

WE REMEMBER

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Jason Kenney elected leader of United Conservative Party

With a new leader and opposition, what does this mean for the party?

Anna Junker

News Editor

In a series of moves that could have come straight out of Game of Thrones, former federal cabinet minister Jason Kenney has won the leadership for the newly minted United Conservative Party.

Last year, Kenney announced he would be leaving federal politics and emphasized that the Wildrose and Progressive Conservatives would have to unite in order to end vote-splitting and provide a proper opposition to the governing NDP's.

After touring across Alberta, Kenney solidified himself as leader of the PC's. He then began making moves to merge the two right-wing parties, that just months earlier would never have thought of joining hands in unity.

But it hasn't been all kumbaya for the party. Two long-time conservative MLAs, Rick Fraser and Richard Starke left when the merger happened.

However, once the merger occurred in late July 2017 with 95 per cent approval, three front-runners emerged to vie for the throne.

Kenney, of course, battled against former Wildrose leader Brian Jean and young lawyer Doug Schweitzer, all hoping to be the one to lead the new brand of conservatives to a victory in 2019.

The leadership vote took place Oct. 28 and Kenney swept the board, taking 61.1 per cent of the vote on the first ballot, compared to Jean's 31.5 per cent and Schweitzer's 7.3 per cent.

There was a slight hiccup, however, with the UCP website displaying the results 15-minutes before the formal announcement was made.

"Tonight we are one step closer to renewing the Alberta advantage and getting our province back on track. Tonight we are one step closer to re-igniting our economy so that Alberta is once again that land of opportunity," Kenney told the crowd.

"We are one step closer to a government focused on prosperity so that we have the means to be a compassionate

and generous society."

During his victory speech, Kenney also wasted no time in taking swings at the NDP's in the style of slam poetry.

"We have united, we have chosen a leader and if we work hard, stay humble and earn every vote, we will ensure that this deceptive, divisive, debt-quadrupling, tax-hiking, job-killing, accidental socialist government is one-and-done," he said to a cheering crowd.

Days later, Premier Rachel Notley took her turn, not mincing any words with her stance on the UCP's.

"We'll stand against UCP's job-killing, gay-outing, school-cutting, health privatizing, backward-looking, hope-destroying, divisive agenda," Notley tweeted.

Kenney pushed back again, during an interview on CTV's Question Period, he called Notley's tweets "transparent desperation" by the provincial government.

"They're turning the volume knob on the anger machine up to 10, 20 months before the next election. My advice to them would be just calm down a notch, because you're going to lose Albertans by using that kind of massively overblown rhetoric," he told CTV's Evan Solomon.

"I guess the only play they have is that kind of crazy talk."

The 49-year-old now finds himself the leader of the opposition and a caucus of 27 members. However, Kenney will have his work cut out for him, as the head of a fledgling party, he will also have the task of defining who and what they stand for. While doing so, he'll have to appeal to the 40 per cent that did not vote for him within the party as well as the rest of Albertans across the province.

However, with nearly two decades in politics and holding multiple portfolios such as Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Employment and Social Development, Multiculturalism and National Defence as cabinet minister, Kenney certainly has the experience.

It won't be an easy feat to win

over voters, though. Kenney has voiced contentious opinions in the past on topics such as Gay Straight Alliances, where he was criticized for suggesting that he would allow for parents to be told when their child joins.

Critics said by telling the parents, that could out the child before they are ready, potentially putting them at risk.

Kenney also spoke out against Notley's stance of the Catholic School Board's proposed alternative sex-education plan, saying it's not the premier's role to dictate how sex education is taught.

The school board says the

government's plan clashes against their faith-based instruction by including topics such as different sexual relationships and gender identities.

In response, Notley said any curriculum that does not address sexual health, marginalizes sexual minorities and doesn't make clear that consent is of the utmost importance, will not be taught.

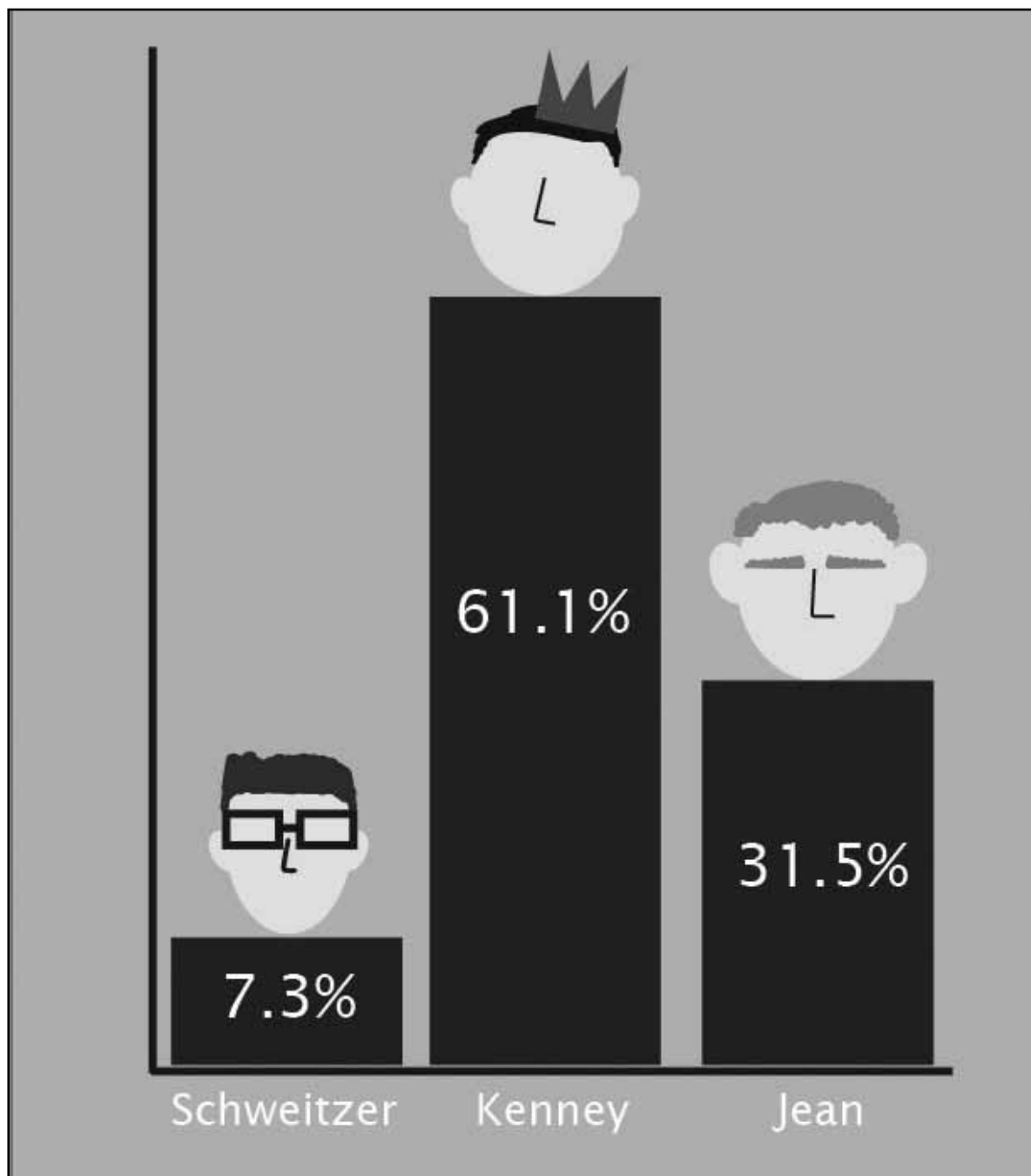
Kenney has also said if elected, he plans to repeal the NDP's carbon tax.

Despite being voted in as leader of the party, Kenney now has to woo Albertans in order to gain a

seat in the Alberta Legislature. The day after the leadership vote, Kenney announced he will be running for a seat in a yet-to-be-called by-election in the riding of Calgary-Lougheed in the city's southwest.

He will be taking the place of longtime conservative MLA Dave Rodney, who resigned his seat, creating a vacancy for Kenney.

Since Kenney took leadership of the party, both the Conservatives and the NDP have been throwing punches. With 18 months still to go until the election, it will be a long, drawn out fight.



On Oct. 28, career politician Jason Kenney was voted in as leader of the newly minted United Conservative Party. He hopes to lead the party to victory in the 2019 provincial election. Graphic created by Andi Endruhn

Whatever happened to the creepy clown crisis?

Expert says creepy clowns are just a fad

Lexi Wright

Staff Writer

Remember back in 2016 when scary clown sightings were the talk of the town? Reports about creepy clowns roaming the streets were collected in several American states and even in certain parts of Canada. But what happened to these creepy clowns and what was the “clowning around” truly all about?

Professional Calgary clown, Kirk Miles, says that the crisis was never a crisis at all and in fact, creepy clown sightings are nothing more than a ridiculous encounter.

