

# the **reflector**

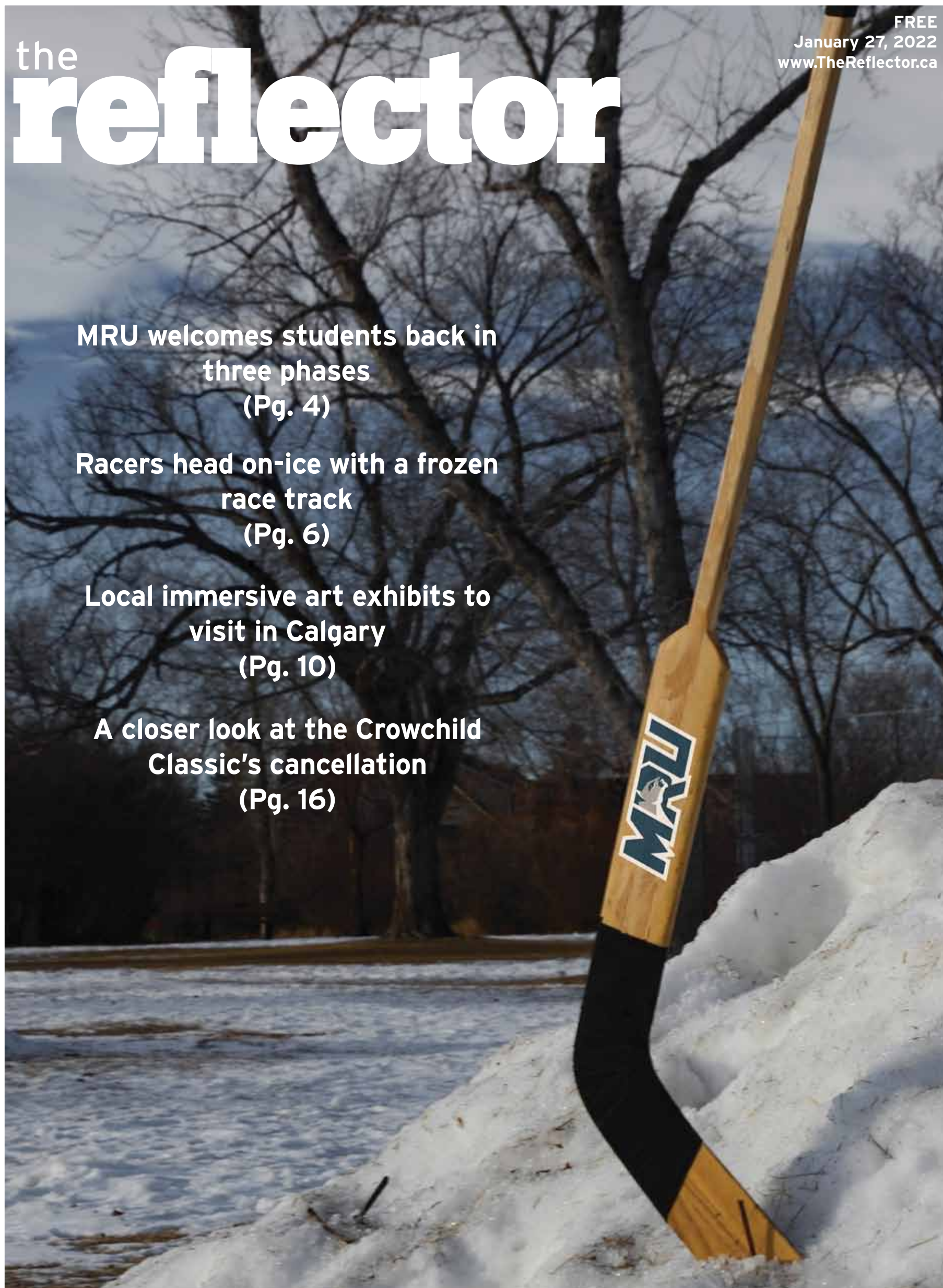
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# GoFundMe for anti-vaccine mandate raises over a million dollars

**Matthew Hillier**

Staff Writer

A GoFundMe page called the Freedom Convoy, made in response to vaccine mandates imposed on Canadian truckers, has started to gain attention with more than \$2.6 million raised at the time of writing.

Freedom Convoy, an organisation founded by Medicine Hat native Tamara Lich, aims to drive through Canada and protest in Ottawa to raise awareness for their opposition to the vaccine mandates put on cross-border truck drivers. The GoFundMe page, also set up by Lich, states that they will use the funds raised to reimburse truckers for fuel and lodgings on their trip.

Descriptions of the protest written by Lich call people to end these mandates for, "Future generations and to regain our lives back." This movement seems to mostly take issue with the mandate and not with the vaccine itself as it claims the decision to mandate vaccines is, "Destroying the foundation of our businesses, industries and livelihoods."

The organisation says little to nothing regarding the viability or legitimacy of vaccines and focuses on what it claims is "government overreach" in its GoFundMe page.

According to a now-deleted LinkedIn page set up by Lich, she is an active board member of the Maverick Party and previously a member of an Alberta group of Yellow Vest activists that aligned themselves with the policies of the french protest group with the same name.

However, she has

distanced herself after her local chapter made death threats against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The Maverick Party is a separatist movement that aims to have Alberta leave the ten provinces and three territories that make up Canada. The group was previously known as Wexit Canada.

The party is currently pushing for five legislative processes to be implemented that are in accordance with their nationalist policies. However, if they are not implemented they will push for Alberta's removal from the country. They are generally also in opposition to federal involvement in Albertan policy making.

The page originally had \$2 million as its goal but with the current support they're receiving, they're now shooting for \$3 million. However, time will tell if the money is ever transferred as GoFundMe has policies in place that prevent the site from hosting organisations or products that are against public health measures.

Last year, a fundraising page to gather funds for a lawsuit against public health mandates that raised \$180,000 dollars was shut down for violating GoFundMe's "vaccine misinformation" policies. Due to GoFundMe's structure, funds can be taken out at any time and be transferred from anything to a charity to a single person, even if that page is shut down by the website.

The sole person that would be able to withdraw this money to compensate the



Trucks just like this may be part of the convoy now driving towards Ottawa to challenge the federal vaccine mandate for truckers. Photo by Keoputhy Bunny

truckers participating in the protest is Lich herself.

