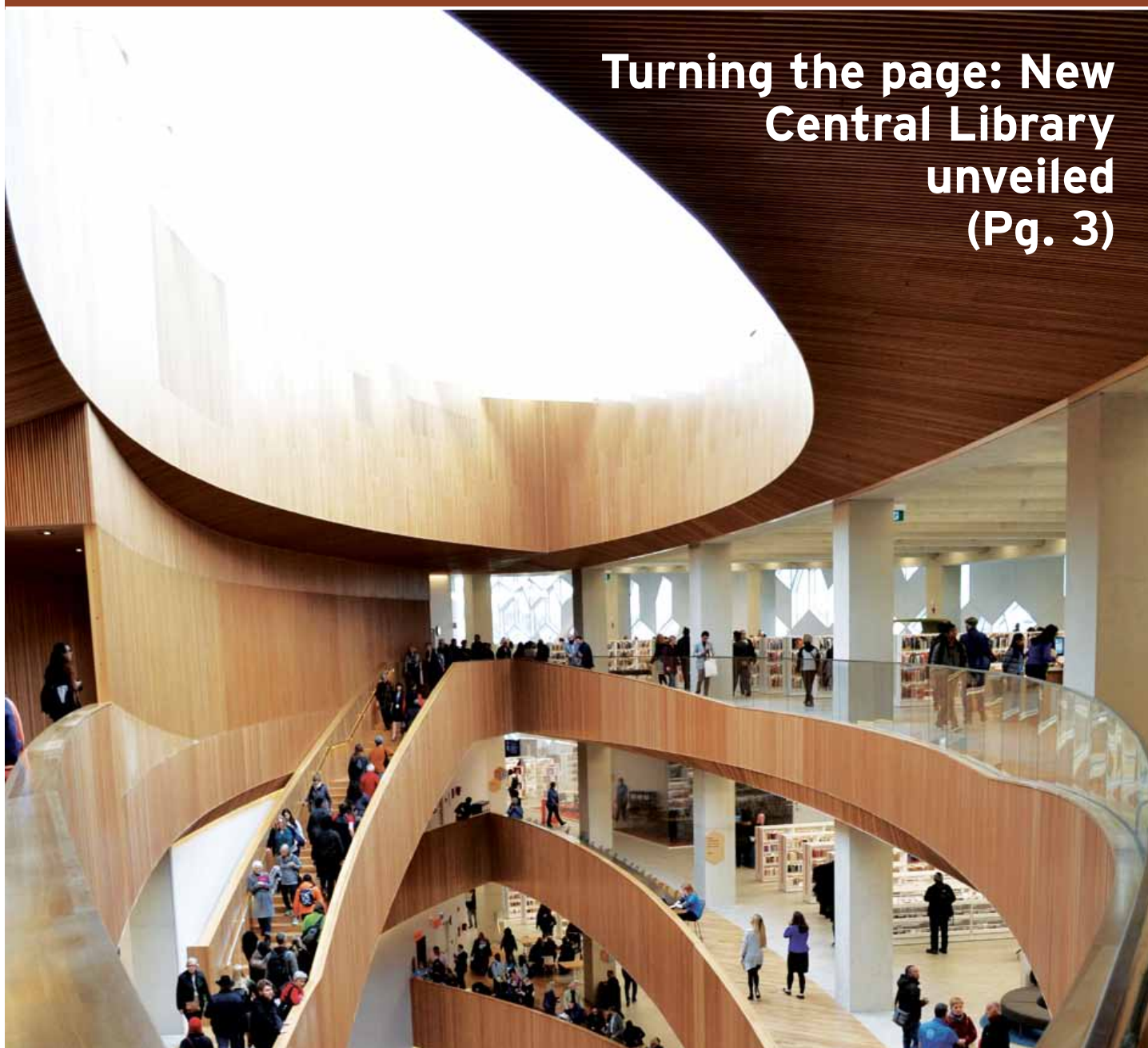


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# Field of Crosses: MRU honours veterans before Remembrance Day

*Military Memorial Bursaries and honoured veteran alumni at local memorial*



Over 3400 crosses for veterans from all over Southern Alberta, including 29 Mount Royal University students, faculty and alumni, stand on display as part of the Field of Crosses Memorial Project. Photo by Nathan Woolridge

**Nathan Woolridge**

News Editor

This Remembrance Day marks the 100th anniversary of Canada's Hundred Days. According to Veterans Affairs Canada, "battlefields of Europe were capped by a three-month stretch of victories at the end of the war – August 8th to November 11th, 1918." To Canadians, Nov. 11 became known as Remembrance Day — a day to respect and honour veterans and fallen soldiers for their service and sacrifice.

## How does MRU honour veterans?

In 2011, Mount Royal University's centennial year, the university announced a Military Memorial Bursary Program. The university created these bursaries in honour of "students, faculty, staff and alumni [who] have served in uniform. Since the First World War, 29 have given

their lives," according to MRU's website.

The university accepts donations for the program in honour of individuals who sacrificed their lives. "These Military Memorial Bursaries will honour the sacrifice made by the fallen members of our Mount Royal family, while furthering the dreams of 29 Mount Royal students, every year, in perpetuity."

To the university, these individuals are not just a number. MRU's website says, "We remember them. We remember their potential, their names – their faces. In keeping with our tradition of forging lifelong connections, the thread that ties each revered member of this group to Mount Royal will now stretch beyond their lifespan to touch generations."

The bursaries are given to students based on financial need and academic

achievement. MRU reports that students who receive these bursaries are two times more likely to graduate. In the 2018-19 academic calendar, 19 of the 29 recipients of the bursary are "active members or veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces."

## Field of Crosses

On MRU Alumni Instagram, the organization posted about honouring MRU's 29 fallen soldiers. The university remembered these individuals by placing a special card on the crosses of the soldiers at Calgary's Field of Crosses Memorial Project.

The Field of Crosses is an annual display of white crosses along Memorial Drive in Calgary. The display appears every year and honours those who have sacrificed their lives with over 3,400 crosses in the display.

At the Field of Crosses, a display stone reads, "In memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice during war."

The project was founded by Calgary businessman, Murray McCann, who got the idea from a similar display in a small town in Georgia. McCann shared the idea with his friend, George Bittman, who was the head of the Calgary Poppy Fund at the time. They pursued the project to honour fallen soldiers from Southern Alberta.

McCann was also recently honoured by MRU on Nov. 2, 2018. He addressed over 300 students at MRU's convocation. McCann also received an honorary Bachelor of Nursing degree at the convocation ceremony.

Each of MRU's 29 fallen soldiers are honoured at the Field of Crosses display from Nov. 1 to 11.

