
THE GAUNTLET

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NEWS:

LOCAL CANDIDATE Q&As

p. 3

ARTS:

AN INTERVIEW WITH PUP
DRUMMER ZACK MYKULA

p. 13

OPINIONS:

ON RACISM IN ELECTIONS

p. 16

MASTHEAD

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The Gauntlet is printed on recycled paper and uses an ink made from non-partisan Dan nugget sauces. We urge you to recycle/read the Gauntlet before you vote.

The Cover
 Photo by Mariah Wilson

Transit should be free for voters

It is widely recognized that voting is a human right and, by extension, so should access to transportation to and from the polling station be a right. This is essential in ensuring that every eligible Canadian faces no barriers when accessing the polls to cast their ballot and contribute to the future of Canada. With such a diverse country, every voice is valid and needs a chance to be heard.

There is no better time to vote than now. With issues as heavily-weighted as climate change, health coverage, post-secondary education and affordability, it's critical that every Canadian gets a chance to vote for a candidate they deem suitable to tackle these challenges.

Even though Canadians witnessed a voter turnout of 68.5 per cent in our last federal election — the highest turnout since 1993 — that number can, and should, be higher. In 2017, both South Korea and New Zealand managed to achieve voter turnout that was above 75 per cent. Even though both of these nations are geographically smaller than Canada — South Korea has a population that's one and a half times as large as Canada's — to mobilize that many people requires a national interest in political issues, and more importantly, civic life.

One of the best ways to showcase



Rides to the ballot box shouldn't break the bank.

MARIAH WILSON

civic life and the importance of having affordable access to transportation is through offering free transit. Giving everyone the opportunity to use public transit, without financial constraint, can reinvigorate people's interest with public services. Riding public transit also opens your eyes to the socioeconomic diversity in your community in a way that driving your car can't. You'll soon find that taking transit isn't as "gross" or "scary" as it's made to sound, but instead can be quite enjoyable as you read a book, watch Netflix or observe the urban environment as it whooshes by.

While it may not be possible this year, I think this is something that the City of Calgary — along with other Ca-

nadian cities — can look into offering for future election days. B.C. Transit, which operates in 130 communities throughout British Columbia outside of Greater Vancouver, is already leading the pack by offering free public transit on election day this year.

Based on the data released by the City of Calgary for the Transit Funding and Fare Strategy Review in February 2014, it would cost the city \$175,945.21 to offer free transit for the day. That may seem like an astronomical number, but when you divide it by Calgary's population it works out to be \$0.13 per person. For less than a dollar per person, citizens can have stress-free transport to and from their polling station, meet oth-

ers from their community and see Calgary from a new perspective — not a bad trade-off.

Public services, like transit, are integral to a well-functioning and accessible society. Citizens have places to go and public transit offers an almost barrier-free way for everyone to get around the city. As the federal government begins to invest in Calgary's new LRT green line, it's a critical time for Calgarians to understand the importance this line poses for future generations of transit-riders and to start caring about the diverse needs of others in our community.

—Mariah Wilson
 Gauntlet Editorial Board

WHAT'S HAPPENING

HALLOWDEN
 OCTOBER 31 @9PM

THE DEN

Den Black Lounge

WING UP

WEDNESDAYS AT THE DEN

\$5/POUND

CALGARY CONFEDERATION CANDIDATES »

Conservative Candidate Len Webber

Kristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

The *Gauntlet* interviewed the Calgary Confederation candidates.

In the interest of fairness, all candidates were asked the same set of questions. No follow-up questions were asked and the inquiries were open-ended, allowing the candidate to speak freely on the issues and address the question as they saw fit. The intention is for those in Calgary Confederation to get to know the candidates in their riding.

We reached out to Libertarian candidate Tim Moen and NDP candidate Gurcharan Singh Sidhu, but neither responded by press time.

Get to know Len Webber, the incumbent candidate running for the Conservative Party of Canada.

The *Gauntlet*: What qualifies you to represent the constituents of Calgary Confederation?

Len Webber: I'm an experienced individual who has worked in a lot of different aspects in life. I started my career as a tradesperson — I'm an electrician — I couldn't afford to go to university so I got myself a trade and ran my own business for quite a few years. I was able to then afford to go back to university and get my commerce degree at the University of Calgary. My experience running my own business certainly helped me out with regard to finishing my degree. After that, working in areas like school administration — I'm affiliated with the Webber Academy, the non-profit private school in town.

I have life experience. I've raised three daughters — one was the president of the University of Calgary Students' Union. I've got lots of experience raising a family and the difficulties of trying to support a family with one income — my wife was very sick and she passed away from cancer at a young age.

I also have political experience. I was an MLA and a Cabinet Minister in the Alberta Government. For 11 years I was in government representing Calgary Foot-hills. And, these last four years, I've been in federal politics representing Calgary Confederation in Ottawa. I think I'm probably the most qualified of all the candidates in Calgary Confederation to represent the people here.

Q: What attracted you to the Conservative Party of Canada?

LW: I'm a very progressive Conservative — a very fiscal Conservative, but socially progressive. What impresses me most about the Conservative Party is the way they deal with the fiscal aspects of ensuring that Canada does not get into debt to the point where our future generations will be left with high debt

and high taxes. What I like about the Conservative Party is their plan to get our economy going in the future — particularly our oil industry here in Alberta, which we completely support and have always supported from day one. That's why I'm a Conservative and a proud Conservative.

Q: With the Conservative Party being known as a right-wing party, what would attract voters from the opposite end of the political spectrum?

LW: The Conservative Party is a very large tent party. We've got members that fit into a large spectrum from center to right. Myself, I'm a very strong progressive Conservative — I very much support the LGBTQS+ community and all the social issues that are perhaps important to a person leaning more to the left spectrum of the political scale. I would appeal to them particularly because of my support in the last four years as an MP for the LGBTQS+ community. I serve on a health committee in Ottawa and I brought forward a motion to study the issue of gay men and the blood ban. I wanted to bring forward a study to see if this was targeting a particular group with no scientific evidence. I'm proud that I brought that forward. The ban still exists — which to me is unacceptable, but is down from where it was. I do appeal to the left because of my progressive leanings. I'm a very fiscal Conservative, however.

Q: What are your plans to make education more affordable?

LW: I know the issue with education, with having three daughters and having to raise them with a single income. It was a challenge to say the least. There was a time when students could not get student loans because of their parents' level of income and that has changed to where I feel it is much easier to get student loans and grants. I think that grants are certainly something I would love to see more of.

If we had a strong and vibrant economy — especially with our oil industry — where we could basically build the government coffers from the royalties that we receive from our oil industry, those monies would be going towards so many social programs — not only bringing the cost of education down, but also health care and our homelessness issues that we have throughout the country. A vibrant and strong economy would go a long way in funding all the other aspects of Canadian life, in particular, the costs of education.

Q: What are your thoughts on Alberta's oil and gas industry?

LW: First of all, we need to provide the industry with the confidence that

the government is there to ensure that they are in a good business environment for them to want to invest. Under the Trudeau government, oil companies are staying away — they know the Trudeau Liberal's plan is a plan where there is no incentive to do any type of work in the oil industry here. It's up to us as Conservatives to ensure that the industry is confident that they're not going to be tax-burdened to death, that the red tape will not be what has been implemented by Trudeau, which requires years of applications and permits to do any type of work in this province. We need to limit the red tape to get businesses confident to invest here so we can get our oil industry up and running again and getting people back to work.

Q: What are your thoughts on the climate crisis?

LW: The Conservatives recognize that climate change is real. Evidence from around the world clearly shows a global warming trend. We are certainly not deniers as some people may think because of the false advertising we get from other parties. We do have a proud legacy when it comes to managing our natural environment and improving it. Conservatives created the National Parks System, we negotiated the Canada-U.S. Acid Rain Treaty back in the day with Mulroney. We brought in the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and much more. Andrew Scheer has a real plan to protect our environment. I certainly encourage everyone to read our environmental plan. Green technology, not taxes is the best way to lower our emissions and to share that green technology around the world with countries like China and India. I would rather see our money put toward research and development. We'll be working with farmers, hunters, anglers and Indigenous peoples to promote a cleaner and greener national environment, protecting our land and our air and our water and encouraging Canadians to do better when it comes to keeping our land clean.

I have three daughters, and hopefully grandkids too one day. I want the future generations to have the same beautiful world that I grew up in. I'm very committed to the environment.

Q: Do we have a freedom of speech problem in Canada?

LW: I have spoken about this several times in the House of Commons. Of course I support freedom of speech, but I also believe that we need to be very vigilant against those who seek to abuse those freedoms to perpetuate hate and intolerance. I am quite concerned about the rise of hate and intolerance that we have seen in recent years. We owe it to the tens of thousands of Canadians who



fought against hate, the Canadians that fought in our World Wars and gave their lives to re-shape our existence without hate. We owe it to them to honour their memory by fighting that hate as well. Yes, we have the freedom to speak our mind in Canada but that freedom was found in the fight against hate and we cannot forget that.

Q: What are your plans for affordable housing in your riding?

LW: I've sat on the board of the Calgary Homeless Foundation and been involved with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. Both addictions and homelessness go hand in hand. Affordable housing in Calgary is lacking. We need more of it to support first-time home buyers. We don't have enough affordable housing for first-time home-buyers or for people of lower incomes. Federal funding for affordable housing I completely support and would support any further investment of federal dollars into the provinces to support affordable housing units. We need to incent home builders to build more affordable housing. I know the demands and the issues involved and I would say that I would do everything in my power to support further federal funding.

Q: Where do you stand on issues of national defence?

LW: I think that it's important that we contribute with allied nations to ensure that we have a proper contribution to keeping the world safe. Working alongside our allies, what we have to do is be equal participants, to be a part of a team.

Q: Why should students vote for you?

LW: I know the issues facing students. I've consistently met with student associations in all my years of being a member of the legislative assembly and as an

MP and I will always sit down and meet with student organizations and students about the issues that are of concern to them. I've spoken in favour of, and supported, the student population both in the legislature and in the House of Commons. We need to do whatever we can to educate our youth and to make it easy and affordable for our students to be educated. That is what builds a strong economy — an educated workforce. I am so in favour of doing what we can to provide opportunities for students to learn without breaking their bank.

It's my experience and the concern that I have for the environment. I would encourage U of C students to make an educated vote — don't rely solely on what you're reading on social media. Read the platforms of each party, determining what issues matter and vote accordingly.

I've been door-knocking and I've talked to a lot of young people — they are concerned about the debt and how they're going to be able to handle it in the future. I'm there to fight to bring down that debt and I believe that the other parties are going to bring that debt up higher. I'm concerned about the taxes that the students are going to have to pay in the future and will fight for lower taxes to build our economy. It's about ensuring that we have a strong economy in order to bring down debt. Who is going to pay that debt off? The next generation. And I certainly don't want to pass on any of the debt to our future generations. It is our responsibility to keep our debt down, if not completely paid off, so that future generations have a bright future. I feel passionate about that in particular because a fiscal conservative. We need to grab the bull by the horns and tackle the problem of spending and debt accumulation and promote our economy — that's what will pay for our future.

CALGARY CONFEDERATION CANDIDATES »

Liberal Candidate Jordan Stein

Kristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

Get to know Jordan Stein, running for the Liberal Party of Canada.

The Gauntlet: What qualifies you to represent the constituents of Calgary Confederation?

Jordan Stein: I am from Calgary so I grew up here. I feel like that gives me a sense of Calgary-ness — when you go to Ottawa it's really important that you're able to talk authentically. I've seen lots of booms and busts. I've worked in the oil and gas industry. I went to the U of C for a semester so lots of things give me that Calgary voice.

I worked as a labour advocate for flight attendants at WestJet for a while and then as an employee engagement consultant at Air North and doing so I got the opportunity to engage in what is really similar to what politics is about, which is talking to a broad and richly varied group of people, trying to understand what could be improved or made better and then taking their ideas and communicating with a board of directors — or a government. I've had experience in doing that, and quite successfully. I really enjoy doing that.

I'm also a small business owner. A lot of people talk about the economy as being really front of mind. I've started my own businesses — and I think that's very much a Calgary story, the entrepreneurial one. A lot of Calgarians see this as an innovative city, an entrepreneurial city and I really appreciate what it takes to start a business and to have that get-up-and-go and face the challenges that our city is facing.

I was recruited to run, by a friend of mine, for the NDP in the provincial election and got to know a lot more about politics — How do elections work? How does representation work? What kind of differences can you make in people's lives? — and that's really what drove me to run again.

I saw that there was a real need for Calgarians to have a more progressive voice because I think the Conservative government has held power in this province for so long at a provincial level that they sort of feel like they have a monopoly on the identity of Calgary and that's obviously not the case. Calgary is very diverse, there's a lot of progressive people and it just seemed like there was a real need for a young, progressive voice and I was really honoured that I was able to fill that.

All those experiences position me as a strong candidate.

G: What attracted you to the Liberal Party?

JS: Given where we're at as a province right now, I think it's really important that we have progressive voices

in Ottawa. Part of it is strategic in the sense that this gives me an opportunity — in the last election the Liberal candidate lost by only one per cent. In this riding, progressive voices outnumber conservative voices by a lot. But, the NDP, the Green Party and the Liberal party are split, even though they have much more in common with each other than they do the Conservatives. We outnumber Conservatives but we end up having no voice, so part of it is a strategic choice.

Looking at the leaders and looking at the positions that they've taken on things that really impact Alberta, Trudeau at the end of the day bought the pipeline and is using the funds to invest in clean technology. I hear from so many people that their number one issue is the environment or their number one issue is the economy, or vice versa. Or, they say both and can't decide which one is more important. That indicates to me that we do, in Calgary, want to see meaningful action on climate and a lot of the CEOs in the oil patch are even echoing that. But we need to do so in a way that doesn't cripple the economy here in Calgary. There needs to be a real defense of Calgary and how we proceed in a way that works for the city and makes sure that everyone has an opportunity to innovate and move forward. The country can't take action on climate without Alberta.

G: With the Liberal Party being known as a left-leaning party, what would attract voters from the opposite end of the political spectrum?

JS: One thing that I've noticed — and I say this a lot — Calgary has been through the worst economic downturn of my lifetime in the last four years and there's a lot of Conservative MPs that have won just because it's Alberta and they have a real stronghold on the media in this province and cling on to the identity of this province. There's this sort of entitled ability to just go to Ottawa and sit on the back bench and not really fight for the city and there's this sense of western alienation that's coming out of that.

When I talk to Conservative voters I say 'What has your MP done for you? How have they stood up and really fought and defended you?' A lot of people don't feel like they're fighting for their vote.

I also ask them, 'Is the war room going to win favourability across Canada for Alberta oil?' and the answer is pretty obviously no. I often say two out of 10 Canadians were supportive of pipelines in 2015 and now it's almost seven out of 10. That didn't happen with a war room. That happened with incredible diplomacy on behalf of Rachel Notley and Justin Trudeau making a stand firmly for the pipeline being

in the best interest of Canada. It's not a war room that got that huge change in Canadians' opinion and I just don't see that kind of animosity getting Albertans what they want.

In Confederation most people are quite well educated — they work in the sector, they're having these conversations in their own companies and they see that split. At the end of the day it comes down to what do they think is better? Animosity and a war room? Or starting a conversation and building trust with Canada?

G: What are your plans to make education more affordable?

JS: When I meet with students I want to hear "What's important for you? What would make a meaningful impact for you?" The Liberal government has invested a lot into clean technology and innovation and a ton into research and a lot of that has gone to the U of C.

As a person who is still paying off student loans, I appreciate also that the repayment assistance was strengthened and that they made it possible that if you're going through a hard time and not able to find work that you don't have to make your student loan payments that month and that you're not accumulating interest in that time. I think that is a really important thing to give students — the opportunity to have meaningful work before they start paying off their loans.

I also appreciate that the federal government increased the amount of non-repayable grants that are available for students. But, I think that we can do even more. I know that the tuition credit that Stephen Harper's government had put in place wasn't really having an impact and that the non-repayable grants give students freedom. We can even do more in terms of non-repayable grants.

I'd like to see students not have to make the choice after school between taking internship opportunities that would be really great experience or having to pass those up because they have to pay their loans — having more streamlining from the federal government in providing work opportunities that are more relevant to the things that they're actually studying.

G: What are your thoughts on Alberta's oil and gas industry?

JS: I worked for Nexen as a summer student and I know lots of people that work in the oil and gas industry. It seems right now that there's two camps in the oil and gas sector — there's the narrative which is really pushing a war room to defend Alberta oil from what they perceive as a real threat from Ottawa and climate activism. And then there's the much more nuanced approach, which is the one



that I really appreciate and am trying to echo. The CEOs of Cenovus and CNRL issued an open letter to Canadians a couple months ago — there's a lot more nuance to that and really what they're saying is that this needs to be a conversation. We need to take action on climate, we know that's the case. We know that Wall Street is demanding it. We know that the world is demanding it. We know that the window of time to take meaningful action is closing. They want to be innovative.

Albertans per capita have the highest GHG footprint so any action that we take is going to have really the most dramatic impact, and so it's even more important that we move forward. But, that doesn't mean that it's at odds with our economy. The oil and gas companies that are innovating and moving forward, it does a disservice to them not to put regulations in place to make sure that everybody's keeping up. That needs to be a conversation that we have across Canada. It's really important that we are defending Alberta oil, that we are making sure that we are producing the best barrel, that we are building pipelines in a way that's meaningfully engaging in conversation with stakeholders, that is taking action on climate. But, we need to be defending it and also proving our leadership at the same time.

