

[www.TheReflector.ca](http://www.TheReflector.ca)

# THE REFLECTOR

FREE

November 15, 2012





# CONTENTS



## Movember flavour-savers

— pg. 6

### [NEWS]

#### No pain, no gain | 3

UnemployedProfessors.com tells students that the coolest way to get through school is to cheat. Problematic?

#### Making the grade | 4

Three cheers for MRU! The Globe and Mail’s Canadian university ranking survey gives us an A-

### [FEATURES]

#### Tickling the clam | 7

Sex columnist Lindsay Douglas gives you a helpful how-to when it comes to playing with yourself

#### Religious right | 8

James Wilt looks at the ins and outs of the U.S. Election and what it means for the American people

### [ARTS]

#### Unfortunate event | 9

Lemony Snicket failed to appear due to a mysterious accident, but luckily Daniel Handler was available to fill in

#### Visit from Hyrule | 12

The Legend of Zelda symphony concert was so hotly anticipated, two of our editors returned home from Chicago early to catch it

### [SPORTS]

#### Sloggin noggins | 13

Concussions seem to be everywhere in the media. Barbara Comes shows you why they still need to be taken seriously

#### Cougars need love | 15

Sports editor Todd Colin Vaughan talks about how a university culture of sport creates student identity

### HEARSAY

“ Also, if you don’t want to form a small battery mountain next to your bed, I would very much recommend getting a rechargeable vibrator. ”

— pg. 7

### >> ON THE WEB

CHECK US OUT ONLINE AT [THEREFLECTOR.CA](#), [FACEBOOK](#) and [TWITTER @REFLECTTHIS](#)

### TWITTERSPHERE

- @MissiKrisi: Just watched a guy who was too into playing with his phone walk into the girl’s bathroom... way to be, dude. Way. To. Be. #mru
- @Iamkuulkid: The only time i bring my lunch in #MRU and the microwave is broken.... smdh #unilife #brokeass
- @jermynvoon: Guess what I’m doing this weekend. Homework...fun? Umm not really but it’s not that bad. Done school in 3.5 wks! #MRU #unilife #lastyear
- @TerminatorAnson: I’m glad I’ve graduated university because I bet dollars to donuts, some 18 year old is walking into #MRU in sandals and/or shorts right now
- @Buszkab: Reading a scholarly article in one sitting is impossible... #studentlife #MRU
- @TamaraAmaro1: Why did this guy bring a large crucifix with him to the midterm? #MRU #midterms
- @unclescuddles: Buddy just called me a rude dude with too much tude! Can you believe this guy! Just told me i give awful head too. Unbelievable! #MRU

# Plagiarism cheats you of knowledge

*‘Professional editing services’ not worth the risk*

**Kaity Brown**  
*Contributor*

University life is only about one thing — partying.

At least according to UnemployedProfessors.com, a website where students can post their assignments online and have “professors,” — or people who supposedly have scholarly credentials — bid on the papers they want to write for a fee of around \$200.

This website is one of many, but it stands out due to its use of colloquial language, profanities and comic strips mocking the seriousness of plagiarism.

“Let’s face it — academia is a machine that thrives only on what it incestuously produces,” the homepage of UnemployedProfessors.com states. “The people writing for you here are those who’ve been sucked in and spit out by this machine. Why are we here? In short, our job is to make sure the same thing doesn’t happen to you.”

The website attacks the integrity of the academic system and tries to make it seem like the only way to succeed is to plagiarize.

However, Karen Overbye, an English instructor at Mount Royal University, said students who plagiarize are really cheating themselves in the end.

“You’re not giving yourself any credit in many ways,” Overbye said. “Really, you’re saying: ‘I’m crap.’ We should be here because of intellectual curiosity. If this is your profession, you want to be really good at it.”

Now Overbye has introduced discussion about this website in



Photo: ©iStockPhoto/OSTILL / Photo illustration: Don Triebwasser

**Plagiarism is plagiarism, even from websites that hide behind the name of “professional editing services.” At MRU, the penalties for using sites like UnemployedProfessors.com can range from redoing the assignment to being charged with academic dishonesty.**

her English classes, not only talking about the ethical side of this issue and the fact that teachers are here to help students reach high goals, but also to apply it to course material as well.

“I try to appeal to the sense of responsibility and not just shaming people,” she said, when asked how to avoid the use of these sites.

“We set the bar high and then we help people reach it. We don’t want to set the bar so low that anyone can reach it.”

Section E of the Code of Student Conduct for Mount Royal University covers the definitions of words like plagiarism and cheating. Section 7.a.i. reads: “Plagiarism occurs when an individual submits: the words, ideas, images or data of any other person as his/her own in any aca-

demic work which is a component of a course or program of study at Mount Royal.”

Although the line seems clear when it comes to what is considered plagiarism, there is some ambiguity, because MRU has policies against copying and pasting materials from online sources, yet there are no policies against “professional editing services,” as websites like UnemployedProfessors.com are cleverly called.

Sharren Patterson, also an English instructor at MRU, said she had an experience with a student who bought an essay from a “professional editing service.”

“She felt that this is a competitive world and that in order to get ahead you do what you have to do,” Patterson said. “So I said, ‘Well, now you’re going to write a

new one because I won’t accept it.”

“I have no idea really if (the student) wrote it,” Patterson said, adding that she was sure that the student had a very rough draft, which she submitted it to this editing service, which then fixed it up and added the documentation.

Although Patterson said most instructors at MRU disagree very much that these websites aren’t considered plagiarism, the problem comes from websites hiding behind the name “editing services.”

There are always scholarly situations where work is peer reviewed and edited by others. This is where the confusion comes into play, because an editing service could refer to actual editing, such as fixing typos and word choices, or it could mean the assignment is being created almost totally from scratch.

Jeff Keshen, the dean of the faculty of arts, said the penalties for using a service like UnemployedProfessors.com are severe.

“What you’re doing here, in fact, is that you are physically taking money out of your pocket, you’re transferring funds, with the intent of using someone else’s work to represent as your own,” Keshen said. “In that particular case I think that that is a more egregious violation of the rules.”

Although Keshen understands that sometimes students plagiarise unintentionally, using these websites is completely inexcusable. “The line is clear,” Keshen said.

NEWS

**NEWS EDITOR:**  
**Holly Triebwasser**  
NewsEditor@TheReflector.ca

November 15, 2012

## BRIEFS

**Mayor Naheed Nenshi announced that he will seek another term as Calgary’s mayor in the next October 2013 municipal elections. Nenshi said, “I’m in! I am in with everything I’ve got.”**

**The Los Angeles County recently passed a ballot requiring all pornography actors to wear condoms during sex scenes. With this initiative, all porn producers must get a health permit in order to make movies depicting explicit sex and nudity, and on-set use of condoms will be a part of this permit.**

**The plan for turning Airport Trail into a major corridor in northeast Calgary by 2039 is said to eventually cost the city \$300 million on top of what it’s already spending on the 620-metre airport tunnel.**

### STUDENT READS

## ‘Summit’ hits the stands at MRU

*University combines alumni and community magazines into unified publication*

**BAJ Visser**  
*Staff Writer*

A new publication has hit the stands at Mount Royal University.

The first issue of MRU’s *Summit Magazine* was released Oct. 15, combining the university’s old alumni donor and community magazines into one unified publication. However, alumni will be at the heart of the publication.

“Alumni will always be a river running through *Summit*,” said Lucille Gnanasiamany, the chair of the new publication and MRU’s director of marketing. “Students will always have an opportunity to continue to read about and connect with their alma mater, and learn about the new things that are happening.”

Prior to the *Summit* launch, each division of university advancement had their own separate publication: *Reflections* for alumni relations, the annual donors report and *Focus*, which went out to the entire community from the marketing department.

“We debated this long and hard, but we think we’ve got a publication that has content that is relevant to alumni, is interesting to donors, and is informative for the community,” Gnanasiamany said.

The reasons behind the consolidations were primarily budget related, according to Gnanasiamany. The three disparate publications were each created separately, in a process that cost the university between

\$220,000 and \$250,000 a year.

