

GAUNTLET



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Ed McCauley takes helm as ninth UCalgary president

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Troy is from Pincher Creek. Okay, cool, why are you telling me this again? We get it, Troy 'the boy,' yeah, your parents grew up on a farm. Do you really think that makes you better than us city-slickers?

"Obama voice" You're cancelled and that's it chief."



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The Gauntlet is the official student publication of the University of Calgary, published by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute. Opinions contained herein are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire Gauntlet staff. Editorials are chosen by the majority of the editorial board. The Gauntlet is a forum open to all U of C

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

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

The Cover

Design by Tricia Lim

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Presidential transition: An opportunity

It's a new era at the University of Calgary as a new face is sitting in the president's seat after nearly a decade.

Ed McCauley officially took the university's reins on Jan. 1, becoming the U of C's ninth president and vice-chancellor. Previously, McCauley was the institution's vice-president of research.

It's easy to highlight the many missteps of previous president Elizabeth Cannon's leadership at the U of C, which began in 2010 — for starters, the almost \$5 million spent on executive office upgrades including the infamous glass staircase or her relationship with pipeline company Enbridge that was at best dubiously ethical and at worst a blatant conflict of interest.

But the appointment of a new president is a rare opportunity to look forward. On average, presidents at the U of C have served for just under seven years. That means that many students at the school will never get the opportunity to be a part of the administrative transition process, a period which has profound effects on a university's culture and values.

Students coming back to the U of C after winter break have a nearly once-in-a-decade opportunity to voice their collective interests to a fresh administration. Even though McCauley had been an administrator at the U of C for years before achieving the presidential role, he'll be new to this position and will be looking to put his stamp on the university. There is no better time to express your thoughts on what you think the future of your post-secondary institution should look like than right now.

This is especially true because the student body as a whole is currently better positioned to engage with administrative matters than upon first entering the U of C. During your first semester, you probably couldn't have cared less who Elizabeth Cannon was, given the overwhelming experience of entering a new environment and learning how to survive in it. But now, almost all of the 30,000-plus students here have lived experiences on this campus and can be an active part of this transition of power.

The fanfare surrounding McCauley's ap-



Illustration by Tricia Lim

pointment means that students have a better introduction to him than they likely did to Cannon upon starting their degree. But you may be less familiar with the top decision-making body at the U of C: the Board of Governors (BOG). Twenty-one members sit on this board, comprised of administrators, alumni, faculty, staff, members of the public and students.

Only two undergraduate students sit on the BOG, ostensibly representing the collective interests of the over-25,000 undergraduates who study at the U of C. While both of these students — elected BOG student-at-large Frank Finley and Student's Union president Sagar Grewal — are happy to hear students' concerns, this represents an unacceptable bare minimum level of access to the university decision-making process, which chiefly affects students.

At the *Gauntlet*, we planned to mark the start of McCauley's term and help introduce the campus to him by running a comprehensive question-and-answer session with him in our New Year's issue. But we were stonewalled by the U of C's media relations department, which is further emblematic of the institution's failings of transparency.

Culturally, the greatest shift since Cannon began her term is the university's intense focus on research and entrepreneurialism. There's nothing inherently wrong with that, but the U of C's marketing has made it apparent that they want the post-secondary

experience to teach students how to adapt to and profit from a system that actively harms us and our futures. Higher education should encourage students to experiment with new ideas, meet others with similar aspirations and work together to fight for a better future. Instead, we're being encouraged to commodify ourselves and compete with our classmates in order to survive.

But there is strength in a unified voice and an engaged student body, and we can use that strength to let McCauley and the BOG know that we don't want our education to be just a means to a stable end. We need to show that we are listening and that we want to voice our interests for the direction of this institution.

Open BOG meetings only take place once every few months. But that just means we have plenty of time to organize our collective interests and prepare to voice them with unity. On March 22 at 8 a.m., students should show up to the U of C boardroom — room 167 of the Administration building — and show members of the board that though they run our university, the student body is the beating heart of the institution and we will make ourselves heard.

We believe strongly in the value of post-secondaries to improve life for all, on campus, in Calgary and beyond. Let's show administrators that we are listening, we care and we want more.

Gauntlet editorial board

Demolitions, fee changes on the docket at Dec. 14 BOG meeting

Story by Jason Herring and Matty Hume

Living in residence next year will be more expensive, but fees for ancillary services like parking and the meal plan will stay the same.

Those were among the results of a series of motions pertaining to fees approved by the University of Calgary Board of Governors (BOG) at their Dec. 14 meeting.

Residence costs will increase by 2.5 per cent for the 2019–20 academic year, equivalent to a rent hike of \$19–26 per month for single-occupancy units. The increases are expected to generate about \$400,000 in additional revenue for the U of C. Excluded from the hike are the Varsity Courts family housing units.

The complete *Residence Strategy* reported at the Dec. 14 meeting included a wealth of key components in addition to the cost increases. Namely, the *Residence Strategy Update* recommended two significant actions to form a foundation for ongoing changes to residence on campus: the demolition of the Glacier and Olympus halls and the conversion of Hotel Alma to a residence building.

According to the report, Glacier and Olympus, which were built in 1988, would require a \$9-million capital investment over the next three to four years to remain viable. The strategy recommends that the two buildings, which have a combined 226 apartment-style beds, be demolished in the summer of 2020.

The report highlights that maintaining residence capacity in conjunction with the Glacier and Olympus demolitions as a primary factor for the conversion of Hotel Alma to a residence space with 223 suite-style beds. The report also mentions that “analysis shows operating Alma as a hotel or residence will provide the same financial performance, an annual loss of approximately \$400,000.”

Further, the *Residence Strategy Update* cites external competition with the University District developments as a factor for Hotel Alma’s conversion. According to the report, University District has approved the construction of a 156-room hotel scheduled to open its doors in fall 2020. Currently, Hotel

Alma has a 58-per-cent occupancy rate.

The incoming external hotel is not the only source of competition considered within the *Residence Strategy Update*. The report notes that the university is at a “competitive disadvantage” against external housing, largely due to incentives like free internet and referral discounts. Within two kilometres of campus, 2,003 units are already approved, being constructed or under consideration for approval by the City of Calgary.

“Analysis shows operating Alma as a hotel or residence will provide the same financial performance, an annual loss of approximately \$400,000.”

— 2018 Residence Strategy Update, to the U of C Board of Governors

Other financial considerations in the *Residence Strategy Update* include a recommendation to increase the rate of standard double rooms in Kananaskis and Rundle by \$1,000 annually. The report justifies the recommendation by highlighting that the fee for the double units “is very low compared to the single.”

The BOG voted not to increase the cost of parking on campus, with accompanying documentation noting rate increases in 2018–19 as a reason for stagnation. However, new rules mean that those living in the Varsity Courts units will now have to pay monthly fees to park their car at their residence. Previously, parking charges applied to all other residences units. The new fee will be phased

in for Varsity Courts residents, who will only pay a third of the full monthly parking rate in 2019–20.

Also staying stagnant is the cost of purchasing the residence meal plan, which is mandatory for all first-year students living in residence. However, the amount of money students receive in “Food Funds” — which can be used to purchase food from outside the Dining Centre — will decrease from \$800 to \$600 in 2019–20.

The U of C recently converted their meal plan to a buffet-style, ‘all-you-care-to-eat’ configuration run by Aramark, an American food services company. Aramark has recently come under fire in the United States amid a series of food safety and labour issues, particularly involving Aramark’s contracts with over 500 prisons. In early December, New York University students occupied their school’s library lobby to demand the university end its partnership with the company.

Also approved at the BOG meeting were tuition rates for the 2019–20 academic year, which will remain identical to this year’s tuition in accordance with the province’s ongoing tuition freeze.

However, the school opted to increase tuition for one program exempt from the tuition freeze — the executive master of business administration (eMBA) program. The board voted to raise tuition for this program to \$75,000 for the two-year program for 2019–20, an 8.7-per-cent increase from the previous year.

During the meeting, U of C vice-president operations and finance Linda Dalgetty explained that the increase was meant to compete with the eMBA program at Queen’s University, which will have a \$102,000 two-year tuition next year. She said that the higher price can be perceived as an indication of higher value and argued that the U of C needs to raise their price to compete.

Though the university could have increased the program’s tuition even higher, Dalgetty said the school didn’t feel right about further elevating the fees at this time.

“We didn’t want to be too gouge-y,” she said.

News year, news you: The *Gauntlet's* top-10 news stories of 2018

2018 was a never-ending gauntlet all on its own. Here's our top 10 news stories from a long 12 months. Recaps by Ashar Memon

University of Calgary student's postponed sentence of U of C student convicted of sexual offence causes uproar:

Just days into 2018, a British Columbia judge postponed the sentence of a convicted sex offender so that he could finish his winter semester at the U of C. Connor Neurauter was sentenced to 90 days in jail beginning May 2018 for sexual interference with a 13-year-old girl. According to a victim statement, the girl said that Neurauter choked her and blackmailed her using nude photographs to keep their relationship a secret.

News of the sentence swept the campus community and beyond, as an online petition that called for Neurauter's expulsion garnered nearly 80,000 signatures. The U of C released a statement saying that while they don't have the grounds to expel him, he would be escorted off campus if he were to appear. Neurauter began serving his sentence intermittently on weekends on Feb. 9.

Elizabeth Cannon resigns; U of C searches for a new president:

In January, U of C president Elizabeth Cannon announced that she would resign from her position effective Dec. 31, 2018. Cannon was appointed as president in 2010, becoming the first woman to hold the position at the U of C. Cannon announcement set off a months-long search for a successor, which lasted for most of 2018. In June, the U of C released a candidate profile for those wanting to take the position and the application period closed later in July. While it amassed a pool of over 400 candidates from around the world, the U of C decided to stick with someone close to home, announcing in November that its vice-president research, Ed McCauley, would become president in 2019.

Students' Union cedes ownership of MacHall in resolution to years-long dispute:

In February, the SU and the U of C announced that they had reached an agree-

ment over the ownership and management of MacHall, ending a lengthy dispute over the student centre. The SU filed a lawsuit against the U of C for majority ownership of MacHall in October 2015, and in October 2016, the court ruled against an injunction request by the SU to continue operating the building while the lawsuit proceeded. The U of C had been managing MacHall since then. As part of the agreement, the SU took over the building's management in May 2018, with the U of C becoming its sole owner.

Bermuda Shorts Day financial woes continue to grow:

For the first time ever, the SU began charging a \$5–10 entrance fee to the Bermuda Shorts Day beer gardens this year, citing the need to rein in the large deficit incurred by the event in previous years. The SU blamed the U of C for rising costs, saying they were left no option.

Despite the entrance fee, BSD's deficit this year grew to over \$98,000 — about \$10,000 higher than the previous year — and the event had its lowest attendance in at least 6 years, calling into question the future of BSD.

Provincial government caps post-secondary tuition to inflation, limits executive salaries:

In October, the Alberta New Democratic Party introduced a bill that imposed several new regulations on post-secondary tuition and fees — among them, capping tuition increases to the Consumer Price Index. The bill passed its third and final reading in November. The NDP also announced in October that it would extend the current tuition freeze through the 2019–20 school year.

Tuition regulations weren't the only contentious item to come under the auspices of the province this year — the NDP also announced that it would limit post-secondary executives' salaries after students at the University of Alberta protested their president's \$824,000 salary amid budget cuts in May.

Construction projects take over U of C campus:

The U of C's main campus became a major construction site this year as extensive renovations to the MacKimmie Block went underway. In March, a construction crane was installed beside the MacKimmie Tower, and over the summer, the building was decanted and prepared for the addition of at least two new floors. As part of the renovations, the U of C closed off Swann Mall and moved notable campus landmarks, including the Rock and the Prairie Chicken. Construction of the MacKimmie Tower is scheduled to finish in 2019, while the entire MacKimmie Block will be done in 2022.

Thanks to a \$20-million donation in June, construction will begin on another building for the Haskayne School of Business in 2019. Named after its donor, Calgary businessman Ronald P. Mathison, Mathison Hall will be located beside Scurfield Hall.

SU executive resigns after punching a student:

Students' Union vice-president external Puncham Judge resigned from her position in April. Since she was elected to serve a second term, the position was left vacant heading into the 2018–19 school year. Then-SU president Branden Cave originally cited personal reasons for her resignation, but documents obtained by the *Gauntlet* under the provincial *Freedom of Information Act* revealed that she resigned after punching a fellow student in the face at the BSD beer gardens.

