringing back the talk tent, so that’s another roadside attraction for us. We’ve got some really great comedians and folk artists. We have the artist panels who are really funny and fun, where they tell some of their touring stories.”

The lineup, which includes 70 acts, is as wide-ranging as you’re likely to see from any folk festival, anywhere. Among local and international acoustic troubadours are a variety of genres, some of which may raise a few eyebrows.

“Last year we had some big Canadian names — Blue Rodeo, Barenaked Ladies, City and Colour. This year we have a few more headliners. About three each night. We’re not relying on three big ones. It’s more spread out.”

Those other headliners include Indigenous experimentalists A Tribe Called Red,

Sacramento rap tandem Blackalicious, who will be the centrepiece act on the funk-oriented Friday night and New York polymath Saul Williams, whose blend of poetry, alternative hip-hop and experimental defy easy categorization. English singer-songwriter Joe Jackson makes an appearance.

“Legacy artists like Joe Jackson and Blackalicious — we like to do that. It’s important to us,” Clarke says. “We do try and plan it but it doesn’t always work as well as it did this year. I’m just as excited about the artists nobody’s heard of because I know people will come away with a new favourite.”

Sled Island Discovery passes (\$214) and individual concert tickets (varying) available at www.sledisland.com. Calgary Folk Festival 4-Day Single User passes (\$180) and single-day passes (varying) available at www.calgaryfolkfest.com.

Experimental theatre, a giant and a whole lot of Hart

Calgary's Ghost River Theatre begins production on *André the Giant* biography with unique creativity

Story by Matt Hume

Illustration by Grace Avery-Parkman

Stu Hart, the Family Dungeon, Stampede Wrestling and The Hitman himself.

Calgary, Alberta is internationally recognized as hallowed ground for professional wrestling. In the 1950s, the Saskatchewan-born Stu Hart put Cowtown on the professional wrestling map indefinitely with his Calgary-based promotion, Stampede Wrestling. In addition to Stampede wrestling, which was responsible for shaping stars that would later shine in the World Wrestling Federation (WWF — now World Wrestling Entertainment), Stu purchased a mansion in Patterson Heights that became known as the Hart

“So the idea came out that, well, maybe this is one of those instances where the theatrical representation might be the more interesting route.”

— David van Belle, Ghost River Theatre creator-in-residence

Family Dungeon. The Dungeon was the training grounds for wrestling's biggest stars — The British Bulldog, Edge, Jake “The Snake” Roberts and Stu's own son, Bret “The Hitman” Hart, became the formative personalities of pro-wrestling thanks to a basement in southwest Calgary.

Bret “The Hitman” Hart was not only an international sensation, but a figure that shaped his home community with undying passion. The city's major junior hockey team, the Calgary Hitmen, have Bret to thank for their name. The Hitman even maintained a column in the Calgary Sun for well over a decade. Arguably Calgary's biggest star, The Hitman met his match in the ring against the WWF's literal biggest star, The Eighth Wonder of the World, André René Roussimoff — known immemorial as André the Giant.

With all this legendary history in mind, it makes sense that when Ghost River Theatre — Calgary's premiere experimental alternative to traditional visual performance — announced production on a biographical play centring on the life of André the Giant, those familiar with Calgary's influence on the squared circle and the quality of Ghost River's productions knew the news was as exciting as a top-roped powerbomb.

The aptly titled *GIANT* is an exploration of one of the most recognizable sports and entertainment figures in history. Even those separated from wrestling fandom undoubtedly adore Roussimoff for his performance of the frighteningly charming Fezzik in *The Princess Bride*. For David van Belle, the creator-in-residence for Ghost River Theatre, the life of André the Giant is a tale reserved for the stage.

“I started thinking, ‘You know, there's one character that you never could stage

in a movie version of his life.’ Because who's gonna play him? He's 7'4” and 500 pounds,” van Belle says. “So the idea came out that, well, maybe this is one of those instances where the theatrical representation might be the more interesting route.”

And the interest is inherent. The tale of a massive and wonderful star, born in Moliens, France and achieved stardom when he moved to Canada, Roussimoff consistently sold out the Montreal Forum, a story abundant with its own magic. But how do you stage The Eighth Wonder of the World? In true Ghost River fashion, the company aims to deliver the story in a way only theatre can.

“The cast is five women, who are going to be playing all of the roles and the actor who's playing André is maybe 5'2”,” van Belle says. “We thought about how can you scale a world around somebody to make them big or what other ways theatrically can you speak that language to make a giant on stage.”

GIANT is currently in production, with a full-fledged release set



for the March 2019 season. Until then, Ghost River is honing their design to display one of the most unique biographies to date, with a focus on puppets and “the animated object” with the help of Vancouver-based production designer Robert Levarousse.

“He was one of the most recognizable sports figures of his time. And there is something about the paradox of being larger than life but

also having a wound inside,” van Belle says. “That kind of defined him and I think sometimes we tell stories because by telling stories from the peripheries of life, as in the extremes of life, we understand more about our own lives.”

GIANT is also the recipient of The Canada Council for the Arts’ newest grant, the New Chapter grant, which van Belle says will allow Ghost River to achieve their experimental vision for this

