

the reflector

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Heard it through the pipeline

Pro-pipeline rallies taking place across the province

Nathan Woolridge

News Editor

On Dec. 17, 2018 the plaza outside of Calgary's Municipal Building was flooded with an estimated 3,000 people — these people came together for a pro-pipeline rally organized by Canada Action.

In a statement, Canada Action says that they have “organized multiple events in the past, and is excited to promote this positive, non-partisan, supportive showing by the City of Calgary and their backing of the energy sector.”

The event at City Hall was also attended by the mayor and some members of city council.

Canada Action said in a statement that city council was on location to support pipelines and the energy sector. Canada Action said it's important that the city's support receives attention.

“Canada's a leader in protecting people and the planet. Global oil and gas demand is growing and it's never been more important to speak up in support of the men and women that work in

our resource sector from coast to coast. Today Calgary city council is sending a strong message and we hope other municipalities across the country will do the same in support of their constituents,” said Cody Battershill, Canada Action's founder and spokesperson.

The Calgary event heard from Battershill, Councillor Peter Demong and Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

Demong started his speech talking about city council's support, but was quickly dismissed when he began talking about Quebec's city council and their support for the pipeline construction. And when he mentioned that Calgarians should be buying Canadian cheese to support other industries, he was practically ‘booed’ off of the stage.

Nenshi quickly swooped up to the microphone to try and recover for his colleague. He started off well talking about the importance of the oil, gas

and energy sector in Alberta — even acknowledging the low occupancy rate of downtown Calgary offices.

But, Nenshi also found himself at the center of ‘boos’ and loud remarks when he began to discuss climate change.

“Good luck changing hearts and minds,” Nenshi shot back to some individuals in the crowd that were vocal during his speech.

At one point, Battershill had to step in and ask the crowd to stop shouting when Nenshi began to speak in French — a message he was aiming towards the people of Quebec.

When the crowd settled, Nenshi said, “You have to speak their language” when trying to get your message across.

The mayor ended his speech with “Let's get that pipeline built.”

Pro-pipeline rallies

Similar rallies have been held across the province — all with a similar message to get

the pipeline built.

One of the first rallies was held in northern Alberta in Grande Prairie around mid-December. There was an estimated 1500-2000 people in attendance to support pro-pipeline efforts. Oilfield Dads and Rally4Resources helped organize the rally.

In an email statement, Rally4Resources said, “More than 500,000 Canadians earn a living working in the oil and gas industry. The devastating price drop of Western Canadian Select Oil is not only crippling our economy, but our families, our jobs, our province and our nation.”

Prior to the rally, Rally4Resources also said “We anticipate this to be the largest pro-oil and gas rally in Canadian history, and it will also include a 250 vehicle convoy; showing our unwavering support for the oil and gas industry and new pipeline development.”

Hitting the streets

The Grande Prairie convoy

surpassed the 250 vehicle goal with an estimated 600 vehicles joining in. These convoys have also happened in large scales across the province.

There are also plans for an even larger-scale convoy to go from Western Canada to Ottawa in support of the oil, gas and energy sector.

Canada Action's website says, “A coalition of grassroots pro-resource groups is organizing a convoy from Western Canada to Ottawa and hosting a rally on Parliament Hill.

“This project is a massive undertaking that no one group can fund on their own. We would like to be able to fully fund any participants who want to join but can't, due to finances. Taking this amount of time off for anyone in the oil and gas sector is a huge sacrifice but there has never been a more important time to be heard,” says representatives from Canada Action.

Divide over pipeline spills onto street

Solidarity and consent, focal point of Calgary demonstration

Andi Endruhn, Jenna Tytgat

Layout Editor, Staff Writer

Outside the TransCanada tower on Jan. 8, as puffs of breath rose into the air, peaceful protesters in support of the Wet'suwet'en Nation in B.C. knelt on the cold concrete, as pro-pipeline protestors sang “O Canada.”

Members of the Wet'suwet'en have been denying workers of Coastal GasLink, a subsidiary of Calgary based company TransCanada, access to the area. They are stating that they do not have the permission of

the ‘hereditary leaders’.

On Jan. 7, the RCMP arrested 14 members of the Gidumt'en Clan, of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, saying that they had violated the terms of an interim court injunction requiring the removal of a blockade along a forest service road issued in December. The Wet'suwet'en have prevented pipeline crews from entering the area.

The arrests, which the RCMP say occurred after a several hour long meeting at which the

elders and pipeline company failed to reach a resolution, have gone viral. Images depict armed RCMP members arresting members of the Wet'suwet'en Nation in -20 °C, lying face down in the snow.

The blockade that had been maintained along the forestry road marked the entrance into Wet'suwet'en, which is yet unceded, and recognized as sovereign territory by Canadian law as per the Delgamuukw-

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Abbey Shaw burning sage at Wet'suwet'en solidarity protest, Jan. 8, 2019. Photo by Jenna Tytgat



Efforts at reconciliation by the Canadian government were frequently brought to contrast violence against Indigenous people by the protestors. Photo by Jenna Tytgat

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Gisday'wa case in 1997. It states that the Wet'suwet'en people, under their hereditary leaders, still held the rights to 22,000 km² of Northern B.C.

The demonstration — one of many events hosted across the country on the 8th, in response to a press release from the Wet'suwet'en First Nation asking “all people of conscience” to act in a day of international solidarity.

In Calgary, perhaps more than any other when it comes to pipelines, protestors met counter protestors, with a heavy police presence rounding out the scene.

Demonstrators occupied the public sidewalk with signs and various chants of ‘Solidarity, Consent’, and ‘Kill that pipe’. They sang, played drums and burned sage. Pro-pipeline advocates countered with their own chants of ‘Build that pipe,’ banners and signs.

Judy Johnson stood near the back of the pro-pipeline

group that had gathered with a sign reading “Foreign-funded, eco-shaming radicals NOT welcome”. She said that she does not believe the pipeline route should be moved.

“I’m here because of my concern that people don’t understand the necessity of these pipelines,” she said. “Where do they think the money comes from? It transfers from Ottawa.”

“The pipeline is also going to feed towns along the way, they’ll have a stable source of gas to heat their homes.”

Amongst the shouts and chants, Abbey Shaw walked through the crowd in a heavy patterned coat carrying a purple bucket with burning sage.

“The sage is meant to cleanse and purify, so [I’ve] basically gone through and smudged anyone who has come to the march,” she said. “[People] can wave the smoke over their head and it helps to bring peace [and] bring everybody here

together.”

Shaw expressed her concerns about the pipeline project regarding consent.

“The whole world is talking about consent right now, in every area, and this is a live and living colour example of how we need to respect consent,” she said.

“I think that we are at a time where people are forgetting that this is about lives and that there is no situation where financial security trumps someone’s life.”

The Calgary demonstration was one of the smaller examples of solidarity in Canada, yet there was a division of Calgarians that was clearly displayed.

Michelle Robinson, an organizer for the Calgary event spoke with CBC Calgary saying that many people “have an assumption that [Indigenous people] are all anti-pipeline when some of us are pro-pipeline, but we are all anti-violence and I would think all Canadians can get behind that message.”

Fall reading break: The earlier, the better?