In June, the SU announced that it would leave the position vacant until an October byelection, despite having received multiple internal applications to fill it. In September, two candidates ran to fill the role — though one immediately said she no longer wanted the position and would not campaign. Then-senate representative Anayat Sidhu was sworn in as vice-president external in October after receiving 66 per cent of the vote.

Greyhound cancels bus routes in Western Canada:

In July, Greyhound Canada announced that it would cease operating all of its routes in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and all but one route in British Columbia effective Oct. 31, sparing only a Seattle-Vancouver line operated by its United States counterpart. The company blamed a drop in ridership for the move. A quarter of all U of C students reported having an initial Canadian address outside of Calgary and many students rely on Greyhound routes to travel home from school during the academic year. Without Greyhound, many said they are left with little to no reliable and affordable options for transportation.

U of C stops collecting fees for student groups, plunging Engineering Students' Society into disarray:

In September, the U of C abruptly announced in an email that it would no longer collect fees on behalf of student groups, singling out the Engineering Students' Society, which was the only student organiza-

tion collecting fees through the university. The ESS had been collecting a \$10 semesterly fee after 70 per cent of engineering students voted in favour of the fee in 2006.

The society said the decision effectively revoked the membership of all engineering students in the organization and that it would affect nearly all aspects of its student programming. ESS also decried the U of C's lack of student engagement or consultation with the group over the move. Over the fall semester, ESS began working with the SU to arrange a different way to collect the fees.

Calgarians head to the polls to vote on Olympic bid:

The city finally headed to the polls in November to decide whether to bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympic Games. Much of 2018 was spent discussing a potential Olympic bid, with tense debates in Calgary's council chamber and a slew of media leaks calling into question the transparency of the bid and financial feasibility of the hosting the games. Just days before Calgary counsellors were set to vote on whether to carry on with a plebiscite, the bid nearly

died after disagreements over funding between the city and the federal government reached a boiling point. A last-minute deal was made and the question of whether Calgary should host the games went to a vote in November, with advanced voting stations open at the U of C in MacHall.

Ultimately, Calgarians decisively put the question to rest, with 56.4 per cent voting 'no' to hosting the Olympic games.

Bonus — Student emails every 'Nicole' at U of C to find woman he met night before:

"Met you last night and you gave me the wrong number," was the subject line of an email sent by a U of C student to every person named 'Nicole' in the university's institutional directory. Carlos Zetina, a first-year student at the U of C, was hoping to reconnect with a woman he met the night before at a bar. The 246 Nicoles who received the email began talking among themselves and started their own little community of Nicoles, creating a Nicole-only Facebook group and hosting a Nicole-only dinner party. Zetina ultimately reconnected with the right Nicole with help from the new gang of Nicoles.

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2018 Undergraduate Research Symposium sees all faculties participate

Story by **Matty Hume**

From Nov. 27–29, the University of Calgary Students' Union hosted the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS), with a plethora of changes to the structure of the event. Changes include an extended timeline for the event itself, the addition of oral presentations and physical models, as well as various research workshops. This year's URS featured 22 research categories, compared to 16 in previous iterations.

According to SU vice-president academic Jessica Revington, the SU is pleased with this year's symposium.

"This is by far the most successful iteration of the event," she said. "We are still looking at the numbers for students [and] campus community members that were passing through all the different workshops and symposium and the gala, but we know for a fact that donation wise, participation wise and engagement wise, this is the most successful URS to date."

Revington said this success shows

"We had at least one application from every single faculty, which is huge. We were also able to accept at least one application from every single faculty,"

— Students' Union vice-president academic, Jessica Revington

largely in the number of applications received and the breadth of faculties included, compared to previous years.

"We had at least one application from every single faculty, which is huge. We were also able to accept at least one application from every single faculty," Revington said. "To us, that tells us that the message and the mandate of URS is striking a tone with students. Research is more than science research [or] medical research, it's present in all faculties on campus."

The SU awarded a record \$30,500 to the winners at this year's event, including two \$1,000 prizes for the Faculty of Arts.

One of the two arts winners is Elizabeth Rajchel, a third-year drama major who cites the uniqueness of a project in a largely scientific atmosphere as a factor that drew attention to her presentation — and as incentive for the SU to further promote the inclusion of arts at the URS.

"I think promoting it to arts would be really great," Rajchel said. "I walked around the symposium and it was mostly sciences, which is great to see, but everyone would stop by mine and say, 'Yours is so different! There's no graphs! What's it about?'"

Rajchel's project centred on the historical treatment of women in theatre, from the restoration era to the present. She said she plans on continuing the research to help promote women's voices on and off the stage.

"I did a basic history analysis and I did a historical play analysis, then I looked through articles and magazines about #MeToo, Equity in Theatre and all these movements that are promoting women's voices in theatre and traced if anything has changed," she said. "I found that only recently the conversation has gained momentum for change."

Rajchel said that future arts students considering URS applications should allow themselves to be confident that

"I walked around the symposium and it was mostly sciences, which is great to see, but everyone would stop by mine and say, 'Yours is so different! There's no graphs! What's it about?'"

— 2018 URS Arts winner, Elizabeth Rajchel

their research will find an audience.

"I went in thinking it's all going to be science students. [Arts students] write papers, our safe zone is papers, so I'd say don't be afraid to at least submit your research because it's very important to get it out there no matter what it may be," Rajchel said. "Don't be afraid that it's just going to be a bunch of science projects because your research is just as important."

According to Revington, the SU will preserve all the changes implemented at this year's URS.

"We want a couple more years with this current setup to what feedback students have for us, to see if it continues to grow as more members of the campus community learn about the changes that have happened to URS," Revington said. "There's always room to improve with URS, and this iteration is one of many steps URS is taking to become a full-fledged research conference."

A full list of 2018 URS winners and prizing is available at su.ucalgary.ca.

Werklund students face near-\$600 erroneous charge

Story by Sophie Sutcliffe

When a fifth-year Werklund School of Education student logged into their University of Calgary portal in October, they were in for a surprise in the form of a \$588 charge to their account. The student has their tuition covered by student loans and was confused by the excess charge.

The student asked to remain anonymous out of fear of repercussion from their faculty and potential employers.

"The person I spoke to basically said, 'It looks like that's an overdue fee. It looks like you're going to have to pay that right away or else it could affect your classes going forward,'" they said.

As the student was about to start their practicum and was worried about the fee's impact on their future courses, they decided to pay the fee.

But according to both the registrar's office and Werklund itself, this fee was a mistake.

"On Oct. 23, Werklund School of Education staff learned that EDUC 540 students

were charged an additional tuition fee for this course," said Werklund School of Education vice dean Michele Jacobsen in an emailed statement to the *Gauntlet*.

"The assessment was corrected as soon as it was identified and all impacted students have been contacted," said Michelle MacKenzie, an assistant registrar at enrolment services in a statement.

The student said while they did receive an email, it was unclear that the fee they had paid was an error until a classmate sent them a message telling them to check their account.

"I [got] a message from someone in my specialization saying, 'Hey everyone check your accounts, everyone has like a \$600 fee,'" the student said.

At this point, they contacted the university to say that they had already paid the fee.

"I had to go ask the Registrar's office, who basically said there's going to be credit on my account for next semester, which I was not happy about, because like I said, it was coming out of my savings," said the student, who has since requested a refund.

VP Indigenous Engagement updates BOG on *ii'taa'poh'to'p*

Story by Matty Hume

At the Dec. 14 University of Calgary Board of Governors meeting, the university's vice-provost Indigenous engagement, Michael Hart, provided an update on the *Indigenous Strategy, or ii'taa'poh'to'p*, which was launched in November 2017. Key updates included the formation of seven sub-committees, the establishment of an Indigenous Strategy Student Advisory Committee to *ii'taa'poh'to'p* and new initiatives for 2019.

Hart's report began with background information regarding the *ii'taa'poh'to'p* project, calling it a "comprehensive Indigenous strategy that addresses the process of decolonization and Indigenization of the entire campus."

The strategy focuses on the decolonization of the university's academic structure and the inclusion of the various communities within Treaty 7.

Hart drew attention to the increase of Indigenous engagement within the U of C. According to his report, 178 self-identified Indigenous students graduated during the 2017-18 year and that 2.6 per cent of the student population at all levels, 1.45 per cent of current university employees and 1.31 per cent of academic staff self-identify as Indigenous.

Governor Allen Lyons, who also sits on the U of C senate, asked Hart if the self-identified numbers "reflect reality."

Hart responded by saying the number of Indigenous peoples within the U of C community are likely higher than the self-reported numbers.

Hart's report ended with a call to action moving forward.

"We call upon students, faculty and staff to engage opportunity to increase their own knowledge about Indigenous peoples, cultures and histories through credit and non-credit courses, workshops, or professional development," read Hart's report.

University president Elizabeth Cannon asked Hart if he is satisfied with the work done with the Indigenous Strategy so far.

"If the amount of work we're being asked [to do] is any indication, we're doing pretty good," he said.

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University of Calgary Students' Union prepares to create three-year *Strategic Plan*

Story by **Matty Hume**

At the Dec. 4 meeting of the University of Calgary Students' Union Students' Legislative Council, vice-president academic Jessica Revington presented an overview and timeline of the *SU Strategic Plan*. The *Strategic Plan* is high-level overview of the SU's vision and objectives that is reviewed and implemented every three years.

Revington described the *Strategic Plan* as more "visioning" than "planning." She urged SLC members to reflect on the current environment of the U of C and to consult with students directly for meaningful feedback.

According to SU president Sagar Grewal, the *Strategic Plan* is the document that affects all SU operations, including

the *Annual Plan* and any event plans.

"The *Strategic Plan* [is] comprised of our mission, our vision and our values which we should be fulfilling through everything we do and everything we strive to do as an organization," Grewal said. "Our *Annual Plan* should be helping us achieve our goals of the *Strategic Plan* overall. Every three years it must be reviewed just to make sure we continually hear what students want to see reflected in their organization."

SLC members will fill out planning surveys from Jan. 2–11. Internal focus groups will be conducted for SLC members and SU staff on Jan. 29 and 30, respectively. Then, SLC will review a first draft of the *Strategic Plan* on Feb. 26. SLC will vote to approve a first reading of the draft one week later on March 5, with

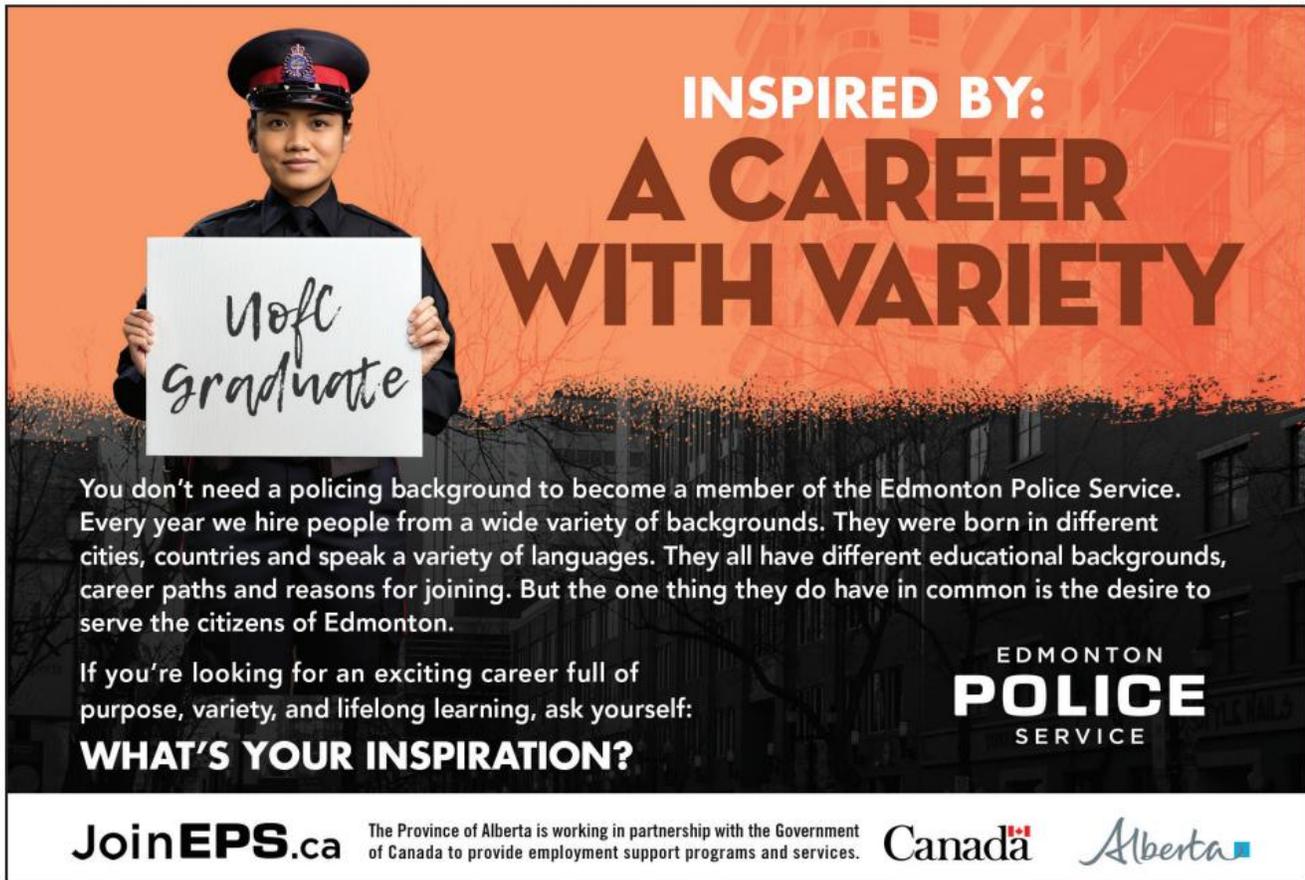
a second reading and official approval vote on March 12.

