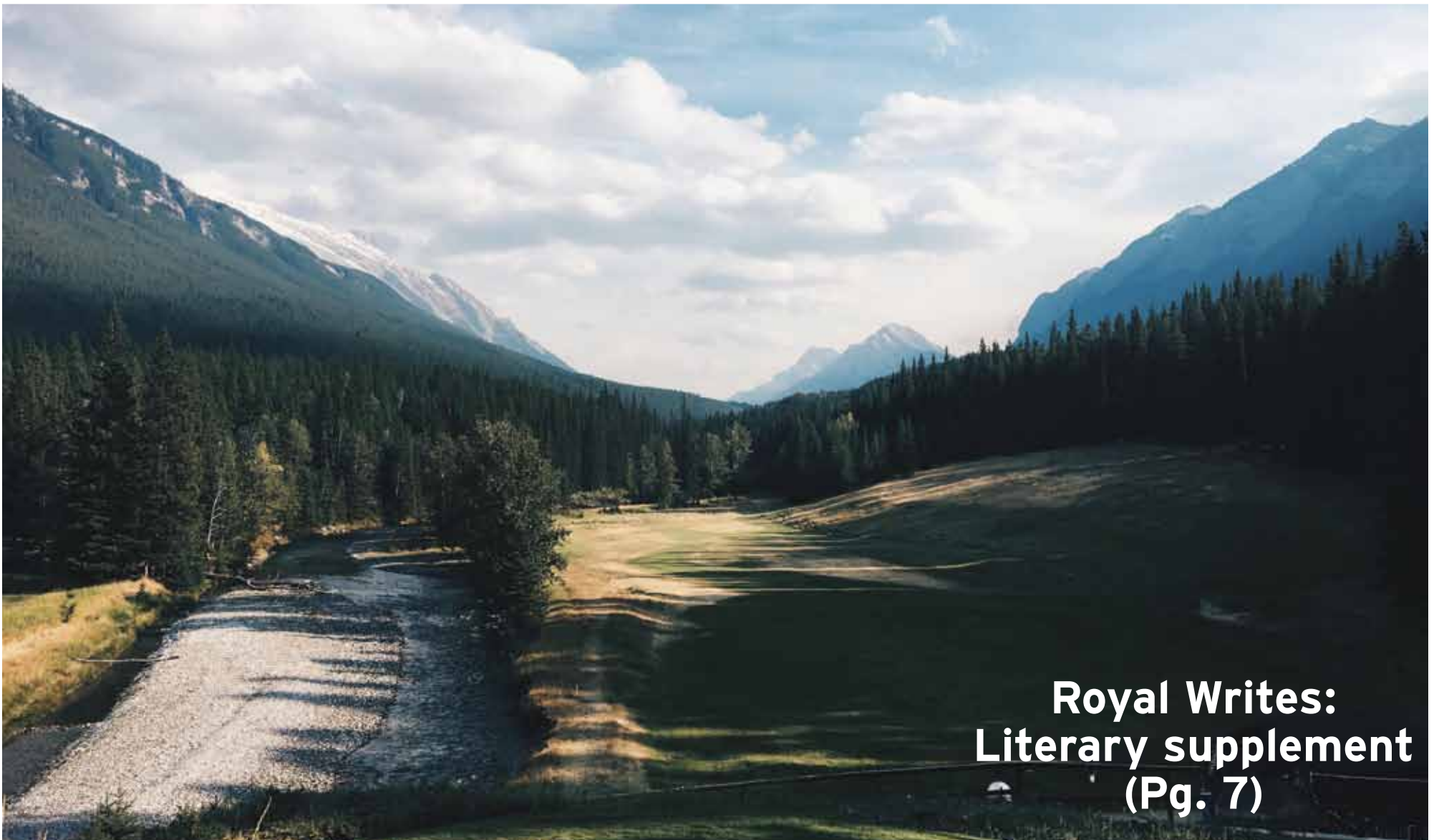


the reflector

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Lesley Brown on her first year at MRU

MRU's newest provost and vice-president, academic talks about blending into campus culture and her plans for the future

Rosemary De Souza

Staff Writer

In August of last year, new students started moving into campus before the school year started. This included Mount Royal University's newest provost and vice-president, academic, Lesley Brown, PhD, who stayed at MRU's east village residence beside the library at that time.

"In the evenings, I would longboard around campus," Brown recalled, "I'd longboard over to watch some of the games playing at the soccer field."

"It's possible I may have gotten in trouble from security for longboarding," she added, "I'm not going to validate that but it's possible."

And in the evenings, you can find Brown at the Riddell Library where she would come in with her ball cap on backwards and a coffee cup in her hand ready to do some work.

Who is Lesley Brown?

It all started in 1997 when Brown began teaching at the University of Lethbridge as a Kinesiology professor.

"I taught mostly anatomy but also some courses relevant to controlling movement, some statistics and I also had a very active research program," she said.

During her years as a professor, Brown supervised two doctorate students and nine master's students all the way through to the

completion of their degrees.

"I would say that [was] my biggest career highlight," said the MRU vice-president, academic. "I'm not sure I'll have a chance to top [that]."

Brown continued teaching even after being temporarily reassigned for administrative duties.

"I was invited to be part of advancing research culture at the University of Lethbridge as the title of assistant vice-president," she explained. "I would continue with my teaching and research and do some administration on the side, and then I realized with that opportunity which I haven't expected... how much I loved administration right away."

"What I loved about it was the fact that I got to help others be successful, particularly new and emerging faculty members and new and emerging scholars, helping them develop their research programs and be successful in some other ways that I had the privilege of achieving."

Within the span of six years since her temporary reassignment, Brown went from being an assistant vice-president, to an associate vice-president of research and then she eventually became vice-president of research on an interim basis. She left U of L as the vice-provost and associate vice-president, academic.

"I certainly did not plan to be in administration," Brown said, "and I certainly didn't plan to be a

provost but here I am."

"I was in university and not really sure where the next step was going," she recalled her years as an undergraduate student. "Every student has that [but] I just took the opportunities that were presented to me and as those opportunities were presented, I became more and more involved and I became more and more excited and more hungry for the next step."

"Honestly, I was standing in front of a classroom teaching for the very first time before I actually realized that I was a professor."

"It wasn't something that I had planned to be," she continued. "It just unfolded for me."

Why MRU?

"I was so excited when the ad posting came from Mount Royal because it was such a perfect fit for me," she said. "The biggest reason is the emphasis on undergraduate education."

"I think through the course of my career, I really learned the value that professors have in shaping students particularly at the undergraduate level and it really is a privilege, and I use that word a lot but I highly emphasize it here."

Other than MRU's commitment to undergraduate education, Brown also explains another reason she chose the university.

"Mount Royal recently transitioned from being a college to being a university," she explained.



Lesley Brown started her year just like any other student would, by exploring and blending into campus culture. Photo by Rosemary J. De Souza

"I want to advance the university and one of the key differentiators of being a university and no longer a college is that we conduct research, and that research that we do allows us to answer the questions that we have about the world. It helps to uphold and advance our communities, and make our communities and our province and our country better places to be not just economically but also socially and culturally."

"Plus, it was close by!"

Brown looks back at the last eight months describing it to be a "very busy" but "invigorating," "inspirational" and "incredibly exciting" experience. She also added another thing she liked about campus.

"What's also really cool is that my wife Paddy works in the bookstore here in campus," Brown said with a smile. "We have three kids who have all gone through universities so I think what she has liked was the interactions with the students and helping the students as well."

"She even has her own hashtag. It's #thebookstorelady."

Looking Forward

"We [at MRU] have such opportunities to contribute in research and to grow in research and also to share our excellence in teaching and to continue to be leading edge so that we can [provide] educational experiences for students that are going to serve them in whatever it is they choose

to do next," Brown said, adding that it is also an opportunity to "differentiate [MRU students] from students who are also graduating from lots of other post-secondaries in Alberta."

For this reason, Brown "created a committee of faculty members and staff and students who are going to participate in advancing academic programming at [MRU]." She explained that the goal is to make academic programs challenging and of interest while making sure that the programs are what students want and what's best for them.

Growth is another part of Brown's vision.

"Another thing that's really exciting is we're creating a university that's more accessible to many more students," she said. "We have room to grow and grow enrolments."