Rosemary De Souza

Features Editor

Unlike several post-secondary institutions, Mount Royal University has its fall reading break earlier than most universities in the province, and some students are looking for a change.

The University of Alberta, University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge have fall reading week scheduled following Remembrance Day in November. Meanwhile, MRU’s reading week is scheduled after the Thanksgiving Day holiday in mid-October.

In a survey conducted by MRU journalism instructor, Mike Vernon, 280 students in the broadcast media and journalism programs received an electronic survey wherein 97 students responded.

Among the responses, an overwhelming 84.5 per cent of students preferred having reading week in November with many stating that hardly any assignments are due in October and a few saying they

would prefer the break to fall in between the Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day holidays.

“From what I see in my classes, the Thanksgiving break is just way too early in the semester,” says Vernon in an email to *The Reflector*. “At that time, I look out at students’ faces and see a whole lot of stress and fatigue staring back at me.”

“It’s certainly not scheduled at the optimal time to bolster students’ mental health. And yet it’s slated for Thanksgiving again this year.”

In an email statement released by MRU’s associate vice-president and registrar, Phil Warsaba said that mental health, wellness and the scheduled assessments of student performance were factors considered in the placement of reading week.

“The University also is constrained by the required number of teaching days, which will vary between



institutions,” says Warsaba. “At Mount Royal, a full week break in the fall can be made possible on Thanksgiving, but not on Remembrance Day.”

This is because Thanksgiving falls on a Monday, permitting students to be back to

school a week later, whereas Remembrance Day can fall on any day of the week.

“We continue to consult with [the Student Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU)] about our rationale for October and they are in

support of the reading week’s placement,” he says.

The Reflector has reached out to SAMRU for comment but, they indicated that they will be reviewing the data and feedback and had no further comment at that time.

A year in review for MRU

Q+A with Lesley Brown

Nathan Woolridge

News Editor

In 2018, Mount Royal University had an eventful year.

Lesley Brown, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, who joined the MRU community on July 1, 2017 had her first full year at the university in 2018. Brown has been accredited with accomplishing many things in her short time here so far and was recently recognized by the Calgary Herald as a 'Compelling Calgarian'.

News editor of *The Reflector*, Nathan Woolridge, decided to sit down with Brown to reflect on the work that has been done at MRU last year and how the university is moving forward in the new year.

The Reflector: Could you talk about some of the greatest achievements of last year that really stood out to you? Specifically, the stuff that you've worked on at the school?

Lesley Brown: Well last year was my first full year at the institution. I started in July 2017, so last year, a full year of 2018. If I look back, I think the best part of last year and then probably the best part of every year going forward will be getting to tell the story that's Mount Royal University. Getting to share that and getting to be an ambassador for Mount Royal. And I do that every day. When I meet with students. I do that when I meet with government ... I would say that one of the biggest highlights I think was our commitment and our confirmation or celebration of equality.

We raised the pride flag in June. That was the first time that the institution raised the pride flag. And that was in celebration of Pride Month in June.

Then we also had the permanent sidewalk installation in August. That was a lot of fun. That was a real high energy moment. I think it was pivotal for the

university because it was a symbol of permanence. It is the only permanent pride sidewalk in the city. Then, the students came back and they were able to be welcomed by that.

I think one of the great memories I have that one day I was walking over to get a coffee at Barrow, as I do a lot. There was a couple of young men who were standing on that sidewalk just having a kiss. And it was like, 'wow' ... it was a great, a really proud moment for me to think, 'I get to work here and I get to be the provost here' so that was awesome.

TR: And Mount Royal is beginning to become recognized by these and other things, right?

LB: Yes. And there were some other great things that we did. If I look back on the year and this will be a something we're doing also this year ... last year we welcomed 60 new, full-time tenure track faculty members. These faculty members came in as complements to our existing and cohort of excellence in our faculty.

Then, as we look forward to the upcoming year, we'll be doing the same. We'll be hiring 22 new full-time hires, 21 new assistant professors and one full-time lab instructor. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to also welcome some new contract people into permanent positions.

TR: Near the end of 2018, you spoke at an Academic Town Hall. Besides the faculty hires, what else was discussed?

LB: I spoke about a couple of things. One in particular talked about was academic programs. One of the great parts of the story of Mount Royal is that we are a university that used to be a college. As we transition to a university we have an opportunity to create academic degrees. Our journey of becoming and confirming ourselves



2018 was Lesley Brown's first full year at the Mount Royal University. She looks forward to another full year in 2019. Photo by Nathan Woolridge

as a university, where students come for four years to obtain a degree is that we have the opportunity to introduce new degrees. So, I talked about the journey of creating a new academic degree and how that process is initiated and introduced. Hopefully it reflects the ideas and contributions of faculty members here at Mount Royal.

TR: Is there anything you would like to add about moving forward in 2019?

LB: One of the things that I often say is that I have the best job. I have the best job because I get an opportunity to interact with students. I get to interact with students who are going to be graduating from this institution and helping to bring impact to make the world a better place. I also have a great job because I work with a fantastic and a wicked leadership team who

are helping to transform our undergraduate education. But, mostly I have a fantastic job because I work with an exceptional cohort of faculty who are delivering high quality academic programs that are the flagship of this institution and the high quality teaching and innovative teaching practices that we deliver.

During the interview Brown also discussed "growing Mount Royal's contributions to research." She says it is important to create "new knowledge and new understanding to benefit society." Brown also discussed that the university will be moving forward with a new president, as David Docherty will be leaving on May 1, 2019 to start his new appointment as president of Brandon University.

THE REFLECTOR

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EDITORIAL STAFF:

Publishing Editor: Colin Macgillivray

Managing Editor: Ivar Bergs

News Editor: Nathan Woolridge

Features Editor: Rosemary J. De Souza

Arts Editor: Karina Zapata

Sports Editor: Dan Khavkin

Photo Editor: Sam Nar

Layout Editor: Andi Endruhn

Web Editor: Nathan Kunz

STAFF WRITERS: Jenna Tytgat, Alec Warkentin

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the reflector

Wyckham House
Mount Royal University
4825 Mount Royal Gate SW
Calgary, AB T3E 6K6

All depts.: 403.440.6268
Fax: 403.440.6762
TheReflector@TheReflector.ca

No-ho-ho: Why I don't celebrate Christmas

I'm not a grinch, I'm just Taiwanese

Sam Nar

Photo Editor

Christmas is over but travel down the streets of Calgary and you'll find signs of the festive season are slow to leave, with twinkling lights still wrapped around multiple houses in the neighbourhoods and subtle remixes of classic carols playing faintly in the background — even the bad ones.

Every year post-Christmas, I'm reminded of the fact that the holiday — much like my monthly payments — is unavoidable. During and leading up to December, I must marvel at the sparkliness and the extravagance, both online and offline. High spirits are like Liam Neeson in *Taken*, no matter where you are and where you go, it will find you. I must be jolly. I must be merry. And even if I'm not, I still have to put up with the 1.2 million other people that live in this city that are.

But while the rest of the city relishes in the long, yuletide activities, my family simply skips Christmas. We don't bake sugar cookies, we don't decorate our house and we don't exchange gifts. I don't even like the taste of candy canes — shocking, I know. I can already hear the sounds of disapproval.