This included the cost of mailing *Reflections* out to 50,000 alumni bi-annually. “The mailing cost is the single biggest expenditure, and we believe that we can save that cost while translating it into a rich online experience,” Gnanasiamany said.

“We do feel like all our stakeholder groups still have to be communicated with, but we could not afford three publications anymore,” she added. The cost of *Summit* will be between \$150,000 to \$175,000 per year.

The current issue of *Summit* features articles about some of MRU’s new and upcoming programs, profiles of the achievements of faculty, staff and alumni, and features about the Cougars

and the university’s Legacy Awards series.

“Alumni are the heart and soul of our outcomes at Mount Royal,” Gnanasiamany said. “Nothing else really tells the world about the quality of a Mount Royal education than somebody who’s graduated and gone on to change the world in their own ways.”

Students who graduate will continue to receive copies of *Summit* in the mail for at least the next few years, though Gnanasiamany said that in three years she would like to see *Summit*’s distribution become entirely digital, save for the copies that are sent out in the *Globe and Mail*.



# MRU makes the grade

## 2013 university rankings give Mount Royal an A-

**Will Conner**  
Contributor

The report card is in and Mount Royal University earned a grade of A-, meaning we should probably take it out for ice cream to celebrate.

*Maclean's* and the *Globe and Mail* have released their 2013 university rankings, assigning MRU an overall score of A-.

Both publications use different methodologies to compile their rankings, but use a blend of publicly available information and independent student response surveys.

MRU does well in the rankings overall, leading in areas such as class sizes, access to faculty, student services, infrastructure, technology, most satisfied student and the all-important stu-

dent employability.

Not surprising to those at MRU, the institution falls short largely in transportation, off-campus housing and access to public transit, though those issues are largely out of the control of the university.

There are many ways to compare institutions against each other. Comparing Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick — the top ranked undergraduate school in *Maclean's* — to MRU's rankings in the *Globe and Mail*, Mount Royal stacked up right alongside Mount Allison. However, MRU didn't make *Maclean's* top ranking.

Compared to the University of Calgary, MRU ranked higher in every category except for better library hours and access to transit. However, with the Sunalta

C-Train station and express buses opening soon, and the completion of MRU's new transit hub at West Gate, even that may level out.

*Globe and Mail* rankings, however, are categorized by the size of the institution; in this regard, MRU and U of C would be in separate categories. Also, with the average MRU professor making 20 per cent less than professors at the U of C, according to *Maclean's*, MRU may be a tough sell to attract top teaching talent.

Mount Royal University may be an A- minus institution, but the school has worked hard for its university accreditation and the ranking shows MRU isn't struggling to play at the university level.



Illustration: Rachael Frey

The *Globe and Mail's* 2013 university ranking results are out, and MRU has fairly consistently maintained above average scores compared to other small-sized Canadian institutions.

GIRL POWER

# 'It's a girl': world's 3 deadliest words

Leacock Theatre screens documentary exposing the problem of gendercide

**Leah Fink**  
Contributor

In the time it will take you to read this article, around 125 girls will be killed.

Female infanticide and 'gendercide' are a severe problem in India and China, affecting and ending the lives of 13 million girls every year.

The documentary *It's a Girl*, which showed Nov. 4 in the Leacock Theatre, focuses on the reasons behind the issue and how prevalent it is in those societies.

The name stems from the sad notion that the deadliest words to be uttered at the birth of a child are, "It's a girl."

Leela Jacobs, organizer of the *It's a Girl* screening in Calgary, got involved because the issue was very close to her family. Her mother, Lynnette Jacobs, grew up in India with seven sisters. If Leela's grandfather had believed girls are not worth having, Lynnette would have been killed.

Lynnette's father always said he was happy to have all girls, and he never neglected his daughters. Because her father was a Christian, Lynnette said, that helped matters, as the largest supporters of the dowry system are Hindu.

The dowry system has been a tradition in India for hundreds of years. It requires the family of a bride to give extravagant presents to the family of the groom. The bride becomes part of the groom's family, and doesn't remain close with her family.



Photo courtesy: Leela Jacobs

**Leela Jacobs (right), organizer of the *It's a Girl* screening in the Leacock Theatre at Mount Royal University, with her sister, Lisa Jacobs (left) and mother, Lynnette Jacobs (center).**

Because of the expense of dowry, and the loss of a daughter to marriage, sayings such as "A thief is born" are common upon the birth of girls.

To avoid the expense of daughters, many families will kill a girl as soon as they are born and try again, hoping for a son. Many girls are also aborted, neglected or abandoned.

According to the film, only one in four girls born in India make it past puberty.

Jacobs said she was also lucky in her marriage. Even after marriage, life is not always easy for women in India. Abuse is common if a husband feels the dowry was not high enough, or if his wife is not giving birth to sons.

"Dowry deaths" are generally ignored by the law, but are responsible for around 100,000 deaths a year in India, even though dowries have been illegal since 1961.

This problem is also prevalent in China due to the one-child policy, established in 1978. If the first child of a family is a girl, she will often be killed or abandoned so the family can have a boy as their one child, because when a girl gets married she becomes part of the groom's family.

Because of this, there is 37 million more men than women in China, and every year 1.1 million more boys than girls are born. These uneven numbers have led to the kidnapping

of girls and young women for brides.

There are many who are trying to fight this problem. Mitu Khurana is an Indian woman who was forced to have a gender determination test while pregnant, and had to fight her husband's family to keep them from aborting her twin girls.

Khurana is now a social activist, fighting the law and inspiring women to rise up and take a stand.

Lynnette Jacobs is doing her part too. When she goes back to visit India, she volunteers to help girls who were not as fortunate as she was at the Pandita Ramabhai Mukti Mission, an orphanage and shelter for women all ages, from abandoned girls to elderly women.

During her most recent visit in the spring of 2012, there were two abandoned babies brought in — one that

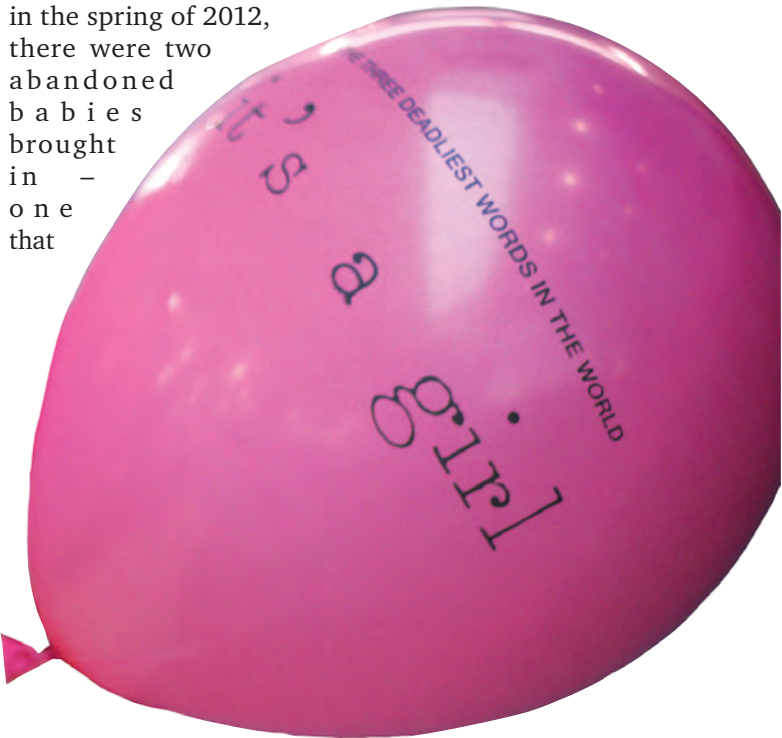
was left on the highway and somehow survived, and one that was left in a field for animals to eat.

Lynnette Jacobs is very proud of her daughter for organizing the event, and said she believes we really need to make people aware of the situation.

"One screening won't change the world, but everyone does their part in global change," she said.

That is what this movie is about.

If you are interested in taking the next step, you can check out <http://www.itsagirlmovie.com> for more information on how to support organizations that are trying to stop gendercide.