G: What are your thoughts on the climate crisis?

JS: It's an emergency. Alberta has a huge role to play in addressing this. I hear from voters constantly that this is *the* ballot box issue for them and I'm thrilled. It's actually the reason I'm running. Calgary has to be in a position to be able to take action on this and the action that we do take will

have the biggest impact. It's important that we're climate leaders, that we're helping Albertans position themselves to be that way. The window of time in which we can take meaningful action is getting smaller and smaller and at the end of the day, it's going to cost us way more if we don't take the action that we need to take now. Part of why I'm running, and part of why I'm running for the Liberals is I actually want to win. I want to be at the table with the government saying 'Hey, I'm from Calgary. We take this very, very seriously. How do we help my city move forward?'

G: Do we have a freedom of speech problem in Canada?

JS: No. I think it's a dog-whistle issue to get people angry and upset. At the end of the day, when you introduce yourself and you say 'Hey, my name is this,' for example, you're not infringing on the person's speech to ask them to address you by your name. It's a dog-whistle issue to be saying that these things are against freedom of speech and I think a lot of Canadians understand that making accommodations out of courtesy and to make space for people that haven't really had a voice in the dominant narrative of our culture is part of what makes Canada a country worth living in. To say that we're infringing on free speech by not allowing hate speech is just an issue that's really distracting for people. I hear it occasionally but not very much and I think it's just a dog-whistle issue to get people upset and angry. At the end of the day, Canada is a country that's welcoming to people and being welcoming sometimes means shutting down when something is hateful or hurtful to a community. You can't

CALGARY CONFEDERATION CANDIDATES »

Green Candidate Natalie Odd

Kristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

Get to know Natalie Odd, running for the Green Party of Canada.

The Gauntlet: What qualifies you to represent the constituents of Calgary Confederation?

Natalie Odd: This is my third time running for federal office. I am very committed to working hard and I would very much like to represent the constituents of Calgary Confederation. I've lived here all my life and I'm raising my family here as well. I'm a professional person — my career has been in building relationships and coaching teams to tackle complex problems. I think this really provides me with a lot of good skills and experience to work as a Member of Parliament where you really have to be able to work with other people.

I really care about my community. I'm a youth soccer coach, I volunteer here and I've done a lot of work over the years with advocacy for human rights and for education. It makes a lot of sense for me, being such a long-time resident of this area. I've been working with environmental issues for 25 years and started working on climate change about 20 years ago, so this is something that I'm very knowledgeable about. But, I also care about poverty, health, housing and First Nations, Métis and Inuit issues.

G: What attracted you to the Green Party?

NO: What I really like about the Green Party is how practical it is. They look at each issue by looking at the root causes of the issue and they design cost-effective solutions that will really deliver results. I find it very practical. On top of that, I find the Green platform — because it's not married to any particular ideology — what

they're actually trying to do is always just find the best idea. I find they come up with really bold ideas. They're really innovative and modern. They're smart and very compassionate — it's very human-based at the same time as it's very evidence-based. I feel like they are the party of the future.

G: With the Green Party being known as a left-leaning party, what would attract voters from the opposite end of the political spectrum?

NO: I think something that really appeals to Conservative voters is being fiscally responsible and I find with the way that our platform and our ideas are designed, they are very cost-effective. They are very fiscally responsible but at the same time, they actually solve problems. In order to be fiscally responsible, you need to solve the problem at its root and that's what we're interested in doing. Our ideas are not just pie-in-the-sky. They are fully costed out.

G: What are your plans to make education more affordable?

NO: This is one of the most important issues for me personally. I've been an advocate for students and for education, and one of the key parts of our platform is to abolish tuition at post-secondary institutions. We want to completely do away with tuition because it's putting students into crippling debt, which is contributing to poverty in Canada. In fact, what we need to do is to ensure that our young leaders have complete access to education and that there are no barriers to that. We want to eliminate tuition at post-secondary institutions as well as cancel debt for students that have over \$10,000 worth of debt.

G: What are your thoughts on Alberta's oil and gas industry?

NO: Investing in green technology is upgrading our economy and we

are shifting because climate change is a reality. It is human-caused and we have to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But, it's also a great opportunity because I think out of anywhere, Calgary should be pushing for this. We're always talking about diversifying our economy, that we want to stabilize it and not go through these booms and busts.

If anywhere, Calgary should be moving into green technology and renewable energy because we have such an educated workforce here and we see what the future is bringing. We need to adapt to a changing world. When it comes to the fossil fuel industry, we would be not be putting further investment into fossil fuels. We would be shifting into a green economy.

G: What are your thoughts on the climate crisis?

NO: The climate crisis is here. Our government has declared a climate emergency and really what this means is that we have to make transformative changes in our country, and Calgary is really a place where this needs to emerge. We have to get out in front of this rather than lag behind and get left behind. From the Green Party's perspective, we have a very ambitious goal. We believe we need to reduce our emissions by 60 per cent by the year 2030. We need to become a low-carbon economy. This is based on science. The 2018 report that came from the United Nations says that we have to reduce our CO2 emissions by this much. So, this is a chance to take bold, transformational climate action. We need to encourage green innovation and really move more into the renewable energy sector.

G: Do we have a freedom of speech problem in Canada?

NO: We have the right to speak very openly about our views. I don't see a freedom of speech problem in Canada

ational defence?

JS: I stand with where the Liberal government stands on this currently. I know the work in the military and the navy and air force is really meaningful work. I don't have anything at odds with where the Liberal government stands on it right now.

G: Why should students vote for you?

JS: One, I'm still paying off my student loans so I can relate to what happens when you come out of university and you're looking for a job — I really get that. Having grown up in this city and come back here — part of my studies I did in Nova Scotia — I came back here because I really love this city and I really believe that it



currently. I do think we have to be very careful around hate speech.

G: What are your plans for affordable housing in your riding?

NO: We do think there should be a national housing strategy. One in seven people live in poverty in Canada. The guaranteed livable income is something that the Green Party is very much in favour of. Basically, that would provide a level of income that would enable people to pay for the basic costs of living to make sure that they always have that and that they can afford housing. Aside from a housing strategy, which absolutely the Green Party would invest in, we want to make sure people have money to pay their rent and for groceries and for basic needs.

G: Where do you stand on issues of national defence?

NO: I believe that our army has to have all the right equipment that they need to do their job. They have to be protected, but we also need to use diplomatic means to ensure that they're not put into dangerous positions that they shouldn't be in.

G: Why should students vote for you?

can be a city that positions itself as resilient for the future. I think that's what students want to see. They want to know that, when they come out of school, they have opportunities — ones that are exciting that will keep them here. They want to know that they'll be able to pay back their student loans and be in a position where they are not falling behind when they are trying to get ahead. That's super important.

At the end of the day, by virtue of being younger, I hope that I bring a fresh perspective on government. Something I'd really like to do is to make government seem more accessible, so people see how government can play a really won-

NO: I attended the University of Calgary myself and I've lived in this area and I've grown up in the economy in Alberta. What I want to see for Calgarians and my kids who are going to be looking for work in the next few years is I want to see us adapt to a changing world so that we can modernize and have an economy that will provide sustainable, good jobs to our citizens. I want to ensure that they're not buried in debt and poverty coming out of university. I want them to be able to spread their wings, be innovative and get jobs. I'm really committed to that and it's why I've run numerous times because I really would like to implement some modern ideas.

I really believe that if we stay with the status quo that we will lose out on big opportunities in Calgary. We've had the same party representing Calgarians and Alberta almost entirely for many, many years — the same ideology, the same business as usual, the same status quo. We really need to inject new ideas into the community. We need to send someone to Ottawa that really represents the future of Calgary and what our young population needs — and that's something far different than what we have right now.

have meaningful dialogue, you can't have meaningful conversation in a hostile environment.

G: What are your plans for affordable housing in your riding?

JS: This is a really big issue in our riding because the National Housing Strategy that the Liberal government has put in place, I think is a fantastic first step. It's really important that housing is part of the mandate of the government. We're seeing 12 projects in Calgary as part of the National Housing Strategy and three of them are actually in Confederation which is very exciting.

When you look at the need in Calgary, there's way more than what we're

getting, but this is a really incredible first step. We're seeing 600 units of affordable housing come up in Calgary in the next couple of years and that's great, but there needs to be even more. At the end of the day, life is becoming more unaffordable for a lot of people and I think housing is the most obvious way in which we can empower people to make sure that they have their basic needs covered. I'd like to see more and more come into Calgary. As someone who would be fighting for Calgary, I'd be making sure that there are more co-operatives, that they're well-maintained, that people have a place to hang their hat. That's the backbone of a well-functioning society.

G: Where do you stand on issues of na-

derful, meaningful and helpful role in their lives. Things like being on Instagram, being on Facebook and engaging — we're doing stories all the time and we're trying really hard to engage with people in the ways that my generation really naturally is already doing. We're meeting people where they're at and making sure that they have a representative that relates to their issues and is fighting for the things that they care about, that is accessible, someone that has an office with an open door. I respond to emails. I'm there because I'm really in it and I want to listen and know what really matters to them and fight for it in Ottawa.

CALGARY CONFEDERATION CANDIDATES »

People's Party Candidate Colin Korol

Kristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

Get to know Colin Korol, running for the People's Party of Canada.

The Gauntlet: What qualifies you to represent the constituents of Calgary Confederation?

Colin Korol: I went to film school years ago, and then I started a job in a hospital — started as a service worker, worked my way through distribution and then became a working leader and then a supervisor. I enjoy my job but I always wanted to go back to school, so I enrolled at Athabasca in their communications program and I studied media, communication theory, marketing and Canadian politics.

Q: What attracted you to the People's Party of Canada?

CK: I had an interest in politics and that was my driver. The way the country has gone and is going, that motivated me to get into it. I never saw myself being a politician or doing anything like this, but Max starting this party really motivated me. At the end of the day, we stand up for policies that are better.

I think other parties try to decide which voters they want to appeal to — they say "This is our policy and that's the way it is" and I don't think that works in a democracy. Other parties, if there's a topic that's contentious or controversial, they don't want to talk about it. That's what I love about this party and that's what has motivated me to run. We are free-thinking and we have a lot of discussion.

Q: With the People's Party being known as a right-wing party, what would attract voters from the opposite end of the political spectrum?

CK: I think, for example the NDP, they want a government that works for them and they want their tax money spent on them and I think the PPC doesn't want to give money to special interests so I think there's a commonality there. I also think that again, in terms of expression, in a more free society we need to be able to speak our minds and express ourselves. There seems to be a battle of ideas so I think there's a lot of common ground that the parties have in terms of how their tax money is spent and I think that the PPC works for people. Their money will be spent properly and they will

have a government that works for them and listens to their ideas.

People on the left want their voices heard and I think that's the mass appeal of the party. We do listen to everyone and we can talk about ideas and find solutions for problems. I find that everything is so mired in identity politics and agendas and I don't see the same agenda with his party. It levels the playing field for everybody and allows everybody a chance to succeed. People like the common sense platform. I find this party very socially liberal — we don't want to judge.

Q: What are your plans to make education more affordable?

CK: We want life to be more affordable for everyone. Our tax reforms will be good for students, like raising the personal exemption. We'll reform the telecom industry and bring more competition which means better products and better prices. There's no plan to defund subsidies to universities so I think tuition will continue to stay the same in Canada. There's no plan to privatize. I think tuition levels will probably just remain the same — tuition is already subsidized in Canada as it is so we're lucky in a lot of ways that we don't pay as much as the United States. If students are earning an income while they're studying they'll be taxed less under our plan which will help. You have to consider that the schools have expenses — as long as tuition stays subsidized, tuition will remain affordable in Canada.

Q: What are your thoughts on Alberta's oil and gas industry?

CK: I have a personal connection to this province and it's oil industry — my dad has worked in the industry for 40 years. They spend a lot of money on carbon capture. They can't have tax breaks from Revenue Canada — they're not eligible to receive the same climate breaks as other businesses because there's a discrimination against the oil industry. Why is that? I think money should be left to companies to come up with innovative ideas. In a province like Alberta that's so resource-intensive and has an economy based on that, there are a lot of calls to radically transform our economy to one that's based on alternative sources. I think to do that you have to keep money and revenue coming into the province to develop new technologies. To say that there's an urgency and throw a whole industry under the bus just to transform our way of

living isn't realistic or possible. I agree that one day we are going to have alternative sources of energy but how are we going to get there? We can only do that by keeping our country and our province prosperous and not kneecapping industry.

The People's Party is the only party that will use the Constitution to ensure pipelines get built and to make sure that Alberta's energy gets to market.

Q: What are your thoughts on the climate crisis?

CK: I don't think anyone is really denying that we want to help the climate, but how are we going to do it? Taxing people and making businesses poor isn't going to help. I personally don't doubt that the climate is changing. But, the government is concerned about climate change because they want to use it as a framework to increase taxation, and they do it because they want to improve the environment and lower emissions but to actually consider what the human level of climate change is and what we contribute to it and how that's going to impact the planet in 20–30 years, it's conjecture. A lot of scientists are even denying the impact that human activity has on the climate. But, there's a lot of innovative businesses out there — this party will enrich businesses and give them more capital to try green technologies out. If there's a good idea that's profitable and efficient, it's the free market and the entrepreneur that will develop it.

Q: Do we have a freedom of speech problem in Canada?

CK: I think freedom of speech is a big problem in the country and especially on campuses. When you're starting out you want to be exposed to all kinds of ideas and have a balanced idea about history. I think that's a big thing and I'm a big proponent of free speech — that's why I like this party so much. Max is the only politician I see that isn't afraid to say what he wants to say. The thing that's motivated me to run is that I believe Canada needs to be freer. Universities don't have a great record on championing free speech or being tolerant of students' viewpoints. If you can't discuss things openly, how do you formulate your own opinions and ideas? You don't need people telling you what you can and can't say.

I'm against any set of criteria or panels or review boards that control or limit what things can and can't be talked about. That extends



to government control of social media.

Even third-party advertising. I know that Elections Canada tried to limit third-party groups from talking about climate change saying it's an election issue and I'm against that, even when it would benefit my own party. I'm personally frustrated by the limits on free speech that I'm seeing more and more in the country and that's one of the main reasons I decided to run. I'm really concerned about this. I never thought free speech would be threatened and that seems to be what's happening now.

Q: What are your plans for affordable housing in your riding?

CK: I think that by increasing the lower marginal tax rate it will free up some money for people of low income who can put that money towards subsidizing their rent.

Q: Where do you stand on issues of national defence?

CK: I think Canada, within NATO, needs to start pulling its weight. We should be contributing the two per cent that's required and I think Canada has been lagging behind a little bit. Our military absolutely needs to be strengthened. The budget has been cut so much from the military and that extends to the veterans too and they haven't been looked after. I think there's just

an attitude from the current government that it's not one of their top priorities and I think absolutely there needs to be more money spent on military and veterans.

Q: Why should students vote for you?

CK: I think the biggest thing on campus is that it's very divisive. There's a lot of identity politics being played out. There's a freedom of speech issue — even when I went to school I found that there was a lot of editorializing on some of the papers that I sent in. I had good, sound arguments — I had an interest in journalism, so I thought my arguments were well-founded — but I found that if the professors didn't agree with me I would get long, long comments in the columns, saying "No, no, this isn't right." I think that students are afraid to express themselves now. You see it through what professors tell them to say and do, and some of the motions that Trudeau has tried to pass — it's concerning.

The reason I decided to run was for freedom and fairness. I think the government has reached too far into all of our lives and taken too much of our money. I feel that a government should put the people first and put that ahead of special interest. We have definite policies. If you want real change, vote for us.

CALGARY CONFEDERATION CANDIDATES »

Marxist-Leninist Candidate Kevan Hunter

Kristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

Get to know Kevan Hunter, running for the Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada.

The Gauntlet: What qualifies you to represent the constituents of Calgary Confederation?

Kevan Hunter: My experience working in public education. My experience working as a teacher for 12 years gives me first-hand knowledge of a lot of the problems and the issues that are facing people in the city of Calgary and across the country.

G: What attracted you to the Marxist-Leninist Party?

KH: Many things, one of which is that we take a stand against war and occupation in favour of making Canada a zone for peace. They're a political party which has always been outspoken on the questions of war and peace. They've always been critical of Canada's role in NATO internationally — for example, our present alliance with Trump to go after the sovereignty of Venezuela.

G: With the Marxist-Leninist Party being known as a left-leaning party, what would attract voters from the opposite end of the political spectrum?

KH: We don't really see things in terms of left-wing and right-wing. We think that left and right is a way that Canadians are divided. You're supposed to either be in favour of social programs or in favour of lower taxes and you're supposed to be either for or against a pipeline, for or against a carbon tax. Left and right has been a way to divide Canadians and it's preventing them from coming together to really discuss

how things pose themselves and to come up with a common understanding of what the problems are and what the solutions might be.

G: What are your plans to make education more affordable?

KH: We think that education can be made free and universal, up to and including post-secondary. When you recognize that something is a right, then you're duty-bound to provide it with a guarantee. You don't say 'Oh, we'll respect rights if we have the money.' Once you recognize that it's a right, you find a way. Secondly, by requiring that the huge monopolies that depend on an educated workforce need to pay for the value that the university is creating, that they're benefiting from.

G: What is your plan for job creation so that when students graduate, they have employment?

KH: For our party, workers are not a cost of production to be minimized. The workers are the ones that create the wealth. From the perspective of the owners of capital, the worker is a liability, but that's not our perspective. If we change the direction of the economy it can be geared towards meeting the needs of the people instead of maximizing profit, then the question of job creation is an easy one to solve.