## MRU's Fallen Soldiers

Private James Alexander Arnell (1915)  
Private John Hawley Ross (1916)  
Private Cecil Wallar Duke (1916)  
Lieutenant George Lloyd Lewis (1916)  
Lieutenant Everett Boyd Jackson Fallis (1917)  
Corporal William Rolfe Fox (1917)  
Private Hans Raskesen (1917)  
Lieutenant Harold Stone Musgrove (1918)  
Lieutenant Gordon Shaw Wilkin (1918)  
Private Roswell Jay Shantz (1918)  
Pilot Officer Edwin Graham Milton Anderson (1941)  
Pilot Officer Douglas Spencer Aitken (1942)  
Pilot Officer Arthur Beverly Polley (1942)  
Flying Officer George Noel Keith (1942)  
Captain Douglas Gordon Purdy (1942)  
Flight Sergeant Douglas Oliver Bevan (1942)  
Warrant Officer II Frank Harvey Barker (1943)  
Flying Officer Benjamin Emil Ehnisz (1943)  
Flying Officer Harold James Crowe (1943)  
Wing Commander Albin Laut (1943)  
Lieutenant Campbell Stuart Munro (1943)  
Flight Sergeant George Quist Hansen (1944)  
Warrant Officer Douglass Smith Kirkwood (1944)  
Gunner Kenneth Beaumont Bell (1944)  
Sergeant Frederick Ernest Boalch (1945)  
Lieutenant Denis Frederick Harvey (1945)  
Pilot Officer Lloyd George Hinch (1945)  
Captain George Garry Foster (1974)  
Corporal Nathan Hornburg (2007)

Courtesy of Mount Royal University



# Garnering attention for stunning design and space

## Calgary's new Central Library opens

**Nathan Woolridge, Ricardo-Andres Garcia**

News Editor, Contributor

Construction of Calgary's long-awaited \$245-million downtown library began on May 2014. The new library, located in the East Village, officially opened to the public on Nov. 1. The event drew large crowds interested in the innovative features the space has to offer.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi was at the library on opening day to deliver a speech about what the library means to him and Calgarians. "My love of libraries runs deep. Growing up, I was a precocious and super nerdy kid who spent long Saturdays at my neighbourhood library in Forest Lawn," he wrote on Facebook. "Yesterday, that precocious kid got to stand in front of a crowd as Mayor

of Calgary and open the new Central Library. This space will allow generations to come to dream big dreams just like I did."

The events of opening weekend included "free programming, tours, live music, craft stations and more," says Calgary Public Library in a release of the events. Canadian astronaut, Chris Hadfield presented later Thursday evening. In a statement, Calgary Public Library says they brought Hadfield in because, "The new Central Library will be a cultural hub for learning and innovation and we couldn't think of a better person to demonstrate what's possible when we come together and dream big!"

The library is 240,000 square feet, featuring amazing installations of architecture, art and 450,000 new books and collections, which span over four floors. With bold design features and an outdoor archway crafted from British Columbian red cedar, the spectacular design does not disappoint. Most of the interior is thoughtfully crafted from western hemlock softwood, which is native to the West Coast.

The new library has many features including a, "12,000-square foot children's library, dedicated spaces for teens [and] recording studios."

All photos by Ricardo-Andres Garcia



Crowds pack into the library to celebrate the opening of the new space, on Nov. 1. Applause and cheering are heard as confetti signals the official launch.

# What will be happening to the old library?

**Gregory Balanko-Dickson**

Contributor



**Andrea Ranson, Director of Marketing and Communications. Photo by Gregory Balanko-Dickson**

Earlier this year, administration at Mount Royal University put the bookstore, campus card services and parking services all in one centralized space — the previous library home, prior to construction of the Riddell

Library and Learning Centre. This left many wondering what is happening to the space the bookstore previously occupied, along with questions about future plans for the MRU campus. Andrea Ranson, Director of Marketing and Communications at the university, shares what changes are happening on campus.

Ranson says MRU “needed a spot on the university that was large enough to accommodate the bookstore, parking and campus card services.” Centralizing some of MRU’s offered services allow for “better flow and functionality of that space.” Ranson says, “We want all of those services to be together. It’s way more convenient to students.”

While it is more convenient for students to have centralized services, Ranson says, “Our faculty is really up-to-date

on the newest teaching and learning. And our infrastructure, particularly in the old bookstore, hasn’t kept up.”

MRU is currently working on keeping its infrastructure up to date by doing renovations in the old bookstore. The projects “should be done by the end of December and they’ll all be moving back in, in the new year to the old bookstore.”

“The next priority is to repurpose and renovate the vacant spaces in the main building,” according to Ranson and the Campus Master Plan. She also shares that MRU wants to renovate the old conservatory and small music rooms into more classrooms and labs.

After this is done focus will be put on, “the old library and centralizing everything for students,” says Ranson. “So,

including academic advising, the registrar, some classrooms, again, on the second level of that library study spaces, international centre, they would all be relocated and repurposed in the old library. They’re looking to put on a second level on partial of where the library is now.”

The Lincoln Park building was constructed in 1972 — and MRU has “a lot more students now” than it did then. In light of this, MRU’s administration is looking to “improve the walkways on main street and then create a cross one — a north-south one.”

Ranson says that by adding all this to MRU’s campus, it will “take our existing infrastructure and really connect it all together.” Moreover, Ranson thinks it will make MRU’s “educational experience way better.”

# Olympic bid: Last-minute decisions

*City votes against suspending bid before plebiscite*

**Nathan Woolridge**

News Editor

City council almost hit the brakes on Calgary’s Olympic bid after receiving the province and the federal government’s plans to help finance the Olympics.

On Oct. 31, city council met for several hours to discuss and vote on moving forward with the plebiscite on Nov. 13 as planned.

CBC reported on Oct. 26, that the federal government would be pitching in \$1.75 billion for a Calgary Games. The provincial government has proposed \$700 million and it doesn’t seem their offer will budge.

According to CBC, the

federal government’s contribution is based on matching the province’s and the city’s contributions. This means that the city will have to front roughly \$1 billion for the Olympics if the provincial government’s funding doesn’t increase.

This was one of the major factors for city council on almost deciding to suspend the Olympic bid. This brought up discussion as to whether the city would take a more democratic approach and continue with the plebiscite, or suspend the bid in the council

meeting.

BidCo CEO, Mary Moran, told CBC, “We also told Calgarians that it would be their decision.”

Mayor Naheed Nenshi said in a statement that after many hours of debate, he supports moving towards the plebiscite.

“I wanted Calgarians to have this deal in front of them much sooner. But, I had to put the messiness aside and really consider, does this make sense for Calgary and is this a good deal?” But, he later says his mind was made up. “I will be voting yes on November 13th because I believe this is an

incredible opportunity for our city.”

The mayor reminds Calgarians that the decision is in their hands. He encourages Calgarians to do their research.

The council vote to suspend the bid needed 10 votes, which it did not receive. However, the results did reveal how split council members are on pursuing the bid. Council voted 8-7 in favour of stopping the bid, clearly showing a divided council.

## THE REFLECTOR

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**COVER:** Interior of new Calgary Public Library, by Rosemary De Souza