**EDITORIAL STAFF:**  
Publishing Editor: **Rachael Frey**  
Managing Editor: **Ivar Bergs**  
News Editor: **Holly Triebwasser**  
Features Editor: **Samara Hawkins**  
Arts Editor: **Nathan Ross**  
Sports Editor: **Todd Colin Vaughan**  
Photo Editor: **James Wilt**  
Layout Editor: **Vern McGill**  
Web Editor: **Lindsay Douglas**

**CONTRIBUTORS:**  
Kaity Brown, BAJ Visser,  
Don Triebwasser, Will Conner,  
Leah Fink, Logan Pollon,  
Omar Omar, Carter Cook,  
Caitlin Clow, Barbara Comes

**COVER:**  
James Wilt, Vern McGill

The Reflector, with an on- and off-campus circulation of 10,000, is the independent voice of the students of Mount Royal University. It is published fortnightly during the academic year (Sept. to April).

The Reflector is editorially autonomous and financially independent for all other governing bodies at Mount Royal University.

The Reflector welcomes newsworthy submissions from all students and community members. While the right of editorial comment is reserved for editors of The Reflector, opinion pieces may be submitted as letters to the editor, and may be published on the editorial page as such. The Reflector reserves the right not to publish submissions deemed by the Publishing Editor to be offensive.

Complaints arising from the content of the paper should be directed to the Ombudsboard. This board has been established as a mediator between the Reflector Publications Society staff and its readership.

All decisions of the Ombudsboard are final and binding on both parties. Letters to the Ombudsboard must be sent in confidence, care of the Reflector Publications Society, to the Reflector Publications Society office.

Submissions and letters to the editor should be a maximum of 500 words, typed, double-spaced, and contain the writer's name and phone number. No unsigned letters will be published. Only in exceptional cases, at the discretion of the Publishing Editor, will writers' names be withheld. The Reflector reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity.

Contents are copyright © 2012. No material may be reproduced without express written consent.

All opinions contained within this paper are those of the individual authors, and not necessarily those of the Reflector Publications Society. For more information, contact The Reflector office at:

**THE REFLECTOR**  
**Wyckham House**  
**Mount Royal University**  
**4825 Mount Royal Gate SW**  
**Calgary, AB T3E 6K6**  
  
**All depts.: 403.440.6268**  
**Fax: 403.440.6762**  
**TheReflector@TheReflector.ca**



## Do you think moustaches are sexy? Why or why not?



**Carlos Aras**  
*Conservatory*

"Yes, because it can hide the person. It makes it more interesting."



**Brianna Johnston**  
*Theatre*

"Sometimes. It depends on the face."



**Kyle Napier**  
*Journalism*

"Yes, of course. The beard is the male alternative to empowerment."



**Fran DeBruyn**  
*Child Studies*

"The more mountain the man, the more I want to climb him."

### EDITORIAL

## There's such a thing as too much Axe

The other day I was standing in line at Tim Hortons, just minding my own business as I tried to work out how I could explain to the cashier the exact right amount of cream cheese to put on my bagel, when my eyes started to water.

As the next Timmies patron took his place in line behind me, I began to have trouble breathing. Suddenly, everything was smelling WAY too fresh.

Unfortunately, it wasn't limited to just smell. The gentleman in question had bathed in so much man-fume I could actually taste it in my mouth.

Worse yet, when I got home four hours later, I could still smell it on my clothing.

That's not okay, people.

Look, I fully understand and support your desire not to smell like day-old socks and onion B.O., but there's a limit. When you're actually violating others with your miasma of "freshness," it's gone way too far.

Think of the people with allergies! Think of the people who are gaining allergies by being exposed to nuclear levels of whatever perfume you chose to slather all over yourself! Think of the children, with their tender little untried nostrils!

Luckily, there's a simple and effective way to check yourself before you leave in the morning: if you can smell your own perfume, you've gone too far. You see, as time progresses, you become desensitized to the smell and it tricks your brain into thinking you need more.

Seriously. If you put on so much perfume that you yourself can smell it, you need to get in the shower, wash it off, and try again. If you don't like the thought of that, then just go with the tried-and-true one squirt method.

In case it's not obvious, that means limiting yourself to one single, solitary squirt of perfume (this does not apply to aerosol applicators). One little spray is enough, it really, really is.

In the end, what it comes down to is this: do not wear so much perfume that it actually transfers to other people's bodies, and we can all be happy, non-smelly, non-allergy-having friends.

Comments? Visit [thereflector.ca](http://thereflector.ca) or in person at our office in the basement of Wyckham House.

### OPINION

## Hurray for sex positivity!

**Rachael Frey**  
*Publishing Editor*

The Reflector staff recently attended a conference in Chicago with hundreds of other student journalists, and among all the critiques and advice (solicited or not) that we received, one thing kept popping up again and again. The sex column.

The response among conference attendees ranged from, "The writer will never have a legitimate journalism career because people will Google her name and see phrases like 'It's anal time, baby!'" to "Wow, I'm so impressed that your sex columnist publishes under her own name instead of 'Jane Ho,'" to "They let you print that in the student paper!?"

There were also positive comments and genuine praise. However, the number of people who seemed taken aback by it caused us to speculate.

Was the United States just more

conservative in general? Were they simply unaccustomed to straight-forward sex writing — or any sex writing at all?

However, almost as soon as we returned to Calgary we began to hear rumours of the "facials" column being derided in an MRU women's studies class as degrading trash. So, apparently it wasn't just the Americans.

Since Lindsay Douglas took over the sex column in September, she has kept a simple message running: Sex is not shameful and you shouldn't feel bad about liking what you like, as long as you're doing it with consenting adults, of course.

Yes, there's humour in the sex column. There's humour in sex too, so it's a natural fit. However, there's also educational information in Lindsay's articles and, above all, a message of sex positivity.

The editorial staff of The Reflector has had many discus-

sions about how important it is to us to promote sexual activity as a normal, healthy part of life that nobody should feel guilty about.

As a result, we feel it's important to encourage readers to express themselves sexually in whatever way makes them happy, without being slut-shamed or prude-shamed or any kind of shamed.

Sex is not anti-feminist, even if there's a penis involved. As Lindsay pointed out in her "Cum on my what?" column, sometimes certain acts turn us on because we find them degrading. So what?

Should we beat ourselves up for finding it sexy when someone ejaculates on our face (or whatever else we're into)? Shove it to the back of our minds to fester? Become self-loathing because we can't reconcile our desire for whatever we find erotic with the mixed messages our society propagates around sex?

Or should we give ourselves

and everyone else a break by realizing that finding sexual fulfillment, either by ourselves or with consenting partners, is a natural part of being a healthy, whole human?

Love sex and do it all the time with lots of different people? Great!

Hate sex and have no desire ever to do it? Great!

Only enjoy sex after a good spanking or perhaps some buk-kake? Great!

Only enjoy sex in the missionary position with the lights off? Great!

The point is, do whatever makes you feel good and be fulfilled, and don't worry about what other people are doing to achieve the same. To get all pagan on you, if it harms none, do as you will.

We'll be over here promoting the message we believe students should hear and maybe don't hear enough: Sex is nothing to be ashamed of.



FEATURES EDITOR:  
Samara Hawkins  
featureseditor@TheReflector.ca

November 15, 2012

QUICK QUIPS

“Red moustaches are my favourite” - Vern McGill, Layout Editor, *The Reflector*

“I want to buy a sports car, because I like riding bicycles. Hold on to my handlebar mustache if you value your life.” - Jarod Kintz, *This Book Has No Title*

“Don’t point that beard at me, it might go off.” - Groucho Marx

“Everybody wants to be warm. People with short hair freeze easily.” — Bob Dylan

STACHE-TASTIC

The month of the moustache

Growing your lip eyebrow for men’s health

Logan Pollon  
Contributor

The start of November is heralded by Halloween hangovers, Daylight Savings time, dropping temperatures and freshly shaven faces signalling moustache month, better known as Movember.

The annual growing of whiskers on the upper lip started in Melbourne, Australia in 2003 with just 30 people wondering where the moustache had gone and if a resurgence was possible.

Inspired by one of the founder’s mothers who was raising money for breast cancer, it was decided that those who grew and sported the mouth-merkin for the month of November would give \$10 to cancer research.