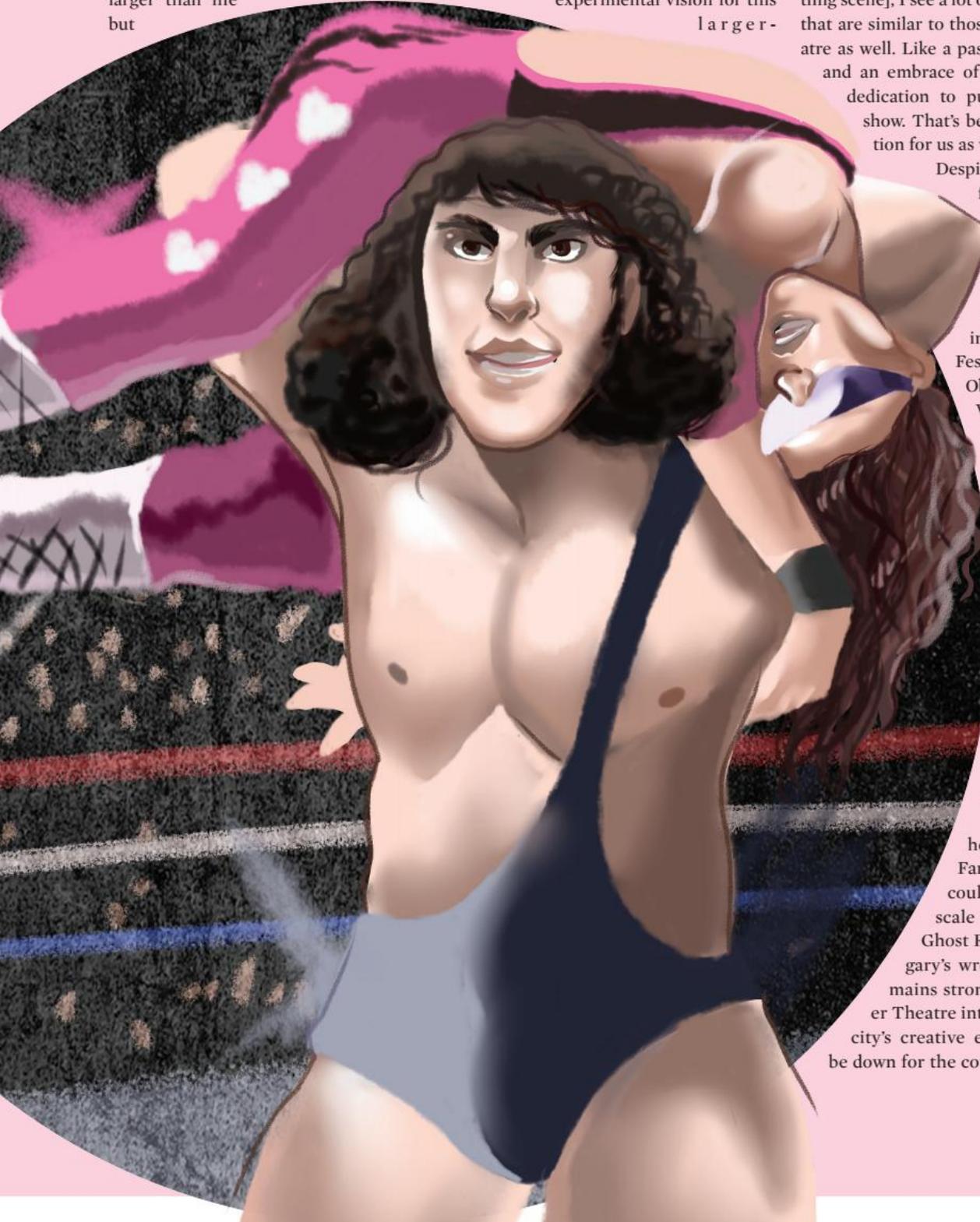
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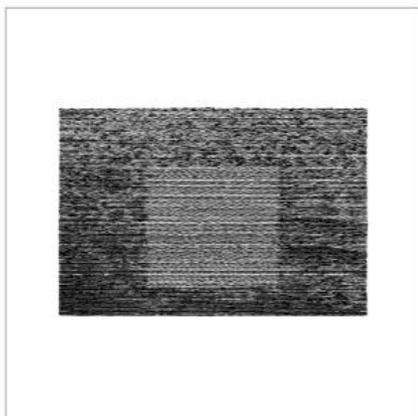
than-life project. The tale of wrestling’s largest luminary may be a spectacle on its own, but the combination of Ghost River’s avant expression and Calgary’s wrestling-riddled past make it all the more important a story to tell.

“It’s just such a part of Calgary’s mythology. The Hart family just connects and that still resonates today,” van Belle says. “When I go and see [the local wrestling scene], I see a lot of the enthusiasms that are similar to those who create theatre as well. Like a passion for the work and an embrace of character. A real dedication to putting on a good show. That’s been a real inspiration for us as well.”

Despite a long wait for Ghost River’s next opus, keen fans may get a glimpse of the puppetry included in the play in early July at the Festival of Animated Objects at the West Village Theatre. And if you want to take in the local scene that birthed television’s greatest gladiator of the ‘80s, keep your eyes open for events from Real Canadian Wrestling and the Prairie Wrestling Alliance throughout the summer.

Only in the home of the Hart Family Dungeon could a tale of such scale be achieved with Ghost River’s *GIANT*. Calgary’s wrestling legacy remains strong and Ghost River Theatre intends to prove the city’s creative energy will never be down for the count.





Grouper
Grid Of Points
April 27, 2018
(kranky)

For over a decade, Liz Harris has been creating a lot with a little. As Grouper, Harris generates music that's breathtakingly sparse, with echoed guitar strums and an analog hiss providing a minimal backdrop for Harris's airy voice. Though

her songs fit most definitions of ambient music, her work feels far too intimate to attach that label to.

The latest Grouper album, *Grid of Points*, follows 2014's *Ruins*, where Harris abandoned her droning effect pedals in favour of simple piano-and-voice compositions. *Grid of Points* follows the same trajectory, with each of its seven tracks casting a dreamlike trance through their aching whispers and silences.

The album flows fluidly, with the spaces and names designating individual songs feeling more like a convention than a necessity. Harris's voice follows her piano melodies, clinging urgently to their accompanying notes. When her playing stops, so too does her voice.

Listening to *Grid of Points* feels like being in the same room as Harris as she sits down at the piano. And that's how it's best listened to — within the same isolation and loneliness that many of the album's songs hint at both lyrically and musically.

Like most Grouper albums, *Grid of Points* reveals itself most when in that hazy state between being awake and sleep. It's a phenomenon that's hardly surprising, as Harris says she wrote the album in a brief stretch before being interrupted by a high fever. The music perfectly invokes the wonder of finding brief reprieve from your own body and the world which it occupies.

Like those wonderful, half-awake dreamstates, *Grid of Points* feels fleetingly short. The album's 22 minutes come and go with a distressing transience, with the startling static of a rushing train at the end of closer "Breathing" giving a disorienting jolt back into the real world.

Harris is among those performing at this year's Sled Island music festival, playing on June 22 at the National Music Centre. It's a show that's near-guaranteed to be as transcendental as the rest of Grouper's discography, making it a festival can't-miss.

Jason Herring



Inferi
Revenant
April 21, 2018
(You've Changed Records)

Goodbye winter, hello technical death metal.

Awakening from the grimdark depths of Nashville, Tennessee, the viciously talented quintet known as Inferi has delivered what may be the most impressive display of unabated talent in melodic metal with *Revenant* — an hour of unrelenting thrash, symphonic movements

and a double-kick-drum barrage.

Barely a minute into opener "Within the Dead Horizon," your ticket for an adventure as an ironclad doomslayer is punched and irrevocable. Jack Blackburn's ceaseless percussion, along with Joel Scwallier's bass, drives the quest forward through diverse time signatures and tempos with jaw dropping precision. Six-string warriors Malcolm Pugh and Mike Low leave annihilation in their wake on the sonic battlefield beneath the guttural howls of their banshee, Sam Schneider.

The organ- and choir-riddled introductions of "A Beckoning Thrall" provides a haunting change of pace to the tireless speed of *Revenant*. If it's even possible for a ballad to exist in whatever layer of ancient Lovecraftian Hell from which Inferi receives their technical skill, "Thy Menacing Gaze" is as close as it gets. Despite consistent pace in percussion and shreds, an underlying melody from orchestral instrumentation keeps the track discernibly grounded.

Revenant continues with the leviathan escapade that is "Malevolent Sanction." At just shy of nine minutes, the track is an

excellent distillation of Inferi's technical abilities as brilliant musicians and masterful songwriters. The band delivers the song's movements with a clarity and meticulousness that puts your dad's prog-rock collection to shame. As a choir fades out, "Smolder in the Ash" begins with a standout display of melodic arrangement — a piano providing rhythm behind the two-guitar delivery of dense polyphonic textures — reminiscent of Baroque and Renaissance compositions.

"Behold the Bearer of Light" brings *Revenant* to a fitting close, maintaining the complexity of the album while adding a layer of vocal talent from The Black Dahlia Murder's Trevor Strnad to the epic conclusion.

Look, I get it. Technical death metal isn't exactly an easy sell if you're not already a champion of the full-back patch. But the incredible musicianship present in metal's subgenres deserves 666 praises for every solitary scoff. *Revenant* sets the new standard for melodic songwriting and is a record worth having on the shelf and revisiting with frequency. It's real good, folks.

