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# THE GAUNTLET

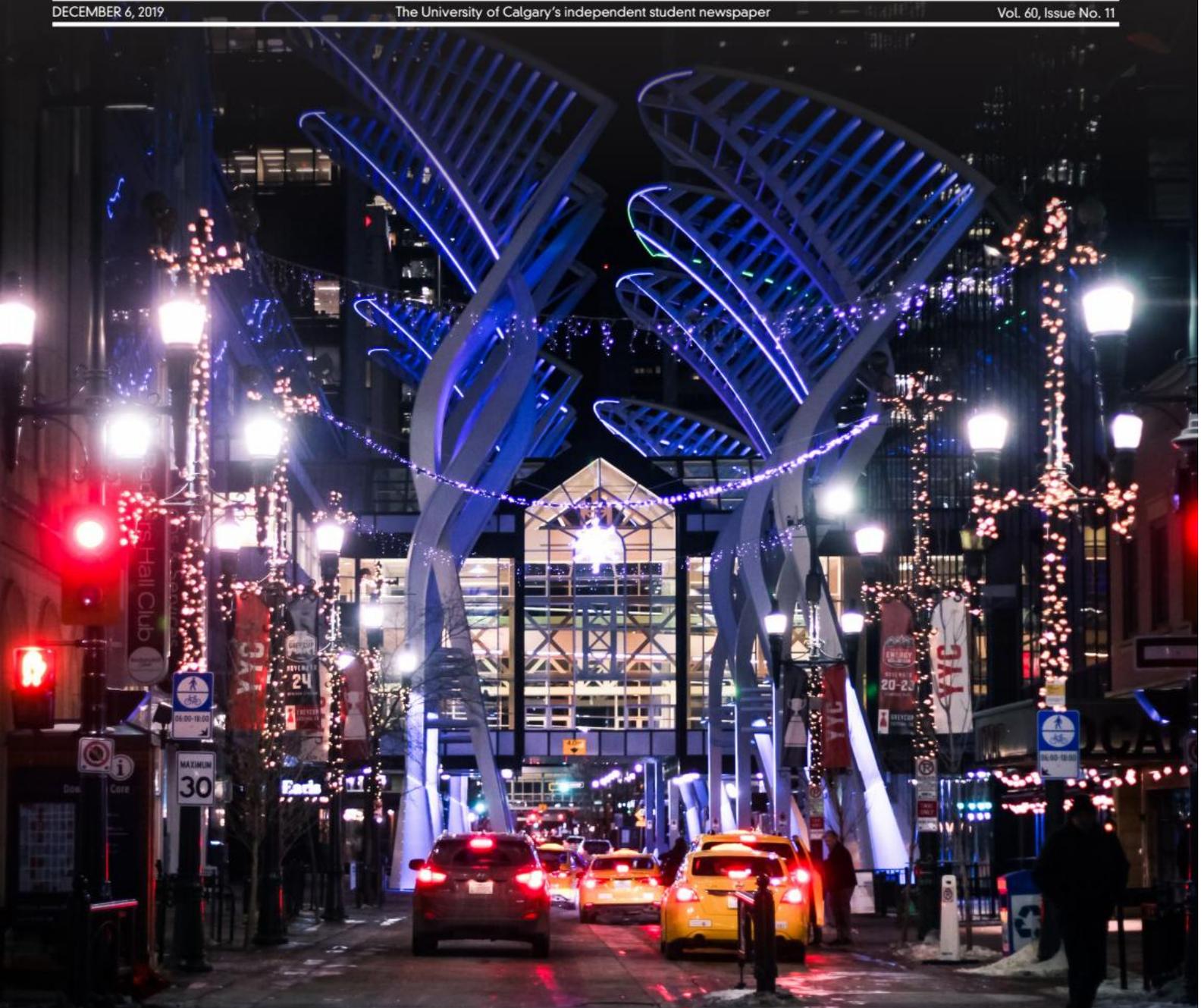
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DECEMBER 6, 2019

The University of Calgary's independent student newspaper

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

The Gauntlet is printed on recycled paper and uses an ink made from crushed 2019 dreams. We urge you to recycle the Gauntlet while dodging your sugar daddy's calls.

Cover Photo by Mariah Wilson

## The Golden Spatula - Mitali Pradham



A model UN star and a model volunteer, Mitali contributes to many a section. Humour, news, you name it, Mitali writes it.

—Cole McCracken  
 Gauntlet Editorial Board

# Transparency needed at BOG meetings

Last month, the University of British Columbia's Board of Governors' governance committee proposed a series of changes to their meeting rules and practices, amongst which was a proposal to restrict the ability to record these meetings exclusively to the board secretariat. This proposed change, if passed, would have severely reduced the ability of *The Ubysey* — the UBC's student newspaper — to report on events relevant to their campus community, which by extension would reduce the transparency of the decisions and discussions at BOG meetings. Fortunately, the changes were not passed. However, UBC's recent issue brings to light the University of Calgary's own issues with BOG transparency.

At U of C, our BOG by-laws state that "no person is allowed to use a camera or a recording device in a Board meeting. In the event of a breach of these rules or a disturbance, the Chair may eject persons from the meeting or adjourn the meeting." Just as a rule like this would have significantly damaged UBC's transparency with their campus community, so to does it damage transparency from the U of C to its campus community and limits the way we are able to report on those meetings.

This prohibition of recording isn't the only issue with transparency from the BOG. Other issues include the lack of an overt method of generat-



Students should attend the Dec. 13 Board of Governors meeting.

JARRETT EDMUND

ing awareness of the existence of the meetings, as well as the scheduling and the location of their meetings, which are supposed to be able to be attended by the campus community. These issues present themselves through a lack of any advertising of these meetings. There is a meeting schedule on the university website and, while not difficult to find, it certainly is not very conspicuously posted. The meeting location is also virtually impossible to find.

Not only are the meetings often held when students are least likely to attend — early to mid-day, around midterm or exam seasons — the obstacles to student awareness of the existence, timing and location of these crucial meetings drastically harms the appearance of transparency in the university's governance structures. It also decreases student involvement and awareness of issues that directly affect them.

Furthermore, for those who do attend the meetings, they are only al-

lowed to speak when invited to do so, at the discretion of the board chair. They are typically invited to do so well in advance of the meeting, though BOG's by-laws allow for invitations to speak to occur in-meeting. On the surface, this can be seen as a way to prevent disturbances and maintain order in the meetings. However, it also allows the chair to prevent questions from the campus body as there is no question-and-answer period. The issue this presents could be easily remedied by allowing for a question-and-answer period, which would help to increase transparency with the campus body by allowing for information that may not have been presented in meetings to come to light, as well as allowing for more input from the campus community closer to the occurrence of important decision-making.

Groups of students on campus such as Students for Direct Action (SDA) have found themselves facing difficulties at the last two BOG meetings when trying to bring their concerns surrounding

student wellness to light. They did have plans to attend the Oct. 18 meeting, but it was cancelled, seemingly without reason. Whether or not this was done because of Board concerns of mass student attendance has not been confirmed, but it is rather troubling.

It would seem that BOG is dedicated to significantly reducing student awareness of their meetings and the contents of those meetings. Since the contents of these meetings directly impact the campus community it remains important, arguably increasingly important given current events, for students to become and stay aware of what happens in them. If you want to make the university feel your presence, and become more aware of what the Board of Governors is doing to or for you and the rest of the campus community, the next BOG meeting is on Dec. 13 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in AD 140.

—Cole McCracken  
 Gauntlet Editorial Board

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STUDENTS  
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## NEWS »

STUDENT PROTESTS »

# “Hands Off Our Education” rally attracts over 300 protesters and Notley

Nikayla Goddard  
News Editor

No ifs, no ands, no buts — no education cuts!” was the chant that could be heard as over 300 protesters encircled the Premier’s Office in Calgary, the McDougall Centre, rallied against the United Conservative Party (UCP) government’s budget cuts to post-secondary education. On the chilly afternoon of Nov. 29, students and staff from the University of Calgary, Mount Royal University (MRU) and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) along with Rachel Notley, Leader of the Official Opposition, members of Students For Direct Action, Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) and more were present at the “Hands Off Our Education” protest.

At 1:00 p.m. the welcome ceremony began with an Indigenous land acknowledgment along with a round dance. Frank Finley, U of C student and one of the rally organizers, opened the speeches by saying that the protest is to “let this government know that we are listening and that we will not be silent.”

Other speakers included third-year U of C political science and natural science student Nicole Schmidt, MRU professor Roberta Lexier and Fridays for Future organizer Rose Jackson.

“As a student, I have always been of the firm belief that post-secondary education provides a viable means for students to turn their career aspirations into reality,” said Schmidt. “In addition to long-term socioeconomic stability, access to affordable post-secondary education is a way for most Albertan students to set themselves up for a brighter future. However, with the UCP’s recent provincial budget, it is clear that providing the funding required for maintaining the quality of post-secondary education institutions in this province is not a priority.”

Lexier, a student activist when she was in university, has been researching student movements for over 20 years.

“Here we are again,” she started. “I feel like I’ve been here a million times, you’ve been here

a million times before. I’ve been fighting austerity and attacks on post-secondary education for over two decades.”

Lexier continued, “We keep fighting the same fight, year after year, decade after decade. We fight because education is a public good. We fight because students shouldn’t be saddled with enormous debt, because no one should have to choose between food and education. We fight because education is a human right and we fight because it’s really our only hope for survival.”

Jackson, also an environmental science student at the U of C, fears for the security of her education.

“This new budget is an attack on our education, on our workers and our future,” she said. “It’s a struggle for me and I know I’m not the only one. I know other people have it worse. It’s heartbreaking.”

NDP Leader and Leader of the Official Opposition Rachel Notley attended the rally, citing how important fighting back can be.

“We are here today to support post-secondary students who are trying to do everything they can to defend their future, to defend their access to post-secondary education, the affordability of post-secondary education and, quite frankly, the quality of post-secondary education,” Notley said. “All of these things are under attack by this UCP government and not only is it short-sighted in terms of the future of our young people, it’s also short-sighted in terms of the future of our economic growth and our ability to diversify our economy. So, we need to do everything we can to fight back because we need more people to get post-secondary education [...] and we don’t need folks graduating with literally hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt. And that’s the path that we’re on right now.”

The protest comes on the heels of an AUPE-organized picket protesting budget cuts and tuition hikes that drew an estimated 1,000 people.

Looking at the U of C alone, the university is facing an immediate \$32.9 million cut to its \$479 million operating grant with more cuts expected to occur in the



Over 300 protesters rallied outside of the McDougall Centre on Nov. 29.

MARIAH WILSON

next three years. The budget has prompted backlash from the U of C campus community, with the Students’ Union vocalizing their dissent and student-run campus organizations organizing protests to express their concerns about the tuition hikes and cuts to programs and services. In response to backlash over post-secondary institutions’ budget cuts, the UCP government has stood their ground, with Minister of Advanced Education Demetrios Nicolaidis

defending the decision.

Last week, 250 positions on campus were cut, with more expected. The university has promised that there will be no in-year impacts on programs and that student experience will remain a priority.

Tuition at the university is also allowed to go up by seven per cent each year for the next three years. The proposed tuition changes see an increase of five per cent for both undergraduate and graduate

continuing students, with most new domestic students paying seven per cent more and new international students paying 10 per cent more.

Finley ended his speech by saying, “Let us not forget, a rally or protest cannot be the end goal. While this event today may seem significant, it simply needs to be a jumping-off point for all of us to come together to fight these unfair pieces of legislation that will affect us all.”



## PROFESSOR RESEARCH »

# History prof receives grant to study university hazing rituals



Paul Stortz, associate professor in the Department of History, received a SSHRC grant to study hazing in universities.

MARIAH WILSON

Kristy Koehler  
Editor-in-Chief

University initiations were ongoing sites of cultural struggle that held educational, gendered, and class margins in place.”

This comes from *Feverish Frolics of the Frivolous Frosh: Women's Cultures of Initiation in Western Canadian Universities, 1915 - 1935*. The article, written by Paul Stortz, an associate professor in the Department of History, and his late wife Lisa Panayotidis, a professor in the Werklund School of Education, is contained within the book they co-edited, entitled *Women in Higher Education, 1850–1970*. In the article, Stortz and Panayotidis draw on the reporting of campus press for first-hand accounts of hazing rituals, citing both *The Ulysses* and *The Sheaf*.