It wasn’t until 2004 that the website and organization Movember.com was started. Money was only raised for prostate cancer that year, but a staggering \$54,000 was collected. The following year, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia became a partner to the organization, increasing Movember’s popularity immensely.

Men’s mental health also became part of the Movember family, and the organization has skyrocketed since.

Canada became a participating country in 2007, and the organization was granted official charity status in 2011. That year, over 850,000 people were signed up and \$125.7 million was raised-worldwide.

Joel Ayotte, a 21-year-old bartending supervisor in Calgary, isn’t officially part of a Movember team this year, but continues to support Movember through donating tips at his workplace, and by the womb-broom on his face.

“I originally did it with a work group because every guy I work with had been affected by or someone close to them had been affected by what were considered men’s health issues,” Ayotte said.

According to the official Canadian Movember website, the money in Canada goes toward four main sources: Prostate Cancer Canada, the Global Action Plan, Canadian Men’s Health Network (CMHN), and awareness and education.

Funds that reach Prostate Cancer Canada go primarily towards research, covering all facets of dealing with cancer, from prevention and diagnosis, to treatment and support for those with prostate cancer.

The Global Action Plan is a program launched by Movember to connect the world’s leading

prostate cancer researchers to each one another. The goal of collaboration is to accelerate and optimize the research in the field of prostate cancer globally.

Money that goes to CMHN is focused on mental health issues and awareness. Statistics from the Movember website indicate that four out of five people who commit suicide are men, and one in five people will have a mental illness in their lifetime.

CMHN focuses on increasing

understanding about mental health issues and advancing treatments for men in Canada.

The organization’s slogan, “Changing the face of men’s health,” is an example of this. There is an ongoing stigma that men have about discussing their health problems. Not only does a man grow a moustache, physically changing his face, but mentally a man is altered through the works of Movember.

Sporting a ‘stache is a symbol

for making males aware of their health problems, removes the stigma by bringing these issues to the forefront, and inspires them to make changes about their health.

As November — and more importantly Movember — progresses, keep your eyes peeled for epic upper lip plumage and consider donating to a team or directly through the Movember and Sons Canadian website at ca.movember.com.



Illustration: Samara Hawkins



SCHLICK SCHLICK SCHLICK

OPEN MIND

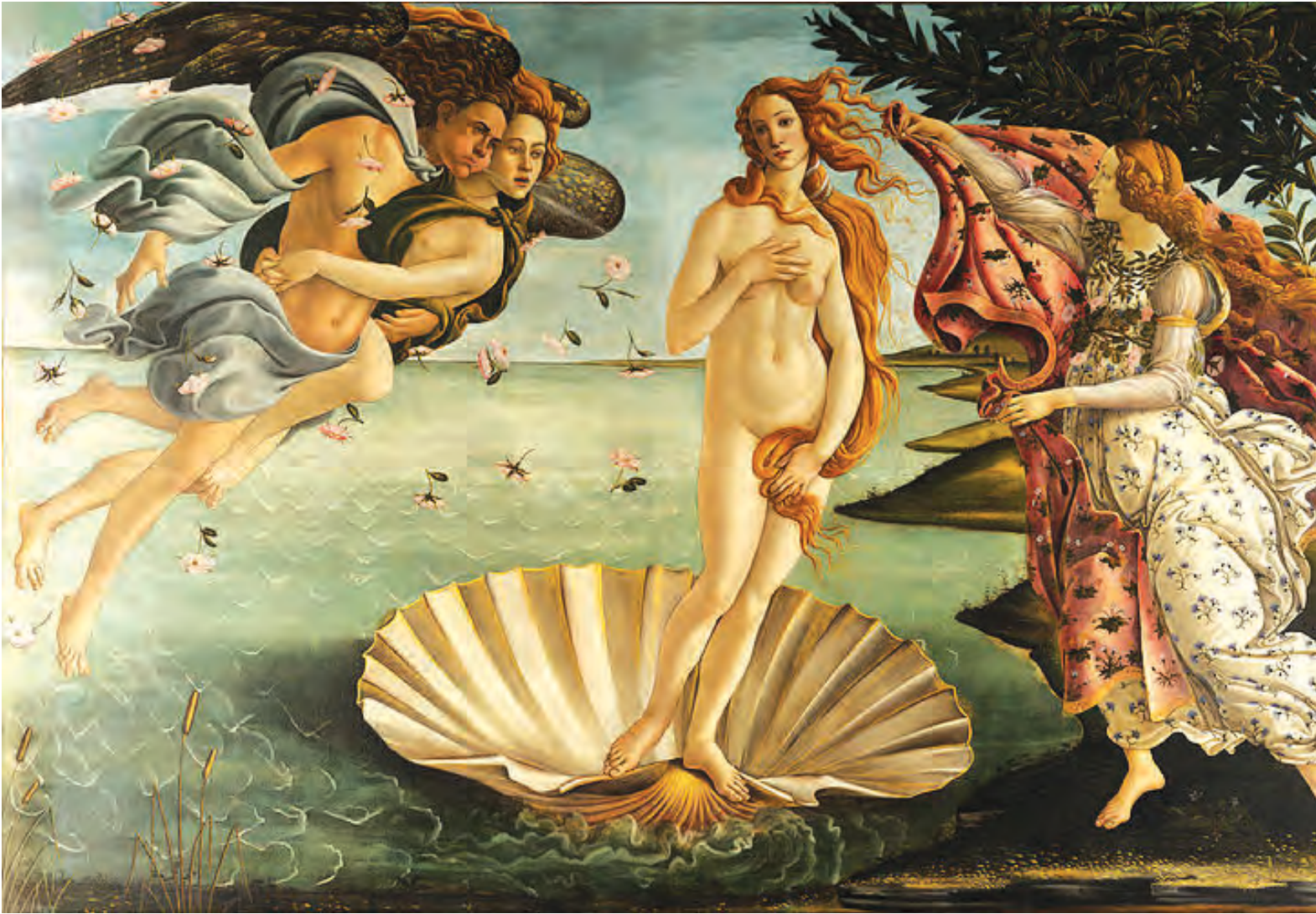


Photo courtesy: Google Art Project

Masturbating 101: It will feel good. If it doesn't, try another technique. You'll know when you've got it all figured out.

# New course, old struggle

## Exploring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Omar Omar  
Contributor

You probably know that Israel and Palestine are not friends, but you may not understand why they've been clashing for so long. However, that knowledge could lead to a greater understanding of the true nature of conflict.

Mount Royal University recently announced a new course in the general education program to be taught in winter 2013 – Perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict – for students seeking to satisfy their social and political curiosity.

"I think this is a conflict that best displays historical narratives," said Dr. Oren Steinitz, who will be teaching the course.

"I mean, you have two groups that have seemingly conflicting ways that describe the same situation. None of them are lying, it's just that they have a very different way of viewing reality and historical perspectives."

Steinitz's course explains that "all perspectives involved" will be revealed, an informed opinion is sure to be made, and those with pre-established opinions will most certainly be challenged.

Students taking the course will be exposed to both sides of the issues, and Steinitz won't be pointing fingers.

"There is no single side to blame here, and there is no particular point in time, or a particular person or side that has single-handedly escalated the situation," he said.

What is important about this course, according to Steinitz, is that it "will give you the tools to understand the conflicts in other sections." Students will gain applicable knowledge of world events, both historical and current.

The class, GNED 1303-003, is a first-year course and there are no pre-requisites. The course takes place Tuesday and Thursday next semester from 3:30 to 4:50.

When asked what kind of preparation or background knowledge students would need, Steinitz replied simply, "An open mind."

# An ode to masturbating

## Seriously ladies, get down to it



Lindsay Douglas  
Sex Columnist

If you are a woman reading this, and you have never masturbated, you are missing out, my friend. But don't worry, I am here to help.

If you are a man reading this and you have never masturbated, I don't believe you.

I'm only going to talk about female masturbation because I have zero experience with male masturbation.

Masturbating for women is unfortunately not always as straight forward as pulling on your junk until fluids come out. I spent the better part of junior high trying to figure it out with no luck. It wasn't until I accidentally got a little too close to a hot tub jet that I finally began to understand what all the commotion was about.