This is certainly not the first and probably not the last anti-mandate protest as several GoFundMe pages have been opened on truckers' behalf for similar reasons. Lich has been silent on social media since the start of the campaign except for the Facebook page responsible for organising this event.

Her influence in the vaccine mandate debate hasn't been ignored, as multiple Twitter users have reportedly flagged Lich's page with reports and have attempted to get the attention of GoFundMe staff regarding policy violations.

But even if the page is shut down, Lich is well past her

\$2 million goal.

The convoy stopped in Calgary on the night of Jan. 23 and left for Regina the following day. The convoy will arrive at its intended destination on Jan. 29 according to one of their promotional materials.

Although the movement has picked up steam, the money raised for the protest hasn't had a public distribution yet. However, according to the group's Facebook page, tens of thousands of vehicles will be attending and since the average cost for a semi-truck's fuel from Vancouver to Ottawa is almost \$5,500, if even a quarter attending are semi-trucks, over \$13 million will be needed in fuel alone.

Lich's affiliation with the Maverick Party has brought into question her motives for funding this movement. The scale of the convoy and the GoFundMe will most likely be truly determined on their arrival in Ottawa on Jan. 29.

The Canadian Trucking Alliance has publicly disavowed the Freedom Convoy.

"The vast majority of the Canadian trucking industry is vaccinated with the overall industry vaccination rate among truck drivers closely mirroring that of the general public," the statement said. "The Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) does not support and strongly disapproves of any protests on public roadways, highways and bridges."

# Fashion world mourns late creative director of *Vogue*

**Keoputhy Bunny**

News Editor

André Leon Talley, former creative director of *Vogue*, has been announced dead at age 73 from a heart attack on Jan.18. He had an illustrious career, ranging from being the Paris bureau chief for *Women's Wear Daily* to *Vogue's* fashion news director and creative director, to stylist for former US President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama.

After an Instagram post from his representatives confirmed his passing, an outpouring of grief erupted from the fashion world.

"I am in shock. You championed me and you have been my friend since my beginning. Your passions were larger than life. I love you and I will miss you dear Andre," Marc Jacobs wrote on his Instagram account.

Supermodel Naomi Campbell also expressed her heartbreak at the passing of her late friend.

"Words cannot describe

what it feels like knowing you are no longer with us in the physical form, like everyone who loves you, my heart skipped a beat," she said.

Talley's impact on the fashion world was doubly impressive considering how white the fashion industry was at the time he was starting to gain popularity.

Nicole Phelps, director of Global Vogue Runway, wrote in a posthumous article about him on *Vogue*, "He was the first Black man to hold his position at *Vogue*, and oftentimes he was the only Black person in the front row at fashion shows."

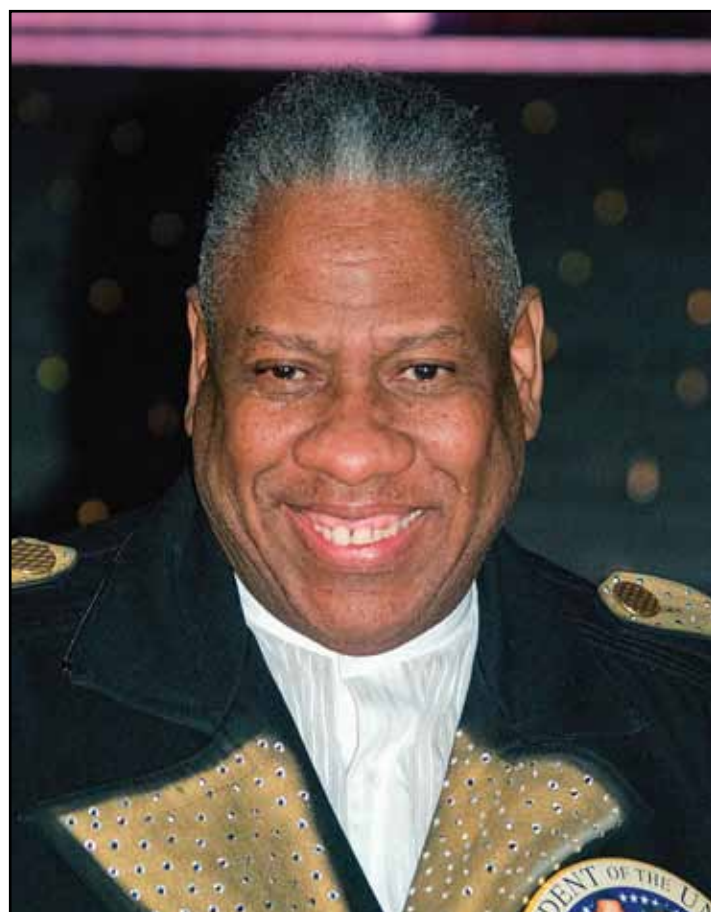
Talley recounted in his memoir, *The Chiffon Trenches*, about his journey from his grandma's home in Durham, North Carolina to front row seats at fashion shows in New York. His memoir also touched on the discrimination and racism he experienced throughout his life.

When asked in a phone interview with *Time* magazine about why it was important to show both sides of the industry, Talley said, "It's simply a part of the fabric of society in America. Racism is always there, boiling on the front burners."

He was often hailed as part of a pantheon of individuals who gave and opened space for Black individuals to join the fashion industry.

Talley was also very spiritual and often looked to God for answers. He told *W magazine*, "It's the whole institution of the church - the Black church - that is a very important aspect of my life, and able to sustain my life."

This spirituality was also followed by Talley's friend Kerry Washington. Her Instagram post said, "You will shine so brightly from the heavens that we will know what true stardom looks like. And we will gaze up at you always."



André Leon Talley at the 2009 Tribeca Film Festival. Photo courtesy of David Shankbone

# Calgary firefighters aim to raise more awareness about occupational cancer

**Keoputhy Bunny**

News Editor

As January comes to an end, the Calgary Firefighters Association (CFA) is trying to raise awareness for the occupational cancer that firefighters may develop in the line of duty. According to them, 75 per cent of their occupational deaths are from cancer.

January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month and social media accounts for various

firefighters' associations have banded together to share information and stories from their own communities to bring occupational cancer to the forefront of people's attention.