G: What are your thoughts on Alberta's oil and gas industry?

KH: We stand with the workers of this province who want to have environmentally- and socially-responsible jobs.

We're not anti-pipeline or pro-pipeline. We think that the energy industry, like all others, needs to become more socially- and environmentally-responsi-

ble. That's a matter of giving the workers control over the basic economic decisions that affect their lives and restricting the right of monopolies to make maximum profit.

G: What are your thoughts on the climate crisis?

KH: The climate issue is incredibly serious. It's a global issue and people are speaking out on it every day in different ways. You see when you look at the climate strike marches, the striving of the people for solutions to the problem and the main one is control — we're not the decision-makers and that's what's holding us back. The people aren't the decision-makers and that's what's holding us back from finding a solution.

G: What are your plans for affordable housing in your riding?

KH: Housing is a right and it's an issue that's facing the entire country. So, we definitely think that housing is a right and something that needs to be addressed.

G: What are your thoughts on freedom of speech? Do we have a freedom of speech problem in this country?

KH: Our party takes the issue of freedom of speech very seriously. It is a very dangerous situation which is created when the state is given the power to determine what is and is not legitimate political expression. Of particular concern right now is the way the Kenney government in Alberta is targeting environmentalists who are using their powers of speech, and suggesting that they are agents of a foreign power.

G: Where do you stand on issues of national defence?



KH: Canada should withdraw from NATO — it's an aggressive military alliance. We respect the right of all nations to self-determination, every people should be able to chart their own future, free from interference. That includes the right of the Venezuelan to determine their own affairs, the right of the Palestinian people to determine their own affairs and to have an independent nation-state, just to give a couple of examples.

We would make Canada a zone for peace. The first question that needs to be addressed when it comes to veterans is we've been opposing Canada's involvement in wars of aggression. We were strong opponents of the war in Af-

ghanistan, so we would support troops by bringing them home, by not creating more veterans, by withdrawing our participation in wars of aggression and then for those veterans that are here, it comes down to recognizing their right to health care — for veterans and all Canadians, and the right to economic livelihood for all Canadians, including veterans.

G: Why should students vote for you?

KH: A vote for the Marxist-Leninist Party is a vote that says 'We need political empowerment in this country.' It's a vote that says that the democratic system needs to change in order to give people control over their lives.

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CLIMATE CHANGE »

100 Debates on the Environment: Calgary Centre candidates forum



Megan Wilcox was the moderator for the climate change debate, featuring Thana Boonlert, Eden Gould, Chevy Johnston, Jessica Buresi and Kent Hehr.

MARIAH WILSON

Nikayla Goddard
News Editor

On Thursday, Oct. 3, non-partisan all-candidates debates took place across Canada, focused on inspiring conversation around the environment and climate change action. The Calgary Centre riding welcomed five candidates to the Marda Loop Community Association centre to engage in friendly debate about what their parties, if elected, would do to contribute to climate change action.

The five participants included incumbent representative Kent Hehr (Liberal), Jessica Buresi (NDP), Thana Boonlert (Green), Chevy Johnston (PPC) and Eden Gould (Animal Protection Party of Canada, APPC). Conservative representative Greg McLean was invited but declined attending.

The forum was hosted by Engineers Without Borders Calgary Professional Chapter, Calgary Climate Hub and Global Shapers Calgary. Megan Wilcox, a journalism professor at Mount Royal University, moderated the debate. The evening was split into five segments: introductions from the candidates, four ques-

tions about the environment, one question for open debate, questions from the crowd and finally concluding remarks.

Opening Remarks:

Opening remarks for all candidates focused on why conversations about the environment are important, especially between political representatives and their constituents.

"The environmental and climate change movement is the most important issue of our time," Boonlert said.

Gould recounted how the APPC believes that one of the best solutions to addressing climate change comes from a change in diet — switching from animal-based products to plant-based ones and adopting veganism wholeheartedly.

Johnson addressed his experience with both sides of the debate, having been a part of the agriculture and oil industry but also considering himself an environmentalist.

Buresi, inspired by her time in Sweden and their state of environmental awareness, brought that perspective to the NDP, who she says are very committed to addressing climate change.

"We need to change the way we operate, and move towards more collectivism," she said.

"It is a real and present danger," Hehr remarked. "Not only to us in this room, but it's a climate emergency throughout the planet." He added that the Liberals have a "real" climate change plan that is "achievable" and based around pricing pollution.

Greenhouse Gases:

The first question centered around greenhouse gases — What are the key elements of an action plan that you will advocate for to ensure Canada meets its international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas pollution?

Hehr got the microphone first, explaining how the Liberals have kept to their commitment to the Paris Accord in spite of Conservative governments trying to back out of it, and how the Liberals will continue to follow through. They're also banning single-use plastics, planting over \$2 billion in trees and changing the amount of ocean protection from one per cent to 15 per cent, on the way to 30 per cent.

"The NDP has a very ambitious plan to fight climate change," Buresi began. "We want to invest \$15 billion

dollars in the climate plan to slash greenhouse gas emissions and also creating 300,000 jobs with that plan."

The NDP also plan to reduce carbon emissions by 38 per cent — below 2005 levels — by 2030, Buresi says, exceeding current Paris targets. She also said they are considering investing \$6.5 billion in public transit and moving to make all public transit electric, and free, by 2030.

Johnston openly admitted he was likely at odds with the others, stating that the PPC's plan is to withdraw from the Paris Accord, not set a federal target to reduce emissions and to get rid of the carbon tax.

Johnston said, "The point of the carbon tax is to change how people behave, the choices they make. How many people drove here? [...] The reality is, the carbon tax is down at a level where it's not actually altering anyone's behaviour."

"We need to end agro-business subsidies," Gould responded. "What we eat is causing a real problem here."

Boonlert's response centered on how current targets are "entirely inadequate and do not go along with the science" — only the Green Party has a hard enough target to ensure real change.

Water Pollution and Flooding:

Question two was: What can the federal government do to work with different sectors, like municipalities and farmers, to reduce both water pollution as well as the risk of flood events which have been aggravated by industrial development?

Answers to this question were more vague and less developed, with Boonlert suggesting the development of a national water strategy. Gould spoke to how farms leach agricultural and animal waste into water could be stopped and Johnston talked about how fresh water should be managed and monitored as a commodity with fines for water pollution. Buresi emphasized the importance of restoring water protection legislation that Harper removed, paired with banning single-use plastics and holding corporations responsible for pollution. Hehr mostly spoke to how the Paris Accord will be hard to hit, but will be worth it, and how the Liberals' plan is more achievable than what the Green Party has planned.

Wilderness Protection:

Question three was: What will you do to protect the quality and quantity of wilderness in Canada? Another

tough question that candidates were able to better address than the previous one.

Johnston answered first, focusing on the importance of management of land: "Step one is maintaining the parks that are in place in Canada, focus on land management practices [...] there's increase in forest fires — that's a management problem. We need to implement practices like controlled burning."

Responding next was Buresi, who thoroughly explained that the NDP would work with Parks Canada to create more protective spaces and urban national parks in addition to creating Indigenous guardians programs, local food hubs and a food waste strategy.

Hehr's response focused on the Liberals' devotion to protecting the ocean — boosting protection from one per cent to 15 per cent, aiming to protect up to 30 per cent by 2025. Protecting wildlife reserves and implementing environmentally-aware national housing strategies would also ensure the wilderness remains protected.

Boonlert said the Green Party would increase federal funding on endangered species protection, incorporating Indigenous-led protection and conservation programs, fund stewardship of water and land and fully restore the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act to pre-Harper era strength.

Gould stated that having more protected land for animals and aiding endangered species are at the top of the APCC agenda to create a "more peaceful and compassionate space."

Toxic Substances:

The final question was: What will you do to ensure that Canadians are better protected from the health and environmental impacts of toxic substances?

Buresi responded first.

"We would make sure that there are many regulations in place that control companies and how they get rid of their waste, in addition to fines for polluters," she said. "We would commit to the Canadian Environ-

mental Protection Act and the Pest Control Products Act."

Johnston agreed that the PPC would hold businesses accountable for pollution, as well as ensuring there is transparency surrounding food product regulations and violations.

"Something else we need to do is legislate the use of mitigation products," Johnston continued. "One example is nitrogen stabilizers in agriculture [...] it's highly susceptible to leaching into the groundwater and into water systems."

Going chemical-free and regulating plant growth is the best solution, Gould says, instead of "having a hotdog, which presents the same risk to a person's colon as having a cigarette." Taxing plant-based foods less and meat-based products more would also tip the scale to a healthier population.

Regulating micro-fibers as a toxic substance, improving monitoring and reducing use of pesticides and moving towards more plant-based agricultures are all solutions Boonlert sees the Green Party using.

A round of applause was given when Hehr brought up the Liberals' implementation of the revised Canadian Food Guide. Hiring a Chief Science Officer to evaluate government policy was also a huge move, Hehr said, in addition to banning export and sale of asbestos and reviewing the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

Open Debate Period:

The next part of the forum welcomed the five candidates all at once to debate what they would do to protect and assist workers in current fossil fuel industries as we diversify our economy.

Boonlert jumped to the microphone to suggest Canada follows the Dutch model — retraining workers to the new industry while providing a livable income during that transition from fossil fuels to green energies, a suggestion that earned the audience's applause.

Buresi followed by agreeing with Boonlert, bringing up how the Iron

and Earth group are oil workers pushing for retraining and transitioning to cleaner energies, and are an example of how that is really happening.

Hehr liked the emphasis on retraining, adding that education is a key component in addressing the environment — through ensuring post-secondary education is affordable, retraining can be possible for oil workers to adapt to new environmental standards. Boonlert agreed, pointing out that the Green Party would work to eliminate tuition fees completely — Buresi and Gould quickly interjected that their parties believe in that too.

Audience Questions:

The first question regarded the importance of consulting with Indigenous peoples — to which everyone responded with enthusiastic agreement that transparency and fair consultation are key. Boonlert added that he has been advocating for the Green Party to propose a reserved seat specifically for Indigenous peoples, which received an applause.

The second question was about inspiring innovation and technological development. Johnston started by saying that industry usually solves most of those problems, and that nuclear power is a viable energy route that innovation should focus on. Boonlert said that creating legislation to more quickly pilot green projects would ensure greater development, and Hehr talked about how accessing geothermal resources from leftover oil wells is a valuable resource.

Holding businesses accountable for pollution was the third question topic, Johnston being the only outlier with a dislike for the carbon tax and rebates.

The fourth was asking about a timeline for transitioning from fossil fuel energy to greener energy, and answers stuck generically with "as soon as possible."

The final audience question was about what security plan for food do parties have. Gould spoke about

how 50 per cent of food grown goes to feeding animals, and so by not eating animals there will not be a food crisis. Boonlert referenced Hehr's earlier mention of geothermal resources and how they can be tapped to sustain year-long greenhouses. Johnston said that global warming will be increasing crop yield, though added that it's problematic. Buresi said the NDP has plans for creating local food hubs, a food waste strategy and reinforcing food banks. Investing in other communities and ensuring we create a network of sustainability was what Hehr said the Liberals would like to focus on.

Closing Remarks:

"We know that climate change is real, and we are taking concrete actions," Hehr began his closing statement. "We have a plan that is going to meet our Paris climate change commitments. We are 75 per cent of the way there after only four years."

Hehr added that putting a price on pollution, banning single-use plastics and protecting oceans are all Liberal platform points they are delivering on to make it an ambitious but achievable commitment.

Buresi said, "The NDP is committed to fighting climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Rachel Notley was amazing, probably the best premier. It was the only time growing up here that I was really proud of my premier. She has a proven track record in making bold moves — she brought in the carbon tax."

She continued to say that we need to start thinking about the collective — "We have to start thinking of the whole, instead of us individually and our own personal benefits. That's something I don't think is talked about enough because maybe it sounds like communism or something, but instead of our own petty needs, what does the whole community need?"

Buresi also said to an applause, "We need to stop blaming China, and stop blaming other countries."

Johnston focused his closing remarks on looking at climate change

from a "realistic" perspective through withdrawing the carbon tax.

"I agree, we need to make decisions founded in science," he continued. "But claiming that we're going to end the human race or be on an unlivable planet if we don't make changes to our lives in the next decade is disingenuous."

"We need to vote like our lives depended on it," Gould began, "because our votes do. The Animal Protection Party of Canada is willing to work with any organization or group with goals aligning to help animals, humans and environment protection."

Gould went on to explain how one of the easiest solutions is to become vegan. She called out members of the crowd for laughing at her.

"If we don't defeat [climate change], our future will be terrifying and short," she said simply.

Boonlert started with lauding his fellow candidates for showing up.

"I think the biggest non-winners here tonight are the candidates who aren't here that were invited," he said. "The biggest loser tonight is Greg McLean, because he had his opportunity to come here, talk about climate change, talk about what his stances are on the environment and he did not show up. That's a massive disappointment," he added during a large applause.

Boonlert continued by explaining how times are changing and we live in a society where focusing on capital growth is no longer sustainable.

"We must buy this, buy that. At some point, when do we say it's too much? [Capital] growth is not sustainable on a planet with 7 billion people on it," he said, adding how one of the government's flaws is being made up mostly of politicians. "If we bring scientists into parliament, we start looking at the facts. We need to make science the ceiling of how we govern."

The conclusion of the forum was marked with rounds of applause for all of the candidates. Remember to cast your vote on Oct. 21 and inform yourself about the candidate platforms in your constituency.



MARIAH WILSON



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THEATRE »

Calgary's Sage Theatre celebrates 20th anniversary



courtesy SAGE THEATRE

Sage Theatre is celebrating 20 years of operation by looking back at its past and looking ahead to its future.

Troy Hasselman
Arts & Culture Editor

Calgary's Sage Theatre is celebrating 20 years of challenging, innovative theatre that's championed our city's emerging artists, with world premieres and the IGNITE Festival all highlighting the company's track record.

Sage Theatre Artistic Director Jason Mehmel owes the longevity of the company to its willingness to take risks and innovate with intimate, character-driven work that serves as a launching pad for the careers of Calgary's artists.

"I think the secret for me is that there's a baseline of what Sage offers that adapts well to different situations, and that kind of flexibility has kept us going even though the particular way we're doing something might not be the same way we did it 20 years ago," Mehmel says. "That offer is that on one hand, it's really intimate and engages you with empathy in characters that are really unlike you in your experience, fostering our locals artists throughout the professional work of those different stories, challenging our artists to engage in those really complicated stories."

One of the most notable contributions of the Sage Theatre to the Calgary arts scene is the annual IGNITE Festival for Emerging Artists, which has played a central role in

the development of numerous artists in our city.

"I'm an alumni of the IGNITE festival myself, I think it was our second or third year where Kelly Reay had taken over Sage Theatre and Geoffrey Ewert and Adrienne Smook had taken over the IGNITE Festival and modelled it after NextFest in Edmonton, which is a big emerging artists festival," Mehmel says. "They felt there was an opportunity in Calgary for something that didn't exist. I think the thing that distinguished IGNITE festival for me is producing emerging artist work and fostering a relationship between the emerging artist and the rest of the community. We've also branched out into dance, music and improv. Not just theatre."

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of Sage Theatre, the company will be revisiting three of its past scripts, and presenting a new script from Oct. 16-19. Mehmel has tried to emphasize plays that have a relevance to our current moment, rather than simply revisit past works that are popular or acclaimed. Past plays that will be revisited include the Soviet-based political-comedy *Slavs*, originally a co-production with the U of C drama department, the empathetic drama *Scorched* and *King Kirby*, a biography-play that follows Jack Kirby, creator of such iconic Marvel characters as Captain America and Thor.

"*Slavs* is a political-comedy set

in the fall of Soviet Russia. That might sound like you need a bit of vodka to get through it, but it's pretty hilarious because you've got these broad characters dealing with the fall of what they've known for years," Mehmel says. "Because we went through a provincial election and are going through a federal one, it feels really appropriate to have these characters debating their next steps amongst themselves. *Scorched* is a show that is one of the best plays I've read, because of the emotional impact it brings. That notion of bringing empathy and community to our character and situation that we don't often have a chance to examine. This play has characters doing unspeakable things that you completely understand by the time you've fully met them. *King Kirby*, in terms of speaking to where we are today, focuses on the characters that Jack Kirby created when he worked for Marvel Comics — the headliners of the most profitable movie franchise of all time. The fact that people don't know who Jack Kirby is, to me has always felt like something that's missing."

The new project *A.I. AM*, written and directed by U of C School of Creative and Performing Arts head Bruce Barton takes a look at themes of artificial intelligence and identity.

"*A.I. AM* is something we've been working on for the last year with

four amazing actors," Mehmel says. "Bruce is writing and directing it, but the content that he's been building has come out of work he's done with those actors and it's come out of that question of artificial intelligence. The theatrical twist is we've got these four really great actors focusing on the minutiae of the physicality of their characters as they all try to remember who they are, with the idea being one of them is human, and being human is a bad thing where they are. This will be the first time anyone has seen the whole thing — we're finishing it for the reading. When it gets produced, the hope is that every night the person that is human will be different and there will be four different scripts."

The season will also include the Western Canadian premiere of Sean Dixon's *The Orange Dot*, which follows two city workers as they wait for supplies to cut down a tree. This play will run at the Joyce Doolittle Theatre from April 23-May 2, 2020.