Matt Hume



Sleep
The Sciences
 April 20, 2018
 (Third Man Records)

On the one hand, in a branch of rock as prone to cliché as stoner metal, it might have been laying it on a little thick releasing your first studio album in 15 years on 4/20 (Technically *Jerusalem*, the first iteration of what would eventually become *Dopesmoker*, was released in 1999, though the band later disavowed

it.) On the other hand, it's perfect. *Dopesmoker*, a genre cornerstone, was released on April 20, 2003. It's the gateway drug, the dip-your-toe-in for heavy metal's lethargic cousin. Gritty guttural, and enormously heavy, it's a B-movie epic. A 63-minute desert-rock marathon followed by a 12-minute denouement, it's a lumbering death march rewarding persistence and determination by the minutes that trudge by. In that vein alone, *The Sciences* is more accessible than *Dopesmoker*. By no means are these 10-plus-minute titans approaching anything resembling comprise.

The Sciences is 22-minutes shorter than *Dopesmoker* — roughly a third the length of its mind-boggling title track — divided into four more songs. Frontman Al Cisneros remains as gruff as in *Jerusalem*, like his buzzing, droning voice was cryogenically preserved in liquid nitrogen, argon and THC. Some of this material has been floating around from live performances since the early aughts but the original material exhibits simi-

larly atrophied lungs. They're still master world-builders and their obsession with the immenseness of religion makes for some awe-inspiring scenes. *The Sciences* follows the zonked voyage of The Marijuanaut as closely as one could after finding forever in the depths of bong water. The first three minutes drone, bubble, and tumble their way into the crunchy blues of "Marijuanaut's Theme." "Sonic Titan" and "Antarcticans Thawed," span a combined 27 Herculean minutes before returning the stoned spaceman to his tour of the cosmos. The sheer heft of "Giza Butler" yanks the Marijuanaut from his drift, its gravity pulling him into a church state of green skies and pterodactyl's, cavernous basilicas where deacons inhale the body and blood of the messiah, a doctrinal reverence for Bermuda Grass.

Sleep is its own antecedent. *The Sciences* is less intimidating but equally rewarding as *Dopesmoker*. The scale is still massive. It's as unforgiving as the desert, as barren and ancient as space.

Thomas Johnson

90.9 fm
CJSW
TOP 30

The top 30
 albums
 played on CJSW
 90.9 FM in
 April

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1. Astral Swans - *Strange Prison* (Saved by Vinyl/Moorworks/Tiny Room Records)
2. Preoccupations - *New Material* (Flemish Eye)
3. charlie dreaming - *healing dreams* (Drift)
4. Loïc April - *Loïc April* (Bonsound)
5. Lowell - *Lone Wolf* (Arts & Crafts)
6. The Garrys - *Surf Manitou* (Grey Records)
7. Benjamin Longman - *Missing Screws: Demos & Extras from the Ghost Months* (Self-Released)
8. Dustin Wong, Takako Minekawa, Good Willsmith - *Exit Future Heart* (Umor Rex)
9. spume - *Tide/Fall* (Arachnidiscs)
10. Lindi Ortega - *Liberty* (Shadowbox Music)
11. Various - *FUTURES Vol. 5* (Inner Ocean)
12. YoshimiO, Susie Ibarra, Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe - *Flower of Sulphur* (Thrill Jockey)
13. NETRVNNER - *Episode 1* (Retro Promenade)
14. I. M. Brown & the Transcendents - *Carolina Brown* (Self-Released)
15. Camaromance - *Chasing Clouds* (Simone Records)
16. Stanfields - *Limboland* (Ground Swell)
17. The Gays - *The Agenda* (Self-Released)
18. Dada Centauri - *IV* (Self-Released)
19. GUM - *The Underdog* (Spinning Top)
20. Dusted - *Blackout* (Polyvinyl)
21. Fugitives - *The Promise of Strangers* (Borealis)
22. DJ Forest Walker - *Project Arbutus: Transcend* (Self-Released)
23. Christina Vantzou - *No. 4* (kranky)
24. Sarajevo & Moi - *Dark Sky* (Self-Released)
25. Germ Class - *Bitter Values* (Dub Ditch Picnic Records)
26. Rival Consoles - *Persona* (Erased Tapes)
27. V0Xx - *Waveform Manifest* (Self-Released)
28. Abbe May - *Fruit* (Luxury Cat)
29. Laura Veirs - *The Lookout* (Raven Marching Band)
30. Elaquent - *Celebrate Life!* (Urbnet)

Calgary à la Summer: The land of buds and suds

Story by Thomas Johnson
Photo by Aurora Anderson

Five degrees or 30 degrees — what's the difference? It's now comfortably in the middle of that range and it's safe to say there probably won't be a torrential dump of sleet and snow for a brief while. Calgarians are sun-obsessed, patio-hungry creatures fuelled chiefly on lo-fi power chords and the alchemy of yeast, water and wheat. Beer makes up 10 percent of our plasma, and 10 hours of light a day means we have 10-plus hours to indulge in our preferred elixir. Alberta's crop of breweries show no signs of relaxing since their unprecedented boom earlier this decade and 2018 is slated to be another summer brimming with countless batches of that sweet, sweet wheat juice. Here's the cream of Calgary's crop.

Annex Ale Project:

Annex's beer settles left of norm, with their only two standards being an XPA — an experimental pale ale — and a western, heftier variant of a bitter. Because of their reliance on small batches, their rotation is constantly shifting but always intriguing and inspired. At the time of writing, the rotation consists of west coast Pale Ale, a Cranberry Session Ale and a tropically stained New England IPA.

Banded Peak Brewing:

Banded Peak's core lineup makes an argument for the strongest in the province, let alone the city. Dominated by a saison and three mighty IPAs — the unfiltered, citrus-

heavy Plainsbreaker being the standout — BP has a healthy collaborative resume. Currently, their premier joint-project is a unpasteurized hopped kettle sour with Dandy Brewing Company, The Hans & Bruno Sour.

Citizen Brewing Company:

Citizen is a relative newcomer, though no discernible trepidation shows in their roster. Their usual suspects are tried, true and approachable, checking all the boxes: Session Ale, NW Pale Ale, IPA and Stout. That being said, they use their seasonal brews as opportunities to cull disparate influences. Currently, they're pouring The Cardinal, an equal parts malty and hoppy double IPA, and a nitro-treated, caramelly red ale dubbed the Red Setter.

The Dandy Brewing Company:

Dandy might be the most challenging brewery in the greater-Calgary area, but their reputation as Alberta's most adventurous brewmasters is well-deserved. A true nano-brewery, the foursome at Dandy's heart forged their own custom brewery to house their unorthodox experiments. For reference, their flagship beer is an intense Oyster Stout. They built their name on their sours though, which they seem to pump out at a rate that renders a write-up obsolete. They recently moved their taproom to Inglewood, far more accessible than their original location deep in the north. Just go.

Last Best Brewing & Distilling:

The godfather of Calgary's microbreweries, three of Last Best's core beers are among Calgary's most popular brews. The Show Pony Pale Ale, the self-titled IPA and the Dirty Bird Black Lager taps can be found on nearly every bar in the city. More than likely, they were your introduction to Alberta's craft beer scene. They also house the city's lone core Kolsch, so their lineup is about as suited for the warmer months as any. Currently in the works are a collaboration with Washington's Bale Breaker Brewing (a black IPA), and an as-of-yet unspecified collaboration with Ten Foot Henry's. Disclaimer: they are also unapologetically obsessed with hops, not that anyone should be apologetic about hops.