During the Dec. 4 presentation at SLC, Cumming School of Medicine representative Jarin Thundathil voiced concerns that the one-week turnaround between the first draft and first reading may put constraints on the inclusion of any substantial revisions to the *Strategic Plan*.

Revington assured him that if substantial revisions are needed, SU executives and staff will be capable of implementing SLC's feedback.

Regarding the focus group sessions, Grewal said they will remain largely internal to the SU.

"We're hoping to hold more internal [sessions] in the sense that we're going to hold one for SLC and probably one for employees," he said. "Reason being is we



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want to make sure that we create a *Strategic Plan* which our elected officials and our employees see themselves reflected in and can by into.

"As an organization, we need to make sure that those people that carry out our operations believe in it just to make sure the students on the back end don't suffer from having people who don't believe in the same thing," Grewal added.

He expanded on the internal focus of the *Strategic Plan*, citing that people within the SU as an organization are the ones that will be putting it into action, in terms of SU operations and initiatives.

"This year, we're going to be doing one consultation in the *Strategic Plan* for people involved with the SU whether they're volunteers with volunteer services, part-time employees in The Den or wherever they may be, whoever it is, including SLC," Grewal said. "In addition to that, we're hoping to use all of our SU *Annual Survey* data and our *Clubs Survey* data to hopefully illustrate how this translates to our operation and services, because that's what really matters to stu-

dents in terms of, 'How does the SU benefit us?'"

Despite largely internal consultation, Grewal said undergraduate students should contact their faculty representatives to voice their input for the *Strategic Plan*.

"A great way to get in touch would really be to reach out to your SLC faculty representatives or any of the executives about some of the ideas you have," he said. "In addition, the SU *Annual Survey* will also be going out and there are some questions in there that do relate back to how the SU can serve you better."

Grewal urged students to attend SLC to remain informed and engaged with the SU, especially regarding long-term initiatives that affect them directly, such as the *Strategic Plan*.

"Make sure students check out SLC," Grewal said. "That's where we talk about things like this."

The first meeting of SLC is Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the MacHall Executive Council Chambers. Meetings occur most Tuesdays during the winter semester.

"Overall, the *Strategic Plan* really encompasses what drives our organization. It's comprised of our mission, our vision and our values which we should fulfilling through everything we do and everything we strive to do as an organization,"

— Students' Union President, Sagar Grewal

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Western alienation is real but anger needs to be channelled correctly

By Derek Baker
Photo by Mariah Wilson

Alberta's federal relations have never been overly congenial. From lurking sentiments of the under-representation of Western regions in federal politics to overt statements proclaiming "Let the Eastern bastards freeze in the dark," Western alienation has persisted throughout the history of Confederation.

Tensions ebb and flow. Alberta, along with other Prairie provinces, currently finds itself in another surge of Western alienation. Though not as brash as the bumper sticker slogan above, the provincial government's 'lost-revenue counter' projection outside the federal Liberal's Christmas party is a cheeky jab at the rest of the country, further illustrating the divide.

Grumbings of Alberta separatism, which were previously dismissed as the ramblings of an irrational 'bertan, have unfortunately weaselled their way into mainstream Albertan political discourse. A quick glance at Google Trends shows searches for 'Alberta separatism' at a five-year high, and former provincial and federal Albertan politicians are stoking the movement.

Western alienation is a real and powerful political tool to rally support, but it also contributes to the current divisiveness of federal politics. Channelled incorrectly, Western alienation is unproductive and just comes across as juvenile whining that Alberta isn't getting its way.

But when your prime minister casually forgets that Alberta even exists, it's hard to dismiss why these feelings persist.

Provinces not getting along isn't necessarily a bad thing. It's unrealistic to believe that the distinct regional interests across the country's different provinces would allow them to see eye-to-eye on every issue. Canada's federal system was constructed because of this — within its very frame-



work is the apparatus for conflict.

Conflict, however, needs to be addressed. When left neglected, as the federal government has over the past few years, it brings us to the tense situation we're currently facing. Still, during Justin Trudeau's meeting with all of the provincial leaders at the beginning of December, the energy industry crisis wasn't even on the original agenda. Ignoring these issues further stokes alienation.

There are the standard issues Albertans list in their grievances with the rest of the country. Pipeline obstruction, which is at the detriment of the provincial and national economy to the tune of millions of dollars per day, is an obvious trigger. Equalization payments, though grossly misunderstood in how they are calculated and distributed, have not had a cent go to the province since 1965.

There's no question that Alberta needs to diversify its economy away from fossil fuel domination — and at a much quicker pace, for that matter. Not only is an economy overly reliant on a single industry highly unstable, but our future climate is

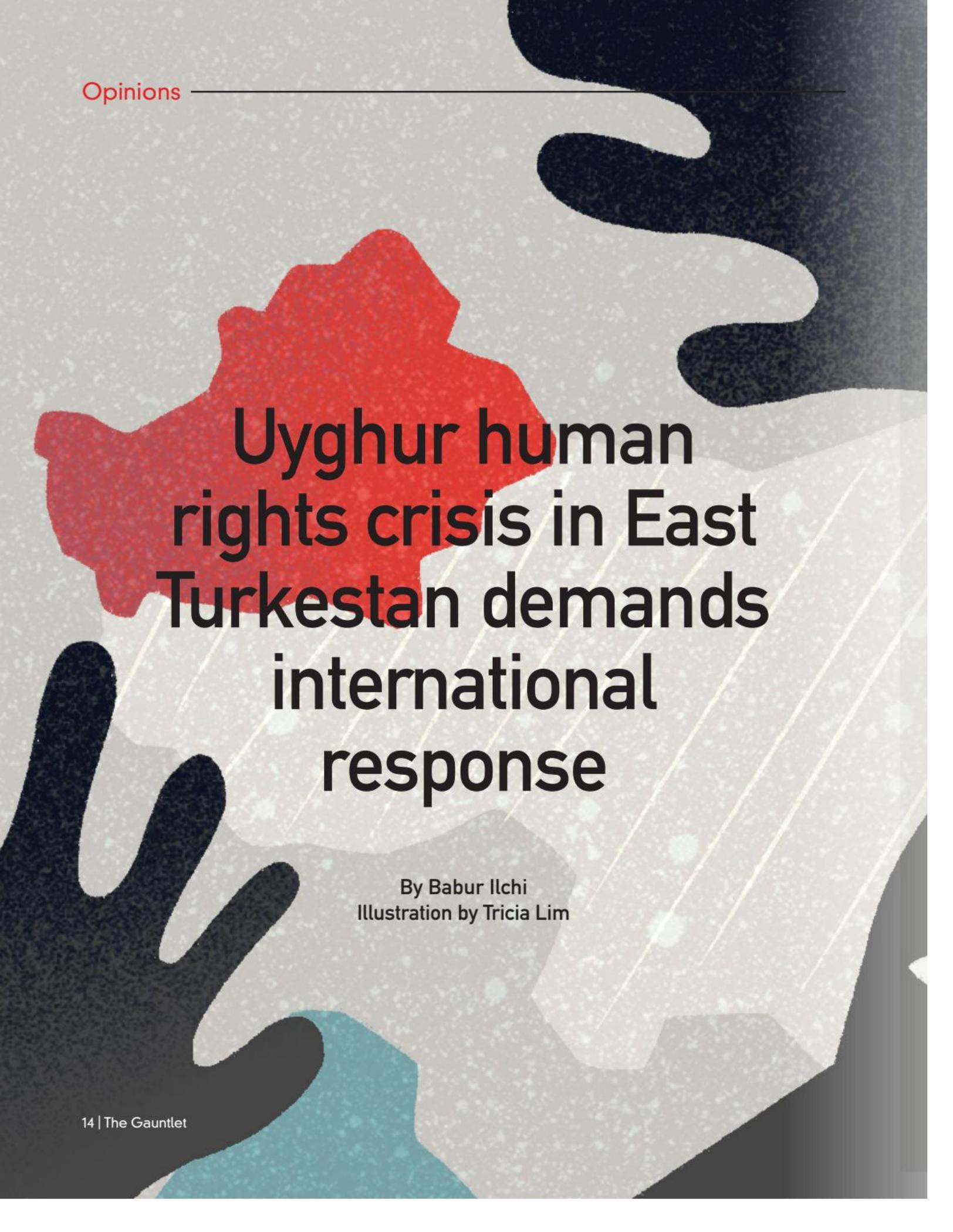
dependant on transitioning away from the industry.

But the rest of the country vilifying Alberta for its oil and gas sector is painfully ignorant towards an economic sector that has been fundamental in the prosperity our country enjoys.

Albertans have the right to be frustrated. However, brandishing signs stating "Your mom banged Mick Jagger" at a protest won't get anything done. Wearing shirts calling for Trudeau to be hanged isn't acceptable, either. The idiocy of a few demonstrators gives the rest of Albertans looking for a sustainable solution a bad rap. And why wouldn't it?

That doesn't mean Albertans can't be tough in their objections. The power of persuasion, however, lies in respectful and straightforward insistence.

The next federal election is less than a year away. The best thing about our archaic electoral system is that elected members of Parliament actually represent a constituency. Make sure they're vocal advocates for the issues facing our province, because it sure ain't coming from any federal party's leadership.

An illustration featuring several hands in various colors (black, white, red, teal) reaching towards the center. In the center, a red map of East Turkestan is overlaid on a white map of China. The background is a light grey with a subtle pattern of white dots and diagonal lines.

Uyghur human rights crisis in East Turkestan demands international response

By Babur Ilchi
Illustration by Tricia Lim

Recently, there has been growing media coverage about the treatment of the Uyghur people by the government of China. The Uyghurs are an ethnically Turkic people. Their nation, the Republic of East Turkestan, was annexed in 1949 and is now known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, a large province in northwest China. The name Xinjiang means “New Frontier,” an insult to the people who have lived there for thousands of years and a clear statement of what China thinks of the Uyghur people and their homeland.

Currently, over one million Uyghurs have been detained and sent to internment camps designed to ‘re-educate’ those who China deems undesirable. The education provided consists of reciting and memorizing statements praising the Communist Party of China and current President Xi Jinping. It also includes denouncing the Uyghur culture and religion. Uyghurs are a traditionally Muslim people and China has used the War on Terrorism as a cover in order to slowly dismantle what civil rights the Uyghurs had in occupied Xinjiang. In addition, survivors of these camps have described scenes of torture, where inmates are forced to stand for hours on end and recite party slogans, while others are beaten routinely. Uyghurs in these camps have disappeared, only for their family to be told they are dead.

I am an Uyghur. My family immigrated to Canada in 1999, when I was three. Growing up, I didn’t really know about the complexities in East Turkestan and the lives my parents had there. And when I did learn about it, we didn’t really talk about it. There was a general consensus between Uyghurs that staying quiet and not rocking the boat would be the best way to live. To make noise might lead to a crack-down on our families back home.

But it’s clear now that this hasn’t worked. That staying quiet has been the wrong choice to make. Even without doing or saying anything, China has imprisoned our families in camps and in their homes.

