



THE GAUNTLET

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NEWS:

UCP NON-COMMITTAL
ON UNIVERSITY FUNDING

p. 6

ARTS:

ASSHOLES: A THEORY

p. 9

LIFESTYLE:

CALGARY COCKTAILS

p. 17

MASTHEAD

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The Gauntlet is printed on recycled paper and uses an ink made from worn-out t-shirts. We urge you to recycle/ro literally, actually recycle my dues, it's Climate Week.

The Cover
 Photo by Cole McCracken

Consider climate this election

Throughout September and October, there are events relating to climate change happening in almost, if not all major cities. From Greta Thunberg's impassioned speech given at the UN's Climate Change Summit to the Global Climate Strike, it's hard to ignore the push to thrust the consequences of climate change into the forefront and inspire people to act.

While we live pretty comfortably in our small corner of the world, there's cities across the globe that are facing real-time consequences due to the warming of the earth. Just recently, we witnessed Hurricane Dorian pummel the Bahamas with an unprecedented destructive force of nature, killing over 50 people. In India, the growing urban population is dealing with water scarcity in most major cities due to a combination of depleting glacial sources, mismanagement of resources and water contamination.

These are only two examples out of thousands that exist, with the number continuing to rise as we put off mitigating the effects of climate change. And, if you aren't aware by now, climate change is not imminent or in the far-off future — it's happening now. While it may seem insurmountable to be burdened with the

heavy load of fixing our entire planet by 2050, you can start with the first step: educating yourself.

Educate yourself about what climate change is, how it manifests itself and what actions aggravate the problem. Listen to diverse perspectives from as many different social and economic backgrounds as possible. The topic of climate change can be overwhelming, saddening, confusing and contradictory in some cases, so it's important that you read literature, watch video clips and engage with media from a range of credible sources. Question who released the information and what their motivation could potentially be. Understand that having a reductionist standpoint can be limiting and harmful as we try to tackle socio-economic issues that have been worsened by the effects of climate change. Be informed, and most importantly, be active in the climate change discussion.

Now, more than ever, it's important to carry this fervour and momentum forward into our upcoming federal election. The decision you make on October 21 will be essential in how our country responds to climate change in the next five years, which will be a crucial time in laying the framework for our survival on this planet. One of the best ways you can mitigate climate



MARIAH WILSON

change is by investing your tax dollars into worthy causes. Now, it's becoming more costly to deal with the effects of climate change than to invest in mitigation techniques. Elect a candidate that you feel will be fearless in their quest to reduce emissions. These next years may be uncomfortable and different from our parents' young adulthood, but these changes are essential for the health of ourselves and our planet.

It may seem that Canada is impermeable to climate change, but in the coming years, our country will experience some of the most drastic tem-

perature rises on the globe, which will lead to negative impacts on our agriculture industry, economy and way of living. In Calgary, alone, it's estimated that we'll hit our daily limit for water usage by 2036 due to a mix of rise in population, hotter summer temperatures and depleting glacial sources due to global warming.

This is our plea for you to become the most engaged and politically active you've ever been — you must demand more from your government and yourself.

—Mariah Wilson
Gauntlet Editorial Board

WHAT'S HAPPENING

ALL YOU CAN EAT
NUGGETS



\$12.75
*SEE YOUR SERVER FOR DETAILS



IT'S CALLED
BURGER
AND BREW



ALL FOR
12 BUCKS



NEWS »

UPCOMING EVENTS »

Senate & U
event to informKristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

This fall, there are plenty of events happening to get students connected with their elected representatives. Jonah Secreti, University of Calgary Senate Representative, is hosting "The Senate & U" on Thursday, Oct. 3.

"The main purpose of this event is to connect students at the University of Calgary with University of Calgary Senators," said Secreti. "As a student representative on the Senate, I've found that students may not know what role the Senate has in the university and often senators are interested in learning about the undergraduate student experience. So, I thought an event to build connections between these groups would be an excellent opportunity."

The event is open to all students, free of charge and features light snacks and refreshments.

Secreti says his goal is to better inform undergraduate students about the Senate and to provide some networking opportunities.

"I hope to expand the number of senators involved in mentoring student organizations to support many of the amazing initiatives students are involved in on campus," said Secreti. "This event is important as it provides an opportunity to connect members of the university community who would not commonly interact with one another, but who mutually support one another — often without realizing it."

The Senate & U will take place on Thursday, Oct. 3 in Social Sciences 103 — also known as the Arts Students' Lounge — from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.



MARIAH WILSON

ELECTIONS »

Get Out The Vote

Kristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

With the federal election looming, the Students' Union is once again ramping up their Get Out The Vote campaign.

Get Out The Vote is a non-partisan campaign aimed at mobilizing young voters and to increase student voter turnout. SU volunteers will be asking students to fill out a pledge form indicating their commitment to head to the polls. They'll be making classroom visits as well as having booths set up around the campus.

"The campaign aims to get students excited about voting and excited about getting out to the polls," said Sadiya Nazir, vice-president external.

She says the number of students pledging to vote can be used as an advocacy tool.

"When students are voting and making it out to the polls and governments know that students are voting, they will be more receptive to the concerns and priorities of students," said Nazir, who has been volunteering with Get Out The Vote since she set foot on campus.

"Part of the reason I was interested in the VP external role was because I helped out with the 2015 Get Out The Vote campaign," she said.

She said plenty of students had 'A-

ha!' moments during the talks she had with them while volunteering for the campaign.

"Seeing that transformation in one five-minute conversation was super meaningful to me," she said. "With this campaign, we want students to look into the issues that matter to them, whether that be accessibility or affordability of tuition, whether that be with moving to non-repayable grants to address some of those concerns or whether that's with work-integrated learning, co-op and internship opportunities. We really want students to get informed. By voting, that's how you make sure the things you care about are addressed."

According to Elections Canada, the participation of voters aged 18–24 in the 2015 election increased by just over 18 percentage points over 2011 — the age group's largest increase since Elections Canada began reporting this data in 2004.

Still, there's more to be done in terms of getting students to the polls and campuses across the country participate in Get Out The Vote.

Students who sign the pledge are entered into a draw to win either an Apple iPad Air, a Macbook Air or one of 75 \$10 MacHall vouchers. No information collected on the forms is ever sold or used for purposes other than contacting students about the election — or a prize win.

STUDENTS' UNION »

Faculty of Arts rep Tomiwa Oje says arts grads can be entrepreneurial too

Kristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative Tomiwa Oje wants students to know that students from the Faculty of Arts can be entrepreneurial too. She's planned a panel to showcase exactly that.

"Side Hustle to Reality: Panel of Entrepreneurs with Arts Degrees" is Oje's bid to incorporate the university's 'entrepreneurial-thinking' catch-phrase into the largest faculty on campus. The Faculty of Arts, she says, largely gets ignored when it comes to the focus on entrepreneurship that is so widely-touted to other faculties.

Oje said she was inspired by going to the graduation ceremonies of her friends in other faculties.

"At the science grad and the Has-kayne grad, the big topic was entrepreneurship," she said. "For arts,

that wasn't discussed at all, and arts grads have the same potential to be entrepreneurial as every other faculty."

The panel discussion features four individuals who have made their mark as entrepreneurs — after graduating with an arts degree of course.

Billy Friley, founder of Village Ice Cream, Neige Blair, co-founder Routine Natural Goods, Erynn Lyster, co-founder of The Commons and creative director and founder of Urban Motif Design Inc. and Hafiz Mitha, CEO of PlayCity, will be on hand to speak to students about their experiences.

What does Oje, the moderator of the panel, hope to learn from the discussion?

"I want to know the struggles they've gone through," she said. "Being entrepreneurial comes with a lot of shortcomings and struggles, and I want to know how they've worked

through all of that to be successful. I feel like hearing people's struggles is a good way to be inspired."

Oje says the event fits in with the platform she ran on — making sure that arts students are more career-driven.

"A lot of arts students are entrepreneurs, they just don't know it," she said. "If you're an artist, you're an entrepreneur — your art is what you're selling. If you're a dancer or singer, you're selling your craft."

"The Faculty of Arts is sincerely the best faculty," she said. "You can take everything you learn, if you are willing to put in the work, from a linguistics degree, from a dance degree, from a history degree, and apply it to so many sections of your life."

The panel discussion takes place in the Hunter Hub in MacHall on Wednesday, Oct. 2 from 3–5 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided.

STUDENTS' UNION »

Who's Who in the SU: Meet your science reps

Kristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

In an effort to introduce new — or even continuing — students to representatives in the Students' Union and in the Students' Legislative Council, the *Gauntlet* is running the series, 'Who's Who in the SU.' In this issue, we interviewed the Faculty of Science representatives — Manpreet Sahota, Angie Hu and Michael Nguyen. Full interviews can be found on thegauntlet.ca.

The Gauntlet: Why did you run for your role?

Manpreet Sahota: I truly believe that this role was meant for me. I enjoy leading conversation when it comes to change and I often find myself in an intermediary position between the students and the faculty. Furthermore, I was inspired by the previous science representatives to run in this year's election. After getting some advocacy experience and information about the responsibilities of a science representative, I decided to run in the election.

Angie Hu: Student advisory and advocacy has always been a great interest of mine. I was a Student Advisory Council member for two years at the Leadership and Student Engagement (LSE) Office and also worked to develop and improve student life programming for over a year. I decided to run for Faculty of Science representative because it provides me with a large platform to serve and represent students, through valuable opportunities to engage with students and work with university staff, administrators, and student leaders.

Michael Nguyen: This is my second year as Faculty of Science Representative, so my motive changed a little bit this year, but last year I ran because I wanted to be more involved in the student experience. I ran again because I had a great time and grew so much in the role. There's a lot that you don't necessarily see as a student. In my first year I got warmed up in my role and felt that a second year would be beneficial for me to finish up things I had been working on but also address new issues that arose during my term such as course enrollment and helping with the new internship program!

G: What do you specifically plan to do within your role?

MS: I am striving to advocate for more resources for students in my faculty to succeed academically and organizing engagement opportunities to foster a sense of community within my faculty. In terms of academic resources, a major focus of my platform was access to research opportunities and help outside the classroom. I am currently working on planning a Research Workshop that will take place in conjunction with the Undergraduate Resource Symposium to help students take those first few steps towards entering the research field — writing emails, CVs, research proposals, etc.