Alberta Fire Fighters Association President Matt Osborne says that cancer is an epidemic within the field.

"It's the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths among Alberta

firefighters, as it is across Canada," he said. "Firefighters are at an increased risk of cancer due to the toxic nature of our workplace, where burning plastics and other materials[...]create a toxic soup that exposes firefighters to millions of different, unknown and cancer-causing chemicals."

Essentially, even though firefighters have personal

protective equipment, toxins released from household items will stick to the firefighters' gear and their body. Contamination and cross-contamination from these toxins are the cause of cancer for firefighters.

In fact, in September of 2021, four more names were honored at the annual memorial service of Calgary firefighters: Harry Skakum, John Doherty, Roger

Thompson and Donald Taylor, all died from occupational cancer.

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) split the month into four weeks with four different themes. Week one was "scope," aiming to contextualize the severity of occupational cancer

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# MRU returns in-person through three phases; Kenney says peak has passed

**Alex Luong**  
Staff Writer

Mount Royal University (MRU) is taking a three-phased approach to returning to in-person learning starting on Jan. 24. The goal is to have all courses originally scheduled for in-person instruction to be back on campus Feb. 28, the week following reading break.

Starting the week of Monday, Jan. 24, MRU will begin its first phase. The criteria for which courses will return on campus is based on a number of factors, such as if it's required for graduation or accreditation, or classes with hands-on or experiential components. *The Reflector* has reached out to MRU to try to discuss the specifics of the factors but so far there hasn't been any new information that's not already been handed out to students. Students have been notified by their instructors if there were changes to their course delivery. If the first phase proceeds successfully, the second phase will start approximately two weeks later.

Students that have classes on campus in the upcoming weeks are reminded to wear a mask and are required to be fully vaccinated, to stay home if they are not feeling well and to get their booster shot as soon as possible.

"To progress through these phases and resume in-person instruction, we will assess the COVID-19 situation regularly, monitor risks and use data to inform our decision making," MRU Provost Elizabeth Evans said on their update to students and staff.

MRU, along with other postsecondary institutions in Alberta, has made these

decisions due to the rising Omicron variant cases which has led to more COVID-19 hospitalizations.

Some students, however, aren't happy with MRU's decision. An online petition has been launched to try to convince the administration to stay online. Many students have voted against the phased returns, stating that due to the class sizes and how the Omicron variant is more transmissible, students are more susceptible to contracting it. At the time of writing, there are 324 signatures on the petition. MRU has not released a statement regarding this petition yet.

However, Alberta Premier Jason Kenney said based on wastewater analysis, the province has surpassed the peak of the COVID-19 infection.

"Hospitalizations continue to rise, but we have the benefit of seeing how Omicron has played out in other jurisdictions. That is why we are taking decisive action now to help our healthcare system respond to the growing demand rising Omicron cases will bring. While some 45 per cent of non-ICU Omicron hospitalizations are incidental, the growing overall numbers will impact our hospitals, so these measures are a common-sense strategy to help our health-care system cope," Kenney said at a press release.

Kenney also states that beds in non-ICU and ICU settings will be allocated for COVID-19 care and additional beds will be opened to add capacity. Some beds in pandemic units will be opened at the Kaye



**Depending on which phase their class is assigned with, some students may have to wait until after reading break to return to campus. Photo by Alex Luong**

Edmonton Clinic in Edmonton and the South Health Campus in Calgary.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is currently working with Primary Care Networks (PCN) to provide community resources for those managing their illnesses at home. AHS and PCN plan to open virtual call-lines or COVID-19 clinics in select communities that can screen, assess and appropriately direct people with mild and severe COVID-19 symptoms.

Dr. Verna Yiu, president and CEO of AHS, stated at a press release on Jan. 20 that about five per cent of AHS staff, about 5,500 people, have been sick during the pandemic. She says this is having an impact on fully staffing units and wards, citing that 18 to 20 per cent of shifts are being missed on any given day.

Team-based care models will be implemented across the province. This means rather than having individual healthcare providers caring for a smaller number of patients, a team will collectively care for a larger group of patients. A total

of 610 nursing students will assist the AHS team through this wave and will receive educational credit. Yiu said their presence may allow for the more senior members of the care team to focus on other needs.

As of Jan. 22, Dr. Raj Sherman, an emergency room physician based in Edmonton, tweeted that with 1,200 COVID-19 hospital admissions, the time and quality standards of care are at risk due to shortage in staff. He encourages Albertans to do what they can to avoid the illness and to care for their vulnerable family members.

"Ask not what your province can do for you, rather what you can do for your province's health system," tweeted Dr. Shazma Mithani, an emergency department physician from Edmonton.

Albertans are encouraged to protect themselves and others from the virus by getting every vaccine dose they are eligible for. Appointments can be booked online with AHS or participating pharmacies or by calling 811.

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within the fire departments. Week two revolved around "research," bringing attention to scientific research linking the hazards of firefighting to the cancer rates. Week three centered around "prevention," highlighting best practices

around limiting exposure to harmful carcinogens. Week four concentrated on supporting firefighters who have been diagnosed with cancer as well as initiating a culture change so cancer prevention is more present.

These tools are more geared towards fire departments but

have a variety of stories and statistics for the public to educate themselves and others.

The Calgary Fire Department has received a \$10 million boost following the city council discussions for the municipal budget late last year. This will allow for 56 new firefighters and six new training officers.

According to Osborne, before this boost the city had cut \$35 million to the department within the last few years.

To date, 58 firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty in Calgary. The IAFF says 52 of those firefighters have died from occupational cancer within the last 10 years.