Stortz has recently received a national research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to continue researching the history of university hazing, initiations and bullying in Canada. He hopes to write a book so that the information is readily available for those who wish to debate it.

While the practices have been ongoing for 800 years, Stortz says the literature on the topic is relatively small. The SSHRC Insight Grant will allow Stortz to continue exploring something that is still very relevant today, as it intersects with student mental health.

“The mental health of students today has become a huge issue and not a moment too soon,” said Stortz. “Mental health is obviously fundamental and integral in how people get through life. My work deals with student mental health — some of these rituals could be really brutal and vicious.”

Stortz's research also involves what he calls “power and voice.”

“Initiations and hazing are really expressions of power,” he said. “They are expressions of people trying to identify themselves and live in a particular way on campus that's meaningful to them. And so the hazing represents a very complex kind of performance, a complex form of collective and individual expression of identity.”

Not only does his work involve the study of power dynamics in these rituals, but also interactions between social class, experience, age, race, ethnicity and gender. His

research not only focuses on the way these interactions take place on campus, but also how they impact the off-campus life in university towns.

“The university is such a different place, in one way. In other ways, the university lives within the city and the city influences the university,” he said. “A lot of the hazing historically bled out into the local communities with parades, dances, that kind of thing. What I continue to look at is that exchange of knowledge and identity formation between the university and city — how do the values, understanding and expectations go back and forth?”

The university experience is a unique one, says Stortz, who encourages critical thinking and discussion in his classroom.

“The university is the only place in your life that you can ask a question about anything — as long as you expect to get a critical discussion or response,” he said.

Stortz is teaching an upper-level history class in the winter semester that will incorporate hazing and initiation rituals — HTST 593: History of Education in Canada runs Wednesdays from 3:00 – 5:45 p.m.

## TUITION »

# Budget and tuition recap

Kristy Koehler  
Editor-in-Chief

The United Conservative Party released its first budget on Oct. 24. The 2019–20 budget contains a number of widely-reported changes to post-secondary education, including cuts to the operating grants of the province's universities.

The University of Calgary followed up on the budget release with their own set of announcements, mostly pertaining to tuition increases.

Here's a recap of the highlights.

## Budget 2019

- On Jan. 1, all education and tuition tax credits will be eliminated.
- On April 1, the interest rate for student loans will increase from prime to prime plus one per cent.
- The Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) will be eliminated.
- The University of Calgary will receive an immediate \$32.9 million cut to its \$479 million operating grant.
- The tuition freeze has been lifted, allowing the university to raise tuition by seven per cent per year. Further cuts are expected in subsequent budgets.

## Tuition

- Undergraduate tuition will increase by five per cent for all con-

tinuing students, pending a vote by the Board of Governors.

- Engineering students will see their tuition increase by 10 per cent, pending a vote by the Board of Governors.
- New international students will see an increase in undergraduate tuition by seven per cent, pending a vote by the Board of Governors.
- U of C has committed 14 per cent of domestic tuition and 20 per cent of international tuition to student support funding.
- Further increases to tuition and potential job losses among faculty and support staff are project to occur in the coming years.

Protests have been occurring around the city and on campus in opposition to the proposed tuition hikes.

On Nov. 21, an estimated 1,000 people took to the quad outside MacHall to participate in a picket organized by the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE). On Nov. 29, protestors headed to the MacDougall Centre for the “Hands Off Our Education” protest.

The university will presenting their tuition increase plan to Minister of Advanced Education Demetrios Nicolaidis, after which the Board of Governors will review the final tuition increase plan and vote on it. Confirmation of final details should be available mid-January.



Students and community members marched to protest budget cuts on Nov. 21 in front of MacHall.

NIKAYLA GODDARD



iGEM »

# Alberta oil — canola, that is



The 2019 Calgary iGEM team won the first-runner up award at the international competition in Boston.

Courtesy MICHAELLA ATIENZA

Kristy Koehler  
Editor-in-Chief

Fourteen undergraduates helped to solidify the University of Calgary's place on the world stage at the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition in Boston in early November.

The iGEM competition is a worldwide event aimed at undergraduate students, but also includes high school and overgrad teams, giving them the opportunity to apply synthetic biology to real-world problems.

The U of C team finished with the best-ever result by a Canadian team — first-runner up.

"There's places like MIT and Harvard and Princeton and all of these really big universities that started synthetic biology and biotechnology, and they're all leaders in this industry and now Calgary can be considered a leader," said Christian Emond. "In the future, people around Canada participating in iGEM or similar competitions will look to Calgary as an example of how to proceed in their projects."

The group tackled a different kind of Alberta oil — canola. According to research done by the team, Canadian-grown canola contributes \$26.7 billion to the Canadian economy each year, including more than \$250,000 jobs and \$11.2 billion in wages. The green seed problem causes a significant loss to the industry and the iGEM team looked to ease that burden.

"Canola seeds contain the green pigment chlorophyll while they're immature and usually, when they mature, they lose that chlorophyll pigment," explained Sara Far. "But, if there's an extreme weather condition like a frost or a drought that hits the seeds early, that degradation doesn't

happen, so the mature seeds contain the chlorophyll. As a result, when the oil is pressed from those seeds, it also contains chlorophyll and that causes it to spoil a lot faster — there's a bitter taste and there's a lower smoke point, so there's a lot of issues associated with it. It costs manufacturers a lot to purify the oil from the chlorophyll so we tried to design an alternate system to do it that's more efficient."

The team says they consulted with industry leaders and other stakeholders, including farmers, oil producers and government bodies that deal with the canola industry.

"That engagement was critical to understanding the problems within the industry and developing the project," said Sebastian Alvarez. "Not only did the team come up with a solution to the green seed problem, but they were able to come up with solutions in other areas as well."

"As we learned more about the industry we realized that there were other things that were not as directly related to synthetic biology that we could propose," said Alvarez. "One of the things that came up was the current way of grading the seeds. We found that out by communicating with farmers and other stakeholders — it causes a lot of discrepancy when they go to get their seeds priced."

They came up with a way to automate the process and ensure some standardization.

"We learned so much more and we began to see things that we could address that we had no idea about before," said Alvarez.

Sarah Walker says that iGEM is a special competition because it fluidly integrates science and problem-solving, involving the larger community as a whole.

"The idea is that you're tackling projects that are relevant to your world and the community around you and the people in your area, the industries in your area. And for us, canola was a very clear fit," said Walker. "It's so relevant to Alberta and Canada as a whole. There's been talk about diversification and building a strong economy outside of oil and gas and that's really important for us — to strengthen what we have that is providing for people in our community in Alberta."

iGEM also encourages an interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving.

"There's a lot of great research happening at the University of Calgary and iGEM is really special because we can take different fields, bring them together and solve a problem while making a product and supporting that entrepreneurial spirit that the U of C is very focused on," said Walker.

She says that because iGEM is branded as a synthetic biology competition, groups tend to take the approach of filling their team with synthetic biologists. The U of C iGEM team embraced the interdisciplinary nature — they have members from computer science, chemical engineering, plant biology, software engineering, biomedical science and statistics, among others.

Walker says the team owes their success at this year's iGEM to that diversity of expertise but also to teamwork and the project's human-centered design.

"Our team is incredibly dedicated to the project, to one another, to seeing ourselves succeed, to building each other up and ensuring we have everything we need to do our work and that made coming in to work every day so much fun. We are all

very inspired, consistently, to work together," she said. "Our project was based around people. We followed a human-centred design process — while we started with extracting chlorophyll from oil, as we spoke with stakeholders our project evolved to be something more meaningful and that was not only helping oil producers but farmers too, and we really had that holistic approach."

There are several different tracks in the competition, including diagnostics, food and nutrition, energy, manufacturing, software and therapeutics, among others. Not only did the U of C team come in first runner-up overall, they took home the award for Best Food and Nutrition Project as well as the award for Best Integrated Human Practices — essentially stakeholder engagement — and Best Software tool, in addition to being nominated for seven other awards.

The group, with several returning members from the 2018 iGEM competition, had planned to get an early start and have a fully-formed idea by the time work was due to start on the project. They had a project centred around beer and unfortunately — or perhaps very fortunately — that plan didn't pan out, and when the May 1 start date rolled around, they had no idea what their project would be.

Ultimately, they pulled together the canola project in just six months.

"Six months isn't a long time for any research project," said Alvarez. "To come as far as we did was directly enabled by our interdisciplinary nature and our emphasis on collaboration."

"We continuously adapted and we never let any of our failed projects get to us," added Emond. "We just kept building from the failures."

"At no point did we get discouraged

— we were always growth-oriented," said Far.

Where do they go from here? The team hopes to continue developing the canola oil project — they've only just begun working on it — and hopefully turn it into profit. If they do manage to profit from the project, they enthusiastically agree that they'll be giving back to iGEM at U of C, citing how much the program gave to them.

"Being on this team has changed my life," said Emond. "I think it's going to shape my career going forward. We all want to support iGEM Calgary in the future."

"We want to empower fellow students to work on what they're passionate about — I feel like I personally have been told in the past that 'iGEM is just a student research team.' Yes, we are a student research team, but we are a team of very dedicated and committed students and with all of us together we actually can create a difference in our community," said Far.

After such an intensive, immersive project, the team isn't even tired of canola oil — or each other. Far joked that she judges her friends who cook with grapeseed oil and Alvarez says he's given his family an ultimatum — canola oil is the only oil allowed in the house. They even plan to get canola oil tattoos together.

"We're all so proud to represent our respective faculties — the School of Engineering, the School of Medicine, the Faculty of Science — and really display not only the quality of education, but the caliber of students and researchers coming out of this school," said Alvarez. "We're really proud to represent U of C on the world stage."



## LABOUR AND JOBS »

# Job-creation is the most important issue for students says Minister Jason Copping

Kristy Koehler  
Editor-in-Chief

Minister of Labour and Immigration Jason Copping says the most important issue facing students today is jobs.

"I used to teach at the Haskayne School of Business as a sessional for many years — and the most important thing to students was always jobs," he said.

Copping, in addition to being Minister of Labour and Immigration, represents the constituency of Calgary-Varsity where the University of Calgary is located. He said he heard the same concern over and over while door-knocking during his election campaign — it always came back to jobs.

He says students were preparing to graduate and telling him that, while they wanted to stay in the province, there were no jobs available and they'd end up headed to Toronto or Vancouver.

"We need to get those jobs here so they stay here," he said. "Granted it takes time, you're not going to turn the ship in a few months, but we've got a plan in place that will turn the ship, drive job opportunities and that's the biggest change we can make."

The United Conservative Party government's recently-tabled budget

included cuts to post-secondary education. While he says he understands that change is difficult, it is necessary.

"If we do something now, we only need roughly a three per cent cut over four years in the overall," he said. "If we wait — and our debt is at \$60 billion now — if we wait and don't do anything and our debt is far north of \$100 billion, then our interest payments on the debt are going to be \$4 to \$5 billion. Just by frame of reference, \$5 billion is the total amount we spent on advanced education and that would be just going to interest payments on the debt."

Along with the cuts came the removal of the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP), a move that the University of Calgary Students' Union said came as a complete surprise to them.

STEP provided a wage subsidy of \$7 per hour to employers who hired students through the program. It has been cut and then reinstated previously, with the federal government bringing in their own Canada Summer Jobs program in the interim.

"I think it was more politics than efficient use of resources," said Copping of STEP's reinstatement. "If we don't focus our resources on the stuff that makes a difference, then we're just going to continue into a debt spiral."

There have been criticisms of the

STEP program in the past, notably that it did not allow international students to apply for, or be hired by STEP-generated jobs. The federal program also provided a larger subsidy, leaving STEP as a second-choice for some employers.

Still, Copping says he recognizes that there were organizations that would not have been able to employ workers without the program but cites the existence of the Canada Summer Jobs program as well as other provincial programs that provide job training.