Contact between those in East Turkestan and the rest of the world is severely limited. My family hasn’t been able to call, text or see those back home. However, information does get out. We’ve received photos of family and learned that two of my uncles were sent to these camps. Who knows how many families are left wondering where their loved ones are today, fearing that they may be dead or worse. The dismantling of a culture through brainwashing and ‘re-education,’ the destruction of heritage landmarks like Kashgar city, the restriction of travel across cities, the constant surveillance via cameras and officials ‘invited’ to stay in Uyghur homes and the detainment and disappearance of millions of Uyghur people have become commonplace in Xi’s China. What the Chinese government has done in East

Turkestan amounts to nothing short of genocide.

There has been a growing international movement among Uyghurs to protest these Chinese injustices. Uyghurs have gathered from across the world to protest and rally against their treatment in East Turkestan. Recently, many of us attended a large protest in Geneva, Switzerland to protest during a United Nations Human Rights Assembly. Local protests in cities across the world have also come together, with groups of 50 or more rallying together.

We all have a common goal now: freedom. Freedom for Uyghurs detained and imprisoned and freedom for the nation of East Turkestan. Freedom from the constant fear and worry that our family abroad is in danger or dead. All we want is peace and an end to the brutal injustice that China is carrying out.

It has become increasingly clear, however, that a small diaspora of Uyghurs across the world cannot directly affect the situation in East Turkestan. China has changed their story about these internment camps repeatedly. At first, they denied their existence entirely. When confronted with indisputable proof, they claimed it was a vocational camp, to train Uyghurs with work skills. Then, they claimed that it was to re-educate those who posed a danger to society. When it was pointed out that these camps were illegal, China promptly changed its law to make them legal. The strategy that China has employed is one of denial and deflection. The questions and concerns of officials and citizens have been met with “no” or “so what?” The increasing influence of China in a geopolitical and economic sense has given them the confidence to take these actions without fear of any retaliation.

The UN and concerned countries like Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States have brought up these allegations only to be swatted down. But to say “we tried” and roll over is not how any country with upstanding morals should act. What the world has shown in the light of these truths is that life has a dollar value and that the lives of those who are under threat of extinction are worth less than a trade deal — or the good graces of China. To say “we tried” implies that the efforts of the tyrannical and evil will succeed. It says that the discomfort of confronting injustice is too much, that it would be easier to turn a blind eye.

The destruction of a people and their culture is not something that anyone can say they tried to stop. It is either stopped or it is not. To stand by as silent witnesses, as simple bystanders, is a complicity in genocide. We cannot say that we learned from the mistakes of the past if we do nothing to correct them now. The moral credibility of the West relies on their stance against evil. If we as a people do nothing, are we any better than the perpetrators?

NHL needs to bring back Nordiques

By Kristy Koehler

The National Hockey League grew by one team in 2017, holding an expansion draft and setting up shop in Sin City with the Vegas Golden Knights. More importantly, Canadians collectively lamented being passed over in favour of yet another American team.

As Canadian hockey fans, we love to cry foul over NHL commissioner Gary Bettman's treatment of us and, on Dec. 5, we received another blow to our national ego when the league announced a team for the city of Seattle. Once again, Canadians were denied what feels like our right as inhabitants of the true north strong and free.

Before any other expansion takes place, the Quebec Nordiques should be resurrected and our lost hockey teams should make their way home. After all, the history of the NHL began in Quebec. Founded in Montreal in 1917, the NHL began with only Canadian teams before expanding to the United States in 1924 with the addition of the Boston Bruins.

Quebec has always been a hotbed of hockey. Even though the Nordiques are not one of the Original Six on account of initially belonging to a different league, the team is firmly entrenched in the cultural lexicon of Canadian hockey. The Nordiques were one of the original members of the World Hockey Association (WHA) — which also included the Winnipeg Jets and the Edmonton Oilers — and became a bedrock team of the NHL after the leagues merged in 1979.

Popular sporting goods stores still sell Nordiques jerseys, hats and memorabilia while hockey fans around the country nostalgically pine for the team's return. It isn't so much that the team moved, but that it moved to the United States. Normally a humble people, known for our easy-going, friendly nature and our penchant for apologizing, Canadians ferociously defend hockey as our game. National identity in Canada can be tied to our participation in the sport. International hockey tournaments are a matter of national pride — older generations can recall exactly where they were and what they were doing



during the 1972 Summit Series against the former USSR, while younger generations still get misty-eyed remembering Sidney Crosby's Golden Goal at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Much of our national identity is based on not being American. We define ourselves as the antithesis to the United States, cloaking ourselves proudly in the stereotype of their poutine-eating, beer-drinking, hockey-loving neighbours to the north. That's why it hurts so much that we seem to be losing our grip on our game. Canada has a history of losing its professional sports teams to the United States — the Montreal Expos baseball team moved to D.C. to become the Washington Nationals, while the Vancouver Grizzlies relocated to Tennessee reincarnated as the Memphis Grizzlies.

The Quebec Nordiques played in the WHA from 1972–79, then in the NHL from 1979–95. As the league expanded, cash became king. In May 1995, citing financial reasons, the Nordiques were relocated to Denver, Colorado and renamed the Colorado Avalanche.

Despite our unwavering fan support, most Canadian cities are small markets in comparison to those in the U.S. Fan support would be high in even the smallest market, but support doesn't equal profit. I'm well aware of the financial considerations involved in having a team in Canada — expanding salary caps, operating costs and rising exchange rate concerns between the Loonie and the U.S. dollar are all factors — but it doesn't make it any less viscerally torturous to see our teams head southbound.

A year after losing the Nordiques, the Winnipeg Jets relocated to Arizona and were renamed the Phoenix Coyotes. Canadians watched another of our teams depart the land

that built them. After a failed expansion by the NHL into Atlanta resulted in a team that wasn't financially viable, Canadian fans thought perhaps the NHL had come to its senses and realized that no one can love a team like a Canadian fan. The Atlanta Thrashers relocated to Winnipeg in 2011. To our joy and jubilation, the team was named the Jets and it was something akin to a homecoming. Canadians embraced their long-lost team and held out hope that an era of relocating teams from sunshine states back to the north drew nigh. The Las Vegas expansion was a reality check.

Seattle gaining an NHL team isn't necessarily a bad thing — the city has a fantastic sporting tradition. Having a hockey team in Seattle adds a fun dynamic to the NHL and creates an instant divisional rival for the Vancouver Canucks. Having a Pacific Northwest rivalry that could reach Flames-Oilers proportions is great for fans. A Seattle franchise also puts attending games within reach of more Canadians — Seattle is a shorter drive than some Canadian franchises for fans in British Columbia.

Detractors cite the small size of the Quebec City market. But the province is full of passionate hockey fans and, with only so many seats at every Montreal Canadiens game and under a three-hour drive between the two cities, it's a safe bet that fans from surrounding areas would spill into Quebec City. The city has a new arena, with the Centre Vidéotron built in 2015 that could easily house an NHL team.

Expanding the game of hockey is never a bad idea — I just wish Canada would reap the benefits of that expansion. It's nostalgia, tradition and love for the game that keeps me hoping for the return of the Nordiques.



Ring in the New Year with these super sexy tips

By Lady Marmalade
Illustration by Tricia Lim

Ringing in 2019 brings a fresh batch of New Year's resolutions. Along with it, the end of the holiday season wraps up the stress of exams and prepping for those awkward family dinners. Thank the Lord.

Though the holidays can be a sexy time, you don't need to turn down the heat just because they're over. Here are a few things you can start doing to feel your best and amplify your inner sexiness for the New Year.

Wash your face every night:

Be honest with yourself, do you really wash your face every night? Sometimes, only one look at your bed after a long day is all it takes to give in to your wildest fantasies and crawl in — oil, makeup and dirty face right to the pillow. But crusty eyes and a morning breakout are never worth the extra 30 seconds it takes to scrub something soapy over your face. Throw some lotion on that mug as well. It'll all pay off when you wake up in the morning with a clean and shiny face.

Dance more:

When you're busy doing chores around the house, chopping veggies or even just taking a shower, instead of letting those stressful thoughts slowly take over your mind, put some funky tunes on and just move around. Don't worry about people seeing you — they'll just wish they could join in. If you want, pull the blinds, pump the tunes and wiggle those hips. You may feel silly at first, but I bet that if you start doing this more often, you'll feel more comfortable just moving around and being the spicy little dance mom you always knew you could be.

Go to a sex shop:

If you've never been to a sex shop before, walking into one of these places just makes you feel sexy as hell. You know why you're in there and so does everyone else, so raise your head high and treat yourself. You don't have to spend a lot of money to get yourself a cool new gadget, but maybe drop, like, 40 bucks for something that makes you feel like a sexy minx, whether it be an outfit, a vibrator, a penis ring or some lube or sparkly whip, and you'll be set.

Masturbate more:

After returning home from the sex store and stocking up on all that sex stuff, make some more time to get frisky. Keep your devices charged — you never know when the mood might strike and nothing is worse than reaching for your trusted vibrator only to find out it has bit the bullet (bullet, get it?). If you're home alone for an hour or bored before bed, just spank it and call it a day! It'll help relieve stress. There's nothing wrong with getting to know your body and what feels good so that you can connect more with your sexuality and ask for what you want with a partner.

Take off the dating pressure:

In my experience, I feel my sexiest when I am not putting pressure on myself to get out there. Dating feels less like a chore and people tend to gravitate towards you more when you're just out and about, doing your own thing. Or maybe take a break from dating and take time to focus on self-improvement. Nothing is sexier than self-care, so put yourself first in 2019 and the rest will fall into place. Remember, you're a sexy beast, so be good to yourself this New Year.

Humans of UCalgary

The *Gauntlet* has teamed up with Humans of UCalgary, a campus club inspired by Humans of New York, to share University of Calgary students' often-unheard stories. For more, visit facebook.com/HumansofUCalgary.



“I have always wondered if it was possible for someone

living millions of years ago to have the same genomic information as someone living today. This was the kind of question that made me want to pursue research in genomics. I came to Calgary just this August. Before that, I completed an undergraduate degree in computer science in Bangladesh where I learned about Natural Language Processing through machine learning.

In linguistics, a random arrangement of letters can create words that have meaning. Similarly, the four letters in our DNA can construct a complex organism that has walked the Earth for ages. This connection was the bridge that led me from one field to another.

“When I was about three years old my family moved

from India to Wisconsin. It wasn't easy: my dad worked at a gas station, we lived on a single income and I was not allowed to leave the house. I always wanted to go outside and play, being so young. Years later, I realized it was because we were undocumented immigrants. We lived in an area where ICE (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement) was prevalent so even making a trip to the grocery store was a terrifying experience. We didn't know if someone would ask us for ID, or what would happen if we were caught. Every day we lived in fear, especially when our trip to Canada was delayed. Fortunately, we were able to move to Canada, and when we did we felt so relieved. Now we are Canadian citizens.



One Yellow Rabbit, Order of Canada member to author first book

Story by Calum Robertson

One Yellow Rabbit, based out of Calgary's Big Secret Theatre, has been a strong artistic presence in this city for many decades. One of their core members, Denise Clarke, recently released a book titled *The Big Secret Book: An Intense Guide for Creating Performance Theatre*. The book draws on Clarke's many years of experience with One Yellow Rabbit, sharing many of their "big secrets" to approaching creation — specifically performance.

However, Clarke says her book is not solely aimed at those in theatre.

"It's geared to, obviously, theatre and making theatre, but I tried to keep the ideas oblique and open enough, reaching out to anyone who has creative practices and priority," she says. "I really wanted it to be very accessible. I

didn't want it to be saturated in academic speak, which I find alienating."

Her writing sits comfortably between a captivating textbook and an honest, poignant memoir. The stories she tells are dripping with terms from the unique in-house vocabulary that One Yellow Rabbit employs. That customized lexicon is integral to Clarke and her creative process.

"I think that it's really important to name things because if you can share that with collaborators — if you can name it for yourself — you can break your own rules and you can make the decision to move away from the so-called lexicon that you've worked yourself into," she explained. A recent example, she says, is the highly adaptable term "same-pagery."

Each chapter is accompanied by a passage reflecting on a past perfor-

mance or rehearsal that illustrates the concepts she touches on. One compelling excerpt details Clarke's experience portraying Mata Hari, an exotic dancer-turned-spy, in the 1996 production *Tigress At The City Gates*. Twenty-two years later, Clarke still vividly remembers her immersion in the character.