“I think that you shouldn’t be scaring people with clown character. Clown character is supposed to be joyful and fun, not terrifying. It’s just so stupid,” said Miles.

In 2016 Tanja McMorris, media relation expert with the Calgary Police Service, stated the creepy clown crisis was never a concern for Calgary.

“The Calgary Police Service never received any credible information to indicate a legitimate threat to the safety of the general public in Calgary. Any reports of clown sightings are investigated on a case-by-case basis,” said McMorris.

Despite the strange phenomenon, Miles is dedicated to his profession as an

entertainer and would never let the likes of scary clowns impact his livelihood.

“Why would you be angry at this? Why would you even be scared of a guy dressed in a clown mask for no reason? I guess when it comes down to it, I just don’t have any answers,” said Miles.

It’s evident that the clown crisis did have some lasting impacts. The Edmonton Clown Festival recently changed its name to avoid unnecessary clown stereotyping. The festival was changed to Play the Fool and ran from Sept. 28 to Oct. 1, 2017.

Clowns have generally always had a negative connotation of being creepy, and Stephen King’s latest horror flick *It* certainly did no justice to happy clowns.

But despite all the negative associations with clowns, people still enjoy a good scare. *Screamfest* continues to draw in over 1000 attendees every year and even features a clown haunted house.

Halloween just finished though — so if you DO happen to see a creepy clown, your best bet is still to stay inside. Although the clown crisis shouldn’t be returning anytime soon, you never know when it’ll be your turn to float too.



Kirk Miles has been a professional clown for over twenty-five years and doesn’t expect to stop anytime soon. Photo by Lexi Wright



Pennywise from 2017 *It* remake. Photo courtesy of Warner Brothers

News you can use

Remembrance Day ceremonies

On Nov. 11, there will be no shortage of Remembrance Day ceremonies or events, with about 20 to attend in and around the city. Specifically, the Field of Crosses, set up along Memorial Drive in the northwest displays 3,000 white crosses inscribed with the name, rank, regiment, date of death and age of death of a Southern Alberta soldier killed in action.

Of the 3,000 crosses, 28 are representative of Mount Royal University alumni.

From Nov. 1 to Nov. 11, each morning at sunrise there is a flag raising ceremony with a bugler and piper. At sunset, the flags are lowered.

On Nov. 11, the Remembrance Day ceremony will commence at 10:30 a.m.

Calgary’s first safe injection site

On Oct. 27, Health Canada announced its approval for Calgary’s first safe injection site at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre. A temporary facility will be in the parking lot while a permanent site inside the building is being constructed.

Alberta Health said those who use the facility will be able to get treatment, including suboxone, methadone and counselling.

Having the site will help save lives, provide sterile needles thus reducing the transmission of infection and improve public safety by having a place to safely dispose of needles and reduce substance use in the public.

As of August, there have been 315 people who have died of apparent fentanyl-related overdoses in Alberta.

Health Canada previously approved safe injection sites for Edmonton and Lethbridge, which are expected to open soon.

Crowchild Trail under construction

Unless you’ve been living under a rock for the past few weeks, you have probably noticed some changes to Crowchild Trail, specifically the bridge that spans the Bow River. With bright orange construction pylons and newly painted lanes that are more curvy, things are going to start changing around those parts.

This is the beginning stage of construction along the artery that is expected to last two years. The work will widen the roadway, adding a third lane in each direction from Memorial Drive N.W. to Bow Trail S.W.

However, the city says it will ease the pain of the construction process by keeping both lanes open between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Kevin Spacey axed from Netflix

Amid numerous sexual harassment allegations, Netflix announced it is cutting ties with Kevin Spacey.

Spacey stars in the hit political drama *House of Cards* on the streaming service. Netflix also cut plans it had to release the film *Gore* which Spacey had produced.

“Netflix will not be involved with any further production of *House of Cards* that includes Kevin Spacey,” the company said in a statement on Nov. 3.

Spacey recently apologized to actor Anthony Rapp who accused Spacey of trying to seduce him when Rapp was just 14. It has been reported that 14 people have alleged sexual harassment and assault against the actor.

Spacey’s publicist also cut ties with the actor on Nov. 2.

Reflectorial: You're not alone

Now that it's November the semester is close to wrapping up, assignments are piling up and so is the stress. Procrastinating getting your work done is one thing but I want to talk about asking for help when you need it. Chances are you're enrolled in five classes this semester and more likely than not you're in a handful of GNED classes too.

I will almost guarantee none of your professors talk to each other. They also probably don't realize that you have a midterm one day, a presentation in your next class and then work immediately after, leaving you barely any time leftover to write your essay due the next day. Schedules like this lead to not getting enough sleep, drinking coffee for every meal and handing in some subpar work. Talk to your professors, if you give them reason to believe that you genuinely care about their class and need help, ask for that extension and they'll probably give it to you. They want you to succeed too.

If you're working a job or two (or more) during the semester make sure you take some time off too if you can. Even if it's just not picking up that extra shift your co-worker asked you about. If you're already overloaded with work, staying on top of assignments will be even harder.

Make sure you take care of yourself as we head into the end of the semester. Eat a full meal every once and awhile, stay hydrated and make sure to take some time for yourself too, even if it's just 30 minutes. If your grades are also not where you want them to be, there's still time. Talk to your professors, show up to class and make sure you study. That's half the battle right there.

I promise you're not alone in feeling sad, overwhelmed and probably dehydrated. I wrote this and this is all advice I need to take as well. We're in this together. If it's still too much to take on, there's also mental health services available on campus. Take advantage of them if you need it, they're there for a reason.

Good luck!

XOXO
-Publishing
Editor

'I Believe You' builds community

These three words are changing the way we think about assault

Sabrina Harmata

Staff Writer

The 'I Believe You' campaign officially launched on campus on Oct. 3, and ran until the end of the month. From coffee and chats on Main Street to the 'I Believe You' board to the panel discussion in Wyckham house, the campaign aimed to raise awareness and support for survivors of sexual assault and harassment all over campus. In particular, the 'I Believe You' board was successful in bringing attention to the fact that sexual assault affects us all, even if we have not experienced it personally.

When asked what her favourite thing about the campaign was, Madelaine McCracken, the Student's Association of Mount Royal University's vice-president for student life, said she really enjoyed, "how real it is, and how many people it affects. [Whether] it is they, themselves, their friends, or their family that went through [sexual assault], [the campaign] affects us all. It brings the community together, and that's what I love about it."

Steve Schmal, a recent Mount

Royal alumnus, also noticed this growing sense of community,

"The campaign helps those whose voices cannot be heard, and shows that we support one another as Mount Royal students."
Steve Schmal

saying, "the campaign helps those whose voices cannot be heard, and shows that we support one another as Mount

Royal students."

The importance of the campaign stems from the fact that so many survivors are being blamed for their involvement in their own abuse, something essentially problematic in that it just perpetuates the cycle of sexual assault, as people are not taking the issue seriously.

Often, the response to being told about a person's sexual assault is something along the lines of, "they should not have been wearing that," or "they should not have drank that much."

These responses belittle the survivors and effectively silence them in that they are likely never to confide their experiences in anyone again. By telling the survivor we believe them, we can ultimately create a space in which we can change the ways we think about this relevant problem.

Brian Arseneault, a Mount Royal student and SAMRU volunteer, pointed this out in an interview, when he said, "[the campaign] is helping to change the way we talk about abuse and puts the victim's comfort, and safety first." Placing an emphasis on the survivors' comfort encourages them to come forward, so that we can acknowledge the extent of this issue and work on fixing it, not by changing the victim's behaviour, but by changing the abuser's mindset.

A couple of weeks ago, the 'me too' posts circulating on Facebook did a great job of exposing the magnitude of the problem. People of all genders from all over the world were coming forward and disclosing that they had been sexually assaulted or harassed as well, showing that this is a global issue that affects all people, regardless of gender or location.

The 'me too' posts are simply the first step in realizing how widespread this matter actually is. Hopefully these posts lead to more recognition of the problem and ultimately to a bigger change in the ways we think about assault. Personally, I did not make a Facebook post, however, now seems like as good a time as ever to acknowledge my own assault experiences, so here it is: me too.



The 'I Believe You' campaign aims to raise awareness for sexual assault survivors and end the stigma of coming forward and speaking up about it. Photo by Sabrina Harmata

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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.

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Why we recognize Remembrance Day

The importance behind the day we honour veterans

Amber McLinden

Features Editor

I recently listened to an episode of the popular podcast *This American Life*, titled “Things I Mean To Know,” detailing things people believe but don’t understand. You just don’t know everything. It’s a simple fact of life. You just accept the way things are sometimes, because we can’t understand everything.

