

# the reflector

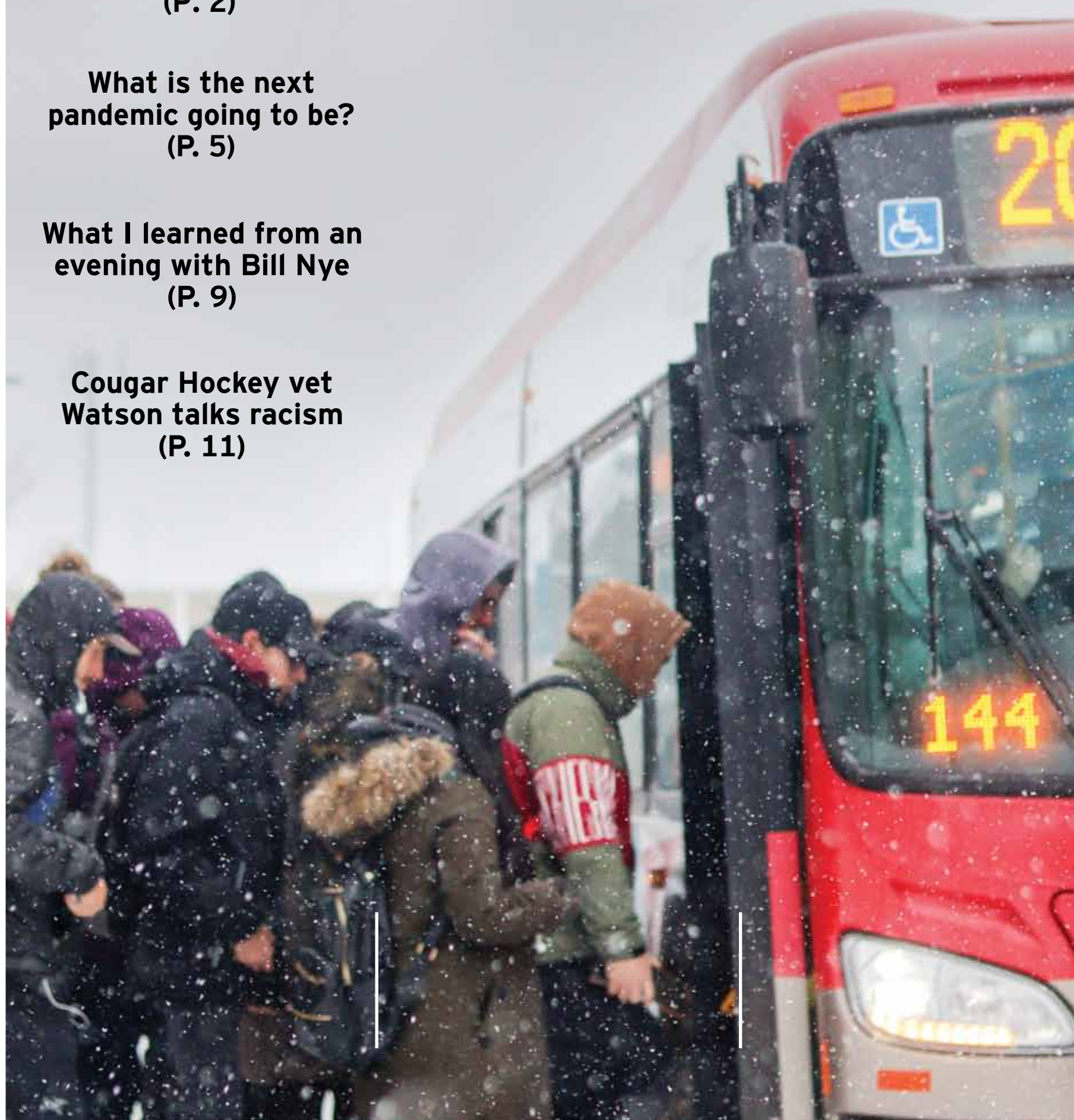
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# Changes to transit on campus sparks discussion

Riggs Zyrille Vergara, Nathan Woolridge

Photo Editor, News Editor



In November, Calgary Transit held consultations along MRU's mainstreet to get feedback on recently changed and updated transit routes.  
Photo by Riggs Zyrille Vergara

In November, Calgary Transit released its 2019 Transit Service Review, which proposed changes to routes inside MRU's campus, sparking some discussion surrounding the challenges new bus routes will create for students and individuals traveling to campus.

The stakeholder report explains what Calgary Transit did in November 2019 in regard to route changes and addressing concerns.

In the review, Calgary Transit mentions two concerns students had provided feedback on involving changes to the 18 and 20 routes:

*"A large number of comments were received regarding the proposed discontinuation of Route 18 and its potential impacts for students traveling to/from Mount Royal University. Some were concerned about how to make the trip to the campus (especially from downtown), while others noted the additional walking distance required from Richard Road SW over the current routing via Mount Royal Circle SW (East Gate)" (P. 50).*

*"Similar to comments received regarding Route 18, a notable theme was also concerned about the impacts of removing Route 20 from Mount Royal Circle and operate instead on Richard*

*Road SW, specifically with the impacts to walking distance to the campus buildings" (P. 51).*

Gabriela Aguilar, a broadcast media studies student says the changes to routes and having stops outside of campus will add extra time to her commute, which she says she didn't need.