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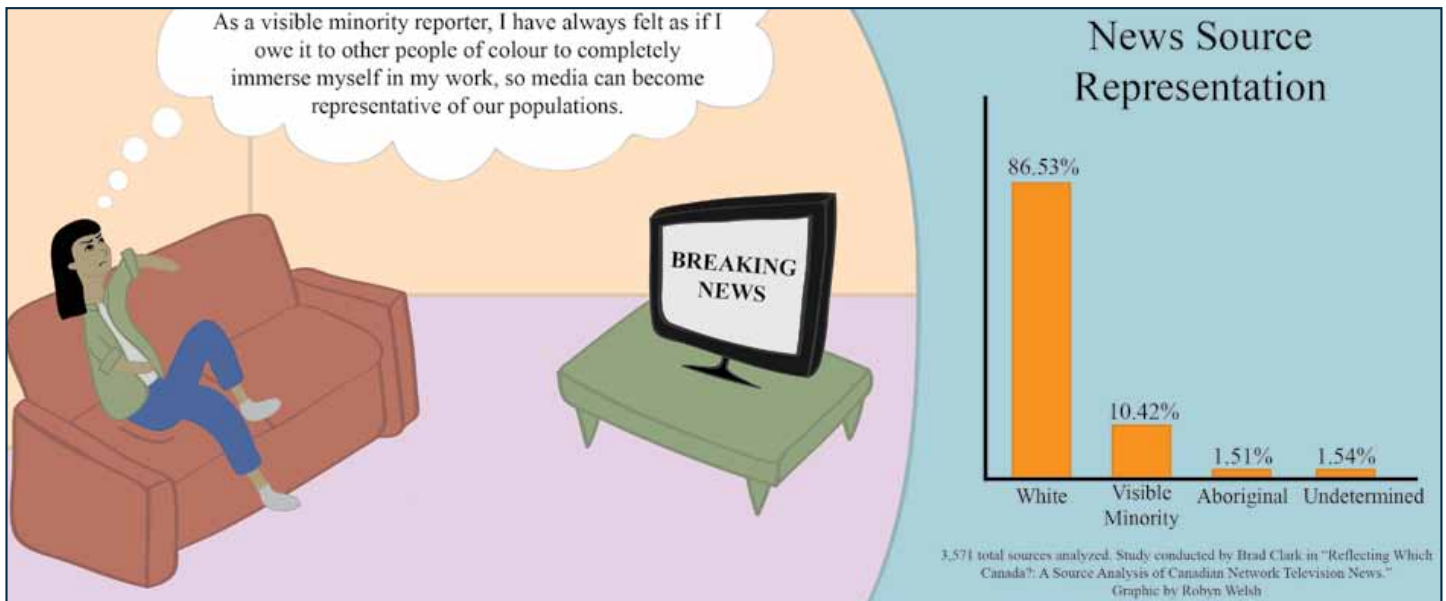
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## Opinion: 'I am not white, but please listen to me'

*The unwarranted struggles of women of colour, inside and outside of the workplace*



**Karina Zapata**  
Contributor

An unspoken truth about being a woman of colour is that I hold a lot of shame in my being. Growing up, I spent all my energy trying to make myself small and unnoticed. Growing up, I tried to make myself white. I would scrub my body with papaya soap — typically used to lighten skin in various parts of Asia. I would avoid the sunlight ceaselessly, refusing to go to the park when it was beautiful outside. I would be angry when my skin got darker and I would cry when my friends, who were also of colour, mentioned that I could only be with someone if they were dark like me. Growing up, I watched myself be put into a box in a hierarchical system in which I was buried at the bottom.

I'm older now. In a fairytale, I would say that I have cured myself of this internalized racism, but I haven't. Instead, it keeps me up at night. Internalized racism is something that is with me every second of every day, screaming at me that I am less than. That I am not good enough. It screams at me when I eat Filipino food in public, when I eavesdrop on a conversation that's spoken in a language that I intentionally lost as a child due to shame and when I allow myself to feel the sunlight soak into my skin.

My internalized racism screams at me the loudest when I am the only woman of colour in a room full of successful white people — and this happens very, very often. Every single time:

"You are less than everyone else in this room."

Often, it makes me want to scream back, "I am not white, but please listen to me."

### **Man of colour: "Your arguments are weak"**

In the process of growing older, away from the young girl who didn't know how to love herself, I learned to accept that as a woman of colour, I will always have to work harder than non-visible minority women to be seen and acknowledged for my work.

This isn't to say that all women of colour are the same, because we aren't. Perpetuating that stereotype is just as toxic as pretending that we get

the same opportunities as white women.

This isn't another wage gap argument, though the wage gap is the most evident piece of oppression that women of colour have. According to Statistics Canada, 28 per cent of visible minority women were below the low-income cut-off, compared to 14 per cent of non-visible minority women.

I realize that this statement calls for many arguments. Once, in a civilized conversation, a man of colour said to me, "Your arguments are weak. Have you ever considered that women of colour don't get paid as much as white women because they don't strive for jobs that pay well?"

I don't believe that's

the issue. Think about entertainment media — how many times have you seen women of colour being portrayed outside of their stereotypes? Asian women are vastly represented in television and movies as characters who are amazing at science, love math and play chess in their spare time. This sets up expectations and pressure for Asian women in real life to be absolutely perfect or we are undeserving of attention and love.

To the fellow oppressed man: the issue is not that women of colour don't strive to find jobs that pay well, the issue is that some employers would much rather hire white women over women of

**Continued on Pg. 6**



colour because it's "less complicated" for them. Because this way, they don't have to worry about funny accents or language gaps or cultural nuances. I have seen past employers hire under-qualified white people over extremely qualified women of colour with a slight accent they acquired from learning their third language. I have seen past employers keep managers who absolutely refuse to hire people of colour for no other reason than racism.

So no, I don't think women of colour don't work hard enough to be successful. We are just given a fraction of the opportunities that white women have.

### How have you worked harder than your white counterparts?

When asked in what ways they have had to work harder than their white counterparts, a handful of women of colour replied without hesitation.

"Working to be taken seriously and for my ambitions and dreams to be seen as legitimate. Being seen as lazy in school when

suffering the same physical and mental injuries. Proving to my peers that I'm 'cool' enough (code for white) and to my parents that I'm brown enough," says commerce student

## "I have walked onto the train and had white people look at me in disgust. I have had people get up and move seats to sit beside someone who isn't of colour."

Hooriah Ikram.

"My immigrant parents don't have the same connections as my white counterparts, therefore I have to network for myself," says finance student Shiza Aslam.

"Every way," says graphic designer, Ayra Peredo.

I am a second generation immigrant. It's a tiring narrative, but my parents grew up extremely poor. My mother shared a room with her 13 siblings and sacrificed food for her younger brothers more times than she ate.

Because of this, my parents didn't spend my childhood pushing me for straight A's or hoping that

I would become a doctor. Growing up themselves, they were too busy worrying about surviving to worry about getting good grades. Instead, I grew up with my parents worrying

about my safety to the point that it was suffocating. It's instilled a fear in me that I don't think will ever go away.

### Running at a fast jog

Being a woman of colour sometimes feels like moving at a fast jog, all the time. There is no room to stop and sit down, even when I'm exhausted and my legs are in excruciating pain and I can barely breathe. All I can do is acknowledge my exhaustion and continue moving forward or else I will never catch up to the small amount of opportunities that I have.

Because once I take a second to sit down, people will treat me like I haven't been fast-jogging.

As an adult woman of colour, I am always afraid — and for good reason.

My heart pounds whenever I walk down the street alone at night, not only because I am a woman, but because I am a visible minority. I am seen for my gender and I am seen for my race. I walk down the street with my keys between my fingers, not only for fear of sexual assault as a woman, but for fear of harassment as a non-white person.

Statistics Canada states, "About 21 per cent of visible minority females reported being a victim of discrimination — a significantly higher proportion than their non-visible minority counterparts with 13 per cent."

I have walked onto the train and had white people look at me in disgust. I have had people get up and move seats to sit beside someone who isn't of colour. And every single time, I am afraid for what they have to say. I am afraid for what words I have to endure and sit through and not react to.

Women of colour don't have time to react. Women of colour don't have room to be imperfect. We aren't given the capacity to be anything more or less than women of colour.

### Who am I to the media?

I chose to be a journalist because, even as a child, I knew that minorities had more to say but were rarely given a voice, especially in the media.

According to the study, "Reflecting Which Canada?: A Source Analysis of Canadian Network Television News," out of 3,571 examined sources, visible minorities were only used as sources 10.42 per cent of the time and aboriginal sources were spoken to 1.51 per cent of the time. This is because white reporters are more likely to turn to white sources while visible minority reporters are more likely to turn to visible minority sources.