Personally, I never understood why we have statutory holidays off. They come and go, school tells me I don’t have classes and I accept that and move on. But these days are a lot more meaningful than I once realized. We wouldn’t have a whole day off if there wasn’t a

good reason.

That’s not to say I don’t know what Remembrance Day is as a general concept. I know it exists to recognize the sacrifices made by our armed forces and honour those who lost their lives, but I don’t know why it started. Who made it happen? Why is it on Nov. 11?

Well, it’s actually a pretty simple answer. It’s to mark the end of hostilities in the First World War, which occurred on Nov. 11 in 1918. The hostilities officially ended on “the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.”

The red poppy that we all wear

during the time leading up to Remembrance Day is a sign of the popular poem, “In Flanders Fields,” detailing the red poppies that grow over the graves of fallen soldiers.

It is especially important to remember the lives that were lost during the First World War, but also important to remember all those who survived and have now passed away.

Canada’s veteran affairs website states, “We must remember. If we do not, the sacrifice of those one hundred thousand Canadian lives will be meaningless. They died for us, for their homes and families

and friends, for a collection of traditions they cherished and a future they believed in; they died for Canada. The meaning of their sacrifice rests with our collective national consciousness; our future is their monument.”

Before I was in journalism at Mount Royal University, I was a history major for one year. I remember many people asking me, “What will you do with that degree?” I didn’t leave that major behind because I don’t think it’s useful and if I still believe one thing to be true, it’s that if we don’t remember the past, we are doomed to repeat it.

So there you have it. Remembrance Day is a way to remember those fallen in the First World War. It can mean many things to many people, like recognizing a tragedy or learning from our history.

But for all our remembering, at least now after reading this you can understand, in part, the significance behind the day. I urge you to remember, because as we continue recognize the last Canadian the First World War veteran is gone, we are left with no living memory of the past.

Warming hearts this winter

Season of Caring program helps students feel a little warmer

Mariam Taiwo

Contributor

Season of Caring is the time of year where the Peer Support Centre at Mount Royal University helps to provide gift hampers to students in need.

“The Season of Caring is a great cause, because not only does it help students get food but it also helps people contribute to the society and donating the food to the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank too is an amazing thing that we are doing here,” says Miho Ichinoseki, the peer support coordinator.

The goal of Season of Caring is to help students purchase gift for themselves and for their families. This time of year can be fun, especially when you get to give and receive gifts, but it is also a season where students may have financial limitations and are unable to purchase things for themselves and their families. Students can be stressed out financially, emotionally, academically and mentally. On top of that, some have to start paying back their student loans as well.

The Student Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU) made the Season of Caring to help students learn about self care and help make the season a little warmer for them.

The Season of Caring is only made possible by donations. This is why there have been booths around Mount Royal University’s campus, on main street and at west gate. There are different ways that they raise funds, which includes asking for small pocket change in exchange for candy by the west gate. It also includes an information booth where students can ask questions about the gift hampers.

The biggest part of the Season of Caring is the gift hamper program. Basically, the program helps to match students who need help getting their gifts with donors who are willing to sponsor their gift wish list and help make their season warmer. All MRU students and their families can be recipients of the Season of Caring gift hampers.

On Nov. 14, they are going to be putting the “Mitten Board” up, which is a place for students to write their wishes for Christmas on the mittens and anyone can take one and sponsor a student and their family (or just a student, depending on how much they can spend). Some faculties also give group donations and a faculty donor can give a single donation if preferred. Monetary donations

are also welcome, online or in person.

The Season of Caring is important because it helps the Peer Support Centre on Mount Royal’s campus to have a spirit of charity and help students succeed. “Often students have limited budgets and do not have enough money to buy gifts for themselves and their families so it is very important for students to feel like they are well looked after and appreciated, which is an important aspect of self care,” says Ichinoseki.

The Season of Caring Program helps to fundraise about \$600,000 and helps to purchase gifts students cannot afford, explains Ichinoseki.

Although, the greatest aim of the Season of Caring is to help fulfill a student’s gift wish list, that is not all it is about. They also use their fundraising activities to raise money, hygiene products and non-perishable foods for the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank and a lot of food has been donated to the food bank over the years.

Ichinoseki says she used to be a student and she was involved with the Season of Caring and it was always successful. She says many students had access to the



You can donate money and goods to Mount Royal University’s Season of Caring program. Photo courtesy of the Student’s Association of Mount Royal University

gift hampers and that makes the community feel warm.

All the faculties and departments at Mount Royal are very involved in the Season of Caring program. The university as an institution also contributes to the program to help students celebrate the season.

The Peer Support Centre offers a lot of other supports to students such as the food support program, mentorship programs, hygiene

products, financial support and so much more.

This year marks the 30th year that the SAMRU has been running the Season of Caring program, helping to support student’s wishes this winter and ensuring they have a warm season. Applications for the gift hampers are now open to students.

How do you get around?

Comparing Calgary's different modes of transportation

Nathan Woolridge

Staff Writer

With ride-sharing in the city for over a year now, there are a few different options that you can choose to travel with. Each different way to travel has its positives and negatives and can all depend on what you need the ride for. There's Uber, taxi, and public transit that all offer different benefits to users, depending on where you want to go.

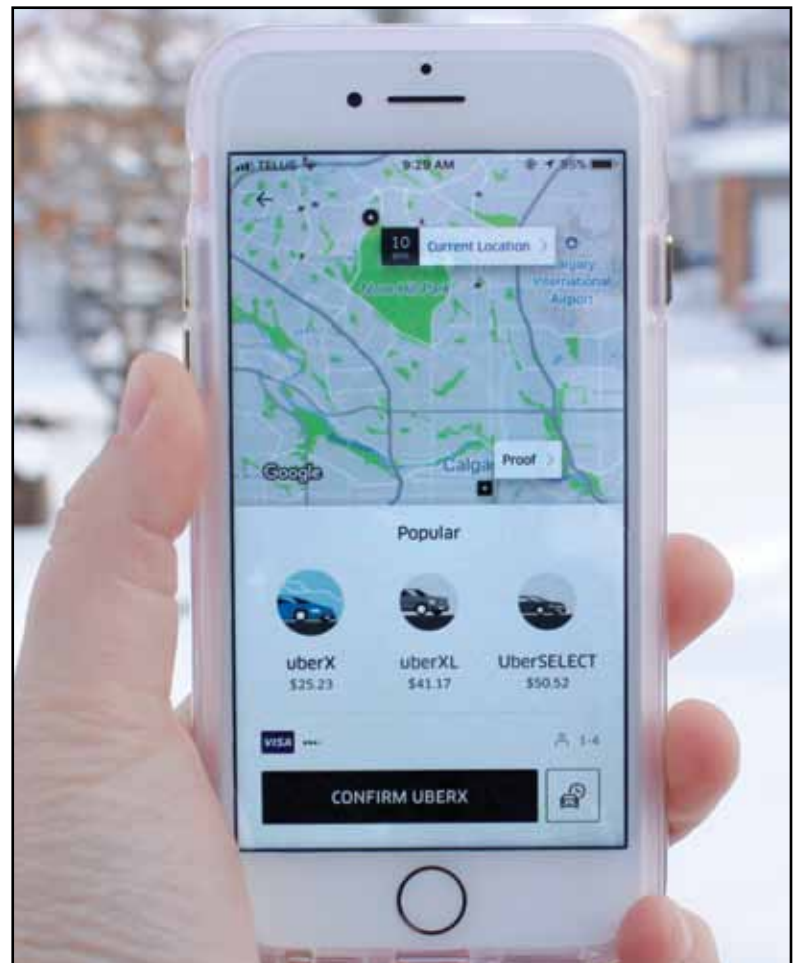
Uber: Taking over the city?

To many people, Uber has offered a different option of travel in the form of ride-sharing. In Calgary, the city offers public transit and there are a few select taxi companies to choose from. Uber offers similar services but they will quote you the price before you leave on the app.

In April of this year, Uber

claimed to have 70,000 Uber riders and 1,500 drivers in Calgary, according to the Calgary Herald.

"Whether you're headed to work, the airport, or out on the town, Uber connects you with a reliable ride in minutes. One tap and a car comes directly to you. Your driver knows exactly where to go. And payment is completely cashless," states Uber on their website.



Uber is one the the many ways you can get around Calgary today. How effective is the ride-sharing app compared to other forms of transportation? Photo by Amber McLinden

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Uber vs. taxis

Uber does offer a great service for people trying to save money. In comparison, Uber is usually cheaper than a taxi. The aim is that you know what you're paying before even getting into the vehicle.

The Uber app can tell your exact location, which makes for an easy pick-up. It's much better than trying to explain to a cab driver where you are for pick up.

A cab could be similar in rates for distance, but once you factor in the cost of sitting in traffic while the metre is running, you typically pay a lot more. Uber is priced by distance and availability, where taxis are priced by time.