"I have to take a bus, a train and then another bus — it's an hour and 35 minutes of commute," Aguilar says. "We already don't have a train station... we're already inconvenienced in every single way."

Ryan Power, an MRU student, created a petition called Keep Bus Service on Mount Royal Campus. Power says the changes affect so many students, faculty and community members who heavily rely on transit.

"I wanted to spread awareness about a change here at the school that seems that administration is not giving a lot of light to. I believe it's very important because MRU believes that the accessibility of students is one of their top priorities, but honestly it doesn't feel that way," Power says.

Transit estimates "walking distances will remain short (less than five minutes) to the

campus main building," in their report, adding the new routes helps the transit system overall.

"We've heard a lot of negative and a lot of positive [feedback]. It just depends... for a majority of people, these routes will make their commute better, quicker and more direct," says Amanda Bradley, a Transit Relations Specialist. "The MAX Yellow has a lot fewer stops. It's a lot more comfortable for people. So, we have had both positive and negative feedback."

But, the feedback from students has been overwhelmingly adverse, with concerns about added walking times and, in some cases, increases in commuting time to the university.

"Someone has said that they do have a mobility issue and it's in one of their legs and it affects their ability to walk. They rely on the bus system to get to and from school each and every day," Power says. "They're saying how it's going to have this huge impact on them both financially and on an academic level because no longer are they going to be worrying about their final exams... They're going to be worrying about how to get to school."

Anthropology student

Rowan Farrell shares Power's sentiment of hearing concerns for individuals with disabilities.

"This is actually gonna screw a lot of people over. Anyone with disabilities who comes to this school will now have to walk 100 extra metres — or not walk because they're disabled and can't walk. It's really screwing people. It's not there to help anyone," says Farrell.

In the report, Calgary Transit states, "Through conversations with Mount Royal University administration, it was indicated they had a desire to phase out bus service on Mount Royal Circle in their campus master plan."

"I really wished that Calgary Transit would actually listen to the people who take transit versus people that make the decisions," says Farrell about the decision to remove the buses within Mount Royal Circle.

In an email statement from the Vice-President of Finance and Administration, Annalise Van Ham, she acknowledges many "students, faculty, staff and community members count on Calgary Transit bus service to get to and from campus."

Van Ham says, the changes mean routes will stop at raised, heated platforms along Richard

Road.

"Mount Royal University supports these changes as they reduce growing congestion on Mount Royal Circle and help us evolve toward a more pedestrian-friendly campus as envisioned in the University's Campus Master Plan. The West Gate bus circle remains unchanged," she says.

Bradley says Calgary Transit will continue listening to people's concerns and feedback surrounding the changes.

"We know that route changes of this magnitude are very challenging for people... We're here to help you as much as we can and we will be tracking everything to make sure that the routes are doing what they're supposed to do ... We can make adjustments to the frequency and span throughout the year just to make sure that it's working the way it should," Bradley says.

Van Ham adds MRU will continue working with the "City of Calgary to maintain and enhance transit options."

Changes to bussing will come into effect on Dec. 23. Buses will still enter the bus loop located at West Gate, but will not be entering campus by East Gate. For more information visit [engage.calgary.ca/RouteReview](https://engage.calgary.ca/RouteReview)



# MRU cuts jobs in the midst of provincial budget

**Nathan Woolridge**

News Editor

On Monday, Nov. 5, MRU announced it was cutting five positions and not long after, announced the elimination of five more the next day.

The university also announced it will not be filling up to 15 currently vacant positions, in addition to the merging of the Department of Student Affairs and Campus Life with the Academic Affairs department.

President and Vice-Chancellor, Tim Rahilly sent out an email on Nov. 6 to address the cuts.

“Over the last two days, we said goodbye to a number of valued colleagues. Today, five filled positions were

eliminated at Mount Royal... For the individuals who held these roles, we thank them for sharing their talents with Mount Royal and wish them all the best in the future,” says Rahilly.

The jobs that were eliminated included Mount Royal Staff Association and management staff, three roles in Academic Affairs, one role in Finance and Administration and one position in University Advancement, Rahilly wrote.

Rahilly ensures “there will be no other layoffs planned in this calendar year, but unfortunately I must tell you we have more budget work to do, which will inevitably

result in the elimination of more positions in 2020.”

He says as much as 70 per cent of MRU’s operating costs come from salaries and benefits.

“We can’t reduce costs in other areas enough to close the 2019-20 budget gap. Beyond the 2019-20 fiscal year, we don’t yet have enough information from the government and so we are seeking clarification.”

Rahilly suggests there are other cuts the university can do, such as “reduce administrative costs and discretionary expenditures; make building repairs solely on an emergency basis; create

positions and fill vacancies only when absolutely necessary; and look for ways to increase revenue in other areas.”

“Your ideas on how to reduce costs and do the work differently are still needed and welcomed,” Rahilly says, adding questions can be directed to [budget@mtroyal.ca](mailto:budget@mtroyal.ca).

“I know you are feeling anxious and while I may not have any new information, I promise to share what I know, answer your questions as best I can ... and, even more importantly, listen,” Rahilly says.