"So we are currently looking at how we can do that in a way that best serves the institution and that best serves the faculty who are a part of this institution."

"In the future I'm looking forward to launching the new academic plan and implementing that," she added.

"I'm looking forward to creating opportunities for research. I'm looking forward to recognizing the excellence of our faculty members. We've got some great ideas about that and for creating an institution that is like none other for students and for the people who work here."



Lesley Brown checks in on fourth year journalism students at the communications hall on a Thursday afternoon. Photo by Rosemary J. De Souza

Meet your representative executive council

New year, new council

Anna Junker
News Editor

This year's Representative Executive Council election was not exactly a hotly contested one, with only one candidate for each title: president, vice-president academic vice-president external and vice-president student life. Three of the four positions had new candidates, with Cordelia Snowdon running for re-election as vice-president academic.

President: Andrew Nguyen

Andrew Nguyen will advocate to, among other topics, increase the numbers of student employment, co-op and internship opportunities as well as advocate to all levels of government to increase

funding for these areas through programs such as the Summer Temporary Employment Program. He will also work to improve transportation options for students and support free academic resources such as Open Education Resources (OERs).

Vice-President Academic: Cordelia Snowdon

Cordelia Snowdon will continue to advocate for, among other topics, OERs and eliminate mandatory supplementary fees which are required fees for course resources that are used for grading. Snowdon will also advocate for improved

availability and flexibility for courses by improving offerings at all times of day and during the spring semester.

Vice-President Student Life: Shayla Breen

Shayla Breen will, among other topics, advocate to create more opportunities for better use of student space on campus and facilitate conversations between students and Mount Royal University stakeholders on what to do with the old library and old conservatory spaces. She will seek student feedback on upcoming cannabis legalization and ensure the student voice is

represented in consultation with the university.

Vice-President External: Amanda Leblanc

Amanda Leblanc will advocate for, among other topics, increased support and funding for mental health initiatives and decreasing stigma. She will also be advocating for OERs and oppose fee and tuition increases. As well, Leblanc will work to have international students receive equitable access to post-secondary education by regulating international tuition and fees, and expanding access to financial aid programs.



Meet the council: Andrew Nguyen, Cordelia Snowdon, Shayla Breen and Amanda Leblanc. All photos courtesy of SAMRU

News You Can Use

New RCMP commissioner

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has named the first permanent female RCMP commissioner. The announcement at the RCMP depot training centre in Saskatchewan, Trudeau announced Brenda Lucki as the new commissioner on March 8. The leadership switch comes after damning allegations of discrimination and sexual assault rampant within the force. It also follows recommendations that the federal government legislate civilian governance and oversight of the national police force. Lucki replaces Bob Paulson, who retired at the end of June 2017. A job posting for the commissioner stated the next one would have to demonstrate knowledge of Canada's "Indigenous culture and a sensitivity to the issues relevant to the diversity of the Canadian population."

Federal cabinet minister makes history twice over

Karina Gould, minister for democratic institutions gave birth to a baby — making her the first federal minister to do so while holding a cabinet post. Gould is also the first federal minister to take maternity leave. There is, however, no provision for members of Parliament to take maternity leave, but they can instead make arrangements with the leader of their party in order to take time off, beyond the 21 days of paid medical leave provided to each MP. Gould is expected to be on maternity leave until at least May. In 1986, Liberal Sheila Copps became the first sitting MP to have a baby, however she was an opposition MP at the time.

Abortion clinic safe zones

The provincial government is looking at creating legislation that would implement safe zones around abortion clinics to protect women from protesters. Clinics in both Calgary and Edmonton have already obtained injunctions to keep protesters at bay while last month, Ontario was the latest province to create established safe zones at clinics after the passage of the The Safe Access to Abortion Services Act. Other jurisdictions, such as British Columbia, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador have legislation to create safe zones around abortion clinics. "Frankly, it's just not something women should put up with," said Premier Rachel Notley before the throne speech on March 8. "We have a law in this country... and we know that women should have a right to access that law."

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America's unique gun problem

How the Parkland tragedy may finally change things for the better

Hayden Koch

Staff Writer

In the almost two decades since the Columbine high school massacre horrified the nation, mass shootings in the United States seem to have only gotten more deadly and frequent with each passing year. Of the 10 deadliest shootings in U.S. history, three have occurred just within the past six months. The most recent

was the tragic event at Marjory Stoneman Douglas which saw a previously expelled student allegedly kill 17 of his former peers.

Disturbingly, the narrative is almost identical to other recent shootings. A young man with a history of violent and antisocial behaviour decides to carry out

an assault with an AR-15 he was able to legally acquire. This time, however, there seems to be a distinct difference in the reaction. The cultural and political sentiments about guns finally seem to be making a significant shift against the status quo.

Enter #NeverAgain, a movement largely started by teenage

survivors of the shooting. These young activists and their allies seek to finally spur some meaningful changes to long-standing gun policies in the United States.

The main target of their rage has been Republican lawmakers. GOP politicians are generally opposed to the banning of semi-automatic weapons such as the AR-15, and only few will concede to lesser provisions such as improving the background check system and banning high capacity magazines. Generally, their rationale is that such actions would logically do nothing to curb the threat of a individual who is willing to break laws and kill people anyway and that gun control legislation only serves to punish law abiding citizens. People in the pro gun-control movement feel that the Republicans are just encouraging deadlock and lack of action due to their strong monetary ties to the National Rifle Association, and that there is no reasonable excuse for a civilian to own a weapon such as an AR-15.

Regardless of whichever side you agree with, there is one certain fact that everyone seems to be able to admit to: America's issue with guns is as unique as it is rampant. This inevitably stems from the fact that it happens to be one of the only countries in the world where the right to keep and bear arms is entrenched in its constitution. The point of contention has always been to what degree the second amendment applies to modern armaments that are far more advanced than the muskets and flintlocks of 1776.

In the U.S., it is illegal for civilians to purchase or possess any weapon that can fire at a fully-automatic rate. These firearms are generally only permitted for use by military and law enforcement, with a few exceptions. The AR-15 does not fall under this category, but in the U.S. there is actually legal precedent for banning it. The Federal Assault Weapons Ban, passed under the Clinton administration in 1994, prohibited the manufacturing and civilian possession of guns defined as an "assault weapon" and prohibited large capacity magazines. The bill was popular among the public, with a 1993 CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll showing that 77 per cent of Americans were in favour of it.

Studies have shown that the ban was generally effective in curbing the deadliness of shooting incidents. However, due to one of the provisions in the act, the ban

expired in 2004, and the primarily Republican electorate at the time prevented all of the immediate efforts to renew it. Efforts to reinstate a permanent version of the ban were renewed in 2012 after the horrific Sandy Hook shooting. It was struck down in the Senate after a 40-60 party line vote.

It seems clear at this point that an outright ban of the AR-15 and other semi-automatic rifles is not currently feasible. This begs the question: is there some sort of compromise that can be made by US politicians that would result in meaningful change?

Some propose looking at countries with low gun crime rates. The gun laws here in Canada may be the best example to follow.

Canada does not have any constitutional provision that guarantees the ownership of firearms, but it is still legal to do so. Gun ownership in our country may be more common than you think, even though our gun crime rate is still among the lowest in the world.

To own a gun in Canada, you must have a license, which is hardly the case for all 50 states. The complete licensing process in Canada requires an application, multiple safety courses and a thorough criminal background check.

Guns in Canada are separated into three columns: non-restricted, restricted and prohibited. Non-restricted and restricted firearms are available for civilian use, but an additional license with more hoops to go through is required for the latter. Restricted guns include handguns and semi-automatic rifles. It is technically not difficult to own an AR-15 and many of its near identical variants in Canada. There are just more safeguards in place to make sure the individuals that want them does not have bad intentions. There is also a limit on magazine capacity, at five rounds.

The cycle of public reaction to shooting tragedies in the United States has seemed the same for years. First the incident occurs, it's covered vigorously by every news outlet, there is intense outrage, commentary from both sides of the political spectrum and then the tragedy fades into the past until the next one occurs. Things feel different this time. The frustration of the public has grown to a deafening point, and this will likely be reflected in the outcome of the upcoming midterm elections. One can only hope that an effective solution exists and will soon be implemented.