For student engagement opportunities, I would like to host accessible events throughout the year with my co-representatives to give students an informal space to connect. Some examples of these events include the annual Faculty of Science Pancake Breakfast and an informal Wellness Day during stressful exam season. I think events and workshops will give us a chance to connect with students in our faculty and understand their perspective when it comes to issues that affect them. In terms of organizing and executing events, I hope to collaborate with my team of co-reps to ensure that we do the best we can for students in our faculty. Most of the major events hosted by science representatives in the past have required a team for successful execution. Therefore, collaboration is a major component of our roles and we hope to continue working as a team with our faculty to ensure we accomplish our goals.

AH: Participating in research abroad has allowed me to recognize the immense value of international educational experiences. Therefore, a big focus of mine this year, is to help advance internationalization at both the faculty and university level. I will be working with the Faculty of Science and the Study Abroad office to host events and develop initiatives for promoting and increasing accessibility and feasibility of international study and research experiences for students. Specifically, some projects include hosting coffee chats for students thinking about going, and that have gone abroad, to discuss ideas, share personal experiences and exchange resources and advice. I also hope to garner the support of faculty members to champion interna-

tional experiences, through promotion within their classroom and providing guidance in seeking opportunities and the application process.

MN: Currently I'm working on completing renovations — owing to the successful Quality Money application for \$45,800.00 I submitted last November — in the Math Sciences building link making sure the new study spaces are completed and ready for Fall 2019.

This year I'm planning on working on more QM projects in and around the Sciences complex, currently planning one in Science B. Other things I'm working on involve planning and running the many events that we ran last year, and overall I want to develop the unity and community spirit in Science before I leave by bringing together SU Clubs, myself and my fellow science representatives, the Science Mentorship Program and the Science Ambassadors in closer collaboration. To do that, we're already working on how we can bring all of our units into play at different events and generally be more supportive of each others' efforts to engage Science students.

G: For someone who doesn't know what Students' Legislative Council is, how would you describe it? And how would you describe what it does?

MS: Students' Legislative Council (SLC) is a body of elected students that make decisions with the students' interest in mind. Our overarching goal is to ensure that we understand and represent student interests while making higher-level decisions for the organization.

AH: The role of the SLC is to meet regularly to discuss and make decisions on issues, programs, or topics that are pertinent to students. SLC meetings occur on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. To gain more information and follow the ongoing matters addressed by SLC members, all are welcome to attend the SLC meetings, as well as access the meeting agendas, minutes and council member reports, available on the Student's Union website.

MN: The best way for me to describe Students' Legislative Council is that SLC is the governing body/board of directors



Faculty of Science Representative Manpreet Sahota.

MARIAH WILSON



Faculty of Science Representative Angie Hu.

MARIAH WILSON



Faculty of Arts Representative Michael Nguyen.

MARIAH WILSON

of the Students' Union much like the university has its own Board of Governors that make high level decisions and set the direction of their organization. Most of the decisions that are made by SLC concern changes to our policies and how the Students' Union runs as an organization. Some really cool things that happen are approving the budget or large renovation projects in MacHall. SLC as an office of elected representatives also serves as the "ambassadors" of the SU - which means all of our members; you all as students - we try to put on or attend many events around campus and in the community as well as advocate for students to the government and the university.

G: A year from now, when you are done your role, what do you want to look back on and see?

MS: I want to leave a legacy that reflects the passion, work ethic and grit it takes to become a successful science representative. Furthermore, I want to be proud of the way I understood and represented the interest of science students in SLC and all the faculty committees that I was able to

participate in. I hope to see other students inspired to be leaders in science and bring their ideas to student government. I believe that a scientist brings a unique perspective to governing procedures and policies. It is essential for our students to participate in issues that impact them, as it encourages them to be active members of the community and I hope my term as Science Representative inspires students of all years to raise their voice on multifaceted issues.

AH: I hope to look back and see that my internationalization goals have been realized, with an increase in the number of students applying for and participating in global study abroad and research programs, as well as the implementation of long-term university initiatives that will continue to encourage and support international experiences. Furthermore, I hope that my fellow science reps and I will have continued the wonderful legacy of the science reps before us.

MN: The most tangible and concrete indicators for me are probably my Quality Money projects and all of the events that we have

planned, such as the Science Pancake Breakfast and the Year End Gala. Beyond that however, in my first year as a new science student at the University of Calgary, I often felt that Science was a very fractured faculty with minimal interaction between students of different departments and backgrounds - you know the bio kids would hang out with the bio kids, etc. It was always a goal of mine to help make science more unified and have a sense of community and collective identity. We made good steps towards that last year alongside the Science Ambassadors, Science Mentorship Program and some of the Science SU Clubs and student organizations. This year when I leave my role as both science representative and undergraduate student, I want to look back and see students from all different departments and backgrounds to be more able to interact, make connections with and thrive together.

G: What's one thing that you've learned now that you wish you had learned in the past?

MS: I wish I learned more about the various ways to get funding

for our events and how to negotiate funding with my faculty to ensure the successful execution of my event. Although I have experience with personal budgeting, this is the first time I will be working with larger sums of money that will be put towards our platform goals.

AH: Throughout my time at the university and the first few months in my SU role, I learned that there are an immense amount of resources, support and opportunities on campus for students. From programs and services provided by the university and the Student's Union - such as Career Services workshops and events, the SU Volunteer Program and the Campus Food Bank, just to name a few - to the hundreds of student clubs and Active Living activities on campus, to the plethora of awards and scholarships, as well as funding for research and student projects. The possibility for students to seek guidance, discover new interests and get involved, are endless. I would highly recommend students to explore as much as possible all that is available to them on campus - and even if they can't find what they are look-

ing for, they can always start it themselves or campaign to have it implemented!

MN: One thing that I learn every year when it comes time for exams or to plan an event or do something for students is to stop procrastinating. You can't study for an exam in one night and do well - well you'll definitely do better if you study in advance - just like you can't leave planning a 400+ person pancake breakfast until the last two weeks.

G: How can students get in contact with you if they need you?

MS: They can reach me at science2@su.ucalgary.ca.

AH: The best way to reach me is through email at science1@su.ucalgary.ca or through the Science Representatives Facebook @ScienceRepsUofC.

MN: The easiest way for students to get in touch with me is to email me at science3@su.ucalgary.ca. I can also be found on Facebook or Instagram (@michwoo.park).

Edited for clarity and brevity.

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ADVANCED EDUCATION »

UCP non-committal on state of university funding, budget awaited

Kristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

The United Conservative Party appointed an independent panel of experts to review and evaluate the state of Alberta's finances and economy. The Blue Ribbon Panel on Alberta's Finances released a report and a series of recommendations at the end of August. The report, known as the MacKinnon Report after chairperson Janice MacKinnon, highlights three recommendations for advanced education.

While there is plenty to unpack in the three recommendations, there is one in particular that has

some people worried about funding for universities.

Recommendation eight states that the government should "work with post-secondary stakeholders to achieve a revenue mix comparable to that in British Columbia and Ontario, including less reliance on government grants, more funding from tuition and alternative revenue sources, and more entrepreneurial approaches to how programs are financed and delivered."

The recommendations have been accused of following in Ontario premier Doug Ford's footsteps. Ford's government announced a provincial budget in the spring that tied funding for

universities to performance indicators such as job outcomes. Nursing programs generally produce graduates with nursing jobs and engineering programs produce graduates who go on to engineering jobs, but how this would be tracked with relation to funding for liberal arts programs is unclear.

When asked what he would say to students concerned about funding to Faculty of Arts programs, Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides, said that more time was needed to look at the MacKinnon Report.

"The MacKinnon Panel did make some comments about

funding and the mechanisms with which we fund our post-secondary institutions," said Nicolaides. "At this time, we're spending more time to look through the MacKinnon Panel Report in more detail and to see how those recommendations can help inform government policies. At this point, we haven't made any particular decisions as they relate to funding but we're certainly looking at the conclusions of the MacKinnon Panel Report and those recommendations will help inform our policies."

"I would say that we'll be working very diligently over the coming months as we prepare our budget and put the informa-

tion together, and that we'll be able to have a lot more clarity once we've been able to really go through the information, decide government policy and inform our budget," he continued.

Nicolaides did, however, speak to the importance of education.

"The other thing I would say is every background, every academic pursuit, is incredibly important and contributes to a stronger society in one way or another," he said. "I'm a PhD holder and pursued lots of educational opportunities out of academic interest and inquiry and I think there's a lot of value to doing that."

The UCP has yet to release a budget.



FILMS »

Father of Nations brings about the apocalypse

Troy Hasselman
Arts & Culture Editor

The apocalypse is coming to Alberta. *Father of Nations*, an upcoming film from Calgary production company Thousand Year Films, uses a fully Albertan cast and crew to tell the story of a group of survivors in the aftermath of an apocalyptic event and their hunt for a stable life in their resource-depleted, marauder-infested world. The movie begins principal photography this month and was originally formulated over a decade ago by writer and producer Nathan Horch.

"Initially I was wanting to do a simple film with only a small cast," Horch says. "I wanted to do one on the last few people on earth and exploring what it would be like to be on the edge of extinction. That's where it started. Over the years, as we've been developing, it's been growing a little grander in its scale, though a lot of that intimacy is still there right through until the end."

The use of an entirely Albertan cast and crew is a testament to the growth of the film industry in this province in recent years and shows the creators' role in trying to build the industry. The film also showcases the landscape of our province by being entirely filmed here, as is explained by *Father of Nations* director Aleisha Anderson.

"We are wanting to build and be a part of the community in Alberta so it was definitely our intention to keep it as much homegrown Alberta as possible," Anderson says. "The diversity of the landscape is just so incredible across Alberta. From the mountains, to the prairies, to the badlands. It is so beautiful and we do have a lot of rural history here as well. The locations play an incredibly important part of this story, in that it's a journey film and we get to showcase the changing landscape and rural life, old schools and buildings and use them as our setpieces."