## THE REFLECTOR

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**COVER: Photo by Riggs Zyrille Vergara**

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# 30 years since the antifeminist Montreal Massacre

*SAMRU honours the memory of the 14 women killed*

**Ryleigh Stangness**

Staff Writer

Dec. 6, 2019 marks three decades since a mass shooter terrorized École Polytechnique, an engineering school affiliated with the University of Montreal on the last day of the term. 27 individuals were shot; 13 were injured and 14 women were killed.

The Student Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU) is airing the names and faces of all the victims all around Wyckham House on television screens.

“SAMRU is also collaborating with Campus Equity and Meaningful Inclusion (CEMI) and posting Instagram stories the day of. These stories will be interactive and ask reflection-based questions

to get students involved and talking,” SAMRU said in an email.

“CEMI and SAMRU will be setting up a booth on Main Street on Dec. 6, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The table will be there to answer any questions students may have about the event, as well as display a small memorial with pictures,” according to SAMRU.

Many of the women murdered that Wednesday evening were set to graduate, many had jobs lined up, were married, had loving families and friends and big plans for the lives ahead of them.

Sonia Pelletier would have graduated the next day and was set to start her new job as a mechanical engineer the next week. Maud Haviernick,

a UQAM environmental design graduate and her classmate Michele Richard, were presenting a paper on metallurgical engineering when they were killed, according to CTV.

The 45-minute massacre is considered an antifeminist act of terror, the shooter spared the men and executed the women, yelling, “J’haïs les féministes [I hate feminists].”

Francine Pelletier, a feminist activist and columnist who was named on a hit list by the gunman, was quoted by the *Guardian*, “What we realized after the massacre was that there had been a quiet and growing resentment from many men towards feminists and for us, a huge price to pay for all that we had achieved.”

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# 20th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance

**Ryleigh Stangness**

Staff Writer

Wednesday, Nov. 20 marked the 20th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance in honour of 2,982 known transgender people who died as the result of transphobic violence worldwide from January 2008 to September 2018.

Elliott Kozuch, on the Human Rights Campaign website, wrote, “These victims are not numbers — they were people with hopes and plans, dreams for the future, loved ones and communities who will miss them every day.”

The Pride Centre, located in Wyckham House, hosted an event to honour the lives of transgender and two-spirit individuals who were lost this past year to transphobic violence.

Attendants participated in the opening ceremony and a smudge and prayer, then walked from the Campus Equity and Meaningful Inclusion room (C201) through campus to Wyckham House.

In honour of the individuals who were lost to transphobic violence this past year, their names were displayed on the second floor.

Nathan Lawley, Vice-President Academic participated in SAMRU’s Transgender Day of Remembrance walk and is in charge of compiling the list to be displayed, which includes “the person’s name, age, date of death, and location - omitting the causes of death so that people can attend the event without reading about the horrifying ways people kill others due to transgender discrimination.”

“Transgender Day of Remembrance brings attention to crimes that are committed daily against transgender people and the real-life cost of anti-transgender violence in the form of human lives,” explains Lawley. “Transgender Day of Remembrance allows us to enumerate the problem, acknowledging that the true number of human lives taken by anti-transgender violence

is not known due to a lack of reporting.

“[Transgender Day of Remembrance] offers a chance for people to remember and honour those who have been killed. It is essentially a funeral for folks who have been murdered throughout the year as a result of anti-transgender violence.”

**“This event and the Transgender Day of Remembrance brings visibility to violence affecting the transgender community.”**

*Nathan Lawley*

Notably, Lawley mentions, “the Transgender Day of Remembrance list traditionally does not include those who have died by suicide as a result of anti-transgender discrimination, and the numbers reported are not accurate; the number is likely much higher than what is commonly referred to.”

Lawley explains Transgender Day of Remembrance began at MRU as a student initiative in 2015.

“A group of students ... wanted to host a [Transgender Day of Remembrance] event for students on campus, asked SAMRU for assistance and the SAMRU Pride Centre has since been continuing to host the annual event.

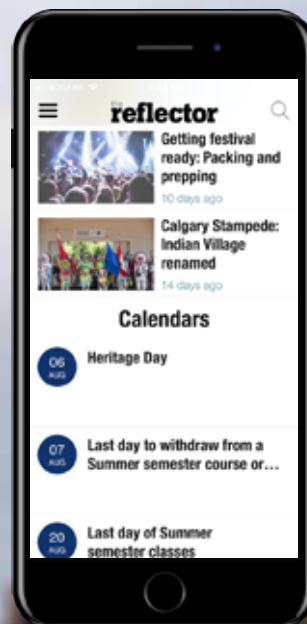
Lawley says nearly every transgender person experiences anti-trans discrimination and physical, verbal or emotional/psychological violence.

Lawley hopes this event will offer, “community and support to those transgender people still left standing and living and raise awareness of the crimes that are committed worldwide, by systems and individuals.”



Students at MRU have been honouring victims of transphobic violence worldwide since 2015. Photo courtesy of @SAMRUBuzz

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## Permafrost: The Pandora's Box of climate change

Riggs Zyrille Vergara

Photo Editor

It was February 2003 when Liu Janlun travelled from China to Hong Kong and checked into the Metropole Hotel. At the time, he didn't know that he had a disease that would be later known as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). While staying at the hotel, he would cough and cough, dispersing the virus all over the hallway and elevator. Through this singular incident, the other guests of his hotel picked up the illness and carried it around the world with them, making the disease become a pandemic.