Look, I get it. It's unusual and almost unpatriotic that someone in the Western hemisphere would, of their own free will, choose not to celebrate Christmas but as a Taiwanese-Canadian, it doesn't matter to me if it's the 23rd, 24th, or 25th of December. For my family and me, it's just another day.



The Reflector photo editor and Calgary Journal reporter, Sam Nar, tells her story of growing up and not celebrating Christmas. Graphic by Sam Nar

My attitude stems from the fact that since moving to Canada, my immediate family has never once bought into any of the Christmas rituals. My parents assured me that we should never feel bad about not partaking in the holiday festivities because it wasn't an official holiday celebrated by our country nor by us and that was okay. Unfortunately, they failed to realize that I would be the one on the frontlines of their decision, taking on the full brunt of not knowing

all the names of Santa's eight reindeers, all the little nursery poems and rhymes and not knowing gingerbread wasn't actually ginger or bread — not that it made a difference, it tasted equally bad. Luckily for my parents, they will never understand the judgment that comes from expressing your disbelief in a jolly, old, fat man that tunnels through a chimney to bring you gifts and coal.

When you don't observe Christmas, a lot of the celebrations, practices

and beliefs can feel like it's being shoved down your throat. From marketing schemes in stores to punny ads that bombard your browser to the people you encounter, berating you for being a damper on the season — it's inescapable, almost as if you're the star of a horror movie you didn't audition for.

Whenever I tell people I don't celebrate Christmas, I'm always met with these looks of bewilderment and almost a touch of sympathy for the loss of a childhood

I'll never truly understand but I don't really feel like I'm missing out on much.

According to data from a PwC Canada report, Canadian consumers spend an average of approximately CAD\$1,507 during the holiday season; divided amongst gifts, travel expenses, and other forms of entertainment — ranking higher than America's average of USD\$885 (roughly, CAD\$1,199.74). With the amount of money I save by abstaining from

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Christmas, I can cry a little less about my tuition and other financial areas of my life. Aside from bypassing money worries, I'll also get to avoid the high-stress levels of last minute shopping which mental health experts say can trigger poorer mental health conditions. And on Christmas morning, I will be snuggled in my warm bed, achieving states of peace and tranquillity while parents across the city are met with hyperactive children hopped up on the season.

Despite how scrooge-y this might sound, I'm not against Christmas. I'm in love with all the beautiful holiday aesthetics and

"I'm always met with these looks of bewilderment and almost a touch of sympathy for the loss of a childhood I'll never truly understand but I don't really feel like I'm missing out on much."

conventions, from the meaningful ornaments to respect for a God I don't worship. I love having a reason to binge-watch cheesy classics like *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause*. And I absolutely love that although people suffer through endless days of

busy-ness and cold, bleak weather, they still remain cheerful because they know Christmas is at the finish line. I'm probably more obsessed with the idea of a white Christmas than any other fanatic out there. If I'm being honest though, my favourite part

is probably the extended break from school that comes with the celebration.

Christmas is a day of love, giving, and miracles. It's a day where families and friends can get together and appreciate the little things in life, where people in the community can somehow bond over age-long traditions. It's the perfect day to cast aside all your worries and share a moment of happiness with absolute strangers. It's about being grateful for what you have, even if what you have is not much. Christmas is the pure display of generosity, kindness, understanding and consideration leading up to an incredible and packaged 24 hours.

Based on that definition,

I celebrate Christmas every day. Through the jokes I hear people make as I hustle and bustle down the streets, in the act of opening doors for people I don't know and having someone else return the favour, to the Taiwanese concept of filial piety and respect. I may not hang wreaths on my door or eat dinners so big I fall into a food coma, but the one thing I do buy during the season is the idea of Christmas. The idea of an essence that can only come into fruition with the contributions of everyone.

And if I've learned anything about this amazing celebration it is that I shouldn't have to give up what I believe in to embrace the holiday spirit.

Opinion: Do old social media posts define you?

Social media has been a place for change but has forced others to be continuously defined by words of their past

Rosemary De Souza

Features Editor

Since the beginning of social media in the 1970s to the releases of newer social platforms in the mid-2000s, people of various ages have been using the internet to vocalize their thoughts and opinions.

Generations X, Y and Z have been archiving their thoughts on the Internet even before 2004 with the release of Facebook, Twitter in 2006 and Instagram in 2010. As years pass, our growth has been documented in the words we post, the photos we take, the interactions we've had and how our messages were received within the reactions of the time. With change running at a fast pace, we are left to reflect at how we once thought and how we can think for the better.

But some are forced to be defined by old words, rather than being given a chance to reflect at past actions and look forward to a better version of themselves.

THEN | James Gunn and *Guardians of the Galaxy*

When James Gunn was fired from the set of *Guardians of the Galaxy* after a series of old tweets resurfaced where the director joked about pedophilia and rape, his cast members had something else to say.

In an open letter, Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Bradley Cooper, Vin Diesel and others said they fully support Gunn.

"Each of us looks forward to working with our friend James again in the future," they wrote, adding that his firing came as a shock.

"James is likely not the last good person to be put on trial," the cast members wrote. "Given the growing political divide in this country, it's safe to say instances like this will

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continue, although we hope Americans from across the political spectrum can ease up on the character assassination and stop weaponizing mob mentality.”

It looks like the cast was right as several artists have been negatively impacted by social media by losing jobs and opportunities that could grow their career. Iggy Azalea backed out of a pride event when old tweets of hers were considered homophobic and now Kevin Hart is doing the same.

NOW | Kevin Hart and the Oscars

In 2010, on his stand-up special, the actor and comedian said, “One of my biggest fears is my son growing up and being gay. That’s a fear. Keep in mind, I’m not homophobic, I have nothing against gay people, be happy, do what you want to do, but me, being a heterosexual male, if I can prevent my son from being gay, I will.”

Hart addressed his homosexual jokes in 2015 to the Rolling Stone where he said, “It’s about my fear. I’m thinking about what I did as a dad, did I do something wrong, and if I did, what was it? Not that I’m not gonna love my son or think about him any differently.”

“I wouldn’t tell that joke today, because when I said it, the times weren’t as sensitive as they are now,” he continued.

Hart has not released comments on Twitter about homosexuality since 2011,



Negativity online influences the opportunities and careers of some celebrities. Graphic by Sam Nar

according to BuzzFeed’s Adam B. Vary.

But just like many other celebrities whose careers are on the rise, Hart’s old tweets became the topic of conversation again after he was announced to host the Oscars this year.

Two days after Hart expressed his excitement for the offer, he went on Instagram to respond to backlash from his old tweets.

“If you don’t believe people change, grow, evolve as they get older, then I don’t know what to tell you,” he said. “If you want to hold people in a position where they always have to justify or explain their past, do you. I’m the wrong guy, man.”

Moments after, Hart backed down from hosting the Oscars after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences told the comedian to apologize.

“I passed on the apology,” Hart says on a video posted to Instagram. “The reason why I passed is because I’ve addressed this several times. This is not the first time this has come up.”

“We feed Internet trolls and reward them. I’m not going to do it, man. I’m going to be me. I’m gonna stand my ground.”

Hours later, Hart released an apology.