Uber vs. Lyft

Other ride-sharing giant, Lyft, has been rumoured to expand operations in Canada. Lyft is very similar to Uber and would likely have trouble competing with an already established company. But fortunate for us, it may create some competition and create lower prices. As well, more drivers and selection to choose from in regards to price and where we want to go.

Public transportation

If you're a student you're entitled to a U-Pass. If not, there are multiple different passes that you can purchase. A single ride costs \$3.25.

Public transit can be a cheap and viable option for transportation, but it is not always reliable. Busses are not

as frequent as hoped and it can be a pain for people who need to change busses to reach their destination.

Also, transit is not always direct. For example, Mount Royal has some busses come to campus, but not from a lot of areas of the city. As well, MRU does not have a train to or close to campus.

But, in defense of public transit, you would not want to take an Uber to school every day. It's cheap, but it's not that cheap.

Biking and walking

Calgary has a great new bike lane system and lots of walkways to get around, but the prime time for this is mostly in the spring and summer months (if we're lucky).

In Calgary, we aren't fortunate enough to be able to bike everywhere all year long. It's a great way to get around and keep in shape, but it's just not realistic all of the time, especially in winter.

A night out

Uber is better for a ride home on a night out or possibly going to an event downtown when you don't want to risk trying to park there.

But, as convenient as it may be, sometimes Uber increase prices in certain areas that have a lot of people requesting a ride. For instance, if you're at the Saddledome and it's after a hockey game or a concert, it can be quite expensive for an Uber. Depending on where you live, sometimes a taxi may be available and similar in price.

Gender neutral stores on the rise in Calgary

Businesses create safe spaces and open conversations downtown

Drew Tytgat

Contributor

Walking into Velour clothing for the first time is an experience dashed with a lot of colour, bright patterns and the odd metallic hue. What is missing, though, are men's and women's sections. It still sells both, but recently adopted a new approach to organizing clothing. It's gone gender neutral.

Stores that have gone gender neutral are starting to appear across Calgary, with Velour and Hedkandi Salon being two of the largest ones.

Velour, a shop on the second floor of a small business complex on 17 Ave and 9A St amalgamated its men's and women's sections over the summer.

Myra Miller is one of the co-owners of Velour, who runs the shop day to day.

"Over time, looking at our demographic and clientele who were coming, [we realized] there were a lot of people who weren't fitting

necessarily into the women's or men's," said Miller.

Miller said that after conversations with a non-binary employee, the decision was made.

"We really aren't doing it because it's a trend, it could have very well backfired," she said, explaining that some clientele could have taken to it harshly and organizing sizes can become tricky business, but the response has all been very positive.

"We're continuing to encourage or suggest pieces to people crossing the [gender] spectrum and trying to break down that barrier," she said.

Hedkandi and Velour both announced that they were going to take steps towards gender neutrality on the same day, although it was unplanned.

Although these decisions were coming from a good place, Trent Warner, who does



Myra Miller is the owner of Velour Clothing, located on the second floor of a small business complex on 17 Ave and 9a St SW. Photo by Drew Tytgat

public relations for Hedkandi, said that it can be a risk. When the salon made the announcement to offer gender neutral pricing, there was some backlash.

"I think lots of men were particularly like ... offended by it, maybe because the way we did it, we raised our men's cuts a little to match that of our women's," they said, "that was offensive to them."

"To the people we wanted to build relationships with I think it was overwhelmingly positive," they said.

The negative reactions did not stop the change. It went ahead, and Warner said the salon is better for it.

"Our industry, generally on stuff like this, is a little bit behind. Most hair salons have that traditional gendered pricing structure ... it was just kind of an agreed upon thing when we thought of it," they said.

"We just wanted to set a standard and set a tone and kind of move off of the beaten path of what the hair industry has been like for the past x amount of years," Warner said. "Really we see no need for it."

At both establishments, the change was implemented in a way that felt like a sure step forward for the business.

"It was just a natural progression to have our store reflect a lot of our values as well," said Miller.

"What we really want to bring people, to create a comfortable and safe environment."

Stores that are adopting gender neutrality are opening up a conversation not only about gender identities, but about the pervasiveness of gender in everyday life, according to Miller.

"I was noticing ... how trained guys seem to be, like they just make a beeline to the back and stop and look at the men's section and then they leave," Miller said, "and I'm going 'Oh, we gotta do something about this.'"

"[Now] some guys end up

"It would feel validating that you could wear whatever you want and it's not your gender."
Blair Janke

selecting a women's top that they wouldn't necessarily have before and they aren't necessarily gay or non-binary, so a lot of straight shoppers are

buying stuff [this way] too."

Blair Janke says that although they do not know of many gender neutral stores, the more that exist, the safer they would feel.

"Whenever I walk into a shop it's always like 'Hey, hey girl,' they said. 'It would be so freeing [to shop somewhere gender neutral] because I could feel safe in every part of the store and not be nervous.'"

"It would feel validating that you could wear whatever you want and it's not your gender."

Janke explained that they do not think that gender neutrality in stores only benefits trans and other LGBT+ people, but really is a step forward for everyone.

"I think [cisgender] people would have a lot more options as well, because right now we're so limited in the gender binary of clothing ... I don't exist in that and I still wear clothes," Janke said.

"You have to put something on your body and it doesn't mean that you're a woman, it doesn't mean you're a man."

The rise of gender neutrality in stores does not seem to be starting or ending with Velour and Hedkandi. Although a relatively new concept gracing the Calgary streets, Miller, Warner and Janke all expressed hopefulness towards seeing more businesses adopt the similar policies.



Browsing through the racks of Velour Clothing, located on 17 Ave and 9a St SW, you won't find men's and women's clothing separated. The store chose to forgo sections in the name of a more gender neutral approach. Photo by Drew Tytgat

Study-dating

Whether or not to take a class with your partner

Nathan Lawley and Eddy Robinson

Contributors

Being in a relationship is difficult if both you and your partner are in school. It's hard to find time to spend together when both of you live busy lives. If this is the case, you probably have thought of what it would be like to take a course with your partner to spend more time and learn together without sacrificing your academic life. For those of you thinking of going this route, we have laid out a pros and cons list for you.

Pro: Permanent study buddy and partner for group projects.

Con: You don't meet new people.

We all know that feeling of dread when forming a group for a project – no longer! No more worrying about unknown work ethics or personality clashes. You can also worry less about

coordinating schedules and finding convenient meeting places.

If you both learn and take notes similarly then studying can be easy, but you won't get to hear different opinions, especially when you agree on a subject matter. If your opinions differ then hopefully this can work in your favour.

Pro: Save money by buying only one textbook.

Con: Having to share it.

Sharing time with a book could be hard but sharing the price is easy. You also have to consider who buys it, whose place it will 'live' at (if you don't live together), and what to do with it after the course.

Pro: If one partner has to miss class the other can still go to class and take notes.

Con: If your partner won't be

in class, it can be super hard to feel motivated to go at all.

Self motivation is a struggle but having your partner in the class could help you to attend. Negotiation is key here. If one partner is taking on the majority of the workload, this could put a strain in your relationship.

Pro: Having a partner in the same course can motivate both of you to work harder and better.

Con: If you turn it into too much of a competition, the comparisons can hurt your relationship.

When it comes to the grades you get in the class, you may be compelled to share your grades in this course with one another. But if one of you gets better results, it could create a conflict. If you do decide



Photo by Andi Endruhn

to share your grades, discuss your course goals with your partner and be clear about what happens if one of you gets better marks in the course.

As a couple, we're in our third class together this semester. We attended classes as friends at first, and know one another's work ethics quite well. We agreed before the course started that we would both separately read the readings and take our own notes. We split the cost of the textbooks and chose

to sell them at the Student's Association of Mount Royal University after the course was done. We also discussed our goals for final grades. We do this for every assignment and test to make sure that neither of us gets upset due to comparisons.

Here's some final advice from us to you: as in all aspects of relationships, negotiating boundaries beforehand is essential.

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Does the second season of Stranger Things deliver?

Colin Macgillivray
Contributor

When the first season of *Stranger Things* premiered last summer, it was arguably bigger than any superhero blockbuster or summer action flick. The creators of the show, the Duffer brothers, crafted a fun, 80's inspired science-fiction series and it took the world by storm. Once again, Netflix could brag that their original content was on par with some of the best television series out there. It was met with universal acclaim, and was an easy recommendation, as it blended nostalgic elements with a fresh cast, and an ultimately satisfying story. One of the easiest shows to binge in the entire Netflix library, *Stranger Things* was honestly a pretty great show.