There are lots of great tips you can find through a quick Google search on using your digits for

pleasure, but if you're lazy and impatient like I am, you might just want to say fuck it and go for a vibrator.

Vibrators can get fairly pricey, so if you want to see if it's something you're into before you buy I suggest getting in your bathtub, turning on the faucet to the temperature of your liking, and kicking your legs up under it.

If it feels like too much, or it's too intense, simply turn down the stream of water. A vibrator will feel very similar to that. If you notice your water bill getting substantially larger, you should probably pony up and make the purchase.

You can order a vibrator online if you're shy, or there is an endless number of sex shops in Calgary.

What is important to remember though, is that the sex toy industry is unregulated. That means you can unknowingly buy a vibrator, or other sex toy, with ingredients in them that are not good for your lady parts.

Your best bet is to get a vibrator that is 100 per cent silicone. If you can't figure out what it is made of, that's a pretty good reason to not buy it. The website for A Little More Interesting, a

really awesome store you can find both in Kensington and on 17th Avenue, recommends getting a vibrator that is phosphate-free. If it doesn't say right on the packaging that it is phosphate-free, that, in my opinion, is a good enough reason not to buy. Vibrators that are phosphate free and made of silicone nearly always cost more, but this is something you will be putting in and around your vagina, so this is not the time to cheap out.

If you have to ask a sales person, don't be embarrassed, it's what they're there for. I can't speak for all the sex stores in Calgary, but A Little More Interesting only stocks phosphate-free sex toys made of safe materials. Their staff is also all female, who I think are a little less intimidating to talk to.

Also, if you don't want to form a small battery mountain next to your bed, I would very much recommend getting a rechargeable vibrator. You need to give back to the environment after all that water you wasted in the bathtub.

For the actual masturbating, just turn it on and put it anywhere, seriously. It will feel great. To get the full effect you

might want to focus on the clitoris, but just do whatever feels good. Set the vibration speed at whatever feels best for you. This is all about experimenting.

You can try watching porn, or you can use your imagination. You can put on music. It's really up to you. Masturbating is a personal experience and is different for everyone.

Masturbating can certainly lose its luster if you haven't had sex in a while (or ever) and every time you DJ only serves as a bitter reminder of the fact that you're not getting laid.

And like anything, it's best in moderation. If you often turn down plans on a Friday night so you can stay home and vigorously masturbate for hours, you may have a problem.

For everyone else, masturbating can be fantastic in a variety of situations.

Can't sleep? Rub one out!  
Bored? Rub one out!  
No one home? Full volume, baby, rub one out!

And of course, if you don't know how to make yourself feel good, how can you expect your partner to?







# Lemony Snicket eludes Calgarians

Daniel Handler fills in due to ‘unfortunate’ accident

**Nathan Ross**  
Arts Editor

Calgary was anticipating a fantastic talk by Lemony Snicket on Nov. 7 and he probably would have delivered one – had he been able to show up.

In a most unfortunate accident, Snicket had received a poisonous bite from a mysterious creature just hours before the talk, and was paralyzed from the armpit down. Due to this, the packed John Dutton Theatre was not treated to one of the better children’s writers of today. The event was one of the more anticipated events of WordFest.

Instead, a tall and mysterious man, who was often described as handsome by himself and in notes left by Snicket, led the “secret meeting” that everyone had

gathered for. The meeting consisted of, among other things, discussing the critical reports that Snicket had covertly issued over the years. To the untrained eye, these reports come across as 13 “books” published under the title *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket.

The mysterious man, who would only identify as D.H., was a delightful replacement for the absent author. After extensive research, *The Reflector* is confidently able to identify him as Daniel Handler, a man closely related to Snicket who frequently speaks on his behalf.

Handler played with the words he spoke almost exactly the way Snicket writes his novels, which was very impressive. To be able to find a dialect that warms the ear or the eye is impressive, but

to have such a way with words to be able to do both should serve as a testament to how skilled the “duo” are.

Handler had a masterful control of the audience, reeling them in quick with his drawn-out, blasé tone. As he wandered purposefully throughout the aisles and across the rows, he targeted his talk to the many children in the audience, although his rambles were littered with adult humour for the parents and fans now all grown-up.

The secret meeting primarily focused on Snicket’s latest report, *Who Could That Be at This Hour?* which is the first entry in his newest series *All the Wrong Questions*.

Handler, unable to talk about the book as he clearly didn’t write it, instead chose to read the

first chapter, with the help of the children in the audience.

As a closing treat, Handler performed a song and dance with an accordion that was very conveniently brought by an audience member, and did not seem like a planted prop at all.

Unfortunately, it seemed as though Handler thought he was the main attraction by the end of it all. During the book signing, he crossed out Lemony Snicket’s name on books and tickets and instead signed D.H., absentmindedly believing the audience had come to hear him talk, instead of the wonderful writer Lemony Snicket.

Snicket was, predictably, unavailable for any comments about his absence.



Photo: James Wilt

ARTS

ARTS EDITOR:  
Nathan Ross  
artseditor@TheReflector.ca

November 15, 2012

## HOT SPOTS

Defying his age with every show he plays, Leonard Cohen makes yet another stop in Calgary Nov. 16 at the Saddledome

Ground Zero and Hit & Myth team up yet again for what should be a fantastic play in *Grusome Playground Injuries*, happening now until Nov. 24 at Vertigo

Republik will be hosting Walk Off The Earth on Nov. 21, who are touring to prove they are more than just a YouTube sensation

Finally, on Nov. 21, catch a great double bill of Xavier Rudd and Good Old War at Mac Hall



# Your Students' Association



**SAMRU & FFWD Presents:**

## Live Music Tuesdays November 20<sup>th</sup>

**Featuring:**

### Rockets and Dinosaurs with Jenny

Doors 8 p.m. - \$5 at the door, free for MRU students with ID  
Wyckham House Student Centre - 4825 Mount Royal Gate S.W.  
18+ picture ID required - please don't drink and drive

# SAMRU EXECUTIVE & COUNCIL ELECTIONS



## THINKING ABOUT RUNNING?

**Nomination period:**  
November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.

**Nominations review period:**  
February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 4:31 p.m. to February 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

**Information session:**  
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Council Chambers

**All-candidates meeting:**  
February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Position descriptions and more information available at QR code below or at reception in room Z222 Wyckham house



[www.samru.ca/vote](http://www.samru.ca/vote)



**SAMRU & FFWD Presents:**

## Live Music Tuesdays November 27<sup>th</sup>

**Featuring:**

### Peer Support with WINDIGO

Doors 8 p.m. - \$5 at the door, free for MRU students with ID  
Wyckham House Student Centre - 4825 Mount Royal Gate S.W.  
18+ picture ID required - please don't drink and drive





MISSION ACCEPTED

# November novel-ty

## Amateur novelists get writing for NaNoWriMo

**Leah Fink**  
*Staff Writer*

If you have ever written a paper, you know it takes some time (especially when you are working on it at 2 a.m. the morning before it is due). How long do you think it would take you to write 50,000 words? Could you do it in a month?

That’s what the participants of NaNoWriMo do, and they do it voluntarily. NaNoWriMo stands for National Novel Writing Month and runs from Nov. 1 to Nov. 30 at 11:59:59 p.m.

Anyone is welcome to participate in this international event and all you have to do is start typing. The only real rules are that the writing has to be solely your own, and you can’t count anything written before Nov. 1 in your 50,000 word goal.

Alex Proppe, 21, is a fourth-year English student at Mount Royal University. She has been part of NaNoWriMo for the last six years, and completed the challenge successfully for the first time in 2010 with her piece, “Darling Indeed.”

“The key to NaNo is to plan time to write every day and stick to it,” Proppe said. “Be prepared to drink a lot of coffee. Also you need to avoid thinking too much about the deadline. When you feel stressed about having to write so much, you will create your own writer’s block, and stifle your creativity.”

This month she is once again

challenging herself with NaNo to complete the next section of her story. *Four* is going to be the first novel in a trilogy, and at its completion she suspects it will be between 120,000 and 180,000 words.