The soundtrack for the film was composed by Horch in 2017, unusual for a film, as most soundtracks are composed after shooting is finished. Horch sees the soundtrack as an extension of the creative process that goes into the movie and a way of sonically illustrating the themes of the movie.



Thousand Year Films's *Father of Nations* will begin principal photography this month.

courtesy THOUSAND YEAR FILMS

"I love music and I feel that music plays such a massive part in the film and the story and the evoking of emotions," Horch says. "That soundtrack is essentially a concept soundtrack for me – it's not necessarily going to be the final one. But I love writing music while I'm writing and developing the script and they go hand in hand. Aleisha likes – out on location – playing music that sets the tone for what we're doing for the cast and crew. The images come out of the music and then I write more music and then the music comes out of the images, and I think there's a really beautiful symmetry when you do that. When it comes to the final film, I'm going to do all the edits that we require to fit in the actual pacing for the movie as well as some new music and it's a good tonal experiment to create the soundscape."

The always-unpredictable Alberta climate came into play when a massive wildfire shot through one of the movies' shooting locations days before filming was to take place. The disastrous fire ended up playing into the movie as locals urged the filmmakers to continue shooting in the area to make something out of the devastation created by the fire.

"We were looking for some old buildings out in the rural community of Hilda, Alberta, located about 45 minutes northeast of Medicine Hat," Horch says. "The week before we were going to shoot, a fire got out of control and

destroyed thousands and thousands of acres of farmers' crops. There were multiple homesteads and many heads of cattle that were lost. It was a devastating thing for this community. We were very cautious at that point, as you don't want to ask anything of people who had just lost so much. But, they were the ones who were really adamant about us coming to film and they wanted to see something beautiful come out of what was lost. The community is still very involved right now – we're going to be out there in the next couple weeks here. They're really hands-on in providing locations, some are even donating meals to the production. It's been really humbling to be a part of it and rewarding too."

"It really speaks to that rural Alberta community and the strength there is," Anderson adds. "I think sometimes, living in a larger city, you forget that there's a lot of strength in these smaller communities, even if the town has eight people and a church and that's it. They're still such a strong community and they're still excited to be a part of this and have something beautiful come from out of the ashes of what's lost."

The growth in Alberta's film industry is reflected in the recent influx of high-profile film shoots that have shot in the Calgary area.

"That is the key – the realization that we do have talent here," Anderson says. "We do have a qualified and technical crew. We do

have actors and artists. People are realizing that they don't have to leave in order to make films."

"We would definitely love to see more funds from grants put into this province comparatively to others," Horch says. "It's still growing and it's a great time for independent films as well as other big productions that come in. *Ghostbusters* was here recently, *Jumanji* was here recently, *The Revenant* was here a few years ago. It's a place that's growing and building for sure."

Despite the concept being conceived over a decade ago, the ideas behind *Father of Nations* still feel current. Anderson and Horch see the movies' themes as timeless and speaking to some of the big, universal questions that everyone faces in their life.

"I think that conceptually, it addresses some of the big questions that we have as human beings and in society, whether it's culturally or spiritually," Anderson says. "These are some of the big questions that are interesting to explore because we don't have the answers. It's your imagination that takes you there in terms of what would this be like."

"Using that backdrop lets you really explore those things like where is value in life," Horch says. "What is meaning? Is there meaning? Is there a purpose to all of those or not? I think putting it in that post-apocalyptic landscape where you're stripping away all of the commodities and the com-

forts we have in life is a great thing. It's a great stage for exploring those timeless things that people throughout history, I think no matter where our technology goes and our advances, people still wrestle with these questions often. I know I do. It's cathartic in a certain way, you're wrestling with yourself in art."

The local support for the film has extended to its distribution, with Calgary theatres like the Globe Cinema and the Plaza Theatre already signed on to screen the film when it is released.

"The theatres were really supportive of it," Horch says. "We were showing some of our concept stuff for the bigger chains too. The support and encouragement we got from them was really great too. They can't commit to showing anything until the film is done but it was a very positive interaction. We hope to have a larger distribution when the film comes. We want to do not just the independents – which we love because there's a classic character to them – we want the film to be seen in some of the larger venues across Canada and in the United States and the rest of the world."

The creators are aiming for *Father of Nations* to have an Autumn 2020 release. The film will star Horch alongside Calgary actors Kyrá MacPherson and Griffin Cork in what promises to be an engrossing, powerful and moving story about hope and survival with a local backdrop.

DOCUMENTARIES »

Assholes: A Theory looks for solutions



John Walker's *Assholes: A Theory* is playing as part of Calgary International Film Festival.

courtesy SOPHIE LEMOINE

Troy Hasselman
Arts & Culture Editor

Assholes. Why are they like that? Who are these people? Why are there so many of them? A new documentary from Canadian filmmaker John Walker takes a look at the social phenomenon of assholery and how they came to be such a pervasive force in our society. *Assholes: A Theory* is screening as part of the Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF). The film is based on the 2012 moral philosophy book of the same name by University of California professor Aaron James.

The documentary uses the definition of an asshole from Aaron James's book, which is someone who "allows himself to enjoy special advantages in social relations out of an entrenched sense of entitlement that immunizes him against the complaints of other people." The film takes a look at different case studies of asshole behaviour in the political, financial and entertainment realms.

The documentary notably looks at the institutional examples of the behaviour in organizations such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). A sizable portion of the film is devoted to the experience of Sherry Benson-Podolchuk during her two decades in the RCMP, where she endured severe bullying and harassment at the hands of her colleagues. This is one of many examples of asshole behaviour on an institutional level which the documentary looks at, showing how the behaviour can saturate an organization in a top-down fashion.

"Sherry nails it in terms of the institutional issues," John Walker says. "If the person on top, your boss, your

leadership, is behaving in this manner, then it filters down. In other words, big assholes produce little assholes. If your boss is behaving in this manner, then you'll want to emulate your boss to please them. It becomes a culture of assholery, and it really starts at the top and if it's at the top, then it's a problem. In financial institutions, people might come into the job not intending to behave that way and don't necessarily have that type of personality, but they become that way to fit into the culture. That's why we use some of the examples of Wall Street and the language that they use. It becomes a culture that infects everyone, almost like a disease."

The film uses notable examples of public assholes like musician Kanye West or former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Although these two are discussed at length, they are not interviewed in the movie.

"I wasn't that interested in talking to assholes," Walker says. "Because first of all, the so-called proper assholes don't see themselves that way, and you know, what would I have a conversation with them about? I really wasn't that interested. I did choose to talk to some younger folks who are influenced by Kanye West — that's their hero and they emulate that behaviour and think it's cool to behave that way. I do have a concern for younger people who see that behaviour as cool. I was interested in talking to younger people and hope they can grow out of that behaviour."

Despite their obvious drawbacks, people are often charmed by, and attracted to, assholes. People can be drawn to their confidence or ability to draw attention to themselves, Walker explains.

"One of the people we talk to is

Geoffrey Nunberg who said that 'Ofentimes the asshole might say things that we would like to say but don't really want to say.' So maybe they're speaking some truths," Walker says. "They're also entertaining — the quiet mouse-like person in the corner isn't attracting attention because they're unobtrusive, whereas the asshole is catching our attention because they're up to all kinds of antics. It's important to note that to be a successful asshole, you have to be smart, intelligent and have a sense of humor. For example, if you have a bad artist whose work is not good but they're an asshole, they're going to be in trouble. But, if you have a great artist who is an asshole, you're going to be more tolerant of their behaviour. It's the danger of the successful asshole, that people think 'Oh, I have to take that route to be successful,' and again that's why we counter that with, 'You don't have to be that way to be a success.'"

The movie speaks on assholes in the political realm extensively. It primarily focuses on Berlusconi and his impact on Italian politics. A certain notable political asshole is not mentioned in the movie. Walker says this is intentional.

"The point is, assholes in the public eye are encouraged and emboldened by attention, particularly by the media," Walker says. "The media clearly loves assholes. The media are fascinated with assholes and they give them attention, and that is exactly what they want and that emboldens and empowers them. My point of ignoring one of the biggest assholes was partly to make that point. When we are talking about Berlusconi, he is really the precursor to who we are talking about. In a way, a different, more intelligent asshole. He's the el-

ephant in the room and clearly everyone would be thinking about him, by dealing with Berlusconi — and he was in power for 30 years so he's a more interesting character. Also his behaviour is more relevant to understanding now. He was the first one in a European context."

The movie looks at asshole behaviour as one that is historically masculine. While women can certainly exhibit negative behaviours, the qualities of what makes one an asshole as defined by the film and Aaron James' book puts it through a masculine lens. This is backed up by an interview with British comedian John Cleese used in the movie. The movie also uses examples of sexual harassment and wage pay gaps for women as examples of this behaviour.

"It's interesting that Aaron James and John Cleese confirm that it's predominantly a male behaviour. Cleese said it's probably 99 per cent, but also claims that his mother was an asshole," Walker says. "There's a long history of male sense of entitlement over women and treating women as second-class citizens. We don't pay women as much. In terms of sexual behaviour, we use the example of Harvey Weinstein. The sense of entitlement of 'If you want to work with me, you're going to play the game.' I think men have a particular sense of entitlement when it comes to their relations with women. This doesn't mean women can't be nasty or be bullies, but it doesn't come out of a sense of entitlement. So it's not the same kind of asshole behaviour. It clearly defines a particular male in their approach to the behaviour but it's not a science. The book is

based on moral philosophy."

Walker hopes this movie has the impact of inspiring people to recognize and speak out about asshole behaviour and look at ways to stop the rising tide of assholes in our world.

"I want to empower people to name this behaviour," Walker says. "If your boyfriend, your family member or your boss is acting this way and affecting you in a negative way — mistreating you, not respecting you and making your life miserable — I hope we're naming this behaviour and saying it's okay to push back against this behaviour and say this behaviour isn't acceptable. It's a pushback stunt and I hope it empowers people to say 'No, this is not acceptable.'"

The movie does look at organizations that have made attempts to solve the problems of this behaviour by instituting directives such as the "No Asshole Rule" which has been adapted as part of the hiring processes of the finance company Baird and Cornell Law School.