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features

Unconventionally abroad

Features Editor
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How my long, long distance relationship got me out of my bubble and into New Zealand



Palm Beach is one of many amazing beaches located on Waiheke Island, a 45 minute boat ride away from Auckland. You can get here on the island by bus, car and if you don't mind some hills, biking. Photo by Amber McLinden

Amber McLinden
Features Editor

When I first began dating my now girlfriend, I didn't expect it to take me halfway across the world.

But, such is life. My girlfriend, a New Zealander travelling in Canada — like many others — came here on a two year working holiday visa. Sadly, visas expire, and eventually you must return home, no matter how much you may want to stay.

So while she's home in the North Island of New Zealand working on a permanent residency application to come back to Canada, I'm here in Calgary finishing my degree at Mount Royal.

Planning ahead, I realized I could take some time off around reading break in February to go visit for two weeks. Lucky for me, her hometown is located in the beautiful region Bay of Plenty on the northeast coast of the North

Island. I found a cheap flight (only \$980, compared to the usual \$1500 to \$2000 range they usually run) and hopped on my first international flight since I was five years old.

New experiences

New Zealand is something I've probably seen in my dreams. Not just because it's gorgeous, and especially warm at this time of year because it's their summer, but because it seems like an unconventional mash-up of mainland and island life.

Riddled with palm trees and pohutukawa trees (also known as New Zealand Christmas trees) it doesn't necessarily read as another version of Hawaii. Stepping outside after being in airports for nearly a day, the thick air that coats Auckland after a rainstorm immediately took me off guard. My girlfriend likes to joke about never feeling dry after you take a shower.

While I may not have travelled to New Zealand before, I have been elsewhere in (relatively) close cities to home. For myself and my girlfriend alike, most major cities like Auckland, with a population of 1.3 million, generally seem pretty much the same, except that all the cars are on the wrong side of the road. High rise buildings and plenty of bustling people makes you feel right at home. I made a point of constantly comparing it to Vancouver, another port-side city.

Three days in Auckland before heading back to my girlfriend's hometown of Whakatane (pronounced fah-ka-tah-nee) had us exploring the city like tourists. From the sky tower to the art gallery to indulging in any number of cafes in the city, which is many, I felt right at home. Perhaps it was my girlfriend, or perhaps it was the relative similarity to other cities, but it was outstanding.

Beaches, beaches and more beaches

I have to assume that the best part of living on an island is the beaches. It must be why everyone is so tan. Taking a day trip to Waiheke, a small island only a 45-minute boat ride from Auckland, I realized how much I would like New Zealand, as long as I stayed close to the coast.

The white sand beach and the incredibly warm weather, with sprawling hills overlooking the beach, sent my mind to a permanent state of calm for the rest of the trip. Appreciating the natural beauty of anything is breathtaking, no matter where you are.

When we went back to my girlfriend's hometown, transported there by a very tiny plane seating only 20 people, I was yet again inclined to compare it to my life in Canada. Maybe it's because it is similar, or maybe it's because of the idea I have in my head that New Zealand is like the Canada of down under, but Whakatane felt like my small town Ontario home.

The people are friendly and know each other, everything is in walkable distance and the stress of the city is wiped away. There might not be as much to do there as Auckland, but it sure was the perfect place to have a vacation.

The only difference was the abundance of cafes, and even though I was no longer in school mode, I was on high caffeine dosages. My girlfriend even currently works at a cafe, where yes, I did drink more coffee.

The beach near her home, just on the other side of a large hill dividing the two places, is called Ohope Beach. Not dissimilar to Waiheke Island, the beach was just as beautiful, despite the sand

being more of a brown colour rather than white.

A breathtaking hike that starts in town took us over the hill, looking onto the town and the ocean and around to the beach.

Cultural differences

Even though I compare Canada and New Zealand, in many ways, we are vastly different. While both countries have a terrible history of how we treat Indigenous peoples, I noticed I was able to appreciate and learn about the Indigenous people of New Zealand at a hyper-local level. Whakatane has a story about Wairaka, the daughter of a captain-navigator when the Maori (Indigenous people of New Zealand) first arrived to their town.

According to Whakatane.com: "Unveiled at the Whakatane Heads in 1965 as a memorial to the wife of Sir William Sullivan, this bronze statue atop Turuturu Rock lies at the mouth of the Whakatane River and commemorates the bravery of Wairaka and the daughter of Toroa, captain-navigator of the Mataatua waka.

When the Mataatua waka first arrived at Whakatane after making a perilous voyage from Ngati Awa's ancestral homeland of Hawaiki 600 years ago, the men left the women alone in the canoe while they went ashore. When the canoe started to drift back to sea, Wairaka (defying the tapu that forbade women to handle a canoe) seized the paddle and brought the waka back to shore crying, 'Kia Whakatane au i ahau' — I will act the part of a man.' This cry is the origin of the town's name."

Many of the names of places and things are also in Te Reo, the Maori language. While almost every country in the world



Running towards the ocean and away from my responsibilities. Photo by Suzanne Cunningham



The view from a lookout on the Kohi Point Walkway, the trail leading over the hill and through the bush from Whakatane to Ohope Beach. The town, river and ocean can all be pictured in one view from this lookout. Photo by Amber McLinden

must actively work to better the systems in place marginalizing Indigenous people, observing those differences was interesting and informative.

Beauty in the details

If this trip has taught me anything about myself it's to value what you have, not wish for what

you don't.

I am lucky to be with my girlfriend, no matter how far away she is. I'm lucky I had the means to go visit her for two weeks. I am incredibly lucky that she is originally from such a beautiful country. We are both lucky she has the means and resources to eventually move back to Canada.

Many people who seek to come here don't have the money, the time, or the resources to navigate our incredibly complicated system.

When we were walking back to her house one day from the beach, we decided to stop at the liquor store for some beer. I'm a big craft beer fan and I hadn't had

a chance to check out what they had. The man at the cash register didn't have a New Zealand accent. When he looked at my passport, he asked me if I'm from Calgary.

"Yeah, I am," I responded.

"Where about in Calgary are you from? What community?" He asked back.

I was surprised he asked.

"Edgemont is where I currently live, in the northwest."

"I'm from Varsity," the guy responded.

The world seems big but yet it is so small at the same time. I'm lucky for that as well.

Notes from a Feminist Killjoy

The Wordfest event perfect for International Women's Day

Sabrina Harmata

Staff Writer

Books. Feminism. Stimulating intellectual discussion. This Wordfest and Femme Wave event had it all. On March 8, Erin Wunker, author of *Notes from a Feminist Killjoy*, chair of the board of the national not-for-profit organization Canadian Women in Literary Arts, and co-founder, writer and editor of the blog Hook & Eye: Fast Feminism, Slow Academe, gave a talk concerning her first book at Memorial Park Library. Given the nature of her talk and how it brought attention to many feminist issues, it can be no coincidence that this event fell on International Women's Day.

In her talk, Wunker admitted that her "book is not meant to be a finished product," which is largely due to the way in which it was written. Unlike all her other writing for blog entries and academic papers, she was unable to devote large blocks of time to writing this book because she was pregnant and then had to deal with a newborn child all throughout the process. So, she

started writing in "small, stolen moments of time." As a result, her book became a collection of different chunks of writing. But this doesn't make it any less cohesive. The book works as a record of a killjoy feminist's thoughts and reflections on every-day experiences. A book like this could never have a finished product seeing as how individuals and their thoughts evolve and grow through these experiences.

Talking about her book as a whole, Wunker acknowledged that "[t]he place from which [she] speak[s] is so limited. It's only the place from which [she] speak[s]." Accepting this, Wunker advocated for truly listening to others experiences, as this is the only way we will be able to grow. Along with this, she suggested directly confronting every-day issues of sexism, racism, ableism, homophobia and transphobia, because simply listening isn't enough. Actions must be taken. Wunker agreed

that this confrontation "is a skill. It is never comfortable, but it is necessary." Hearing that even an active feminist such as Wunker was still uncomfortable in these situations made me feel a lot better about feeling the same way and showed me that this feeling didn't make me a bad feminist.