## THE REFLECTOR

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### EDITORIAL STAFF:

**Publishing Editor:** Riggs Zyrille Vergara

**Managing Editor:** Ivar Bergs

**News Editor:** Keoputhy Bunny

**Features Editor:** Emily Marsten

**Arts Editor:** Astrid Cunanan

**Sports Editor:** Gage Smith

**Photo Editor:** Spencer Yu

**Layout Editor:** Christian

Kindrachuk

**Web Editor:** Mikaela Delos Santos

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Zach Poole, Sydney Klassen-Roseworn

**STAFF WRITERS:** Josh Werle, Matthew Hillier, Alex Luong, Taylor Charlebois, Abbie Riglin, Emme Larkins, Danielle Steele

**Cover:** Photo by Spemcer Yu

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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



## Remembering Andrew Nguyen

*The life of a former SAMRU president and MRU graduate*

**Gage Smith**

Sports Editor



**Balancing being the president of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University along with taking classes for his Bachelor of Nursing, Andrew Nguyen was dedicated and hardworking in everything that he did. Photo courtesy of Lindsey Nguyen**



**Andrew Nguyen cared deeply about the people around him and was always willing to help out. Whether it was helping with disaster relief around the world or pursuing a career in healthcare, he believed that all people deserve compassion. Photo courtesy of Lindsey Nguyen**

Andrew Nguyen was a high achiever, student leader and a very loved person. He always went above and beyond to help out his communities, whether that was at Heritage Christian Academy (HCA) or here at Mount Royal University (MRU). He was in the middle of his Master's of Nursing program at the University of Toronto (U of T) and well on his way to a bright future when he suddenly passed away at 24-years-old.

He took on the challenge of the most demanding undergraduate degree MRU had to offer, the Bachelor of Nursing. He was the president

of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU). Only a very small percentage of people have the versatility or the ability to manage their time well enough to pull both of these things off.

So how would those closest to him describe him?

"Very annoying," said his sister, Lindsey Nguyen, with a laugh.

She made sure to mention that her brother was a neat freak who couldn't stand letting someone else touch his food.

Sibling teasing aside, the first words that came to mind

for Lindsey when she thought of her brother were "genuine and caring."

She said, "He didn't waste a breath doing nothing. Whatever he did, he did with compassion for others. He was very generous with his time. A friend told me that if he was busy for a 24-hour time period and the only time he had to meet up was at six in the morning, he would wake up for that meetup just to have that quality time with a person."

Even when he was being put in the spotlight for his own achievements, he didn't make it about himself. He won

MRU's Centennial Gold Medal in 2020 which is awarded to only four students with elite GPAs who also, "Demonstrate leadership through involvement in campus and community activities."

Here's what Nguyen had to say when being interviewed after winning the award and asked what he'll remember about his time at MRU:

"I will remember the people the most students (my peers), faculty, and staff. MRU has the kindest and most supportive faculty and staff who have cheered me on since first year which makes graduating without a convocation a bit

easier. Whether from my program, clubs, intramurals, mentorship, or SAMRU, these relationships will no doubt be lifelong."

Along with his friends, Nguyen went out of his way to help those in need. He went on a missions trip to Costa Rica with HCA and helped with disaster relief efforts in the Bahamas and in Haiti.

MRU's nursing program teaches its students to care about "the whole person" when dealing with patients.

"The proudest moments

**Continues on Pg. 6**



# Fast and Frozen-racing on Ghost Lake

**Zach Poole**

Contributor

Countless automotive enthusiasts have been flocking to the Ghost Lake reservoir, roughly 30 minutes west of Calgary, where local motorsports team, Faster Higher, has built a race track on the surface of the frozen lake. The track, which opened on Dec. 30, 2021, features various turns and straightaways for drivers to test their skills and their vehicles in a controlled environment that is not on a public roadway. Spare room on the ice surface and the lake's boat launch parking lot, located just off Highway 1A, allowing for spectators to socialize, view the track and for drivers to await their turn.

This is not the first time Ghost Lake has seen winter motorsports. The lake, which is home to TransAlta's "Ghost"

hydropower plant, has been used in previous years as a location for the Calgary Sports Car Club's (CSCC) "Ice Dice."

Ice Dice is a motorsport event where competitors race around an ice track one at a time against the clock. Last hosted at Ghost Lake in 2018, The CSCC has since moved their annual event to McGregor Lake and will be hosting it again this year.

The Faster Higher team primarily competes in drift and autocross events using highly modified road cars during the warmer months. They have amassed a considerable social media following with more than 2,700 Instagram followers on their team account since its creation in February of 2021.

The account primarily

consists of photos and videos of the team's cars, as well as recordings of them showcasing their skills and recently, updates regarding the Ghost Lake track.

As it is open to anyone, this new track provides a wide variety of benefits to professional racers and novice drivers alike. For experienced drivers, it is a safe and fun place to practice their skills in the off-season while all of the permanent racetracks in the province are closed for the winter. Additionally, it keeps any aggressive or potentially dangerous driving off of public roads, where street racing has been an increasingly discussed problem since the closure of Calgary's last race track, Race City, in 2011. As recently as December 2021, the City of



**Some of the Faster Higher team performing a triple tandem drift maneuver at Ghost Lake. Photo courtesy of Faster Higher**

Calgary has explored options to reduce the number of illegal races by shutting down certain roadways to allow for a legal alternative.

But the benefits of the ice track extend beyond racing as it also creates a controlled environment for less experienced drivers to get to know their vehicles better. In addition, they can practice what to do in the event that their vehicle begins to slip on frozen roadways.

In addition to cars and trucks, patrons of the track have also been seen operating snowmobiles, Side-by-Sides, ATVs and motorcycles.

Even though Faster Higher constructed the track, they have stressed it is a public space and that they are not operating it, nor are they responsible for anyone's

actions on the ice. In a recorded statement posted on the team's Instagram page, Benjamin Laflamme, founder of Faster Higher, says that they have observed dangerous behaviour by some of the track's users, as well as littering on the ice surface.

"We need to keep this space clean and safe for everyone," says Laflamme in the statement. He also states that his team is now co-operating with the Cochrane RCMP and that there will be a police presence at the lake to ensure safe behaviour by the track's users in the future. Additionally, Faster Higher has encouraged drivers to use the track at their own discretion as temperatures increase and ice conditions may begin to deteriorate.



**An aerial view of the Ghost Lake Race Track. Photo courtesy of Faster Higher**

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of my nursing career so far have not been resuscitating patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), but rather, when I get to stop and sit with patients and their families and listen to their stories. To learn from them in their weakest moments and to draw strength from that," Nguyen said in an interview with MRU.

That experience on the

ground and in the classroom shows his character while also putting him on the path to a career in the healthcare field. Lindsey said he had some pretty ambitious goals.

"[His plan was] world domination," she said. "That was always his joke answer. But really, his eventual plan was to become the head of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and also to become a doctor."