But then came the hype. Nostalgia junkies latched onto the series, with millions touting that the soundtrack was the greatest of all time and that the talented cast of child actors could do no wrong. Careers were made overnight, and the series, that essentially acts as an homage to Spielberg sci-fi, became 'the most original thing on television.' It was frequently mentioned as one of the greatest single seasons of television ever, up there with *True Detective's* first season and the fourth season of *The Wire*. Frankly, that's just not true. Sure, the first season of *Stranger Things* was an entertaining ride filled with endearing characters, some genuinely funny comedy and some classic horror thrills to boot. But, it's not one of the best shows ever made. Occasional narrative choices reek of cliché, while some characters are completely static and have no real impact to the plot. Nitpicking aside, the first season was great, and the second season of *Stranger Things* was faced with

the almost insurmountable task of delivering on the hype. Luckily, it mostly does.

It's safe to say that if you enjoyed the first season of *Stranger Things*, you'll enjoy the second. The entire cast has returned for another round of telekinetic, alternate reality action, and once again they don't disappoint. Winona Ryder is excellent as Joyce Byers, with her frantic energy permeating the television screen with great effect. David Harbour shines as well, and his portrayal of the stern, affectionate police chief Jim Hopper is incredibly believable. The chemistry between the young actors is also a sight to behold, as both groups of teens shine throughout the season. One of the strongest parts about the second season of *Stranger Things* is that the majority of the characters have already been developed, and it allows for more creative freedom. Unlike the first season, no character feels like an afterthought, other than a group of criminals that are introduced in episode seven, but I'll get to that later.

Noah Schnapp, who plays Will Byers, played an important, but small role in the first season. In season two, Schnapp is given a much larger spotlight and he gracefully navigates the heavy lifting with the expertise of a tenured actor. Millie Bobby Brown, who was a standout in season one, has a surprisingly smaller role, yet her performance is still a standout. Sean Astin of Lord of the Rings fame, was a new addition to the cast. His performance as the lovable loser Bob Newby is superb, and his addition to the story was a massive highlight. Performance driven narrative is where the first season of *Stranger Things* excels,

and the second season brings more of the same.

The soundtrack was once again a hit. With an ambient synth score sprinkled between classic 80's tunes, it's hard not to commend the Duffer brothers for creating such an evocative atmosphere through music. As in season one, visuals are top notch as well. From a haunting, possession sequence that is littered with beautiful special effects, to simple costume design that truly immerses a viewer into the world, the series is as technically sound as it comes. The cinematography is also a highlight of season two, with tracking shots and brilliant landscapes galore. The only real problem I have with *Stranger Things* is the story.

The season unfortunately starts off extremely slow, with episode one being almost entirely dedicated to introducing new characters and re-establishing the relationships of all the favourites from season one. On a rewatch, I would probably skip it. Slowly but surely, the slow-burn tension of season two is ramped up, and episodes two to six are excellent television. The story of season two successfully builds on the first. With interwoven narratives depicting the aftermath of a town struggling with interdimensional beings, telekinetic abilities, and high school drama, season two had all the potential to usurp the first. The humour, action and drama are all beautifully blended up until this point, but then episode seven came along, and halted the momentum.

Episode seven is set to be the most divisive episode in the series. Without diving too heavily into spoiler territory, the episode follows Millie Bobby Brown's



Stranger Things, an entertaining mix of childhood-investigative drama and supernatural horror took Netflix by storm last summer, and is one of the streaming service's biggest success stories. Photo courtesy of Netflix

Eleven as she reconnects with someone from her past, and it can be viewed as a standalone story. These types of spotlight episodes that essentially follow an entire new group of characters are always risky, but sometimes they work out. It allows showrunners to branch off from their established narrative, and can bring a fresh perspective to the middle of a season. Unfortunately, episode seven was an undeniable disaster.

Just as the season is reaching an exciting climax, the Duffer brothers decided to completely shift gears and focus on a ragtag group of disenfranchised criminals. All of them are onenote,

unoriginal, and completely needless to the overall plot. One could honestly skip this episode and miss absolutely nothing. It adds no character depth, plot development, or exciting ideas to the overall story and that's why it was a monumental failure. Some might love the change of pace, yet for me, the bold move ultimately fell flat.

Stranger Things season two is more of the same from season one. Season two offers an exciting story and fresh characters that are all wrapped up in a nostalgia-inspired atmosphere. It's nothing game changing or amazing, but it is usually pretty great.

OUT'N ABOUT

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This one-day Christmas market that is being held on Nov. 18 is the perfect place for baked goods, holiday gifts and more.

Disney on Ice: Follow Your Heart:

Are you a fan of frozen water and life sized cartoon characters? You can catch your favourite Disney characters perform on ice from Nov. 15 to Nov. 19.

Pure '90s:

Starting on Nov. 17, Stage West is presenting a lineup of shows that is taken straight from the 1990's. From Jurassic Park to the Spice Girls, sit back and relive pop culture phenomena with dinner and a show.

Demetri Martin:

One of the most unique comedians will be coming to Calgary's MacEwan Hall on Nov. 18. Featuring ridiculous musical accompaniment and awkward one-liners, Demetri Martin's standup show will perfectly showcase his rise to fame.

How Riverdale is poisoning television

Netflix's teen-melodrama is literally rotting my brain

Colin Macgillivray

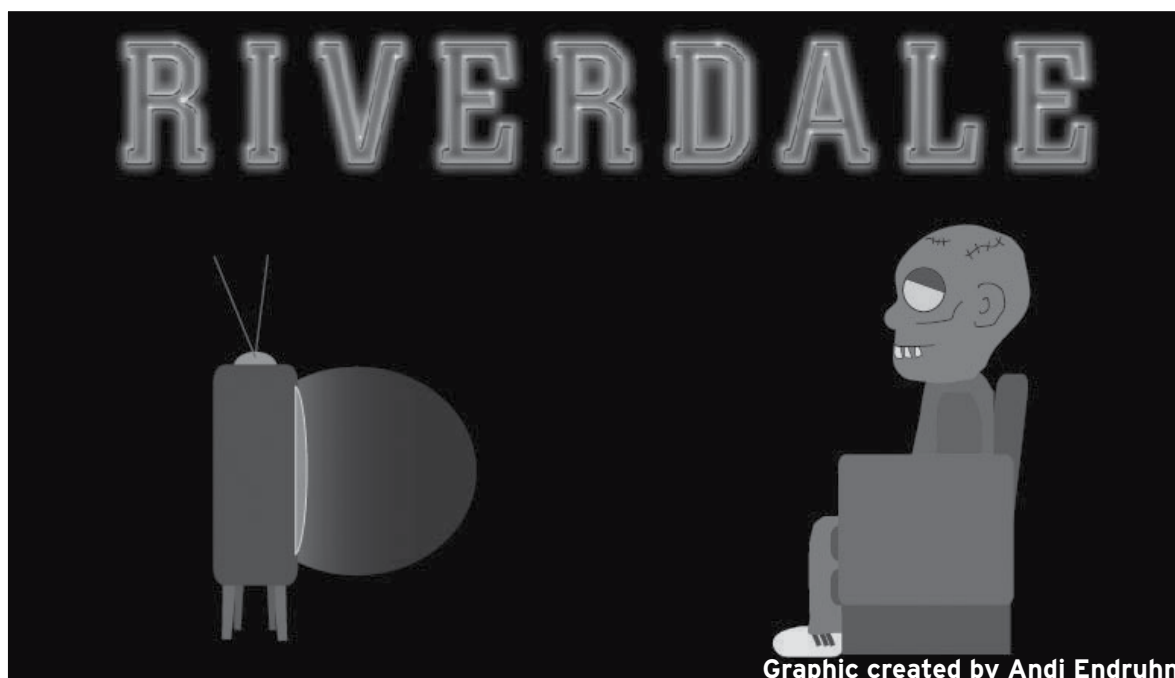
Arts Editor

"Have you seen Riverdale? You have to watch it, it's crazy!"

Since the premiere back in January, I've been badgered and tormented by the prospect of watching the new Archie comics inspired teen-soap opera by almost everyone. If you haven't heard of the new "must watch" series, the CW Network and Netflix have partnered to deliver a nostalgia based, re-invention of the classic comic series. It stars a gaggle of attractive young actors as the classic characters, and a slew of washed-up 1990's teen-drama stars as their parents. The whole show is essentially a mystery, in which high school sophomores seem to solve crimes better than the Riverdale police

department. There's sex. There's romance. There's brooding, mysterious teens solving crimes. But, most of all, it is a weekly serial that is as nonsensical as it is convoluted, yet it is somehow celebrated in a cult-like manner.

I would like to preface this long winded rant about a television show by insisting I am not trying to change your mind about *Riverdale*. If you like watching a sexualized version of the supposedly nerdy Archie Andrews, by all means, keep your eyes glued to the screen. But, what I do want you to consider is that by religiously watching such a poorly constructed show, it ruins television in the long run. *Riverdale's* toxicity is already



Graphic created by Andi Endruhn

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spreading through the ranks of entertainment, as a spin-off series is already in the works. Nonetheless, here is why you should maybe give some other shows a shot, and put *Riverdale* on the back burner.