"I looked at all of our programs and the goal of our programming is to connect people with full-time jobs, give them the skills for full-time jobs and, quite frankly when we looked at STEP, it didn't do that," said Copping.

STEP also did not necessarily provide jobs that were in people's fields, he said, nor did it "ensure there was an actual need for the funding to create a job."

"There were some who applied because it was a subsidy," he said. "It was free taxpayer money."

Copping cited other programs as better alternatives. The Training for Work program, among others, provides occupationally-focused training and, while it isn't geared toward students, can certainly be accessed by them.

Many of these programs, says Copping, "don't get paid unless they have a 70 per cent placement rate, and some have placement rates as high as 90 per cent."

"Our government has a focus on creating the environment that's going to drive investment back into the province and create jobs. That will get the biggest amount of difference made — not necessarily these niche programs," he said.

"I appreciate change is hard but if we don't get a handle on this now, it'll be far worse. We are setting the foundation for the long-term sustainability of all of our systems, including our advanced education system."

Copping says his government is committed to mental health services for post-secondary students. In fact, \$22 million in funding was just announced to provide mental health supports for the province's institutions. He says that in listening to Students' Unions across the province, it became clear that this was critically important, as was the ability to access these supports by phone and internet.

He says that, while tuition may be rising, his colleague, Minister of Advanced Education Demetrios Nicolaides, is looking at a funding formula that will incent institutions to provide better service, manage their costs and offer a better overall student experi-

ence.

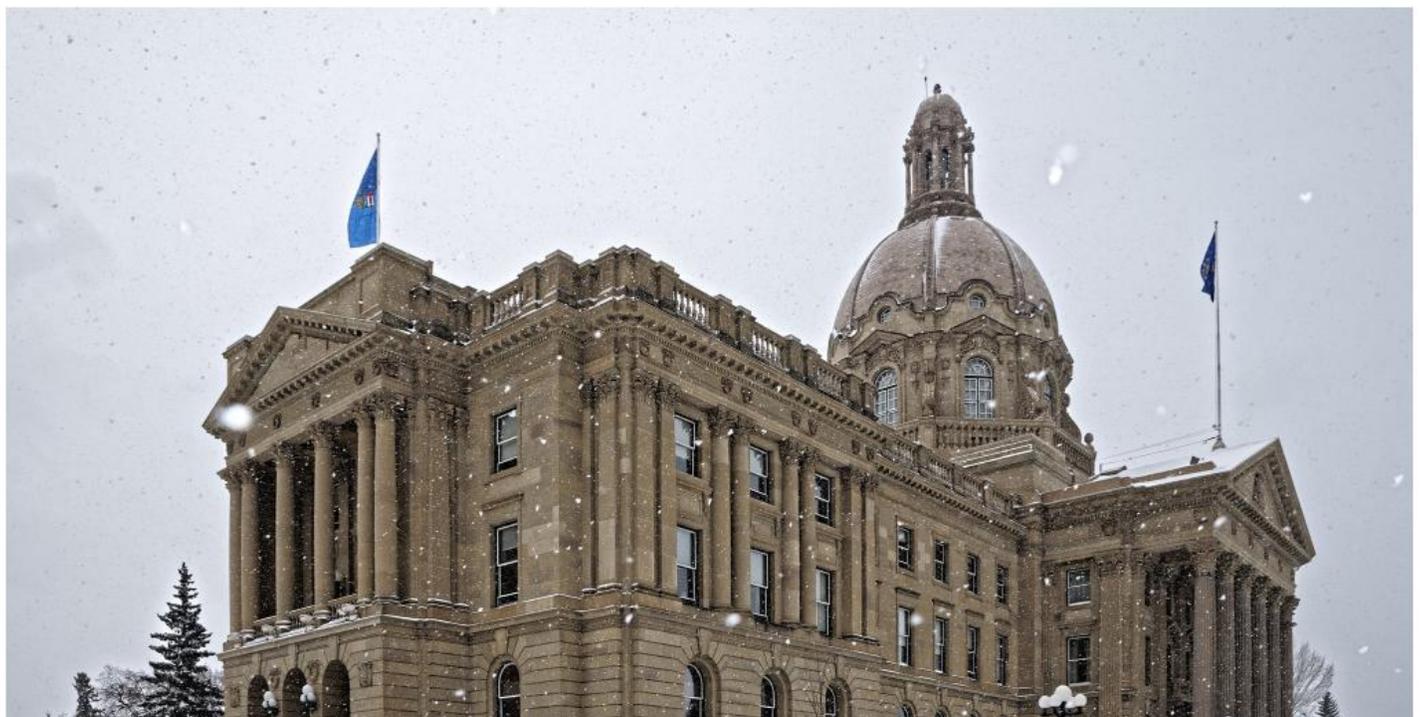
"I get it. No one wants to pay more tuition, but to make a sustainable system we need to ensure we are not incurring all kinds of debt. Who does that debt go to? It goes to the students who are going to have to be paying it down the road. Students are smart — they get that."

Copping says his term as Minister of Labour and Immigration will be a success if he does two things — getting the economy moving to create jobs and providing representation to his constituency, one that includes the University of Calgary, the Foothills Campus, the Children's Hospital as well as "lots of constituents who work in the public sector and care deeply about what they do."

"They can see that we've managed this in a reasonable way," said Copping. "You need to blend both the financial capital — investment in the province to create jobs — and the human capital — people that are ready to work — and make them line up at the same time. I am very confident that our plan will do that but it is going to take time."

Is it possible to "right the ship" in his term? Copping believes it is.

"We're back on track and that's what we committed to do," he said, before throwing in a "Go Dinos!" for good measure.



Copping says he heard a lot of concern about jobs while on the campaign trail.

Courtesy KURT BAUSCHARDT/FLICKR



STUDENTS' UNION »

# Med rep resigns following SLC motion to recommend impeachment

Gayathri Peringod  
News Editor

Siavash Zarezadeh, Faculty Representative from the Cumming School of Medicine, resigned from his position after members of the Students' Legislative Council voted to recommend his impeachment last Thursday.

On Nov. 21, a special meeting of the Students' Legislative Council was called in which members heard a complaint lodged by Students' Union president Jessica Revington against Zarezadeh.

SLC then approved a motion to recommend the impeachment of Zarezadeh, citing violations to sections 110 (1) (c-f) and 117 (3) of the Union Bylaw and sections 33 (a-b) and 37 of the SLC Code of Conduct.

These sections relate to "improper or excessive use of authority to obtain or provide a benefit."

The motion to recommend Zarezadeh's impeachment was passed unanimously last Thursday. Prior to the next SLC meeting, when the matter was set to be discussed, Zarezadeh tendered his resignation.

During Tuesday's weekly SLC meeting, SU vice president academic Kevin Dang said that the resignation was for personal reasons.

"Councillor Zarezadeh's resignation, as cited, was for personal reasons," said Revington. "In terms of a complaint, there was a com-

plaint that was investigated by SLC at a special SLC meeting and a motion was made by SLC for impeachment of a member. However, that is all the information that can be provided at this time."

When asked whether there was an official reason for the resignation, Dang stated, "I can't speak for Councillor Zarezadeh. It's his own decision. It's a private matter, so I can't comment on that, unfortunately."

In an email statement to the Gauntlet, Zarezadeh stated the reason for his resignation was due to a difference in approach. He also expressed his gratitude to the students in his faculty for allowing him to be their representative during his tenure.

The statement is provided in full below:

"The Students' Union is a great organization working in the best interest of UCalgary undergraduate students. I am proud of the work I did during my tenure as a Faculty Representative, and I will continue to be an advocate for students. Until my position is filled, I am committed to serving Cumming School of Medicine students on several faculty committees. I will also continue my advocacy work on research affordability, student space improvement, and student well-being.

"The purpose of my resignation was rooted in a difference of approach. I will help welcome the in-

coming Representatives to ensure a smooth and effective transition. I want to thank CSM students for allowing me the opportunity to serve as their SU Faculty Representative."

As of the time of publication, both medicine representative positions are vacant. The other elected Cumming School of Medicine representative, Joshua Lee, has not yet been sworn in despite the byelection results having been announced in late October, in which he won with 106 votes.

This byelection has since been appealed, with the Review Board receiving an application for a hearing in relation to the byelection, making the results unofficial.

The Review Board's hearing is ongoing and the results have not been announced, said Revington.

"Currently the appointment process for Nominations Committee is on hold pending the results of the Review Board," Revington stated.

"We are looking to hear from the Review Board in the next couple of weeks as to a decision on the current challenge that was placed as a result of the byelection. Once the Review Board has made its decision public, Nominations Committee will meet to address the second vacancy for the Cumming School of Medicine."

However, those looking to run again in a second byelection will be unable to do so.



Siavash Zarezadeh was the Faculty Representative for the Cumming School of Medicine.

MARIAH WILSON

"Unfortunately, due to our by-laws and our processes, we will be unable to hold a second byelection," Revington said. "The next opportunity for election will be at the general election in 2020."

While the SU can nominate an individual to fill Zarezadeh's now-vacant position, it is not guaranteed that the position will be filled.

"Nominations Committee will be moving forward as soon as pos-

sible to address the CSM (Cumming School of Medicine) vacancy," said Revington. "It's my hope that the Nominations Committee is able to fill the position with a representative — however, they do have the jurisdiction to call a failed search. If that were to occur, the position would indeed remain vacant until the 2020 General Election."

Students' Union meeting minutes are public and available for viewing online.

# Wetzel's Pretzels to open in MacHall

Kristy Koehler  
Editor-in-Chief

Wetzel's Pretzels will be MacHall's newest food vendor.

Replacing La Taqueria in the small food stall tucked away next to the Students' Union's MacEwan Conference and Event Centre, the popular California-based franchise is scheduled to open at the end of January.

Wetzel's Pretzels will also serve hot-dogs and their pretzel offerings include a variety of sweet and savoury options.

Other outlets also competed for the space, but Omer Mansoor, SU vice president operations and finance, says Wetzel's Pretzels was

the best fit — literally.

"We decided on Wetzel's Pretzels because one of the biggest challenges with La Taqueria is that the tenant space is actually quite small," said Mansoor. "It's around 300 square feet, whereas the average tenant size is around 500 square feet in MacHall. It already restricts what kind of tenant can go in the space because of food prep requirements."

La Taqueria was both owned and operated by the SU, but Mansoor doesn't see revenue declining by allowing an outside company to lease the space. The SU will collect rent from Wetzel's Pretzels, without the added financial burden of staffing and operating the outlet.

"With La Taqueria we were preparing all the food in the Den and it was essentially being brought up into the tenant space," said Mansoor. "We hope to increase our profit margins and reinvest that back into student programming."

Prior to La Taqueria's tenure, Smoke's Poutinerie leased the location, shutting down in the spring of 2015. Mansoor says not only is the small space an issue, but the location can be a challenge as it's hidden away.

Mansoor says one way to ensure that tenants succeed in the space is to ensure the items being served are unique to MacHall. He thinks pretzels are a unique offering.



Wetzel's Pretzels is replacing La Taqueria.

MARIAH WILSON







BEST OF »

## The best albums of 2019

Orville Peck's *Pony* brought together elements of country, punk and shoegaze on one of the years best albums.

courtesy SUBPOP

Troy Hasselman  
Arts & Culture Editor

2019 has been a rough year in nearly every way you can measure such a thing, but one area where it has come through in spades has been music. This year has brought fantastic releases from the artists profiled below and countless others in what has been one of the best years for new releases that I can remember. Here, in no particular order, are the five best albums released in 2019.

**Better Oblivion Community Center - *Better Oblivion Community Center***

While this might not be the greatest album of 2019, you would be hard pressed to find one more charming or compulsively listenable than this collaboration between indie superstar songwriters Conor Oberst and Phoebe Bridgers. *Better Oblivion Community Center* suffers from none of the pitfalls that can arise when two star collaborators make a project together like lengthy running times and undercooked ideas. There is a remarkable lack of excess on this record, with the album clocking in at a clean 10 songs in 37 minutes.

All 10 of these songs are fully fleshed out, with thoughtful arrangements and engaging lyrics that show this album to have the same amount of effort put into that of either artists' solo work. The songs on the album touch on topics like post-Trump political disillusionment, Bridgers' home city of Los Angeles and the 2016 death

of Oberst's brother.