"I only need to think about it, and it definitely gets to me. She wasn't a genius, she was a survivor and she was just doing her best," Clarke says. "She just didn't really clock what kind of a really dangerous situation she put herself in. She was just so completely set up, because they just needed a scapegoat."

Clarke's book also touches on her own connection to the two World Wars and how the brutality of those conflicts lingers in today's world.

"I think I'm so affected by all the

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- Idles - *Joy As An Act Of Resistance*. (Partisan)
- Al Muirhead - *Under-tones* (Chronograph)
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- Jean-Michel Blais - *Eviction Sessions EP* (Arts & Crafts)
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- Chemtrails - *Cuckoo Spit EP* (PNKSLM)
- The Reluctant Cosmonaut - *The Reluctant Cosmonaut* (Self-Released)
- JP Harris - *Sometimes Dogs Bark at Nothing* (Self-Released)
- High Parade - *The Ocean* (Grand Jury)
- Wayne Horvitz - *The Snowghost Sessions* (Songlines)
- Isla Invisible - *EPI* (Velvet Blue)
- Plains Apparition - *Watershed* (Infinito Audio Label)
- Rhye - *Blood Remixes* (Loma Vista)
- Buildings and Food - *Quick Beat Save* (Number F)
- Ellis - *The Fuzz* (Self-Released)
- TRBLMKR - *Dragon* (Self-Released)
- nêhiyawak - *starlight* (Arts & Crafts)
- Bicicletas Por La Paz - *Surfeando Un Cometa* (Self-Released)
- Pugs & Crows - *UNCLE* (Phonometro-graph)
- Dave McEathron - *Abandoned Companions* (Self-Released)
- Myriad3 - *Vera* (Alma)

stories of the First World War and the Second – well, all war, but especially those two. My father was a veteran of the Second and my grandfather served in the First,” she says. “Something that has just been horrifying for me is how much murdering of their own the Brits did. If you were a young 17-year-old, completely shell-shocked, staggering out of the trench, and just being so fucked up that you just walk away into a field, you were shot.”

The conflict that ended a century ago has greatly impacted Clarke’s outlook on the world.

“All those stories just hurt me so deeply, because I transpose them onto the culture of now and the culture of my young friends and it just breaks my heart,” Clarke says. “A few years ago I was asked how I would fill my next chunk of time, and one of the ideas I threw out was writing a book on the message of the [Intensive] Lab, which is “a yearly three-week master class on all aspects of the performing arts, held

by One Yellow Rabbit every summer.”

Her publisher, Lorene Shyba, embraced the idea, and work on the book began in earnest, says Clarke.

Clarke’s dedication to her craft is apparent from her loving attention and reflection on the many aspects of performance. A care that did not go unnoticed. In December of 2013, Clarke was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada. Her takeaway from that honour was one of hope and solace.

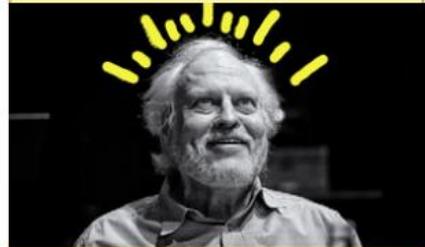
“If you can stay the course and keep yourself alive, you feel pretty good about it,” Clarke says. “But it’s really something else to get a call from the Governor General’s office saying you’ve been made a member of the Order of Canada, because it was a total surprise.”

And how does it feel now that the book is out in the world, after one year of dedicated work?

“Really good. Really fucking good,” she says.

The Big Secret Book is currently available through Durville Press.

Live Your Prime, With Damien Frost



Denise Clarke will take to the stage at this month’s High Performance Rodeo in *Live Your Prime, With Damien Frost*.

The play follows Damien, his wife Darlene and their son Damien Jr. as they explore the uneven terrain of growing old in a world that seems to be growing younger.

The play runs from Jan. 9 to Jan. 19 at the Big Secret Theatre. Audio Described Performance available for the Jan. 13 performance.

Tickets for this and other High Performance Rodeo shows are available at hprodeo.ca/tickets.



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The *Gauntlet* staff's best of 2018

There was too much of 2018 to remember, let alone summarize in an intro. It felt like a century crammed into 365 days. Kanye ranted, weed was legalized, LeBron went Hollywood, every A-lister you can think of released an album and somewhere in there Canada won a few gold medals at the Olympics, which happened.

The *Gauntlet* staff would like to take these pages to reminisce over our favourite albums and moments of the year. Because we made it. We really did.



Editor-in-Chief:

Album: Jeff Rosenstock
— *POST-*

I don't think my 2018 could have started better than it did, with Jeff Rosenstock dropping *POST-* — his fourth solo record and my favourite album of the year — shortly after midnight on New Year's Day. Rosenstock, known for both his energy and his cynicism and in his brilliant 2018 album, he brings both those things in spades.

At its core, *POST-* is a political protest album. But Rosenstock focuses on the people and the emotions behind political discontent, with themes of burnout, impotence and disillusionment recurring throughout the record. Rosenstock has long dealt in screamed choruses, but his most salient ever comes on "Powerlessness," as he belts out, "How can you solve all the problems around you when you can't even solve the ones in your head?"

In a political climate that is, for lack of better words, pretty fucking depressing, art like *POST-* is a source of catharsis. Sometimes it's liberating to sit back, turn the volume up and accept your vast powerlessness.

Favourite Moment: David Byrne's *American Utopia* Tour

I was lucky enough to watch two performances by David Byrne, the genius

former frontman of the Talking Heads, last May. The first time was at Calgary's Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium and the second a few days later at the now-discontinued Sasquatch music festival in Washington state. Each performance was masterful, full of surprises and hugely captivating.

Byrne is well-known as an eccentric performer, a reputation he immortalized when he performed songs for *Stop Making Sense*, a 1984 Talking Heads concert film, in an absurdly large suit. Quirks like that are also what made Byrne's 2018 *American Utopia* tour so memorable. Byrne and his band all carried instruments without wires to allow free movement across the stage, something the choreography took full advantage of. Seeing a dozen dancers and musicians led by Byrne dance barefoot around a stage in perfect co-ordination to "This Must Be the Place" was an experience so incredible I can hardly believe it happened.

The music of the Talking Heads has always been very kinetic. It's as much about movement as melody. I can't imagine a better way to experience these songs than as Byrne presented them this year.

— Jason Herring



News:

Album: Tides of Man —
Every Nothing

Having to pick a best album this year almost kept me up for a fortnight. Each week I was floored by something incredibly well-crafted and original. Frankly, having access to so much new beautiful music made this year pass like a decade.

That being said, *Every Nothing*, from Tampa, Florida's Tides of Man, is obviously number one.

Clocking in just shy of an hour, the instrumental, post-rock dreamscape breathes seamlessly in a space between your favourite Deafheaven album and

no-frills meditation. It's the kind of instrumental composition that delivers a vivid narrative with only strings and drum skins as your oracles. *Every Nothing* pushes restlessly to earn your full attention and it's worth giving in.

Yet, each track shines as its own world. "New Futures" is an on-the-nose soundtrack for the year. Through echoey polyphonic melodies and jazzy auxiliary percussion, the song exudes optimism for days to come — but you feel from your ears to your heart that it's an optimism hard-earned through adversity.

Plus "Old 88" shreds like an armoured warrior with a hammer for a guitar. It's tight.

Favourite Moment: *Batman* #45–47, "The Gift"

These comics really affected me in an unexpected way.

The only context you need is that Batman and Catwoman are getting married. Booster Gold, everyone's favourite lovable time-traveling goofball, wants to give his good friend Batman the best wedding gift he can think of — a life with his parents. So Booster goes back in time, saves young Bruce Wayne's parents and comes back to the present to tell Batman the good news.

Of course, that world is absolutely messed up beyond recognition. Booster realizes his mistake and sets the timeline straight. But in the process, Booster watches life-with-parents Bruce commit suicide just inches away from him.

The arc ends with Booster telling the whole truth to the real Batman while obsessively wiping his spotlessly clean goggles.

"If I don't clean it, everything will look wrong. That blood. In the middle there. You see it, too. Right?"

Sometimes the ones you love might inflict some serious self-harm out of love for you. Forgive them, and help them. They'd do the same for you.

— Matty Hume



Opinions:

Album: Allie X — *Super Sunset*

I've never really understood 'stan' culture — that is, until I started listening to pop aficionado Allie X. Last year, her album *CollXtion II* was the best thing I've heard in pop music since mid-2000s synth bangers.

Or it was, until I heard the single "Science" off her new EP, *Super Sunset*. Released near the end of last summer, the song is easily my most-played track of 2018.

Straight out of a vapourwave paradise with neon landscapes aglow, *Super Sunset* produces bop after bop. Each track is meticulously layered sonically, with Allie X's powerful vocals belting her heart out. Single "Not so Bad in LA" is a cheeky jab at fame culture, while track "Can't Stop Now" makes your body sway along to its beat.

What really did me in, though, was her digital concert. Her performance, especially on the bridge of "Little Things," had me shook to the core. Holy shit, the girl can sing.

Favourite Moment: Gritty

Have y'all seen the new Philadelphia Flyers' mascot? If you haven't, get out of the rock you're living under and bask in the glory of our new googly-eyed overlord, Gritty. Not the mascot we asked for, but the mascot we needed.

Initially met with skepticism, the orange strung-out monstrosity is now a beloved icon. I'm happy to admit that half of my Twitter feed is filled with Gritty memes and bits. There is a Gritty meme taped above my desk at the *Gauntlet*. I'm serious.

Gritty will scare your child into behaving. Gritty will blast his T-shirt cannon at unruly fans.

Gritty will save us from the hell hole that we're all currently living in.

And when *Jacobin* tweeted that "Gritty is a worker." Ooohh boy. *chef's kiss*

— Derek Baker



Arts:

Album: L.A. Salami — *The City Of Bootmakers*

The most important question of the year was asked on the last song of 2018's most impressive album: "What Is This?" L.A. Salami — a Nigerian-Muslim man adopted by British parents who learned to write poetry in his early youth and later guitar in his early adulthood — is as equipped to ask that question as anyone.

The City of Bootmakers, Salami's second album, occupies its staggering scope searching for a rational answer. Salami ruminates on wavering national identity, alienation, fast-food ideology, terrorism, corporate sovereignty, imperialism, the refugee crisis and the weight of everything else that's kept you sleepless this year, burning your mind for cessation like the world around it.

Salami just entered his early 30s and, despite the selective advantages of having a beautiful voice, guitar chops and an irrepressible poeticism, he's in largely the same sinking boat as the rest of us. He's the exact kind of everyman I want freaking the fuck out beside me when we finally find out what exactly THIS is.

Favourite Moment: "The Story of Adidon"

How many songs this year were capital-M Moments? How many songs this year made you convulse in your living room the first time you heard them? How many songs, all too briefly, made a god mortal? How many songs this year not only defined the culture, but then flipped the culture on its head over the damning, ignominious beat from "The Story of O.J." and then proceeded to call that culture a deadbeat dad?

"The Story of Adidon" was kind of like the moment in *300* when Leonidas takes off his helmet, shield, kneels, then throws a spear that makes Xerxes bleed his own blood. Pusha T knows there's nothing to be done to effectively 'cancel' Drake. He knows Aubrey's too big to fail. But this wasn't about usurping rap's throne-of-

thorns. This was — is — bloodsport. Pusha T is the first person to truly put a hole in Drake's armour. He made him look silly, pathetic and, frankly, a lot like the guy we all try to pretend Drake isn't while we laugh at his memes. Pusha T won. More importantly, Drake lost.

And I didn't even talk about the picture.

— Thomas Johnson



Arts Assistant:

Album: Deafheaven — *Ordinary Corrupt Human Love*

No one shot for the rafters in 2018 more than Deafheaven. Every song on *Ordinary Corrupt Human Love* aims for pure transcendence and the breakdown between genre and form and succeeds in spades.

Their fusion of black metal, shoegaze and post-rock has forged a highly unique and beautiful sound, making them one of the only acts today that truly sounds like no one else. The scope is staggering, with four of its tracks reaching above the 10-minute mark and not a second sounds frivolous or superfluous.

Tracks like "Canary Yellow" and "Honeycomb" perfectly illustrate Deafheaven's singular ambition. "Near" is bar-none the most beautiful song of 2018. With each successive release they continue to reach further and further outward in terms of sound and scope, landing above and beyond any of their — also incredible — past releases on.

Favourite Moment: Sled Island's Wednesday Night

The definitive cultural moment of 2018 was the fallout from Pusha T's "The Story of Adidon." But that's already been written about here so instead I am going to write about the emotional roller-coaster that was the opening night of this year's Sled Island.