Wunker even gave suggestions for lesser actions that we can take this year to honour Women's Day. As some of you may have heard, we are getting new \$10 bills, featuring Viola Desmond, a woman who advocated for black rights in Nova Scotia in 1946. Although these bills won't be in circulation until closer to the end of the year, Wunker recommended we all donate our first Viola Desmond to a women's charity. Obviously, this isn't possible for everyone, but if, when you receive your first new \$10 bill, you have the financial stability to donate it, this would be a great way to support women.

Of the whole event, the Q&A at the end was most informative, in part because of the insightful questions people asked. The first of these being: how is the practice of feminism online different than in real life? Wunker credited the internet with being the place where she learned most about other people's experiences because of the quick and easy access to people's opinions. This access gave her the ability to "educate [herself] about certain thing [she] might not have known." Using the internet isn't essential to being a feminist, but it definitely has resources for



Erin Wunker, author of *Notes from a Feminist Killjoy* signs books at the March 8 WordFest and Femme Wave event. Photo by Sabrina Harmata

people to learn how to be better ones.

Another question led to a discussion on different coping mechanisms for public forms of criticism. Wunker mentioned the significance of finding support for mental health even in times when you aren't in a crisis situation. When a situation does arise, Wunker stressed the usefulness of talking with friends and asking for help. The most important suggestion Wunker gave was to "realize it might be the first time, but it won't be the last." This realization will ultimately give us the strength to keep fighting for what is right.

The best question of the night was: how do you question more conservative people in their own spaces? Wunker's advice was to ask them to question their own resistance in a polite way that encourages them to respond. People generally don't respond

well to accusing questions or going on the defensive. According to Wunker, the best thing to do is to simply say, "you seem a bit threatened by this, why do you think that is?" or "what makes you want to refuse this so quickly?" This way, the focus isn't on accusing them, but on educating them.

Before this, I had never gone to a Wordfest event. I didn't know what to expect, but I definitely didn't expect to enjoy it so much. Instead of being focused on Wunker and her book, we also had a safe place to discuss feminist politics as a whole. Overall, it wasn't only educational but fun, too. Next time you see a poster for a Wordfest event, I recommend going even if you haven't read the book or heard of the author. The conversations alone are worth it.



The signs behind speakers at the March 8 WordFest and Femme Wave event, reading messages like "RIP Patriarchy." Photo by Sabrina Harmata

ROYAL WRITES

Literary Supplement

Little Kettle Railway

by Hillary Fisher

near Naramata, BC

Time, the strengthener, they say, but they don't tell you about moments where time freezes and your brain says *stop* here, Little Kettle Railway. Stop.

You listen.

Looking over the valley, down

down

Time

drowning

Okanagan

you close yourself again, imagine
thoughts of him

thoughts of healing

thoughts of time

Matthew 6:33

by Michaela Ritchie

Hey stranger. I was just reading the daily bible that your mom gave me way back in the way back. Remember? Island Lake camp? It's been helpful over the past year. There was more death in the family than you could shake a shepherd's staff at ... Christ alive, it sucked. Gave us all a bit of perspective, though, I guess. I'm sure you know what that's all about. A new addition to the family as well though, last year—my sister's first kid. She's kind of a fun little sucker, but I could go my whole life without having another living creature pee on me again. I haven't found the right "better half" for all that yet, anyways. Too busy trying to do that writing thing you told me I should do to put myself back out there, I guess. Tinder sounds kind of ridiculous to me anyway. It's like Christian Mingle minus Jesus plus Instagram. No thanks.

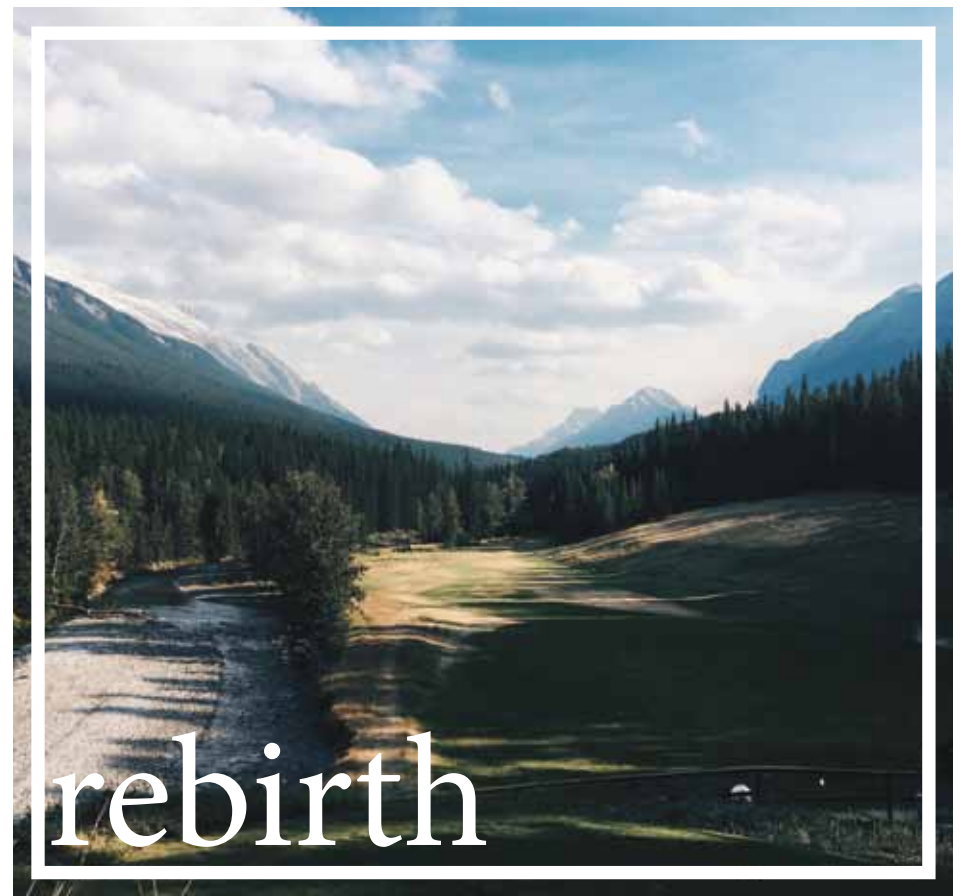
It's been such a weird year. Life comes and it goes and it's always too short, and too short a time spent actually living. But my time for crying about it is over now, I think. Life's too short for all the sobbing. Does make me think an awful lot of you though. I guess I wouldn't change a thing, because how else would I have gotten to this exact now? A tear in the Speed Force, I can hear you betting. But I can't change this shit hand, so why not try to at least be grateful for what I've been dealt? That's on message, right? "Seek ye unto God's kingdom with a \$15 entry fee, and you'll get all this great shit delivered to your door by the Power of Attraction!" Don't be so shocked. You knew I only went to those youth group meetings for you anyways, can't fucking tell me you didn't. I read this book now instead, but I still feel like kicking God in the nuts most days.

I can't say goodbye to the people I lost last year. I don't get to have that. I never said goodbye to you either. Maybe that's my deal. I think that's what I'm going to start screaming at people next time they ask me how I'm doing. I guess I just figured that, with everything that happened between you and me, we at least deserved a proper sign-off. You drove out of my driveway just like you did when you picked me up for youth for the first time... you left my life as quietly as you came. But that shit marked a before and after, and it feels like such a crime that those bookends were so unceremonious for having started and ended something so fucking good. It pisses me off that I'm still pissed off about this. Our story was too fucking short for me to still be writing fanfiction about it, you know?

It makes me feel like a creep. I had to stop going to church, I couldn't keep seeing your mom look at me like that.

Sometimes I still look up at the moon and think about how you told me you loved me there and back again. I'm surprised I still remember those things. I know we used to tell our future selves not to forget all that, but honestly, at this point, I can't wait.

Photo by Anna Junker



by Hillary Fisher

Photo by Anna Junker

Seven years...
Every seven years, cells rejuvenate.
Seven years and I'm a different person.
In seven years, I'll have skin he hasn't touched.

Seven years until my bedroom walls stop gabbing, until they stop reminding me I invited him in; it was my fault. Seven years until my bedsheets are clean enough for my fingers.

In seven years, my memories will fade. No longer will I feel his hand around my neck. Or see how the ceiling tiles looked like popcorn.