Now, I've heard the argument that because *Riverdale* is such a terrible show, that it has transcended critique and become something that is watched by millions around the world. That's absolute bologna. When the show returned this fall for its second season, hundreds of fans lined up outside various Calgary locations to experience an authentic *Riverdale* inspired milkshake. Basements were crawling with costumes inspired by the series this Halloween. Plus, the show actually holds generally positive reviews from critics, as well as universal acclaim from the audience. Don't justify watching a bad show by saying, "It's so bad it's good," because that's not why anyone watches anything. If *Riverdale's* nonsensical mystery has you hooked, that's great! Own your guilty pleasure, and then maybe check out *True Detective* or *Fargo*, two incredible crime-driven television shows that might open your eyes as to how ridiculous *Riverdale* is.

That is honestly my biggest problem with the show. It is just frankly unbelievable. I will admit, *Riverdale's* countless twists and never-ending cliffhangers generally make someone want to watch the next episode. But, once you realize that all these ludicrous plot points ultimately lead to nothing, *Riverdale* becomes a sad excuse for a compelling narrative.

By throwing hundreds of red herrings the audiences way over the course of 13 episodes focusing more on shock value than character development and logical narrative flow, the first season of *Riverdale* can essentially be completely understood by watching the first episode and the finale. When a 13 episode season contains essentially 11 episodes of filler, it is not compelling. It is bad! Coupling this disappointingly empty plot with ridiculous subplots, like a maple syrup feud and a ridiculous affair with a music teacher, *Riverdale* is ultimately void of any substance. Maybe watch *Breaking Bad* instead! It's filled with substance and also illegal substances.

I could nitpick *Riverdale* until my fingers start to bleed, so I won't, but I do want to touch on the fact that the show doesn't offer anything new, exciting, or fresh to an already bogged down television lineup. *Westworld* took classic source material, in a similar way that *Riverdale* has, but managed to up the quality through beautiful visuals, strong performances, and an interesting story. *Narcos* managed to offer something new in its third season, even after losing two of its strongest actors and essentially having to build a compelling story from scratch. It was incredibly successful. Even *Black Mirror* took some exciting risks. Although some episodes were clearly more polished, exciting and entertaining than others, one must commend the show runners for at least

Continued on Pg. 12

Is Cuphead all it's cracked up to be?

We sent our worst gamer into the world of the much hyped retro call-back to find out

Nathan Kunz

Staff Writer

I want to preface this article by admitting something I've struggled to come to terms with for a long time: I'm not good at video games. Despite playing them for a majority of my life, from N64 to Gamecube to Playstation 3 and now Xbox One, I've never truly excelled at any game. For this reason, online gaming is a terrifying premise to me - competing against people who have spent hours upgrading and mastering their characters, learning every movement that will eventually drive me to a point of disgruntled exhaustion is a bit of a nightmare. This process is practically inevitable, nearly always leading to the relocation of whatever *Call of Duty* or *Battlefield* disk I'd shelled out the \$80 or more for back onto the shelf to stay.

This deep fear of undeniable buyer's guilt has led me to avoid games time and time again, often opting to fall back on the "Oh man, I would, but I'm so busy" excuse after a recommendation comes my way. However, occasionally this cycle is broken by a game that catches my eye as different for one reason or another. Most recently, this game was *Cuphead*.

The universally acclaimed retro indie platformer *Cuphead* was created by Canadian developers StudioMDHR. After years of fans salivating over trailers, gameplay footage and teasers, the highly anticipated game was released at the end of September on PC and Xbox One. First conceived of by brothers Chad and Jared Moldenhauer in the early 2000s, the game borrows art styles from early 20th century hand drawn cartoons produced by Disney and other American legacy studios. This unique art direction, more than anything, was the initial draw of the game for me. And learning that the frames were produced the hard way - designed from scratch frame after frame - only added to the intrigue. And while countless articles have argued on the "style over substance" debate, the idea of creating a beautifully unique game, even if it lacks depth in gameplay, is enough for me to be pulled in as a casual gamer sifting through the dense abyss that is the Xbox

marketplace.

Lacking gameplay depth, however, is never a problem in *Cuphead*. The game's side scrolling retro feel borrows not only the formatting, but also the standard difficulty that comes with the property. That is to say *Cuphead* is exhaustingly hard. Never, through my whole playthrough, did I hop into a level and reach the end on my first try. Though possibly flirting with a final stage of certain bosses on an initial attempt, my confidence was more than once snapped as my following efforts led me nowhere closer to a knockout. This difficulty, however, never becomes discouraging, as victory is always possibly only a short run away. The intuitive learning process of playing and replaying stages, learning tells of enemies, finding out how and when each moves a certain way and how a dash or jump could avoid it, all leads to an astoundingly fulfilling experience. Each run, even if it ends on the first stage, informs your next, creating a consistent sense of forward movement throughout.

Though stages only cycle through three types (Run & Gun, Standard and Airplane Boss), the variety of what the next battle will look and feel like is always exciting and motivating, especially when you creep into the second hour of play on a single boss you NEED to beat to move forward. Not to mention that each unveiled character comes with a distinct theme and character name, the best of course being the early battle against 'Goopy Le Grande', a continuously growing goopy ball that bounces in patterns the player must learn and defend against. Although Goopy is nowhere near the most exciting visually or in complexity, his name is 'Goopy Le Grande,' making him, without a doubt, the most memorable and loveable.

Though seeming as it may clash with my shortcoming as a gamer, the high difficulty of *Cuphead* is instead incredibly endearing. Unlike the multiplayer shooters that eventually feel as though I'm playing as target practice for some virtual marksman, *Cuphead* acts as more of a set

of personal hurdle, forcing you to better yourself through focus and actively adapting in each stage. Each run's fresh-slate feel allows for quick bursts of non-stop action without the fear of possible consequences

for taking big risks. Paired with the unique and creative character and setting design painstakingly drawn into each level, *Cuphead* deserves every bit of hype and praise it's gotten thus far. And if you don't

believe me, it's only \$28, which means even if you don't like it, buyer's remorse won't bite you as hard as it has me so many times before.



The evocative art style and gruelling difficulty that *Cuphead* has become famous for has attracted hardcore and casual gamers alike. Image courtesy of StudioMDHR Entertainment

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Continued from Pg. 10

trying something different. *Riverdale* essentially feels like any other teen drama, but with the glossy, nostalgia effect of established characters. It doesn't offer anything new in terms of storytelling or visuals, and although the majority of the performances are either bad or decent, not one has been incredible. Sure, they kill off minor characters, but there has not been one major plot point that has shocked me as a viewer, or truly changed any of the characters on the show. So why bother?

Now, before I'm hunted down and flogged by the series faithful, I want to say that I want to like *Riverdale*. I genuinely

believe that the young cast is talented, they are just often brought down by some cringe-inducing writing. Season two has bounds of potential, as a serial killer is wreaking havoc on the once idyllic town, but so far it seems like they are playing it safe. If the show took some risks with their presentation, allowed characters to develop and grow, and ultimately make every episode essential to the overarching story, I would be a fan. The sad thing is I don't have any hope that it will happen.

Riverdale is far from the worst show on television. If it really was the worst show ever made, I wouldn't have been able to get through it myself. My point is that a television show with such a massive following should be

willing to push television in a positive direction. It should try to offer something original, and it shouldn't be afraid of taking risks. With *Riverdale* receiving massive acclaim, I'm worried that future shows will be as formulaic and unoriginal as this one. I'm also worried that shows that try something new will be discounted as being too different and will unfortunately not be able to break into the mainstream. This poisoning of the mainstream hit will ultimately be the downfall for television, in the same way that big budget blockbusters have marred the beauty of cinema for the past decade.

But, what do I know.



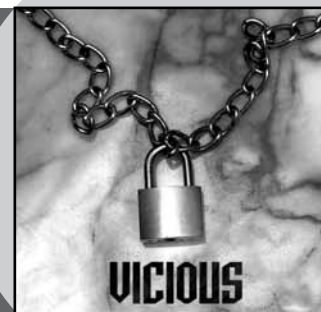
Although *Riverdale* has developed a cult-like following, it still rots the brain and has been scientifically proven to make you forget what is good in the world. Photo courtesy of The CW

Vicious EP

Skepta

Boy Better Know

Score: A



Following his Mercury Prize winning album *Konnichiwa* and a high-profile feature on Drake's *More Life* earlier this year, London Grime MC Skepta's latest release, *Vicious*, continues to innovate while not straying too far from his successful formula. On "Sit Down," Lil B's chanted hook "Haters sit down" drives a signature gloomy Skepta beat, allowing the grime star to flow freely over a well-structured base. Lil B's appearance with his own verse mid-way

through cements the track as a standout on the EP. Opener "Still" is effective in an opposite way, as Skepta drops line after line over a dizzying beat, never breaking for a chorus as he proclaims his place at the top of the genre. Clocking in at just over 20 minutes, *Vicious* is able to flow as a complete piece or as stand-alone tracks, creating more assurance that Skepta is, as he claims on "Still," the undeniable leader in grime.