"There's amazing, theatrical qualities to it, but it lives in a spoiler-ish territory so it's hard to talk about," Mehmel says. "It's a 'realistic' play, it starts with two city workers meeting at a big, old dead tree with a big orange dot on it and they're there to cut it down and they're waiting hours for the equipment they need to get there and they're on their phones having coffee, having conversations about things they see on

the news. It goes from small talks to something a little deeper. There's this slow growth of mythology that permeates around the script, and as it does things change for the characters. You start to lose the realistic and things become mythological and big shift happens due to that mythology."

Looking forward, Sage Theatre hopes to stay innovative and help grow the arts scene in Calgary.

"On the one hand, what it is that keeps us going is trying to tell stories that we think are helping us explore where we are now," Mehmel says. "I feel a certain responsibility to choose work that continually explores that question. In the next five, ten, twenty years I hope that we'll continue to explore that question. There are people working for Sage now who were alumni of the IGNITE festival. I'd like to see where that notion of the IGNITE alumni can go and how we can foster beyond brokering that mentor relationship. We have done world premieres like *Blood: A Scientific Romance* and *Legislating Love*, but that's not baked into what we do. New work isn't the specific reason for what we do, but I'd like to look at the process of making new work and see what it's like to make the process from scratch with a team."

Script readings will occur at the Pumphouse Theatre from Oct. 16-19 at 7:30 p.m. each night. Information about each play and tickets can be found at sagetheatre.com.

MUSIC »

New Music: Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds



Ghosteen is the first album to be written by Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds since the 2015 death of Cave's son.

courtesy HENRY W. LAURISCH/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Troy Hasselman
Arts & Culture Editor

In the trailer for the 2016 documentary film *One More Time with Feeling*, Nick Cave says "Most of us don't want to change, really. I mean, why should we? What we do want is modifications on the original model. We keep on being ourselves, but just hopefully better versions of ourselves. But what happens when an event occurs that is so catastrophic that you just change? You change from the known person to an unknown person."

For Cave, that catastrophic event came on the night of July 14, 2015 when his 15-year-old son Arthur Cave tragically fell to his death off a cliff near their family's home in Brighton, England. This event has definitively changed Cave into what he considers a more empathetic, caring version of his past self, saying the death of his son gave him "a deep feeling toward other people and an absolute understanding of their suffering." This newfound empathy has manifested itself in his Red Hand Files website where he answers solicited questions from fans around the world, ruminating on topics including grief, faith, love or his favourite music. This website

has been accompanied by a live iteration with his Q&A tours where he performs songs on a piano while answering questions from the audience with no moderator. The tour and website have given the historically cagey and guarded Cave a new openness which is reflected in his new album with his longtime backing band The Bad Seeds, *Ghosteen*, the first new music Cave has written since the death of his son.

These songs show Cave in continued evolution, with the album amounting to the most ethereal and delicate work of Cave's career. This further refines the musical direction the band began on 2013's *Push the Sky Away* and continued with 2016's *Skeleton Tree*. These albums have brought Cave into a more stripped-back direction that has eschewed rhythm and propulsion for ambience and airiness. The predominantly guitar and drum-driven band shifted its focus to synthesizers and string instruments as its sonic focal point, with this material retaining the visceral punch that makes his earlier, more aggressive work so vital.

Cave's lyrics have marked a departure on this album as well, gone is the narrative-driven songwriting which has informed so much of Cave's past work filled with south-

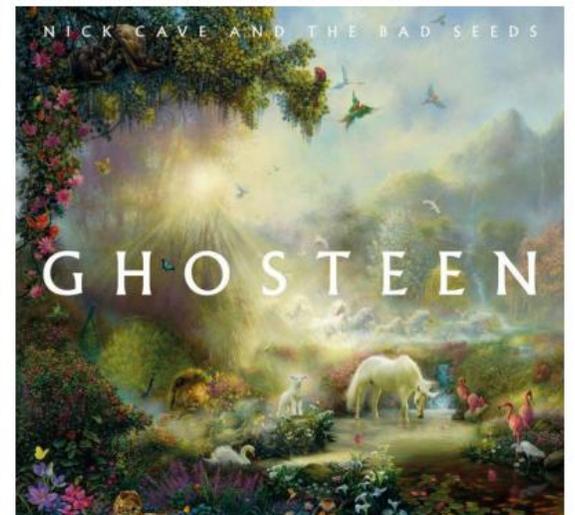
ern gothic-style tales of revenge, redemption and violence. His lyrics delve into impressionism on this album, consisting of phrases that serve to illustrate the broad themes of grief and loss encircling the album rather than using storytelling as a means of colouring the material. This new direction can be jarring after Cave has spent four decades establishing himself as one of music's great storytellers, but in the context of this album it makes perfect sense and compliments the material beautifully.

Ghosteen is a double album with a running length of over an hour consisting of two sides. In his announcement for the album, Cave dubbed the first half of the album to be "the children" with the second half of the album being "the parents." The first half of the album consists of eight average-length songs that have a child-like, almost pastoral quality to them as Cave conjures references such as fairy tales and natural imagery to evoke his grief at the death of his son. Tracks like "Spinning Song" and "Galleon Ship" rank as some of the most undamagedly beautiful work of his career. The second half of the album consists of three tracks, with two being over ten minutes in length broken up by a shorter, spoken word middle track. These

tracks bring Cave's mourning onto an epic-scale as strings, a choir and the walls-of-sound created by Cave's chief sonic architect Warren Ellis work together to create something truly transcendent.

Throughout Nick Cave's career, there have been endless personas and modes that he has inhabited. From the psychotic, Old Testament obsessed belter of *The Birthday Party*, to the strung-out

redeemer of his early Bad Seeds work, to the lovestruck balladeer of *The Boatman's Call* and sleazed-out hellraiser of *Grinderman* amongst countless other iterations of Cave that have evolved and shifted at a quickfire rate while always remaining singularly him. Cave turned 62 recently and remains as vital, ever-evolving and fascinating here as he has at any point in his career.



Ghosteen was released on Oct. 4

courtesy GHOSTEEN LTD.

INTERVIEW »

PUP's Zack Mykula talks touring and *Morbid Stuff*



PUP will play MacEwan Hall on Oct. 11 as part of the tour behind their album *Morbid Stuff*.

courtesy NICOLE KILBERT/FLICHER

Troy Hasselman
Arts & Culture Editor

On the heels of the release of their third studio album *Morbid Stuff*, PUP has scaled new heights. The band has maintained the critical acclaim they won with 2016's *The Dream Is Over*, garnering their second short-list nomination for the prestigious Polaris Prize and getting raves from big publications like Pitchfork and NME. PUP has also grown themselves to new levels of popularity by playing some of the biggest venues of their career on the massive tour that accompanies the album.

The band began their year-long tour behind the album with a show at Calgary's Commonwealth Bar & Stage in March and are now returning to our city for a show at the — much bigger — MacEwan Hall on Oct. 11. This year's successes have not changed the band, however. They still carry themselves with the same self-consciousness and self-deprecation that comes through so clearly in their work and they still tour just as relentlessly as they did when they were on their long come-up. The *Gauntlet* spoke to drummer Zack Mykula before the band's show in Calgary about touring, the new album and where the band goes from here.

The Gauntlet: The last time you were in Calgary was the first headlining show you played in 2019. How do the shows feel six months later? Do you feel more confident in the new material? Do the audiences feel different?

Zack Mykula: Personally, I feel about the same about our role in the whole thing. We may be better or tighter at this point than we were last time we were in Calgary. But we all still feel the same in that we still are very proud of this record. To that point though, as others have gotten deeper into the material, I feel the crowds have gotten more responsive and intense, if anything. It's been gratifying to see.

G: On this tour you've upgraded to using a tour bus. Has that had an impact on how you feel on a day-to-day basis on tour? Do you ever find yourself nostalgic for the days of grinding it out in a van and sleeping on floors?

ZM: I'd argue that if you miss not sleeping enough, there's something wrong with you. So no, I am not nostalgic about the method by which we toured — especially since on this Canadian tour, we're back to a van, and have been travelling in a van for most of the year — but, I do have lots of nice memories of the early days.

Again, by and large, we've spent most of our time touring this year in a van, so there's little chance of me forgetting, let alone getting nostalgic about it.

G: You're just wrapping up what looks like a pretty gruelling tour of the South and Midwest. Have you been able to hold onto some semblance of a day-to-day routine while travelling and playing that many shows?

ZM: Same routine as always. Sleep. Coffee. (Bathroom.) Beer. Rock. Sleep. Not the best for you, but hey. Sometimes you break it up by overindulgence and sometimes indulgence is all you have to rip you from the cyclical nature of your working life. Reading and Nintendo Switch are good, too.

G: This tour you also began a new initiative where you've partnered with a different charity in each city you're touring in to represent themselves at each show. How do you feel about the initiative after having it for a few months? How have you felt about the reception to it?

ZM: I am gratified that people have gotten into it, and we are extremely grateful to the charities who have stepped up and represented themselves at shows. Not always easy with the nature of volunteering and charity work as

it is. Either way, I am glad that our audiences are so in sync with us as far as trying to make a difference in their and our communities.

G: *Morbid Stuff* captures a lot of the uncertainty and hardship that makes up life in 2019 for so many people, while at the same time being a mostly musically upbeat album that's also funny at a lot of times. Does that reflect your perspective on hard times? Do you try to look at the funny or more ridiculous parts of what you're making music about?

ZM: I think we're all pretty sardonic. Stefan is really good at capturing that attitude in his lyrics. Laugh through the pain while also trying to become a better person for yourself and the people around you. It's a hard life so you may as well make fun (of each other).

G: This has been a very busy year for the band. Are you looking at taking a break in the new year, staying on the road or looking ahead at the next album?

ZM: Always looking forward. Always maintaining low expectations. There will be breaks, for sure. But we only know one speed, and I don't foresee that abating any time soon.

G: Your shows are known for be-

ing energetic and communal. How much does the energy from the audience have an impact on your performance? Has it been able to pull you through shows where your energy level wasn't quite there?

ZM: The show isn't the show without the audience. That's obviously a fatuous statement. But, to be honest, it's accurate. No matter how hard the show or how poorly it may be going (to us as our worst critics). How bad we're feeling physically or emotionally. It's the audience that gives us our strength. We owe everything to them.

G: You've been playing larger venues on this tour. Are there new challenges that come with playing larger venues? Do you feel like you've moved up a level in terms of popularity?

ZM: The shows are definitely feeling more intense just by virtue of finding new audiences. But we still hope to maintain the same community-mindedness we always have. The real challenge has been reaching every person in the room, even as the audience expands. It's definitely been at the forefront of our minds as we've moved through the first phase of this album cycle. It's not easy trying to make sure everyone has a good time, but it's definitely rewarding.

THEATRE »

Theatre Calgary set to present *Iceland*



Theatre Calgary's *Iceland* is set to open at the Max Bell Theatre on Oct. 18.

courtesy LLOYD DIRKS/UNSPLASH

Troy Hasselman
Arts & Culture Editor

Iceland, a Canadian one-act play from Governor General's Award winning playwright Nicolas Billon is set to begin playing as a presentation of Theatre Calgary, with its premiere set for Oct. 18 at Arts Commons' Max Bell Theatre.

The play takes place in Toronto amidst the backdrop of the 2008 global financial crisis, centering around three interwoven monologues from different perspectives on the crash. Halim, a profit-motivated capitalist who works in real estate, Anna, a tenant that has been convicted by Halim's property-flipping and Cassandra, an Estonian history student who also works as an escort who has been hired by Halim.

The play is directed by Calgary's Jenna Turk and stars three Calgary-based actors — Praneet Akilla as Halim, Lara Schmitz as Anna and Arielle Rombough as Cassandra. All three have previously worked in Calgary theatre productions including Akilla in *A Christmas Carol* and *As You Like It*, Rombough in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and Schmitz in *Romeo & Juliet*. Akilla's past work experience as a chemical engineer in the oil and gas industry, which he left to pursue acting, had an influence on his portrayal of Halim.

"Only about two years ago, before I became a full-time actor, I was very much the character I'm playing," Akilla says. "Not so much in the chauvinist

manifesto about how he treats women or anything like that, but I certainly valued money a lot. I was on that oil and gas, engineering pathway where everything in my life that I thought was going to give me happiness was related to money. His diatribe in the play is about how ethics, morals and abstract ideas don't stand a chance next to a pile of cold, hard cash. Unfortunately, that was my mindset to a certain extent in the corporate world and I wasn't alone in that. There's a lot of people that work in these industries like engineering or finance that believe in that. I think part of what helps me play the character I'm playing is that I'm not so far removed from it."

Despite the name, *Iceland* takes place in Toronto and instead uses the nordic country as a metaphor for the economic ruin that can be caused by mass-privatization and deregulation. Though the events of the play take place over a decade ago, they still feel just as relevant today.

"*Iceland* is a metaphorical representation of what can happen if you deregulate and privatize your banking system — human greed kind of takes over," Akilla says. "Unfortunately, the themes of human greed and why we are the way we are and why we keep telling the same stories and never learn from them is still relevant to this day. I think a big part of it is also instinctual — we've evolved as a species to be greedy. It's also a societal expectation, that more money means more comfort and the ability to afford the

good things in life."

Though it would be easy to portray Halim as simply the villain of the play, Akilla has been mindful to not just play him as a caricature of greed. As with any person, there are nuances to Halim's character that Akilla has been sure to portray.

"If you peel back the layers on a person and you look at his circumstances, you look at nature versus nurture, you look at where he comes from, you look at his financial background and class background, it's tough to judge a person just from the exterior with the words the playwright has given us," Akilla says. "It's easy to take a first look at the play and say 'Oh, this guy goes against everything I believe in' and judge him for it. It's my job as an actor to never judge a character, it's to understand where he came from, why he's thinking the way he's thinking."

Though the play is based on an acclaimed script that won a Governor General's Award, Akilla doesn't feel the pressure of acting in a work that has a strong reputation, rather seeing the play as an opportunity and having faith in the team working with him.

"I just look at it as a great opportunity," Akilla says. "To say Nicolas Billon's words is such a privilege. I relish the challenge to convey the words to an audience and make them feel something. It's my dream as an actor to play such a meaty role and part, we have such an incredible staff and cast and crew. Theatre Calgary's a wonderful company to work for and they all make it easy and we all emotion-

ally support each other and we have a great director in Jenna Turk, who's leading the charge. As long as you're in good hands with good leadership I don't necessarily feel the pressure of it."

The play deals heavily with the theme of loneliness, especially the loneliness that can be felt in large cities. Akilla sees the root of this loneliness in the relentless pace and ambition that makes up life in large cities for so many.

"In big cities, where the pace is always high, you feel the pressure of always being on the go," Akilla says. "You're always in a sea of people trying to accomplish something, whether it be the next promotion or next job or impressing somebody else. It's all based on external validation. Because of our endless search to achieve those things we forget to take care of our health, we forget to take care of who we are as people. It's not until we go home and it's extremely quiet around — we say 'I just feel incredibly empty inside.' All three characters in the play are tied to their profession and objectives so they don't take the time to think about what makes them happy."

The set of the play will also feature 16 onstage seats for audience members. The seats are to be placed to look out of a neighbouring building on the set, an allusion to the play's themes of voyeurism. This is unique for the play and Akilla is excited for the challenges posed by this as an actor.

"I think it's gonna be great. Throughout our rehearsal process we've been keying in on that," Akilla says. "I think those people in the audience also represent that all of us are implicated in the same thing. We're not pointing fingers at anybody, and we're all in this together and all have the same issues and problems. That's the importance we place in the audience behind them. We're not necessarily calling them out, but that's why we have them onstage."

Akilla thinks this play is especially something that university students would be interested in. Students interested in seeing the play can even obtain a discount on admission with their student cards.

"This is an 18-plus play and we talk about some cutting edge stuff," Akilla says. "It's a really good play specifically for university students, whether it be finance students from Haskayne or engineering students from Schulich or any department, really. For post-secondary students, tickets are \$20 so it's an incredibly affordable night at the theatre."

After holding previews from Oct. 15–17, *Iceland* runs from Oct. 18–Nov. 2, with performances happening from Tues.–Sun with curtains at 7:30 p.m. on Tues.–Thurs. and Sun. and 8:00 p.m. on Fri. and Sat., with weekend matinees at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for the general public start at \$35 and are \$20 for post-secondary students. More information about showtimes and tickets can be found at theatrethecalgary.com.

NEW MOVIES »

Joker needs you to think about it

Jocelyn Illing
Contributor

Sometimes you come out of the theatre after watching a film and know almost instantly if you loved or hated it. Other times, it seems difficult to really pin-point just exactly how you felt about it. This was the experience I had for hours after watching Todd Phillips's latest film *Joker*.

Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix) is the man who would later become the infamous Joker of Batman fame. Fleck is a loner in the truest sense of the word. He lives with his mother in a run-down apartment and has no friends apart from his co-workers — who you can barely count as friends — and his neighbour who he develops a crush on. To mask his depression, Fleck spends his days working as a clown, performing gigs at children's hospitals and closing sales for department stores. However, what Fleck most desires is to be a comedian, to make people laugh. Throughout the film we watch as Fleck strives to reach his goals and how his inner demons, as well as

the crumbling society around him, transform him into the villain we know.

My hesitation to profess my love for this film lies in what many would consider to be its more controversial elements, the most prominent being its portrayal of violence. Unlike many violent films, in which I as a viewer am able to distance myself from the violence and determine that what is happening is wrong, *Joker* has a strange effect on the viewer. I'm not saying that the film promotes violence, but it does not necessarily condemn it. Fleck is a truly troubled character, and it seemed as if we were supposed to sympathize with him, leading to him not being truly punished for his crimes. However, because of my previous knowledge of the film, I was able to realign my emotions and remind myself that Fleck is truly a villain and that his actions are strikingly evil.