Considering his excellence

as a nursing student and his experience with the political side of things as SAMRU president, it's not hard to envision him not only assuming a leadership role within AHS but also excelling in it.

He was also a part of the administrative side at HCA, even while pursuing his Master's at U of T. Lindsey said he would take on a ton of tasks and responsibilities and never complain. He

would excel in the face of pressure, always surprising those around him with fresh ideas.

When the pandemic hit, the field of health care became a lot less attractive. The last two years have seen hospitals overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients, and unglamorous tasks like vaccinating the masses have only added to what was already one of the most stressful lines of work. Lindsey said the pandemic

didn't sway Andrew's career plans one bit. Maybe to him, the pandemic was just one more disaster to run towards while everyone else was running away.

"Love God, love people." Lindsey said that was his motto and the philosophy he lived by and that he thought that "we're all broken" and deserve compassion.

Nguyen said, "No matter where I am, I'll simply do my best to help others."

## Taylor Talk: How media impacts

# How our movie heroes inspire us

**Taylor Charlebois**

Staff Writer

Movies have changed the way we consume stories. Originally, stories were told via word of mouth, and then the printing press happened and we could produce books and other stories for people to read and experience.

But then came film — something that completely changed the landscape of storytelling. The combination of artistry, acting and music wrapped up in a perfect little bow has inspired generations of people to love, cry, struggle and to live. Movies inspire us in a way that can help shape us, define who we are, what our values are and what we believe in.

For me, there is no one definitive movie that I can point to that helped mold me into the person I am today. However, a few monumental films come to mind. When I

was a kid, I had my head in the clouds. I often imagined being a knight, slaying dragons and saving towns from invading monsters from far away lands. But everything changed when on one unassuming day, my parents rented a movie called *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. Little did they know that this film would send me on a path of nerdism that I can't thank them enough for.

*The Lord of the Rings* did not only truly introduce me to the ideas of high fantasy but it really cemented my understanding of right and wrong. The concepts of friendship, of helping your friends through thick and thin, and bravery were fastened to my psyche. "You have my sword," said Aragorn, "and you have my bow," said Legolas, "and my axe," said Gimli. For me, I choose to lend the

fellowship my pen.

Eventually, *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* would be released and then *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. I was eleven years old when the last movie in the trilogy was released. Sitting in a theatre, I watched my heroes go from a small, yet fractured company of friends with an ideal to save the world, to becoming kings and ridding the world of evil. Watching these movies absolutely changed me. It solidified my stance on sticking up for what's right, and if it wasn't for these movies, I'm not sure what kind of person I'd be right now.

The music also inspired me. Canadian composer Howard Shore did something incredible when he scored the three original soundtracks he produced for those films. Just under twenty years later, I still

throw down on "Concerning Hobbits" or "The Riders of Rohan." If I'm ever in need to put my head down and get something important done, *The Lord of the Rings* soundtrack is usually my go-to musical choice.

This feeling I had when I was a kid is even bigger now. With the colossal rise of the Marvel cinematic universe, kids across the world are watching stories about heroes overcoming evil. These stories are inspiring an entire generation, and generations to come of people who are growing up with the likes of Spider-Man, Shang-Chi and Kate Bishop.

Even before these heroes, we had Iron-Man, Captain America, the Hulk and the rest of the Avengers to entertain, dazzle and inspire us to be better. By watching these characters struggle and uphold

their values, we are in turn given an amazing gift. Growing up with heroes is an incredible thing and it's something that movies have blessed us with. Just as I grew up watching a little unassuming hobbit change the course of an entire Middle-earth, the up and coming generations are watching their own heroes save the day.

I think this is something that we all need, we need heroes.

We need to be inspired to be better, because at the end of the day, we are all we have. In the infamous words of Jor-El, Superman's birth father, "You will give the people an ideal to strive towards. They will race behind you, they will stumble, they will fall. But in time, they will join you in the sun." Movies give us an opportunity to be better and I think that's pretty awesome.

## Editor's Pic

**Spencer Yu**

Photo Editor

Your Instagram feed might be your go-to app nowadays where you share most of your wonderful photos but there is a certain kind of charm in seeing your photo as a tangible material like in a newspaper. So, take out your old trusty camera or your newly purchased iPhone and snap your best photo yet, and let your expertise in photography be exposed to the student body. Submit your best photo to *The Reflector* for a chance at publication!

Each issue we will choose the best photo submission and publish it right here in *The Reflector*! These photos will be examined through a number of criteria such as lighting, composition, colour and more. So, make sure you get those editing skills down! You can submit your photos to [featureseditor@thereflector.ca](mailto:featureseditor@thereflector.ca)



**With the polar vortex in the rear view, Calgarians can once again get out and enjoy the outdoors in a more comfortable climate. With the temperatures in the positives for much of the following weeks, be sure to get out before temperatures drop again! Photo by Spencer Yu**



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# Pete Davidson: Please marry me

*Alpha males and gym bros, take notes*

**Emme Larkins**

Staff Writer

Kim Kardashian, Kaia Gerber, Kate Beckinsale, Ariana Grande and Phoebe Dynevor. What do these stunning women all have in common? Ahem – it's not a what, but a who.

A 6'3 ft, tattooed, funny man has captured the hearts (and loins) of women both famous and not. Pete Davidson's magnetism leaves many straight, cis-gendered men confused. Guys are asking themselves, why are these women obsessed with "butthole eyes" instead of their hard-body gym physiques?

They'll wonder if it's the tattoos, the IDGAF clothes, the money or the lanky physique. But we know they're wrong. While giving us some bad boy energy, Davidson also embodies the perfect recipe of emotional intelligence, a splash of humour, a pinch of therapy and the awesome combination of self-awareness and self-deprecation.

In a Reddit forum about Pete Davison, user BrittLee8 commented, "He seems very genuine and he's confident in his vulnerability. I get the feeling he is very focused and attentive with his

partners."

Davidson confirmed this with *Paper Magazine*.

"My love language, when I'm in a relationship, is I treat the person I'm with like a princess. I try [to] go as above and beyond as possible...you're just supposed to make that person feel as special as possible," Davidson said.

Another Reddit user icphx95 adds, "He's like your weed dealer whom you feel safe around for some reason and when he starts cracking jokes, you realize you'd hook up with him."