This isn't to say that white people aren't doing

their jobs. My work is not a competition against white people and it never will be. As a visible minority reporter, I have always felt as if I owe it to other people of colour to completely immerse myself in my work, so media can become representative of our populations.

Noor Tagouri, a powerfully successful hijab-wearing journalist, explained this struggle in an article with Forbes. She said, "I realized that my strength lies in using my own identity to build trust with people who've never trusted mainstream media to tell their stories before."

But along with this responsibility comes pressure. Even as a senior journalism student, I feel a debilitating pressure to report on groundbreaking stories all the time. Living in a world in which I am hyper-aware of violence against women of colour means I don't have room in my heart to report on "unimportant stories."

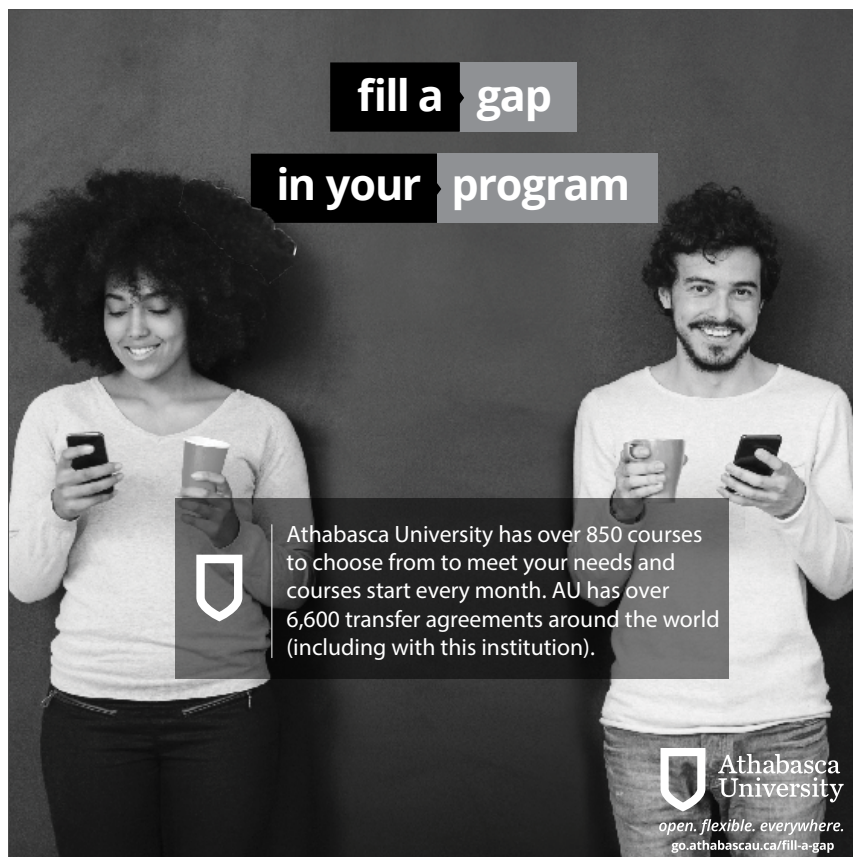
### Women of colour, this is for you

I am extremely lucky that I have an opportunity that so many other women of colour don't have. I have a voice and platform to give other minorities a platform to display their voices.

I have been running at a fast jog my entire life. Sometimes I am exhausted, my legs are in excruciating pain and I can barely breathe. Sometimes the worst part is watching everyone around me take breaks when they are tired. Sometimes the worst part is not getting acknowledged for working harder than most.

Despite this, I have accepted that I will likely run at a fast jog for the rest of my life, but I don't just do it for me — I also do it for the other women of colour who are running at the same pace as me, but feel like they're getting nowhere.

To those women: you are not white and I am here to listen to you.



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# What the BetterHelp app held back

## *The highs and lows of online therapy*

**Rosemary De Souza**

Features Editor

As awareness of mental health issues rise, several services, programs and accommodations have been developed to aid individuals in need. But that isn't enough.

For many of us, it can be difficult to discuss our worries and fears or consider that someone may be able to help us understand the problems we face. Busy schedules can minimize time slots we can dedicate to a counsellor, psychiatrist, best friend or mentor.

With internet and virtual applications playing a dynamic role in addressing social issues, it's no wonder technology has begun to fill the support gap for individuals navigating mental health issues.

Online programs like BetterHelp provide a potential solution.

The online counselling app allows mobile or laptop users to connect to a counsellor anywhere, at any time. Although advances in technology bring us together and make life easier in a lot of ways, there are setbacks that come with the nature of technology and an online world that sometimes makes our traditional methods seem better.

### About BetterHelp

BetterHelp is one app that strives to change the way therapy has been done after founder and president, Alon Matas, realized how difficult it is finding help in today's day and age.

"I was surprised to find out that most people who need help are actually not getting it," says Matas to the Huffington Post. "Many people don't like the way therapy is delivered, and when you add the challenges of cost, stigma and convenience, they stay away from traditional face-to-face counselling even when they can definitely use professional help."

"Therapy can be life-changing," he says, adding that the resource is under-utilized — a reason he sought to find a solution.

### How does the app work?

When signing up for the service, you will be directed to fill out a short questionnaire that gives BetterHelp an idea of some issues you would like to address. From there you will be matched with a licensed therapist who fit your interests and the type of issues you face.

According to the website, all counsellors with BetterHelp are accredited psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists with a masters or doctorate degree and have at least three years and 2,000 hours of hands-on experience.

Once you have been matched, you can either opt to change your counsellor or start communicating with them via text messages, live chat, over-the-phone conversations or video conferencing. The choice is entirely yours.

The online counselling app, however, does charge a flat membership fee that accounts for unlimited counselling. That way there is no need to worry about how often you connect to your counsellor.

Anonymity is another option the service provides for users. The app does not ask for your name or contact information, rather users can give the system a nickname and emergency contact information that can be used when the user is in danger.

### YouTube presence

One way to gain traction and increase awareness among social media users is through positive reviews coming from popular YouTubers.

According to a report by Polygon, Bobby Burns, Elle Mills, Philip DeFranco, Heath Hussar, Boogie2988, Shane Dawson and ChandlerNWilson all have videos sponsored by the app. This has caused BetterHelp to gain traction, "despite the app not being exactly what the creators are touting."

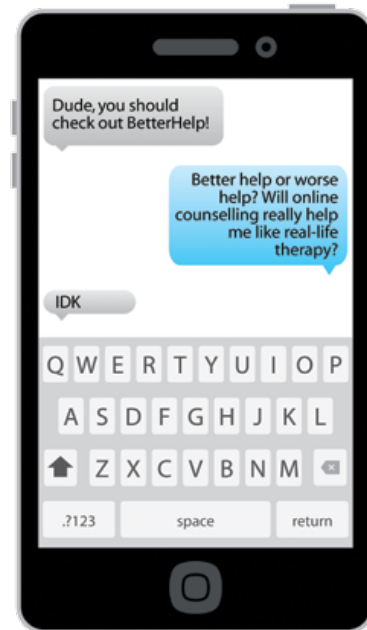
"ChandlerNWilson told his viewers the app was full of psychologists who could help people going through

a tough time," cites Polygon reporter, Julia Alexander. "Gabbie Hanna used the word 'professional' to talk about the mental health experts available to talk to people."

But with further research, Alexander discovers there is a lot more to the app's story.