Songs like lead single "Dylan Thomas" bring a decidedly more up-tempo arrangement than what we're used to seeing from the pair while delivering some of the funniest lyrics of either's career. It's a record that brings in shades of the previous work of both artists while the two's differing styles compliment each other to create a new fusion of their work. The directness of Oberst's music comes together with the depth of Bridgers' music to make something that is the best work Oberst has released in years and just the latest entry into Bridgers' catalogue for someone that is proving to be one of the most exciting singer-songwriters working today.

**JPEGMAFIA - *All My Heroes are Cornballs***

Fresh off the heels of the sizeable cult audience that JPEGMAFIA gained from 2018's *Veteran*, he had an easy incentive to go in the same ferocious direction that he went on his previous album. JPEGMAFIA has spent the last two years building a name for himself for his aggression that is embodied in his intense live performances, including an explosive performance at Calgary's Sled Island festival which was easily the best show I've seen this year. However, on *All My Heroes are Cornballs* JPEGMAFIA decided to go in a more lush direction, while preserving the weirdness of *Veteran*. This album isn't necessarily less abrasive than its predecessor but moved its abrasion in a different direction with the songs built around more dense

loops that value composition ahead of the noisy antagonism of *Veteran*. His anger is still here as well, with his targets still heavily informed by the internet culture that his music is birthed from, with incels, music bloggers and Twitter trolls all subjected to his ire across the album's 18 songs. The artistic left turns that JPEGMAFIA has made on this album have shown his versatility as an artist and allowed for breathing room in how he chooses to evolve from this point out.

**Woods + Segal - *Hiding Places***

The musical aesthetic of *Hiding Places* is emblematic from its album cover that shows a dilapidated Victorian mansion in the middle of a slow collapse positioned against a grey, overcast sky. This album is not pretty. A collaboration between veteran MC Billy Woods and underground producer Kenny Segal that deals with themes of poverty, *Hiding Places* reads out like a collection of loosely-linked short stories. There are no hooks and the tuned-out production makes it sound like the synthesizers on the album are melting down before your ears. Despite the lack of hooks, the songs are still as earwormy as any other hip-hop release from this year.

There is a passion for words in this album that isn't measured up to from any release this year, hip-hop or otherwise. Wood's wordplay, diction and non-sequiturs hold this album together and make for a fully engrossing listen. The running theme of poverty manifests itself in medical bills, un-

forwarded mail and delayed surgeries through the album, with Woods taking a look at the hard financial side of being a workmanlike rapper such as himself. Rather than flaunting his wealth, Woods is worried about the same financial issues as the rest of us. This kind of brutal honesty can lead to *Hiding Places*, being an uncomfortable listen with this vibe perfectly complimented by Segal's dystopian-sounding production.

**Purple Mountains - *Purple Mountains***

The death of David Berman mere weeks after the release of the debut album of Purple Mountains, his first new musical project since the end of Silver Jews in 2009, has become sadly inseparable from the music on this project which deals with themes of death, depression and loneliness. Though if Berman were still alive today this record would still be just as deserving of a spot on this list. The songs on this record were at once laugh-out-loud funny, brutally poignant, introspective and self-deprecating when this album was released in July and are still the same today.

While this is one of the most musically realized albums of Berman's career — credit also goes to Berman's backing band which consisted of the full lineup of Brooklyn indie rockers Woods — but the lyrics remain the star attraction here as they do on any of Berman's output. Berman was one of the few rock lyricists capable of making music that measured up against real, honest-to-God poetry.

The songs read like enthusiastically written prose poems, with Berman in top lyrical form here. While we can only now speculate on what kind of music from Berman we'll be missing in his absence, we have this album, and not to mention his Silver Jews output, as a parting gift that encapsulated all of what he was as an artist.

**Orville Peck - *Pony***

In the span of a year Orville Peck, the masked country troubadour behind *Pony*, has gone from obscurity to bona-fide stardom at the helm of the years second most popular country crossover hit. On *Pony*, Peck channels the outlaw country of Merle Haggard and Waylon Jennings, the baladeering and storytelling of singers like Dolly Parton and Bobbie Gentry and his own past in the East Vancouver punk scene into a wholly unique sound.

Tracks like "Dead of Night," "Hope to Die" and "Turn to Hate" all bring a reverb-drenched outlaw swagger that keep one foot in the myriad influences and references to his work and another foot in the boundless future that his work embodies. The record draws heavily on heartbreak but Peck sounds anything but dejected on *Pony*, rather harnessing the charisma of his outlaw persona into his sound. Peck's anonymity and mask could easily be dismissed as a gimmick if the songs weren't so good but instead *Pony* is a work that stands on its own, being attached to one of the most intriguing musical personas to emerge in recent memory is just an added bonus.



## FESTIVALS»

# Big Winter Classic brings a reprieve from the cold



Big Winter Classic runs from Jan. 23–26, 2020.

MATT HUME

Troy Hasselman  
Arts & Culture Editor

**B**ig Winter Classic, the Calgary arts festival that occupies unique outdoor venues across the Beltline area for a weekend in January, has announced their 2020 lineup with headliners including rising indie star Ezra Furman, punk indebted rockers Bully and arty garage rocker Ron Gallo.

Big Winter Classic started as a summer festival and what started as a winter offshoot has grown into one of Calgary's most anticipated festivals.

"We started as just 'Big.' One thing we wondered was how you stay relevant year-round and not just become a ticketed event once a year," Big Winter Classic co-founder and director Adrian Urlacher says. "The winter festival came as an idea to keep Big relevant year-round. We realized January, February and March have not a lot going on. Our festival season is May to August with over 1,700 festivals across the city. We didn't really have much in the winter. After we ran our first one at the Ship & Anchor, it really took off from there and we actually departed from our summer event and turned it into a winter festival."

The festival's lineup has a healthy mix of international touring acts and local favourites with Urlacher mentioning headliner Ron Gallo

and Calgary acts like Sunglaciars and Crystal Eyes as personal highlights of the festival.

"One of the artists I'm excited about is Ron Gallo," Urlacher says. "Ron Gallo comes from Nashville. We had a chance to see him perform at South by Southwest in 2018. This was two years in the making, we tried to get him last year. We watched him open for the Black Angels and he literally blew my mind. It was one of those shows I still haven't forgotten. I'm really excited to bring that show to a small stage in Calgary, I think that's going to be awesome. From a local standpoint, we're really excited to have Sunglaciars, Sweet Barry Wine and Crystal Eyes. The lineup is really deep with well over 75 bands so there's a little bit of something for everybody."

The platform that Big Winter Classic gives local artists is a keystone of the festival. Local acts share the same stage as the headliners and make up the majority of the lineup, showcasing some of the countless artists from across the province is one of the major goals of the festival, says Urlacher.

"As we've grown and bring in more out-of-town bands, that helps with the overall visual and how we're able to get out and reach other markets, but we've always hung our hat on local shows," Urlacher says. "Eighty per cent of

the festival is Alberta-based. One of our major things is whatever bands we have come in from out-of-market, we want them to be surrounded by our local talent. We're putting big shows in small venues, but innovating and making sure our local bands have a big play at the festival is huge for us, but also having them perform alongside Weaves, Ron Gallo and Ezra Furman is really important to us."

Big Winter Classic acts as not only a music festival, but a general arts festival. Big Studio focuses on the visual arts aspect of the festival and will be part of the festivities for the third straight year with some innovative stage and beer label design being a major part of the festival.

"This year we're going to be doing intake with our artists to customize our stage designs," Urlacher says. "We've done some stage designs in the past but our art display is taking place via Big Studio, so we'll be doing intake for local artists to come in and create a unique backdrop. Half of our shows happen in non-traditional venues. How you transform those and create a space for people to enjoy the shows and have a bit of a different backdrop is important to us. Another element this year includes a partnership with some local craft brewers and the creation of our own beer, called

"The Big Brew." This year what we're doing is we're going to have custom art designs for established beers that these brewers already have. We have a whole series of big cans which will be in the liquor stores and all the venues through the festival. The two elements will be the stage design and custom beer cans, which will be awesome and I can't wait to share those with the world."

The festival will include a mix of traditional venues like Broken City and non-traditional venues like Inner City Brewing, which will have a constructed stage built specifically for the festival.

"Our home base is Broken City and Last Best Brewing and Distilling. Anyone who's been to Last Best knows it's not a music venue, but we've managed to build some stages there," Urlacher says. "There's a stage outside and inside — same as Broken City. This year we're going to be fully in the Beltline. People will be able to get into all of our venues, all within six blocks. We built a really unique stage there. They've got a wonderful space for live music. Last year we heard a lot about how much people liked Inner City. We're going to be using a bunch of the smaller local businesses. Goat is a small lifestyle salon in the Beltline. We're going to be setting up a singer-songwriter stage there.

We have spaces I can't tell you about because they'll be part of our shuttle tours but they'll all be within the Beltline."

Urlacher hopes for Big Winter Classic to continue to grow and to help out the businesses that populate the Beltline area. He hopes to see the festival grow into an outdoor winter festival with an entire street blocked off.

"This might be a silly comment but one of our goals from day one is to reinvent Electric Avenue," Urlacher says. "The downtown economy and what is going on is extremely tight. We want to create an economic event that's going to bring business into our small businesses in Calgary. What I would love to see is for the festival to take over an entire street outdoors. We are one of the only major cities in Canada that doesn't have an outdoor winter festival. Edmonton has three or four of them. To create an all-ages, inclusive platform for our communities to come together is extremely important. In five years I can see us having an entire street blocked off in the Beltline."

The Big Winter Classic will run Jan. 23–26, 2020. For more information about the festival, its lineup and to access playlists for the artists involved in this year's festival, visit [bigwinterclassic.com](http://bigwinterclassic.com).



## EXHIBITIONS »

# Glenbow Museum announces Winter 2020 Exhibitions



Glenbow Museum's winter exhibitions will run from Feb. 8–May 24, 2020.

MARIAH WILSON

Troy Hasselman  
Arts & Culture Editor

The Glenbow Museum has announced their 2020 Winter exhibitions with renowned American outsider artist Vivian Maier as a highlight, along with legendary Calgary artists Maxwell Bates and Ron Moppett. The exhibitions are set to open on Feb. 8, 2020.

*Vivian Maier: In Her Own Words* is a travelling exhibition that details the photography of Vivian Maier, an American nanny that did photography in her spare time that captured the everyday life of people in American cities.

"Vivian Maier has this really unique story," Glenbow Museum art curator Sarah Todd says. "She was a Chicago-based nanny who pursued photography in her spare time. This was in the 50s and 60s when photography, especially for women, was seen as a hobby. She did a lot of photography and a lot of stuff out in the world. The curator of this exhibition called her 'The Godmother of Instagram' which is such a great way to frame it. She was shooting everyday life in a way that was aesthetically really compelling and beautiful."

Maier's work was not widely seen until 2007 and she only came to international notoriety in 2013, four years after her death in 2009, after being the subject of the Academy Award nominated documentary *Finding Vivian Maier*.

"During this time she shot over 2,000 rolls of film and made 3,000 prints, but it was totally unknown until 2007 when this guy John Maloof happened to discover it at an auction house in Chicago," Todd explains. "Since then it's been really widely exhibited. She had such an incredible, natural sense. She often took just one frame of her negatives. It wasn't like she was shooting tons like we do now, because film was a precious resource, especially for someone working as a nanny. She passed away in 2009 but her work has gained a lot of notoriety, especially because there's been a well-known documentary called *Finding Vivian Maier* which made her the kind of celebrity that we know today."

*Maxwell Bates: The In Crowd* will highlight the work of Calgary artist Maxwell Bates, who operated as a modernist painter and an architect responsible for iconic Calgary structures such as the St.

Mary's Cathedral on 18 Ave SW. *The In Crowd* focuses on Bates' later work he created after moving to Victoria from Calgary in the 1960s, where he would remain until his death in 1980.