"SARS went around the world in weeks. It's entirely possible that the next [pandemic] will go around the world in days," health journalist Maryn McKenna said in an episode of Vox's docuseries *Explained*. The SARS pandemic had killed 774 people worldwide — about 10 per cent of the infected 8,098. After three months of its first case in China, there were already 806 infected people and 34 deaths.

SARS is only one of the many pandemics that have killed hundreds of people throughout history. But SARS showed how rapidly a disease can spread through human intervention. The 2018 Shattuck Flu Map simulation from the Institute for Disease Modeling, showed that if something like the lethal 1918 influenza pandemic — often referred to as the Spanish flu — happened today, it would kill 33 million people worldwide in just six months. But with the looming effects of climate change, a simulation might not be needed anymore.

In a remote area of Siberia last 2016, a 12-year-old child died due to a disease outbreak. That said disease

also resulted to a total of 72 nomadic herders — including 41 children — to be hospitalized. According to a report from *Wired*, it was found out that the outbreak was due to a long-dormant disease that was last seen in that region in 1941: anthrax.

According to a study from the US National Library of Medicine, it was found that the release of the disease was due to abnormal average air temperatures — the hallmark effect of climate change — in the area that led to the degradation of permafrost. One of those defrosted permafrost areas contained a 75-year-old dead reindeer which had died from anthrax.

NASA defines permafrost as the part of the soil that has been frozen for at least two years. The upper part of it, called the active layer, usually thaws during the warm summer months and freezes again in the fall. In some colder regions, it might not even thaw at all. It contains organic matter such as dead plants and animals that cannot decompose due to the low temperature.

With the rapid thawing of the permafrost comes the release of methane and carbon which greatly contributes to the warming of the atmosphere. Not only that, the thawed carcasses also bring the possibility of the release of thousand-year-old viruses and bacteria that can cause disease outbreaks.

Boris Revich and Marina Podolnaya, researchers from the Russian Academy of Sciences, once concluded that "[as] a consequence of permafrost melting, the vectors of deadly infections of the 18th and 19th centuries may come back, especially near the cemeteries where the victims of these infections



**Global warming poses many risks to humans, animals, and the environment, including the risk of disease outbreaks that could come with the thawing of the permafrost. Graphic by Riggs Zyrille Vergara**

were buried." Those diseases and infections can include anything from smallpox to the bubonic plague.

Another proof pointing to this possibility is the recent discovery of a 30,000-year-old giant virus from thawed permafrost in Siberia called the Mollivirus sibericum that is still surprisingly infectious. Chantal Abergel and Jean-Michel Claverie, scientists from the National Center for Scientific Research at Aix-Marseille University in France said that the virus can only infect single-celled amoebas. Although that's the case, it opened the argument that viruses this old — including ones that can potentially

infect humans — can still be lurking frozen underneath.

According to *Canadian Geographic*, 22.8 per cent of the Northern Hemisphere is permafrost, which includes about 50 per cent of Canada's land mass. In 2014, a plant virus was found healthy and still intact from thawed out caribou dung in permafrost in the Northwest Territories. In fact, researchers were even able to put the virus back together and successfully infect a tobacco plant.

Currently, many studies are looking into the thawing of permafrost, especially in the Arctic, with the hopes of finding these microbes before any dire consequences

emerge from it. One can only hope that with this impending threat, more effort toward studies of prevention like vaccines will be made. But there is still a long way to go until we are assured that we are prepared for the danger of this unknown small, frozen world. As disease ecologist Peter Daszak from the research-based organization EcoHealth Alliance puts into perspective, "We estimate there are five new emerging diseases happening somewhere on the planet every year and that rate is accelerating. So, it is inevitable that they will become pandemics."

# Why you should love Harry Styles

Four reasons why I'm flying to Sweden to see Styles live

**Karina Zapata**

Layout Editor

Here's the deal: I just bought a VIP ticket to see Harry Styles in Sweden next year. Have I ever been to Sweden? Nope. Did I understand any Swedish on the website while I was buying my ticket? No. Do I have the money to go to Sweden? Absolutely not. But, I know I won't regret it.

With the imminent release of his second album, *Fine Line*, on Dec. 13, I am here to tell you exactly why I love Harry Styles — and, more importantly, why you should love him, too.

## 1. His music is actually good

The only people who fight me on this one are people who haven't actually listened to his music and are adamant on attaching Styles' solo music to One Direction's pop jams. In reality, his songs are known to

be very reminiscent of older classic/pop/soft-rock songs that your dad would probably love. Compared to David Bowie, he was even called the "saviour of rock" by *NPR*.

## 2. Everyone who meets him loves him

By this, I don't mean just his fans — I mean literally everyone. He's even friends with Stevie Nicks, who gave Styles and his mom a shoutout at one of Fleetwood Mac's shows saying: "I think you did a really good job raising Harry, Anne. Because he's really a gentleman, sweet and talented, and, boy, that appeals to me. So all of you, this is for you."