The first show I attended was Mount Eerie at the ornate Central United Church, with his show entirely consisting of material from his previous two releases

A Crow Looked at Me and *Now Only*. Both these albums are based off the passing of his wife, Geneviève Castrée, from cancer in 2016. It was easily the most heartbreaking show I have ever seen and marks the first time I have ever seen the soundman cry at a concert.

Immediately following this, I ran across to the Palace Theatre to catch Thundercat, who managed to stretch his jazz-funk pieces into improvised jams held together by his awe-inspiring musicianship. The two highly different styles and emotional tones of these shows managed to be equally transcendent in their own way, illustrating the musical diversity that makes Sled Island such an incredible festival.

— Troy Hasselman



Sports:

Album: Judas Priest — *Firepower*

Released in March, Judas Priest's *Firepower* is a throwback to the glory days of heavy metal. The band's 18th full-length album is fourteen riff-heavy rock anthems — the traditional Priest sound that manages to sound both modern and classic at the same time.

More than 40 years after his first Priest album, frontman Rob Halford can't quite reach the upper-register he once could, but he still rocks vocal chops reminiscent of a true leather-clad metal god. "Rising from Ruins" is a standout, symphonic yet aggressive and approaching melodic death metal territory at times. The best thing about *Firepower* is that it doesn't seek to reinvent the wheel — it's good, classic metal coming from a band that helped to define the genre in the '80s.

Favourite Moment: Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir's Olympic Finale to The Tragically Hip's "Long Time Running"

Is there a better way to honour Canada's unofficial poet laureate than by having the country's Olympic sweet-

hearts pay homage to him in a skating routine? If there is, I can't imagine what it would be. The Tragically Hip provided the soundtrack to life in Canada and Gord Downie's eulogistic farewell tour brought a country together to celebrate our land, our heritage and our ability to move forward together. Canadian ice-dancers Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir captured the country's imagination — and the gold medal — at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang.

The Canadian flag-bearers became the most decorated ice dancers in Olympic history and their on- and off-ice chemistry, passion and love for this country captured the imagination of sports fans everywhere. Their finale performance to one of the Hip's most emotionally-charged songs required plenty of Kleenex and waterproof mascara. It was heart-achingly beautiful — and truly Canadian.

— Kristy Koehler



Humour:

Album: Chvrches — *Love Is Dead*

Honestly, for most of this year, I neglected music that came out. When I had time for listening, I stuck to podcasts, breaking only for Cher's ABBA covers. In the later part of 2018, I finally started catching up on what I'd missed. After listening to *Love Is Dead*, I wish I had made the switch earlier.

Love Is Dead is the usual synth-pop from Chvrches, but with extra pop — this thing is full of bangers. Most of the album feels made specifically for dancing alone in your bedroom. The choruses tend to be repetitive, providing a low entry bar for the listener to immediately scream along, the lyrics functioning more as a percussive punctuation ("never-ever-ever").

My favourites off the album are "Grafitti," the dreamy and glittery opening track that takes me back to memories that I don't even have, and "Heaven/Hell," a euphoric explosion that makes

it hard to not break something while I'm washing the dishes. That's the price you pay for bangers.

Favourite Moment: *Eighth Grade*

Comedian Bo Burnham made his directorial debut with *Eighth Grade*, a reflection on Burnham's own anxiety through the lens of Kayla, an eighth-grade girl. It's hard to find media that critiques social media without coming off as berating "kids these days," or resorting to *Black Mirror*-levels of disaster. Similarly, it's hard to find good depictions of teenagers. They're often given dialogue that either treats them like small children, or well-thought adults. Burnham's awareness of this is evident — Kayla's dialogue isn't childish, but it comes out awkward, like someone having a bit of trouble properly articulating their thoughts. Kind of like a teenager.

Overall, the film found ways to connect with me as someone who was unpopular as an eighth-grader, a user of social media, a nervous person and a former teenage girl. It's a cringe-catharsis, relieving from your anxieties by showing you that you're not the only one who feels them.

Oh, also, the score slaps.

— Frankie Hart



Photo:

Album: Vance Joy — *Nation of Two*

I first encountered some of the music on *Nation of Two* last December when I came across the song "Lay it on Me." Even though the album wasn't released until February, Vance Joy previewed some of the music beforehand. I was immediately drawn to its upbeat tempo and lyrics of falling in love to the changing of the seasons. Joy's voice is vulnerable, which makes the listener feel a true connection to the lyrics and their meaning.

The whole album tells the trials and tribulations of a love story from begin-

ning to end. It starts off with the excitement of having someone new in your life, then progresses to slowly falling in love and describes the feelings associated with eventually losing that person. In an interview with *triple j*, Joy describes his album as being “about how your world begins and ends whenever you’re with that one person – the idea that their love for each other gives them their bearings, a point of reference that makes sense of life.”

My favourite songs on the album are “Saturday Sun” and “I’m With You.” “Saturday Sun” is a nice bop that feels like you’re reminiscing about summertime memories, while “I’m With You” has more substance through Joy’s unique storytelling skills that evoke feelings of clarity after finding and losing love.

Favourite Moment: *Bohemian Rhapsody*

Honestly, I think we could all use a little more Queen in our lives. *Bohemian Rhapsody* delivers that tenfold. I grew up listening to Queen and could recite everything from “Fat Bottomed Girls” to “Bohemian Rhapsody” by the time I was seven, so I was over the moon when I found out a biopic would be released about the life of Freddie Mercury.

In countless interviews, Brian May admitted that *Bohemian Rhapsody* took almost a decade to make. It had to be done right in order to properly capture and honour Mercury’s legacy. I knew a little bit about Mercury’s life – as well as the other members of Queen – prior to seeing this film, but through the raw and emotional acting I was moved to tears at multiple points. I was especially impressed with the re-enactment of the Live Aid scene at the end of the film, which almost shot-for-shot modeled the real-life performance in 1985.

If you haven’t yet seen this film or, God forbid, haven’t listened to Queen’s music, I would recommend you do so to start the year off right. As for me, I’ll be adding “darling” to the end of many more sentences in the classic Freddie Mercury style.

— Mariah Wilson



Online:

Album: The Wombats — *Beautiful People Will Ruin Your Life*

This album, the fifth from indie-rock outfit The Wombats, has some of the wildest and most interesting lyrics and wordplay I have heard in a long time. Sometimes it doesn’t make sense, but hey, I don’t think it has to.

While the hit single “Turn” is has received the most airplay, it also offers a more dynamic twist to typical pop beats, while other songs like “Lemon to a Knife Fight” and “Out of My Head” bring twisted words. One of my favourite bass riffs of all time comes from “Out of My Head,” which goes to show that most songs on this album are meant to have the bass cranked.

For me this album brings memories of cruising in the summertime in rural Alberta and tunes to blast while doing yard work. It brings old pop to a new register that sets it apart from any other album I’ve listened to this year.

Favourite Moment: *Bad Times at the El Royale*

Though *Annihilation* came close, in the end I decided no other movie this year beats *Bad Times at the El Royale*. Written, produced and directed by Drew Goddard, the movie creates the perfect balance between intrigue, plot propulsion and ‘wtf is going on.’ The dynamic array of characters in the film bring entirely different personalities, background and secrets to the El Royale Hotel, providing compelling character-based plots that, while different, do not seem disjointed. The film draws filming techniques from Quentin Tarantino and Wes Anderson to create a vivid rollercoaster experience. Also, shirtless Chris Hemsworth.

— Nikayla Goddard



Graphics:

Album: Smino — *NOIR*
Admittedly, I thought it would be difficult for Smino to follow up his breakthrough, *blkswn*. Songs like “Wild Irish

Roses,” “Anita” and “Amphetamine” were not only well-received, but highlighted what sets Smino apart in today’s roster of hip-hop artists – his capital-S Smooth flow and the unique way with which he approaches language and song writing.

Given all of this, *NOIR* still managed to exceed any and all expectations. Like on *blkswn*, this album’s first track, “Kovert,” eases us in nice and smooth into this fifth dimension of soul. His quick and often unexpected rhymes come in an onslaught of mixed voices – from a hyperventilated falsetto rap on “Bam 2x” to the deliciously slurred “Merlot.” Smino also explored some very interesting (and hype!) beats on “Klink” and “Fenty Sex,” which were two easy favourites off the album.

If you only listen to one track on *NOIR*, listen to “Hoopti.” If you’re not bumping to it by the time Smino rhymes “I’m a instrument/Play into romance,” I’m sorry, but you must be a robot.

Favourite Moment: *Crazy Rich Asians*

Crazy Rich Asians is your standard rom-com – but with an all-Asian cast. The deliberate casting of Asian-American actors afforded the film recognition as the first of its kind to grace the box office since 1993.

But as someone who grew up in Asia, I didn’t find myself buying into this “novelty” with the same fervour. In fact, I can’t say that the actual film was the reason *Crazy Rich Asians* is my favourite moment of 2018. It’s what happened after the credits started rolling that truly made waves in my universe.

After seeing one Asian story playing out on the big screen, other Asian people shared their stories too – stories about parents and grandparents searching for new life in a strange country, working three or four odd jobs to pay for college tuition. Stories of Asian children hiding themselves due to the shame of being different, only to grow up and realize they’ve lost who they are. These were words I never knew I needed to hear because in the conversation about race, the Asian experience almost always gets lost in the mix. But this film put a spotlight on us and now we are part of the conversation.

— Tricia Lim



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Dinos continue long-standing tradition of successful ringette in Alberta

Story by Kristy Koehler
Photos courtesy Dinos Ringette

Though Ringette is a truly Canadian game, it's one many people haven't had the opportunity to enjoy live. A winter team sport invented in Ontario in 1963, ringette is played on an ice surface with skates, a straight stick and a rubber ring.

Ringette is dubbed the fastest game on ice. Players have 30 seconds to take a shot on net — failure to do so results in the opposing team being awarded possession of the ring. Unlike hockey, there are no face-offs nor offsides, rendering game stoppages infrequent. Play action is virtually constant.

While it's hard to avoid the comparisons to hockey, veteran Dinos ringette goaltender Emily Drake says it flows more like lacrosse.

"There's more of a lateral and vertical flow component to the game," she said. She also says trying to protect the net from a ring is much different than a

puck.

"Pucks move faster so you have to be faster in how you react, but you can control your rebounds and where you want the puck to go more easily than you can a ring. Rings are more unpredictable," Drake said.

Do the comparisons to hockey bother ringette athletes? Dinos ringette team captains, Sarah Brewin and Kairo Mair, say they're used to it — just don't suggest that hockey was the sport they should have played.

"It bothers me when people ask me, 'Why didn't you play hockey?'" Brewin said. "It's such a different sport — it's like asking a baseball player why he didn't play soccer."

All three athletes have played or have had the opportunity to play hockey. But each chose ringette for a variety of reasons, especially the team-centric nature of the sport. In a major departure from hockey rules, players are not allowed to carry the ring over the blue line. Instead, it must be passed, making

sure multiple athletes are involved in every play.

"You really need to rely on your whole team being at a very high level," Mair said. "I found it much faster to play. Ringette is a lot more creative in a way. It's more of a read and react game."

Mair says it bothers her when people say ringette isn't a legitimate sport. Most of this criticism, she says, comes from people who haven't even seen a game.

Alberta has a long history with the sport, considering Team Alberta won the first-ever World Ringette Championship in 1990. The sport is highly competitive, played at the Alberta Winter Games as well as the Canada Winter Games, in addition to the Western Canadian Ringette Championships, the Canadian Ringette Championships and the University Challenge Cup.

The Dinos have taken home nine gold medals at the UCC since the tournament's inception in 1999. Most

recently, the Dinos won the 2018 University Challenge Cup in Guelph, Ontario.

In addition to their yearly university play, the Dinos compete in the Open A division of the Calgary Open Ringette Association, a city-wide league. There's an additional championship to be had at this level and it provides the Dinos an opportunity to get familiar with other styles of play — many of the athletes on city teams have played for Team Canada at the national level and playing against them gives the Dinos a leg up in the UCC.

“We get exposure to other teams which is a bit different of a style than the university competition,” Brewin said.

Last year, the Dinos finished in third place in the city division. The team's 13-4-2 record propelled them to the provincial championships, a feat they hope to repeat this January after taking on the w. Dinos ringette schedules are available online at calgaryopenringette.com and on the Dinos website.