"Maxwell Bates is this really fascinating figure within Alberta art," Todd says. "He was a leading Alberta modernist, and during his time here, he created a lot of work and paintings that were really quite boundary pushing and quite serious. Representing depression-era and post-World War Two Alberta in pretty unflinching lights. He has this prairie noir exhibition here called *Rough Country*. Maxwell Bates was an architect and did all of these things. In the 1960s, he had a stroke. After this, he quit his architecture practice and moved to Victoria with his wife. There he began painting really prolifically from the mid 60s to the mid 70s. The subject matter of these paintings was totally different from what he did before. He started painting cocktail parties and opening receptions — he painted the art world and his social life in Victoria, which, judging from the paintings, is pretty raucous."

These paintings make use of brighter colours than much of

Bates' earlier work, which used muted colours influenced by the prairie landscape that he inhabited. These works put Bates in an observer's position, with scenes depicting parties and the people surrounding him.

"It's this massive series of paintings that are very colourful and very 1960s," Todd says. "You can see him as an outsider in these social situations and painting people not always in the most flattering light. It was just a body of work that we found so fascinating because it is quite unlike the other things that he had done. It's interesting for an artist at the end of their career to embark on this new body of work and doing it so prolifically, he must have been painting and painting away in Victoria. A lot of them are coming from public collections and others are coming from generous private collectors."

*Ron Moppett: Do You Remember/Snow and Stars* is curated by Nancy Tousley as part of her acclaimed *One New Work* series. The exhibition will highlight the work of famed Calgary artist Ron Moppett.

"With this series, Nancy Tousley has been inviting artists from this region to present one new work

as the title indicates," Todd says. "Ron Moppett is a very important painter who has lived and worked in Calgary for a long time. He's incredibly influential. It's going to be one new work and a couple of other works he's bringing in as well."

There will be numerous programs happening at the Museum during the exhibitions to help further understand the works exhibited.

"There's going to be lots of different programs going on," Todd says. "There's going to be talks going on about Maxwell Bates, there's going to be one called *Culture and Cocktails*. With the Vivian Maier exhibition, we'll be screening *Finding Vivian Maier* a lot. There's going to be lots of ways to interact with the exhibits aside from just seeing them. There's going to be a launch party, which is going to be a super fun pay-what-you-can kickoff to the season and it will be on Sat. Feb. 8. That goes from 7:30–10:30 p.m. It's a great way to come see the shows too."

The exhibitions will run until May 24. For more information about the exhibitions and other programs happening at the Glenbow Museum visit [glenbow.org](http://glenbow.org).



**THE** **ROOM**

*living*

**MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES**  
10AM HOME ALONE  
12PM ELF  
2PM HAPPY FEET

**FREE SNACKS**  
POPCORN  
HOT CHOCOLATE  
Destress Activities

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11  
10am - 4pm @ That Empty Space

**Wellness Wednesday**

## Join our Election Staff Team

The Students' Union is hiring part-time staff for the 2020 General Election. Work on campus and gain real world experience. You'll be responsible for:

- Administrative work during Nomination Days
- Sharing information as part of the Election Street Team
- Assisting with Election Forums
- Supervising polling stations

Applicants must be undergraduate students. This position is part-time and runs Feb. 3 - Mar. 6. Training provided, flexible shifts.

For more information, visit our website at [www.su.ucalgary.ca/jobs](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/jobs)

**Application deadline is Friday, January 3, 2020**

To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume and class schedule to [elections@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:elections@su.ucalgary.ca).

## Committee of 10,000

**Are you part of a non-profit or charitable organization?**  
**Would you like to receive funding?**

The Committee of 10,000 collects a small levy from the 25,000 undergraduate students of the University of Calgary to give to charitable causes throughout the city. Comprised of students, the Committee of 10,000 gives away approximately \$20,000 annually, with up to \$5,000 per group. The intention of the committee is to build positive relations with the community outside of the university.

All applicants must be registered non-profit or charitable organizations. Applications from clubs registered with the Students' Union will not be considered.

**APPLY NOW!**  
Application deadline is March 13, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

All applications must arrive at the Students' Union by the deadline. Late applications will not be reviewed.

For an application, go to [www.su.ucalgary.ca/10000](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/10000)  
Questions? email [volunteer@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:volunteer@su.ucalgary.ca)



## PROVINCIAL POLITICS »

# Western alienation is a real problem but Wexit should not be

Jakarta Mackie  
Contributor

This fall, the Liberal election victory ignited talk of western separatism. Sadly, for the Liberals, their defeat in the West came too easily. If nothing else, the SNC-Lavalin scandal showed a Liberal commitment to Eastern Canada. Would Trudeau have ever done such terrible things just to save Albertan jobs? The loss of Calgary-based Encana to the United States earlier this month did not even see a statement from Prime Minister Trudeau.

The story of Alberta's alienation dates back to its origin. When Alberta joined Canada in 1905, Ottawa continued to control its natural resources. This was despite other provinces such as Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia having control over their own resources. It would not be until 1930, that Alberta would get its control. The battle sparked feelings of resentment over the possibility that the federal government might consider Alberta a second-class province. In 1980, the federal government would once again aim to control western resources. The National Energy Program (NEP) would decimate the Alberta economy. Albertans were left distrustful and alienated from the rest of Canada.

The 2019 federal election brought back these feelings. The Alberta economy is hurting. In November, more than 1,000 jobs were lost in Calgary in a single week. Many Albertans have decided now is the right time for the West to leave Canada. Western separatists have branded their movement Wexit, or "Western Exit." It remains unclear why any political group would want to associate itself with the turbulence of Brexit. Nonetheless, Wexit is not just an Albertan movement. Rather, it aims to cleave away the entirety of Western Canada from Eastern Canada.

Despite justified feelings of western alienation, Wexit would bring mutually assured destruction to all Canadians. To begin, Wexit would be an economic disaster. If Alberta and Saskatchewan were to separate, they would be a landlocked nation, with no better prospects of getting



Western alienation is a legitimate concern, but Wexit can be considered an extreme reaction.

TRICIA LIM

its oil to market than currently exists. It would have no trade agreements and have a difficult time getting labour from the rest of Canada. It seems unlikely that western British Columbia would "Wexit" with the prairie provinces and give the new nation a coastline. It would have to rebuild a military and spend millions on the creation of a federal government. It would be a legal nightmare.

The Wexit movement has also faced accusations of xenophobia, misinformation and climate change denial. The leader of the group, Peter Downing, has had a long history of politics in Alberta. In 2015, he

ran as a candidate for the Christian Heritage Party of Canada. A former RCMP member, he left the force in 2009. CBC has reported on his involvement with Alberta Fights Back, an organization which claimed Justin Trudeau's government was "normalizing pedophilia."

Spending any time on the Wexit Facebook groups yields a fascinating version of reality. Many comments incite violence against Canada's elected officials. Ironically, this is a group which seeks to uphold democracy. The push towards Wexit itself seems contrary to democratic principles. If Alberta

was unhappy with the 2019 election, the answer is not to create a one-party state.

With the Wexit movement planning on running candidates in the next federal election, it is uncertain what type of party it will be. Currently, the Wexit movement is one caught in the middle of right-wing populism and more moderate ideas. Some social media users have begun to speak up against the vitriol. If Wexit is to become a genuine political party, it is going to need some serious brand management.

The one thing that all Wexit supporters can agree on is a general

feeling of isolation, anger and frustration. These are feelings shared by many Albertans. Although Wexit may not be a serious option, these feelings of alienation should be taken seriously. The federal government has a long road ahead to quell feelings of western separatism. However, Alberta also has to make some changes. Climate change must be taken seriously. Cuts to education, police forces and social services are not the road to a more prosperous future. The federal government needs to understand the hardship Alberta faces. In return, Alberta needs to take better care of its future.



## SUGAR AND SPICE »



There are many myths about the sugar baby lifestyle.

courtesy KARA EADS/UNSPLASH

## Sugar and Spice: What is a sugar baby anyway?

Ms. Alice  
Columnist

There is a growing interest among students and young adults in the sugar baby lifestyle. In this economy, life is hard as a student and money gets tight. It's easy to say that you wish you had a sugar daddy, but do we really understand what that means? I took matters into my own hands and decided to try out the lifestyle. There are many connotations and myths about sugar babies that make people either judge the idea or fear it. Here are a few things to consider when fantasizing about this luxurious lifestyle.

### Is it a relationship?

Yes, it's a relationship of sorts. When I first went into this, I had no idea what to expect and felt quite foolish asking questions. I had no idea if there was a normal type of arrangement, or if it was dating. I found out that the sugar baby arrangement is one where all parties involved receive what they want. The sugar daddy or mama will be searching for anything from friendships, men-

torships, a travel buddy or someone to fool around with. Websites make finding an arrangement a bit easier as both parties will typically describe what they are looking for. Sugar baby relationships aren't always sexual — that is something I learned quickly. Although there will always be people out there who use it for that reason only, most of the time they want an emotional connection as well. My first sugar daddy made it clear that we were friends and perhaps could become friends with benefits, but believed that sex should be off limits.

### Who has control?

Often, I find the sugar baby has the most control in the situation. They have control over how quickly they want to move into the relationship, they choose what gifts they'll receive and what the partner will receive in return. I have learned that a sugar baby either needs to be assertive or learn to be. A sugar baby needs to know what they want. The relationship depends on how you look at it. I have decided to look at my sugar baby relationship as just another source of income. It is an

act more than a relationship. Since mine has a contract, I know this person will only be in my life for so many months, so there's no use in getting attached. I know of other sugar babies that do commit to their partners as relationships, though. I have learned to be dominant in the arrangement because I know that otherwise, I will not get what I want. Communication is key for this type of lifestyle. Your partner needs to know and be told what you want and what they would receive for it. It does take time — just like any relationship, you shouldn't be rude, especially if they are giving you things. There is a very big sense of respect for all parties involved. A sugar baby should respect their sugar daddy or mama's outside life just as they should respect yours. Both parties always have the right to refuse anything that they do not want to do. No one should ever feel that they have to do a certain thing to receive something. If the other cannot respect that, then it's time to leave that setup. I have always included in a contract or initial meeting that I have the right to say "No" and, if my wants are not met or respected,

I have the right to leave without warning.

### What's an appropriate age?

There is so much negativity around age when it comes to life as a sugar baby. I find that to be just as bad as shaming someone for any sexual preference. Of course, the age of the partners should always be within the ages of consent. There are ideas about how these setups can become abusive based on age and unfortunately, I cannot say that is a myth, but just like any relationship, abusers will abuse, and it is never the victim's fault. No sugar baby goes into this wanting to be hurt. When it comes to age, in my experience there is no set age group for sugar babies or sugar daddies or mamas. I have met sugar daddies that are still young adults, ones who are middle-aged and a few in their late 60s. Sugar babies can be young adults, middle-aged and older. I often find that the average age for sugar daddies are around 35–55 years old and sugar babies are anywhere from 18–27 years old. There is always somebody for everyone out there, it just depends on your prefer-

ences.

### What kind of gifts?

I say gifts because it's not a form of payment for a service, at least it shouldn't be. Gifts have always been varied for me. Often times, gifts will come as jewellery, expensive clothes, objects. Eventually in some cases gifts become monetary based on need. I've had offers to buy me a condo to myself with paid rent, offers to move into an apartment they don't use, offers for monthly vacations. Dates and outings are always paid for by my sugar daddy. I have found that with time, gifts get better.

With these considerations in mind, I hope this lifestyle makes more sense to you. In Canada, there has been an increase in considering this lifestyle among students, but it still isn't talked about very much. It's hard to know where to start or what to think of it all without direction. The lifestyle is not meant for everyone. If I could summarize it, being a sugar baby is a lot like dating, but with less involvement and more perks.



SPILL THE CHAI »

# Spill the Chai: On cracking the “coconut” stereotype

Aymen Sherwani  
Columnist

The majority of people from Calgary’s South Asian diaspora, in one way or another, are first and second-generation immigrants. We’re all condensed together under a false sense of familial community where every older woman is an “auntie,” and every family friend is a “cousin” because your real cousins are back in the subcontinent. By this logic, immigrant societies stick together not because we necessarily like each other, but because we feel like we have to in order for our unconventionally ethnic ways of life to be readily accepted. Except for the “coconuts,” of course. They’re anything but accepted.