When you take a real look it's clear to see that it's not the physical similarities to a wet cigarette that attract the girls – it's his vibe, his energy. But TikTok commenters, Tweeters and Reddit users who fantasize about the comedian have some pretty hefty competition.

Davidson's swagger is primarily called into question when he bags women among the likes of Kim Kardashian and Ariana Grande. Yet, your everyday "gym bros" and "alpha males" – as they title themselves – are quick to criticize when this

new breed of dishevelled womanizers like Davidson, Machine Gun Kelly, or my personal favourite, Post Malone, paint their fingernails, dye their hair and sport tired-looking chic. But, it gets harder and harder to make fun when they're hooking up with Hollywood's hottest.

The Saturday Night Live (SNL) star soared to new heights of fame over the past year. Shockingly, Davidson's become the leading man of pop culture. He might not fit the mold of being conventionally attractive, but he has obvious reasons for being such a catch. In the eyes of many, he is a stellar comedian, evidenced by him being the youngest cast member in SNL history. This title was previously held by comedy legend, Eddie Murphy.

He has also proved himself as an actor, producer and writer. Judd Apatow, esteemed director, shared with RogerEbert.com that he himself was a fan of Davidson from the time they met on the set of *Trainwreck*.

"Pete is a big-hearted person, he's ridiculously funny, and there's something fascinating about him..."



Drawing inspired by Pete Davidson's Jimmy Fallon appearance. Illustration by Astrid Cunanan

you root for him, there's something about him that's very vulnerable. But quietly, he's a real artist who is not afraid to go to difficult places. He did something on [his] first movie that some people don't even try to until their 12th movie. And it is a remarkable achievement... as an audience member you know it's real," Apatow said.

Many often also note that among the often-stoned star's accomplishments, he is extremely close with his widowed mother. Davidson was a 21-year-old SNL star living in his mom's Staten

Island basement. Mama mia! There's that personality coming through again – authenticity and relatability equals sexy as hell.

Also, y'all, he's just nice. And today, that's rare.

So instead of dissing the well-deserved pop culture buzz, cis boys would be well-served to learn from Davidson's most excellent example. He manages to give us all the bad boy energy we crave while actually being one of the good ones.

Pete gets a 10 out of 10 in my book!

## OUT'N ABOUT

### Hygge Hut

Experience this cozy Scandinavian-style gathering space with live music, food trucks and ice sculptures every weekend until March at the C-Square in East Village.

### Lake Louise Ice Magic Festival

Bundle up and prepare yourself to be faced with gigantic ice sculptures from world-class master craftsmen! Hurry, the Ice Magic Festival only runs until Jan. 30!

### Northern Reflections: Inglewood

Visit Calgary's oldest neighbourhood for augmented reality art. Use your smartphone to witness the mural on the community's windows come to life.

### YYC Hot Chocolate Fest

Keep warm by supporting nonprofit organization Meals on Wheels' month-long hot chocolate festival! A list of participating restaurants can be found on their website.

# Exploring Wonderspaces: A collection of immersive art installations in Scottsdale, Arizona

*Plus, where to find immersive art in Calgary*

**Danielle Steele**

Staff Writer

Over the holidays, I flew to Arizona for some quality time with my older sister. She and her husband recently moved to the Phoenix metropolitan area. If you didn't know, Phoenix is a hub for the creative arts. Naturally, the three of us headed out to a temporary exhibit in Scottsdale, Arizona called Wonderspaces. Inside the attraction were art installations that made me question my own sanity. I'd like to share a few highlights from the exhibit and explore similar experiences one might find at home in Calgary.

During our visit to Wonderspaces, we noticed a common theme looming in each piece: the impending destruction of humankind. Quick to grab our attention were three small robots, each with a ballpoint pen in "hand." The robots were sketching portraits of another gallery attendant sitting across from them. Once finished, the drawings would be added to a collection of over 36,000 portraits drawn by the robots. Patrick Tresset

from Brussels, Belgium created the piece titled, *Human Study #1, 3 RNP*. A small collection of portraits was on display and I was immediately reminded that being human is not only an individual experience but a collective one.

Subsequently, Reed van Brunschot's installment intensifies one detrimental event that affects us all. The piece is titled *Thank You Bags*. Brunschot uses fans to inflate two larger-than-life shopping bags, making an Instagram-worthy scene. According to the Wonderspaces website, the piece is meant to, "Warrant introspection to... the excess of capitalism and its residual environmental waste by being caught in its beauty."

Each installment left its mark on me but the most impactful was a digital art piece titled, *Micromonumental Mapping, The Essence of Creation*. The piece consists of miniature ancient Greek architecture and intricate light projections. A simple trap beat plays as



**Enormous *Thank You Bags* encapsulating the "excess of capitalism and its residual environmental waste" art by Reed van Brunschot. Photo by Danielle Steele**

shape, movement and colour overcome the miniature building. The projections display beautiful geometric patterns that quickly dissipate into a fiery storm. The structure is symbolically destroyed, then repaired, but an unsettling element still settles in the new model. This piece was created by Limelight, a collective of artists specializing in light and digital art. In their own words, Limelight hopes to raise awareness through their art pieces. Limelight's installment had a message that was loud and clear: simply rebuilding what's been destroyed doesn't fix the problem.

After the exhibit, I couldn't comprehend how these artists had affirmed our own extinction, especially with such confidence. I was afraid at first, but oddly comforted knowing others sensed such

doom. This emotion and appreciation are why I will always seek out poignant art. At Wonderspaces, every installation had a unique impact.

## Immersive Art in Calgary

Luckily, we don't have to go far to find impactful art in Calgary. Until Feb. 6, Vivek Shraya's *Legends of the Trans* will be on display at Esker Foundation. The exhibit is a collection of 22 photographs depicting the artist herself, celebrating her queerness and non-conforming gender. The work features music and text on screen inspired by the film *Legends of the Fall*. The art piece is a street-facing projection that can be found on Ninth Avenue outside of Esker. The projection is best viewed after sunset, until 11 p.m.

Another local Calgary artist to keep an eye on is Big Art. The collective designs and builds large scale, immersive art installations. In December, they introduced Calgary to *The Tunnel* in Victoria Park. This installation immersed its visitors in a beautiful tunnel of light and colour. Big Art hasn't announced their next project yet, but I recommend following their social media, @bigartworks, to stay in the loop.