## 3. Inclusivity is one

## of his priorities

His shows (and entire being, let's be real) are intentional in creating space for people of all backgrounds. At one of his shows, he even helped one of his fans come out to her mother — with the support of an entire arena. For *Rolling Stone*, Styles said: "I'm aware that as a white male, I don't go through the same things as a lot of the people that come to the shows. I can't claim that I know what it's like, because I don't. So I'm not trying to say, 'I understand what it's like.' I'm just trying to make people feel included and seen."

## 4. Toxic masculinity? Not in his books

Styles constantly crosses the line between masculine and

feminine, unafraid of what people think about the statement pearl earrings he wore to the 2019 Met Gala or the high-heeled boots he wears on a constant basis. Now, I'm not all about praising celebrities for doing the bare minimum, but everything Styles does is intentional — knowing that his impressionable, young fanbase is taking in and processing his every action.

Even if you aren't into the four things listed above, listen to *Fine Line* when it's released and let me know what you think.

Photo courtesy of DIY Mag



@samrubuzz

samru.ca



To see full schedule visit [samru.ca/stressless](http://samru.ca/stressless)



Puppy Room



Massages



Crafts



Exam Cart



Nap Room



Colouring & Games



# 4 international holiday traditions you probably haven't heard of

**Cassie Weiss**

Contributor



Christmas receives a lot of hype this time of year, but in other religions, countries and cultures, many other traditions are loved and enjoyed. Graphic by Riggs Zyrille Vergara

My family were never big holiday people, so when I moved out on my own, I decided to make new traditions. Luckily, I wasn't the only one out there who enjoyed a good scary movie featuring holiday lights and boogiemen. *Better Watch Out*, *Silent Night*, or my all-time favourite, *Krampus*, all came from directors who wanted to spice things up during the holiday season. The latter stemmed from an old wives' tale from Austria — where the devilish Krampus would visit bad boys and girls and unleash punishment, bundling the overly naughty into his sack and taking them away for his own personal holiday dinner.

Now, not all countries have such terrifying holiday myths. Some have downright silly ones, like the male figurine called the caganer, popular

in Spain. This little guy has his pants down and stands in mid-squat. Translating his name to the defecator, Christmas markets across the country still sell vintage figurines — as well as new — of the caganer to anyone who wants to include him in their nativity scenes. Tradition boasted that farmers without one in their homes would be punished with poor crop harvests and bad fortune.

Not all people celebrate Christmas, and some countries don't put emphasis on this holiday season at all, but traditions persist around the world. Here are a few unique holiday traditions for you to consider introducing this year.

## KFC in Japan

I love greasy fried chicken and I really don't need an excuse to eat it, but sign

me up anyway. In Japan, where Christmas isn't really celebrated, residents place orders to their nearest KFC approximately two months in advance. This tradition has been a yearly occurrence for about 40 years.

## Ye Ol' Holiday Cemetery

In Finland, beginning around the early 1900s, it became a tradition to visit buried relatives at sunset on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve). Many of these cemeteries hold small services and moments of silence while family members light candles and move about with lanterns as they remember their lost ones. According to the City of Calgary's website, "The Queen's Park Cemetery has two trees on display where family and friends can place

a personal ornament or memento in memory of a loved one." The trees are on display starting Dec. 1 and ornaments can be placed Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

## Burning the Devil

A lot of holiday traditions around the world casually mention the devil. The country of Guatemala is the home to one of these — La Quema del Diablo. All residents, starting around the beginning of December, gather unwanted trash and join together in the streets to create a massive bonfire. The yearly ritual is said to release evil spirits and negative energy from the upcoming holiday season.

## Flowers of the Holy Night

Ever wonder where poinsettias come from? Mexican tradition states that one night two children left a bouquet of branches as a gift to their church. As the other children laughed at them, the branches began to form red star-shaped flowers. The plant was renamed after the USA's Mexican ambassador brought cuttings back to America.

Whether you are covering trees in spider webs — an ancient Ukraine tradition — or putting on the role of a mummer and visiting your neighbours in disguise like they do in Newfoundland, the holidays are a time of custom and ritual. December only comes around once a year and no matter what traditions you practice, or what new ones you start, may this holiday season be merry and bright.

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# What I learned during an evening with Bill Nye

Ayra Fouad  
Contributor



**We are the ones who began this climate crisis, and the power is in our hands to fix it. Graphics by Riggs Zyrille Vergara**

We all remember the good ol' days in middle school when our teacher would pull out the old box TV cart and pop in an old VHS tape — with our eyes glued to the screen, we watched as the static slowly faded into the all too familiar theme song, “Bill! Bill! Bill!”

For those of you who haven't watched the viral video of Bill Nye blowtorching a globe, I'll fill you in on a little secret — Bill

Nye is an active advocate for the environment, to say the least.

I recently had the privilege of attending an Evening with Bill Nye, held at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium in November and to say that sharing a room with the one and only science guy was thrilling, would be an understatement. In those magical few hours, this is what he taught me.

The most recent scientific

research shows the Earth is spiraling — climate change is taking a turn for the worse at an exponential rate. According to the WMO, within the past four years, “the global average temperature has increased by 1.1°C since the pre-industrial period, and by 0.2°C compared to 2011-2015.”