On top of that, Proppe goes to school full time and works full time. To reach her goal, she makes sure to write every day. That means a minimum of 1667 words daily, although she tries for 2000 to build up extra in case she has an off day.

“The point is not to have polished work; you just have to keep writing,” Proppe said of her process. “If you have a plan, that’s great, but you have to be flexible, and don’t keep looking back and thinking about what you have done. After November you can go back and edit.”

Proppe’s plan isn’t that far off from many of the ‘WriMos’ (novel writers), most of who work with the goal in mind of having their novels published. Over a hundred novels written during NaNoWriMo have been published.

The official website, NaNoWriMo.org, describes the event as a “fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to novel writing”, which it most definitely is. It is an arduous and daunting task to think about creating a whole novel in just one month, but during NaNoWriMo there is plenty of support, such as a variety of events for WriMos that celebrate what they are doing and let them



Photo courtesy: Carter Cook

**It’s going to take a lot more than just sitting in Starbucks looking high and mighty with your laptop to get through NaNoWriMo.**

relax a little.

NaNoWriMo was started in 1999 by freelance writer Chris Baty. That year he was joined by 20 of his friends in the San Francisco Bay area. They were just planning to have some fun and try something new, plus they admit to thinking that being novelists might get them more dates.

At the end of the month, to their surprise, they loved the entire process and found that their novels were actually pretty good. Out of all 21, six actually completed their projects.

The success of the event also led to Chris writing the book *No Plot? No Problem!* which helps those new to NaNo get some ideas, inspiration, and survival tips. The event only keeps growing. Just two years after its creation there were 5,000 people participating, and by 2007 there were over 100,000 participants.

Last year, according to NaNoWriMo’s website, 256,618 writers joined the challenge,

with 36,843 of them emerging victorious. The combined total of all of the words written last year was 3,074,068,446.

There are over 500 official NaNoWriMo chapters all over the world, and a variety of schools that take part in the challenge. If you want to meet with some fellow novelists in Calgary, you can get information at <http://www.calgarynano.ca/>

ROSS’ RANTS

# Why writing still matters

*An argument that was never needed until now*



**Nathan Ross**  
*Arts Editor*

If you are reading this right now, I would not only like to thank you, but also congratulate you on something half the population of Canada might not be able to do in twenty years. Very recently, *The Reflector* travelled down to Chicago for the National College Media Convention. There were a number of seemingly interesting sessions that were going to be offered, and the one that caught my eye the most was entitled “Why Writing Still Matters.”

Finally, I thought, someone is standing up for writing. Giving a voice to the words that helped give millions, both fictional and non-fictional, a voice of their own.

Sitting in that session, my premature enthusiasm was quickly replaced with disappointment as our speaker, Austin Peay State University educator Jake Lowary, instead talked about the dangers of social media for 15 minutes before doing a Q&A session for the remainder of the hour.

Why, Jake? Did you forget to read what the name of the session was written down as? That was kind of important.

Whether we are willing to admit it or not, the numerous innovations in technology are continually making writing more and more of a lost art. While this is happening over a very extended period of time, it is still an issue that is beginning to alarm writers, educators, reading-enthusiasts and the general public.

It isn’t the only art form to suffer. Rewind the clocks about a year and you’ll remember how the Motion Picture Association of America and the Recording Industry Association of America were going berserk in trying to get

SOPA written in to law. Art is being abused, especially art that has a large business side to it.

For those of you unfamiliar with SOPA, it was the overzealous proposed law to stop online piracy. While it did have good intentions, they went to the extreme, and in the end did not pass.

However, the cries going out to save writing are nowhere near as vocal as any other art. Things like e-books are seen as progressive and helpful to the writing industry, where other industries have suffered more from going digital.

It is also a growing opinion that books have just run their natural lifespan. For those of you who still love printed, bound media, don’t Google the words “books are dead.” The following opinions will just make you mad. We have a problem in Canada, which I imagine is also an issue in America, if not a larger one. The problem is that illiteracy rates are on the rise, and rising fast. In a recent study published by the Canadian Council on Learning,

an estimated 46 per cent of Canadians will have poor literacy skills by the year 2031. Factors that went into these determinations include demographic conditions, population growth and immigration patterns, and the results showed that 15 million Canadians over the age of 16 will struggle to cope in modern society.

The study did also note that the rates of those with high literacy skills would go up, but not enough to counteract the illiterate group.

We are starting to notice this trend today. Often there is a large divide between those who love to read and those who will challenge themselves to read and those who will go out of their way to avoid reading, as if it caused brain damage.

The thing is, reading and writing go hand-in-hand. You can’t have one without the other. Literally, there is no one without the other and vice versa.

So when someone is prepared

to give a speech on “Why Writing Still Matters,” it’s my hope that they understand that these kinds of talks actually do need to take place.

Why does writing still matter? At its core, book publisher Michael Hyatt may have put it best when he said, “Books do for people what movies, television, magazines, newspapers, blogs, and social media will never do — fundamentally alter their world view and inspire them to greatness.”

Unfortunately, the most convenient way to explain why writing still matters is to write about it, meaning I’m already preaching to the choir.

Tell your friends to go read a book. Do your bit to remind yourself that writing is great and that we need to change our ways if we still want our kids to read.



# Noise 101

HEY! LISTEN!

## The hero of songs

*Symphony of the Goddesses*  
great addition to Zelda legacy



Photo courtesy: Nintendo

With game footage streaming in the back of the show, fans were able to relive favourite moments.

**Nathan Ross**  
Arts Editor

It was a performance that gave “dressing up for a night out” a whole new meaning.

On Nov. 6, while millions were glued to the American election, the Jubilee Auditorium offered up a much more appealing alternative to the night with *The Legend of Zelda – Symphony of the Goddesses*.

Many came out in cosplay form, and to the unaware eye it might have seemed like a lot of people missed the memo about Halloween being over. To the hundreds of Zelda fans lucky enough to have tickets to the sold-out event, it was just another addition to what was, for the most part, a stellar show.

For decades, Koji Kondo and the rest of the gang at Nintendo have treated fans to brilliant scores to accompany their video games. Very recently they have begun to get the recognition they deserve, with shows like *Video Games Live* and *Symphony of the Goddesses*.

The show, which featured the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, was directed by Irishwoman Eimear Noone, who tours with the production as it goes from city to city. She talked a little about how she admired the passion that fans of Zelda have, as it mirrored her passion to be a conductor at the age of seven.

To honour the audience, she conducted with a baton similar to that used in *The Wind Waker*.

It was very impressive to learn that she tours to work with the local musicians, and she seemed to be at ease with the quality musicians Calgary has come to love.

An added bonus was the visual aspect to the show, as a large projector in the back played game footage that synced up almost impeccably when it wasn’t alternatively showing the musicians hard at work at their craft.

It was an effort that came together very quickly, according to CPO bass clarinetist and Mount Royal faculty member Stan Climie.

“I was hired about a month in advance. We don’t get any music when we are hired,” Climie said. “Often what happens with the music is you are given a website address and the password. On the website there are titles for each piece of music in the show and when you open them there are individual files for each instrument and you print your own music.”

“When you get to the first (and only) rehearsal there is a binder with all the music.”

For only having one three hour rehearsal, the show exceeded expectations. For diehard fans who have listened to the music more than they probably should, they might have noticed different dynamics at certain moments from

CD to the live performance, but nothing that would take away from the show itself.

Climie revealed that the orchestra “didn’t actually make it through all of the music at the rehearsal so they were sight reading the last number at the show,” but you’d have to have a Deku stick up your ass to be unforgiving to the musicians.

In fact, the only real downside to the show had nothing to do with the music at all. Instead, it was Jeron Moore, the creator of the show, who kept on interrupting the performances to talk with the audience with his awful banter and forced jokes.

The real treat was when he kept on telling the audience that “the next piece will be our last,” and then ended up giving himself four standing ovations.

For fans of the Zelda series, though, he came across as Navi the Fairy, the memorable yet annoying companion to the series’ best-selling game, *The Ocarina of Time*.

It is doubtful that was his intent, but he gave an incredible, unintentional impression nonetheless.