"If institutions are having trouble with assholery, there's a solution," Walker says. "Have a 'No Asshole Rule' and don't hire them. If you find out you're dealing with an asshole, then you fire them. It's a very solution-based film in that sense. It's an activist-based film. We can actively push back, and we need to push back against this behaviour."

The movie will be screening at Eau Claire Cinema on Sept. 28 and 29. If you or someone you know is an asshole, information about preventing, calling out and overcoming this behaviour can be found at assholesathetheory.com.

FESTIVALS »

Calgary International Film Festival offers variety



Parasite is one of the many films screening at this year's Calgary International Film Festival.

courtesy NEON

Troy Hasselman
Arts & Culture Editor

The Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF) has lit up screens across Calgary's downtown for the last week. The festival showcased a variety of works, from a Canadian-directed story of brotherhood, to a New Zealand-made meditation on grief and community, to a South Korean black-comedy about class struggle. This year's edition of CIFF has offered a smorgasbord of arrays, themes and tones to choose from. Here are some of this year's notable works.

The Song of Names

François Girard's *The Song of Names* marked the opening gala of this year's CIFF. The film stars Tim Roth and Clive Owen and tells the story of two childhood friends that are separated after events stemming from the Second World War. The film deals with themes of loss, separation, family, Jewish-identity and music.

The film follows multiple time-lines, portraying Martin (Roth) and Dovidi (Owen) throughout their childhood, young-adulthood and middle-age. Dovidi is a violin prodigy that is sent by his Polish-Jewish family to live with Martin's

family in the days before World War Two. The two boys bond quickly and support each other through the war and their adolescence while Dovidi is fearful of what may have become of his family. Before his debut solo concert in 1951, Dovidi disappears and the film fast forwards from there to 1986 where Martin attempts to track down his brother and goes on a journey that takes him across multiple continents.

Girard is known for films such as *The Red Violin* and *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*. This film keeps in with his running motif of music, using it as both a backdrop and plot device. The musicality runs as a connective thread through the film that adds another layer of depth. Owen and Roth both deliver strong performances that capture the motivations and humanity of each character and it acts as a moving depiction of brotherhood and the unshakable bonds of human connection.

There are issues with the film, however. The multiple-perspectives cause the plot to drag in the middle portion of the film, and the ending doesn't deliver the emotional payoff expected from the long journey undertaken by Roth's character to find his friend. While the movie is undeniably beautiful

shot and acted, it ultimately falters at the end and doesn't quite stick the landing of the story that is set up in the first act of the film.

Bellbird

Bellbird, the New Zealand-based comedy-drama from writer, director and schoolteacher Hamish Bennett, takes a surprisingly breezy look at grief under a bucolic backdrop. The film centers on a farmer in a small and rural community that rallies around him in the wake of the unexpected death of his wife.

The farmer, Ross (Marshall Napier) and his adult son, Bruce, (Cohen Holloway) band together with other locals to keep the farm running, the film thoughtfully ruminates on grief, aging, family and community. The movie takes an observer's approach to its characters as they interact with one another in a way that's both realistic and engaging, with the dialogue never becoming cloying or unworkable.

Keeping in pace with its surroundings, the movie drifts by like one of the sun-drenched Kiwi afternoons that the narrative inhabits. The film holds onto its breeziness, even through the backdrop of tragedy that informs it. The characters' vibrancy holds

Bellbird together as the work of the New Zealand dairy farm takes centre stage.

Though my Canadian ears would often have difficulty discerning the thick accents of the New Zealand cast in the dialogue-driven film, I still found myself charmed by their quick banter with the rural wit reminding me of my own youth in a small town. The rural sense of community is unshakable, as is illustrated in this film, and shows the strong bonds that people can make with one another while living in the same close proximity.

Bellbird is a charming, small film that captures the beats and rhythms of rural life and speaks on the centrality of community to human existence and how it can lift one through seemingly insurmountable tragedy. Though a slow-paced film about a rural dairy farm is not a film that I would expect to enjoy, the disarming charm of *Bellbird* is enough to keep the film afloat and engaging through its runtime.

Parasite

Coming off an avalanche of critical acclaim and its victory of the prestigious Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival, it wouldn't be hyperbole to call Bong Joon-ho's *Parasite* one of — if not the — most anticipated films, of

the festival. The South Korean dark-comedy follows the impoverished Kim family as they con their way into employment for the affluent Park family. The less you know about the plot of this film going in the better, so I'll leave my description at that.

The movie deals with themes of class, greed, wealth and corruption while keeping its comedic edge razor sharp throughout. Imagine an episode of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* that turns into a horror-movie halfway through, and you're close. The film keeps with the trademarks of much of Bong Joon-ho's work, including the social commentary and abrupt shifts in tone, while holding a comedic edge that is more present here than in any of his films.

The cast impeccably embody their characters as the desperation and ruthlessness of the Kim family is fully captured, along with the Park's affluent naiveté. The movie is paced incredibly, with its over two hour run-time zooming by as it trades comedy for suspense and tension for release, above its thoughtful meditations on class and poverty. *Parasite* is pure entertainment, and not only a highlight of the festival, but simply one of the best films of the year.

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MEDIA »

Fat-shaming and why Bill Maher is wrong

Farah Refaey
Contributor

Earlier this month, comedian and *Real Time with Bill Maher* host Bill Maher made some controversial remarks about obesity and suggested that we should “bring back” what he believes to be the cure — fat-shaming.

I guess when you’ve been alive since the early beginnings of the Korean War, it’s difficult to keep up with social media — and ironically, the ‘real world’ — enough to know that fat-shaming has never left us.

“Fat shame? No, we fit shame. Really. You hear it all the time!” says Maher.

May I ask where? When? Whomst? It appears that Bill Maher has been living in a parallel universe where society’s ideals of beauty that have been cemented into the brains of every person, their grandma and their dog have been reversed! Oh, what a dystopian world Maher lives in. It was so nice of him to give us a peek into it.

Seriously, fat-shaming has never gone away. It affects almost everyone I know. As a young person growing up at the height of media barbarity, the amount of times I



Fat-shaming is still prevalent in our society.

MARIAH WILSON

hear “I look fat in this,” “I need to lose a few pounds” or “I’m going on a diet” on a daily basis is disheartening. Seeing friends and family members — who are worlds away from the obesity Maher so badly wants to fix — be this critical about their own bodies really drives home the message that fat-shaming has universal impacts. Just last week, my mother and her friends, who are not overweight, decided on a new fad weight loss trick for all of them to try — keto oil drops. The diet and weight-loss industry

benefits from the average person’s insecurities. These insecurities are fostered, harboured and driven by fat-shaming. It is a vicious cycle and unfortunately, it affects almost all of us.

Although Maher is undoubtedly altruistic in his concerns about public health, he fails to mention any legitimate ways to fight the epidemic that is obesity. His philosophy is that if we shame people enough, they will feel so terrible about themselves that they will be forced to change their lifestyles.

And we, the fat-shamers, will be the heroes of this story.

But, fat-shaming has been a tried-but-not-true cultural practice, and obesity has not yet been cured. Not only does fat-shaming do nothing to fix the epidemic that is obesity, but it harms people. Ever heard of body dysmorphia, Bill? What about anorexia? These are disorders that have nothing to do with a person’s actual weight or their health, but are the effects of culturally-instilled ideals. In addition to that, there are many

illnesses that cause weight gain, and people can be genetically predisposed to obesity. There are a myriad of reasons and factors that contribute to someone’s ability to manage their weight. It is insensitive and uncouth for anybody to assume anything about anyone else’s weight or health. Saying that all fat people are fat because of their eating habits is presumptuous and frankly, a great way to broadcast your ignorance, especially on national television.

At the end of the day, I think we’re all aware that fat-shaming is just bullying under the guise of health-consciousness. Most of the time, the worries that plague people with regard to their weight are in no way correlated with actual health concerns — it’s about appearance. So, when a comedian has the audacity to speak on a matter this significant as if he possesses any sort of qualifications, it cannot be taken lightly. We can’t just brush it off as harsh humour. Words have impact. Being a comedian is not a free pass to being a terrible person.

Next time you think about policing a person’s health without being a doctor or *their* doctor, sit down and shut the hell up.

CONSUMER CULTURE »

A eulogy to Zellers

Hannah Brunn
Contributor

Humanity’s materialism has resulted in a very interesting relationship with ‘mom and pop’ stores, big multi-corporations and now, the new online retail giant Amazon. With the last Zellers soon closing its doors, many Canadians are up in arms, bringing nostalgia to something with no heartbeat, creating the illusion of a first-time child-

hood love, when really, we should take a step back and take a deeper look into the relationship between where we get our products from and what that means for people everywhere. This is my eulogy to Zellers, as well as, at least for this writer, the terms and conditions for my new relationship with one of the world’s biggest monopolies, Amazon.

Honestly, I haven’t seen Zellers in ages and haven’t heard anyone mention it until recently. Some-

times, I forget it exists. I took full advantage of it when I was young, but turned my back on it as I grew older. Zellers was mine and many others’ ‘first’ introduction to the materialistic world of back-to-school shopping and the desire to look good in front of our friends. As we grew older, we grew further apart. Zellers, Walmart, Sears and others were simply not cool enough for us. Back-to-school shopping included being lured in by the mysterious teen department stores, while my mother dragged me by the hand back to Zellers.

“What’s wrong with Zellers? It gives you so much for so little,” she’d say. I just hoped my friends didn’t see me in Zellers. Yes, Zellers gave so much for so little, like an overzealous partner, trying, failing, to win me back with bedazzled shirts and toe socks. This was for naught, as from an early age we were bombarded by the need to achieve a certain look — one that did not include Zellers. So we cut ties, not noticing that Zellers start-

ed to disappear, being replaced by large international corporations. Now we’re noticing, as the last two Zellers are set to close in January 2020.

You don’t know what you have until it’s gone. Zellers’ simplicity was welcoming in light of our latest relationship — our dependency rather, is more like it. A dependency in which the independent is the key actor in destroying what we once loved. Zellers isn’t perfect by any means. There are reasons why in a more interconnected, globalized world, we no longer go to stores like Zellers. However, the situation we’ve found ourselves in is as scary as it is exciting. Amazon has taken over our lives, collecting those ‘mom and pop’ stores like trophies, shoving department stores into their unmarked graves. Rarely does such corporate brutality faze us. Perhaps it does, but honestly, can we give up the convenience that the bad-boy of online shopping provides us?