### Backlash

Despite what they claim on their website, the BetterHelp Terms and Conditions stated: "We do not control the quality of the Counselor Services and we do not determine whether any Counselor is qualified to provide any specific service as well as whether a Counselor is categorized correctly or matched correctly to you." Alexander continues citing that the document also says, "While we may try to do so from time to time, in our sole discretion, you acknowledge that we do not represent to verify, and do not guarantee the verification of the skills, degrees, qualifications, licensure, certification,



Online platforms give us the chance to connect with one another and live better lives. However, it can be easy to forget that not even the online world is perfect. Graphic by Amber McLinden. Vectors courtesy of Vecteezy

*Continued on Pg. 8*



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**Continued from Pg. 7**

credentials, competence or background of any Counselor.”

“It is your responsibility to conduct independent verification regarding any Counselor that provides you with Counselor Services (whether through the Platform or not) and we strongly recommend that you will conduct this verification prior to communicating with any Counselor through the Platform and on a continuous basis as you use the Platform,” Alexander quotes from the Terms and Conditions.

However, many of these conditions are no longer a part of BetterHelp’s terms of service, as the document was last updated on Oct. 4, 2018 — the same day Alexander released

her report on the Terms and Conditions previously updated in July 2016.

After several reports surfaced on the app’s deceiving messaging, social media users were quick to call out the platform along with its YouTube endorsers and in less than a week Matas responded.

**The app’s response**

In a lengthy article with the Medium, Matas denies all accusations of fraudulent activity and says that therapists are heavily vetted. The disclaimer of limited liability for counsellors’ credentials in BetterHelp’s terms of service is similar to other service providers, according to Matas.

He implies that asking the app’s users to verify their own counsellors does not mean

they have not been verified by BetterHelp.

“Only about 15 per cent of therapists who apply to work with us work at BetterHelp,” Matas tells Polygon. “We don’t accept interns, either.”

**Lesson learned**

While technology has immense potential, it is important to remain critical and skeptical of digital trends. Although not a groundbreaking revelation, the prominence of social media service providers can make this easy to forget.

The future of BetterHelp remains unclear with many questions still unanswered.

As for other service providers out there, don’t assume we won’t read your Terms of Service.

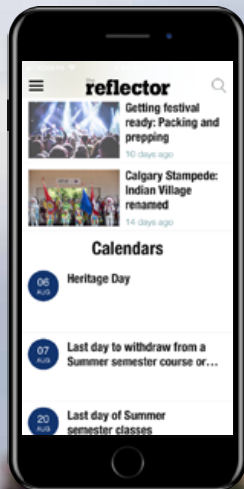


# If you're partaking in marijuana, it's safer to limit use to

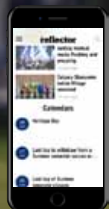
- A. Once a week or less      B. Once the sun reaches high noon  
C. Once a day      D. Once every 3 days

A. Once a week or less is safer. Especially if you are under 25. Because your brain is still developing.

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## Red Dead Revival

*How Red Dead Redemption 2 reinvigorated my love for video games*

**Colin Macgillivray**

Arts Editor

Whether you've been keeping up with video game news as of late or not, chances are you have probably heard someone in your life mention cowboys, the Old West or *Red Dead Redemption 2* (RDR2).

Rockstar Games, the studio behind the ever-successful *Grand Theft Auto* series and a multitude of other top-tier titles, have a storied history of consistency and excellence when it comes to their video games. Looking at everything that makes a video game memorable — a compelling narrative, realized characters, addictive gameplay, eye-catching visuals and an unforgettable score — Rockstar, along with a select few other game developers, have nailed what a video game experience should be.

With RDR2, the new standard of excellence has been set.

A Western-themed action-adventure epic, RDR2 is a prequel to Rockstar's beloved Western tale of, for lack of a better word, redemption. The first *Red Dead Redemption*, which was released in 2010, tells the heartbreakingly human story of John Marston, a former outlaw who is forced by government agents to track down members of his former posse, the Dutch van der Linde gang.

RDR2 hyper-focuses in on the van der Linde gang and what life is like for an outlaw during the dying days of the Old West.

*Red Dead Redemption* was a massive critical and commercial hit and is often in the conversation for best video games of all time. As a result, any sequel would have nearly impossible expectations to live up to.

RDR2 not only smashed expectations and delivered on every front, but it holds a special place in video game history due to the unique experiences literally everyone who has played the game can attest to.

But why is it so good? What makes a video game good? It's a subjective discussion that I don't think anyone can really give a correct answer to. But for me, I know RDR2 is one of the best games of all time due to the hours of discussion I have had with friends outside of the game.

When the game came out nearly two weeks ago on Oct. 26, I expected to play a couple hours here-and-there, text my friends that it was a fun game and move on with my life.

Instead, I was so engrossed with the world RDR2 creates that I barely texted my friends that weekend. I was either playing the game, or thinking

about playing the game. Critic reviews were rolling in and they also loved it, but I didn't expect this silly cowboy game to dominate discussions for the foreseeable future.

But that's exactly what happened. Anyone who purchased and played the game felt the same way as I did, but it was never for the same reasons. Sure, we played some of the same missions and did similar Old West activities, but those weren't the moments we were talking about.

We were talking about the moments where a stranger would approach us on horseback and boast that their steed would decimate ours in a race to the cliffs of El Diablo. We'd talk about the moments where we'd find a weeping woman in the middle of a crocodile-infested swamp, try to console her and be ambushed by her machete-wielding compatriots. We'd talk about brushing past a grizzled ranch hand, getting his leg crushed underneath a cow and days later, seeing the same ranch hand with an amputated leg.

I could go on forever.

In all honesty, I've probably spent as much time talking to people about RDR2 as I have actually playing the game, which is a truly fascinating thing to think about. This

virtual experience, that took nearly a decade to create, is so detailed and immersive that everyone I've talked to has a favourite experience that is different than mine.

For people who don't really play video games, that rarely happens. There's usually some sort of consensus when it comes to favourite characters or favourite moments. In RDR2, my favourite character so far — a sleazy, snake oil salesman who has been poisoning men and wooing their widows — was in the game for maybe 15 minutes.

My friend's favourite character — a drunk fur salesman — is just a random character living in the world. Another friend's favourite is Leopold Strauss, a shifty, money-lending businessman who controls the van der Linde gang's cash.

Again, I could go on forever.

The game really is an anomaly when it comes to the entertainment medium. I have never consumed a film, a book or a piece of literature, spoken about it with someone and had such wildly different experiences. Sure, some people love *Star Wars* and some hate it, but it is

the divisiveness that generally brings about these hour-long discussions.

When it comes to RDR2, hour-long discussions stem from unique experiences in the same magical world.

The random encounters with eccentric characters are unreal and the characters themselves act like real people, but none of that would matter if the game wasn't fun to play. I can assure you, the game is fun.

Whether it's breaking into a stable in the dead of night, stealing a stagecoach and

**Continued on Pg. 10**



Courtesy of Red Dead Wikia

## OUT'N ABOUT

### Remembrance Day at Studio Bell:

Commemorate Remembrance Day at Studio Bell with performances by the Southern Stardust Big Band and more on Nov. 11.

### Rolston String Quartet:

Ever wondered what it would be like to hear Carnegie Hall musicians, but can't make the trip to New York? Check out the Rolston Spring Quartet on Nov. 9

### Dracula: The Bloody Truth:

Missing Halloween already? The Vertigo Theatre has you covered with their own unique rendition of the classic vampiric tale, running from Nov. 10 to Dec. 9.

### Marda Loop Justice Film Festival:

From Nov. 13 to 18, take in nearly 20 free films centered on social-awareness in Marda Loop.

selling it to a disgruntled relative or happening upon a camp of enemy gang members, only to meticulously choose the right weapon for the job and unload a hellish-fury of cowboy violence, the gameplay is fun through and through.