If you want to support a local artist but don't know how, interacting with their social media is a great way to do so. This is as easy as a like, follow or comment.

Evidently, art is vital to our communities. It brings people together, raises awareness and challenges society at times. One must do what they can to preserve Calgary's flourishing art sector.



**A light installation that invites gallery guests to become a part of the art display titled *Shadowplay* by John Edmark. Photo by Danielle Steele**



# Old is new with The Weeknd's *Dawn FM*

Following 2020's critically acclaimed *After Hours* is *Dawn FM*

**Spencer Yu**

Photo Editor



The Weeknd looking stunning at the 2021 Billboard Awards Photo Courtesy of hourly weeknd

*Dawn FM* serves as a follow-up to The Weeknd's (Abel Makkonen Tesfaye) critically acclaimed 2020 release, *After Hours*. With many of the themes carried over from his previous album, *Dawn FM* serves as a more focused and refined listening experience that expertly continues the stories introduced in *After Hours* while remaining more faithful to his retro sound.

To fully understand *Dawn FM* we first need to look at *After Hours*. It marked the Weeknd's introduction to the retro style of music. It was incredibly well received and spawned many big hits like "Blinding Lights" and "Save Your Tears." In my opinion, while that was a good album I felt that the tone was not entirely consistent. The flips back and forth between the retro and contemporary styles were a little jarring. However, it proved to listeners that The Weeknd was more than capable

of executing a retro sound in an awe-inspiring manner and left me wanting an entire album in which he fully committed to that style. *Dawn FM* delivered that to me and then some.

Right from the introduction, The Weeknd makes it abundantly clear that he doesn't just want to make some retro-inspired music; he wants to build a world surrounding the music. From a listener's perspective, it's a fictional radio station called Dawn FM hosted by Jim Carrey playing tunes by The Weeknd. These elements create a sense of immersion that we haven't seen from The Weeknd before. Combined with the seamless transitions between tracks, this feels like a real radio station plucked straight out of the 80's. Other elements throughout the album further add to the retro feel such as the use of the synthesizer and the sound of the drums. On the

track "Gasoline" we also hear The Weeknd sing in an entirely new lower octave that we have not heard from him before. Though it only happens on that one track I feel that it's new elements like this that show The Weeknd is truly committed to a nostalgic sound and not just using it as a gimmick.

The story is worth noting as well. In *After Hours*, we got a glimpse of The Weeknd's mind as he was experiencing the aftermath of a failed relationship and the path to self-destruction he went on as a result. In *Dawn FM*, we see that he's still dealing with that heartbreak but has matured a little bit and is beginning to move past it.

Romantic cynicism is nothing new to The Weeknd as it has become a regular topic in his songs, but it's refreshing to hear

**Continues on Pg. 12**



**Brightside**

The Lumineers  
Dualtone; Decca  
**Score: A**

After three years of silence, The Lumineers are back with a new album titled *Brightside*. With lighthearted lyrics and instrumental-heavy tracks, The Lumineers have only continued to build on their mastered sound on previous albums such as *Cleopatra* and *III*.

*Brightside* is filled with upbeat poetic tracks with underlying melancholic messages. This starts early in the album with the whimsical sounding titular track "Brightside," a powerful instrumentally-heavy recording unfolding the story of two people coming together. "A.M. Radio" then brings a completely

different message, only using an acoustic guitar, piano and lead singer Wesley Schultz's vocals to explore the idea of self-discovery.

Cohesively, the album is beautifully captivating, with strong moving lyrics and catchy instrumentals to match. It's no wonder why The Lumineers can continuously create hits and leave fans impatiently waiting for new music and hoping for longer albums.

- Abbie Riglin



**SICK!**

Earl Sweatshirt  
Tan Cressida,  
Warner Records  
**Score: A**

Thebe Kgositsile, better known as Earl Sweatshirt, channelled all of his personal and collective adversities into 10 short but mighty songs in his new album *Sick!*, which was ultimately made for the refined rap connoisseur.

What stands out is the resilience he has earned through the pandemic. For Kgositsile, this strength stems from his newfound fatherhood.

Out of his artistic independence, he serves the type of hip-hop grit we all need a taste of these days. Fully rooted in the reality of our time, his rhymes feel unconcerned yet insightful.

In "Vision" he lays out his private struggles and calls attention to homelessness in Los Angeles. "I'm just evading the pit/ ain't no parade in the tent" references the tent camps in L.A. but unlike a circus, there is no thrill or happiness.

When he says "f\*\*\* out my face with a syringe" this isn't a

simple refusal to take a vaccine. Kgositsile is emphasizing the historical medical injustice against Black people rather than the widespread anti-vaccine movement.

"God Laughs" presents Kgositsile's relationships with drug and alcohol abuse and pays homage to his grandfather who passed away from dementia. "His body on a road/ where his mind flailing/ funeral weightless," he describes. But he responds, "maimed me/ I ain't weak" meaning after all this trauma, he still has strength.

The album delivers exactly what we love him for — visionary lyrics and effortless delivery. After everything we've been through, these 24 minutes and five seconds feels like a positive word to our collective suffering and resilience throughout the past two years.

-Sydney Klassen-Rosewarn

**Continued from Pg. 11**

how he deals with relationships in the long run rather than just the immediate effect. In the music video for “Gasoline” we see a much older The Weeknd or Tesfaye wandering through what appears to be purgatory for him. He expresses how he wants to distance himself from the lifestyle of excess that he once took part in and how that lifestyle only leads to him damaging his soul. Later on in the album we hear Tesfaye dealing with the regrets of his past on the track “Out Of Time.” We then hear him attempt to start a new relationship on tracks like “Don’t Break My Heart” and him coming to terms with his previous relationship with the track “Less Than Zero” ultimately freeing himself from his past. It’s a very well-crafted story that concludes the tale of heartbreak we were presented with in *After Hours*.

The album has a number of features, including appearances from Tyler, the Creator and Lil Wayne alongside Carrey, whose performance as the host I really

enjoyed. Instead of portraying the typical overenthusiastic radio host, he plays a more relaxed, almost ghostly figure. Producer Quincy Jones also makes an appearance on the album as himself on the track “A Tale By Quincy,” in which he explains not only the problems that he has had with women in the past but also the root causes of his problems.