Although the film's intentions and execution can be debated, there is one thing that no one can deny — Phoenix's performance was phenomenal. Watching him

onscreen, you become totally lost in the character. From his incredibly creepy laugh to his menacing stare, Phoenix had me totally transfixed — in the most uncomfortable way — for the entirety of the film's two-hour run. His performance was aided by an outstanding soundtrack, and the use of extreme close-ups. By coming up close and personal to the man himself, we as the audience are put into a place that is both uncomfortable and fascinating, as we are able to analyze his every word and facial movement. I wouldn't be surprised if, come January, Phoenix is nominated for an Academy Award. With three nominations already under his belt, it seems like it's time for him to finally claim the prize.

In the end, what I think is most important to take away from this film is that it is not a film to watch passively. It requires you to think about its controversial moments and decide whether or not they are justified within the film. It does not matter whether or not you agree with what everyone else is saying — what matters is that you thought about it.



Joker opened in theatres on Oct. 4.

courtesy DC COMICS

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Gurinder Singh Gill speaks out about racism in the federal election.

courtesy FACEBOOK

ELECTION »

Spill the chai: on electoral racism in conservative Alberta

Aymen Sherwani
Columnist

Elections are probably the only time of the year when you get to see the true colours of the people around you. The 2019 Alberta General election — held last April — not only brought back a right-wing majority to the Legislative Assembly but also the return of alt-right, anti-immigrant sentiment to the province. This was the case last March when a member of the National Citizens Alliance (NCA) verbally harassed people of colour at the Genesis Centre, located in one of the most culturally diverse areas in the city, blaming the government for turning Alberta into a “UN refugee camp.”

To add fuel to the fire, for a lot of people here, the Trudeau blackface incident hit home. A lot of South Asian students at the University of Calgary who have already ruled out the Conservative Party from their votes because of UCP tuition slashes, are now questioning whether the Liberal Party is a better option after a photo of their party leader mocking the colour of their skin resurfaced. Many students claim that they don't plan on voting at all.

When it comes down to actually running for office, minority candidates in elections experience a

significant level of scrutiny in comparison to white male candidates, and not just for their portfolios and platforms. In the light of the upcoming Canadian federal election, the anti-immigrant sentiment in Calgary has become such a rampant issue that Gurinder Singh Gill, NDP candidate for Calgary Skyview, has had his campaign boards vandalised with racist rhetoric like “Go Back, MF,” targeting the fact that he is a Sikh man who wears a turban. This degree of systemic racism is a phenomenon exclusive to people of colour. People never claim to hate a white candidate because he happens to be Irish in the same way they do for candidates who have darker skin and are unapologetic about showcasing their culture.

The *Gauntlet* spoke with Gill about the incident, his decision to run for office and the importance of people of colour to be involved in local politics, despite the odds being against them. Here's what the Calgary Skyview candidate had to say.

The Gauntlet: What were your initial reactions to finding out that your campaign boards had been vandalised?

Gurinder Singh Gill: People had told me that my signs would get vandalized before I had even made up my mind to run for of-

fice. I expected it to happen and for my boards to be taken down, but I didn't know that it would go to that extent of the full-on racist comments. We were joking around about what's the worst that anyone could do, like draw a moustache on my face? Because that's what I've seen before, but this just took it to a whole new level.

G: How has this impacted your work and how you interact with your constituents?

GSG: I'm a pretty open person, and I understand that we're talking about a small group of people who've done this, so I can't take it to heart and I can't let it put me down. I have had so much support and so many people messaging me on Instagram, so many emails, so many phone calls as well just saying “Hey I'm sorry that someone did this to you,” but really there's nothing to be sorry about. It's unfortunate that there are still people who feel that way and are reacting like this. There is a lot of love and support from everyone.”

G: We have seen a lot of Islamophobic and anti-immigrant rhetoric coming from our highest elected officials in this province and country. It's unfortunate that you've received similar pushback on your campaign

trail. Do you think the UCP are creating an unwelcoming environment for people of colour, regardless of whether they are an electoral candidate?

GSG: People are starting to think that it's okay to make these comments based on recent events. I think individuals have started expressing themselves a bit more freely, in regards to topics like this, from what I've seen. They're not taking into consideration how it really affects the individual. It opens up a dark past for individuals who have really struggled with racism, and it reminds them of what used to happen to them like if they used to be bullied in grade two because of the way they looked because they wore a turban or a hijab. We just have to reassure everyone that we are not going to let individuals like this take us down. We are going to stand up to racism.

G: Due to the recent attacks on your identity, do you feel the pressure of being a trailblazer now?

GSG: I want to send the message to younger people that they can do this as well, and I hope it motivates and pushes them to move forward despite it all. I used to think I couldn't do a lot of things because of my identity, but growing up I used to read about news like the first

Sikh in the RCMP, and it's stuff like that which is building the foundation for future generations.

G: As someone who graduated from university just three years ago themselves, what advice do you have for young South Asian students looking to get involved with politics and/or running for office someday?

GSG: Getting into politics alone? You have to have thick skin because, beyond racism, there's a lot of other personal attacks people make on you. Other political candidates are going to take shots at you based on who you are as a person, so you have to have thick skin and you have to be able to take it all in. But at the same time, you have to be able to stand up for what's right, too.

Calgary Skyview federal NDP candidate, Gurinder Singh Gill, might have had his campaign boards defaced with black spray paint, but he has made it clear that he is going to stand strong in the face of hatred and bigotry. The Canadian federal election is on Oct. 21, and it's time for students to choose candidates that don't want to remove the caps on their tuition and don't take fake stances on supporting diversity in an effort to get a little clout.



Although prisoner's voting rights aren't disputed in Canada, it is important to remember individual voting rights.

courtesy MATTHEW ANSLEY/UNSPASH

VOTING RIGHTS »

Incarcerated voters and maintaining democracy

Kristy Koehler
Editor-in-Chief

Canadian citizens have the right to vote and participate in the democratic process. Should any Canadian citizen ever be disenfranchised, that is to say, have that right revoked? Absolutely not.

Every election cycle, as voting booths are set up around the city, arrangements are also made for persons in correctional institutions and federal penitentiaries to cast their ballots. Every election cycle, the debate opens up about whether or not incarcerated persons should have the right to vote. In 1993, those serving sentences of less than two years were allowed to vote, and in 2002, all incarcerated persons were given the right to do so. In Canada, this right is not yet in danger of being removed, how-

ever, in the United States, many of those incarcerated do not have the right to vote.

There is no doubt in my mind that those serving prison sentences are already paying a price to society for their crimes by the loss of their freedom. They deserve a say in what happens to the world while they are behind bars.

The goal of incarceration is to decrease recidivism and to ensure that, upon release, incarcerated persons are able to integrate back into society with ease. Even the Criminal Code of Canada, section 718, makes note that "the fundamental purpose of sentencing is to protect society and to contribute, along with crime prevention initiatives, to respect for the law and the maintenance of a just, peaceful and safe society" and "to assist in rehabilitating offenders." The Correctional Service of Canada's web-

site states that their "main goal is to ensure that eligible offenders safely return to the community."

There is no better way to increase respect for law, order and society than to allow someone to participate in their democratic rights.

I have heard a middling solution proposed — that those who would be released under the government which is being elected should have a vote as they may have to live several years under that government, but those who are serving longer terms should not. I disagree. Democracy is universal. The moment concessions are made, the closer the system as a whole is to collapse. What if the crime is heinous? What if it's unforgivable? Again, concessions cannot be made. Societal abhorrence for a particular crime cannot interfere with the principle that democ-

cracy is universal. To be clear, even if a heinous act was perpetrated against someone I loved, I would still be arguing that they have the right to vote.

Would you argue that prisoners should lose access to food? Health care? Ability to live free from bodily harm? I view the ability to participate in democracy as a right as well.

Those serving life with no eligibility for parole still may have friends, family, even children outside of the prison system, for whom they wish to leave a better world. Incarceration does not inherently mean no engagement with the outside world — an inmate serving life in prison may have been a passionate climate change activist or women's rights advocate prior to incarceration. Simply because one law was violated does not mean that the person convicted should

not be able to participate in any law — if someone is in prison for theft, they should still be allowed a voice on say, abortion, or immigration. If a prisoner has children, they will likely have strong opinions about education and childcare that they should be allowed to vote on.

And, when you consider that the prison system largely incarcerates people of colour and those who grew up in poverty and with difficult family situations, to remove prisoners from the vote disenfranchises vulnerable populations.

Thankfully, Canada is unlikely to remove this right from incarcerated persons. However, the more we discuss why prisoners should have the vote, the less chance there is that we will ever regress to a time when they did not.

VIDEO GAMES »

Mario Kart Tour: My most recent obsession

Farah Refaey
Contributor

In September, Nintendo released a mobile version of *Mario Kart*, the game that almost every millennial and zoomer has countless fond memories of. *Mario Kart* was a staple in my childhood, and I'm sure many others. Unfortunately,

there's been a great lack of *Mario Kart* in my recent years, not due to a lack of interest, but because of the inconvenience of gaming consoles, especially if, like me, your gaming knowledge begins and ends with *Mario Kart*. That's why the idea of mobilizing a classic game like *Mario Kart* is genius. It's very rare to find someone

from the generation that grew up with the game who does not use a smartphone. By mobilizing *Mario Kart*, Nintendo is making it accessible to virtually everyone who would be interested in playing it.

Nintendo is also capitalizing on the element of nostalgia. I'm willing to bet large sums of money that most people who download the app grew up playing the game on a console. We all understand the appeal of doing something that you loved so much as a kid. I've missed racing with my friends, arguing over which road we'd pick — never rainbow road — and who got to be which character. That only ever resulted in indescribable frustration and hot, angry tears. I would love to be a kid again just for a day, and this game provides you with a tiny little peek back into that world. That said, the game doesn't have rainbow road or even multiplayer

mode yet. Nintendo has issued statements saying they're working on updates, so I'll be waiting patiently for them to arrive.

As a university student, the nostalgic element of this game gets me. Right now it feels like I'm in limbo: I'm not a kid anymore, but I don't feel like a full-blown adult yet either. For students who moved away from home for university, this game hits the mark for you in two major ways — the convenience of being able to play on your phone — since I doubt you're lugging gaming consoles into 2x2 foot dorm rooms — as well as the nostalgic element. It allows you to have a little piece of your childhood, and in a way a little piece of home with you at all times.

There have been many memes and posts made about how when *Pokémon Go* was first released, it was the most peaceful and whole-

some time. While I can recall trading Pokémon cards with my cousins, it was definitely not as big a part of my childhood as *Mario Kart* was. To me, *Mario Kart Tour* is the best possible reincarnation of any part of my childhood. Back then, *Mario Kart* was a fun past-time and a great way to figure out what kinds of people your friends were. A person's go-to character says a lot about who they are. Now, *Mario Kart Tour* serves as a wonderful distraction from the ebb and flow of everyday life, the perfect time-waster on public transit, and a great way to relieve stress when I have a couple minutes to spare between the piles of assignments, lab reports and midterms to study for.

If you haven't yet, check out *Mario Kart Tour*. I would not be exaggerating if I said it gets me going through the week, but my cell-phone's data bill would probably disagree.



Mario Kart Tour brings back nostalgia of childhood gaming.

YASMINE ELSAYED

FEDERAL DEBATE »



Many nuggets were had during the federal leader's debate.

courtesy YOUTUBE

Debate night at The Den

Cristina Paolozzi
Opinions Editor

Stepping foot into The Den, I had one mission in mind — all-you-can-eat nuggets. Mondays are a soft-spot for me. I was excited and determined to eat my weight in nuggets as well as — oh yeah — enjoy a healthy and moderated debate on the current state of Canadian politics. Good. Everything was set from the large projection screen, to the bustling crowd swarming in. It promised to be a fruitful night concerning the environment, the economy, Indigenous issues and immigration. With nuggets in hand, I was ready for anything.

Or so I thought. As the federal leaders argued with one another about scandals, balanced budgets and whether or not there was a legitimate climate crisis afoot, I tried to write down the most memorable moments

for me:

1. Scheer's intro is full of what Trudeau isn't and not enough on the Conservative platform.
2. Bernier interjects a lot.
3. Trudeau ooped with Bill 21.

I stopped keeping track of the debate on paper, but kept listening, the nuggets consoling me through the two hour debate. I wasn't proud of the data I had collected, and as I sit writing this, I wish past Cristina had enough resolve to remember to write stuff down. That said, there were still some takeaways from the night.

The debate format was apparently confusing for some individuals, as they felt it did not accommodate the six different party leaders, or give any of them enough time to dive into their specific platform points. Many

Canadians took to Twitter to highlight their frustration citing that the limited amount of time given to each candidate did not provide substance to their speech, making it more difficult to know where these leaders stand on certain issues. I do agree this debate format could have been more organized. There were short but strict time limits kept, however arguments were allowed to keep going to the point where many candidates were talking over each other and were difficult to understand.

I did appreciate, however, the shots being fired from all the candidates. It seemed that no matter how the debate went for each individual candidate, they were all able to say at least one spicy and somewhat controversial thing about their opponents. My favourite moment from the debate has to be when Jagmeet Singh, leader of the NDP, stated "you don't have to choose between Mr. Delay and Mr.

Deny," referring to Justin Trudeau and Andrew Scheer's climate change strategies. I know we all want to witness some critical last-word moment, and regardless of political affiliation, that was incredible. However, moving back to the format of the debate, these shorter time limits enacted on the candidates allowed for these soundbytes to keep coming. And while they were entertaining as heck, I was still left wanting to hear more from many of the candidates. If it is any consolation, keep scrolling Twitter and most if not all of the federal leaders are continuing to speak out about their policies and platforms, often responding to the candidates they probably wish they had more time with.

All in all, this debate proved Canadians are still divided on many important issues. I don't think I really have an overall feeling or sentiment towards what was said, except that it

was exciting, messy and a little confusing.

As my stomach became more full and the leftover fries in the basket became cold, the leader's debate ended. I was disappointed that there was no opportunity to provide candidates with enough time for closing statements, but alas, time waits for no one. If there is one thing I know for certain after watching the debate, it's that I really don't know what's about to happen on Oct. 21, and that it is crucial that you go to a polling station and vote. I know you've also probably heard people tell you this in some capacity, and that maybe you're annoyed I'm telling you this again, or maybe you're confused about who to vote for or maybe you're not confused, it really doesn't matter. The point is, the right to vote is a privilege people take for granted and now more than ever it is important we don't forget that.

CELEBRITY SCANDALS »

How to illegally pay your way to college

Ramiro Bustamante-Torres
Contributor

If you haven't heard, Felicity Huffman, ex-*Desperate Housewives* star and current fraud convict, has been sentenced to 14 days of prison with a \$30,000 USD fine, 250 hours of community service and a year of supervised probation. What was the crime again? Oh yeah, paying \$15,000 USD to an admissions office to tamper with her daughter's SAT score to get her accepted into the university of her choice. Now, some might think that they would be willing to pay that kind of money to get in, if they had it. But, not everyone has those kinds of opportunities. Many students struggle to pay the rising prices of university, included but not limited to housing, meal plans, textbooks, gas money or transit fare and other emergency funds. The common student then relies on finding scholarships, loans, bursaries, birthday money, rich grandparents — if they have any — RESPs — also, if they have any — and that toonie they found on the sidewalk. The fact of the matter is that there are people that are struggling and there are those that can get as many second chances as they want.

Huffman's sentence was — simply put — light. Knowing that she was capable of dropping \$15k for her daughter to be assured a spot in university, paying twice the amount should be no small loss for her. Huffman had pleaded guilty for committing mail fraud, which isn't the type of crime



Felicity Huffman's sentence was not harsh enough for her actions.

courtesy MATT PETTIT/FUCKR

the common person would believe she committed. Bribery seems more reasonable. But, Huffman asked an admissions consultant to alter her daughter's SAT score, and therefore had been tampering in connection with the mail services.

Committing Mail Fraud and Honest Services Mail Fraud carries penalties of up to 20 years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000 USD. She had gotten away with a very small fraction of what it could have been, but the punishment fits the crime, doesn't it? Usually, people think of princes from some foreign country asking for money when the "prince" is probably some guy in his mother's basement trying to get out. Therefore, someone with malicious intent using the mail-

ing system in their process or scheme should be held to a higher standard.

Huffman's involvement in this scheme has been proven and she was the first among many parents to have finished her trial. Given the nature of the crime and the fact that she pleaded guilty, she had gotten off quite light compared to the others who have also gone through trial. Devin Sloane, the CEO of a drinking and wastewater company and second parent to be convicted, received four months of prison, 500 hours of community service and a \$95,000 USD fine. Another parent wealthy businessman, Stephen Semprevivo, received four months in prison as well as a fine of \$100,000 USD. Their sentences seem much heavier than

Huffman's, but Sloane and Semprevivo both paid \$250,000 and \$400,000 USD respectively and they had a higher involvement in the scheme than Huffman. The judge overseeing the cases had also chosen to sentence them less than what was recommended by the prosecutors.

These people had paid thousands of dollars to make sure their children got in the post-secondary school of their choice but how is that any different than the rest of the parents? Well, they had bribed and committed fraud to give their children a chance they could easily afford, most likely taking a spot from a deserving student. The money that was used in the scheme went to a "charity," which turned

out to be the Charity of Bribable School Officials. Now, you could say that they pleaded guilty and admitted their wrongdoings, therefore they don't deserve any prison time, but \$15,000–400,000 USD is not an amount of cash many have lying around. That this money somehow ended up in the hands of a school official who happens to work at the university you had been eyeing for your kid is suspicious. These were choices they made and choices that came with consequences.