But, most of all, the attention to detail is what puts *RDR2* into the upper echelon of video games.

Let's say you want to go hunting because your camp desperately needs provisions to survive a harsh blizzard in the mountains. You'll pick the

right horse, craft the correct materials and trek through mounds of snow until you happen upon a clearing where two pristine, white-tailed doe are desperately searching for their own food.

All of a sudden, just as you're cautiously approaching your camp's next meal, a pack of wolves emerges from the trees on their own hunting trip.

You fend off the wolves with whatever weapons you were able to bring with you, desperately trying to catch your next meal in the process.

Then, it's over. Blood-stained snow surrounds you

and you've managed to fend off the feral pack. But, you're too injured to continue the hunt, so you head back to camp.

A few in-game days later, the camp is clinging on to their last few rations of canned peaches and baked beans. You set out upon the same trail, tracking those two white-tailed doe again.

You happen upon a clearing, where you find the decaying carcasses of those same wolves that attacked you days earlier.

That level of detail is unheard of in gaming and it genuinely brings a smile to

my face every time I have to brew my own coffee, change my clothes because they're covered in mud or take a bath because I'm filthy.

These everyday, mundane tasks are what makes a game like *RDR2* feel lived-in and completely realized. As I write this, it feels as if the world that my character inhabits continues to live on without me. Bartenders will continue to pour shots of whiskey, the newspaper vendor will continue to callout to passers-by and the van der Linde gang will continue to evade the law.

All in all, playing *RDR2* feels

like the first time I watched a movie like *Apocalypse Now* or *The Shining* or picked up and read *Blood Meridian*. It's these special forms of entertainment that manage to spark a new passion for the genre as a whole. It's these excellent pieces of work that up the standard and make the rest of the industry raise the bar themselves.

So, I honestly want to thank the developers of *RDR2* for making me fall in love with video games the way I did when I was a kid. But, enough words. I'm going to go play some more Red Dead.



*Red Dead Redemption 2* had nearly impossible expectations to live up to, but, somehow, Rockstar Games managed to deliver a Western masterpiece. Photo courtesy of Polygon

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# Bringing the outside, inside

## Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival kicks off world tour

**Andi Endruhn**

Layout Editor

Mountaineers, climbers, skiers, snowboarders and self-professed outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds are not generally the people you would expect to pay and sit still indoors for hours on end. However, anyone who has ever had a hobby that borders on an obsession knows the only thing that even comes close to doing the activity you want, is talking about it. Endlessly.

The Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival — and its role as an epicentre for fidgety on-the-go people to share stories about their favourite places and activities — wrapped up its week-long tenure at the Banff Centre on Nov. 4.

In sweeping vistas, detailed close-ups, panoramic photos and loving narration, every single film, book and photo pays homage to nature at its best.

Both big and small names and locations share the screen at the festival. Tajikistan's remote mountains, rivers and flora take centre stage in *The Botanist*, after the well known slopes of Aspen and Squaw Valley in *Brotherhood of Skiing* fill the screen. Up and coming athletes like Rajesh (RJ) Magar — an aspiring mountain biker from Kathmandu — are featured alongside renowned climbers Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgenson's attempts at a 900-metre Yosemite rock face in *The Dawn Wall*. Nothing is too small, or too unimportant to admire.

Books inspired by and about adventure and nature took centre stage with presentations and readings by the authors. *Waymaking*, an anthology of art, poetry and prose by women about adventure and exploration exhibited a unique style of outdoor writing, focusing on existing alongside the adventure and nature, rather than conquering. Other books like *No Friends*

but the Mountains explore the mountainous regions of the world where only a fraction of the population live, but is home to an inordinate amount of the world's conflict.

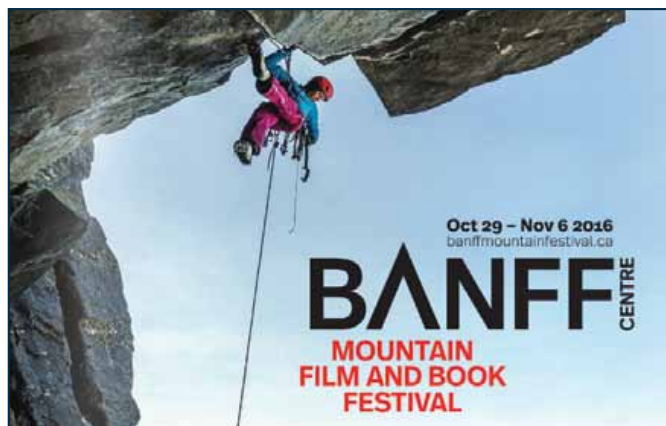
Films like *The Passage* showcase how the memories created in the outdoors shape and define who we are. Others like *Blue Heart* and *Tierra del Viento* (Land of the Wind) are love letters to the communities that are shaped by their landscapes. *Blue Heart* showcases the villages and people of the Balkans as they work to protect the last wild, unobstructed rivers in Europe that determine their way of life, while *Tierra del Viento* is a lens into the never-ending harsh vastness of Patagonia and the people who live there.

Photography from *National Geographic* photographer Jeremy Schmidt and Order of Canada recipient Pat Morrow, revel in the sculptures and paintings created in the rocks of the slot canyons found in the American Southwest. While Jeremiah Marsh plays with the light and shadows of mountain peaks around Canmore and Banff.

In a community of people striving to go faster, higher, farther and more extreme, it's easy to forget what draws us outdoors in the first place. In the confinement of a dim theatre, a projection of pristine glass-like rivers and impossible summits can be a necessary wake-up call.

Hours and days of discussing the beauty of nature and what it brings out in people can be just enough to convince you that some of the greatest art you can experience is just outside your door.

The Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival will be back at the University of Calgary for screenings from Jan. 15 to 27, 2019.



Poster for the 43rd annual Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival. Photo courtesy of Banff Centre

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# Blood for the tax man

Gareth Evan's *Apostle* is why we need more folk-horror



Following the story of dapper-yet-troubled former missionary Thomas Richardson, *Apostle* is a journey into the uncommon and under-appreciated sub-genre of folk-horror. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia

## Alec Warkentin

Staff Writer

I'm probably not the first to say it, but a sizeable amount of the Netflix-distributed content that's eeked itself out of the woodwork over the past few years — in thanks, partly to the streaming giant's seemingly carte-blanche approach to media production as a way of filling their site — has had a tendency to be hot garbage.

Perhaps this relates mostly to their many episodic series — of which the flops are evidently countless for every one that bears repeat-watching or binging — but even finding a solid film, especially fitting the horror genre, requires the viewer to wade through chest-deep muck to find a diamond in the detritus of Sandler-helmed comedies and skin-deep "young adult" social commentaries.

But hey, maybe that's your thing and that's fine too, it's just that *Apostle* — the latest from *The Raid* director Gareth Evans — is one of those diamonds; a rare and shining example of a spooky horror film with an elaborate mythos that relies more on terror and dread than predictable jump-scares, bookended by Netflix's *The Haunting of Hill House* paranormal series and mystery-thriller *Hold the Dark*.

Following the story of dapper-yet-troubled former missionary Thomas Richardson (played by

Dan Stevens) as he infiltrates an island held by a mysterious cult during the turn-of-the-1900s to rescue his kidnapped sister Jennifer (played by Elen Rhys), *Apostle* is a journey into the uncommon and under-appreciated sub-genre of folk-horror.