“I do not want to be a distraction on a night that should be celebrated by so many amazing talented artists,” he says in a tweet.

“I sincerely apologize to the LGBTQ community for my insensitive words from my past.”

“I’m sorry that I hurt people ... I am evolving and want to continue to do so. My goal is to bring people together not tear us apart. Much love & appreciation to the Academy. I hope we can meet again,” he continued.

Who’s next?

Throughout the years, social media has done more than its primary goal to connect people around the world. It has been a catalyst for change. From the #MeToo movement to raising awareness of issues from different parts of the world, the online web has

come a long way.

But with every positive step it takes, a setback is waiting to appear.

Calling others out on past actions is not the same as using social media to foster hate and personify them as characters undeserving of their own achievements.

Unfortunately, it’s practically safe to say that our old, forgotten words can define who we are in this day and age, how we are perceived and even possibly, our opportunities in life.

Social media has found a way to keep its balance, as the online environment that fosters change becomes a locked cell, depriving others of growth.

Top 3 events to start off your year

Bummed about the holidays ending? Here are our top events in Calgary to look forward to

Rosemary De Souza

Features Editor

As the Christmas season has come and gone, the winter blues are starting to hit each and every one of us who are starting a new semester or going back to work. However, there are a few things we can look

forward to early on in the year that might just keep you smiling before the summer seasons arrive.

The Bash

This wedding expo is nothing less than ordinary.

To wedding lovers and soon-to-be-wed couples out there, this is an opportunity to have a look at the best wedding vendors living in the city. Photography agencies, clothing brands and some of Calgary’s well-

known culinary groups will be at the event held at The Hudson from Jan. 19 to 20.

Support Local 7-Course Dinner

Burwood Distillery will

be showcasing an Albertan culinary experience unlike any other. The seven-course meal will showcase the finest cuts of locally-sourced meats, accompanied with a creative blend of drinks.

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The event that takes place on Jan. 24 in the northeast area of the city runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Ski For Heart

This event is for all you outdoorsy folks out there who are ready to enjoy the snowy, winter season. Fundraise for the Heart & Stroke Foundation by being a part of their skiing event that runs from Friday, Jan. 25 to Saturday, Jan. 26. Guests will get to choose from a variety of winter sport options at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise hotel, along with parties and get-together activities planned by the organization. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are only a couple of the several activities available at the event.

For more information on location, dates, time and ticket rates, look for your event in the Avenue Calgary's list of upcoming events in the city.



From wedding events to local dinners, don't be sad about the holidays coming to an end as there are quite a few things to look forward to this month. Photo courtesy of Val Deep, Unsplash



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Normal People might be the best book of 2019

Sally Rooney is changing the coming of age novel scene with her second book

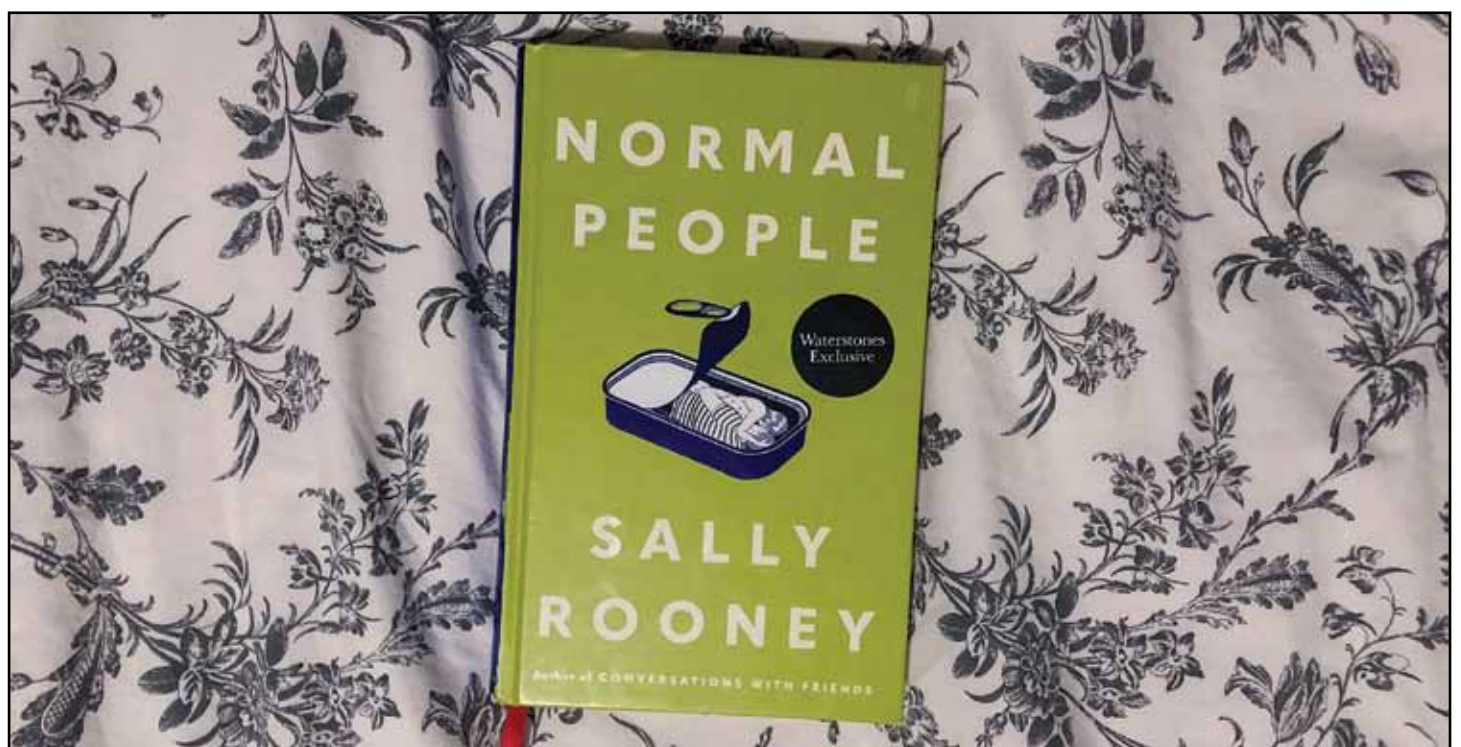
Karina Zapata

Arts Editor

Look out, Canada. *Normal People* by Sally Rooney is the new definition of a book that you can't put down. I had the pleasure of picking up this book when I was in the U.K. over Christmas and I nearly inhaled it. I mean, staying up until five in the morning, nearly sobbing into the beautiful hardcover spine. Now, it doesn't get released in North America until April, but let me get you excited for the wait.

When I finished reading *Normal People*, I couldn't stop thinking about it for days. *Normal People* is Irish author Sally Rooney's second book and is so compelling that it makes you wonder how she hasn't been writing for decades. It is a millennial book about two young adults, Marianne and Connell and how two people from completely different worlds grew together despite trying their hardest to be apart.

It started out when they were high school students and barely spoke. Marianne lives in a big, white house and Connell's mother cleans the house each week. Each chapter is a jump into the future, whether it be four months, two weeks or five minutes. It is a love story but it is as far from a romance as a book can be. The book ends



***Normal People* by Sally Rooney will be releasing in North America on April 16, 2019. Photo by Karina Zapata**

four years later, after a journey through high school, college and real life.