Railyard Brewing:

Railyard Brewing's main sell is their beer, of course, but closely behind is the vibrant artwork that adorns their canned product. They cover the bases — a lager, pale ale, IPA and nitro stout — each tallboy a slick work of striking art in and of itself. Theirs will be undoubtedly the most beautiful can on the shelf, regardless of where it was bought. Their taproom comes complete with a pool table, neo-gothic decor and decidedly chill atmosphere. Unfortunately, apart from your typical bar snacks, there's no food to be ordered. Not from them, anyway, but feel free to order in. Legit.



Dinos men's hockey captain finishes varsity career on a high note

Story by David Song
Photo by Bradley Dezell

The Dinos men's hockey team made a gutsy run to the playoffs this year, winning their final six regular season games. They prevailed over the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in a 2-1 opening series before a hard-fought game-three loss in the semifinals to the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. The second-round playoff exit marked the end of team captain Dan Gibb's varsity career.

Gibb played 138 regular season games with the Dinos, accumulating 21 points and 128 penalty minutes in the process. Despite the disappointing loss, the fifth-year defenceman has plenty of praise for his team's effort.

"The biggest takeaway from this year was learning to deal with adversity. We used it to fuel our team in the second half [of the season], especially going to the playoffs," Gibb said. "I credit the maturity and leadership of the other guys to understand that a lot of stuff was out of our control and to make the best of what we had."

As one of the most recognized and well-liked players in the locker room, Gibb's jersey has brandished the C for the past two seasons. Leading his team to the playoffs both years, the Prince George native remains humble about his captaincy.

"Any of our fifth-years could have worn the C and we would have listened to them without fail," Gibb said. "I'm not a very vocal guy, but I'd like to think my lifestyle and the way I play helps me lead by example."

Gibb says that an injury this year inhibited his ability to impact his team to the extent he would have liked.

"I wasn't around the team and the locker rooms nearly as much as I could have been. To see our team fall in the standings was frustrating," he said. "But as cliché as it sounds, you have to show up at the rink and be the best version of 'you' every single day."

For the men's hockey team, being your personal best goes beyond athletic performance. They prioritized engaging with the campus community, forming many meaningful bonds with other student-athletes in the process.

"We do an annual softball tournament for all Dinos varsity athletes. A lot of our guys have also started study groups with the football team," Gibb said. "We've gotten close with the men's basketball team as well — shout out to them [for winning the U Sports Championship]. We try to support other teams as much as we can."

One of the men's hockey team's most prominent off-ice traditions is a Christmas party called Hogfest — a Dinos get-together that allocates all proceeds to a local charity.

"Last year, we donated to Tanner Olstad — a student at [Mount Royal University]. His little cousin came down with a rare disease," Gibb said. "This year, we raised around \$1,500 and donated to A Christmas Miracle, which helps donate money to families struggling financially, emotionally or physically."

Despite the Dinos strong camaraderie, Gibb recognizes the struggle of engaging with non-student-athletes.

"You're not really in the same circles [as other students]. That's definitely something all sports teams can look to improve," he said. "I don't have an answer, but if we can bridge that gap, it would help the school and all programs immensely."

Graduating with a major in international relations and a minor in history, Gibb plans to continue his hockey career by going pro in Europe with some fellow fifth-years. After that, he is interested in working in the private sector of the oil and gas industry. Despite never winning a national championship, the veteran blueliner exits his collegiate career with no regrets.

"To wrap it up in one word, it was fun. I'm a little disappointed that I didn't have a chance to raise a trophy with the guys but I loved being apart of the Dinos," Gibb said. "All the guys I've met are basically my family now. We are all Dinos — I do truly believe that."

Campus club aims to establish fencing as a varsity sport

Story by David Song
Photo by Louie Villvanueva

Fencing is a classic sport that has been recognized at the Olympic level since 1896. Despite this, it's not widely played in North America. The University of Calgary Fencing Club aims to change this by giving students the opportunity to sample the lesser-known sport.

Established in 1963 by Don Laszlo, the Fencing Club is geared towards university students but is also open to the wider community. The volunteer-run organization hosts beginner's classes every Wednesday evening and open sessions on Sunday afternoons where fencers of all skill levels can challenge each other to bouts.

Club president Kali Sayers really enjoys teaching the basics of fencing to newcomers.

"Fencing actually utilizes three different weapons: epee, foil and sabre," she said. "Epee is the original dueling sword and the entire body is the target. [In] foil, just the torso is the target and it was actually created as a training weapon for epee. Sabre is a funny one — it was based off horseback combat, so only above the waist is the target and you can also hit by slashing."

After developing asthma, Sayers had to step away from competitive swimming. Soon after, she discovered fencing. The fourth-year chemical engineering student competed in the 2014 Summer Youth Olympics and joined the Fencing Club in her first year at U of C. In addition to being club president, Sayers is one of the club's three coaches and finds teaching beginners just as rewarding as competing.

"Coaching makes me a better fencer. Seeing the development of students has been really wonderful and rewarding. Someone [new] can immediately come

in and become integrated in this really wonderful community," she said. "If your weapon breaks or if you forgot your granola bar, everyone helps each other out. It's been wonderful to see the growth of the athletes but also the individuals."

The Fencing Club's biggest event is the annual Don Laszlo Memorial Cup, which took place Feb. 24–25 this year.



"It's our main source of revenue because we have really low fees to try and encourage people to participate," Sayers said. "All of our revenue for new equipment comes from the Don Laszlo tournament. We had attendees from Edmonton and Saskatchewan and one from B.C. We're working to make [the

"The best thing about fencing is that any one can learn from scratch."

**— U of C Fencing Club President
Kali Sayers**

competition] a bigger thing."

One of the club's main goals is to establish fencing as a varsity sport. Sayers says that doing so is challenging but adds progress has been made.

"One of the issues is that people don't know fencing as a sport, so neither the administration, nor the student body are looking to support it. If we can get a Canada West championships going, then we can become recognized as a club sport, which gives us a little bit of leverage," she said. "We've also talked with [the president of the Canada Fencing Federation]. There is already a circuit in Ontario and I believe one in Quebec, though I'm not totally sure, so we can get a U Sports circuit going as well."

Sayers also says fencing is just as engaging mentally as it is physically.

"The best thing about fencing is that any one can learn from scratch," she said. "People who aren't athletically inclined can play because there's a lot of weird positions and mental tactics involved. You just go to have lots of fun learning something that's totally different from anything you've ever done."

Leading into next year, the Fencing Club aims to establish a Canada West Fencing Championships. With fencing enthusiasts from the Universities of British Columbia, Victoria, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Regina already slated to compete, Sayers and her fellow club executives are looking to assemble a larger cohort to represent the University of Calgary.

A semester's worth of beginner classes at the U of C Fencing Club costs \$110, compared to \$150 for a six-week beginner course at the Calgary Fencing Club. To join the U of C Fencing Club, sign up through Active Living, visit their Facebook group or email ucalgaryfencing@gmail.com.