My ghost will have faded in seven years...she won't be stuck behind him, won't be crying for help, won't be screaming at my body: do something. She'll be gone in seven years.

I start the clock.

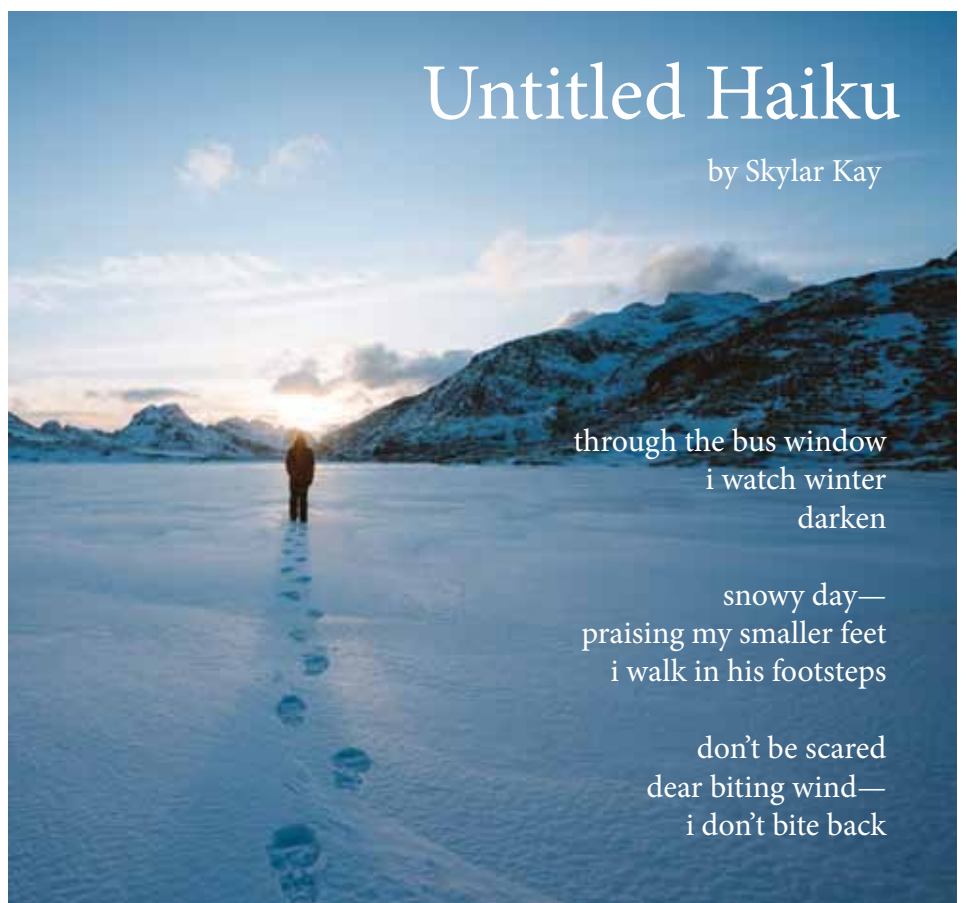
Untitled Haiku

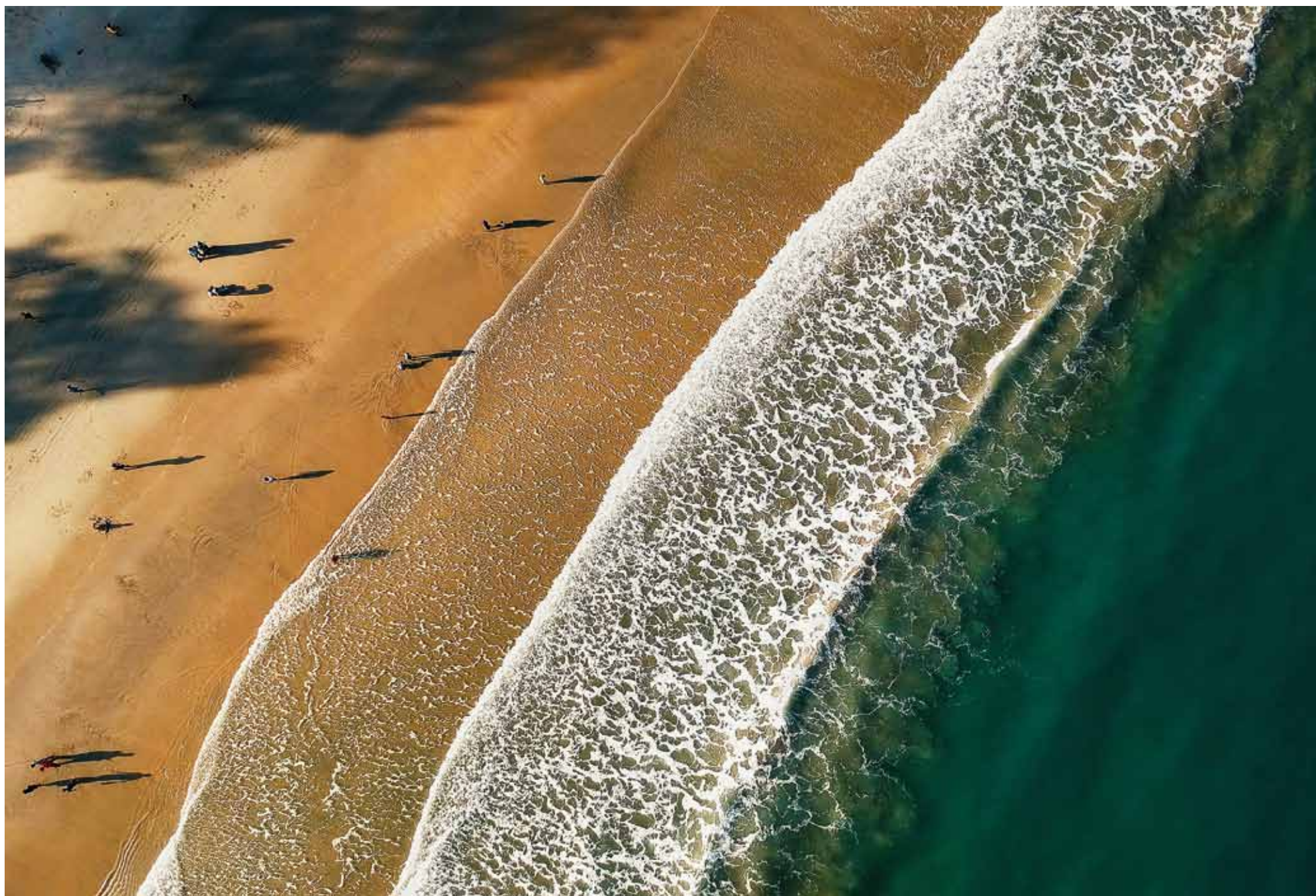
by Skylar Kay

through the bus window
i watch winter
darken

snowy day—
praising my smaller feet
i walk in his footsteps

don't be scared
dear biting wind—
i don't bite back





Behind the Scenes

by Nathan Lawley

I was at work the day my papa died. I had a job interview I'd rescheduled for three consecutive days because we had been on edge since the week before. We'd been told by the hospice staff that it could happen anytime. I was 19.

I went into work in my best clothes, probably looking like a 13 year old boy in his older brother's outfit. My job interview was for a promotion to a new behind-the-scenes position at the same company I had worked for since I was 15. I didn't want to be in the public eye anymore. My mom had told me to go home the night before, to sleep and to eat real food, and she wished me good luck. "We don't know when it will happen," she said. "I'll call you if it does."

Walking back to my car after the interview I turned my phone back on and got a text from a family friend. *I'm so sorry to hear about your papa. Call if you need anything.*

I called my mom from the car. I don't remember if either of us were crying. He had died that morning while I was at work but she didn't want to upset me before my interview, or make me reschedule it again. "It was horrible," she told me, "I'm so glad you and your brother weren't here."

She would tell me later about the sound he made when he died, like all the air escaped from him in a gurgle of bile while she and her brothers and sister looked on.

She still tells me about that moment—how glad she is that we weren't there. And how sorry she is that I didn't find out directly from her. I don't resent not being there. I understand.

I got the job.