Bill Nye spoke about the time he visited New York City and watched the global population hit a whopping 3 billion on a large screen. This was only in 1960. Since then, the world's population size has more than doubled to an astounding 7.7 billion people, and is predicted to reach the next billion by 2023.

In his words, our issue lies within the fact that we have more people and less resources to sustain them. Fossil fuels take millions of years to regenerate which deems them non-renewable; eventually they will run out.

The average Canadian requires 7.7 global hectares (gha) to sustain their lifestyle, according to the Global Footprint Network. This number exponentially surpasses the Earth's biocapacity which lies at 1.6 gha per person. Simply put, if we continue to live this way, there will be a massive resource shortage within our lifetimes.

It's hard to picture the kind of damage we are doing and

realize that the responsibility lies with us to fix it. So often, we hear people complain about having such little impact on fixing anything; however, we are the ones who began this climate crisis, and the power is in our hands to fix it.

Nye mentioned the fact that 2016 was the warmest year recorded, but assured us we will quickly beat it.

Even though there is so much evidence proving the destructive nature of our lifestyles, there are many out there who deny the reality of climate change. Therefore, they do nothing to lessen their ecological footprints. My question to those who deny climate change is this: what if we saved the Earth anyway?

Surely there can be no harm in trying — in reducing the amount of smog in our skies and styrofoam in our seas, in making the planet just a bit greener and cleaner. Regardless of your stance on whether or not climate change may be an issue, taking actions towards a cleaner future is only ever going to be a step forward.

The demand for energy is constantly on the rise, growing alongside our ever-increasing population. A switch to green energy methods would provide a more sustainable lifestyle of everyone.

Often in Alberta, with an

economy so reliant on oil and gas, many see renewable energy as a threat to those working in the energy sector. But by shifting our focus and implementing green energy, there is no reason for jobs to be lost — in fact, it will create more jobs. According to the UCSUSA, “more jobs are created for each unit of electricity generated from renewable sources than from fossil fuels.”

These green energy systems will need people not only to implement them on a mass scale, replacing oil and gas plants, but will also require constant maintenance. In this way, jobs can be transferred from one source of energy extraction to another.

When something as significant as the health of our planet is spiralling downhill so rapidly, it can be daunting to think about where to start. However, it is important to realize that the little changes are what make the biggest impact.

The first factory to release the first puff of black smoke started a trend that continues to this day. In the same way, the first person to protest these emissions will one day lead to an environmental revolution that will save the world. All it takes is one goal and a passionate group of people.

## OUT'N ABOUT

### Come & See Santa's Reindeer

Have you ever wanted to meet the reindeer that travel the world to deliver presents on Christmas? Or maybe you're just an animal lover? Stop by the Calgary Farmer's Market from Dec. 5 to Dec. 8 to meet the fuzzy guys that make it all happen.

### Holiday Market Collective

If you're still looking for the perfect gift, don't worry, Market Collective will be hosting it's 11th annual holiday market at the BMO Centre on Dec. 6 to Dec. 8th, again on Dec. 13 to Dec. 15, and for those last minute shoppers, Dec. 20 to Dec. 22.

### The Nutcracker

A mainstay of the holidays, Alberta Ballet's annual production of *The Nutcracker* makes its return. With hundreds of glittering costumes and a live orchestra the production running from Dec. 13 to Dec. 24 is sure to make memories.

### The Festivus for All at Festival Hall!

Get ready to pull out your favourite ugly sweater and join the party in Inglewood on Dec. 13, as local bands put on a holiday concert that'll stand out from the rest.

# The powerful duo: Disney+ and nostalgia

*New streaming site transports millennials to their childhoods*

**Mackenzie Gellner**

Staff Writer



When it comes to those classic flashbacks on Disney+, cost is merely a number. Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Lizzie, Hannah, Raven, Zach and Cody: if those names bring back a flood of childhood memories, then Disney+ is for you. Nostalgia is a powerful tool, to which Disney+ utilizes to pull at the heartstrings of millennial viewers.

## Memories for millennials

Initially, some may assume Disney+ is primarily geared towards Generation Z, namely children and pre-teens. Even though the majority of this age group are current fans of Disney and Pixar, millennials are the ones itching to reminisce.

According to a Morning Consult poll, “42 per cent of millennials also thought they were paying too much for streaming services, even though most of them, 54 per cent, subscribed to only one or two streaming services.”

This was thought-provoking because millennials recently have been speaking out about their frustration with the numerous streaming sites offering different shows and films, however, millennials want them all in one.

Although this desire to pay for only one streaming network, millennials are

determined to open their wallets if it's for beloved Disney.

The same poll added that “36 per cent of the key 18- to 29-year-old demographic said they were likely to subscribe to the new Disney streaming service.”

## Care over cost

Although millennials are complaining about the high prices of streaming services, when it comes to those classic Disney flashbacks, cost is merely a number.

In addition to cost, there are various complaints about too many streaming sites being available with different, equally-desirable shows, creating the battle of which platform to invest your hard-earned money into.

When it comes to Disney+ though, not only does it provide millennials with their dose of nostalgia, it does it at a cheaper price. According to CNET, in the United States, the rate is \$7.00/month, which is half the price of HBO Now and the forthcoming HBO Max. Not to mention, it is cheaper than Netflix's cheapest tier of \$9.00/month.

Evidently, it is difficult to put a price on childhood memories.