Climbing documentary brings fresh perspective to grind of student life



Story by Danielle Grant
Photo courtesy Jametiks

Graduate studies can be rough. Some weeks, a project takes a million wrong turns or you make too many commitments and can't get everything done. Either way, you end up in a ball on the floor with your cat. In those stress-filled moments, you seriously envy your feline friend and consider how lovely napping all day must be. That was the tone of my week when I attended a March screening of *DIRTBAG: The Legend of Fred Beckey* at the Plaza Theatre in Kensington.

The documentary follows the story of eclectic climbing legend Fred Beckey, who passed away in October 2017. IMCLIMBING and Spirit West brought it to Calgary to bring the city's climbing community together — it was an undeniable success. The film compiles breathtaking vistas, vintage footage and personal interviews to capture the eccentric and fascinating life of Beckey.

Beckey is credited with hundreds of first ascents of mountains in Canada and the Pacific Northwest. He even created new routes on Mount Hunter and Mount Deborah in Alaska. Consumed by his conviction to go where no one else has, Beckey pioneered the "dirtbag" lifestyle of abandoning societal conventions — like a stable income and clean clothes — in favour of climbing.

During his eight decades of mountain life, he developed a low-budget, no-hassle approach, relying on his car to get him from the Cascades to the Bugaboos and anywhere else he planned a route. There is a famous photo of Beckey staged as a hitchhiker holding a cardboard sign reading "Will Belay for Food," embodying the traditional dirtbag climbing aesthetic.

Beckey chose the life he wanted and lived it without question. Settling down, getting married or "growing up" in the conventional sense wasn't a priority for him. Years of drinking out of soggy coffee cups and opting for a ratty sleeping bag instead of a bed moulded Beckey into North America's most distinct mountaineer. Rather than putting the lead ropes away and finding a 9–5 job, he turned his meticulous route notes into invaluable alpine guides.

Some of his closest trademark routes to Calgary are the Beckey Route of the Liberty Bell and Outer Space on Snow Creek Wall in the Cascades. Despite Beckey's unbelievable mountaineering record, when asked if he accomplished his climbing goals, he wouldn't hesitate to say, "Not even close."

During *DIRTBAG's* screening, I was transfixed by mountain panoramas and snippets of Beckey grumbling. Delving into this captivating life and dreaming about mountain adventures was an escape from my stress-filled reality. However, the film was more than just entertainment. It made me reflect on my life choices. Like most

students, I'm pursuing a dream through my academic endeavours. The bottomless cups of coffee, late nights and stress overloads all serve a purpose.

But some days, academia is overwhelming and ends up reducing that sense of purpose and replacing it with anxiety and dread. In recent years, there has been a growing body of evidence outlining the high mental health risks for graduate students. A 2018 *Nature Biotechnology* study identifies a crisis in poor mental health among graduate student populations. The study's authors advocate the necessity of work-life balance for greater well-being — but this is easier said than done.

Fred Beckey was consumed by his passion and climbing was his purpose. He sat on the opposite end of the spectrum from many students by wholeheartedly forging work and life together through his passion. Beckey didn't have a balanced lifestyle, instead balancing sacrifice and reward. Living the life you want doesn't need to involve a perfect balance of work and life. Beckey's alternative lifestyle is a reminder that we have far more autonomy in carving our paths than we often realize.

Whether you are in the middle of a mid-degree crisis or not, *DIRTBAG* can help you step back from the school stress. In the spirit of Beckey, take advantage of Alberta's lush backyard this spring and summer to check your focus and aim it where you want it to be.

Dinos football equipment manager plays large role in team's culture

Story by David Song
Photo by Mariah Wilson

In the realm of sports, the equipment manager is one of the less heralded individuals on a team. While star athletes and head coaches are always in the spotlight, the equipment manager mostly works behind the scenes but is vital to the team's daily operation. It's a role and responsibility that veteran Dinos football equipment manager John Carr lives and breathes.

Now heading into his 10th year with the Dinos, Carr started out volunteering at games and events for his two young son's sports teams. Despite his love of the game, Carr never played football and admits he didn't know how to coach when he began volunteering. However, his initiative and handyman skills brought him into regular contact with sports equipment. With time and valuable experience under his belt, he joined the Dinos football team as the equipment manager.

"You've got to be a people person. With young student athletes, you're dealing with so many different mentalities and temperaments. Being able to talk and relate to them is first," he said. "I don't look at it as a job. For my first two years [with the Dinos], I didn't receive monetary compensation. I get an honorarium now, but to be a good

equipment manager, you need to have passion for the game."

Carr also stressed the importance of problem-solving skills in his line of work.

"I have a really good habit of foreseeing what a coach needs beforehand. You've got to be an all-around handyman because in most cases, it's just you and no other assistants. I take care of 120 kids at spring camp by myself."

For Carr, an average day during the football season involves working at his full-time job during the day then staying at McMahon Stadium from 4–10 p.m. At games and practices, Carr's first responsibility is ensuring that the team's laundered uniforms are in the locker room so players can change right away upon arrival. In addition to upkeeping the team's pristine red and gold jerseys, he maintains other gear as needed, reviews game-day plans provided by the coaches and helps oversee practices.

Outside of football season, Carr still remains busy.

"Even though my contract starts Aug. 1 and ends Nov. 31, there's no real offseason for me. A true equipment guy can't just say, 'That's the time I start and will finish,' " he said. "There's so much other preparation. All our helmets need reconditioning and fresh paint this year. I take maybe a month off in December then it's full go again."

Carr makes a great effort to prepare the team for the regular season. He recently shipped the team's helmets off for recertification to ensure they're safe for game-time use.

"You have to make sure the student athletes have the best equipment that you can afford and that they're maintained properly," Carr said. "If they're not maintained, you're running the risk of them getting hurt. That's the last thing we want. I invest a lot of time and energy into researching the best equipment and providing it for our athletes."

Carr's investment goes beyond simply outfitting players with equipment. He meets with every incoming Dino and their family, giving facility tours and assuring the athletes will be well cared for. For instance, each Dinos offensive lineman is given a pair of knee braces that generally cost \$3,000 to help withstand the rigours of their position.

Incoming Dinos offensive lineman Carter Johnson attests to Carr's mentorship. Their relationship dates back 10 years and Johnson says that Carr offered him caring and pragmatic advice during the university recruitment process.

"[Carr told me], 'I'd love for you to come, but you need to do what's right for you,' " Johnson said. "And [joining the Dinos was]. All the coaches and everyone else were very classy during the recruiting process."

"I love our guys and I talk to them the exact same way I talk to my sons," Carr added. "If we're on the field and [the players] are messing around and they shouldn't be, they're going to hear it. I want them to succeed so bad. Sometimes, my emotions get the best of me, but it's not a personal thing. I might belittle the play, or the situation, but never my guys."

Ultimately, Carr's passion makes him an invaluable member of the Dinos athletics department. Equal parts equipment manager and father figure, he ensures the team is prepared to succeed both on and off the field. With spring camp scheduled for the end of April, Carr remains hard at work to welcome the next generation of Dinos.



Squash stress by spending time in the city's green spaces this summer



Story by Aurora Anderson
Photo courtesy Oceanflynn

As the semester winds down and exam stress begins to take its toll, we often forget how relaxing a simple walk can be. Fitness goals and workout routines can take the backseat when end-of-semester pressures weigh us down. For some students, this carries over into the spring and summer semesters. Whether you're continuing studies after exam season or not, even a short stroll can improve mental health and give an energy boost to beat lingering stress.