Reconciliation

by Luciana Giuricich

Woman, born of white flesh and privilege
 Confused, sad, despaired at a personal reconciliation
 Attempted genocide by my tribe in the not so distant past
 Atrocities that permeate our society
 It wasn't me...just let it go...forgive...forget
 On these gaping bloody wounds
 We throw salt

Cruel
 Horrific
 Oppressive
 Destroyer
 God forgive me. God forgive us
 I will not deny
 I will stand before you
 And be honored to know you

Reconciliation
 A promise to see, a promise to hear
 Strong, survivor, guardian of the land, carrier of wisdom, knowledge holder,
 knowledge keeper
 I respect you
 I open my heart to your guidance
 I humbly listen

Heartache
 Fires burn furiously through your villages
 The flames of genocide still raging
 No words to describe the devastation
 Not enough water to cease

Skilled warriors, hunters, proud, beautiful, deep roots, tradition, culture, faith
 Mothers, daughters, sisters, fathers, husbands, children, communities, families
 Never defeated
 Brave
 Intelligent beyond human understanding
 Creative...funny...loving...kind
 Birthright...the blood in your veins...the beat of your heart

A new battlefield
 Warring society, systems, oppression, suicide, addiction, within
 Pain, devastation, humiliation, loss
 Loss is an understatement
 Suicide has ravaged
 Addiction has dominated
 TOO MANY FALLEN
 Broken hearts. Broken open

I stand with you
 As an ally
 Great Spirit
 Guide us to the path of healing
 Flood our hearts with love
 Flood our minds with understanding
 Show us the way

Wizards Take Breakups Badly

by Justin Faba

Charlotte,
 I affix absurdity
 to the soles of your feet.
 Roam where you please,
 the unfathomable will follow.
 From the break of dawn
 until the sun falls,
 strangeness will assault you.
 Today, you may find
 that you must speak in rhymes.
 Tomorrow, you might wake and see
 that your fingers have switched
 with your toes.
 And every day after
 another unintelligible event
 will plague you,
 until at last you sleep
 with the dirt.

A God in the Hallway

by Skylar Kay

This god expels its life for those who pray
 and hums its hymn of cooling—
 a plead for one to part their lips
 and take its free communion.
 It's a Eucharist that is not seen
 from nearby vending machines,
 that sell indulgences
 so neatly wrapped in corporate names
 for thirty silver coins.
 Still this god spills its salvific streams
 for those who are late to a Religious Studies class
 to learn about something
 or someone
 to whom this god would still give a free drink
 despite not knowing their names.

*"All Gods, even the false ones,
 are born from water."
 -Rob Taylor*

arts

Keeping up with reality TV

Arts Editor
Colin Macgillivray
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How reality television continues to thrive

Colin Macgillivray

Arts Editor

Since the dawn of time, there has never been anything more fascinating than watching real human beings compete, interact or fall in love through the lens of a camera. Whether it be rich moms fighting over mixed drinks, or estranged family members competing to see who can eat the most rotting fish, reality television has completely dominated cable television since its inception.

Surprisingly, the beginning of reality television is not so different than it is today. PBS's 1971 production of *An American Family* acted as a pseudo-documentary that slowly transitioned into the model that mainstream shows like *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* and *The Real Housewives* series follows. Credited as the first 'reality' television series, *An American Family*, which chronicled the daily life of the Loud family, is an absolutely fascinating watch, due to how the documentary nature of the project shifted into something that felt real and genuine, rather than over-produced and scripted. With natural storylines emerging, such as the separation and subsequent divorce of the Bill and Patricia Loud and the coming out of their son, Lance Loud, *An American Family* essentially

created its own genre by accident. The public was fascinated, as they could relate to the what was essentially the everyday life of a family. It was revolutionary, but with any new revelatory form of entertainment come a slew of problems and controversies. Reality television was no different.

First off, something has to be made clear before diving deeper into the wild world of reality shows. It is not reality. It's heavily edited, over-produced and largely scripted to fit a desired narrative. Now this might be incredibly obvious to some, but there is no denying that a large percentage of reality television viewers insist that what they are consuming is 100 per cent factual. Just check the comment section of any Facebook post involving the Kardashians. There are still a plethora of people out there who insist that Kim's marriage to Kris Humphries was real, when in reality, it is safe to say that it was a massive publicity stunt. Spencer Pratt, an infamous cast member of *The Hills*, even admitted to fabricating conflict with his now wife, Heidi Montag, to ensure the two of them would have ample screen time. Conversations are edited down to make them seem like something

entirely different, while 'cast' members who don't play their role are usually unceremoniously removed from the show. Royce Reed, of the ridiculous *Basketball Wives*, was cut from the show because she refused to play ball with the other wives.

So, if it's all one big sham, how in the world is reality television still thriving?

Well, for one, competition based reality shows are absolutely fascinating to watch. *Survivor* has been dominating cable television for almost two decades and it still manages to pull in almost 10 million viewers an episode. *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette* have also managed to remain relevant for 15 years, because nothing is more exciting than watching 25 men compete over one woman. Through careful editing and consumer manipulation, both *Survivor* and *The Bachelor* franchises are able to craft compelling heroes, villains and scenarios that any viewer at home can re-hash themselves. Both television shows are masterful in the way that they include their audiences indirectly, giving faithful fans a chance to scream over a brilliant blindside vote in *Survivor*, or allowing a

casual viewer to fall in love with America's new sweetheart on *The Bachelorette*. By giving a viewer the option to ask themselves 'What would I do in this situation?' the reality aspect of reality television really comes into play.

But, whether it's competing for a million bucks or for a future lover, competition based reality television shows only make up a small fraction of the market. 'True' reality television shows, like *Jersey Shore*, *The Real Housewives* or the aforementioned *Basketball Wives* still dominate television screens worldwide. They are incredibly ridiculous, generally have little to no substance, but they are compelling in a terribly odd way. Watching *Jersey Shore* for the first time is honestly a magical experience, as it is incredibly entertaining to watch seemingly real people get up to all sorts of hijinks. *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* is similar, but we now get to watch wealthy people cause mischief and mayhem for our viewing pleasure.

Mischief, hijinks and absolute tomfoolery are a recurring themes within reality shows and that is exactly why they continue to thrive today. Cameras and the slim chance at superstardom tend

to act as a catalyst for ridiculous events, allowing viewers to laugh and ridicule the antics of their favourite reality stars. These real human beings become caricatures of themselves, amping up their personality to ensure that they are the ones dominating headlines once the final credits disappear. It's the same reason why larger than life characters in film or fiction often become fan favourites. Will Ferrell has made a career at portraying different caricatures of real people. You can argue that countless reality television stars have done the same.

We often gawk at reality television for just how inherently ridiculous it is. No where else is it socially acceptable to pit people against each other for the chance at love, but as long as it is being filmed, it's okay. The vast majority of people genuinely latch on to the constructed characters presented through reality television and its this mass manipulation that not only causes ethical problems, but also problems in the real world as well. So, if you think reality television isn't one of the strongest entertainment mediums out there, I'd think again. It's essentially the biggest reason Donald Trump was even elected.

REALITY TV: 1971 TO PRESENT



OUT'N ABOUT

Shamrocks & Shenanigans:

Looking to bring out your inner Irish? On St. Patrick's Day, Heritage Park will be hosting their annual Shamrocks & Shenanigans event, which includes, games, classic Irish pub food and of course, beer!

Calgary Story Slam:

Have a knack for storytelling? Looking for a place to tell your best tale? On March 22, Calgary Story Slam will be open to anyone looking for a place to present their own personal anecdotes.

Alchemy Festival of Student Work:

Starting on March 22, the University of Calgary's School of Creative and Performing Arts will be showcasing some of the best and brightest up-and-coming student performers in music, drama and much more.

Laila Biali:

The Juno-nominated jazz musician will be in Bragg Creek on March 22, bringing her infectious energy and spirit to the Bragg Creek's Performing Arts, along with a new eclectic mix of jazz-pop fusion.

Your Students' Association




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March 5 - 29, 2018
 Yellow Room, Wyckham House

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Some restrictions may apply.

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Scoobynatural is finally here

Sabrina Harmata

Staff Writer

Get ready for the grooviest episode of *Supernatural* yet.