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U of C Ski and Board Club still going strong after more than 50 years

Story by Kristy Koehler
Photo courtesy Steve Wilson

The University of Calgary's Ski and Board Club is well-known on campus for throwing epic parties and shredding epic powder. Founded in 1962, the club has almost 4,000 members. Club vice president of events Kyra McRitchie says that, over the years, they've even partied with some of the club's founding members.

"We've actually been on trips and met people who were here in the '70s and were execs then," she said.

McRitchie says the membership has about a 60-40 split between skiers and boarders but that they welcome everyone, even those who don't feel they have the skills to shred with the best of them.

"Some people will come with their

friends and their friends will teach them," she said. Others just hang out at the hotel or take in the mountain environment while the rest of the crew hits the powder.

"The ski and board trips are like parties too, so there's bar crawls and it's really inclusive," McRitchie said.

A membership to the Ski and Board Club costs \$10 and the card pretty much pays for itself in one use, says McRitchie.

The membership gets you access to their parties as well as discounts from sponsors. The club has nightlife hookups at Commonwealth, Cowboys, Knoxville's and the Dancing Sasquatch in Banff.

"We've got discounts at a lot of burger places and food places too," McRitchie said. "And outerwear hookups. A big one is you can get your skis or board waxed at the Ski Cellar for free. They've been a

good supporter of us."

Plus, access to the club's stash of discounted lift tickets is well worth the 10 bucks.

"You can buy lift tickets for the hill and get them at 20-30 per cent off," McRitchie said. "It's much cheaper than Costco or any other discount place."

Some of the hills offering discounted lift tickets to club members are Lake Louise, Sunshine, Nakiska, Castle Mountain, Fernie, Kicking Horse and Kimberley. The tickets must be purchased in-person from the Ski and Board Club during their office hours. They're fully run by student execs and volunteers so McRitchie recommends checking the club's Facebook page for the most up-to-date hours or sending them a message to arrange another time to purchase.

The club arranges several trips each year, all of which include transport on a party bus, quad-occupancy accommodation and lift tickets. Food and drinks aren't included but, if you already have a season's pass to the hill you're headed to, you can request a further price reduction. Trips range from \$260-\$370 and usually sell out the day they go on sale.

McRitchie says the trips are great for international students and emphasizes the inclusive nature of the executive team and the club.

"Even if you don't know anybody going on the trip you'll definitely meet people," she said. "We've had people come who don't know anyone. If you don't have anybody to ski with, [the executive team] will ski with you."

The trips are fun and the people are friendly.

"That's why people keep coming back," McRitchie said.

Current trip offerings and on-sale dates are available at the club's website uofcskiandboard.com or on their Facebook page.



Three healthy habits to add to your routine

Story by Tori Taylor

The time for New Year's resolutions and fresh motivation has arrived. Two types of people emerge every time the new year rolls around: people who hunker down with a list of ways to become their best self and people who boycott the whole process and actively avoid anything that sounds New Year's resolution-y.

Healthier living can happen in many ways. There are three things you can do that are simple, inexpensive and don't take up much extra time: hydrating yourself, exercising more and eating better. Your body, cognitive mind and interpersonal relationships will all thank you for adding these three things to your weekly routine. If you've got the desire to make healthy life changes, here's how to take on 2019.

H2-Oh so good:

Give me an H! Give me a 2! Give me an O! What does that spell? A more youthful complexion and stronger functioning body.

Swap out sugary sodas and juices for fresh water. If drinking water is difficult for you, don't be discouraged. You can spice up your water with fresh-chopped fruit, mint or basil leaves or fresh-squeezed lemon or lime juice. Avoid processed powders like Crystal Light — these add aspartame, sugars and artificial colouring.

The human body is largely made up of water, so it's no wonder why we get headaches and muscle cramps when our supply becomes depleted. Health professionals say we should drink a minimum of eight glasses a day. But this is the minimum recommended amount and drinking more will only add further benefits. When your body is properly hydrated, it shows in your physical appearance. Healthier looking hair, nails and skin are all perks to drinking the right amount of water.

Find your fitness:

Get your sweat on. Plan out time for 30 minutes of elevated heart rates and sweaty foreheads three or four days a week. This will

keep your heart strong and healthy. Before you groan and skip this suggestion, note that cardio can enter your life in many forms. I love to run and I love to cycle. However, this year I really got into high-intensity interval training (HIIT), a form of intermittent exercise that alternates short bursts of intense cardio with less strenuous ones. HIIT is perfect for people who don't enjoy long cardio sessions — the time goes by much quicker and it's easier to stay focused.

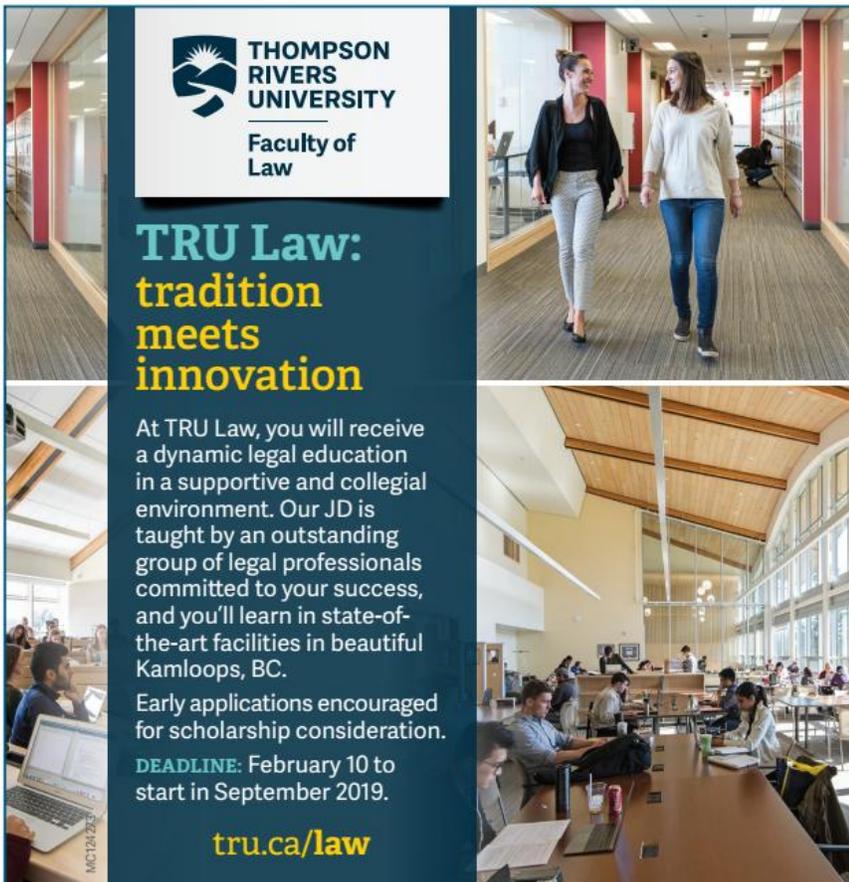
Try circulating through five to eight minutes of different activities that elevate your heart rate. If you've never tried it, skipping with a jump rope is a fun exercise that tones the whole body and can be part of your circuit. I like to start with a jogging or cycling warm up and then move into the more intense exercises. With so many different types of cardio, it's easier than you'd think to stay excited about this lifestyle addition and form it into a weekly habit.

Snack smarter:

Start packing a lunch or dinner for school or work. It might seem like an inconvenience to get up early or stay up late to make meals. However, the benefits for your body and bank account make it well worth your while. Not only will you feel better during the day, but you'll also save money. The best things to pack are fresh veggies and fruits, nuts or homemade trail-mixes, hummus, hard-boiled eggs and protein bars or shakes.

Opt out of processed foods and foods high in sugars. Look instead for snacks that are high in healthy fats like omega-6. Fruits and vegetables are a good source of nutrients and fibre while protein are essential for keeping you feeling full longer. Breads that have lots of seeds are excellent sources of fibre and carbohydrates. Eating whole foods that steer clear of added chemicals, dyes and sugars will fuel your body and mind without causing mood imbalances or feelings of unnecessary fatigue.

The new year is in full swing and you can achieve anything you set your mind to. Let proper hydration, a strong body and healthy diet assist you in whatever goals you set out to conquer in 2019.



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The best outdoor skating rinks in Calgary and area

Story by Kristy Koehler
Photo by Mariah Wilson

Nothing says winter in Canada like a trip to an outdoor skating rink. Calgary, a lively winter sports destination, is home to some of the best outdoor rinks in the country. There are rinks in virtually every neighbourhood and quadrant of the city, so no matter where you live, there's a place to lace up and hit the ice.

Many of the rinks listed below are maintained by the City of Calgary. As they are all outdoors, they are weather-dependent. Bear in mind that conditions can change rapidly in Calgary and rinks' conditions can deteriorate, so it's always a good idea to check online before you head out for a skate. Generally speaking, Calgary's outdoor rinks are open from mid-December through February. The City of Calgary keeps up-to-date information on the rinks they maintain at calgary.ca/parks.

Calgary is also home to the Adopt-a-Rink volunteer program, through which a network of more than 150 volunteers help maintain more than 45 community

skating rinks around the city.

No matter which rink you choose, be mindful that helmets are recommended for all skaters. Most rinks are for pleasure-skating only and don't allow sticks or pucks on the ice, but a select few offer times for shinny.

Olympic Plaza: 228 8 Ave. S.E.

Built for the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, Olympic Plaza was the site of the medal ceremonies for the winners. It boasts the only refrigerated outdoor ice surface in the city of Calgary and the park-like setting is truly beautiful. Situated in the heart of downtown, there's nothing better than looking up at the glimmering shine of the lights from the stunning Calgary skyline while you glide across the ice. Olympic Plaza is well-lit and it has a seating area and washrooms. Best of all, the skating is free. Open from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily, the location also features a skate rental hut on certain days in case you don't have gear of your own. Their website, calgaryskaterentals.com lists up-to-date hours and prices.

Prairie Winds Park:

223 Castleridge Blvd. N.E.

This 16-hectare park in one of Calgary's northeast communities features public art, picnic facilities and a toboggan hill, in addition to its two outdoor skating rinks. Generally, one is designated for pleasure skating only, while the second rink is sometimes offered for shinny hockey games.

Carburn Park:

67 Riverview Dr. S.E.

Deep in Calgary's southeast, Carburn Park is located on the east shore of the Bow River. This skating rink is one of the most relaxing Calgary has to offer, owing to its distance from the hustle and bustle of the city. While there are no skate rentals, public washrooms are available.

Bowness Park:

8900 48 Ave. N.W.

The University of Calgary Outdoor Centre operates the skate shop at Bowness Park. They offer a cold-weather discount so if you're brave enough to strap on skates when the temperature hits -25 C or below, you'll save 50 per cent on your rentals. There's also a discount for those who arrive before noon on the weekends. If you have your own gear, it's free to hit the ice.