**coconut**  
noun co-co-nut

1. The large nut of a tropical tree called a coconut palm. It grows inside a hard shell and contains a soft white substance that can be eaten and juice that can be drunk.
2. Referring to South Asian people, appearing visibly brown on the outside, but white on the inside.

If you’re a first-or second-generation South Asian immigrant, you’ve probably been called a coconut before by the brown kids who were shook

that you hadn’t watched *Kal Ho Na Ho* until you were 16, laughed at you for not speaking enough of your mother tongue or the fact that you’ve never eaten pani puri before. Growing up, I ate cereal on Saturday mornings while watching *Hannah Montana*, and I didn’t think much of it, but only because it didn’t affect me as much as it does now. I’ve come to understand that usually when I’m being called a coconut by another brown person, it’s with the implication that I’m some sort of cultural sellout, who’s compromised her traditional values and language in exchange for feeling accepted in western society. It screams “you are not South Asian enough, and so you are not good enough.”

Some South Asians treat identity as a competitive hierarchy, insinuating that your willingness to adapt to western culture means you are forgetting your roots. So you somehow score points for your ability to cook round rotis and lose points when you’re spotted by a disapproving auntie walking with your non-South Asian male friend while wearing a miniskirt. It doesn’t get better when these same people tell you that your skin is too dark, your thighs are too thick and that’s why “no one will want to arrange their son to marry you.” Thanks, marrying a guy who has an issue with me regardless of what I do

was right up there with going to law school and running for office.

Being called a coconut makes one feel like a pariah if they do anything unconventional to South Asian standards, whether it be pursuing something other than a random STEM field, or even a relationship with someone who isn’t also South Asian. The problem isn’t really not being good enough to fit in anywhere, as much as it is that the two different cultures that you belong to demand that you chose a

side — and it’s become a problem. The contradicting cultures we are raised in result in us being met with criticism wherever we go. While our white friends say that they wish they were “tan” like us, our aunties will comment that we’ve “become a little darker.”

In reality, being South Asian shouldn’t be a standard to strive to achieve because it’s something I already am regardless of how I act, speak or dress. The way I act, the

things I like to do for fun and the music I listen to do should not insinuate that I am somehow betraying my race. I didn’t exchange my ability to endure spicy food for my love for a pumpkin spice latte. I do both because I’m South Asian unapologetically and in my own way. It’s time we all stopped absorbing these toxic expectations of cultural homogeneity as the norm for how we’re supposed to act and embrace the diversity within our own culture for once.



It is important for communities to embrace their differences.

courtesy IRENE KREDENETS/UNSPLASH

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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## FILM »

## James Dean “resurrected” for new film

Carlie Vassos  
Contributor

A new movie is set to hit theatres Nov. 11, 2020. *Finding Jack*, adapted from Gareth Crocker's 2008 book, follows the story of an American soldier named Fletcher, who after losing his wife, goes off to the war in Vietnam. Who is one of the stars set to play a lead role, you ask? Well the role has been given to the late James Dean. While it would be impossible for the actual James Dean to appear in this film, having died in 1955, with the help of CGI technology, director-producers Anton Ernst, Tati Golykh and Donald A. Barton have “resurrected” the *East of Eden* and *Rebel Without a Cause* actor to take on this role. The directors explained that they “searched high and low for the perfect character to portray the role of Rogan, which has some extreme complex character arcs, and after months of research... decided on James Dean.” Ernst encourages the recent decision with support from Dean's family, stating “I think they would have wanted their family member's legacy to live on. That's what we've done here as well. We've brought a whole new generation of filmgoers

to be aware of James Dean.”

While there will be a whole new generation of filmgoers that will become aware of James Dean, the truth of the matter is that the CGI recreation will not be James Dean, but simply an illusion.

The director-producer's plan is to recreate a Dean with motion capture technology. In using this technology, it will allow the movie producers to create an almost seamless image of Dean, whose lines will be recorded by another actor. Motion capture has the ability to be successful in its portrayal of deceased actors, because it directly records and re-creates the way real people move, smile or furrow their brow, giving the final product all the qualities of authentic human movement. However, there is something about CGI technology that just doesn't feel very genuine.

In *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, this CGI technology was used on an actress who portrayed a young princess Leia, which digitally recreated the character. Although, many were astounded by the nearly identical likeness of Carrie Fisher, the digital recreation lacked a certain human authenticity. However, the fault found with CGI recreation may be

more than just the digital representation feeling off.

“Find in yourself those human things which are universal,” says a famous quote by American actor Sanford Meisner. With this quote in mind, I argue that the most human thing about an actor's performance is the emotion portrayed. Although CGI may create a nearly perfect replica of a person and their expressions, there is always going to be a need for the emotion an actor brings to the screen. Emotion breeds a sense of connection. For even for the digitally created humans, there will still need to be a human drive to those acting performances.

When it was reported in 2018 that a hologram of the music legend Prince, who died in 2016, would be joining Justin Timberlake on stage at the Superbowl, people flew into a rage. The idea of a digital image performing instead of the actual singer was disrespectful to Prince's legacy. In an interview in 1998, the singer himself stated that he would never want to be part of a digital technology collaboration and strongly disagreed with the idea of his image being made into a hologram.

“Everything is as it is, and it should be,” Prince stated. “If I was meant to jam with Duke Ellington,

we would have lived in the same age.”

Although James Dean may have died quite young, only acting in a handful of films, his legacy lives on because of what he created during his life, not recreations made during his afterlife.

Technology allows us to transform the ways in which movies are made, and preserve the legacy of our favourite entertainers. However, digital recreations are simply a fake copy of the real thing. The problem with digitally created James Dean is

not that CGI has recreated his likeness. The problem is that the person who was James Dean and the image which is being used is not the same thing, yet technology is blurring the distinction between the two. In 2019, this developing technology is now a reality, when in 1955 it would not even be a daydream.

The controversial point is that using CGI technology this way may put us one step further towards our image, so connected to individual identity, being used in ways completely out of our control.



James Dean will be cast in a November 2020 movie.

courtesy CREATIVE COMMONS

## BROADWAY »

Broadway in Calgary: *Waitress*

Shefali Rai  
Contributor

Ah, Broadway. A delight for the eyes, ears and hearts. There is no simpler pleasure than witnessing a heart-warming story unfold before your eyes. Fine acting, singing and even more impressive original song lists are enough to make anyone a die-hard fan. Calgarians who visited Broadway's *Waitress* during late November will readily agree. There would be little argument on the value of these uplifting musicals and theatrical performances, however there might be a question to raise regarding the delivery of such performances.

Living in the peak of the information age and with social media bombarding our minds, I appreciate the step back in time to watch a Broadway play or musical. As in the Shakespearean era, people would rejoice the day they visited the theatre and sipped on fancy bubbly, or ale for some of the commoners among the audience. These rituals still exist in our society today. Obviously, nowadays, we can turn on Netflix, order in some take-out, stay in our pajamas and watch the latest “Trending Now” movies. If that

was sufficient, movie theatres would shut down and claim bankruptcy. But, there are several components of going to the movies that are more than just sufficient — they're enough for a first date or family gathering or even a single ticket-for-one night out. It's for the overall experience, not just the entertainment.

*Waitress* played from Nov. 19-24 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets may be pricey to shows like these, but you're paying for more than just the performers and the show. You're paying for the rush of watching something live, the excitement of getting dressed up and making a fancy night of it, supporting talented artists and for some, the Instagram stories. If digital copies were released earlier, then fewer patrons would visit the touring *Waitress* entertainers. There's something about sitting with an audience, feeling the emotions in the room and the vibrations of the sound in a well engineering theatre that can't be paralleled by watching a recorded version on your TV screen.

For those of you that missed *Waitress* this time around, it received wonderful critical appraisals, as do most Broadway shows. It's a story about a



Broadway can be expensive, but the experience is worth it.

courtesy VLAH DUMITRI/UNSPLASH

waitress who enters a baking contest, which might just be the fresh start she needs to change her currently dull life. It's lead by a strong female performer and an all-female creative team, seven-time Grammy nominee, Sara Bareilles, wrote original music and lyrics for this show and Tony Award winner Diane Paulus offered direction for the show.

Fret not — even though *Waitress*

has moved on to Edmonton to continue its Canadian tour, *Dear Evan Hansen* will be visiting Calgary in February 2020. If you haven't yet treated yourself to a Broadway show or need to buy yourself a New Year's present, I highly recommend visiting a Broadway musical. My first experience was in the arts capital of North America — New York City. I still remember feel-

ing overjoyed for the *Wicked* tickets my mother had bought for our mini trip to NYC. The magnificent Broadway theatre, the acrobatics of the performers, the beautiful melodies and the sensational sights were something I'll hold dear in my heart for a lifetime. And sharing that experience with my favourite person made that memory so much fonder.



## LIFESTYLE »

HEALTHY HOLIDAY HABITS »

## Finding positivity while taking a much-needed break

Lauren Olson  
Contributor

They, whoever “they” is, say that November is one of the toughest months to get through, and I will concur that this past November was a doozy. However, just when you think you’re safe, enter December. I get it, you have at least three final assignments, term papers and in-class presentations during the last week of class and then you have weeks of exams. With the inevitable sense of things hanging over you, it sure makes it tough to stay positive and even really relax at all, let alone even think about the fact that Christmas is only a few weeks away. I’ve been a little grinchy myself this year, I’ll admit, but I have been making some conscious efforts to lift my spirits. It’s my pleasure to share some tips and tricks with you now that will hopefully light a little fire under your booty to get pumped to finish the term strong and start kindling that Christmas spirit at the same time.

**Do one thing at a time:**

I know this is tough because there’s a million things to do, but to avoid becoming overwhelmed, I have found that making a super-conscious choice to only think about one thing at a time and work on one

project at once ends up really helping me focus. Otherwise, you can sit down with all the good intentions to tackle everything, then sit there not knowing where to start and end up on Instagram for two hours. Seriously, slot your assignments into time increments and commit to that one thing for that time period and prepare to be amazed at how much you get done.

**Work in shorter intervals and take breaks:**

Now, I do not mean work for 20 minutes and then go sit on the couch for an hour. I mean, schedule your breaks the same way you’re scheduling your assignments. Knowing you have a break scheduled will trick your mind into staying focused during the “work time.” It sounds elementary and silly, perhaps, but trust me on this, because it made a huge difference for me. I found that the intervals that worked really well for me were 30–40 minute work “sprints” followed by a 10 minute break, then right back into another 30–40 minutes of work and so on. Our brains can’t stay focused for much longer than 40 minutes without wandering or losing some steam. I found that harnessing my attention this way helped me to be super on task while I was working and those 10-minute breaks to go to the bathroom, get a

coffee or do another little task, was enough to reset without getting off track.

**Incorporate something festive that you actually love into your everyday:**

I know the holidays are a tough time for a lot of people for a lot of reasons. I in no way want to compound those feelings of stress, but I do think we all have a little part of us somewhere that loves something about this time of year. Getting a little festive amongst your exams can boost your energy to power through and give you something to look forward to. Check out the city’s Christmas markets and get inspired by the hand-crafted work of local artists and crafters. Cozy up with a ‘nog and watch a cheesy Christmas movie in the evening. Maybe it’s the baking you like to do, or decorating your house. I wasn’t feeling very Christmas-y until I went to the mall the other day and saw all the decorations and the kids taking pictures with Santa. Maybe you really don’t like any of it, in which case power to you, my only advice would be to not indulge in hate for the season. Instead, consider accepting that there is a chance for some personal growth being offered, and maybe go for a walk downtown, through a neighbourhood or a park and check out all the lights. There’s something pretty great about the lights.

**Take some pressure off gifts and other holiday-related expenses:**

I think a lot of the stress and dislike for this time of year comes from the inherent cost of the season. Somehow, gifts have become the least of a lot of people’s worries, because on top of gifts there are parties and dinners with work, friends, family — it adds up, I know! I also know that we’re all generally great people and the fact is, we like to buy gifts for — and spoil — the people we love. If you’re anything like me, if I find something I think somebody will absolutely love, I really want to buy it for them, even if I’m way over budget already. It’s almost like getting overly into the spirit and setting yourself up for deep financial and health regret in January. Resist! I used to spend all the money and tell myself I would deal with it later, and that’s how debt happens. Calm your credit card, make a budget and stick to it. Find the deals, get creative and don’t over indulge. Also, say “no” to the parties you don’t really want to go to. You don’t have to do everything.