On March 29, the Winchester brothers team up with the famous Mystery Inc. in an animated episode every *Scooby-Doo* and *Supernatural* fan should watch. Seriously, if you miss this mystery-solving extravaganza, you really need to sort out your priorities. I'm giving you two weeks notice, so that should be enough time to rearrange your study schedule and set an alarm for the most exciting thing in *Scooby-Doo* since the live-action movies with Freddie Prinze Jr.

What makes this episode

love of food. I wouldn't even be surprised if they had a food eating contest. I just know Dean's going to take advantage of the fact that he's animated and shove whole food items down his throat in one bite, while Sam stares at him in terror. On top of this, there are always the Scooby snacks. Will Dean share Scooby and Shaggy's mutual love for the dog treats? Or will eating dog food be where he draws the line? Will his former experience as a dog influence his decision? There are so many crazy possibilities with this one.

Everyone knows that every group of crime-fighters has their

moment when Daphne turns Dean down, because she has way too much self-respect to fall for him. Now, if this moment is completely missing, the CW will have some serious explaining to do, not only because they will have passed up a perfect opportunity, but also because they will have ignored the fact that Dean already admitted his love for her in season two episode 11. With this in mind, I'd have a really hard time believing Dean would skip his one and only chance to flirt with his favourite animated character. I hope he comes up with a creative way to do it too.

Character similarities aren't the only thing that makes this episode chalk full of potential. As previously hinted at, season nine episode five features Dean mind-melding with a dog and although he doesn't transform into one, he does adopt their behaviour and he gains the ability to speak with animals for a certain amount of time. Unfortunately, animals in the *Supernatural* universe can't talk, so I'm sure Scooby and Dean will have a lot to say to each other. Maybe Scooby can finally fill Dean in on the real reason dogs were put on this earth, since the dog from the episode was so conveniently cut off by the spell wearing out.

What makes this episode most promising, though, is the fundamental difference between the two worlds. One has monsters, while the other relies on the premise that monsters aren't real, but that they are simply people behind masks. This presents us with two options. Either the brothers will be forced to reveal the truth to the gang and crush everything they ever believed in, or Mystery Inc. will prove to be right and the Winchesters will look like fools, something that doesn't happen too often.

Although one is obviously a darker story, while the other is more comedic, I'd be satisfied with the episode going either way, as each storyline has their own appeal, because I have complete confidence that both would be entertaining. But, I am a little bit biased. Given that the cast have hinted at it being a darker version of *Scooby-Doo*, I'd bet the episode will contain real monsters. We'll have to wait and see.

very own nerdy researcher and planner. Mystery Inc. have Velma and Fred, while Sam fulfills this position for the Winchesters. Given Fred's controlling nature, chances are Sam and Velma will work more cohesively together for finding necessary evidence and creating traps. If this happens, I fully expect Fred to be jealous of their cooperation. He might even go out of his way to try setting up his own trap for the monster in the hopes of catching it himself and exhibiting his superiority. Who knows? This might be the perfect opportunity to show Fred the importance of teamwork over sheltering his fragile ego.

Another possibility presents itself in the fact that one thing is sure about Dean. The man will never miss a chance to hit on an attractive woman. Even though Daphne is a cartoon (well, most of the time), there's no doubting her beauty and her effect on men. I already know that my favourite part of the episode will be the



With fan speculation dominating the weeks leading up to this enigmatic crossover, the real question is just how much hijinks will Scoob and the gang get up to. Photo courtesy of Supernatural.com

so exciting is the myriad of possibilities it presents. Plus, since they announced the episode last May, fans have had plenty of time to wonder at what they might be doing. So far, there haven't been very many details released and I doubt we'll get any more before it airs, but this isn't a bad thing. It gives us even more of an opportunity to ponder over what might be in store. First, being the issue of transportation. Will they be using the Winchesters' beloved Impala or the Scooby gang's iconic Mystery Machine? Will they simply stick to their respective cars? Will Dean and Fred bond over their love for their vehicles or will their differences in opinion cause a rivalry? At this point, anything can happen.

Even though Scooby and Shaggy would cower in situations where Dean takes control and saves the day, these three characters do have one thing in common that guarantees creative opportunities. Their incredible

Francis Trouble

Albert Hammond Jr.
Red Bull Records
Inc.

Score: B+



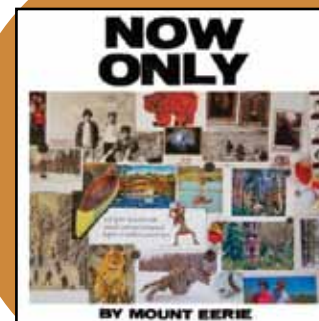
By not straying far from his roots, Albert Hammond Jr. delivers trademark excellence on his fourth solo album, *Francis Trouble*.

Best known for his guitar work with seminal indie heroes The Strokes, Hammond's solo work sits in a similar sonic realm while adding enough unique twists to make it discernible. On "Screamer," Hammond hits hard with chanted choruses and driving snare drums. "Stop and Go"

sees a different side, as shuffling drums sit beneath an understated instrumental. Hammond's vocals are accompanied by a slick guitar part on "Strangers," a standout track that combines striking notes with dizzying lines throughout.

Hammond, on *Francis Trouble*, finds room to explore without getting lost, creating a collection of songs that fit together naturally without falling into repetition.

-Nathan Kunz



Now Only

Mount Eerie

P.W. Elverum & Sun

Score: A

Nearing the two-year anniversary of his wife's death, Phil Elverum has released his second album as *Mount Eerie* detailing the gravity of his family's loss. Much like 2017's *A Crow Looked at Me*, *Now Only* is absolutely devastating as Elverum embraces nihilism despite fleeting moments of believing his wife is in a better place. He leaves it up to the listener to decide if there's a rhyme or reason to arbitrary death.

The songwriting is impeccable and poetic, connecting ordinary events he experiences with his daughter and capturing the raw emotions that are often taken for granted. *Now Only* is undoubtedly hard to listen to because of Elverum's pain, but it is musically beautiful and a touching tribute to the very tangible legacy his wife Genevieve left behind.

-Paul McAleer

How to Socialise & Make Friends

Camp Cope
Run For Cover
Records

Score: A



Camp Cope's sophomore album *How to Socialise & Make Friends* channels raw emotional energy and is as powerful of a record as it is moving. Tackling issues such as sexual assault, ("Face of God") the rampant misogyny in the music industry ("The Opener") and death ("I've Got You"), this album isn't meant for everyone. But for those who can relate this is one of the best albums of the

year already. The vocals in "I've Got You" (which were recorded in just one take) chronicle lead singer Georgia Maq's father's passing. "I've Got You" is a track I have yet to get through without crying. If any of these situations sound familiar to you, give this album a listen. It will probably reach you at a level you weren't expecting.

-Kennedy Enns

Ballin' like it's March Madness

A (somewhat) accurate guide to the biggest basketball tournament of the year

Bigoa Machar
Contributor

I'm going to keep it real with you: predicting March Madness sucks. Sorting through 68 teams across four different regions over the course of just over two weeks is a daunting task, one that I'm not going to pretend that I'm some kind of expert for. Rather than doing that, one thing I can do for you is give you all the information you need to make informed guesses and other bad decisions yourself.

Players to Watch

Deandre Ayton, Arizona

This year's batch of freshman is one of the most impressive we've seen in recent years. Leading the pack is Arizona big-man Deandre Ayton. In addition to his 19.9 points per game and 11.3 rebounds per game, some of Ayton's most impressive stats include his 1.9 blocks per game and 61.2 per cent shooting from the field. Ayton has been as reliable as a 2000s-ish Honda Civic and we can expect this solid play from the soon to be first round NBA draft pick to continue through the entire tournament.

Trae Young, Oklahoma

Quick Note: I'm writing this before selection Sunday, so I'm not 100% sure as to whether or not the Oklahoma Sooners will actually be in the tournament. That being said, the Sooners will have to rely heavily on freshman guard Trae Young to lead them to the promised land. Although he's been inconsistent, Young is one of the best players in the country when he's on his A-Game. Young ended the year scoring a whopping 27.4 points per game, good for best in the country. Overzealous basketball analysts have been quick to compare Young to the likes of Steph Curry and other elite three-point marksmen. The bright lights and the big stage of the tournament could be what Young needs to catch fire and shoot the light out.