- Nathan Kunz

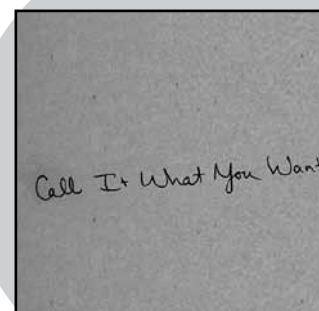
Call It What You Want

Taylor Swift

Big Machine

Records

Score: D-



It's a tale of two Taylor Swifts. Swift dropped the fourth single "Call It What You Want" from her new album *Reputation* on Nov. 3. At first listen it sounds like a love song, with lyrics like "My baby's fly like a jet stream, High above the whole scene, Loves me like I'm brand new." But then, if you take a deeper dive into what she's actually saying, she has lyrics where it seems like she's

calling out the haters. "All the liars are calling me one, Nobody's heard from me for months" and "All the drama queens taking swings, All the jokers dressing up as kings." This back and forth is tiring and quite frankly, boring. Is Swift sweet or salty? The mixed signals aren't fun. Will the real Taylor Swift please just stand up already?

- Anna Junker

4eva Is a Mighty Long Time

Big K.R.I.T.

BMG Rights Management

Score: A



When a rapper releases an album with more than 13 tracks, there are often a handful of songs that should have been left at the cutting room floor. Big K.R.I.T. is an exception to the rule, coming through with 22 bangers on his third album *4eva Is a Mighty Long Time*. The double-album feels like a train ploughing through the competition without slowing down at any

one point; the end of the line is the top, looking down at all the trap clones.

He handles the choruses, the majority of production duties, and delivers on every single verse. The multi-talented K.R.I.T. lays it down old school like Andre 3000, embracing his natural southern flair while pushing the boundaries between conscious rap and club hits. Big K.R.I.T. is a

beacon in a sea of Molly and Percoset, shining a light on the emptiness of his peers, whose strongest traits are their adlibs.

- Paul McAleer

Turn Out the Lights

Julien Baker

Matador

Score: A



Released with perfect timing for the onset of those frozen and lonely months, Julien Baker's *Turn Out the Lights* is a warm mug of deeply personal reflections, held close in hands wrapped with svelte layers of tactile instrumentation.

You can feel the bite against your cheeks on tracks like "Shadowboxing" and "Sour Breath," and hear the wind whistling through the cracks in the window on "Over" and "Hurt

Less." Every moment on this album serves to blockade against the cold.

There are no icy missteps on *Turn Out the Lights*, Baker has planned and calculated every move.

The result is an 11-track opus, a complete masterwork of quiet and patience, and a fantastic release that begs repeated listens throughout the dead of winter.

- Alec Warkentin

sports

Sports Editor
Dan Khavkin
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Men's hockey looks to turn momentum around

Dan Khavkin

Sports Editor

Mount Royal Cougars men's hockey team is having early season struggles, but head coach Bert Gilling believes the team will get back to "Cougar hockey" standards.

At this point last year, MRU held a 5-3 record and were near the top of the Canada West conference.

This season has an expected slow start with such a revamped roster from top to bottom with 10 new players on top of the losses from last years magical squad who lost in the semi-final of the Canada West playoffs.

Gilling notes, "It's been frustrating, I can't say it wasn't anticipated with so many new players and with what we lost in terms of leadership and quality of student-athlete"

MRU pantheon and last season's captain Matt Brown played his final season last year, capping off a legendary Cougar career. Cam Maclise finished his career and is currently playing in the American Hockey League (AHL) with the Manitoba Moose while Emerson Hrynyk is playing

in the Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL) for the Dundee Stars.

"I hate using the term rebuilding, I don't want us to take a step back. We achieved and earned so much at the level of Cougar Hockey, I don't want to take a step back from that. We've shown growth but it's been a grind so far," said Gilling.

Sitting at 3-4-1, the Cougars are gripping onto the final playoff spot with a huge home-and-home series coming up against rivals University of Calgary Dinos who are four points ahead.

The team can't avoid the injury bug which keeps bothering coach Gilling as the coaching staff needs to find cohesion and gelling as fast as possible.

"We haven't been clicking on all cylinders yet, if you look at our history at my time here, I am hopeful and optimistic that this year can be the year where 'Don't look at us now but evaluate us in the second half of the year' because the last three years, we've come out like a house on fire and leveled off towards the end of the year," Gilling states.

As of Nov 6., the Cougars

highlight recruit Ryley Lindgren, broke his finger and has a pin currently inside his hand and is out for at least two more weeks. Sophomore Connor Rankin has been out with a lower body injury. Forward Luke Simpson was out last week in the weekend of the Manitoba sweep. Rookie Allan MacPherson was out last weekend with a sickness while defenceman Madison Smiley just played his first game against the Bisons.

Gilling notes that the return of Lindgren will have a big impact on the squad.

"(Lindgren) reminds me of a Tyler Fiddler type of player and I think he'll have a Tyler Fiddler kind of impact for us. He's figuring out the level and got derailed by the injury, once he gets off his injury he'll put a big impact on the league."

Fourth-year Jaime King was unanimously voted for captain by his teammates to lead the charge after Brown's departure.

Coach Gilling gives his new captain full confidence and support.

"He's got all the respect of



Sophomore Jamal Watson celebrating one of two goals on Oct. 27 against Lethbridge. Photo by Adrien Shellard

his peers in the locker room, he embodied all four of the Cougar hockey pillars. Them being pride in academic achievement, commitment to off ice training, performance based execution and selfless service to the community and the team...as guys do the nomination they keep that stuff in the back of their mind."

Being one of a handful of veterans left, King's leadership is playing a huge factor on the new recruits.

"We're very young and very inexperienced, half our team are first year players here at Mount Royal and I think it's really nice for the room to have that stable presence in our leadership,"

Just about a third into the season, there is still plenty of time left for the men's hockey team to meet the expectations of "Cougar Hockey."

"I am cautiously optimistic this year that it's going to be the reverse. We'll take the ups and downs early in the season as we figure everything out. In the second half, I am hoping we'll find the chemistry and the groove

and play where we are expected."

Goaltending isn't a problem for the Cougars but it hasn't been the team's solution so far this year.

"They're all Canada West quality goaltenders who have proven they can play in this league but no one has stepped up yet."

"It's been a revolving door for us and I say that unfortunately, we want a consistent level of goaltending, no one has taken the ball and ran with it. It started last year and it seeped into this year. It's been pretty good but it's not on a level we need on a consistent basis...we need the rock of our back-end to be the goaltender."

After the two Crowchild Classic games, MRU travels to B.C. to face the UBC Thunderbirds, who are directly in the mix for the middle spots in Canada West. Later on, the Cougars host powerhouse University of Saskatchewan Huskies to close November out and reach the halfway point of the season.



Cougars saluting the crowd after a home-and-home against Lethbridge. The Cougars are 2-1-1 at home so far. Photo by Adrien Shellard

#S

11 Career 50 point games for LeBron James, tying him for 6th place all-time

800 consecutive games for Anaheim Ducks player Andrew Cogliano, fourth player to do that

600 career games for FC Barcelona's icon Lionel Messi

11 goals for Arizona Coyotes player Clayton Keller inside his first 20 games

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David Docherty
(MRU President)

Shifrah Gadamsetti
(SAMRU REC President)

Lesley Brown
(MRU Provost/ Vice President Academic)

Cordelia Snowdon
(SAMRU REC VPA)

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For more information contact Shifrah Gadamsetti (SAMRU REC President) president@samru.ca or Cordelia Snowdon (SAMRU REC VPA) at vpacademic@samru.ca



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Fight for the 105th Grey Cup begins

Sajan Jabbal

Staff Writer

This has been one of the most exciting CFL seasons and with the regular season coming to end, teams are looking to prepare for their first playoff game, and look to make their way right to the Grey Cup.

The Calgary Stampeders have had a tough end to the season, losing their last three games but still lead the league in points and hope to achieve another Grey Cup with a bye into the semi-finals.

The Stamps and the Toronto Argonauts finished the season first in their respective conferences, so they have the privilege of skipping to the quarter-finals, and jumping straight into the semi-finals.

The rest of the pack including: Saskatchewan Roughriders, Ottawa Redblacks, Edmonton Eskimos and

Winnipeg Blue Bombers, will have to battle it out in the quarter-final game to be able to play in the semis.

As we get closer and closer to kick off on Sunday, we break down the teams and the matchups, as they prepare to battle it out.

Although the Stamps sit with the best record in the league,

they have had a tough end to the season, losing three in a row.

"We're not getting any better," head coach Dave Dickenson said in an interview with the Calgary Sun after their loss against the Bombers on Friday.