Huffman's daughter had announced that she will be re-taking the SAT exam after her mother's involvement in her initial scores was exposed, a good step into remedying the situation.

APPLIED LEARNING »



Diversifying your degree with embedded certificates is beneficial.

TRICIA LIM

The value of embedded certificates

Rachneet Randhawa
Contributor

In the fall of 2016, I walked into a random junior university course called Exploring Sustainability. Little did I know, it was the beginning of a quick side journey into a completely new field. An embedded certificate is an extra credential that consists of 18–24 units and can be taken as part of your degree program. Basically, you take six key courses. The best part is that it can easily be woven into your main degree program, replacing your options and/or elective slots with no additional cost. So, instead of taking that random philosophy class to boost your GPA, the certificate might be an alternative choice and give you something more structured. The embedded certificates

were introduced a few semesters ago with the sustainability studies certificate as the pioneer. It was followed by a creative writing certificate introduced last year, as well as mental wellbeing and resilience this year. Entrepreneurial thinking is a potential newcomer in the future, likely as part of the University of Calgary's initiative aiming to become more innovative and progressive.

I think all students should do an add-on certificate to their degree program. Seriously. Do it. Around a year ago, I completed the sustainability studies embedded certificate program. Now in my last year reflecting back on my studies I have to admit, it was the most worthwhile portion of my degree. Why? Simply because it's high quality and simple. The certificate goes more in-depth than most

minors by drawing out core concepts while using applied and collaborative learning. I received more satisfaction from the sustainability certificate than my minor in economics. It was far more beneficial in my everyday interactions with others as well. The embedded certificates are unique in that they are focused, applied and interdisciplinary. A minor is handy, but it's basically a condensed version of a major and, for the most part, misses key elements to understand the whole picture. There is not a lot of filler content with certificates for something that provides such great value. It is also applied in the sense that you interact with your peers more compared to traditional university lectures and based on group work and experiential learning. At least in my case, we did everything from meeting sustain-

ability guest speakers from nonprofits, NGOs and industry, to participating in a Mimicry design challenge and helping to propose policy for the City of Calgary's office of sustainability. Students also had a chance to explore their own interest in the final capstone class. Again, this was not your typical college lecture experience where you snooze and cram for your midterm exam. It is very self-initiated, which is awesome if you're into launching projects. Personally, I think that it will benefit you in the long run if you ever want to start an initiative of your own. The best part is that it's interdisciplinary — you will meet students from many different backgrounds that will be sure to expand your horizons. For instance, I would never have imagined working with engineering students in my second class, designing a sustainable

floatable bed frame for flash floods based on plants and animals. I also would have never considered the impact of lifestyles such as veganism or community gardening. This short but sweet side step into the realm of sustainability catapulted me into attending an awesome scholars program and admitted me into a ventures program based on sustainable new businesses. Never underestimate the impact of being open to the possibilities, even if it means taking a few extra courses.

I hope that UCalgary puts forth more experiential learning — something technical schools have been doing for years. Because we don't offer practicums or work experiences for many degree programs, this embedded certificate serves as a best-of-both-worlds mix of academia and applied learning.

BILL 21 »

Québec's controversial Bill 21

Manahil Hassan
Contributor

News flash — Australia has nearly cured a type of cancer. NASA released its scientific research for free. Scientists found a brand-new celestial phenomenon and called it Steve. I could say that 2019 has been a great year for progress. After all, look at everything we have accomplished. However, we hear devastating stories of human rights violations and crimes being enacted. Horrific news headlines make us think that all of this scientific research, innovation and human progress is for nothing. If we cannot acknowledge the fundamental rights and freedoms of a society, how can we thrive and become better? One prime example is Bill 21 — Québec's secularism law.

Bill 21 was passed during the summer of 2019 and prohibits civil servants from wearing religious symbols such as the hijab, a turban or even a kippah. As you can imagine, this affects thousands of individuals who identify as Muslim, Sikh or Jewish.

What's suspicious, however, is Québec's weak excuse to cover what seems to be an attempt at driving minority religions out of the public eye. Québec premier, François Legault, stated that the bill's main aim was to affirm the states' secular identity. I think it is safe to assume that this bill should never have been passed. Not only does it fail to recognise basic human rights, but it promotes racism and division between societies.

Societies make laws for the good of their communities. It is agreed that although laws do not benefit everyone in society, they should never challenge the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals. It is not just a principle — it is common sense. Québec seems to have ignored this, and now Muslims and Sikhs are forced to take off their hijabs and turbans to prove their loyalty to society. What the government refuses to acknowledge is that this defeats the purpose of wearing a hijab or a turban in the first place. These head coverings are not just pieces of cloth — they are symbols of an individual's right to choose. They are a symbol of

self-sacrifice and of tradition and religion. After all, isn't Québec's charter called the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms? Quite frankly, this law is radical, hypocritical and unfair. It affects different individuals to different degrees. A crucifix, for example, can be worn by members of the Catholic faith so long as they are hidden, while Muslims and Sikhs don't have the option to simply hide their religious affiliation. Either throw away years of culture, self-sacrifice and virtue or choose to make a living for yourself or your family. Who in their right mind would look at the current situation in Québec and claim the government is respecting basic human rights?

After this bill was passed, harassment towards minorities increased. And why wouldn't it? Some people feel that they no longer need to internalize their racist, vile thoughts and can act upon them because the authorities have already begun doing so. In one case, two friends at the mall were harassed by another patron. One friend was told to go back to her country, while another woman had her niqab



Bill 21 targets minorities.

courtesy ARMENPRESS/FICKR

snatched off her face. The government passing a law that allows the targeting of minorities is unacceptable. A division is forming between supporters and opponents of this bill. While close-minded individuals are emitting an increasingly pungent stench of superiority and ignorance, victims of this bill feel debilitated and degraded in a place they call their home. But surely, Québec can't just expect Muslims and

Sikhs to stand by and let their dignity and faith be spat on. The bottom line is that we're constantly talking about presenting a united front and being fair, but how is it possible when people just stand by and let innocent men, women and children feel targeted?

Supporters of this bill aren't fooling anyone into believing that they are a secular and neutral state — they just want to target minorities.

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and **WRESTLE BEARS** for this man"

Anonymous student, 2019



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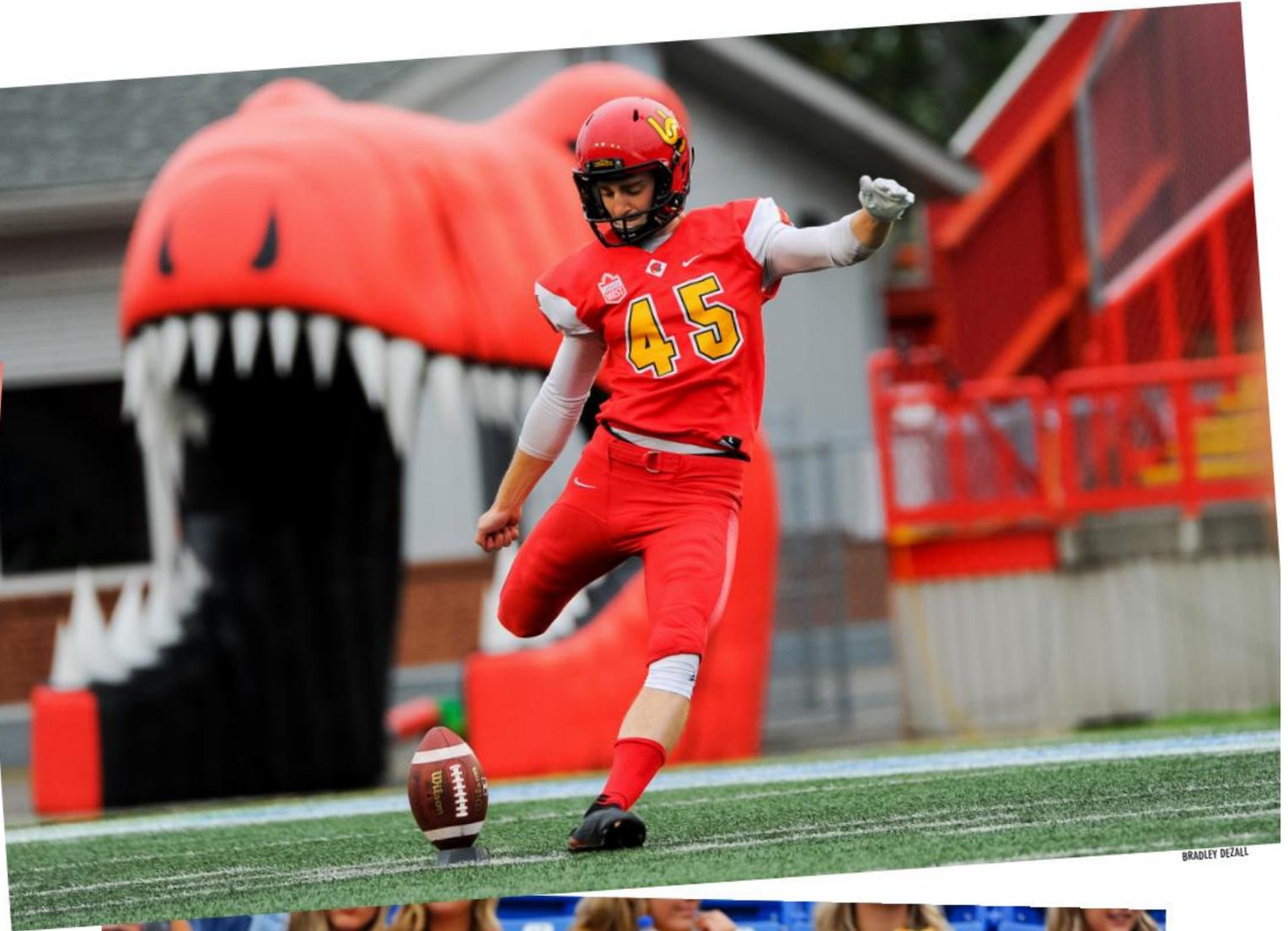
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PHOTOS »

On Sept. 6 we celebrated the beginning of the new school year and the end of Fall Orientation — below are some photos of the action. After a successful start to the season, the University of Calgary Dinos are now on the hunt for a Hardy Cup, a prize that eluded them after an undefeated regular season last year. There's one more guaranteed game at home at McMahon Stadium. On Oct. 26 the Dinos take on the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds. Kickoff is at 3:00 p.m.





BRADLEY DEZALL



BRADLEY DEZALL

LIFESTYLE »

SOCIAL MEDIA CLEANSE »

Try a social media diet to change your life

Lauren Olson
Contributor

Social media — those little buttons on our phone screens that take us into an alternate reality where we all get to be the stars of our carefully constructed and curated universes. When I was a teenager I used to read *J-14*, *Teen Bop* and *Teen People* to devour all the tips and tricks those articles touted on how I should look to make boys like me and what I should wear to make girls jealous of me. Today, those weekly \$5 magazines seem almost laughable, because now I can just hop onto an app and do all those things, plus get immediate feedback to see if I'm "good enough" and see what everyone else is doing to help me decide what I should do, like and think.

This isn't an article about all the things wrong with social media. This is some inspiration to see what it feels like if you step back from it, just a little bit. What are my credentials, you ask? Well, several months ago I completely deleted my Facebook account, which makes it a little awkward when group projects roll around and everyone wants to communicate via Facebook messenger and I'm the only one who doesn't have it. I also closed my Instagram account and deleted



Log-out and grab a book to read.

YASMINE ELSAYED

the apps from my phone. I've since ventured back into Instagram in a much less obsessive way, and my findings since my social media diet are extensive.

Freedom:

After initially feeling a little bit lost without something to stare at in down times, I started to notice how much space I had in my mind for other things than what somebody else was doing, or what I should

post about next. I felt like the duty or obligation I had to keep up with other people's lives was suddenly gone. There wasn't a requirement to keep others updated on what I was up to, either. It felt freeing! Like I was in charge of my own life again.

Confidence:

I never considered myself to be lacking confidence, however once I wasn't looking for cues on Instagram about what I should be doing, I

automatically was doing things that I wanted. I was self-motivated, truly, which lead to a feeling of trusting myself and my decisions more because I knew I was making them for me. I felt like I really liked myself a lot more because I trusted myself more. I also stopped comparing myself to others as much from the simple action of not looking at them.

Present moment:

Every self-help book on the shelf will tell you to be more present. It sounds nice, but how many of us actually know what that feels like? I do, now. Once the need to ensure I got a good picture of whatever I was doing to post was relinquished, I enjoyed everything I did just because. I did things because I liked doing them. No other reason. What a concept!

Creativity to do other things:

So much mental effort goes into maintaining the social media illusion that there simply isn't space for a lot of creativity. I know a lot of people will argue that their social media account is where they express their creativity, but there are other ways too! Reading a great novel before bed instead of scrolling, painting a landscape from the hike you went on instead of posting an intensely edited shot, writing in a journal, doing a

puzzle... the list is endless of things you can do instead. It's not that I'm saying anything is better or worse, it's just another option — an option to lift your eyes from the screen and use your mind and skills another way.

To be clear, it's not all fun and games. Like anything worth doing, getting over addictive behaviour has its struggles. How many times have you heard that someone "gave up social media," and then 26 hours later you see them watching your stories or posting new photos. We're addicted to it! It will take some time, some tenacity and some fortitude to stick to your new diet. I'm personally a cold-turkey kinda gal, but I know that's not for everyone. I suggest being honest with yourself about what works for you and adjust your social media diet to suit your personality type so you don't set yourself up to fail. This isn't an ultimatum telling you that you have to give it up forever, just a gentle reminder that there is life outside an app. Trying it out and seeing how it feels to get to know yourself might surprise you. I can guarantee one thing — that you will learn something about yourself, it'll be an exercise in self-knowing and self-acceptance which, to me, is an incredibly worthy cause to go through a little bit of discomfort to get to.

DOGGY DO'S & DONT'S »

A guide for happier and safer outings with your pupper

Lauren Olson
Contributor

Hello to all my fellow dog-owning friends. As you all know, having a dog is pretty much one of life's greatest gifts, and the joy our furry-canine compadres bring to our lives is immeasurable. Something that has come to my attention, however, is a lack of awareness and responsibility of owners I meet out on the paths and trails. I definitely don't want to sound like I'm trying to be a trail-policer but some things I see and experience have got to be addressed, not only for the enjoyment of everyone out with their dogs, but more importantly, for everyone's safety. I've compiled a list of some of the biggest issues that have come to my attention and I hope it serves as a reminder the next time you head out the door with your pooch.

On-leash areas:

These pathways are marked as

such because they are often shared with bikers, walkers, runners, families with little kids and other dog-owners. Keeping your dog on leash and respecting these paths is not only for the safety and best interest of others, but also for your dog. Nobody wants to have an accidental collision on a bike with a freelance dog, nor does everyone — I know this is shocking — want your dog to come running up to them. The other very important point is that people with dogs who are not able to go into off-leash parks, for various reasons, walk their dogs here. My dog is aggressive towards other dogs, so with off-leash areas out of the question, these pathways are our designated areas. However, there are so many people who choose to walk on on-leash pathways with their dogs off-leash that I have to be on constant alert and ready to warn owners to call their dog back, many of whom cannot, which unfortunately can end up

in a completely avoidable dog fight. It is poor etiquette to not respect others on these paths by keeping your dog on a leash. Forgetting that just because your dog is friendly with others, doesn't excuse unnecessary conflicts, stress and injury to everyone else's dogs.

Off-leash areas:

These should be a safe and fun place for dogs and their owners to enjoy space to run free and play with others. If you have a dog who is not good with other dogs, don't go here! As the owner of an aggressive dog, out of respect for everyone, I never venture into off-leash parks because it's simply not safe or fair to others. These parks are also basically a free for all and if you're not okay with dogs running around, between, and into you, it's not the place for you. These parks can only exist if everyone uses them responsibly, so please, keep an eye on your dog and make sure

they're playing well with others.

Pick up after your dog:

This ought to be a no-brainer, but just in case it isn't, bring poop bags with you and for the love of God, pick up after your dog. Nobody wants to step in a pile of shit because you "forgot" to bring bags. Also, don't let your dog pee on someone's lawn, especially if you have a female dog. It's rude, the grass will die and, believe it or not, some people take pride in how their grass grows. Letting your dog pop a squat on the front lawn is just plain disrespectful.

Keep your "advice" to yourself:

Unless explicitly asked, please keep your so-called good advice to yourself. You have absolutely no idea what any dog's history is, what their current situation is, what the owners have done or are doing for their dog or anything else. So even if it's well-intentioned, realize that you probably really don't know

what's best for someone else's dog and keep those opinions to yourself. In cases of abuse, intervene if appropriate and report it.

Treat everyone respectfully and realize that things happen:

Guys, we're all human and we all just want to get out and have a good time with our furry best friends. Remembering that nobody wants to get into any kind of altercation and maintaining a level of mutual respect goes a long ways. Also, keep in mind that even the friendliest dogs still a (partly) wild animal and things happen. Just like people, sometimes dogs get into little tiffs or other unexpected environmental factors can cause unexpected behaviours. Stay alert and understand that you're dealing with people who are out with, often, the thing they love most in the world, and emotions and defences are inevitably heightened. Be nice, respect the environment in which you're in and enjoy the heck out of your time with your dog.