## More than just millennials

Does Disney+ reach a larger audience than millennials? Absolutely.

The new site provides a space for Marvel, muppets and more. It acts as the home for the classic Disney princesses alongside the invaders of universe.

The streaming service offers everything from Disney channel television shows, to Pixar animations, to classic movies (according to millennials), such as *Halloweentown*, *High School Musical* and *Avatar*.

Not to mention, Disney+ also offers reboots of beloved shows and movies, including *Lizzie McGuire*, making the *High School Musical* films, which are being built on by a television series and the *Star Wars* series *Clone Wars* expanding.

Nostalgia is a strong draw with millennials looking to escape into the comfort of a simpler childhood, to which Disney+ can deliver in spades. Overall, it is difficult for anyone, not just millennials, to convince themselves that Disney+ isn't worth the extra drop in dollars.



**JESUS IS KING**

Kanye West  
Def Jam

**Score: B+**

I remembered what the day was like when *JESUS IS KING* dropped. It was a somewhat chilly morning. I just woke up and I was immediately notified of its release. I didn't even bother getting food to eat; *JESUS IS KING* was my breakfast that day. And did it fill me up? Well, to put it simply, it satisfied my hunger, but that's all it did.

I do find it enthralling to have an album based off of a religious theme. In essence, this album is Yeezy's form of worship. And with that, I have no problem with. But as

a listener, having to wait for almost a year in anticipation was arduous. This album still screams Kanye as a musician, but in my opinion, it isn't as paramount as his previous releases.

All in all, this album represents Kanye as a newfound Christian man. From *College Dropout*, to *Yeezus*, and *JESUS IS KING*, devout Kanye fans will find the growth of Yeezus as a second coming of his music as a whole.

- Mikaela Delos Santos

**Courage**  
Celine Dion  
Columbia  
Records  
**Score: A**



The queen has released a new album after three years.

To be honest, I had low expectations for this album. With the most powerful balladeers, I've observed a pattern where they try to adapt to modern music, which unfortunately for some, dissipates the strength in their songs. However, for this album, this isn't the case.

The songs have a contemporary feel, however, Dion kept the album true to

her artistry. It is a beautiful and well-balanced mix of modern and original. The album also stays true to its name. In each song, the strong emotion of courage is felt.

As a final point, *Courage* is the album you can sing your heart out to in the times when you need that feeling of empowerment and strength.

- Mikaela Delos Santos



# Cougar Hockey vet Watson talks racism and Bill Peters

**Dan Khavkin**  
Sports Editor



**Fourth-year Cougar Hockey veteran Jamal Watson called the Akim Aliu allegation "shocking" during the Bill Peters story. Photo courtesy of MRU Cougars**

Third-year Cougars hockey player Jamal Watson had little doubt about the kind of comment former Calgary Flames head coach Bill Peters said to Akim Aliu ten years ago in the Rockford IceHogs' locker room. A comment that prompted Peters to resign from the Flames, and has spurred players throughout the sport to come forward with their own stories of verbal, physical and emotional abuse.

"I knew exactly what he said, to a tee," he says.

"I put Bill Peters[and racist allegations] together and I guessed what he was going to say. When my friends showed me the first reports I told my friends: 'I promise you he came inside of the dressing room

and said something about the music.'"

Surely enough, on the next day, reports piled on to confirm what Watson had thought.

According to Aliu in an interview with TSN, Peters had told him, "Hey Akim, I'm sick of you playing that n----- shit. I'm sick of hearing this n-----s fucking other n-----s in the ass stuff."

"I said 'yup, that's the only thing a coach like that can get mad about,'" Watson recalls.

"Bill Peters crossed the line," Watson claims. "The coach-player setting is a professional relationship just like it is in the business world... respect works both ways but the respect was lost."

Watson is descended from a

mixed family. His mother being white and father being black.

"You learn about 'it' early," Watson explains, referring to the use of the n-word. "That's obviously a word that doesn't get used in any form of language. If you say it, it makes it ok for everyone else to say it. You don't want that idea to go around."

Watson says he only faced two counts of racism during his 20-year hockey career.

The first incident happened at 10-years-old in minor hockey when a player called Watson the n-word right to his face.

Watson remembers that it had no malice because like most kids, they understand that the word they use is hurtful but don't grasp the extent and meaning of the insult.

"When things like that happen it's 'I don't really understand what it means, I just know it's hurtful so I'll say it anyway? 'You can get upset about it but you just move on and don't get caught up in it,'" he says.

His second encounter was his worst, and still haunts him.

An opposing player hurled the derogatory slur during a major-midget AAA game against him at the age of 17.

"The worst part is that it was malicious. I'll never forget when it happened. Someone else took the blame for it because the refs thought it was

someone else but I knew that person so I went over and said 'No, no, that's a different guy.'"

The situation spiraled. A private-investigator got called to look into the situation.

As a result, the player at fault received a 10-12 game suspension Watson recalls.

He adds: "That kid doesn't play hockey anymore. He was 17-years-old, from out of town and ignorant."

"You get the apology in the mail but it don't matter. If you say that inside of a hockey game, I don't have time for that. There's no remorse in that, you're saying it to be hurtful and spiteful towards people."

Since then, Watson hasn't faced any issues in that regard.