"We're making the same mistakes. We have a lot to prove to ourselves. We have time to get better but right now, we're not the team we need to be."

The 'Stamps have a week off to prepare for the semi-finals, whether it be against the Blue Bombers or the Eskimos.

They are going to look to their powerhouse defense to make some big stops.

With star defensive players like Alex Singleton, who is nominated for Most Outstanding Player and Charleston Hughes, who powerful pass rushing once again leads the league in quarterback sacks this season.

This western match-up is going to be two teams that has had its ups and downs all season. The Eskimos went on a seven game winning streak to start the season but fell to the Bombers.

After that loss they had a tough

time, losing six in a row.

Although they finished strong and are at a good standing going into the playoffs, their inconsistency could play a factor if they start the game poor on Sunday.

Another problem the 'Eskies may face is their lack of rushing offense. Although they do have a solid backfield with C.J. Gable, they haven't been very successful and QB Mike Reilly leads the offense in rushing yards.

Winnipeg finished the season second in the West and hope to keep a strong momentum into the game against the Eskimos.

Star running back Andrew Harris, leads the league in rushing yards and receptions. Be on the lookout for him against Edmonton.

They also hope for strong defensive playing to continue their performance from last week's game against the Stampeders.

The Argos have had an inconsistent season. They have not managed to win more than two games in a row more than once this season.

Just sneaking into first place after their last week blowout

against the BC Lions, they look to shape up and prepare for the semi-final game.

Although they sit at the top of the east, they have the gift of a bye-week into the playoffs.

With Ricky Ray well past his prime, some question how he will play in a big time game. Although he is still one of the best QB's in the CFL, his consistency is in question, once a team starts to close off the pocket; Ray's speed becomes a problem in avoiding the sack.

They are also going to have to look at James Wilder Jr., leading his team in rushing yards and has had a breakout year.

Many have been saying it's a gift to switch over to the Eastern Conference come playoff time, and the 'Riders hope to take advantage of this gift given to them.

With their loss against Edmonton last week, they hold the last wild card spot and will transfer over and play in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Having a better record than both Ottawa and Toronto, Saskatchewan will look to make a deep run in the playoffs and have a chance at a Grey Cup.

After their tough start to the season at 4-2, they picked up in all cylinders producing on both the offense and defense.

The input of rookie Canadian Brandon Bridge at QB has added speed and movement in the backfield, something that aging QB Kevin Glenn struggles with. As soon as Glenn gets tired and starts struggling in the pocket, the Riders will look to Bridge to ride the shotgun for the rest of the game.

Duron Carter will look to continue to play both offense and defense and bad mouth his competitors any time he is able to.

They have also made many later signings to solidify their roster, adding Trent Richardson, Marcus Thigpen, and Chad Owens.

On defense they have strong performers as well, with DB Ed Gainey, who leads the league in interceptions.

The Redblacks are going to have a tough time containing the 'Riders power and will need defensive players like Avery Ellis and Taylor Reed to really step it up.



Photo courtesy of Calgary Stampeders

Calgary Flames October recap

The Flames are looking to pick up momentum

Nathan Woolridge

Staff Writer

Off the ice, morale is high but on the ice, the team is lacking consistency sitting with a 8-6-0 record. The Calgary Flames recently hosted their Red Rally on October 28, 2017 which saw the NHL Centennial tour stop at the Saddledome and the Flames' roster meeting with excited fans.

Johnny Gaudreau, Sean Monahan, Matthew Tkachuk and company spent their day signing

autographs for fans. The Red Rally, an annual event, brought the players closer to their fans who have been standing by their side in what seems to be a 50/50 season.

Jaromir Jagr, who has been on injured reserve since Oct. 23, posed for photos with fans while showing off some hardware of awards that he has won.

Recently the Flames haven't

been able to catch a break. Their major win of the season so far has been breaking the curse of not being able to win a game in Anaheim since 2004, a 29 game losing streak dating back to April 2009.

Any other part of the season has been decent. The Flames are 8-6-0 inside the early days of November, fighting with surrounding teams in the Western

Conference, looking to get closer to that final wild card spot.

Racking up points Monahan, Tkachuk and Michael Ferland seem to be having good starts to their season. They currently make up the top three goal scorers on the team.

Mony has been getting a goal every second game with eight and so far has the most game-winning goals in the league with four. He's

also in the top 20 for most goals in the league.

Johnny Hockey has been showing his playmaking side of play, racking a whopping 15 assists with three goals on the side, meanwhile sophomore Tkachuk is sitting at nine points with three goals.

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Continued from Pg. 15

Defenceman T.J. Brodie is leading the offence from the back-end with nine points, seven of those point being assists.

But some of the other younger players have not yet lived up to expectations; like Curtis Lazar, Sam Bennett and Mark Jankowski who have a combined total of one point, an assist from Lazar on Oct 7.

This really sums up Calgary's depth as the team's goal total are at a conference low, second last place.

Smith saving the team

Saying Mike Smith has faced a lot of shots is an understatement. As of Nov. 4, Smith has a .931 save

percentage. Playing on his head, he poses 8-5 record. Backup Eddie Lack only started in one game.

Smith has faced over 400 shots and has allowed 30 goals so far.

Middle of the pack

As of late, the Flames appear to be sitting in the dead middle of the league. Which is not horrible, but it's not the greatest. They really need to win a few in a row to gain some momentum early on in the season and pick up those important early points while they can.

On Nov 2., the Flames started showing signs of success like early on this year where Calgary went on a hot three game win streak, beating last year's Stanley Cup champions Pittsburgh Penguins in

overtime. The game proved that the Flames can play, compete, and dominant a top NHL team; something they need to prove to themselves for the rest of the year. Beating a hot New Jersey Devils team on home ice Nov 5., the Flames are in a five-way tie for the final wild card spot in the West.

Calgary have a string of home games early on in November, so hopefully that gives them a better chance in picking up point before heading out for a six-game road trip. With five games against Western teams, Calgary will have a chance to create separation from the rest of the pack and hopefully catch up in the divisional race.



Flames goaltender Mike Smith, has a high save percentage in the NHL sitting in fourth place. Photo courtesy of CBC sports

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MRU soccer season ends in heartbreak

Dan Khavkin

Sports Editor

The Cougars punched their ticket into the Canada West playoffs for the third consecutive season and third time program history, but fell short to first place UBC Thunderbirds in the Canada West quarterfinals 2-1 (aet).

Going into the playoffs, the Cougars were unbeaten in their last four matches but only picking up one win in that stretch.

Ryan Gyaki's sides finished the season 4-6-4 and secured the fourth seed and final playoff spot in the Prairie Division.

Rookie Justin Anderson-Louch co-led the team with three goal markers and an assist in 12 games.

Orest Ndabaneze only had five starts to his name but managed to net three goals on the year also with an assist. Team defense was a huge contribution to this team playoff push, finishing top-five in goals conceded and only letting in 1.29 goals a game in the league.

Team offence however was a struggle, only scoring 1.07, scoring 15 goals in total that was tied for second-last in Canada West. The Cougars suffered a heartbreaking extra-time defeat against the formidable T-Birds, dropping a 2-1(aet) marathon.

Anderson-Louch netted his first career playoff goal in the 36th but the home side proved why they were the top team, clawing back in the 58th and then broke Cougar hearts in the 100th minute.

Rookie Joshua Munoz was named to the Canada West All-Rookie team while captain Jeff Blake got second-team All-star honors.

This coming season for Cougar soccer will look to build off this season success and get over the first-round hump.

Tino Fusco led his women's

team to a 4-4-6 record and faced-off against the MacEwen Griffins, also dropping a heart-breaking marathon but in a much more painful fashion in a 3-2 (4-1 pens) match. After a solid start to the year at 4-1-2, the Cougars had a rough ending, not picking up a win in seven games while dropping four in that run.

Six of those final seven include playing teams above the Cougars with four games being against the top two teams in each division. Julien Ramirez led the way in her first year, netting two goals and two assists on the year starting in nine games. Third-year Erin Holt scored a team-high three goals in seven starts. In the playoff match, MRU were on the wrong side of luck on Oct. 27 losing the playoff match-up 3-2 (4-1 pens) in penalty kicks. Drama wasn't short in this match with two goals being scored in the split 15 minute overtime sessions. Holt put MRU on the board to tie the game at the 44th minute mark while graduating veteran Navroop Virk miraculously pulled a 2-2 score-line into penalty kicks, equalizing in the 118th minute after being down in the 110th This was a good year for a young Cougar team who will look to build from a growing squad consisting of ten first-years.

Veteran presence will be lost with players such as Virk, center-halves Bailey Duncan and Brianna Keil, forwards Haily Lafave and captain Emily Sands.

Defender Quinn Hardstaff made history as being the first Cougar in the program to be recognized on a conference level, being named into the Canada West second all-star team.