If you only have 30 minutes to spare and are debating between eating or exercising, walk to the grocery store for a quick bite. If you have more time, try fitting a walking routine into your study sessions. On campus, the Taylor Family Digital Library has installed walking treadmills that allow you to engage in physical activity without sacrificing a minute of much-needed cram time. Walking is also gentle on the wallet and you can easily set the pace for what works best for your needs. If you are looking for places to explore off campus, here are some great paths to try.

Confederation Park:

Confederation park is only a 10-minute drive from the university and has plenty of parking. It's also accessible from SAIT or Lion's Park CTrain stations. The park's 400 acres of developed green space is rich

with trees that offer a relaxing backdrop for a walk. Plenty of benches and grassy spots are also available for resting along the way. The park follows the course of the North Hill Coulee, which supports a large variety of plants — see how many different types of trees you can count while there!

Nose Hill Park:

Nose Hill Park offers plateaus, scenic views and over 200 types of plants. The park is full of aspen, providing ample shade on hot sunny days. Furthermore, there's also plenty of wildlife, like deer, coyotes and birds to watch as you walk along the paved pathways. The closest entry point to Nose Hill from U of C is on 14th St. NW and is only a 12-minute drive away. You can also access the park by catching route 9 at the bus loop outside of Craigie Hall and getting off at 52nd Ave. and Brisbois Dr. From there, it's a quick walk north to the Many Owls Parking Lot adjacent to John Laurie Blvd.

Bowness Pathway:

With its sprawling canopy of trees in the summer and early fall, Bowness is one of the prettiest walks in Calgary. It follows the Bow River Pathway and offers an escape from Calgary's bustle without leaving the city limits. There are plenty of benches you can sit and study on if you need to hit the books but want to be outdoors. Bowness Park's most accessible entry point is just off Memorial Drive East.

Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park:

Just outside city limits near Cochrane, Glenbow Ranch provides a remarkable getaway if you are craving the big sky and great views. The majority of the park is located on the north bank of the Bow River and is woven with a smoothly paved path that is accessible for all levels of ability. The expansive grassy fields, crisp mountain scenery and escape from the sounds of city life offers a great way to recharge.

Downtown Art Walk:

If you prefer to stay within the city centre the downtown art walk showcases creative work by many local artists. There are over 60 pieces to view and you don't have to follow a specific route, so you can take control of your walk. There are many great murals and unusual pieces to enjoy that can take your mind off looming responsibilities and reconnect you with your creative side.

Whether you walk for 20 minutes or an hour — getting up and stretching during studying or after a long day of sitting is essential for strong overall health. Walking is a simple activity that gets your blood moving and the body out for some fresh air. If you can't commit to a day in the park or a longer walk, even a stroll around the block, or to your local green space or around campus is good for the heart.

Use turmeric to boost your well-being

Story by Christie Melhorn

Recently, my social media feed has been decorated with posts of yellow foamy lattes in rustic mugs and mason jars. These fad beverages get their tint from the spice turmeric. If you're unfamiliar with turmeric, it gives mustard its distinct bright colour and subtle bitter flavour and is also used in many curries. It's versatile ingredient that boasts many health benefits — not to mention an aesthetically pleasing quality. Here's why you should make your pantry home to the spice this summer.

Boosts immune system:

According to a University of Texas study, turmeric helps regulate the production of thymus and bone marrow cells vital in the immune response. It's also enhances antibody function when invasive properties enter your system. Eating turmeric-rich food could help

decrease the frequency of colds during the semester and fend one off when symptoms arise.

Anti-inflammatory:

Kris Gunnars of the health-care blog *Authority Nutrition* says that turmeric is rich in a powerful anti-inflammatory compound called curcumin. Gunnars says that curcumin is equally as effective at fighting inflammation as pharmaceuticals — but without the nasty headaches and stomach pain that they typically cause.

Mood-booster:

Trying to secure solid grades while paying rent, working a job outside of school and the general pressures of student life can be overwhelming. Andrew Wiel, director of integrative medicine at the University of Arizona, says turmeric is linked with nerve growth in the brain's frontal cortex, which

is responsible for many functions, including emotional processing. It's also associated with producing the feel-good neurotransmitters dopamine and serotonin. While it can't cure depression, these subtle nutritional changes can help shift your mood.

Clears skin:

At some point, almost everyone experiences some kind of stress-induced break-out or skin condition. When applied topically, turmeric's anti-inflammatory properties can help reduce epidermal swelling and irritation. Mix a tablespoon of turmeric and a tablespoon of water with a teaspoon of coconut oil for an effective paste.

Turmeric is sold at most grocery stores and markets. When buying it ground, check the ingredients list first. Unnecessary fillers can negate some of its health benefits. When possible, try to get turmeric in its purest form.

Summer Den

**DRINK SPECIALS
THURSDEN PRICING**

MAY 18 JUNE 15

THE DEN EST. 1969 **STUDENTS SU UNION**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

THE DEN EST. 1969

denblacklounge

Intellectual magpie in TFDL just wanted to study in peace

Story by Derek Baker
Photos by Mariah Wilson

Feathers were ruffled this exam season in the Taylor Family Digital Library, where students' studying sessions were interrupted by an allegedly trapped magpie on the first two floors of the building. Efforts to catch and release the bird led to the school closing the library for a night during exam season.

However, the magpie's recount of the series of events leading up to his attempted capture tells a slightly different story.

Charlie Chirps, the magpie, claimed he was just trying to study for his exams, too. He planned on pulling several consecutive all-nighters in the TFDL so that he could ace his finals.

"I'm in the last year of my BS degree — Bachelor of Squawking — and I was just trying to study for my last exam for BIRD 501: Shitting on Car Windshields, Statues and People," the magpie lamented. "I was just minding my own business, but people wouldn't leave me alone."

The bird's presence in the library culminated in a standoff between staff and the magpie on the evening of April 21, during what was euphemistically termed a "bird removal effort." Not wanting to leave his studying location, Chirps put up a commendable resistance to being removed from the library.

"I shat on everything and everyone. It was glorious," Chirps said.

Many library staff and students are confused as to how the magpie even got into the library in the first place. Chirps said he entered the library



Water your magpie so he grows big and strong.

by shimmying through the book return slot and landing on a pile of ornithology books, which he immediately claimed were filled with "lies and misinformation."

Stuck on the ground floors of the library, Chirps complained that it was never quiet enough to fully concentrate on his studies. He said his goal was to make it to the seventh floor but that he was unable to reach those heights.

"I waited for the elevator, trying to get up to the quiet floors, but people would just shoo me away," Chirps said. "I thought this

was supposed to be an inclusive campus."

Chirps went on to say that not all of the students were mean-spirited, though.