Overall, it was a fantastic performance that showed fans just one of the many reasons why the game series has become such a staple of our lives.



**The Killers**  
*Battle Born*  
Vertigo Record

Following *Day and Age*, and on the heels of Brandon Flower’s solo work *Flamingo*, comes *Battle Born*: an underwhelming album. It’s extremely derivative to say the least. All the songs seem to follow the same pattern of blandness. The focus is placed on a cloying, monotonous synthesizer that

hums throughout, as well as technical and admittedly decent drums. The bass and guitar are underplayed and lacking. The songs impart the tired theme of “trying to get by”, while they attempt to merge with the Killers’ sound. The whole thing reeks of a lack of effort on the band’s part. For an album about fighting through hard times, *Battle Born* is less aggressive than rush hour traffic in Calgary. It’s insane and ironic to realize that The Killers managed to do grittier work with Brandon Flower wearing eye-liner. If the band seems so intent on sticking to Vegas-inspired mediocrity, then maybe they should check in for a few nights at *Sam’s Town* and get their shit back together.

- Logan Pollon



**July Talk**  
*July Talk*  
White Girl Records

A glorious combination of opposites, July Talk’s self titled album debuts as a sound to be remembered. The most prevalent subject of July Talk is the back and forth vocals between the Peter Dreimanis and Leah Fay. It’s a common theme - the man’s voice is rough, Joe Cocker-ish, almost overly masculine while the girl’s is soft, innocent, high-pitched and predictably feminine.

However, not every male female duo sound as appealing as Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman, and as charming as Bing Crosby and Doris Day. The genius of the band is an odd, almost indescribable mix of styles, as the band attempts to not fit into any one genre. They touch on blues and classic rock, while maintaining a feel of modern indie and alternative rock. Even though no songs sound the same and the genres are often switched, there is a certain consistency that connects them. It seems like this wild combination of styles shouldn’t work, but it does; a hell of a lot better than most bands. The album has a very “back to basics” approach. There are no over-the-top guitar solos, crazy vocal runs or pretentious lyrics. It’s just a yin and yang of what music should sound like.

– Logan Pollon



**Aidan Knight**  
*Small Reveal*  
Outside Music

Aidan Knight’s second album *Small Reveal* definitely sets the tone for indie folk music of today. The Victoria-based singer-songwriter has produced an album that should resonate for years to come. Knight—previously a solo artist—is backed by the Friendly Friends, including girlfriend/trumpet player Julia Wakal. The fuller

band gives *Small Reveal* that extra something that helps push Knight from someone who will get played only get played on CBC Radio 3 to selling out shows nationwide. The album features the familiar, intricate instrumental build-ups and Knight’s flawless voice and powerful lyrics. Yes, the majority of songs are slower but they have the most incredible instrumentation that is bound to give you goosebumps. Knight is one of Canada’s better up-and-coming songwriters, and *Small Reveal* shows why. If you don’t want to take my word, just give his closing song “Margaret Downe” a quick listen. If that song doesn’t move you, I don’t know what will.

– Caitlin Clow



# Concussed reasoning

*Head injuries need to be taken seriously*

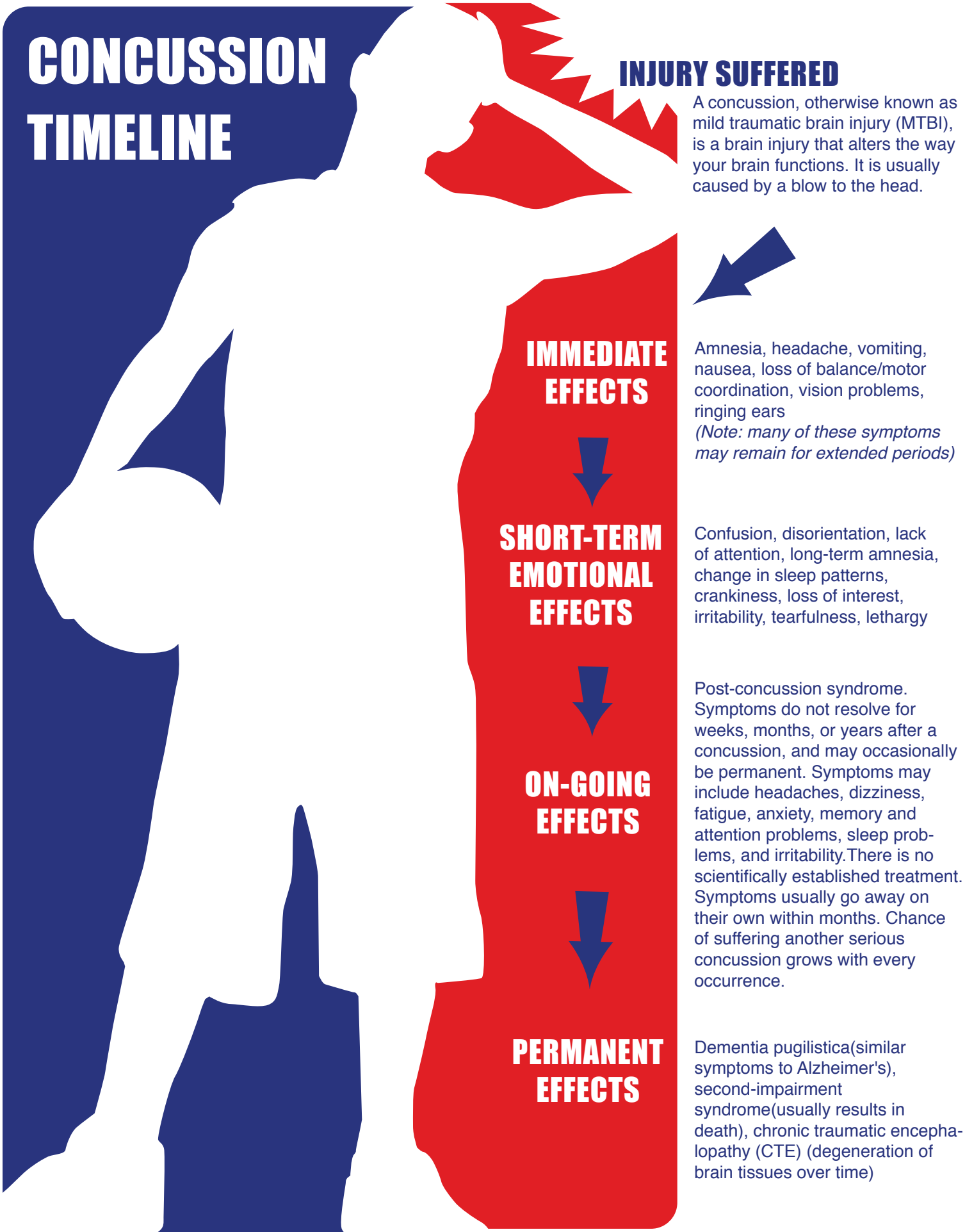
**Todd Colin Vaughan**  
*Sports Editor*

In the old days, an athlete could have their head smashed into the ground and their coach would laugh, telling them to get back in the game and shake it off. What those coaches didn't realize at the time was that when athletes reach their older years

after suffering serious concussions, the consequences can be serious and even sometimes dire. What was once thought of as being a natural part of sport is leading to serious and often permanent disabilities and conditions. Failure to recognize that concussions have the potential to destroy a life is also becoming a very serious misconception that

many coaches and athletes alike are picking up. Monty Williams, coach of the the NBA franchise the New Orleans Hornets, recently spoke to the media following his rookie power-forward Anthony Davis suffering what was described as a mild concussion. "Now, they treat everybody like they have white gloves and pink

drawers and it's getting old. It's just the way the league is now," Williams said. This comment was in response to the mandatory tests Davis was forced to complete in compliance to the NBA's concussion policy. Perhaps Coach Williams did not fully understand the potential repercussions that come from taking hits to the noggin.