We’ve heard the rumours, we know the facts, but human rights

abuses — although apparent — are no match for the web that monopolies tangle us in. Ideally, we would make such things stop but our world is dictated by technology, making it hard to take back control. It’s easier to say you should ‘be a responsible shopper’ than to actually be one. Sustainability often comes with a price — usually too expensive for the day-to-day person. The cheapest option was once to stay with department stores, now it is to remain with Amazon. Manipulative in their materialistic ways, any means of escape is short-lived. I for one am not so high and mighty to deny deals and coupon codes. However, an awareness is seeping in, perhaps with the closing of Zellers and other stores, as well as our access to information and now we can see what exactly we want from businesses. A change in our outlook equals a change in market, so thank you Zellers, for all the good times you selflessly gave. Hopefully as we move forward we can use our power as consumers for the good.



The last Zellers are closing in Canada in January.

courtesy MIKE KALASNIK/FLICKR

CAMPUS COMMUNITY »



Cultural clubs help build community.

courtesy BENGALI STUDENTS' SOCIETY

Spill the chai: The importance of cultural clubs on campus

Aymen Sherwani
Columnist

To all you freshman South Asians who have a mini panic attack when your mom brags to Shazia auntie about you becoming a future doctor or an engineer but you actually don't have a clue what you're doing — I'm here to tell you that there is a silver lining to your future years of student loan debt. We all know that September is the universal Student New Year. While that means avoiding the campus gym for a good two weeks, or until everyone gives up on trying to get a bubble butt by cuffing season, it also means getting the chance to network and make connections that will probably be performing to the newest Bollywood song at your future seven-day desi wedding. It means joining either the

Pakistani Students' Society (PSS), Bengali Students' Society (BSS) or the Indian Students' Association (ISA) this fall.

"When I was younger, I was embarrassed to tell people that I was from Bangladesh because no one knew what that was," said Sarika Haque, Vice President External of the BSS in an interview with the *Gauntlet* alongside Waliyya Shahzad. "I would have to explain that it was a small country near India and Pakistan for them to understand its geographical location. Cultural clubs are important because they put minority countries on the map, making us more globally aware."

Both the PSS and BSS as cultural clubs hold it in their core philosophy that it is important to create a sense of community within first-year students, who are starting in such a big university.

Cultural clubs have always been at a point of controversy because, while the idea of having a culturally sensitive support group is important, many critics claim that they cause divisiveness on campus instead of bringing people together. To this, Waliyya asserts that "there may be a sort of 'clique' culture that tends to develop with some clubs. However, collaborating with other clubs and hosting events where members of other cultures feel welcome to attend can help to create a larger community on campus. Outreach to those with different backgrounds and creating a space where everyone is welcome can combat divisiveness that may come about."

In a way which most people who aren't children of immigrants don't understand, cultural clubs are integral to the University of Calgary because of how difficult it is to be

able to thrive in white-dominated institutions. It is so important to create your own space where you can thrive in your creative energy, instead of feeling uncomfortable and lonely. Claims of ethnic segregation and divisiveness aside, a lot of students look to cultural clubs as "a home away from home," according to Sarika.

"We have a lot of international students that attend our events to meet people from similar backgrounds," she said. "Cultural clubs are also a great place to crack jokes that don't make sense in other languages!"

The heart of social clubs is get-together events and even if you don't belong to a particular ethnic group, going to a cultural event is the perfect opportunity to learn more about where your peers are from and what they are passionate about. The Bengali Students'

Society will be having their annual Pohela Boishakh event, which is Bengali New Years', as well as their new event, the Royal Mezban. In addition to this, the PSS will be dedicating this year to help raise funds to sponsor the education of as many students in Pakistan as they are able with their proceeds. The PSS is known for its annual events that always bring the house down, such as their Biryani Meet and Greet, Mehndi Night and this year's Daawat 2020, two functions that showcase just how crazy Pakistani parties get when the DJ plays that age-old roadman classic, Amplifier.

Both clubs will be having ongoing campus-wide fundraisers to raise money to support their causes, so keep an eye out for their flags and keep checking their Instagram pages @bengalistsudentsociety and @pss-ucalgary for more updates with events.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY »

Students deserve updated information

Cristina Paolozzi
Opinions Editor

The MacEwan Student Centre is one of the busiest places on campus by far. It's the heart of the University of Calgary's campus and a meeting place for many students, faculty and staff. One of the most crowded places on campus as well, this is especially true during the first month of school, especially for clubs week — an opportunity where new and

returning undergraduates alike can find clubs on campus to join and deepen their experience within the campus community. It must have also been surprising to notice an unusual police presence surrounding the flurry of clubs week, as an apparent threat was being investigated regarding a potential shooter on campus. While the situation was non-threatening, it did result in concern and confusion among the individuals passing by. Taking to social media, many members of

the campus community expressed their concern regarding the lack of information pertaining to the safety and security of a potentially dangerous issue. Different news outlets had already published accounts of the incident sporadically throughout the day, while campus security as well as the university itself did not address the details of the incident until later that afternoon.

While social media has become a great tool to use when getting in contact with others and obtaining first-hand perspectives regarding special events or breaking stories, it is troubling to know that the community who had seen a possible serious encounter with a heavy police presence casually roaming the busiest place on campus, needed to find their answers from news outlets or other community members on Twitter. There are real threats that are waged against public places like universities frequently that it is inherently careless as an institu-

tion to leave your patrons with less information than the local news. It is important and necessary to have updated and accurate information regarding threat control whether the threat is serious or not. The university also has an emergency app, which is supposed to provide information to be dispersed quickly and efficiently to members of the campus community — had it been used effectively, this would have been a great opportunity to address a dangerous circumstance and avoid speculation from individuals through social media. Confusion regarding some students being in a state of lockdown in certain buildings, others walking right past armed police officers, students who weren't at school and wondering what was happening to their friends or colleagues who were on campus or just the average person checking in on social media in the morning all deserve the same information without the echo chamber

of miscommunication and speculation.

Other community members could be seen updating individuals on the same threads as official statements from Calgary Police Services or the university, because no other information was being distributed at the time. It was chaotic, confusing and certainly not what anyone was expecting walking through campus on a Monday morning.

The questions and conversations circling the web directed at Calgary Police Services and the University of Calgary were aimed in order to obtain clarification and omit uncertainty. Screenshots taken of the blank message board on the UCalgary emergency app seemed to be the overall mood of the community — living in a time of constant access to information, when a threat has been identified in any capacity, there should be accurate and detailed communication.



Students should expect updates regarding urgent incidents.

SHANGHONG HU

MEDIA»



Are sequels a good thing or a bad thing for storytelling?

courtesy FREESTOCKS/UNSPLASH

A soliloquy on stories

Stephen Lee
Contributor

Without doubt, the dominant form of storytelling in our epoch is the franchise. On page or on the silver screen, it's the franchise that draws the public's attention. We crave superhero movies. We desperately wait for the next *Game of Thrones* book. Recently, Margaret Atwood announced a sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*. Perhaps it is her artistic intention. Or perhaps it is because Hulu brought her name back into the zeitgeist. No matter the case, it demands a reflection — are sequels good or bad for storytelling?

There is a belief that stories must be didactic. Subsequently, because stories require a doctrine, anything without one is not art. This is a pretentious view and one that is repeatedly unfounded. In her seminal essay "The White Album," Joan Didion opens by saying "we tell ourselves stories in order to live." She paints a romanticized picture of how society seeks meaning in the smallest and most normal stories we experience. Didion quickly dismisses this notion using her experience in the late 1960s of Southern California to state that sometimes it is impossible to find meaning in a story.

We read between the lines searching for some fragment of wisdom that isn't there.

Stories have never necessitated life lessons. Many great works — Orwell's 1984, Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, and Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* — do have lessons. Storytelling may be a conduit for such messages, but for the many didactic works, there is an equal number which simply aren't. Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* is one of the most revered short stories of all time, yet it has no meaning. It is a story about a man reclaiming his dignity by killing a marlin. J.R.R. Tolkien's works are inspiring, yet the author hated analogy and never intended any sort of religious undertone. Middle Earth and its universe are an amalgamation of Germanic, Scandinavian and Gaelic folklores. These are examples where a story means just that — a tale.

Further cementing this notion are some of the folk traditions across the globe. Fables often convey wisdom for children. However, many folk tales lack a take-home message. Consider the folklore of Ireland, a country with a rich oral tradition. Some of the most praised Irish folk tales are those of kings and warriors. Often these stories are longer, more elaborate narratives

presenting heroic deeds. These are stories told to entertain, stories which do not need a message because it is not their purpose. The rich mythologies of Greece, Egypt and other ancient civilizations are appreciated for the often detailed narratives they tell. Rarely does one observe applicable wisdom in such stories, yet they are inherently artistic. The same can be said of contemporary writing. No one would deny James Joyce's *Ulysses* the status of art, nor Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. If a story must be didactic to be considered art, then most of our beloved stories would not qualify.

This logic also applies to film. *Citizen Kane* is often considered one of the greatest movies of all time. Its major point is the lack of meaning behind the last words of a dying man. Hollywood is full of narratives with no greater meaning — *Jaws*, *The Sting*, and *Pulp Fiction* come to mind. Similar to books, film has been a conduit for depicting the complexities of life. But even in the starkest of dramas or grimmest of settings, film has never been inherently didactic. All of this points to the simple conclusion that doctrine is not the telos of storytelling.

So what is it then? Is it quality? That

cannot necessarily be proven. The *Fifty Shades of Grey* movies combined made just under \$400 million USD and they were critically reviled. The half-baked remake of *The Lion King* made over one \$1 billion USD worldwide. DC Comics continues to be about as predictable as Alberta's weather. J.K. Rowling continues to muddle her legacy and the *Star Wars* franchise has polarized its viewers more than ever.