The island, formerly barren, now supports a small sect led by magnanimous leader Malcolm Howe (played spectacularly by Michael Sheen) and cohorts Quinn (played by Mark Lewis Jones) and Frank (played by Paul Higgins), whose every basic requirement for life is met-for without need for taxes, weapons or any hierarchical government. The only cost? A jar of blood, every night, left outside their door.

Muted greys and browns make the overwhelming presence of dark red blood and gore that much more visceral. When the film's relatively restrained (at least when compared to the more-archetypal horror) violence breaks through its stifling fugue of suspicion and mystery. It's done so in a way that compliments the narrative (which can get rather muddled, admittedly), rather than a simple means of titillating the audience (which, well, it does).

There's one fancy bit of camerawork in particular

during a certain "cleansing" scene that really stands out as being a new way of putting the viewer in the hot-seat (or, more aptly, the "vice"... seriously, just go watch it).

It's worth noting that you can generally tell the quality of a horror film by what remains if you were to take the main plot out and *Apostle* has that in spades. While the main drive — at least at first — is the kidnapping of Richardson's sister, that quickly becomes a tertiary plot point when the real, much darker story begins to unfold.

On the whole, though, the folksy setting of *Apostle* is an area ripe for horror-fying and more films should be made that look at the world before it was modernized. What a wild time the world was before technology. People spouting crazy beliefs, joining more-than-slightly-dubious cults and groups, committing atrocities for a divine being or attempting to appease to some force they'll believe will make the world better, blood running through the streets as people grasp for power while living in straw houses and not trusting neighbours or friends. Good thing it's not like that anymore. Wild, ill-informed antics are a thing of the past. Yep. Oh, also, there's a character called "The Grinder." Go watch the movie.



## You Won't Get What You Want

Daughters  
Ipecac Records  
Score: A-

Has Halloween passed you by and left you yearning for more spooks? Well, your search for post-October thrills has ended, as the latest from noise rock veterans Daughters is packed to the brim with eerie industrial drones that will haunt your November nights.

Ringed with reverb and booming with war drum aggression from opener "City Song," *You Won't Get What You Want* remains unpredictable as tracks pass by. Punching from double bass drum driven math rock ("The Flammable Man") to bossa

nova grooves ("Daughter"), Daughters create an unpredictable screeching force throughout the 10 song LP. While seemingly primal in delivery, the albums winding and intricate layers add to the attack, with vocalist Alexis Marshall delivering repeated lines with an authentic dread above it all.

Polished without losing any edge, *You Won't Get What You Want* delivers a deeply intriguing track list which haunts the listener with aggression and intricacy.

-Nathan Kunz



## Suspiria

Thom Yorke

XL

Score: A-

For a first-time film-scorer, Radiohead's Thom Yorke has done a fantastic job reworking and reimagining the hyper-iconic musical ephemera that is Italian prog-rock group Goblin's work on Dario Argenta's 1977 masterpiece *Suspiria*.

From Yorke's pal-and-bandmate Jonny Greenwood's work on Paul Thomas Anderson's *There Will Be Blood*, to Jon Brion's spellbinding opus that is Michel Gondry's *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* soundtrack, popular musicians and film scores just seem to go together and *Suspiria* (Music for the

Luca Guadagnino Film) is no different.

Two-sided and 25 tracks, this thoughtful and eerie reworking of the original is (gleefully) Yorke at his most comfortable; a culmination of the electronic blips and atmospheric bloopers of his previous two solo albums, mixed with that of the misunderstood Atoms for Peace.

Stand-outs include "Volk," "Unmade" and "Suspirium Finale," and for those three alone, Goblin should be proud.

-Alec Warkentin



## Coach Fusco reflects on historic Women's season

*MRU women's soccer looks to continue success for next year*

**Dan Khavkin**

Sports Editor

A historic 2018/2019 season for the Mount Royal Cougars women's soccer team came to a heartbreaking end for the second straight season in the exact same fashion.

The Cougars clinched fourth place in Canada West with a program-high 20 points, broken down into a 6-6-2 record. MRU went up against UFV Cascade for the 'play-in' match on Oct. 25 where history repeated itself.

"The outcome was status-quo to last year," says team coach Tino Fusco.

MRU managed to even the game late in the half at the 74th minute, sending the playoff game into extra time where nothing was solved.

The fate of the Cougars' season teetered on the results of a penalty kick for the second straight season.

Both teams missed their first penalties but MRU put themselves behind the eight-ball missing their second, while UFV converted on theirs. The Cascade potted the next three goals to the Cougars two. The deciding shot to keep the penalties session going, was at the feet of rookie goalkeeper Rose Hemans.

The transfer from England's Crystal Palace Ladies had an outstanding U SPORTS debut season, but it came to an abrupt ending when she rattled the crossbar on the

do-or-die penalty kick.

Despite the heartbreak, Fusco reflects on this season as a massive success.

"We had a better record, we have better players in our program, we have a young side to the team which I am excited for next year," he says. "But we talk about doing the little things right and we took a step forward this year, for me, that would be the success I was looking for."

The Cougars were led by graduating forward Erin Holt, who put on an impressive playmaking display in her final season wearing Cougar colors with six assists and added one goal. She also scored the match-tying goal

in the playoff game.

Janai Martens led the scoring with a team high of five goals. Meanwhile, rookie Natalie De Marco totalled two goals and four points in her first season as a Cougar.

Hemans was named to the Canada West all-rookie team and for the second straight year, centre half Quinn Hardstaff was named to the Canada West second all-star team.

According to Fusco, these are the team performances and displays that drive the Cougars to their success.

"We've worked hard on our culture the past few seasons ... I'm pleased with the players, that's an area where

we are in a good spot," he says.

"Our goal was always to be better than what we were the year before and is something we engrained in our athletes, to be better everyday and be better than you were yesterday," says Fusco. "We don't have a senior squad so it was about making mistakes and improving from them."

Fusco is hopeful for next year and says the team should, "just stick with the process. We stay with what we are doing and we feel like we are doing it very well. We've added a style of play we like and are looking forward to be moving with it."



Graphic by Amber McLinden

# #S

**10-1** the record of the Toronto Raptors in their first 11 games, their best in franchise history in that span.

**234** career power-play goals puts Washington Capitals icon Alex Ovechkin at eight on the all-time list.

**33** years of age of Chicago Blackhawks' newest head coach, Jeremy Colliton, the youngest active coach in all of the NHL.

**21** straight years for Real Madrid making the UCL knockout stage

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# Fantasy picks: Early top 5 NHL lines

*Which trio would you choose to bolster your fantasy team?*

**Sajan Jabbal**

Staff Writer

With the first 10 games in the NHL season complete, many offensive first lines have showed a lot of promise, with players connecting with each other in a way that makes it almost impossible for opposing teams to play against.

These are the top five lines to play together in the league so far.

## **Colorado Avalanche Landeskog/ MacKinnon/Rantanen**

One of the season's most pleasant surprises are the Colorado Avalanche who are

off to a great season start, almost entirely due to their first line. The rest of the team has not performed amazingly, but this first line of quick, skilled players have kept their team in it so far. Mikko Rantanen leads the league in points with 24 and is the reason his line-mates Nathan MacKinnon and Gabriel Landeskog have been able to score at an amazing pace. Over the past two years, MacKinnon has made himself into one of the best power forwards in the league. In total, the line has 63 points as of Nov 6., more than any other in the NHL and has

been terrorizing other teams' defense this season.