**Stay healthy-ish:**

This piggybacks on the last item a little bit. There is no question this season is a time of indulgence. There’s baking. There are big meals and dinners featuring all the goodies we don’t really have the rest of

the year. There are drinks everywhere. I’m all about treating myself and I think it’s healthy to do so, but let’s keep it together a little bit. You know you’ll feel awful if you are drinking every day. You know you’ll feel bad about yourself when your jeans are too tight as you dress up for New Year’s Eve. Exercise some self-control. You deserve the treats, yes. But you also deserve to feel amazing, healthy and vibrant. Bingeing on alcohol and sugary treats for an entire month is going to dim your natural glow and the radiance of your being. Remember that information and let yourself have fun without overdoing it.

I love the idea of keeping positive through December so that January isn’t as much about regrets and resolutions. December is a time to reflect on how much you’ve grown in the last year and how much you’ve accomplished to get to the end of your semester. The roads you’ve taken and challenges you’ve overcome have brought you to a well-deserved break and time to spend with the people you love. It doesn’t have to be a struggle. Let the air out slowly and be kind to yourself this exam and holiday season. You’re worth it and you’re doing great. Best wishes and all the blessings for your holidays and into the New Year. It is a new decade, folks, and that’s pretty badass.

DECK THE HALLS WITH DICTION »

## Frosty sills and festive scripts for the holiday bookworm

Haskirat Grewal  
Contributor

The holidays are a great time to read as you can cozy up in front of a fireplace while enjoying a nice warm cup of hot chocolate. Being a bookworm, I try to keep my eyes peeled for new books that I can read over my holiday break. Books are a great way to pass the time and can keep you company while you travel. It’ll come as no surprise that most holiday books center around romance, family and miracles! The holidays truly are a time to step back, reflect and enjoy a festive read.

**The Royal Holiday by Jasmine Guillory:**

This contemporary romance book is a must-read for the holiday season. This is Guillory’s fourth book and can stand alone. Jasmine Guillory is a New York Times bestselling author. *The Proposal* and *The Royal*

*Holiday* revolve around Vivian Forest — an untravelled woman. She gets the chance to go to England with her daughter and is swept up in a whirlwind romance. With romance being my favorite genre, I can’t wait to read this book!

**Christmas Shopaholic by Sophie Kinsella:**

Sophie Kinsella is the author behind the Shopaholic series, which has ten books as of 2019. *Confessions of a Shopaholic* is a romantic comedy adapted from the first two books in the series. This was one of my favorite movies growing up. The storyline involves Becky Bloomwood and the challenges she faces when hosting Christmas for her family. She has a list of demands from her family, alongside a surprise visit from an old boyfriend. There is mystery, suspense and romance. The ultimate trio!

**10 Blind Dates by Ashley Elston:**

Gingerbread tea and a great read.

courtesy PAOLA CHAAMA/UNSPASH

There are many of us who may have great blind date stories. Some of us may have even met originally while on a blind date. *10 Blind Dates* is a book about Sophie’s romantic holiday. After being heartbroken, she visits her grandparents for Christmas, and they send her on blind dates. Amidst the chaos, Sophie’s old boyfriend shows up and she is faced with old feelings. Follow Sophie’s

dates and read her final decisions. Ashley Elston’s new book has made a worldwide impression and has already been optioned for a movie!

**Let It Snow by Nancy Thayer:**

Nancy Thayer has written 31 novels! If you like this book, you will love all her other novels. *Let It Snow* is about Antonioni — a toy shop owner who struggles to stay financially

afloat. With the help of the landlord’s granddaughter and her very handsome uncle, Christina may just find love and discover a warm heart. Set in Nantucket, there is no better magical place for holiday romance. If you are a holiday romantic like me, then this book should be on your reading list!

**25 Days ‘til Christmas by Poppy Alexander:**

Poppy Alexander’s first book revolves around Kate Potter. Kate used to love Christmas, but after a traumatic event, she has had a change of heart. But Kate still wants to plan the best Christmas for her son. During the novel, her path crosses with a man who is even more bitter. If you are feeling down this holiday season then this book may cheer you up — it is a feel-good story. If you’re looking for a deep, complex yet relatable book for the holiday season, then this is the one!



## GIFT WRAPPING 101 »

# Three gift wrapping tips and tricks

Mariah Wilson  
Photo Editor

**B**uying gifts for everyone on your list is hard enough, but it's a whole 'nother story to wrap your gifts to a Pinterest-standard of artistry. Between odd-shaped packaging and bows that have seen better days, it's hard to nail the presentation. But don't fear — we've got some tips and tricks that will make gift wrapping bearable and dare I say, enjoyable, this holiday season.

## Put odd-shaped packages in boxes:

Some of the most difficult things to wrap are electronics. I can't count the number of times the razor-sharp edges of the plastic packaging or the jagged protrusions from an oddly-shaped toy have completely torn my wrapping paper, mid-wrap. These items are frustrating to work with and their wrapping never looks good underneath the Christmas tree.

Instead, I recommend finding a recycled box that leaves for about an inch of room on all sides of the gift as well as using tissue paper to cushion it. Once you feel your gift is secure in its bed of tissue paper, tape the lid to the box on all four sides to ensure that everything stays put while you wrap it. This is also a great tip for any clothing or accessories that have a hard shape to work with. Also when buying clothes, make sure to ask for a clothing gift box as most stores have them on-hand for free.

## Pick a theme:

You want your wrapping job to stand out from the crowd — but not as an eyesore. Going wild with red and green or using tinsel galore is not a great theme to work with. For a simple design and traditional look, I recommend buying brown craft paper with red twine and adding sprigs of pine or mistletoe as embellishments for a traditional look. To mimic a winter wonderland, use white, silver and blue. I would slightly change up the design of each package so that you can have alternating accent colours and decorations. If your gifts need to look like they're straight from Santa's workshop, I'd recommend either buying tasteful patterned paper with a strong accent colour or playing off the combination of red and gold.

If you're having a hard time finding cohesive embellishments and wrapping paper that fit into one pattern, I would recommend visiting Walmart or Canadian Tire

where you can find thematic gift wrapping sets with all of the bells and whistles you'll need. And, if you find ribbons and bows *passé*, then you can head to your local dollar store or a Michael's where you'll find an array of Christmas baubles, ornaments and bells that will spruce up your gift wrapping.

## Measure out your wrapping paper:

I cannot stress this enough — the cardinal rule of gift wrapping is to be meticulous. After preparing your gifts for wrapping and picking a non-cliché theme, the next and ultimately most important step is to wrap them with the appropriate amount of paper. Using too much paper is wasteful and using too little can cause huge holes in your presentation, with ugly patch jobs being used to keep the present a secret from prying eyes.

Make sure that you start on a clean, flat surface — a kitchen table or countertop free of crumbs, stickiness and other related food messes is ideal). Roll a portion of your wrapping paper out and place your item in the middle of the section. Gently fold over the free sides of the wrapping paper to see if the wrapping paper reaches the middle of the gift — note any sides that aren't shaped the same. Move the item around accordingly until each side is even and reaches just over the middle of the gift. Now, cut the wrapping paper so that it's the same length on the uncut side as it is on the free side that you were using to measure. Afterward, you should have a piece that fits your object perfectly, with a little wiggle room.

## Bonus sustainable gift wrapping tips:

Always try to reuse bows, ribbons and other decorative supplies from previous years. Most of these items will continue to look great for years to come. When they've finally reached their lifespan, they can be recycled through Calgary's blue-bin program.

Ditch wrapping paper completely and use an old tote bag or a reusable wrapping bag. Now, your two-in-one gift will pay it forward by giving the receiver something to reuse for their own gift giving. Kudos to you if you can sew your own reusable wrapping bag from old fabric lying around.

Cut out the graphics and artwork from old Christmas cards to use as present tags. You can hole punch the top, add twine and place them underneath the bow.





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## SPORTS »

DINOS DELIVER »

## Dinos end drought and win the Vanier Cup

David Song  
Contributor

On Saturday, Nov. 24, the University of Calgary Dinos football team ended a 24-year championship drought in Laval, capturing their first Vanier Cup since 1995. MVP quarterback Adam Sinagra threw two touchdown passes, and a defence that had been clutch all year stepped up once more in a 27-13 triumph over the Montreal Carabins. It was the perfect ending for Sinagra and seven other fifth-year players, including Hunter Karl and Nick Statz — all of whom have played their final game in a Dinos jersey.

"I still haven't processed the fact that I'm done here at U of C," admitted Statz, a defensive back and a sixth-round pick of the Calgary Stampeders in the 2019 CFL draft. "You come back from a trip like that and you're thrown into school right away, but I'm really happy with the way our season ended. Being a fifth-year guy, it's obviously special to end on a note like that."

The Dinos had last been to the Vanier Cup in 1995, where they lost a 31-26 heartbreaker to the perennial powerhouse Laval Rouge et Or. This time, it would not be Laval standing in Calgary's way, but rather the Carabins, who had vanquished Laval 25-10 in the Dunsmore Cup on Nov. 9. The Dinos had never played Montreal before the 2019 Vanier Cup, and they would be challenged to solve a defence that had held both Laval and Acadia to a combined 10 points in the playoffs.

Receiver Hunter Karl, a seventh-round pick of the Edmonton Eskimos, says that learning from prior experience was the path to victory against the stout Carabins defence. "They actually played very similar to [the Saskatchewan Huskies] defensively. We were able to use what we knew about [the Huskies] and correlate it to the film that we watched when Montreal played teams like Laval."

A vital cog in the Dinos attack this year has been newcomer Pat Sheahan, who assumed the role of offensive coordinator after his son Ryan was named head coach of the Guelph Gryphons. Under the elder Sheahan's leadership, the Dinos have sported a more balanced offence that is less reliant on big plays, but more committed to clock management and running the ball.

"Ryan let us run. He let the horses run. Pat came in and was more



The Dinos light up the field with their first Vanier Cup since 1995.

courtesy MATHIEU BELANGER

of a shepherd," Karl explained. "The biggest thing we looked at after each game was how many first downs we had, and our time of possession. We knew if we were successful in those two categories as well as the turnover battle, that we'd be successful every game. As long as we hold on to the ball, the big plays will come."

There certainly were growing pains for the Dinos throughout the year. Ugly regular season losses to Saskatchewan (15-29) and Manitoba (29-43) exposed weaknesses and areas of adjustment. Yet the Dinos came back with a vengeance, outlasting Manitoba in an epic 47-46 Canada West semi-final that saw them give up a 17-point lead in the fourth quarter. The following week, they smothered Saskatchewan to win the Hardy Cup, 29-4.

"At the beginning of the year, we didn't have all our pieces together with injuries and stuff, so I think a lot of the experts really underrated us," remarked Statz. "They didn't realize the potential we had. When we lost to [Saskatchewan], we ended up beating them in the Hardy Cup. The playoff game against Manitoba taught us to play the full sixty minutes. All those things just taught us how to play together, and I think it really worked out."

The Dinos have proven to be a resilient bunch. From the 2016

Vanier Cup loss to a brutal 43-18 Hardy Cup defeat to the Huskies last year, Karl and Statz have had to endure their fair share of disappointment along with their teammates. In Karl's mind, these kinds of losses have played a vital role in growing and strengthening the team, making this year's Vanier triumph all the more satisfying.

"You have to lose to learn, to a certain extent," the fifth-year re-

ceiver spoke candidly. "Especially for the young guys. When you come into a program that's been so successful, it's tough to know how to lose and how to come back from that."

"A part of losing is that it humbles you," Statz added. "But it also makes you hungry. In those games that we lost, especially in the Vanier Cup in 2016, we had a really good game, and [Laval] had this

crazy blocked punt at the end. This guy went up like, fifteen feet in the air, and you can't really prepare for those things. You can't discredit them for winning, but it definitely makes you more hungry to come back later on."