And then there is Netflix, everyone's favourite streaming site. In recent years, Netflix has shifted its focus to original productions, either TV shows or movies. *Saturday Night Live* once parodied a Netflix pitch meeting in which executives threw bundles of cash at the writer, screaming "Do it!" Indeed, that feels like the case these days. Netflix seems to throw money at whatever it sees, yet we return again and again to watching their shows. It appears that we do not value quality in our stories. If we did, then pandering garbage would cease to dominate our zeitgeist.

Perhaps storytelling is simply for entertainment. This also cannot be fully true because we would not pay to read or watch the most brutal of human stories. Take *12 Years A Slave*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* or *Trainspotting* — three stories depicting some of

the lowest, most sordid human conditions. If we consume stories for entertainment, then why do we wish to see heroin addicts going through withdrawal? Why do we wish to see slaves brutally beaten? Children killed? Why is it that true crime is so popular? Are we entertained by *In Cold Blood*, by the detailed description of a quadruple homicide in 1950s Kansas? These are not entertaining stories by any means, yet writers and storytellers continue to produce them — fictional or otherwise. If storytelling is simply for entertainment, then these would not have found the audience they have.

Is there anything more to storytelling than face value? Perhaps there is no qualifier. Perhaps stories are an art form by definition. If this is so, then there is nothing good or bad about a sequel. There is nothing to them besides that they tell a story. Yet somehow this feels wrong. If there is no qualifier, then there would be no difference between *Catch-22* and *Batman vs. Superman*. They both tell stories, so they are of equivalent value. There must be something, but maybe trying to define that something is futile. But Joseph Heller and Zack Snyder are not in the same league. To claim as much would be a death sentence.

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LIFESTYLE »

HAPPY BELLIES HAPPY WALLETS»

How to happy hour your way through YYC

Tori Taylor
Lifestyle Editor

Happy hour specials in this city are wild. The sheer volume of tacos, wings, nachos and craft beer that are available for considerable discounts from 3 – 6 p.m. and then again after 9 p.m. will overwhelm you in the best of ways. Calgary has hundreds and hundreds of happy hour deals. I've curated a list of my personal favorites based on quality, venue vibe and price point. Turn off the kettle, put down the Ichi Ban and put your pants back on – grab a buddy and head out for a budget-friendly meal.

Blanco Cantina:

This is my personal all-time favourite place. The servers are real and have great personalities. There are no employees suffering in tiny black skirts or ridiculous heels. The dining is casual and the mood is "gimme-that-big-ass-burrito." Blanco does #halfyhour from 3 – 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. – close every day of the week. There is a blend of high-top tables, low-top tables and comfy booths. The "make-your-own-nachos" and wide selection of classic margaritas make this place my paradise. They offer vegan protein and cheese selections. The



Leopold's Tavern does poutine like no other.

MARIAH WILSON

chili coconut margarita is the reason I get up in the morning. Drinks are \$6 and at half-off a huge plate of nachos, I am able to leave with a \$20 tab more nights than I'd like to admit.

Cleaver:

This is an awesome venue with a vibe that is unmatched anywhere else in the city. With menu selections like duck-fat-fried fries and Toblerone and Oreo cheese-

cake – only the happiest of bellies leave the building. From Sunday to Thursday, happy hour runs before 7 p.m. and after 9 p.m. Wine and unreal hand-crafted cocktails are on for \$8. Their wide selection of sliders are the main feature at \$4 a piece. When you come face-to-face with a slider list that includes matcha mushroom, soft-shell crab and chipotle chicken there is no scenario in which you leave with your pants still buttoned.

The Kilkenny:

This is where you go for wings. On Monday nights the wings are 24 cents. This is about all that needs to be said. Monday nights are for huge, well-sauced wings at the bumpin' Irish pub right near campus. It's a big venue with tons of tables and booths for large groups of friends. Sports games are always playing and loudly participated in. Wings are not the only reason to go to The Kilkenny. They have a menu made up entirely of everyone's favorite comfort foods – chicken pot pie and top-notch fish and chips to name a couple.

1410 World Bier Haus:

Located on the Calgary's famous red mile, 1410 is a busy upscale pub-style place to grab reasonably priced beer and appies. This bar is a haven for socialites and foodies. From 3–6 p.m. and 9 p.m.–close they offer \$5 glass of house red and white wine. My personal highlights are the \$9 calamari and the \$11 deluxe pizza. I order both because they pair really well with my \$5 red wine. If you aren't an avid squid enthusiast like myself then I recommend the \$4 Parmesan truffle fries and \$10 sabroso nachos to feast your heart out on. And if wine isn't your jam then you can choose between an assortment of \$5 craft beer.

Leopold's Tavern:

This pub has two locations – one in Bowness and one downtown. They feature next-level poutines that rotate weekly. My Instagram was recently graced with a mouth-watering image of one of their specialty poutines. Game changer. If the buffalo ranch chicken poutine doesn't grab your taste-buds, then the Philly Cheesesteak or vegan mushroom one might. They announce their weekly poutine via their Instagram account. Happy hour runs from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. on weekdays with drink specials like \$6 Caesars and pints of local beer. On Monday, Leopold's offers \$6 buckets of bacon and happy hour drink specials run all day. Tuesday features tacos and tequila just like every Tuesday should. Get yourself a few \$3 tacos and a big margarita to really live your best life.

Happy hours are wonderful gifts that we should all take better advantage of. Food can be super expensive. Social eating and drinking is where I hemorrhage my dollar bills. But with a little bit of education on restaurant specials, I have been able to enjoy going out again without having to call 911 from financial bleed-out after every dinner date.

HOARDERS ANONYMOUS»

How to tackle the ultimate home decluttering

Tori Taylor
Lifestyle Editor

When it comes to organizing your home and getting rid of junk, I'm the first to reach maximum overload at just the thought. I love to clean. I love to organize. But I have almost all of my clothing from grade nine and onward because it still fits and I have never given any of it away. But I've bought many new clothes since then – a problem for my already-crowded room.

It is so easy to hang onto things that no longer serve us because we just don't want to throw them away. What if I need exactly six nail-clippers at some point in the near future? What if, at 30, I am suddenly in need of a small see-through black dress that covers exactly two thirds of my ass and even less of my front side? Is it possible that I will regret donating all of my unused headbands and collection of pre-teen purses that were holiday-gifted via



Feel refreshed with a newly cleaned space to study.

YASMINE ELSAYED

distant relatives? The anxiety is real. But, cleaning out your space and having room to breathe without all the back-logged clutter is for your own well-being. There are three methods you might use to tackle the autumn decluttering. Whichever style fits you best, roll up your sleeves, grab a glass of tea, pump some good tunes and get to it.

Someone who is easily overwhelmed:

If you get overwhelmed, you won't

follow through with the decluttering. It is important to do only what you can handle, so you can see the task through to the end and not give up halfway until the following year or later. Decide to pace yourself by tackling a small amount at a time. Perhaps just a smaller area – like a section of your bedroom or all of the cupboards on the right side of the kitchen. Make a checklist day-by-day of the smaller tasks you want to accomplish. Reward yourself after each completed area so

you feel motivated to continue on. **Someone who enjoys self-sustaining, organizing systems:**

These types of people do best organizing and decluttering category-by-category. This is a methodical style of purging your home. You can start with an entire category of items. If you wish to start with clothing, then you can attack the whole project – all of the closets and drawers throughout the whole house. From here you can go through all of the items and decide what to donate, toss and keep before finding one or more designated locations to store your newly-organized items. This method is perfect if you're feeling like you have a lot of accumulated things in random places.

Someone who is deadline-driven and can tackle big projects without being overwhelmed:

This type of decluttering is done room-by-room and can take a bit longer, depending on the room size and how cluttered it is. But if you are someone who isn't easily distracted or

put-off by a large task, then this is a highly-efficient method to choose. Cleaning one entire room before moving on to the next room will allow you to organize and cleanse your home within a day or two instead of taking a week to pace yourself. You can tackle your home on a weekend and have Sunday to relax in the newly-fresh space. This style of cleaning provides almost immediate gratification because, although daunting at first, the transformation is quick and improvements are noticed right away.

Once you have collected a pile of things for donation boxes you can do a quick Google search for the best one near your home. There are always lots of drop-off boxes, and Value Village openly accepts donations of a huge variety. Feel free to sell things on Facebook or Kijiji to make a bit of extra cash. Cleaning out your living area makes a world of a difference and makes room for new life changes.



LEADERS DEBATE VIEWING PARTY

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GIN AND JUICE»

Your guide to YYC's most unique cocktail bars

Tori Taylor
Lifestyle Editor

This city has more than cheap beer and half-bottles of wine to offer your thirsty adult palette. Google can be your best friend when it comes to finding a place for a fun night out. As school picks up, it can become necessary to squeeze in a night or two of casual drinks with friends. Balancing your social life with your studying is not easy, but it definitely is needed in order to stay happy. Calgary has many eclectic bars with out-of-this-world hand-crafted beverages. There are a lot of passionate entrepreneurs who have dedicated their time to amping up this city's bar industry.

Proof:

This cocktail bar tops the charts for top-quality drinks. Proof is founded on the belief that "good food and drink is a fundamental human experience and instrumental to the well-being of a community," as their uniquely designed website details. Their flexible cocktail list is inspired by favorite literary pieces and characters. I will say a

farewell to (sober control of my) arms — and legs once I stand up — in the name of Hemingway any day.

Model Milk:

With top priority placed on finding the best local and regional ingredients, Model Milk strives to support farms, fisheries and vineyards that are natural, sustainable and responsible in their practice. Model Milk believes in preparing cocktails as simply as possible so that the natural flavors and aromas can be showcased. They have a wine program that goes above and beyond to support organic and biodynamic wine production. When it comes to their delicious cocktail list the line-up is drool-worthy. From the "Tom and Cherry" with creme de cassis to the "Black Manhattan" with chocolate bitters, Model Milk is a local spot that should not be missed.

Shelzer:

This small homey-vibed bar uses a combination of pre-prohibition style cocktails with fresh modern-mixing technology to produce a seasonally-rotating drink menu. They



Calgary is home to tasty libations.