The entire drawn-out, plotless story, is so reminiscent of what real life relationships are, that it will make you gasp for breath. Thanks to Rooney, we are finally past the age of reading novels that are so disconnected from reality that you roll your eyes in the middle of a chapter. *Normal People* is an emotionally exhausting read in the best

possible way. Once you get past the beginning, you delve into Marianne and Connell's inner worlds — and let me tell you, it isn't always pretty. Despite seeming like a surface level novel, Rooney dives deep into the realities of being physically and emotionally abused. It is political in the most tangible form. She writes in the most tender of ways about the instinctive need to be hurt and hurt others and how that ties

into the desire to be loved.

"I don't know what's wrong with me, says Marianne. I don't know why I can't be like normal people."

Her voice sounds oddly cool and distant, like a recording of her voice played after she herself has gone away or departed for somewhere else.

In what way? he says.

I don't know why I can't make people love me."

Normal People is extremely

well-written, compelling, emotional and real with a rare but much deserved 4.2 out of 5 rating on Goodreads. Acclaimed the "literary phenomenon of the decade" by The Guardian, it's safe to say that you should be adding *Normal People* to your list of books to read in 2019.

Keep an eye out for the alleged BBC adaptation, directed by the director of *Room*, Lenny Abrahamson.

OUT'N ABOUT

A tender proposition to the din:

Until Jan. 27, the Esker Project Space is exhibiting a moment extracted from a cycle of water storage, distillation, distribution, consumption and transformation.

bug:

From Jan. 18 to Jan. 20, West Village Theatre will be holding a performance that follows an Indigenous family's struggle with addiction and intergenerational trauma.

Bow Valley Music Club: Alberta Night:

Bow Valley Music Club's annual fundraiser is back on Jan. 26. They're raising money for the Calgary Food Bank through performances.

We've Read this Book Club:

On Jan. 23, Wordfest will be hosting a night of literary discussion with a focus on Esi Edugyan's *Washington Black* at Memorial Park Library.

Race Issues: A comic about microaggressions

"Mixing art and race takes courage," says the artist behind the comic

Karina Zapata

Arts Editor

On Thursday, Jan. 3, The New Gallery held the launch of an exhibition titled, *Race Issues*. *Race Issues* is a comic series created by Eman Elkadri an Information Design student at Mount Royal University. The project was created with the Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation, in partnership with ActionDignity Youth PLACE Program.

Race Issues is a series of 40 comics that represent the microaggressions that many racialized youths in Canada often face. In the book, microaggressions is defined as, "the casual degradation of any marginalized group." On Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation's website, they state, "Essentially, a microaggression is any kind of behavior that emphasizes one's 'different-ness' — usually a reference to their race or ethnicity. It can be projected through ignorant questions, avoidance, or even a backhanded compliment."

"*Race Issues* is meant to be an educational opportunity for those who do not know what a microaggression is and just how deeply microaggressions affect visible minorities," says Elkadri.

According to the Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation, because microaggressions are harder to recognize than blatant racist remarks, they happen very often.

A few of these microaggressions include the classic, "Where are you really from?" and, "Wow, you're really well spoken for an immigrant." Each microaggression was taken from interviews of racialized youths in Canada.

Elkadri gained inspiration to create *Race Issues* from a

sociology class in which her professor made the class speak about racism. Elkadri says that many people left the class angry and uncomfortable — but she had a different experience. Instead, she became aware of how little people knew about racism and she wanted to continue the conversation.

"We can't pretend that racism is still not a thing. It still exists, microaggressions happen all the time and we need to hold people accountable," says Elkadri.

Because of this, *Race Issues* was the perfect opportunity to open the conversation about racism and microaggressions. She worked with the Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation, a not-for-profit run out of Calgary, that works to mitigate racism through education and promoting multiculturalism. The project took a year and a half to complete.

This isn't the first time that Calgary has experienced the mingle between art and race. The New Gallery, an artist-run centre in Chinatown, is known for supporting exhibitions that focus on race. It is a space for contemporary art, which brings forth the question: as we shift into a more contemporary artistic world, are artists given more space to create art about race?

Elkadri says that the beauty of art is that there are no restrictions, meaning artists are able to use their creativity to tackle social injustices — including race.

"If anything, I think the audiences are the ones that create restrictions for themselves by choosing to be close-minded to art



The *Race Issues* exhibition ran from Jan. 3 to Jan. 6 at the New Gallery, with 355 guests attending. Photo courtesy of Eman Elkadri

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Continued on Pg. 11

Continued from Pg. 10

that is supposed to speak something.”

One of the artists that Elkadri admires is Jean-Michel Basquiat because of his courage to include race in his art. Basquiat was a Haitian and Puerto Rican artist whose success took off in the 1980s, when the art world consisted almost only of white people. Through his art, he tackled his personal experiences with racism as an artist of colour and, through this, generated conversations surrounding racism and art — something Elkadri aspired to do.

Elkadri's hope to open the conversation about race and microaggressions flourished during the opening

exhibition of *Race Issues*. She welcomed attendees to write their own microaggressions on a poster, gaining many responses.

“You don't look Pakistani, you're pretty.”

“‘Slanty eyes’ is not an insult. I think ‘slanty eyes’ are beautiful on you!”

“I'm more black than you.”

“You're Lebanese? You don't act like it.”

The last microaggression is one that Elkadri has experienced frequently throughout her life. She says that when she was younger, she saw it as a compliment because it made her feel like a true Canadian.

“Looking back at this, it makes me sick to my stomach and sad that society has made people feel that I

must act and look a certain way in order to fit in,” says Elkadri.

Being open to conversation about racism and being “that friend” who constantly calls people out on their microaggressions and racist comments, is what allowed Elkadri to realize that being proudly Lebanese does not mean she is less Canadian.

Through her art, she wants to create these learning opportunities for others who are in the position she was once in.

Elkadri says she's looking forward to creating more art surrounding race in the near future, including more pieces on her personal experiences as a Lebanese-Canadian.



Eman Elkadri grew up wanting to be an artist and is now using her love for art to change the world. Photo courtesy of Eman Elkadri

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New year, new voices

*New Year's resolution:
Add diversity to the
bookshelf*

Karina Zapata

Arts Editor

After taking a quick look at my bookshelf, I noticed one thing: an overwhelming amount of the books that I own were written by white people. In one of many attempts to further support visible minority women, I made a quick New Year's resolution to read more books written by women of colour.

In hopes that you'll be willing to join me on this journey, I have compiled a short but sweet list of captivating books written by women of colour. Though many books written by people of colour are focused on race, these ones aren't; instead, the element of culture are part of the stories, just as they are part of every POC's narrative.

named Yuki Oyama finding her place after immigrating to New York with her parents. In an all-consuming struggle to belong — not feeling Japanese enough and not feeling American enough — she flings herself into a world of rebellion. When older, Yuki fights to succeed as an artist and, unsurprisingly, struggles and falters. She then abandons her two-year-old son, Jay.

This novel moves back and forth between Yuki's perspective as a young adult and Jay's now-adult perspective, in a search for his mother after the birth of his first child. *Harmless Like You* encapsulates the distinctive feeling that brokenness runs in your blood.