This year's Vanier Cup is the fifth in Dinos history, but the first for every athlete on the team as well as for Head Coach Wayne Harris. And as elated as the players are to go out on top, ultimately they view the accomplishment as something far more significant than a feather in their individual caps.

"As nice as it is to be a fifth-year [and have this] be your going out, it's not about us," Karl said. "It's about the program, and everyone that's involved in the program and in the community as well. I'm just very happy for them and happy that we could be a part of that history."

"Seeing Coach Harris drink from the Cup and get all excited like that, those are things you're gonna remember for the rest of your life," Statz concluded. "To us, it's those memories that will last forever."

Both Karl and Statz have been signed by their respective CFL teams and look to continue their football journeys in the professional ranks. They leave behind one of the most competitive programs in Canadian college football, one that will likely challenge for another Vanier Cup in the near future. With Harris and Sheahan returning to lead the ship, the future is bright for the Dinos.



courtesy DAVID MOLL



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## HUMOUR »

## STUDENT SUCCESS »

## Student miraculously aces final exams after snowboarding accident

Rachael Grothe  
Concussed and capable

Third-year engineering student Sarah Gnugent certainly wasn't expecting more than a few fun memories from her snowboarding trip over reading break, but what she received was a minor traumatic brain injury and, surprisingly, straight As on all of her final exams.

"My head and neck hurt a lot after I fell on the hill, but then when classes started again — I felt like I'd unlocked something in my brain. I don't know a better way to describe it," Gnugent shared after news of her skyrocketing grades spread throughout campus.

Gnugent's professors are reportedly at a loss. Following the break, Gnugent submitted all of her final projects well before the posted due dates and then completed all of her scheduled exams in record time, a stark change in Gnugent's academic performance from earlier in the semester.

"Suddenly I felt way more motivated and then everything was easy," Gnugent continued. "Course content suddenly made sense, I could focus on studying for more than an hour at a time and, most of all, I stopped stressing about school like I usually do."

Gnugent's roommate, Emma,

expressed mild concern.

"She started picking up more shifts at her job on top of everything else. She was working 35 hours a week, studying at least 15 hours a week for final exams, getting 8 hours of sleep every night and still somehow found time to hang out with me and her other friends regularly. It was like she was everywhere at once. She used to eat microwave-burritos for dinner, but now she makes salads every night, protein shakes every morning and she said she wants to work out more often. Where does she find the time?"

Campus specialists at the Wellness Centre and Sports Medicine Centre explained that this neurological event is unparalleled in their fields. Gnugent experienced what some would describe as a "cognitive restructuring," resulting in better brain function, elevated productivity and a more consistent, optimistic outlook on life.

"I'm not sure what advice to give to people who haven't had their brain functioning altered," said Gnugent, when questioned about advice for success. "Just wake up on time, get to class early, attend every class, do all the assigned readings, study on campus, meet with your professors, keep a detailed planner and never miss a deadline. Then school is easy!"



JUSTIN QUAINANCE

## How do students without concussions do this school thing?

Gnugent's productivity has reportedly continued to manifest in her academic and personal life as she shared her extracurricular projects ahead of the winter semester — volunteering at a local animal shelter, learning a second language,

organizing an environmental protest and planning a campaign for Students' Union president.

"I don't understand all the sudden attention," said Gnugent's father, appearing to remain unimpressed. "I didn't expect anything

less than straight As since she started grade school. Back in my day, Sarah's mother and I owned our own house by her age and we didn't owe half the student debt that she does to the government. A concussion isn't going to fix that!"

## HOROSCOPES »

## What is your New Year's resolution?

Frankie Hart  
Solemn Sagittarius

**Sagittarius**  
(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)  
After failing to reach your 2019 goal of becoming TikTok famous, you will resolve to make more reasonable resolutions.

**Capricorn**  
(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)  
You'll resolve that the year 2020 is all about securing that bag, aha.

**Aquarius**  
(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)  
You'll resolve to start meditating regularly in the new year, but will drop it once you realize that meditation isn't supposed to mean taking six-hour naps.



TRICIA LIM

**Pisces**  
(Feb. 19 – March 20)  
Your main goal for next year is to cut unnecessary spending. To fulfil this resolution, you'll stop eating at MacHall to add to your *Fortnite* microtransaction budget.

**Aries**  
(March 21 – April 19)  
You will resolve to "glow up" in 2020 — and then immediately give up after finding out just how expensive a 10-step Korean skincare routine is.

**Taurus**  
(April 20 – May 20)  
Next year, you'll resolve to exercise more. That is not a typo.

**Gemini**  
(May 21 – June 20)  
You should resolve to clean your AirPods. That's not from the stars, that's from me. Nasty.

**Cancer**  
(June 21 – July 22)  
You'll commit to learning how to "woah," much later than is sensible.

**Leo**  
(July 23 – Aug. 22)  
Next year, you want to get a new hobby. Vlogging is probably not what your

friends and family had in mind.

**Virgo**  
(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)  
You'll resolve to quit juuling. Not because of the vaping-related deaths, but because you're not into the vanilla flavour anymore.

**Libra**  
(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)  
You want to be more spontaneous! Do you know what would be really spontaneous? Venmoing a Sagittarius \$100.

**Scorpio**  
(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)  
You'll resolve to develop a healthy sleeping pattern by dropping out of school. It's just that easy!



CAMPUS SIGHTINGS »

# Long-lost classmate makes appearance for final

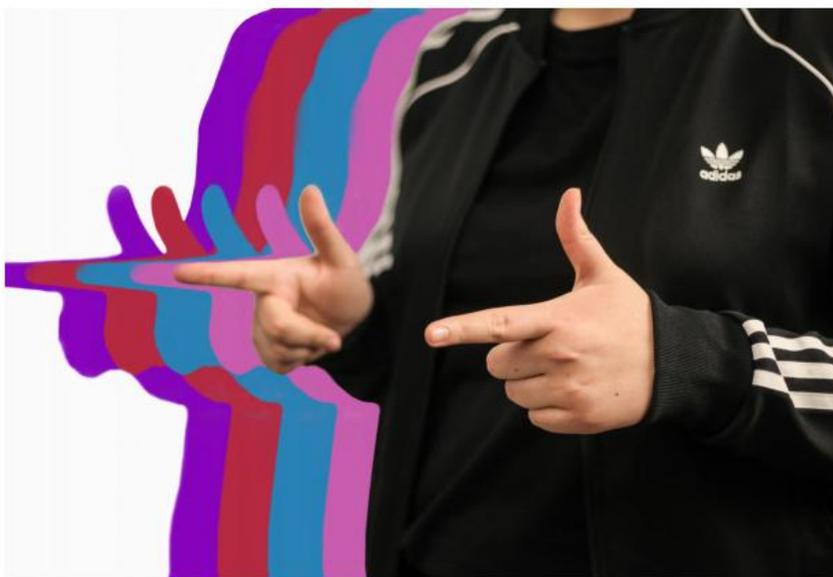
Mitali Pradhan  
Student Seeker

Second-year student Stephanie Wick expressed concern for her missing classmate, Patrick Wood, after not seeing him in any of their classes following the first week.

"Patrick and I really hit it off in the first week of classes," said Wick. "And then he just disappeared."

This was a common theme among several students. Theatres in which there was a battle for seats previously were now suspiciously quiet. The professor appeared to not notice the change — attendance taking at least half the class time previously. Wick, who had a final group assignment due with Patrick, was particularly adamant about getting in touch.

"I never got his last name or his phone number, but I was trying to start a study group," Wick said. "Not only did I email every single Patrick using a U of C email, I started designing missing posters around MacHall."



MARIAH WILSON

**Ay, what'd I miss?**

The remaining students, more jealous than concerned for their missing classmates, finally got answers during the final. Students who had not been to class in months,

suspected of having dropped out, suddenly showed up for the final.

"I honestly wondered if they even remembered the course name. But honestly, I think they did better

on the final than I did even though I went to class," Wick said.

Several students asked their missing classmates where they had been and wondered what

brought them back.

"I helped stop the fighting for seats in a crammed theatre — I was just helping the rest of the students out!" argued Wood.

Several of the missing students echoed Wood's sentiments. Battling for seats and sitting on the stairs disrupted the entire class — and these missing students were valiantly trying to help their classmates. Upon further investigation, using Wood's Instagram as a source, it was discovered that he had in fact been vacationing in New York for the majority of the semester.

"It's not my fault Expedia decided to put up the cheapest flights and hotel deals during the semester. My choices are limited by my wallet," said Wood.

Other classmates, jealous of his retreat, were curious as to why he was back for the final after missing the majority of the course.

"I still want to get to know my classmates, and there is no better conversation starter than asking what the professor's name is during the final."



"There was no way for me to prepare myself for what I experienced in Uganda. You never really know what you're getting yourself into until you're in it. My family was worried about me going, but I think this really speaks to how biased we are when we talk about Uganda, and African countries in general. The narrative surrounding Africa tends to be quite negative. I didn't want to perpetuate this view so I knew I needed to go see it for myself.

There's so much diversity in Uganda. I was blown away when I learned that most Ugandans can speak four or five different languages. But what sticks with me from my time in Uganda are the strong connections and friendships I built, and just how nice the people are. People who say Canadians are too polite definitely haven't met someone from Uganda."



HUMANS OF UCALGARY

The Gauntlet has teamed up with Humans of UCalgary, a campus club inspired by Humans of New York, to share university students' often unheard stories.

"I'm very passionate about music. I play piano and guitar. I picked up playing piano when I was quite young, but the guitar I started playing on the side just for fun. For me, they're very different. The different feelings and emotions that I can express makes them incomparable. While I'm playing guitar, it's very personal and feels like I'm writing a diary entry. However, when I play piano, it's more like I'm writing a fairytale, taking me far away. Knowing how to play both has really helped me understand and connect with myself and others better."

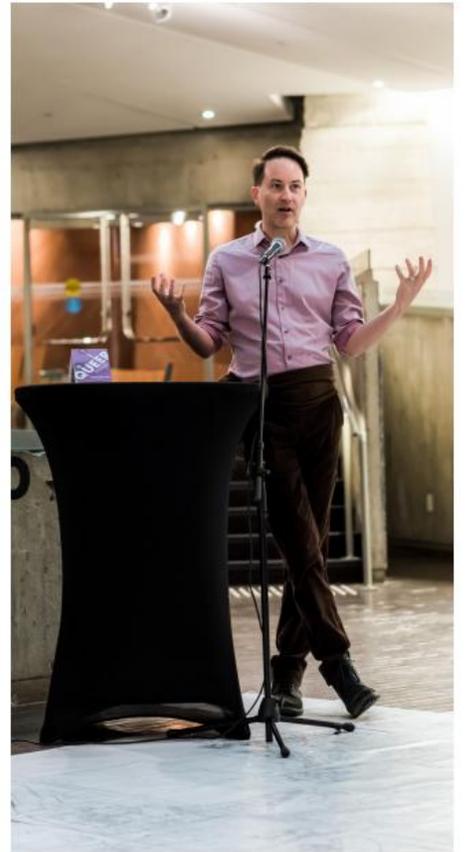


@HUMANSOFUCALGARY



CALGARY ATLAS PROJECT »

# Photo recap: Queer Map Launch



PHOTOS BY HESAM REZAEI

CROSSWORD »

## 2019 Memes Crossword

Frankie Hart

Miserably moustache-less

ACROSS:

- 4. Woman who actually fell off a trail.
- 6. Ultra-powerful cartoon character.
- 8. Number one activity at Area 51.
- 9. What if we kissed in MacHall? Haha, just kidding.
- 10. Salmon transport.
- 12. What are you doing in my crossword?
- 13. This drink creates mixed feelings.

DOWN:

- 1. Associated with Hydro Flasks, scrunchies and reusable straws.
- 2. Name of cat being yelled at.
- 3. Keep an eye out for these while your kids are playing.
- 5. Greeting to those born before 1965.
- 7. The internet's most recent obsession is this little guy.
- 11. Asphyxiating anime character. Congratulations to Carmen Caplette for being the first

student to submit last issue's crossword!  
Send a photo of a completed crossword to [humour@thegauntlet.ca](mailto:humour@thegauntlet.ca).

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

LAST ISSUE'S CROSSWORD »