SIBLING LOVE »

101: Maintaining adult relationships with your siblings

Tori Taylor
Lifestyle Editor



Your siblings can be your best friends. MARIAH WILSON

Sibling relationships, for those of us that have them, are not always easy to maintain. As kids, there are all of the petty arguments and physical wrestling matches that take place under the same roof. You don't have to think too much about trying to be friends with your brothers and sisters. In fact, it is more probable that you spent time plotting how to spend much less time together. Whether you have one or six siblings, the relationship you have with them plays a role in your own well-being as an adult. We learn so much from the social interaction with those in our household. Think of how many times you practiced sharing and apologizing — even when you didn't want to. Grade school teaches kids a lot of basic social behaviours, but most of the big life lessons on socialization come from the household you grew up in. Learning to handle confrontation and navigating different opinions are crucial skills to have in adulthood.

"Sibling relationships can teach us a lot about understanding, compassion, negotiation, conflict resolution, communication and emotion regulation, and can

benefit how we relate to others we have relationships with," says Katrina Shaw, a registered psychologist in Calgary during an interview with *Canadian Living*.

I remember being told by my mother that my sisters would be my best friends when I got older. I definitely did not believe her at all. I couldn't imagine a time where I would want to spend free time with any of them. But as the years pass and life dramatically changes, I find myself wishing for closer relationships with them all. I am lucky to have a growing relationship with my youngest

sister. Having a friend that shares your parents and the style in which you were raised forms an automatic bond that is rarely replicated in other friendships.

Once you and your siblings have left the same home, it becomes tougher to maintain a friendship if effort isn't put in on both ends. We all know that long-distance relationships have their difficulties. Even if you live in the same city as your sister or brother, it can still be hard to feel close to them if you don't actively try. Luckily, there are several ways to build on your relationship as

adulthood shifts the dynamic.

Grab a coffee:

Once a month, pick a date and go for coffee. To be honest, the beverage could be tea or almond milk. If you'd prefer, you could both sit down at a table and hold empty-ass paper cups — please recycle. The point resides only in the specific time set aside for each other. If an hour is all that can be allotted, then take that hour and enjoy each other's company. It might be easy to get caught up in busy life and feel like there just isn't time to see your siblings as often as you'd like. Find one hour a month to connect face-to-face. That's all you need to maintain a relationship that you value.

Set a phone date:

Sometimes schedules don't match up to meet in person and that's okay. Life can get so busy with school, work and extracurriculars. If a beverage or beverage-less date can't pan out, then pick a time for a phone call. Find 30 minutes or more to connect over the phone and share some life details. This is such a simple method of contact, but it often gets overlooked. I love calling my sister because she is 18 and can ramble a mile a minute. It actually makes me happy to hear

her share her life with me, even if I can't relate. We don't always have time to meet in person, but the phone calls between us allow me to feel much closer to her than I ever did while we lived in the same household.

Send a text:

We are the generation of instant messaging. It has never been easier to stay connected to people than it is now. Sending a good morning or goodnight text message can go a long way if you're looking to keep a relationship with someone that you don't talk to or see very often. Interrupt the mechanical thumb-scroll and send a quick text to your brother. Check in and ask him about his day or a specific event that you know he has going on. Take that initiative to let him know you care. Texting is so quick and non-invasive that it's almost impossible to say you don't have the time.

Regardless of the relationships that you had with your siblings when you were young — good or bad — it's healthy to maintain strong bonds with members of your family. Nothing that's worthwhile is easy. You will always have to put in effort for the things in life that bring happiness. Staying close to the people who matter in your life will give you back much more than it takes.

MOTHER, DAUGHTER »

Thoughts on having a healthier relationship with your mom

Lauren Olson
Contributor



Your mom is human — no one is perfect. SHANGNONG HU

I heard a quote once which, when paraphrased, says that there is really only one relationship — the one you have with yourself. Of course it seems we're in hundreds of separate and individual relationships — you have a different relationship with your best friend than you do with your little brother, than you do with your boyfriend, than you do with your mom, than you do with your dad, than you do with an acquaintance in class and so on. But, when you think about it, breaking down all those seemingly separate relationships, you are the common denominator. Your perception, the lens through which you see other people, is the same across the board. So, even though the form of your actions is obviously different with different people, your experience in those relationships is entirely up to you.

With all that in mind — and I know it's a lot — think about how you see your mother. Since I'm pretty certain that none of us here are saints, I'm willing to bet that even if you think you absolutely adore her, you are

still harbouring certain beliefs about her. Maybe you feel like your mom is super-cool and free-spirited but you also then feel responsible for her and you keep a separate bank account for her because she's not putting anything away for retirement. Maybe you feel like your mom was too hard on you as a child and your adult mind is telling you that was a good thing, because today you're a grown-ass-independent-woman, yet secretly you cling to a time when you really just needed your mom to give you a hug. Maybe you have more obvious reasons for feeling resentful towards your mom — maybe she drank too much or had a revolving door of

boyfriends and you blame her for your commitment issues and fear of getting close to anyone. There are endless scenarios and, ladies, we all have secret — or not so secret — resentments towards our mothers.

So, how do we get past these resentments and beliefs and learn to truly love the women who birthed us? It's very simple, though not easy, so brace yourselves. The way I see it there are two parts. The first thing you have to do is you have to forgive her.

Forgive. Her. Forgive her for changing jobs a million times and making you move houses, schools and towns. Forgive her for working nights

and sacrificing time with you in order to keep a roof over your head. Forgive her for sucking at communicating or for embarrassing you, and forgive her for being controlling and trying to protect you. Forgive her for being so wrapped up in her own struggles that she wasn't capable of giving you the attention you needed. Forgive her for whatever you think she did that made you how you are now. Forgive her.

The thing is, your mom is just a person. She was always operating on her own set of beliefs about herself and the world and she was always doing her best with what she had. Maybe the way she handled things wasn't always the best, but ask yourself if you've ever done something you wish you hadn't? Or realized that there was something you could have handled better? Your mom was learning as she went with you and the bottom line is she loved you.

The second thing you have to do is let go of all expectations. We all expect things from our mothers, whether we are aware of it or not. For example, we expect her to remember our birthdays. Sounds obvious, but I bet if your mom forgot your birthday you'd be hella offended because she's

your mom and she should remember. Well guess what, your mom doesn't owe you anything. I forget peoples' birthdays all the time. It doesn't mean I love them any less, it just means I forget birthdays. I challenge you to think about all the things you expect a "mother" should be and do, and then think about how many struggles and distractions you have on a day-to-day basis. Then, give your mom the same grace you afford yourself. Just because she's a mother doesn't mean she stops being a human.

I know there are many different things that have happened in everyone's relationships and lives with their moms. And I'm very aware of how difficult forgiving certain instances in our lives can be. We've built our identities on these defining moments we had as children and here I am, telling you to let go of those things. But the payoff of letting go of those resentments you have towards your mom will inevitably translate into all your relationships. It will transform how you see the world, how you form new relationships and you'll get to feel unconditional love towards your mother. Seems like a pretty good deal to me.

SPORTS »

WOMEN'S HOCKEY »

The fold of the Canadian Women's Hockey League

Lauren Olson
Contributor

Girls' hockey is one of the fastest growing sports right now, with more young girls interested in playing and joining teams than ever. But what do they have to look forward to right now, with a recently collapsed Canadian Women's Hockey League (CWHL) and a current boycott by the sport's top players? There are a lot of questions around the larger topic of professional women's hockey and I'm not sure what the answers are. But I do have thoughts.

For years there have been two professional leagues in North America, the CWHL and the National Women's Hockey League (NWHL), each comprised of around 6 teams. What's important to know about these leagues is that while they are technically professional, the players were not being paid livable wages. In fact, it wasn't until a couple years ago that the women were paid at all. Women playing in these leagues often had to keep part- or full- time jobs to live off, while training and playing games in their spare time.

This past spring, the CWHL folded, explaining that the organization was an unsustainable business model, leaving players with no league to play in. Not surprisingly, there was something of an uproar and a lot of opinions, suspicions and rumours going around. What were the players supposed to do now? Would they join the NWHL? Would another league be formed? Would the National Hockey League step in?

Shortly after the league folded, around 200 players including the top calibre players took a stand and together pledged to not play in the upcoming season in North America. Their demands included a unified league in which they could play and receive livable wages, health benefits, and the resources they believed they deserve. They formed the Professional Women's Hockey Player's Association (PWHPPA) which serves as a union of sorts to look out for their best interests.

What's happening now?

There are some players who are still playing in the NWHL this season, though the top players are missing from those rosters so the quality of game is inevitably compromised. The players who spearheaded the PWHPPA have organized the "Dream Gap Tour" — a small tournament



More and more girls are playing hockey and now they have no national-level prospects in their future.

BRADLEY DEZALL

they've created with four teams touring and playing against one another to raise awareness and interest for the game.

Why is it that women's hockey isn't taking off in a big way?

This is the root of the issue, in my opinion. How many people reading this knew that Calgary had a team in the CWHL, not to mention the top team the last couple of years? Did you know the name of the team was the Calgary Inferno? They won the Clarkson Cup last year, which is the league's Stanley Cup equivalent. The team also boasted a roster of at least a dozen Canadian and U.S. National Team players. The top players were right here in Calgary, and they struggled to sell tickets to home games. Tickets which, by the way, cost a measly \$15. Fans don't bat an eye to pay \$250 to go see a Flames game, even when the Flames aren't doing well.

What's the problem?

Is it exposure? Is it a general misunderstanding of the women's game? Is it the quality of the play? Whatever the reason, the bottom line is that the Clarkson Cup final in Toronto last year sold around 4,700 tickets. An average Calgary Hitmen game sells about 8,000. The biggest game of the whole season drew just around half of what a regular season game draws for the Western Hockey League games. For even more perspective, an average home game for the Calgary Inferno was around a couple hundred people, even when they were playing rival teams, such as Les Canadiennes from Montreal,

who also had a star-packed roster, including Marie-Philip-Poulin, who scored the winning goal for Canada in two Olympic matches.

My opinion is that it's a combination of a lot of problems. The problem of having two discrete leagues for the last few years, spreading the top talent thin across both leagues, is now no longer an active issue, however the history of competing leagues continues to haunt. The problem that women have to keep other jobs while playing makes training, studying the game, improving and practicing difficult and time-restrained. Limited practicing and limited focus inevitably compromises the quality of the games. I mean this in no disrespect, but to get better and to elevate the product, a lot of time has to go into practicing. When players have full time jobs and families to balance, it's impossible to put full dedication into hockey.

Some people say to simply "pay the team more money so they don't have to work." Sure, that makes sense. But who is going to pay them? Not ticket sales, clearly. So who else? Sponsors? Why would a big-name sponsor donate a bunch of money to hang a banner in a rink that only 200 people will see? Business-wise, it just doesn't make any sense. You could argue that they'd do it out of the goodness of their hearts but, I'm sorry, that's just naive and that's not how business works. Ask yourself if you personally would donate \$200 to support women's hockey? I'm guessing that because most of you have never spent the \$15 admission to go see a game, you're not gonna be forking over any donations anytime soon.

I'm going to (tentatively) nod

at the elephant in the room — the gender component. In my opinion, it is not the be-all-end-all. I know this will ruffle a few feathers but please keep an open mind. If there is very little money coming in, there isn't money to pay players. I really don't believe there is some fat old white guy smoking a cigar, up in some office saying "Bahh, pay them less, they're just women." The fact is, not enough tickets are selling to generate the income required to pay players the livable wages they'd like. It sucks, but it's the reality right now. I'm aware there is a built-in assumption that women's sports are not as good as men's — that is a prejudice which I'm sure influences many people's decisions about whether or not to go watch women's hockey — or any female sport — in the first place. I don't deny this is a hurdle but I don't single it out as the biggest problem. Rather than being mad about that prejudice and focusing on it, I believe it would be far more productive to work towards proving that assumption wrong. Prove all those assumers wrong by putting in the time, as an organization, to grow, improve and make the product better. Other female sports have done so — the WNBA is a great example — but it does take time.

Where does that leave us?

As it stands now, the young girls joining hockey teams don't have a professional league to aspire to, but they do have other options. There is college and university, national teams and opportunities to play overseas. Of course, having a North American professional league is an

attractive idea but the infrastructure simply isn't there right now.

It's my opinion that it is possible to build a league that will eventually be what every young girl hockey player aspires to play in, but it'll take some time to grind it out, playing for little to no money — not having the glory or the big paycheques. There's a lot being said about the current boycott as a step in the right direction and hopefully that's true. The way I see it, the younger generation of girls need to look up to players who know the game of hockey. I understand we're in a bit of political time right now, but we can't lose sight of what it's about. If it truly is for the love of the game, girls, you gotta go play hockey! Watch the NHL teams, study how the game is played tactically, study players, listen to coaches, play against boys. Knowing the game inside and out is what the NHL is. They play the game. That's why it works.

Girls, if you love hockey, learn and play the game of hockey. Find a way and build your league from the ground up. To me, that's true empowerment! Some have said that the CWHL folding was a tragic time and a sad day for women's sports but I believe it's an opportunity. It's not a failure on the part of Canada, it's not an attack on women and it's not a personal offence. It's an opportunity for growth, for improvement and to build something to be proud of, be sustainable, and most importantly, be something young girls who want to be hockey players can look forward to being a part of.

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS »

Problems plague Doha's World Athletics Championships

Tori Taylor
Sports Editor

The 2019 World Athletics Championships were held in Doha, Qatar from Sept. 26–Oct. 6. When Qatar bid to host the championships back in 2011, they talked about having no empty seats and ensuring a fantastic, athlete-supportive atmosphere. This was not how it played out. As the days passed, issue upon issue piled up. From empty stands to dangerous heat temperatures to controversial human rights situations, Doha will not be remembered as the glorious event that was promised.



Doha didn't keep promises for 2019 World Athletics Championships.

courtesy KEVORKMAIL/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Khalifa International Stadium had dimmed lights, blaring music and distracting spotlights roaming the arena from athlete to athlete as finalists were presented. It would seem that the organizers of this year's World Athletics Championships were doing all they could to hide the horribly vacant seats lining the stadium. The 40,000 seats were reduced to 21,000 by covering huge areas with fabric. Tickets had been given away for free to the public and organizers gave thousands of migrant workers from India and Africa free tickets. But even with capacity dropped to half, the stands still rang almost silent. This was the most energy-lacking event in the history of the World Athletics Championships.

The intense heat of Doha presented athletes with unbearable

temperatures and wreaked havoc. Of the 68 female marathon runners that started their event, only 40 were able to finish. The women's marathon was held at midnight to avoid peak day-time temperatures, but that did not stave off the disaster that ensued. Kenya's Ruth Chepngetich crossed the finish line in two hours, 32 minutes and 43 seconds. This is the worst-ever World Championships gold-medal time and over 15 minutes slower than her personal best. She collapsed in an interview with the media after her win. Several of the 28 athletes who were unable to finish their event did not even make it to the halfway point. The weather conditions were detrimental right from the starting line and had already started to seriously affect the runners. Athletes were wearing ice scarves and constantly

pouring cold water over their heads. The women who were unable to finish the marathon were not the only ones furious — those who completed the race were equally as upset at the dangerous conditions that they were expected to compete in.

"The humidity kills you," said Volha Mazuronak of Belarus, who finished fifth, in an interview with *The Guardian*. "There is nothing to breathe. I thought I wouldn't finish."

"It's disrespect towards the athletes," Mazuronak continued. "A bunch of high-ranked officials gathered and decided that it would take place here, but they are sitting in the cool [air-conditioned stadium]."

"It was really scary and intimidating and daunting. I'm just really grateful to have finished standing up," said Canada's own

Lyndsay Tessier — who finished in ninth place. "You see somebody down on the course and it's just extremely grounding and scary. That could be you in the next kilometre, the next 500 metres."

As if the empty stadium and detrimental weather conditions weren't enough of a problematic situation — several human rights violations were brought to the world's attention.

"The situation facing migrant workers has still not improved significantly," Regina Spöttl, Amnesty International Qatar-expert, told *Deutsche Welle*, Germany's international broadcaster that covered the story. "The exploitative Kafala sponsorship system continues to exist under a new name and continues to contribute to workers' disproportionate dependence on

their employers," she said. "Passports are still withheld and residence and work permits are not renewed. Most of the workers continue to live in totally inadequate camps far outside the city. Many of them are paid late or not at all."

Spöttl says that there is a way for workers to ensure their rights are enforced but that the committees responsible for this are widely understaffed and can take forever to complete — causing many workers to go back home without proper compensation. According to Amnesty International, human rights are being continually ignored in the Gulf State. They say that Qatar's authorities have been cooperating with the International Labour Organization, but that they are not necessarily cooperating with other human rights organizations. Regardless of the newer labor protection laws in the Gulf State — reforms are still unfinished, laws have several loopholes and trade union membership stays unavailable to migrant workers.

Overall, the World Athletic Championships in Qatar will not be going down in history as a proud moment for the country. As well, it was an even more devastating event for the athletes that dedicated themselves to the intense physical and mental training — only to face conditions that prohibited them from following through with their dreams of competing to race-completion.

HUMBOLDT BRONCOS »

Humboldt Broncos Ryan Straschnitzki is competing in sledge-hockey

Lauren Olson
Contributor

Ryan Straschnitzki survived the devastating accident that injured 13 and killed 16 members of the Humboldt Broncos hockey team in April of 2018 after a semi truck ran a stop sign and crashed into their bus. Straschnitzki was paralyzed from the chest down and did not know if he would ever play on the ice again.