Courtesy KYRYLL USHAKOV/UNSPLASH

strive to create a place for people to enjoy quality company and drinks in a private hub of rare throwback art and decor. Their drink menu prides itself on individuality and true mixing skill. Each cocktail recipe is tried and tested with especially unique ingredients paired for mixology perfection. There is a cocktail called "Love on L.S.D." that uses rose-infused botanical gin, lemon bubbles and rose water. By the description alone I feel motivated to relax and breathe deeper.

Cleaver:

If I open up a drink menu and

come face-to-face with a beverage called "The Antidepressant" — listing mezcal tequila as the first ingredient — I am about 15 minutes away from some real regrettable texts to the guy I'm trying to play it cool with. Cleaver has a lineup of cocktails that will make your toes curl. There is a cocktail called "Christ on a Bike" that mixes J&B, gingerbread syrup, espresso and gingerbread-infused whipped cream. That's the kind of saviour that I savour. And it only feels natural to migrate towards anything "G-spot" related when you're almost 30, divorced and dropped fresh back into the dat-

ing world — especially if said pleasurable drink consists of gin, guava and passionfruit. Cleaver is well worth a visit for anyone who is passionate about hand-made authentic cocktails.

Anejo:

This is one of Calgary's hotspots for margaritas. They have over 200 kinds of tequila to offer and as of 2018 rated YYC's best margarita. I am a huge fan of the chili coconut margarita. Anejo is an authentic-styled Mexican restaurant that adds a modernized spin to their cocktails. They use the state of Jalisco as their full inspiration and avidly pay homage to their Mexican cultural roots. If you enjoy mezcal, then Anejo has a few different margaritas that mix the smokey taste with spicy or sweeter flavors for a perfect blend. Anejo has their full selection of margaritas on for \$6 during happy hour — making it the happiest group of hours ever because... tequila.

Next time you need a night to laugh off mid-term mayhem or bond with your besties try hopping over to one of these amazing cocktail bars.

DIY BATHING»

Make your own bath bombs for a customized soak

Tori Taylor
Lifestyle Editor

Bathing is not just a child's bedtime game. Adults have taken the simple tub soak and dialed it way up. For many of us, the ultimate relaxation at the end of a hard day can be found with a glass of wine and a warm bath. A necessary addition to any bath is the heavenly bath bomb. For as expensive as they can be in stores, bath bombs are actually quite simple to make. Invite some friends over and have a do-it-yourself bath bomb night — please note you can also enjoy a glass of wine while making bath products.

There are very basic ingredients needed — citric acid may be the only unique one. Bulk Barn carries citric acid in bulk for a good price and you could likely find it at any Community Foods or Planet Organic.

Baking soda:

This is a base ingredient necessary for alkalizing and creating that fizz we all love when the bomb hits the water.

Citric acid:

Without citric acid, your baking



Add any type of essential oils to your bomb.

MARIAH WILSON

soda will not react in a "bomb" like fashion and your bath bomb becomes a very sad bath fart.

Sea salt or Epsom salt:

These salts are great for muscle soreness, aches and pains and have anti-inflammatory properties. They will tingle and add that invigoratingly fresh feeling to your bath.

Corn starch:

This is the agent that provides the smooth-skin feeling. It is a

make-it or break-it ingredient as without corn starch you won't be left with soft and hydrated skin after you towel off.

Oils:

You can choose any type of hydrating oil you want for your bath bomb. I recommend avocado oil or almond oil for the anti-inflammatory and deep moisturizing benefits. Avocado oil reduces redness and helps heal any type of skin irritations or discoloration — similar to the branded product Bio-oil.

However, you can use olive oil or coconut oil if you'd prefer.

Witch hazel:

This is a powerful skin toner and disinfectant. Adding witch hazel will help close open pores and calm itchy, dry skin. If you want you can swap out witch hazel for water in your recipe.

Herbs and flowers:

This is a last bonus addition to make your bath bombs beautifully scented and visually appealing. You can add mint leaves, roses, dried chamomile, sage or lavender. You can also add essential oils like lavender, lemon grass, ylang-ylang or grapefruit. It is totally your preference.

Making bath bombs requires an open space and the potential for mess so make sure you have a clean area to begin with — free of anything that may get ruined should oil or ingredients spill.

Bath bomb recipe:

- 1 cup Baking Soda
- 1/2 cup Citric Acid
- 1/2 cup Sea Salt or Epsom Salt
- 3/4 cup Corn Starch

2 tbsp oil of choice (is recommended Sweet Almond oil or Avocado)

- 2 tsp Witch Hazel
- 30-40 drops Essential Oil of choice
- Additional dried herbs or flowers

Instructions:

Combine your baking soda, Epsom salt, citric acid and cornstarch in a large bowl and mix well.

In a smaller bowl combine the oil, witch hazel and essential oils.

Add liquid ingredients into the large bowl slowly. Mixing in the liquid drop by drop as you blend. Use your hands.

Add in any herbs or flowers.

The consistency should hold its shape without crumbling — add more witch hazel if it's too dry.

Right away, push the mixture into your molds or muffin tins. Press in firmly and leave for a minimum of 24 hours — 48 hours is preferred. They will expand. You can continue to push down the mold many times while the bombs are drying.

Metal molds are recommended for stronger more effective bombs. Once the product is dry you can store the bath bombs in plastic containers. Use them within two weeks.

SPORTS »

MINDFUL EXERCISE »

Walking is the best thing to do for your mind and body

Lauren Olsen
Contributor

Walking? Pfft. I hear you. I have been a competitive athlete and runner my whole life. I've never "just walked." My thought process has always been, "Why go through the effort to lace up my shoes, get out the door and take time out of my busy schedule if I'm not going to sweat hard and fast?" Walking has always seemed an elderly activity. And as I refuse to consider the big 3-0, my ticket into the geriatric club — walking was never my passion.

The universe has taken me down a peg. It has a habit of doing that to us all. Many an injury later and the addition of a puppy, and my thought process has changed. No word of a lie, I am in better physical and mental shape with a regular walking exercise regime than I ever was pounding out over 30 running kilometres a week running. I'm leaner, happier and injury free. I credit my daily walks for a huge portion of that.

There are all sorts of websites and studies that tell you about walking benefits. The basics include burning fat, boosting metabolism, strengthening your legs and heart, lowering blood pressure and easing stress. These are all great and valid but are not super attractive reasons — they lacked appeal for me. I'm here to re-frame walking for you. Let's move away from the boring thing you have to do to get from one class to another and focus on a new activity that will make your day better.

Cardio and fat burning:

We all know walking is a form of exercise and exercise is part of a healthy body composition. I think the problem that a lot of us run into is that walking can feel too simple. We might feel like it isn't enough to consider real exercise, so why not just skip it. It is worth it, guys. Your heart is going to strengthen just as much with a peppy walking pace as it will during a steady jog. We all need to get over ourselves. Check the ego. This idea that you need to be drenched in sweat and so sore you can't sit down for the next three days in order to qualify an activity as a workout is ludicrous. Start walking gently. Start walking subtly with humility and connect your mind with your body.

Boosts mood:

I can't say enough about this. We're all at school. It's easy to be stressed out, over-caffinated, exhausted, overwhelmed and, thusly, irritated.



Slow and steady wins the race.

MARIAH WILSON

The stress and pressure of excelling in school is enough to do real emotional and physical damage. Going for a quick 10-minute walk will clear your mind, give you a breath of fresh air and remind you there is more to life than your immediate problems.

Walking can be both your workout and your chill-time:

As I mentioned before, your workout doesn't have to be a super intense gym session or a two-hour run. One of my favourite things to do is take my dog for a walk while listening to my favourite podcast. I like to allow myself to unwind and recharge. I know not everyone has a dog but you can borrow a friend's OR go for a walk by yourself with your music, a good podcast or even some soothing sounds like rain or the ocean white noise. Find what you need to connect with your body and just start moving.

Increases strength and prevents injury:

Surprise! Walking — with good form — is going to strengthen your

legs, your abs and your booty. You can even get a good arm workout in there too if you get your arms swinging! Butt seriously. While walking will strengthen your body's larger muscles, it will also strengthen a whole lot of smaller, supporting muscles that will keep your joints healthy and prevent injury in the future. Keeping good form is important. I don't recommend walking a long time with a backpack that is too heavy or if any pain crops up or persists.

Battles seasonal depression and springboards motivation:

We're heading into winter, guys. That means shorter days and colder temperatures. Let's face it, winter is long. Damn it, winter is depressing. Before my dog, the thought of voluntarily going for a walk in the cold was a bad joke of misery and masochism. However, I swear that I've grown to love even my winter walks. Bundle up and go for a brisk, quick walk even when you don't want to. You'll reap the ben-

efits of vitamin D from the sunlight because we're fortunate enough to see the sun often during our Calgarian winters. And if you get pale like me in the winter, the rosy glow to your cheeks may even counter that perma-basement-dweller tone. It might feel more enjoyable in the moment to stay on the couch sulking about life, but the payoff for getting outside to walk is worth it. You will have more energy and motivation to study, clean your apartment or whatever else you've been putting off.

An excuse to get into nature:

Nature-therapy is a real thing. Walking outdoors is fresh air and exercise for your body and mother's milk for your soul. Hiking has grown in popularity thanks to Instagram and the insane beauty of our Albertan backyard. However, escaping to the mountains, into the woods or along the beach has been a therapeutic treatment for holistic health since the beginning of time. It might be intimidating to go out

to the mountains for someone who doesn't hike often. But there are a lot of easy, beautiful trails that take less time to get to than work on a week-day morning — Bragg Creek, Elbow Falls, Banff, Canmore and Kananaskis. There are also beautiful inner-city trails like Nose Hill Park, Fish Creek Provincial Park and the River-Walk downtown. You certainly don't have to climb a mountain to reap the benefits of eco-therapy, nor do you need to snap any Insta-worthy photos. Sometimes it can be best to just focus on your breath and being present in your own life as opposed to social media.

So there you have it, not an exhaustive list by any means. But there are a few of the best reasons I can think of to add daily walking to your list of non-negotiables. Walking is an activity you can start doing for yourself today. It doesn't cost you anything and offers so much in return. Check your ego and enjoy some mindful exercise.