"A few people were kind enough to throw their sandwich

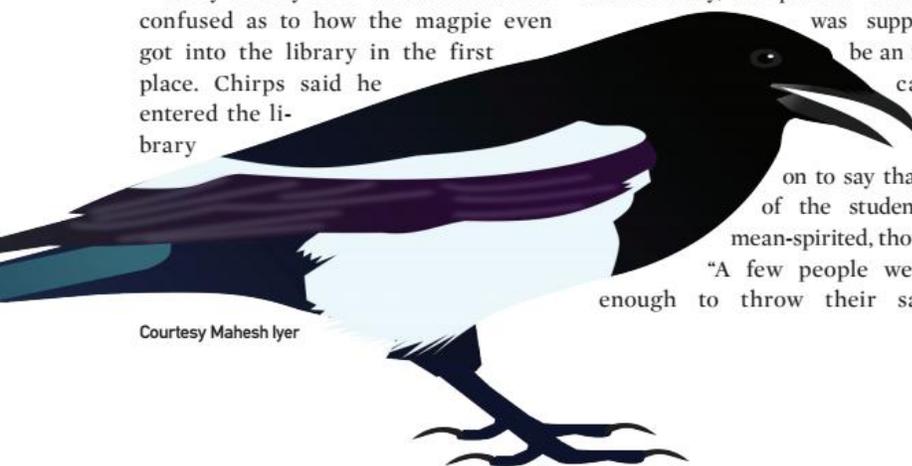
scraps, granola bar crumbs and other delectable carbs," the magpie said. "I even found a little orange candy lying around on a desk with 'A D' inscribed on it. I actually studied really, *really* well after I ate that."

However, things went too far when the magpie queued in the line of Good Earth, hoping to get some more good eats. As the bird had neither shoes nor a shirt on, he was unfortunately denied service.

"I just wanted some goddamn mac and cheese," Chirps said.

This is not the first time the TFDL has been invaded by outsiders during exam season. However, several students claimed that the magpie's presence was much more tolerable than the Mount Royal University students using the space.

Chirps wrote his exam at the end of April, which he passed with flying colours. We wish him all the best of luck on his future endeavours.



Courtesy Mahesh Iyer

Student taking spring and summer classes honestly has no FOMO

Story by Frankie Hart
Photo courtesy OIST

The start of spring at the University of Calgary campus brings sighs of relief for most. Students are finally liberated from academic responsibilities after exams and are free to relax, go on vacation or work and at least get direct compensation for their labour.

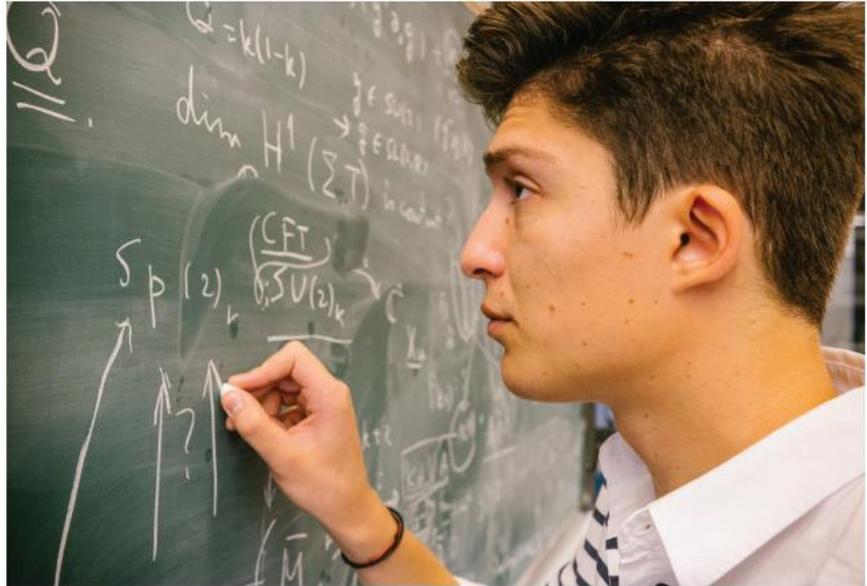
However, for some students, the break is fleeting as they continue the unending cycle of academia by taking spring and summer classes. Bailey Brooks, a third-year open studies student, is one such student.

For the entirety of what would be a relaxing four months, Brooks will be stuck in lectures while their friends are having the time of their lives, no doubt forming strong bonds with each other and deciding to never hang out with Brooks ever again for being such a square.

"I've considered every possible scenario of classes I need to take and this is what I have to do if I want to graduate on time," Brooks explained. "Next fall and winter semesters, I'm taking required courses that would otherwise overlap with my other required courses. What else am I supposed to do?"

Brooks, however, conceded that their current situation was likely self-inflicted due to past unfortunate enrolment schedules forcing them to put off several required courses.

"It felt like they didn't even want me



to get into my classes," Brooks said. "One time, I was number 69 on the waitlist! I could feel the system laughing at me. Despite common sense, Brooks isn't worried about what they're missing.

"Since there's nothing I can do about it, I need to just accept it graciously," said Brooks, between checking their phone for missed texts from friends that haven't been in contact since the winter semester ended.

Brooks claims the best way to cope is to avoid social media, so as not to become jealous of all the photos of your friends hanging out without you. The next-best tactic is

to focus exclusively on class and homework.

"While my friends are out wasting time enjoying themselves, I'm enriching myself intellectually and challenging my own mental endurance," Brooks said.

When asked about making friends within their classes, Brooks gave a surprising response.

"The thing is, I'm here because I have to be," they said. "I think these other people actually chose to be here. I'm lonely — but I'm not that lonely."

Days later, Brooks was spotted sobbing while photoshopping themselves into their friends' group photos.

Adulging – Dan Barnfield



Six bullshit jobs to apply for this summer

Story by Jill Girgulis

Still looking for the perfect summer job but have no experience? We've compiled a list of super legit-sounding positions to bolster your resumé for the future. Trust us — these positions are definitely real. Really real. Apply today!

Interactive Functionality Representative:

Applicants must display verifiable evidence of their ability to behave as a functional adult for a minimum of 20 hours per week. Familiarity and comfort with engaging with other human beings is an asset. Applicants must provide at least three references to prove that they have interacted with at least three people in the last year. Applicants are advised against having interacted with more than six people. Don't overdo it.

Lead Data Assistant:

This position requires a candidate that possesses technical proficiency, conscientiousness and attention to detail — but not enough attention to detail to notice that the titles 'lead' and 'assistant' definitely contradict each other.

National Solutions Developer:

In order to fill this federal vacancy, qualified candidates must be able to offer something new and exciting to what might possibly be the most uninspiring job ever. An ideal applicant has a long and storied history of incredible problem-solving skills in any situation, no matter how (in)effective or (ir)relevant those solutions were to the aforementioned position.

Principal Marketing Manager:

The primary responsibility for this employee will be to construct and nurture a kick-ass social media presence for our incredibly important, extremely necessary and not-at-all redundant paper-editing business. All new employees can expect to receive compensation in the form of bitcoin or any other cryptocurrency of their choosing.

Relational Response Orchestrator:

Interested applicants must have extensive experience working in groups and balancing the interests of several parties, given that their primary role will be to ensure their employer is viewed positively by the public from any interaction. Preference will be given to those who demonstrate aptitude for defusing even the most volatile of family gatherings, especially those involving in-laws visiting for the weekend.

Junior Optimization Supervisor:

This position is seeking the most extra candidate possible to bring a dash of extraneous to our already extraordinary team. Candidates with an interest in taking it to the next level in all areas of their life will be given top consideration.



Our horoscopes predict what your summer has in store

By Derek Baker



Taurus
(April 20 – May 20)

You will be that idiot who doesn't clean up their campsite, attracting a crowd of bears with the food you left around. They will eat all of your graham crackers, your tent and even your car. Better learn to be more bear aware!