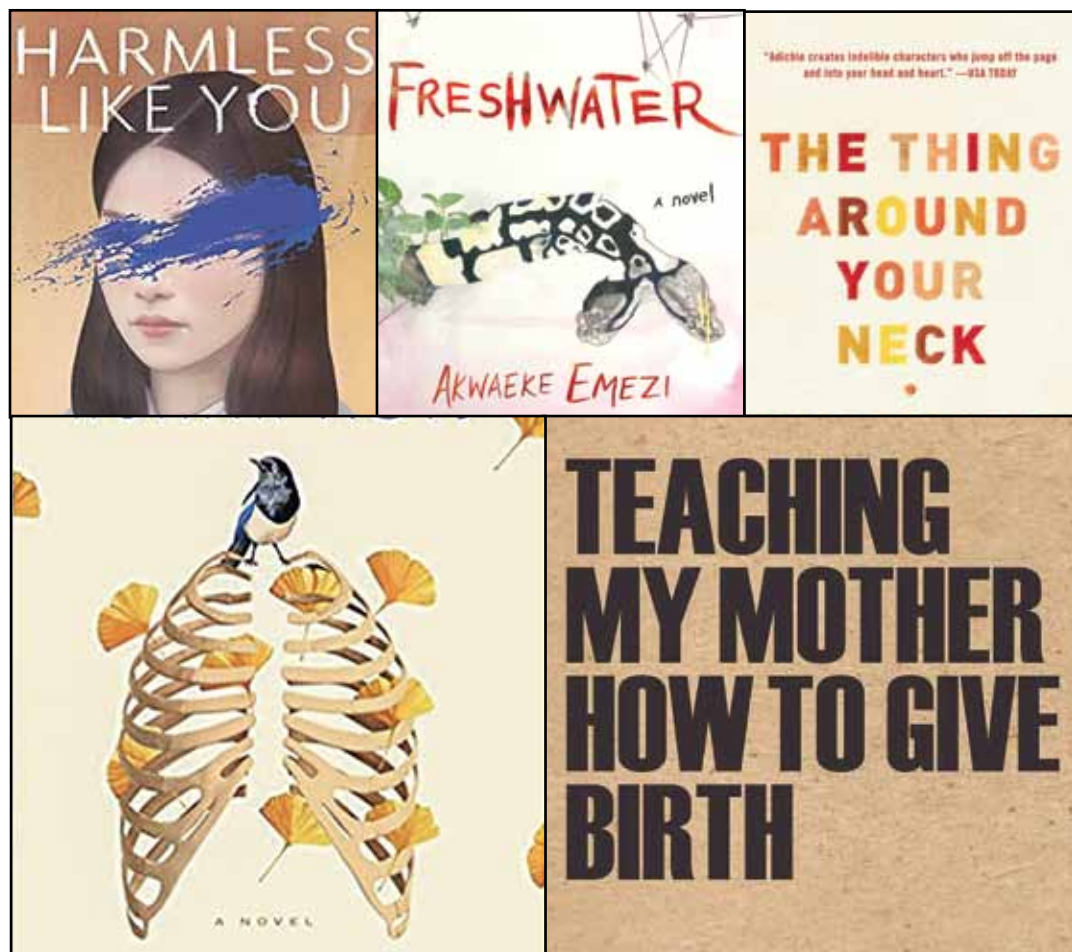
1. *Harmless Like You* by Rowan Hisayo Buchanan

Harmless Like You is a beautifully developed novel about a young Japanese girl

2. *Freshwater* by Akwaeke Emezi

Inspired by personal experiences with multiple personality disorder, Akwaeke

Continued on Pg. 12



The three books, written by women of colour, are on *The Reflector's* "Books to read" list. Photos courtesy of Grove Press, Vintage Canada, flipped eye publishing limited, portobello Books, and Sceptre

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Emezi brilliantly writes about a young Nigerian woman who lives with fractured selves. Ada experiences a traumatic assault which catapults her into a violent spiral, allowing her alternate selves to come forth with more power than ever before.

Freshwater is deep, complex, and written melodically — it reads like poetry in your mind. It will cause emotions to stir inside of you and, at times, leave you with an uncomfortable edge. Above all, *Freshwater* will help you understand the realities of fractured selves and how jarring it is to come back to self after experiencing trauma.

3. *The Thing Around Your Neck* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Most famous for *A Feminist Manifesto* — the book that somehow always finds its way onto the required textbooks in Gender Studies classes, Adichie outdoes herself with *The Thing Around Your Neck*. This book is a compilation of 12 short stories, most of which were previously published in literary magazines. The topics span from a story about

a mother's refusal to speak about her son's murder in order to seek asylum, to a story about a Nigerian girl who moves to America and is suffocated with loneliness.

Each short story is captivating, profound, poignant, and without fail, has you begging for more. Adichie addresses oppressive topics with such ease that you learn something new from each story.

4. *Teaching My Mother How to Give Birth* by Warsan Shire

Unlike the other books on this list, poetess Warsan Shire brings eloquence and pain to a new light with her compilation of poems in *Teaching My Mother How to Give Birth*. This book was published quite a while ago, in 2011, but remains one of the most touching poetry books on the shelves in Canada. Shire is bold in her words, touching on subjects like seeking asylum, war, love and virginity. Her words are empowering and strong despite the deep melancholy that lies beneath them.

Teaching My Mother How to Give Birth will cut deep, even

if you do not closely relate to the topics of her writing. And if you are already a regular poetry reader, the chances are that you have already stumbled upon pieces of her work and fallen in love with her words. *Teaching My Mother How to Give Birth* will envelop your being to another level.

5. *Human Acts* by Han Kang

Human Acts is a very, very heavy book. This novel takes place after a student uprising in South Korea, inspired by the real events of the Gwangju Uprising in 1980 when an estimated 606 people died. Han Kang focuses on the death of a young boy, Dong-ho, and the people in his life who were affected by his tragic death.

Human Acts is brutal and devastating. It does a terrific job of expressing the trauma of real-life terrors. If you're sensitive to violence and blood, this book may not be the one for you — the story itself begins with a mass of corpses of the young people who died in the uprising. Raw, terrifying and like a punch to the gut, *Human Acts* will give you a glimpse into how one event can change the lives of thousands of people.



Melding a mix of harmony driven compositions and shining solo moments, *You Tell Me's* self titled LP creates a beautiful and surreal album which goes beyond conventions of a pop-standard.

While feeling dependent and intertwined with one another on tracks such as "Get Out of the Room," singers Peter Brewis and Sarah Hayes find room to individually stretch out elsewhere. Whether it's Brewis's tying together of the dizzying instrumental on "Water Cooler" or Hayes's verses reminiscent to those of an upbeat show-tune on

opener "Enough to Notice" the duo strike with an equally enduring quality throughout. Beneath the vocals, swelling strings and complex layered compositions are masterfully tied together, adding further merit to the beyond-pop aesthetic of the LP.

By finding a pathway to go beyond the typical pop-standard, Hayes and Brewis act as a winning combination on *You Tell Me*, unafraid to push forward harmonically or individually into grand audioscapes and theatrical compositions throughout.