Lake Louise:

111 Lake Louise Dr.

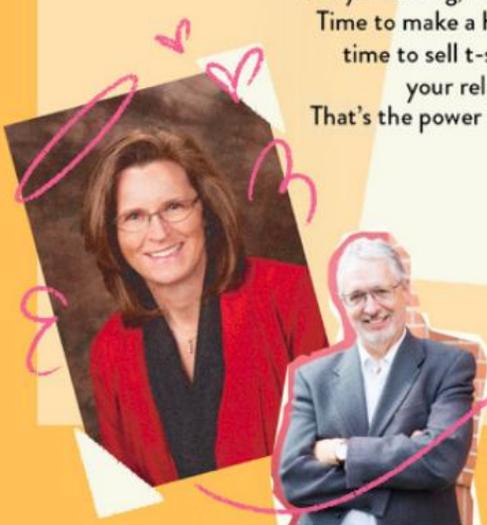
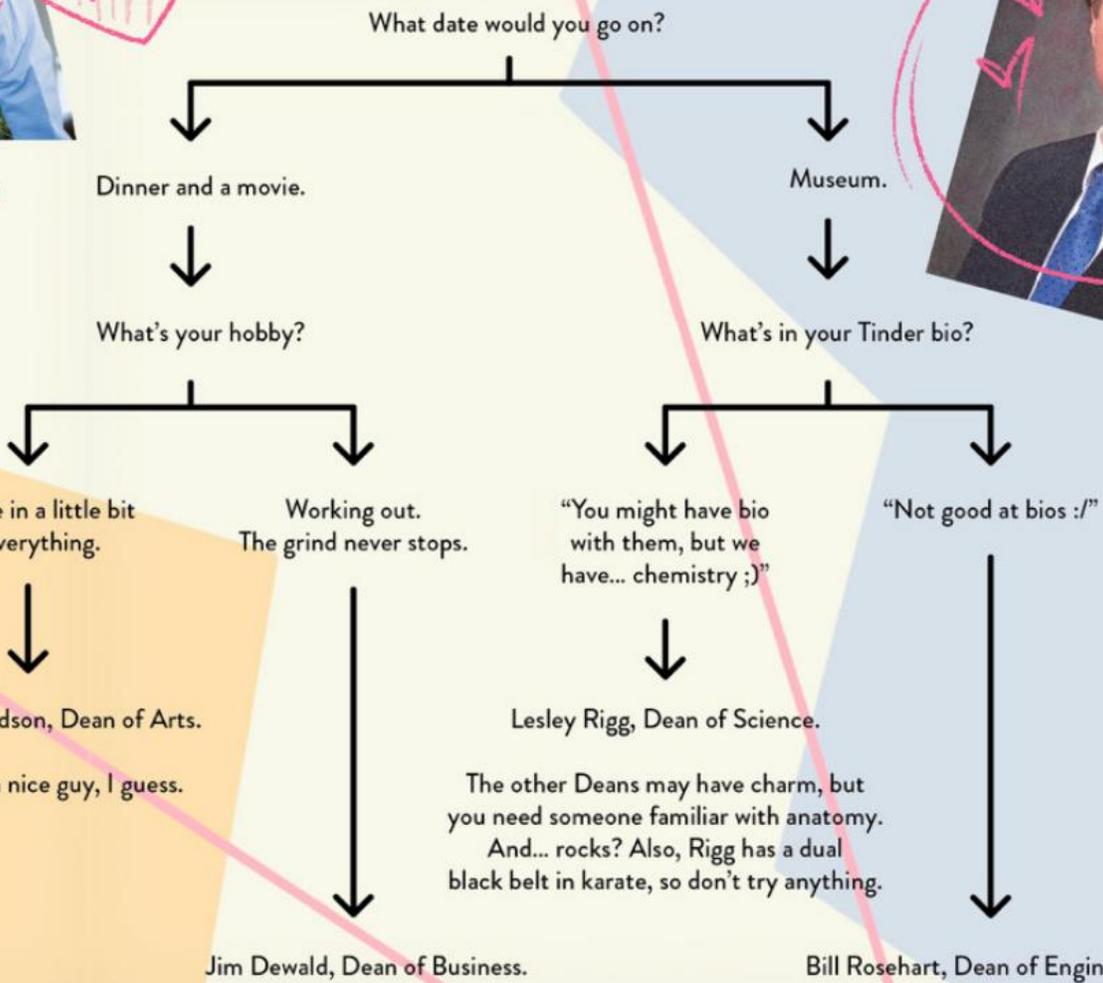
While not in Calgary — and definitely not maintained by the City of Calgary — it would be remiss to discuss outdoor skating anywhere in Alberta without mentioning this magical destination. Roughly a two-hour drive from Calgary, you would have a hard time finding a more picturesque location for outdoor skating.

Complete with an ice castle and a stunning mountain backdrop, a day trip to Lake Louise for a skate can fill your Instagram feed for a month. Flood lights are lit until 11 p.m. and provide just enough light to see where you're going yet maintain a 'skating under the stars' vibe.



Flowchart: Which dreamy dean is your soulmate?

WRITTEN BY FRANKIE HART
DESIGNED BY TRICIA LIM



Jim

*To all the deans I've loved before
xoxo*

Memes of 2018: A reflection

Story by Frankie Hart
Illustration by Tricia Lim

As the years go by, internet comedy evolves. Surfing the web, you're bound to see memes emerge and die on various platforms. As we begin 2019, it's time to pay respect to memes of yesteryear.

The Denny's take on the moth meme:

Yes, this meme originated elsewhere, but the Denny's version is the only one that matters. It's a moth attracted to a lamp! But it's not just any lamp — it's a Denny's sign! Now that's a #lol from me.

The Denny's version of the handshake meme:

The handshake meme represents unity between two things that would usually not have overlap. In this Denny-fied meme, a pumpkin pie and milk shake combine into a pumpkin pie milk shake. It's a funny meme because it sounds delicious and is available for \$5.66!

Denny's using stan Twitter slang:

This sassy Denny's tweet, "we snapped when we made our Pumpkin Spice Pancake Breakfast, and that's the tea," really "goes off," showing how tuned-in the franchise is to the youth of today. I don't know about you, but I'm ready to enjoy my "tea" at my local Denny's. But only because of their fun, wacky social media presence.

Denny's Moons Over My Hammy:

A meal with a funny name, the Moons Over My Hammy is a classic ham and scrambled egg sandwich, served with hash browns. It's not a traditional meme, but let's face it, Denny's transcends memes. Denny's is a meme. Denny's is delicious. Denny's is always open.

Denny's Turkey and Death Dinner:

Denny's turkey breast comes with savoury stuffing, instant death, gravy and cranberry sauce. Served with your choice of two sides: euthanasia or dinner bread. Also available in a senior portion.

Denny's:

Denny's.





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Why will you cry this month?

By Jenna Leong and Nigel Freno

 **Capricorn**
(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)
Wanting to prepare yourself for Valentine's Day, you'll get a head start on crying. Who says you can only feel unbearably lonely once a year?

 **Aquarius**
(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)
Working retail over the holidays, you've been to hell and back. Repetitive Christmas music has re-programmed your brain to reject the new material you're required to learn this semester. Your algorithm will release automated tears to free up space in your head.

 **Pisces**
(Feb. 19 – March 20)
Remember that assigned novel for a class two semesters ago that you really meant to read? Reflecting on your commitment issues, you burst into tears.

 **Aries**
(March 21 – April 19)
It's a fresh start to a new year! New semester, new you, it's all going so well. Well, optimism is fleeting. Simply knowing this makes you cry.

 **Taurus**
(April 20 – May 20)
All you heard was "All I Want For Christmas Is You," but he still broke up with you right before Christmas. Then he guilted you, saying it's your fault that he has to return the many, many, many gifts he bought for you. *Sniff* It's okay though — new year, new boyfriend!

 **Gemini**
(May 21 – June 20)
You will work on that novella you promised yourself you'd finish before 2019. But we all know it's never going to get done. Your parents were right.

 **Cancer**
(June 21 – July 22)
The stress of the semester will completely engulf you. And it's only January. Let the waterworks begin.

 **Leo**
(July 23 – Aug. 22)
All of your relatives gifted you packages of socks over the holidays. They said in adulthood, you'd appreciate being gifted socks, but no one bothered to even guess what you really wanted. You'll use these socks to sop up your tears.

 **Virgo**
(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)
You can't wait for summer. But then you remember that you don't have a beach bod. You'll use your tears as lotion, tanning in the privacy of your backyard. Silly Virgo, beach bod is a state of mind.

 **Libra**
(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)
"Jingle Bell Rock" was your jam long after your friends deemed it inappropriate to still listen to it. As they forcefully delete your Christmas Spotify playlist, you'll rock back and forth in the corner, silent tears falling down your face.

 **Scorpio**
(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)
Your holiday Tinder date went horribly. Santa scared off your date with his Big Daddy Energy and watchful elves. You can't help but feel that you've lost the love of your life. Don't worry — Papa Santy will be there to dry your eyes.

 **Sagittarius**
(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)
Every day you tell yourself that you'll bring your leftover fruit cake to eat as a snack instead of spending \$6 on fries and every day it grows exponentially lonelier on your counter, pushed behind the toaster oven. Thinking of your poor, neglected little cake, you'll let out a sob.



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Humour

Caption contest



You think you're funny, huh? Submit your caption to humour@thegauntlet.ca or comment it on our Facebook post to get your caption printed in the next issue and shared on our social media. Also, win a *Gauntlet* mug!



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THURSDEN

PARTY

WHAT'S HAPPENING

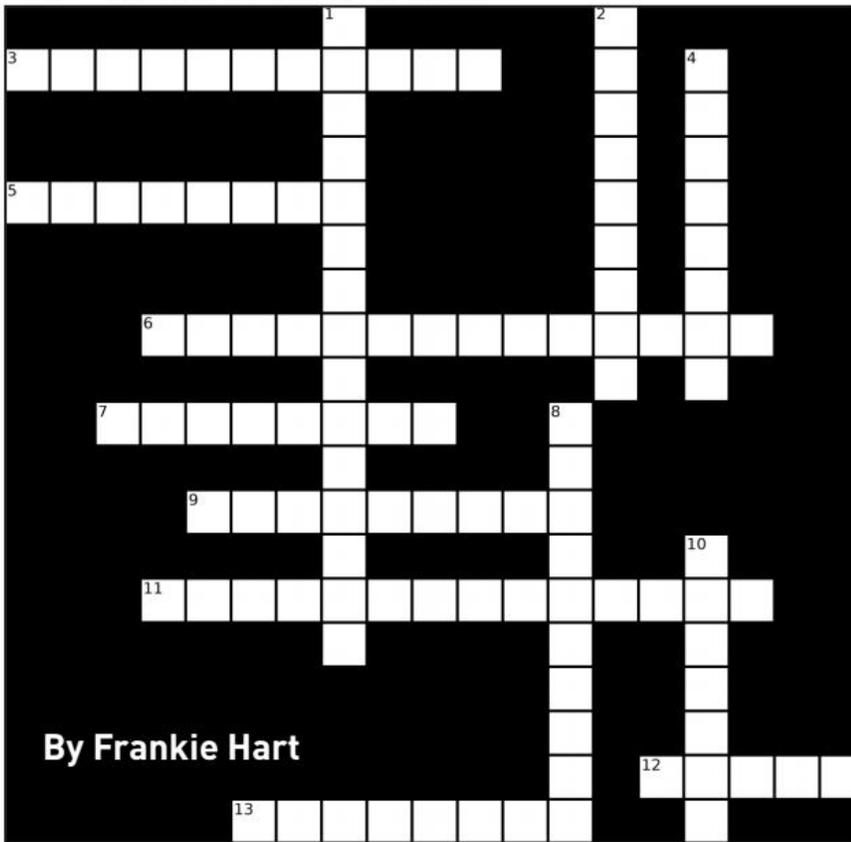
THE DEN EST. 1969

#30Wings 30Reactions
WING WEDNESDAYS | 4pm - CLOSE

\$5 PER POUND OF WINGS
\$11 DEN LAGER JUGS

THE DEN EST. 1969

2018 Throwback Crossword

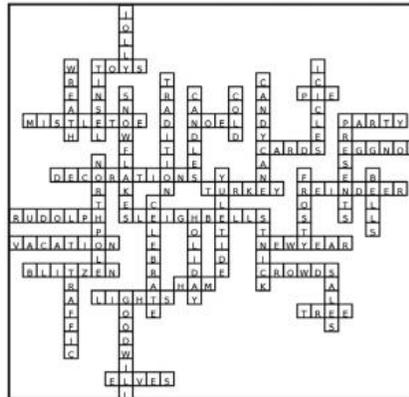


By Frankie Hart

December Crossword Solution:



December Criss-Cross Solution:



Congratulations to Colleen Bonnyman, Challen Julian and Nicholas Cervania for being the first to submit last month's puzzles! Send a photo of a completed crossword or criss-cross puzzle to humour@thegauntlet.ca to be congratulated in our next issue. Be among the first three submitters to win a Gauntlet mug!

ACROSS:

- 3. In _____, Red Gerard slept in, lost his coat, said "fuck" on live TV and then won Gold. Kids these days.
- 5. Twelve boys and their football coach were rescued from a flooded cave in _____.
- 6. This theoretical physicist passed away in March.
- 7. The Golden State Killer was finally caught with the help of reporting from the late Michelle _____.
- 9. Many deleted their Facebook accounts after a scandal involving _____ Analytica.
- 11. After 14 years, the sequel to this film came out, its original fans now all grown up.
- 12. In May, Prince _____ married Meghan Markle, inciting elitist drama no one should care about.
- 13. The Fab Five returned in this show, which everyone binge-watched on Netflix while crying.

DOWN:

- 1. The music video for "This Is America" by _____ went viral as viewers discussed theories on its meaning and identified visual references.
- 2. Did y'all hear? We won the Grey Cup against the Ottawa _____.
- 4. This show was revived and canceled in a whirlwind — it's because of that darn Ambien!
- 8. Calgary held a _____ on hosting the 2026 Winter Olympics.
- 10. The Calgary Public Library reopened its Instagram-able _____ branch.





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