Virgo
(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

It will be so hot one day that you will get heatstroke. Unfortunately, this will happen during a first date. Your date is kind enough to drive you to the emergency room, where you will continue your date as a nurse puts you on a saline drip.



Capricorn
(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Stuck in summer classes, you will try your best to convince your professor to hold class outside. Your simple pestering will escalate to pulling the fire alarm, for which you will promptly be written up for non-academic misconduct.



Gemini
(May 21 – June 20)

While floating down the Bow River one afternoon, you will be pulled down a mysterious side stream and transported to a part of the city where the fish glow neon green.



Libra
(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

For the third summer in a row, you find yourself unemployed. You only applied to one place, but this is definitely the current state of the economy's fault.



Aquarius
(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

You'll find yourself stumbling around 17th Ave. drunk after a lit patio sesh one day in May. You're convinced that it's the Red Mile and that the Flames just won the Stanley Cup.



Cancer
(June 21 – July 22)

A marshmallow skewer will get stuck up your ass after an unfortunate campfire mishap. Do not try to remove it yourself.



Scorpio
(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

You will fly a kite on Nose Hill one afternoon. It will be so windy that you will be blown away, ending up in Saskatchewan.



Pisces
(Feb. 19 – March 20)

Your "super-cool" summer job will turn out to be the lamest thing ever, as you are stuck photocopying all day long. Anything for that resumé.



Leo
(July 23 – Aug. 22)

You'll go on a roadtrip to the pleasant town of Balzac. Don't making the obvious joke on the way there – your friends are already annoyed at you.



Sagittarius
(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

You'll go to 7-Eleven and concoct the perfect slurpee recipe. The 7-Eleven will name the combination after you. You are now the slurpee king.



Aries
(March 21 – April 19)

Finally having time to socialize with your family, you'll immediately regret this after they spend five hours roasting you for your life choices.

Filbert Cartoons – L. A. Bonté





By Frankie Hart

Congratulations to Emma Hopper for being the first to submit last month's puzzles! 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!

Summer crossword

ACROSS:

- 6. Sunscreen helps prevent skin damage from this type of radiation.
- 9. This whimsically named popsicle is tropically-summer flavoured.
- 10. The absolute bop "Summer Nights" is from this musical.
- 11. Babies born in August have this birthstone
- 12. On July 1, you may see fire-works commemorating this holiday.
- 13. The F in SPF stands for _____.

14. On June 21, this event will occur.

DOWN:

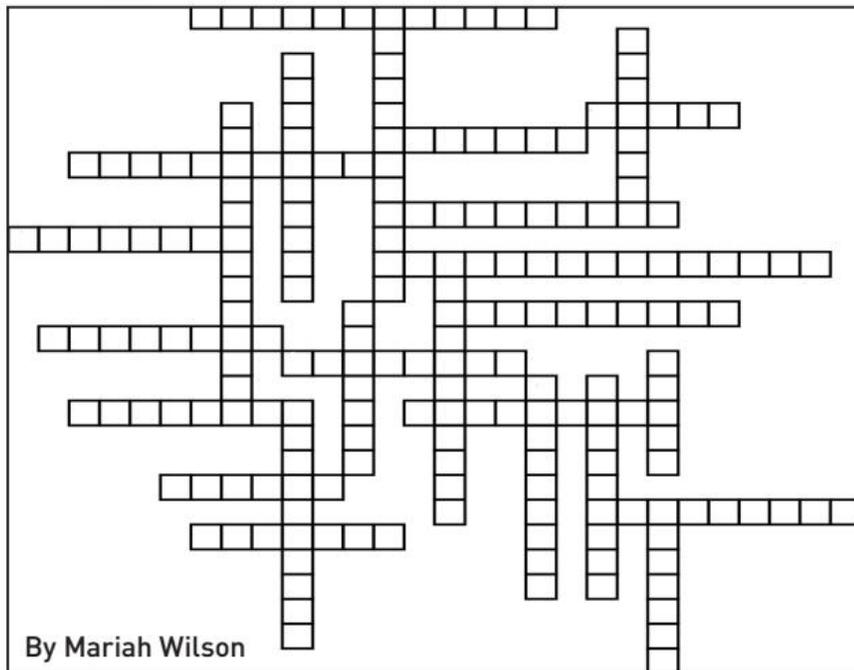
- 1. The month of July is named after this historical figure.
- 2. This area of the house will see much use for social gatherings.

- 3. Dads everywhere are honing their grilling skills for the family ____.
- 4. Cities around the world bid to host this quadrennial competition.
- 5. _____ is the Norse god of summer.
- 7. This fruit is the most associated with the summer season.
- 8. If you go to the beach you may play this summer sport. Spikes up!

April Solution:



Calgary-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. Place words into the grid so that they fit together, like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle.

- 5 letters:** Flood, Howdy
- 6 letters:** Flames
- 7 letters:** Bowness, Cowtown, Oil Boom, Rockies
- 8 letters:** Bow River, Palliser, Ranchers, Stampede, White Hat
- 9 letters:** Blue Arrow, Foothills, Great Fire, Sandstone
- 10 letters:** Bridgeland, Old Calgary, Saddledome, Streetcars
- 11 letters:** East Village, Fort Calgary
- 12 letters:** Calgary Tower, Olympic Games
- 13 letters:** Grain Exchange
- 15 letters:** Electric Railway



Geographic Information Systems

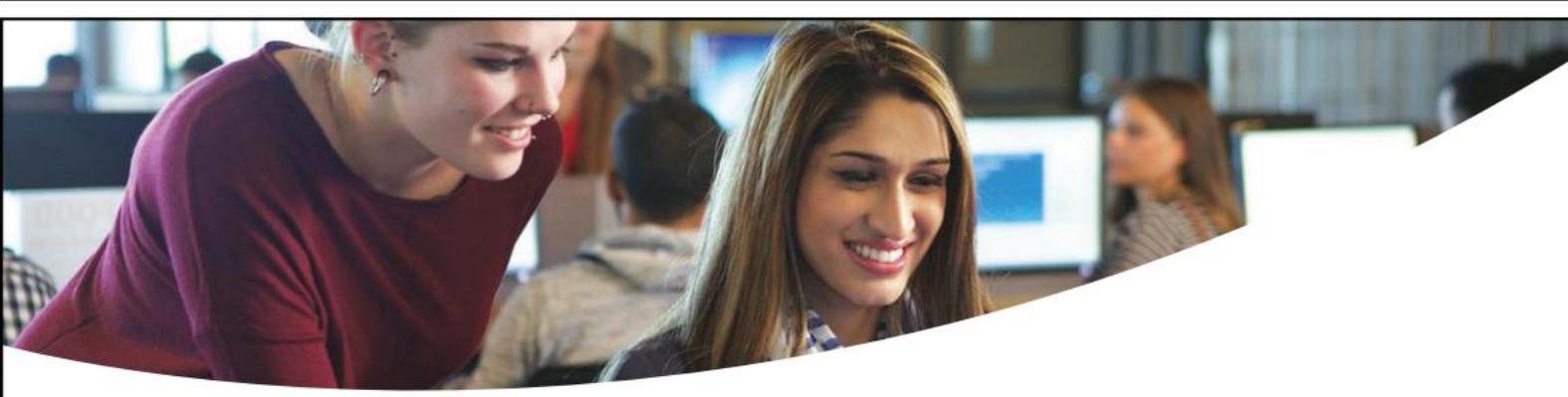
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