-Nathan Kunz



Ambient as a genre is one easy to listen to, but hard to criticize. What makes the pensive throes and undulating loops of non-vocalized sounds worthy of an hour (though usually more) of anyone's time?

Hammock, comprised of Nashville duo Marc Byrd and Andrew Thompson, seem to know.

Universalis, their latest after 2017's spectacularly underrated album *Mysterium*, features 11 poignant tracks of whirring guitar and an atmosphere that's overwhelming in the best possible way.

It goes against the work of more-acclaimed ambient

artists, keeping each track below roughly six minutes (save for the brimming "Thirst," which runs for six-and-a-half). Each offering is slick, digestible and (most importantly) distinguishable enough to not turn into some pseudo-pretentious slog.

All in all, *Universalis* is worth the listen for both fans and non-fans of the genre alike, and is a fitting counterpoint to the often-memed "lo-fi chill beats to study/relax to" supercuts that often plague streaming services.

-Alec Warkentin

Top 10 sports stories of the year

With the new year underway, we look back on an eventful 2018

Dan Khavkin

Sports Editor

This past year flew by pretty fast right? Here are *The Reflector's* top 10 sports stories that occurred during the 2018. They'll remind you of the top moments in sports that sent chills down your spine, goosebumps down your arms and of the time that, spoiler alert, Tiger Woods might have made you cry.

1. Humboldt bus crash

Canada as a country had tragedy strike the nation in April of 2018 when a bus full of 'Junior A' hockey players and staff collided with a semi-truck that resulted in the death of 16 people, not including the driver of the semi-truck.

The Humboldt Broncos of the SJHL, were traveling on the road from a playoff game where late at night, a semi did not come to a complete stop at an intersection. As a result, over a dozen bodies flew out of the charter bus, killing 16, injuring 13 and even paralyzing others.

This event hit home for many Canadians such as myself who had experienced the comradery built when traveling with your team on the road. It's hard to speak for everyone but it was during those road trips where memories and friendships are built that last a lifetime. When this tragic event hit, it tugged on the heart strings.

2. France wins World Cup

In the summer of 2018, the 21st edition of the FIFA World

Cup took place in Russia, marking the event's first time being hosted in Eastern Europe.

France reigned supreme, defeating tournament sweetheart Croatia 4-2, not losing a single game to claim their second ever World Cup since 1998 when they hosted the event on home soil.

This was the fourth consecutive time where a European country won the tournament in the 11th overall time being hosted in the European continent.

France proved to be dominant over the majority of the teams played, plowing through the tougher side of the playoff beating: Lionel Messi and Argentina, Luis Suarez and Uruguay, Thibaut Courtois and powerful Belgium, before being too much for the cinderella team, Croatia, to handle.

Host Russia exceeded its wildest of expectations by making it to the quarter-final after surviving a relatively weak group stage before stunning 2010 and world powerhouse, Spain, in penalty kicks before losing to eventual runner-up Croatia in the same fashion.

The events and politics heading into the World Cup almost spoiled the event. But, the most expensive World Cup in history turned out to be a huge success in the ratings and for overall entertainment value, with the expanded 32 team format and the introduction of the VAR, video



Tragedy struck home soil in April of 2018 when a bus full of Junior A hockey players and staff were involved in a collision with semi-trailer that led to the death of 16 people. Photo courtesy of CBC

assisted referee system.

3. Tiger's win

When Tiger Woods made the final putt on the 18th during the 2018 Tour Championship, viewers went back in time.

Woods, 43, came into the tournament ranked 20th in the world and had a streak of 1,876 days since his last pro win in 2013. It's hard to believe Tiger had a five-year drought without a major victory, but the former global superstar persevered and turned back the clock to pull off one of the most emotional comeback wins in all of sports last year.

After enduring mental health problems, fighting addiction, troubles with

the law and four back surgeries that questioned the physical state of the now 14-time champion, this was a monumental story in 2018 that brought golf fans to the brink of tears.

4. Ovi slaying the Knights

After another entertaining 2018 NHL regular season that featured: the NHL's newest expansion team Vegas, the Nashville Predators securing the President's trophy as the league's best team, both Montreal and Detroit missing out on the playoffs in the same season for the first time ever, along with Alexander Ovechkin and his Washington

Capitals clinching their first Stanley Cup in franchise history over the Vegas Golden Knights in June of 2018.

In the playoffs, however, is where everything was different.

Vegas, with the fan support of the entire hockey world, fought adversity through a national tragedy in early October, and made their way through the rugged and physical Western Conference en route to the Stanley Cup Finals. Sweeping L.A., then beating San Jose in five games, the Golden Knights eliminated Cup favourites Winnipeg before getting eliminated themselves by the

Continued on Pg. 15

#S

800, career games for Calgary Flames captain Mark Giordano who scored twice in a 7-1 win against Arizona

400, total goals for Lionel Messi who became the first player in LaLiga history to reach the mark

140, the most points scored by the Toronto Raptors in a single regular season game

15-0, a perfect end to the season for the Clemson Tigers

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Continued from Pg. 13

firepower of Washington.

Meanwhile Washington had its own road to glory.

Dropping the first two home games to Columbus to open their playoffs down 2-0, the Caps won four in a row to get into the second round. After three straight seasons running into arch rivals Pittsburgh Penguins, the Caps finally got past them and into uncharted territory before leapfrogging over favourites, Tampa Bay Lightning, before slowing down the fast-paced Knights who are the first inaugural team to make the finals since 1967.

Evgeny Kuznetsov lead the playoffs in point and scored the series clinching goal to get past Pittsburgh in overtime. But, it was captain Ovechkin who had the most goals, taking home the Conn Smythe MVP trophy.

No one will ever forget the sight of the silver fox finally getting his Stanley Cup ring, marking the second time a Russian has won in Washington.

5. Khabib versus Connor

After making millions of dollars getting beat up in the boxing ring by a washed up Floyd Mayweather Jr., Conor McGregor decided to follow the same game plan heading into his title fight with literal Russian animal, Khabib Nurmagomedov.

This fight was literally the Conor versus Floyd matchup, except everyone actually wanted to watch this.

McGregor followed the same tactics to the tee leading up to the fight — trash talking his way to fight night but took way more serious roasting measures.

The Irishman began to talk down to his opponent's family and religion, that play hand-in-hand to a Muslim follower such as Nurmagomedov, his country and more.

He also had actions that followed his words such as attacking Nurmagomedov's teammate's bus when McGregor chucked a two-wheeled dolly to the glass which promptly injured many people, drank alcohol and kept offering the religious Khabib to have a drink with him to an offensive extent.

All the trash talk was put to

bed by the Russian beast when he delivered on his promise of "smashing Conor" in the ring to the entire world's pleasure.

Every Conor fanboy was silenced by the defending champion Nurmagomedov when he made McGregor say "uncle" and forced him to tap out at 3:03 of round four.

Not only did the epic trash talk and build up to the fight live up, the events afterwards shocked the sports world when Khabib pointed at Conor's cornermen and jumped over the cage to give a piece of his mind to the trash-talking Irishman that stirred controversy for the next months that followed.

Both fighters had to be escorted out of the arena by police but Nurmagomedov was the ultimate winner, showing the world how to deal with bullies.