HUMOUR »

TRICKS FOR TRANSPORT »

Top 10 ways to commute around campus

Anton Charpentier

Just gonna sneak past ya real quick

We've all had that moment when you realize you're going to have to walk all the way across campus to get to your next class. Walking traffic can get really gross at times and there's nothing more desirable than a quick fix to our modern problems. Fortunately, I've compiled a list of things that will solve your daily commute and maybe even raise your GPA. You should really just read this article and solve your problems right away.

10. Wear a study abroad t-shirt and hold a clipboard.

Is there anything more terrifying than making conversation with someone trying to sell you something? Wearing a bright red t-shirt, actively trying to make eye contact and holding a clipboard full of pamphlets will give you a wide berth as you walk the halls. The only downside is potentially running into some weirdo who wants to study medieval history in Budapest.

9. Buy yourself a pair of Heelys.

Remember your first day of grade three when the cool kids would show up to school in their brand-new Heelys? They eventually went on to be the first kids to smoke weed in your class. You know the type. Well, you're now in your early 20s and can afford the luxury of owning your own set of Heelys. Watch as all your peers



Catch me zoomin'.

SHANGNONG HU

see you rolling down the halls at — maybe double to pace — of a regular person. Be careful though, this level of cool comes at the cost of attracting Mountain Dew endorsements and potentially a depressed girlfriend.

8. Just stay home.

One of the most effective ways of avoiding busy hallways or long commutes is simply not even showing up. Sometimes, giving up on things is the best route. Just watch Netflix and eat microwave burritos. Live your best life.

7. Rent a Lime scooter and mac daddy down the halls.

Perhaps the riskiest way of traveling around campus is via Lime scooter. First off, you're not wearing any

protective gear and could easily and spontaneously flip and die. Perhaps, more terrifying though is the amount of sexual appeal you'll have when you ride down the halls. This level of sexual charisma will turn everyone on, converting the student population into a hoard of lustful zombies just trying to get a piece of you. It's certainly terrifying wielding that much power, but you'll be able to traverse campus at a cool twenty-three kilometers an hour.

6. Buy a Stretcher, a paramedic costume and find a buddy. Yell "WE'RE LOSING HIM" as you breeze through the hallways.

Potentially the most elaborate, but emotionally rewarding way of traveling the hallways is by pretending

you're a paramedic. It may be morally dubious, but boy howdy does it work. Simply strap in your buddy to a stretcher and push him down the halls yelling, "We're losing him," or "We've got a code brown, 21-year-old male and we're losing airflow." Everyone will respectfully move to the sides of the hallway as you rush to your next class.

5. Come from the future and use teleportation technology to travel seamlessly between classes.

This one seems like a no brainer, but if you are from the future, don't be afraid to use your sophisticated teleportation technology to travel between lecture halls. This seems like an obvious choice and I'm pretty disappointed that no one else has thought of it.

4. Buy a longboard, grow a man-bun and take it slow to your next philosophy class.

Hey man, sometimes it's not about getting somewhere, but how you get there. Forget the trappings of your schedule and just flow, dude. As Friedrich Nietzsche once said, "You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it's to ride that deck, man, and play some hacky sack in the quad."

3. Sell your friends' souls to Satan for the ability to simply smite those who cross your path.

Sometimes the best solution is the

edgiest, and this is it. Satan is a powerful being, known to possess the power of the nine realms of hell, and he's willing to share this power to those who will do his earthly chores, like collecting souls. The power he offers is mighty and will allow you destroy your enemies with awesome and almighty vigor. Being able to morph into a bat or blow up walls with the wave of your hand will definitely help your next commute.

2. Try natural deodorant, or tell people you're studying actuarial science.

This one is simple, but quite effective. There are two things that will make people want to avoid you at any cost — using a natural deodorant, or telling people you're in the actuarial science program. Either way, you'll push everyone away either from your stink or your boring degree. It's an extreme method, but you can bet your bottom dollar that it will work.

1. Walk really slow down the hallway with your friends and block the flow of traffic.

It's hard for anyone to be in your way when everyone is behind you. Get five or six of your closest friends and reminisce about the other crimes against humanity that you've committed. It's a cruel method of getting around campus, but it sure is nice when all your problems are behind you. My ex can't ever run into me if she's stuck behind me. Jokes on you, world.

WHODUNIT? »

Student solves campus crime using clues from U of C confessions Instagram

Frankie Hart

Petrified of public poops

The University of Calgary campus community was shaken up on Sept. 13 when something smelled off in Science Theatres. The source? A rogue turd in the middle of a hallway. The culprit? Unknown, but the offender came to be known as the "Phantom Shitter" on the UCalgary subreddit. Due to other chaotic events that continued into the following week, it seemed like the Phantom Shitter had been forgotten by most.

But second-year student Vanessa Vedere didn't forget. After the Friday the 13th incident, she became committed to cracking the case of a covert crapper.

"It was hard to investigate," Vedere



What's the scoop on the poop?

SHANGNONG HU

said. "There were no direct witnesses, no security footage and worst of all, no support from the biology or chemistry departments to run tests on the sample I collected. I'm sure a lot of helpful data could have been pulled from those tests, but it looks like no one wanted to solve this crime as much as I did."

On Sept. 20., after multiple dead-ends, Vedere stumbled onto a crucial clue while browsing social media. The university confessions Instagram page — @uofconfessions — seemingly posted a confession from the Phantom Shitter himself. It read, "I did it once and I'll do it again. Craigie Hall will henceforth be known as

Cragie Hall. -[👁️]#iconfess."

"In that moment, I knew I had to act fast," Vedere said. "I got to Craigie Hall as fast as I could and started taking the elevator to every floor, keeping an eye out for anyone suspicious. That's when I saw them. There was one individual squatting in a hallway, but they were surrounded by at least five other people, all with their hoodies obscuring their faces. Once they spotted me, a few of them took off after me."

Vedere was able to run ahead and take the elevator, closing the doors before any of the hooded figures could reach her. Her plan changed significantly going forward, prioritizing her safety. She decided to contact the admin of @uofconfessions directly to get help backtracking the source of the confession.

"They didn't explain to me how it works, but they could collect and trace people's IP addresses from their Google Forms," Vedere said. "They usually only use it for personal reasons, but said they'd make an exception for my investigation."

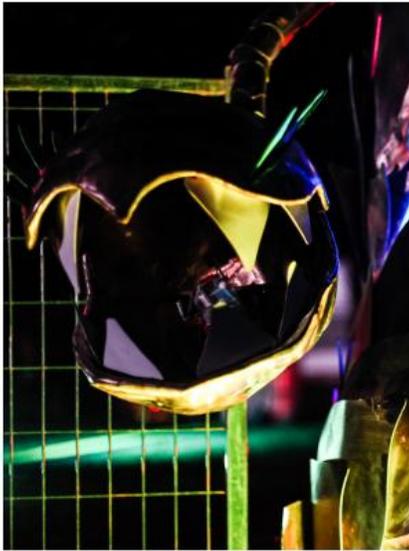
What happened next was something no one could predict — the IP address was located in the administration building.

It was at this point in the investigation that Vedere had a change of heart. She felt that the closer to the truth she came, the more fearful she became of it. Discouraged from what she might find, she decided to hang up her detective hat and start attending classes again.

The @uofconfessions page has not responded to multiple requests for comment at this time.

BEAKERHEAD »

Photo recap: Beakerhead



PHOTOS BY MARIAH WILSON

CROSSWORD »

Sept. 27 Crossword

Jason Herring
Crossword constructor

ACROSS:

1. Hit accidentally, as a toe.
5. Hastily study.
9. Put on, as a play.
14. Thor's sister, played by Cate Blanchett.
15. Popular Xbox shooter franchise.
16. Ditty.
17. Picnic plunderers.
18. American _____
19. Some exams.
20. Creedence Clearwater Revival anti-war hit.
23. Sneaker, in Sheffield.
24. Group allowed bar admission?
28. Fleur-de-_____
29. Long-banned pesticide.
31. Country west of Brazil.
32. Places of refinement.
36. Is no more.
37. Thing that's bound to break, in a Led Zeppelin classic.
38. Deposit, withdrawal site.
39. Unoriginal.
41. Bill equivalent to a loonie.
42. Japanese automaker.
44. Fourth-down play.
46. Fiancée's last words?
47. Pester.
48. Type of sale.
50. Let go.
54. Caught between two things ... or a hint to 20-, 32-, and 42-Across.
57. Fairway grounds.
60. Puerto _____
61. Romeo and Juliet's alphabet.
62. Message in 280 or fewer characters.
63. Manual's target audience.
64. Young _____ ("Havana" rapper).

65. Prim, as fashion.
66. De facto Swiss capital.
67. Soaks (up).

DOWN:

1. 2019 Samuel L. Jackson action flick.
2. Caruso, e.g.
3. _____-violence (*A Clockwork Orange* slang).
4. Parisian prison.
5. Dim sum cuisine.
6. Bad gun, if you're gunning it.
7. Loads.
8. 6.022 x 10²³.
9. Fail to meet for a date, with "up."
10. In modern slang, get down, oxymoronomically.
11. Santa _____
12. Come together.
13. Road curve.
21. Come together.
22. Pre-college exams.
25. Clark's partner.
26. Worthless thing.
27. Ahi or ebi.
29. "Me too."
30. Rep. counterparts.
32. Speed, when graphing distance over time.
33. Drinks may have separate ones.
34. Happening.
35. Spray that "kills bugs dead."
39. Make blush.
40. Color changers.
42. Appearance.
43. Horned beast of myth.
45. Saddled (with).
49. Eliciting an "mmm."
50. Kitchen cutting tool.
51. Coeur d'Alene home.
52. Crunch relative.
53. Canoodles, in Canterbury.
55. Trounce.

56. Three _____ Men.
57. Inc., abroad.
58. _____ Jima.
59. Pristine.

Congratulations to Jared Crebo, Gabrielle Thom and Jivan Johal for being the first students to submit last issue's crossword!

Send a photo of a completed crossword to humour@thegauntlet.ca.

Be among the first three submitters to be congratulated in our next issue and win a *Gauntlet* toque!

LAST ISSUE'S CROSSWORD »



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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65						66					67		