Michael Porter Jr., Missouri

It's not very often that a player who has logged only two minutes of playing time during the season is worth watching, but a healthy Michael Porter Jr. could be what



Marvin Bagley is among the core elements of yet another stacked Blue Devils squad. The freshman has declared his eligibility to the NBA draft this year and will look for nothing more than a deep run this year. Photo courtesy of Lance King/Getty Images

Missouri needs to turn some heads at this year's tournament. Porter was regarded as one of the best talents in the NCAA at the beginning of the year, but a serious back injury held him out of commission. With elite size and an unmatched scoring touch from anywhere on the floor, look for

Porter to single-handedly win one or two games for his Tigers.

Teams to watch

Duke Blue Devils

Regardless of if you love them or hate them, the Duke Blue Devils have been one of the most dominant teams in the history of college basketball and that's facts. Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski has fielded elite team after elite team for years and this year is no different. Led by freshman sensation Marvin Bagley, the Blue Devils have arguably the most balanced starting units in the tournament. Senior guard Grayson Allen, who has been the face of Duke basketball for the past four years (and is the NCAA equivalent to Brad Marchand) will look to ride off into the sunset with a pair of scissors and a freshly cut down net.

Michigan State Spartans

As the saying that all of our mothers taught us when we were young goes, sharing is caring. Ball movement and passing is a key part of modern basketball and the Michigan State Spartans are the best in the nation at this. On

average, the Spartans dish out just over 19 assists per game. No other team has cracked this mark. This is paired with the team's 20th ranked defence, which only allows 64.7 points against per game. Sophomore Miles Bridges will lead the way for the Spartans, looking to impress the Michigan State faithful and NBA scouts alike. With a sound all-around game and an elite head coach in Tom Izzo, Michigan State is one of the most fundamentally sound teams in the tournament, which could lead to a long tournament run.

Villanova Wildcats

Scoring always has been and always will be the name of the game when it comes to basketball and the Villanova Wildcats, have been the best at doing so this year. The only thing more impressive than their 87.4 PPG is the fact that they're doing so extremely efficiently, shooting 50.5 per cent from the field. Junior guard Mikal Bridges will lead the way for the Wildcats, who will look to win their second NCAA title in three years.



Trae Young is balling with a season average of 27.4 PPG heading into the March Madness tournament. Young is looking to lead his Oklahoma Sooners squad into a deep run to further skyrocket his draft stock heading into the summer. Photo courtesy of News9

#S

400 career wins for Vegas Golden Knight's net-minder Marc-Andre Fleury: the 13th goalie to do so

600 career goals for Russian superstar Alex Ovechkin. At 32, he is the third youngest player in NHL history to do this

29-2 Toronto Raptors' record against teams below .500 as of March 13

1 per cent: the chances all four No. 1 seeds will make it to the Final Four in March Madness Games

MRU Cougar signs pro deal

Cougar net-minder marks school's 10th pro graduate

Dan Khavkin

Sports Editor

Fifth-year and graduating Mount Royal Cougar goaltender Cam Lanigan has signed an amateur tryout agreement with the Fort Wayne Komets of the ECHL on March 9. Lanigan's signing marks the 10th Cougar to make it to the pros since MRU has been under the USPORT banner.

Former Cougars such as last season's captain Matt Brown and current AHL forward Cam MacIse, inked deals to play in the ECHL last spring, using the East Coast league as a stepping stone to kickstart their pro careers. Lanigan, 25, has played four full seasons in a Cougar sweater, posting a career 23-21-3 record with a .898 save percentage and a 2.77 GAA. He posted a 6-5-1 record in playoffs with a 2.57 GAA and a .905 save percentage. Prior to MRU, Lanigan had an impressive career in juniors and defended the net for the Arizona Sundogs of the former Central Hockey League but transferred to MRU in 2013-2014.

The Calgary native suited up for the Edmonton Oil Kings, Portland

Winterhawks and the Medicine Hat Tigers of the WHL before having a short stint with the pros and then joining the Cougars. His best season came with the Medicine Hat Tigers, posting a 20-18-2 record with a 3.00 GAA and a solid .901 save percentage.

In his first full season with the Cougars, he led MRU with an 8-5-0 record and took them to their first ever playoff series win in program history in 2014-2015. He got injured in the semi-finals and missed the remainder of the playoffs.

In 2015-2016, Lanigan got hit with the injury bug and was sidelined for most of the season giving rookie Colin Cooper his chance to shine, which he did as Cooper led the Cougars to one of their best seasons since joining USPORT with a 13-5 record.

Cooper's incredible success forced Lanigan to be the backup for the majority of the 2016-2017 season but got five starts towards the end of the season during a rough finish for the Cougars.

Despite the short amount of



Graduating goaltender Cam Lanigan in action against the Calgary Dinos in his final Crowchild Classic. Lanigan is now the 10th MRU Cougar who has landed a pro deal since the Cougars joined USPORT. Photo courtesy of Cougar Athletics

ice time, Lanigan got the nod to backstop the Cougars during the 2017 playoffs against the Manitoba Bisons on home-ice and got MRU to the semi-finals before getting eliminated by national runner-up Saskatchewan Huskies.

In his fifth and final year, the Cougars faced a lot of hardships

and adversity with the squad losing plenty of veteran presences such as Brown and MacIse. The team introduced 10 first-year rookies and had a rough start to the year but a season high six game win streak.

Lanigan went 9-8-1 in his final year including a shutout in his

final game as a Cougar for the first goose-egg of the year. Clinching the last playoff spot, the Cougars swept a gritty Manitoba squad in their barn before getting eliminated by Canada West champion Alberta Golden Bears.

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Guide to the Chinese Super League

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Many big-name soccer players from across Europe have made the move to continental Asia to play in the Chinese Super League, a growing league that has made its name around the world in the past two years.

Many top Brazilian talents made the move to China, some to end their careers, while some are looking to get a fresh start in their prime. Players like “Oscar” dos Santos Emboaba Junior, Givanildo “Hulk” Viera de Souza, Nicolas Gaitan, Yannick Carrasco and Renato Augusto are amongst

some of the top-tiered talents from Brazil who moved in the prime of their careers.

Why are star European players going to China?

Many other Europeans playing in China have made the move to have success as the star player on their team.

Players like “Oscar,” Carrasco, and Augusto, are all in the prime of their careers. However, they were not able to succeed to their highest ability at their European clubs. This made them want to move to a team where they can have starting

minutes and succeed with their teams.

Many other players like Argentine and ex-F.C. Barcelona defender Javier Mascherano, joined the league at the end of their careers, looking to salvage what skill they have had left.

Most of all, the players have come for the money. All of the European players who have come to play in China have had a substantial raise in pay.

Some of the biggest contracts in the league are used as bait to reel in either washed up players who



Chinese President Xi Jinping is looking to make China an attractive market for international soccer and hopes to bring a World Cup to China in the near future. Photo courtesy of Xinhua

still want to play such as Carlos Tevez who earned around 615,000 pounds a week for one season before he left for his boyhood club in Argentina for a third time in January 2018. “Oscar” for example, is making 400,000 pounds in a week.

Sponsorships have taken over the league, with big companies pouring millions into their teams, and they have been able to bankroll their teams, with the vision of becoming superpowers in Europe and Asia.

Why people don't like it

Many people, including star players and managers across Europe, have really undermined the Super League, saying that these European star players are just going for the money.

It is no mystery that the best soccer that you can find in the world takes place in Europe. Top German, English, Italian, and Spanish clubs have been the stars for the past 100 years.

Although these players have the capabilities to play in any of these top leagues, instead they have taken the “easy” route, giving them the most amount of money and the most amount of minutes, against players whose skill level is not even close. Many people have stated the disappointment in that.

Chelsea manager, Antonio Conte, stated that “the Chinese market is a danger for us all,” in an interview with the Guardian.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic, a star European striker for Manchester United, rejected an offer to play in China under a contract that would have given him one million dollars a week.

Ibrahimovic, 34, said that the China league did not offer enough of a “challenge,” expressing that he would be wasting the end of his career.

Although there is huge financial opportunity in the Chinese Super League, many people have been criticized due to the fact that people are only going for the money and to be successful in a lower class league.

Some could say the same thing about the MLS and players coming to play in America, but many believe that this is the start of something that could potentially disrupt European soccer.

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