## **Calgary Flames Gaudreau/Monahan/ Lindholm**

As per usual, the Flames looked like they were on fire as the league's top team with small unbeaten runs, but carry on to be ice cold this year. Mike Smith can stop 50 pucks a night and be the guy the Flames expect him to be, or get yanked. But we could get more mediocre performances from backup David Rittich whenever Smith is not playing

to par. The Flames are sitting at the top of the Pacific at 9-5-1 but if you take away their current four game win-streak, they would be hovering at .500. The newly formed trio of Johnny Hockey, Sean Monahan and Elias Lindholm are leading the team first, second and third in points combining for a deadly 54 points. These three could be what Calgary needs to get over the hump and get out of the wild card fight in the West, but Calgary will also need consistent defensive performances to compensate the top-line's production if the Flames want to be the breakout team of the season.

## **Boston Bruins Marchand/Bergeron/ Pastrnak**

The Boston Bruins are having a great start in a competitive division this year. They are sitting with 18 points, tied with Montreal and Toronto and have had good performances from their top and depth players. Their first line has been nothing short of spectacular with a combined 53 points as of Nov. 6. Veteran centre Patrice Bergeron is once again a major presence on the faceoff dot with 13 assists and 20 points in only 14 games. Nothing short of amazing. They have also seen a great performance from their leading scorer, Czech star David Pastrnak, who has 12 goals and 17 points. He has made a name for himself as one of the top scorers in this league. Power forward, Brad Marchand has had a great performance this season, with 11 assists and five goals. Being a great depth player on the line, Marchand is able to do almost anything he's asked to do.

## **Nashville Predators Forsberg/Johansen/ Fiala**

The Nashville Predators have had an amazing start to the season, leading the league in points. They have had outstanding performances from all their lines, including

their powerhouse defensive core. They have also seen good performance from their top line with a combined 34 points as of Nov. 6, who are picking up where they left off last season. Filip Forsberg has been amazing these past few seasons, establishing himself as a household name. He is tied for fifth place in points with 10 goals and four assists. Ryan Johansen has a good-looking 13 assists and 15 points to lead the team's offense. Meanwhile, Swiss forward, Kevin Fiala, has filled in the power forward role, rounding the line with his ability to create opportunities out of empty space. If the Predators keep up their consistent team performances while being led by this trio, they are going to be looking at another Stanley Cup run.

## **Washington Capitals Ovechkin/Kuznetsov/ Vrana**

Washington was not off to a great start last year, but were able to pick it up midway through the season and produce a Stanley Cup winning performance. They are looking to do the same this year, under the guidance of their top three with a combined 42 points as of Nov. 6. Not only have they not had the best goaltending from their star net-minder Braden Holtby, but they have been let down by some of their depth players that were so important to them in last year's playoff run. However, their top line is something they can be proud of. Alex Ovechkin is once again off to a great season start and he doesn't look like he's cooling off anytime soon. They haven't gotten the best play from Jakub Vrana, who has only produced seven points, but has been able to add depth in terms of being the role player to the first line. Vrana will create more space for Ovechkin and Evgeny Kuznetsov to move around and produce. Watch out for the Capitals, as they will look to make a playoff push as soon as they can.



(Left to right) Nathan MacKinnon, Mikko Rantanen and Gabriel Landeskog, arguably the most electrifying line in hockey, lead the Colorado Avalanche, who are looking like the surprise of yet another season. Photo courtesy of USA Today



Calgary's newest weapon, Elias Lindholm, is a huge contributor to a much needed Flames offense that needs to compensate for its trend of lackluster defensive efforts. Photo courtesy of Canadian Press

# Hunt for 106th Grey Cup is upon us

*How teams stack-up heading into the 2018 CFL playoffs*



**Bo Levi Mitchell tosses a long drive down the field. Mitchell led the CFL in touchdown passes this season with 35 and is looking to lead the Stampeders to another Grey Cup finals appearance. Photo courtesy of Derek Leung (Getty Images)**

## Sajan Jabbal

Staff Writer

This has been a CFL season of ups and downs, but with the regular season coming to end, teams are looking to make their mark on CFL history by becoming the 106th Grey Cup champions.

The Calgary Stampeders have had an inconsistent season, beginning strong with a 7-0-0 start, only to fall below their standard. The Stampeders lost to Western Conference powerhouse, the Saskatchewan Roughriders near the end of the season.

However, they did manage to get one more win than the Riders, which secured them a top spot in the Western Conference with a 13-5 record.

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

The Saskatchewan Roughriders, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, B.C. Lions and Hamilton Tiger Cats 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 Nov. 11, here is the break down of the teams and 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 of their last four games.

Their defense has not been great, allowing more than 25 points against in the three games that they lost.

The Stamps have a week off to prepare for the semi-finals, whether they are pit against the Roughriders or the Blue Bombers.

They will need to work on their defense to get their game in shape before then. They did have a good showing in the final game of the season, only allowing nine points in a 26-9 victory against the B.C. Lions.

Defensive power will come from players like Alex Singleton, who is leading the league in tackles this year with 122. They should not have a problem making it to the Grey Cup Final once again.

The Western Conference

matchup is going to be against two teams who have been going at each other all season, the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

The Riders won the regular season matchup, winning three out of the four games played. The first two games were close victories for the Riders, with good showings from both teams. The last game against the pair was a blowout, as the Bombers won 31-0.

There is a lot of tension between the two teams with them being pretty evenly matched. It is going to be a close game that will probably be decided in the final minutes of the fourth quarter.

Although Saskatchewan sit second in the Western Conference, they have had questions the whole season.

The health of star quarterback Zach Collaros is in question, as he has had a troubled season so far. Starting off with a major concussion, many don't know if he is playing at 100 per cent.

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 poorly on Nov. 11.

They are going to look to their star defensive lineman Charleston Hughes, who is leading the league in sacks with 15.

Winnipeg finished the season third in the West and hope to keep their strong momentum into the game against the Riders.

Star running back, Andrew Harris, who once again leads the league in rushing yards, will look to make the Riders suffer in the game. Yet, he may have a tough time getting passed Charleston Hughes.

The Ottawa Redblacks have had an okay season, leading the much weaker Eastern Conference. They have a lot to prepare for going into the semi-final.

They are sitting comfortable in first place and will look to get some rest and solidify their playbook going into the semi-finals.

They have a decent record against Western Conference teams as well, with five wins and five losses. This may play an advantage if they end up playing the B.C. Lions in the semi-finals.

Greg Ellingson and Brad Sinopoli will lead most of their receiving yards as they have been carrying the team on offense all season.

Sinopoli leads the league in that regard.

Many have been saying it's a gift to switch over to the Eastern Conference come playoff time and the Lions hope to take advantage of

this gift given to them.

With their loss against Calgary last week, they hold the last wild card spot and will transfer over and play the infamous 'crossover' game in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Having a better record than the Hamilton Tiger Cats, the Lions will look to make a deep run in the playoffs and have a chance at a Grey Cup.

However, they will need a big game from wide receiver Bryan Burnham if they are going to have any chance at success on offense. Burnham has had a great season, putting up good numbers in receiving yards, touchdowns and receptions.

The Hamilton Tiger Cats are going to have a tough time these playoffs, being the underdogs going in. They have not had a great season and don't measure up to any of the other teams.

After losing their last three games going in to the playoffs, they have not had a good record against Western Conference teams, with only four wins and six losses.

Quarterback Jeremiah Masoli is going to be playing in the most important game of his young career and may have an issue matching up against the Lions' experienced quarterback Travis Lulay.

The stage is now set with the first playoff game scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 11 with B.C. facing Hamilton. The winner will face the Ottawa Redblacks, while Winnipeg is set to play Saskatchewan who have Calgary waiting for them.



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