He says the hardest part is when the guys who don't care about what they say and who they hurt, win.

"It was very upsetting because you know of the 99.9 per cent of people who have dignity, who are respectful but when one person goes out of line, it's shocking."

Watson believes that it was a matter of time before the shift in the 'closed-door' hockey culture was going to change for the better.

And it all started with one story getting leaked.

He adds: "It's good to see players be less fearful of their wild-wild-west coaches. The respect between players and

coaches is so important to preserve the integrity of the game and the person."

"Owners and coaches don't own the player anymore, the players do."

Aliu himself has compared his situation to the NFL's Colin Kaepernick who famously began the movement of kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality. Watson agrees, saying that Aliu has opened the door to other players sharing their experiences, but that doesn't lower the risk for players speaking out and being sent down into lower level leagues.

Watson adds: "Management can dust you aside because they would think you're too much trouble. For him it's a tough situation. You play all your life, you want to make the NHL, speaking out could take out the avenue of making the NHL. He weighed his options well at the time, it's not worth saying it at the time."

Watson believed Aliu did the right and that he would've done the same thing.

"He did do the right thing in my mind to say, 'Hey what happened?' even though it happened 10 years ago, that's not correct. You can't be politically-incorrect and be the leader of men or at the time kids and have that attitude. You don't want that to be associated with your work-place," he says.

# #S

**12-1**, the Toronto Raptors' record when Pascal Siakam scores at least 30 points.

**6**, Ballon d'Or Awards for Lionel Messi, breaking the tie with Cristiano Ronaldo. It's the 11th out of 12th time that either one of those two won the award.

**32.5**, (PP) and 87.1 (PK) percent, the Oilers are the only team in the NHL to be in the top-five in both categories.

**413**, career points for former Calgary Flame Matt Stajan who recorded 146 goals and 267 assists while in Calgary.

# MRU Cougars end of term report card

**Dan Khavkin**  
Sports Editor

## Men's Soccer: A+

This one's a no brainer for the boys in blue representing MRU.

Mount Royal men's soccer squad enjoyed the most legendary campaign in the history of Cougars Athletics.

The men earned a 9-4-1 record which amounted to the most wins in a season, most points in a season, an undefeated record at home at 6-0-1 that also included the school's first Prairie Division title, first playoff win in program history (at home), reaching the semi-finals for the first time, before striking Mount Royal's first ever Canada West medal when they won bronze during playoffs.

## Women's Soccer: D+

The women's soccer squad had a heavy fall from grace after seeing their most successful season in program history just one year ago.

MRU failed to pick up a win inside their opening nine matches, drawing twice while scoring a mere three goals in the process. They finished with a 2-10-2 record this season after coming off a 6-6-2 record while finishing fourth place in Canada West and reaching the quarter-finals last year.

Their first win of the season came on match day 10 against the Lethbridge Pronghorns who ended up claiming the final Canada West playoff spot. Lethbridge finished a 1-6-7 record. Their lone win that came against MRU the day following Mount Royal's first three points.

## Men's Hockey: A-

The Mount Royal men have had an 8/10 start. Pretty good, but not quite on an elite stage.

They boast a 10-4-2 record and currently sit in fourth-place in the conference. Their hot start allowed them to reach as high as sixth in the USPORTS national ranks during the semester.

The gap between fourth and fifth in Canada West is seven points while the distance from

fourth to first is six points so Cougars will need to run the table against the lower half of the standings while keeping up with the top teams.

## Women's Hockey: B

The Cougars currently holds fifth place with a 7-8-1-0.

It's a hard fight for the middle of the Pack. MRU is currently 10 points away from first place but only six away from second. MRU needs to pick up crucial three points against the lower half of the table while stealing some from the top.

## Men's Volleyball: C

One year ago, the Cougars were inside the national top-five with a 9-3 record. Today, the Cougars sit seventh with a 4-8 record heading into the new year.

What a difference one year can make. I guess that's what happens when the all-time Canada West leader in points in kills after senior Tyler Schmidt graduated last spring.

The Cougars end 2019 on a four-game losing skid. It won't get any easier when they open the year 2020 against the number one ranked program in the nation when they make a trip to Langley to face the 11-1 Trinity Western Spartans.

## Women's Volleyball: A

It's a bit early to add the plus but the Cougars volleyball squad has caught fire and have been on a road to dominance.

MRU sits pretty atop of Canada West with a 11-1 record while sitting inside the national top-five.

## Men's Basketball: C+

MRU is tied for ninth place with a 3-5 record so far this season.

The wins will have to come against the middle of the pack schools and avoiding losses against the lower half if MRU wants a chance to return to the Canada West playoffs.

Nate Petrone has been straight fire from beyond the arc as he leads Canada West with 58.8 shooting from the three-point line. Three Cougars own double-digit averages in points as Matthew Guinto's 16.6, Lincoln Anderson's 12 and Adam Pahl's 11.5 leads the way


for MRU.

## Women's Basketball: B

It may look like a "meh" start to the 2019-2020 season for women's basketball but they are already on course for a battle to

decide at least one of the final playoff spots up for grabs come February.

MRU sits at a 3-5 record and have already surpassed their win total from last year and are in a four-way tie for eighth place in Canada West.



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