SPORTS EDITOR

**SPORTS EDITOR:**  
**Todd Colin Vaughan**  
sportseditor@TheReflector.ca

November 15, 2012

## BY THE NUMBERS

**11:** NBA Championships Phil Jackson won before being turned down for the LA Lakers vacant coaching position

**5:** Amount of weeks Andrew Bynum will continue to miss games. Bynum has yet to suit up for his new 76er team

**625:** Goals scored by newly enshrined Hall of fame hockey player Joe Sakic

**1457:** Yards ran by Stampeders running back Jon Cornish this season - the most by a Canadian ever



THE  
“OH \$?%!  
I’M LATE TO CLASS”  
CAR2GO



Get to campus the quick and easy way. Just take a car2go when you need it, and leave it when you’re done. No mandatory reservations, no late fees. **For a limited time, students get free registration and 30 minutes free at [Calgary.car2go.com](http://Calgary.car2go.com) with student ID (promo code: STUDENT).**

Must be minimum 19 years old and/or have 3 years of driving experience. Must have valid Canadian driver’s license. Free minutes of driving time are valid for 60 days after credited to an account, unless otherwise noted.

CAR  
2GO



# We should all be Cougars

*You don't have to like sports to enjoy cheering on the team*



**Todd Colin Vaughan**  
*Sports Editor*

All athletes have their sports memories. You know, that moment where we truly achieved something amazing — in our own eyes anyway.

Remembering our own sport histories isn't always about personal achievement though. We also remember times when we were the patron to something truly special happening.

When we watch these moments, at home or live, we remember everything there is to know about that point in time.

It's almost like snapshots in our mind that include not only sights, but sounds, smells and even the emotions felt when we watched the human body go beyond our own perceived limits.

Americans who attend post-secondary institutions, though, have a very distinct experience that Canadian students are sorely lacking — particularly here at

Mount Royal University.

In the US of A, when you attend an educational institution, you also become part of that school's athletic culture. This means that when you go to schools like the University of North Carolina or Michigan State University, you don't say "I'm a business major," you instead proudly say "I'm a Tar Heel" or "I'm a Spartan."

For those of you who suffer from acute athletikophobia (The fear of sports. Yeah, I Googled it), this does not mean you whole-heartedly love sports. Rather, you live the same social experience through sport that you would through drinking at The Hub.

Americans remember the friends they were with when Christian Laettner sunk his famous buzzer beater in 1992, to lead Duke over Kentucky in the NCAA's East regional final. Whether they were business, women's studies or drama majors, they were all Blue Devils at that point in time.

They have their sport memory regardless of being an athlete or even an avid fan.

They carry that memory not because they love basketball or

that sport dominated their lives but because they were with their friends supporting a team that their university allowed them to feel a part of.

In that sense, we at MRU should all be Cougars.

Does my theory sound lovey-dovey or loosey-goosey? Maybe a little, but what could it hurt you to go to a basketball, volleyball or hockey game, have a few beers and cheer a little when they win.

Why are we so set in our ways that we attach ourselves to one label? I'm into theatre so I can't be into sports. I'm into cats so I can't go to a basketball game. I'm a vegan so I can't drink beers and ask questions to my sporty friend about sports.

The best people throughout history have always been well rounded folk who never said no to any experience — renaissance people. Why can't we apply that to getting out and supporting our Cougars teams? Why can't a geology major say that he was a Cougar 20 years from now?

We could easily all easily say, "That's stupid and I don't like sports." If we do that though, we are denying ourselves the opportunity to have our own sport



Photo: Omar Omar

**The Cougar Mens hockey team had a tough weekend against the University of British Columbia on the weekend of Nov. 9-11, losing 2-7 and 2-3.**

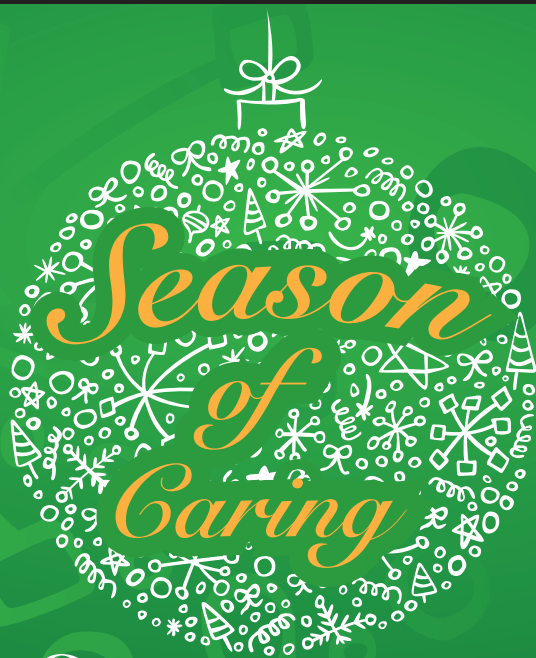
memories; we are denying ourselves a better understanding of humanity and we also denying ourselves the opportunity to be part of a greater post-secondary culture then just the cliques cre-

ated by differing faculties.

In short, we are denying ourselves the opportunity to all be Cougars together.

**samru.ca**

**samru.ca**



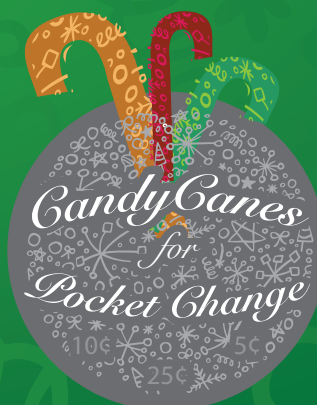
25 years

Providing support  
to MRU students and their families  
during the holiday season.



*Grant a wish for  
a student or a family.*

**Wednesday, Nov. 14 - Friday, Nov. 30,  
11 am - 4 pm, West Gate**



*Help support the  
Season of Caring.*

**Monday, Nov. 5 - Friday, Nov. 30**  
**11 am - 4 pm, West Gate**



**Apply between Monday to Friday,  
Nov. 5 - Nov. 23, 9 am - 4 pm,  
Peer Support Centre**





# V-ballers split series



Photo: Omar Omar

The Cougar womens volleyball team split their weekend series with the University of British Columbia - Okanagan. On Friday the girls lost 1-3 sets but rallied the following day to win 3-2.

# TODD'S NODS



Photo courtesy: flickr/Keith Allison



Photo courtesy: SportzFilm



Photo courtesy: flickr/\_becaro\_

## GENDER BARRIER BREAKDOWN

Recently, Jezebel.com posted a story about a 9-year-old girl who is doing something very rare in her home state of Utah. Sam Gordon is leading her pee wee football league in rushing after outperforming the entirely male league and earning the starting quarterback position for her team, the Gremlins. As of Nov. 7, according to Jezebel, Gordon has earned the impressive stats of 1,911 rushing yards, 8.2 yards per carry and 25 touchdowns and earned her coaches' praise for her amazing speed. American Football has had many women play at the collegiate level, but to this date there has never been a female NFL player. If young Gordon repre-

sents a trend towards female pigskin fanaticism, then the possibility of seeing a woman suit up for the Patriots or the 49ers could one day be very real. Hypothetically, if Gordon were to reach the NFL in her draft year of 2022, she would join sport pioneers such as Canadian hockey player Hayley Wickenheiser, who played professionally in Sweden in the all-male Swedish elite league after leading Team Canada for several years, and Annika Sorenstam, who competed against males on the PGA tour after dominating the LPGA for several years. The gender barrier has existed in sports for many years and has often been justified by

the genetic differences between the male and female physique. There are, however, examples of female accomplishments that defy this tired barrier including the Edmonton Grads, who were a basketball team that still hold the North American record for the best winning percentage of all time, amassing the record of 502 wins - 20 losses between 1915 and 1940. Perhaps one day, the demographics of gender in professional sports will be equal with that of the world.

*Todd's Nods is a reoccurring column that is open to the public. If you know of a sports story that is worth the nod please tweet @toddcvaughan*



## MEMBER\* REGISTRATION

Online Nov. 22 at 6:00 am      In Person Nov. 23 at 6:00 am

## NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

Online Nov. 29 at 6:00 am      In Person Nov. 29 at 6:00 am



# REC REGISTRATION IS COMING

MRU students who finished the 2012 MRU Sprint Triathlon.

\*Members include students, employees, alumni and general public who validate or purchase a membership.