Straschnitzki recently appeared in an Adidas ad saying, "As a kid I always dreamed of playing for Team Canada... and I still do."

The 20-year old athlete is a true example of dedication and positivity. He took almost no time after the life-altering accident to declare his new goal of joining Canada's sledge hockey team and winning gold in the Paralympic Games.

Adidas noticed the passionate young athlete when he first started



Ryan Straschnitzki is humbling example of dedicated athleticism and positive attitude

courtesy YOUTUBE

playing sledge hockey. Straschnitzki signed a three-year deal with the company and has been nothing but a positive pillar for both the brand and all those that come in contact with him and his story.

"When one door closes, another one opens," Straschnitzki says in the new ad that came out a few weeks ago.

Amidst 16 other athletes, Straschnitzki has made the shortlist for Canada's Sports Hall of Fame

"People's Choice Award." The award ceremony will be held in Toronto later this month and is the first of its kind. Typically an athlete is required to have been retired from their sports for a minimum of four years

before being inducted into the Hall of Fame. However, the People's Choice Award is open to current athletes as a way to build a portfolio of future hall-of-fame athletes.

The Hall of Fame's president and Olympic curling silver medalist, Cheryl Bernard spoke of Straschnitzki as an organic pick for the award because of his above and beyond resilience and hard work overcoming the traumatic obstacles he has been presented with at such a young age.

"What a role model," Bernard said about now-sledge hockey player. "I'm absolutely certain there's been some horrible nights and days, and I look at what he's done and I don't think I would have it in me. I think that message is what the public needs to see."

Straschnitzki absolutely deserves to be featured in the Adidas ad as a passionately positive role-model and unflinching athlete in the face of unimaginable adversity.

THIS STUFF MATTERS

THE FEDERAL ELECTION will be held on **OCT. 21** and the student vote has never mattered more!

Pledge to vote and you could win **an Apple iPad Air, a MacBook Air, or one of 75 \$10 Mac Hall Vouchers!**

Contest rules and details at su.ucalgary.ca/gotv



HUMOUR »

LOCAL HEROES »

Brave warrior exposes his hands to the cold to carry the Tim Hortons he bought after deciding to skip two classes and go home

Mathew Reimer

Asks strangers personal questions

Cold days like this see many a student heading back to bed about as soon as they rise. Those that continue going about their business certainly have some commitment or drive to speak of. One such character could be seen walking past Craigie Hall, out towards the bus loop with a purposeful stride that cold morning. With complete disregard for the blistering cold, he held a Tim Hortons breakfast combo in his exposed hands.

I decided I had to interview this fellow to see if I could find out where a student could find such courage on a day like today. He gave a knowing smile when hearing my questions.

"I suppose I ought to credit my mother," he said. "She taught me to never back down when the going gets tough."

It was clear he was on a charted course towards the McMahon

Stadium parking lot, and so I was drawn to ask him if he was finished school for the day.

"During my second lecture I realized that it didn't really matter if I stayed for the rest of my classes, and I have a friend who can send me the notes for geology and calculus later anyways," he said.

I started asking him about what he purchased from Tim Hortons, but when I looked at him again, it was clear he wasn't listening. His expression had hardened, and he'd straightened his posture. He suddenly held himself with a cool indifference, as if anything could happen and it wouldn't break his calm. Just then, two girls passed by us on our left towards the school.

A few moments after their passing he relaxed to his regular posture and turned to me, "You were saying?"

Only a few dozen feet before the parking lot, we arrived at a patch of sidewalk and ground that was completely covered by a sheet of sheer ice. I struggled to hold my

balance while shuffling forward, but the brave student continued to stride forth boldly.

He looked back at me and said, "Oh don't worry about me, I'm quite confident in my balance after all."

Only a moment later, he stepped on a pine cone, which slipped from underneath his foot. Impressively, he managed to avoid falling backwards by whipping himself back up. Unfortunately, the contents of his coffee had been liberated from the cup, and were now covering his sleek blue winter coat.

"I thought it was a little cold just now, you see," he said. I honestly thought he'd slipped, but it was clear now that this was all part of his plan.

We were about to finish our trek as we walked along the cars lining the parking lot when he got a sudden phone call.

"Oh hey mom," he said. "No, I'll actually be home in about 15 minutes.... Yeah, my math and geology profs both sent out emails say-

ing they couldn't make it because of the weather. Isn't that crazy? ... Alright love you too, bye." He put the phone in his pocket, and looked directly at me with a complex look on his face. "I got those emails three minutes ago, isn't that crazy?"

The question was almost a plea for affirmation, and I nodded along uncomfortably.

As I left the lot, I turned back to get a final glimpse at the formidable fellow. His car choked, refusing to start, and I could see him weeping in the driver's seat.



So, so, so brave, please, please, please read.

PAVITAR CHAHAL

KINDA QUIRKY »

Signs that you're not like other girls

Farah Refaey

Not dissimilar to other girls

Have you ever been told you were different, unique or even quirky? Have you noticed that you don't get along with other girls because they just don't "get it"? Do you ever think "Maybe I'm just wired differently?" You're not into all the typically-feminine interests or activities, and that's okay! Just be who you are! This article was written to celebrate how totally special you are.

1. You're really into sci-fi!

Girls don't like sci-fi, because science is in the name. Girls like romance novels and walks on the beach, but not you. You like aliens and time travelling. Science was your favourite subject in school. Your favourite fun fact — some reptiles can change sexes if they get too hot. Most girls can't even spell the word reptile. RIP to them, but you're different.

2. You don't dress like other girls!

Your favourite outfit is the one you burst out of the (metaphori-



MARIAH WILSON

Does this look like the manicure of someone that's like other girls? No.

cal) egg wearing, baby! A trip to the mall has never appealed to you like it does to other girls. Actually, you don't like to leave the house often. If you think about it, you really only leave the house for food.

3. You don't comply with gender roles!

Sometimes you think if you were born as the opposite sex, you would do just fine. Hell, sometimes you even think "If I had to, I could turn into the opposite sex right now and it wouldn't even matter." You do what you gotta do to maintain your lineage, or even just to maintain

your cool in the summer. Gender roles are so late '00s!

4. You have beautiful sparkling green eyes!

Your eyes are so beautiful it's almost...unnatural. Perhaps supernatural. You've been told they're captivating. Tantalizing. Oh well! Good genes! Did you know only two per cent of the population has green eyes? You're so rare and unique.

5. You don't believe in God!

You've seen things that faith and organized religion can neither

explain nor fight. Things so powerful, and real — so painfully real — they make the most gruesome Bible stories sound like fairy-tales. Things that you can never escape. Things that when you close your eyes, you see printed on the inside of your eyelids. Things like... UGG boots and pumpkin spice lattes. Ew! You're not basic.

6. You are constantly reapplying moisturizer!

It feels like you're sunburnt all year round! Your skin is constantly peeling. You've tried everything from serums to lotions to exotic

masks. It's almost like there's something beneath that top layer of skin just begging to come out. Something... powerful and terrifying. It's probably eczema.

7. You've tried crickets!

Some people may find them gross, but not you! You're not like other people. You chase the crunch of fried crickets. Sometimes raw crickets. Sometimes live crickets. You're so quirky!

8. You're a night-owl!

Late at night you can be found taking slow walks in nature — mostly just your own backyard. You like to stay in the shadows, you crawl around the edges, staying close to the fence. That's where the crickets like to hide. But they can't hide from you. You were born for the hunt. Adrenaline pumps through your very small, cold veins as you get ready to lunge. At the speed of light, yet also in slow-motion, your tongue erupts and wraps around the poor unsuspecting bug. You race back inside, your stomach full. Insomnia is so annoying.

HONK HONK »

Untitled Goose Game: A reflection

Frankie Hart
Loose on that goose

On Sept. 20, 2019, an event transpired that would change my life forever — the release of *Untitled Goose Game*. With its sleek, minimal design, wiggly controls and bastardous gameplay, how could I resist?

In order to download this game, I first had to pay \$15. At first, I thought to myself, "Am I really going to spend a whole \$15 to role-play a misbehaving goose?" Then, I noticed that the \$15 price tag was actually a sale price, and that the normal price was \$20.

So I bought it.

Next, I was prompted to install an application called "Epic Games Launcher." Had I not already paid \$15, this may have been the point where I would have decided that my dignity was important to me. But, again, I paid \$15.

So I installed it.

The application icon largely



courtesy HOUSE HOUSE

Honk, honk, honk for \$15.

boasts the name "Epic Games," the word "epic" taking quite a large amount of space on the icon. This bothers me, but is a small detail to dismiss when in pursuit of the goose life. It is a bit harder to ignore the app notifications that I keep forgetting to turn off, but oh

well. That's a problem for another time.

So I launched it.

The life of the unnamed goose is a simple one, yet it offers something so essential to all players of this game — freedom. When you find yourself bound in com-

mitments, responsibilities, relationships, leases, rent payments, bills, readings, work, chores, not to mention restrictions imposed systemically in our society, who wouldn't want to trade all of that to be a pesky goose? As I controlled my legs to run free with

my new, webbed feet, honking as I pleased, I was finally free. I swam, splashed, frolicked and flapped in this digital haven. I did so with tears streaming down my eyes. Is it ever enough to only get a taste? I didn't just want to frolic and flap. I wanted to fly.

I explain all of this because I need you, dear reader, to understand my plight. I implore that if you happen to find a stash of bells, say, partially buried near a construction site, that you simply leave them alone. Heed this warning, lest you find yourself at the mercy — or lack thereof — of my metaphorical beak. If you threaten my liberty, there will be hell to pay, via methodically-calculated honk.

Before I first played *Untitled Goose Game*, I was enticed to play it from a meme I saw. It was some gameplay screenshots, combined with a Yahoo! Answers question, reading "Are you tired of being nice? Don't you just want to go ape shitt" (sic). And you know what? I am. I do. So I shall.

VOTING COMPASS »

The Gauntlet's real federal election compass

Frankie Hart
Proficient in politics

Should the government financially support the oil and gas industry?

- Absolutely not.
- No.
- Only a wittle bit, just enough for a pipeline.
- If their cup runneth over then mine will too, right? Right?
- I literally value oil more than I value the lives of myself, my children and their children.

Should the government approach reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous peoples?

- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- I guess.
- I'm an asshole.

How do you want environmental issues to be addressed?

- I want to vote for a party that cares about the environment so much that it's apparent from their name.
- I want the party I vote for to take action. More action than most of the other parties, for whatever that's worth.
- The vscio girls are leading the way with reusable straws. The vscio girls will continue to lead the way.
- I don't think the other par-

ties understand that people need plastic sometimes. Y'all heard of picnics?

e) Ight, imma head out (of the Paris Accord).

Should Canada still be part of the monarchy?

- Well, it will be.

How would you like to see the federal budget deficit balanced with public services?

- Public services are important and have a more tangible effect on the daily lives of citizens.
- Public services are important and have a more tangible effect on the daily lives of citizens.
- Public services are important and have a more tangible effect on the daily lives of citizens.
- The budget needs to be balanced, yadda yadda.
- Nothing makes me hornier — sorry, happier — than a balanced budget.

How many tax cuts should large corporations get?

- Haha, good one.
- They should actually get the opposite of a tax cut.
- Some, if they pwomise to invest in clean tech.
- If we don't give them tax write-offs, then where will they get money? Have you thought of that?
- The less taxes large corpora-



TRICIA LIM

Y'all heard of this "voting" thing?

tions pay, the more money I get. Right?

Thoughts on Bill 21?

- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...

How accessible should abortion services be?

- Women should be able to make decisions about their own bodies.
- Women should be able to

make decisions about their own bodies.

- Women should be able to make decisions about their own bodies.
- Uhh.
- Uhh?

Thoughts on supervised consumption sites?

- They save lives.
- They save lives.
- They save lives.
- Ew, needles! Icky!
- Not gonna lie, I've been hearing that they save lives. Might

have to look into that.

Are you bothered by the fact that the author of this quiz doesn't know French and couldn't read the Bloc Québécois platform?

- Oui! Des Albertains sont niaiseux.
- Non.

Mostly As, Bs, Cs, Ds and Es:

Please, please just vote. Joking time is up folks. It's votin' time now.

NUGGET WATCH »

Federal leader's debate 2019: A vibe check



One of life's greatest mysteries — to meet, to greet, to retweet or to yeet.

TRICIA LIM

Frankie Hart
Snug on the nug

At 5 p.m. on Oct 7, students arrived at The Den for the Leaders' Debate Viewing Party. They were encouraged to partake in party-coloured beers and indulge in a very sweet deal — \$12.75 for all-you-can-eat chicken nuggies. There were seven types of sauces available to pair with the nuggies — barbecue, ranch, honey mustard, Szechuan, sweet and sour, plum and buffalo.

When I first decided to go to this event, it was with the absolute intention to be fully attentive to the debate. However, there were some factors I did not account for that, quite honestly, messed with my vibes.

First off, there was a sizable rowdy group up front who felt the need to incessantly cheer whenever any comment was made by a man who looked like a lamp post with skin stretched over him. My vibes were under attack immediately, it seemed.

Secondly, hard sodas were \$4.75, \$8.50 for doubles. I adore pretty much any vanilla-flavoured soda, and thus immediately ordered a vanilla hard soda. Vibes were partially restored.

Third, I couldn't hear what anyone was saying. Due partially to the aforementioned rambunctious group, partially to constant crosstalk and partially to my frustration at reading live transcriptions of dialogue, it was incredibly easy to simply check out. Why would I pay attention to the debate when its contents were preemptively provided on bingo sheets passed around? How, even, was I expected to pay attention to anything except for the astutely identified way that Scheer "smiles like a haunted doll," as

identified by the bingo?

My personal turning point hit



when my nuggies arrived. Imagine the circle-shaped nuggets from McDonalds, but you don't have to

distract yourself from intrusive thoughts about their real content. Also, they're crispier. I got Szechuan sauce with mine as I partook in a debate over what

amount of chicken nuggies would make the all-you-can-eat deal most worth it. The conclusion? Since nuggies come in orders of ten, and not all of us are up to the task of horfing down 20 nuggies in one sitting, a single order just might do the trick — once the accompanying fries are considered in the price. This debate ended up being productive, interesting and resulted in everyone winning in some way, because nuggies. I wish I could say the same about the debate happening onscreen.

If you decided to skip out on

an evening of debate and nugget-debauchery, this brief review will sum it up in the format of a less family-friendly game.

Meet and Greet:

I am ready to meet, greet, as well as eat, many more nuggets at any time, any place, for any reason.

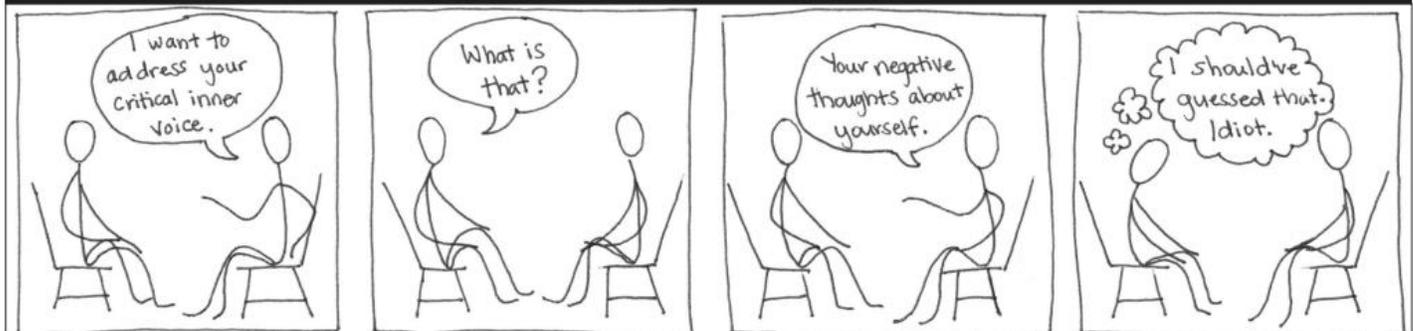
Retweet:

One of the less bleak sound bytes from the night came from NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, who said "What we have here is Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Scheer arguing about who's worse for Canada. We gotta start presenting who's gonna be best for Canada."

Yeet:

Oh, the things I would yeet! The unfortunate brief buffering, I would yeet. But based on the disturbance their presence brought to my ability to participate in the democratic process, the boisterous batch of babblers thoroughly require their vibes to be checked.

Everyone's a critic - Frankie Hart



FEDERAL DEBATE »

Photo recap: Calgary Confederation Forum



PHOTOS BY MARIAH WILSON

CROSSWORD »

Election Crossword

Frankie Hart
Crossword constructor

suggest free _____
10. South Calgary riding.
12. Voting day of the week.

ACROSS:

- 3. Fiscal election issues include balancing federal _____.
- 4. Calgary riding with the most candidates.
- 6. Some parties are interested in implementing this UN document.
- 11. Controversial pipeline.
- 13. A levy to incentivize energy conservation and transition to cleaner energy.
- 14. Calgary Confederation incumbent.

Congratulations to Bailey Filkohazy 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!

DOWN:

- 1. This crisis has spurred parties to consider Canada's greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2. Last federal election saw this percentage of voter turnout, approximately.
- 5. One hot button issue is a ban of _____.
- 7. This kind of plan would provide access to certain prescription drugs.
- 8. Three parties are interested in raising this.
- 9. Some education policies

LAST ISSUE'S CROSSWORD »