6. LeBron's second departure

LeBron James is considered to be the second best NBA player of all time and some (mainly millennials) even consider him to be above Michael Jordan for his feats, such as accomplishing the greatest achievement in NBA history when he brought back his Cleveland Cavaliers from a 3-1 deficit to defeat the greatest regular season team of all time in 2016 in the NBA Finals.

Losing to those same Warriors the next season in the final, the 2018 edition and third meeting was painful (thanks to J.R. Smith's game one blunder that forced an ugly side out of LeBron out), the Cavs and Warriors rematched for a third time and second with Kevin Durant involved, Cleveland got bounced by the Warriors.

James subsequently took his talents to the sunny beaches of Los Angeles for the next three seasons and suit up in the purple and gold like the many legends before him such as Wilt, Kareem, Magic Johnson, Shaq and Kobe.

James is in his 16th season and many predict a slowdown in production, but the 'king' is still wreaking havoc in the league, still being the best all-around player in the world.

7. Fole-idelphia era**dawns**

Just as this article is being published, we take the time to reflect and pay respects to the year-long phenomena that was the Nick Foles era in Philadelphia. In February 2018, the Philadelphia Eagles backhanded the NFL GOAT, Tom Brady and the mighty New England Patriots in stunning fashion.

Both teams finished the season at 13-3 but had different roads to the final. New England traveled a bumpy road through the AFC that tends to roll over at the sight of the future hall of famer and top candidate for the greatest of all time conversation.

The Patriots took care of business against underdog Tennessee Titans 35-14 before forcing a choke job out of Jacksonville who had a 10 point lead in the fourth quarter but couldn't shut down Brady and his genius, who held on to a 24-20 win.

New England extended their Super Bowl appearance record to 10 which was their third in four years heading into Super Bowl LI.

Philadelphia also had a bye heading into the playoff with their NFC best 13-3 record.

After barely squeaking by the Atlanta Falcons thanks to their great defence that held a final stand in their redzone, the Eagles flew over the Minnesota Vikings 35-7, led by Foles and an outstanding defensive effort which set the stage for Fole-delphia.

The Eagles served Brady and his Patriots with the 'Philly-special' with a 41-33 decision that saw the Super Bowl have its highest scoring game yet despite Brady reaching a Super Bowl record 505 passing yards.

8. Boston back on top

Boston defeated the L.A. Dodgers in five games to claim their first World Series in 15 years against the new 'New York Yankees' in the NL powerhouse.

L.A. finished the season with a 92-71 record.

For the second year in a row, the Dodgers broke their franchise record for most team home runs in a season. They entered the playoffs as a second seed and went on to beat the Atlanta Braves in four

games in the 2018 National League Division Series and the Milwaukee Brewers in seven games in the 2018 National League Championship Series.

Boston won the AL East for the third-straight year and won the most games in a season since 2001. The 2018 Red Sox were highlighted by All-Stars Mookie Betts, Craig Kimbrel, J. D. Martinez, and Chris Sale.

Betts led baseball in both batting average and slugging percentage, while Martinez led in runs batted in. Despite injury, Sale tossed 158 innings with a 2.11 earned run average to go along with 237 strikeouts.

The Red Sox also became the second team to win the World Series one century apart as they claimed the title in 1918.

This was Boston's ninth title in franchise history and the first with first-year manager and former Red Sox player Alex Cora, who also became the first Puerto Rican manager to win the World Series.

Cora becomes the fifth first-year coach to win a series in his inaugural season as bench boss.

9. 2018 Olympics

The 23rd Winter Olympiad was held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in the early months of 2018.

This was the first time that South Korea had hosted the Winter Olympics and the second Olympics held in the country overall, after the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul.

Norway led the way in gold medals and medals totaled with 14 gold and 39 medals in total. Host South Korea won five gold medals, finishing with a record high seven medals.

The Games featured 102 events over 15 disciplines in seven sports, with

new sports such as: "big air" snowboarding, mass start speed skating, mixed doubles curling and mixed team alpine skiing to the Winter Olympic program.

2,914 athletes from 92 countries competed including the debuts of Ecuador, Eritrea, Kosovo, Malaysia,

Nigeria and Singapore.

Notable scenes from the games included the surprising U.S.A. men's curling capturing gold, Scott and Tess' final skate together, the Americans beating Team Canada in women's hockey and the Olympic Athletes from Russia (OAR), participating with a batch of 'clean' athletes after over half the athletes federation was forced to trim athletes off the national teams amidst doping allegations. Russia won 17 medals and two golds, one of which was in men's hockey that did not have NHL players for the first time since 1998.

10. Ronaldo bids Madrid 'adios'

Los Blancos and one of the greatest soccer players of all-time in Cristiano Ronaldo bid his Real Madrid career farewell when he opted out of his contract in July 2018 and signed a new four-year 100-million Euro deal with Italian giants Juventus, marking him the most expensive transfer in Italy and the most expensive transfer over the age of 30.

Although not as dramatic as Lebron's exit to Miami, many speculated on his possible destinations, but the Portuguese superstar elected to sign with Juventus after a nine year career in the Spanish article.

Ronaldo enters Italy with five Ballon D'ors and 26 club titles including five UEFA Champions League titles. He has almost 700 career goals for club and country and so far, has 14 goals in 19 appearances for Juventus.



Crowchild Classic ticket proceeds going to university mental health

Nathan Woolridge

News Editor

Tickets are now on sale for one of the city's hottest annual sporting events and U SPORTS' biggest hockey event — the Crowchild Classic. But this year, the tickets are not free and will cost students five dollars that will go towards a mental health initiative.

The money, "will be split between each institution for investment into student wellness initiatives," according to the Cougar Athletics.

The seventh annual Classic will be held on Jan. 29, 2019 inside the Calgary Flames' home arena, the Scotiabank Saddledome.

This event is put on with the support of the Calgary Flames and the Flames Foundation — which allows the Cougars and Dinos the opportunity to play in an NHL facility and give the university athletes a professional experience.

Crowchild Classic, created in 2012, has not only become a

staple for university sports, but a famous and popular sporting event within the city of Calgary that consists of a doubleheader in women's and men's hockey between the Cougars and University of Calgary Dinos in Canada West regular season action.

This is one of the only sporting events that exists within the city in a soccer 'derby' and rivalry setting as both inner city schools battle it out for something more than just points in the league, but inner-city bragging rights.

In 2015, the U SPORTS hockey regular season attendance record of 8,882 was broken by the Crowchild Classic event. The game was the best-attended between U SPORTS teams.

In 2016, Dinos and Cougars supporters had a total of about 12,859 students, alumni, faculty and community members attend both men's

and women's games at the Saddledome.

The event has been free for all students leading up to this year, where tickets will cost five dollars to attend the popular U SPORTS event.

Students can find more information on mrucougars.com and buy the tickets through Ticketmaster. Each account can purchase up to eight tickets and MRU students are encouraged to sit

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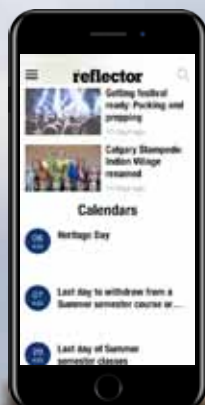
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