Tyler, the Creator, appears on the track “Here We Go Again,” and while not his best work, he does a decent enough job rapping on a type of song that you typically don’t see a rapper on. Lil Wayne’s feature sounded more dynamic than Tyler’s feature but lyrically fell short in my opinion. While the song features on the album certainly weren’t bad, I personally felt that they didn’t really enhance the listening experience overall.

*Dawn FM* is The Weeknd’s most complete and consistent listening experience yet. It shows his dedication to creating not just music but an entire experience surrounding it. It’s a fully realized, airtight album I want to listen to over and over again.



Canadian R&B star has released his fifth studio album. Photo courtesy of Universal Republic Records



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Tell me I'm wrong:

## NBA edition

Three NBA hot takes

**Gage Smith**

Sports Editor

The NBA is predictably unpredictable. That's not stopping me from making some predictions. Let's take a look at some opinions that are unpopular right now, but might just not be in a few months.

### Ja Morant is the Most Valuable Player (MVP)

"The way I look at it within myself, why not? Why can't I be the MVP of the league? Why can't I be the best player in the league? I don't see why [not]. Why can't I do that?"

Those are the iconic words of Derrick Rose in 2010. The freakishly-athletic point guard spoke his winning of the 2010-11 MVP award into existence and made history as the youngest NBA MVP ever (22 years and 211 days). Despite his youth, he led his Chicago Bulls to the top of the Eastern Conference, even past the dominant Miami Heat "big three" team that many would argue was a dynasty.

We may be seeing history repeating itself. Ja Morant, at just 22 years old at the time of writing, is also a freakishly-athletic point guard who has led his Memphis Grizzlies near the top of the Western Conference standings, right

up there with the Golden State Warriors, who appear to be back in their dynastic form.

Before the season, nobody thought Memphis would be this good. But Morant has breathed new life into this organization and is the centrepiece of its exciting new culture. Nikola Jokić, Kevin Durant and Giannis Antetokounmpo are topping most MVP ladders at the time of writing, but I would argue that Morant is as important to his team's success as any of them.

### The Brooklyn Nets will fall short of the conference finals again

It feels like yesterday that the news broke about James Harden being traded to the Nets. The NBA world was set on fire. We hadn't seen that combination of hype and panic since Kevin Durant signed with the Warriors. The big three of Kyrie Irving, Kevin Durant and James Harden might be the most imposing on-paper trio the NBA has ever seen from an offensive perspective.



**Continues on Pg. 14**

Explosive guard Ja Morant might just be the MVP. Photo courtesy of Erik Drost

# #s

**3,** Three out of the four NFL divisional round games resulted in upsets

**6,** Cougars men's soccer player Caden Rogozinski was selected sixth overall in the CPL U SPORTS draft

**7,** The Edmonton Oilers ended their seven-game losing streak by beating the Calgary Flames on Jan. 23

**17,** LeBron James has scored 25+ points in his last 17 games



## Continued from Pg. 13

But there were concerns about their personalities inhibiting their raw talent. All of those stars had unceremoniously left a team in the past after failing to deliver on championship expectations (Irving had done it twice). All of them had butted heads with co-stars or coaching staff in the past.

They had their hearts broken in a last-second game seven loss to the Milwaukee Bucks in the second round of the playoffs last season. And now Kyrie Irving can't play home games because he refuses to get vaccinated, Kevin Durant has been dealing with injuries and James Harden has been struggling to adapt to the rule changes.

It's hard to believe the Nets were the clear championship favourite less than a calendar year ago. Their star power alone should be enough to keep them in the Eastern Conference's upper echelon and make a first round playoff victory likely. But I see them matching up with the Bucks, Miami Heat or Chicago Bulls in round two. If they can't get their big three to take the floor together, which has been the case for virtually the whole time this "superteam" has existed, I don't see Brooklyn surviving a playoff series against any of those teams.

## The Chicago Bulls is an empty first seed

Every once in a while, a team takes hold of the top spot in the Eastern Conference's standings that isn't a real threat to win a championship. In 2015, it was the Atlanta Hawks. In 2017, it was the Boston Celtics. In 2018, it was the Toronto Raptors.

Those squads had a lot in common. They all had all-stars on the roster. They were all well-balanced, deep teams that moved the ball well. But they all lacked a top-five player to lead them deep into the playoffs. So when it came time for them to face off against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in the playoffs, they all fell.

If LeBron was still in the



DeMar DeRozan, now on the Chicago Bulls, hasn't proven his Toronto days in the playoffs are truly behind him. Photo courtesy of Keith Allison

Eastern Conference, I doubt he'd bat an eye at the current Chicago Bulls who've been jockeying for first in the east all year.

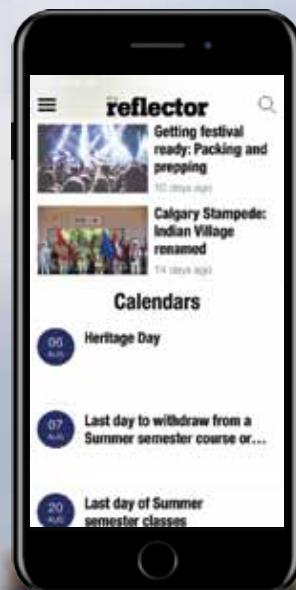
Don't get me wrong, the Bulls are an exciting team with a ton of potential. Their mix of one-on-one scorers and playmakers in Lonzo Ball, Zach LaVine, DeMar DeRozan and Nikola Vucevic has proven to be potent and fun to watch. But so were those other teams. In fact, DeRozan was one of the best players on that Raptors team, but his playoff shortcomings were a huge reason for their yearly collapses. When they traded him away, they won it all.

Exactly zero members of Chicago's core have proven themselves in the playoffs. Exactly zero of them are anywhere close to being a top-ten player in the league, let alone top-five.

Maybe they'll have the synergy necessary to push them over the edge, but I'm not convinced. LeBron the Bogyman might be far away out west now, but Antetokounmpo is fresh off of a jaw-dropping championship run and will serve as the east's new gatekeeper. The Heat have also cut their teeth in their 2020 finals run.

My money's on either of them in a matchup against the Bulls unless Michael Jordan comes out of retirement... he's proven in the playoffs.

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# The case for high school sports

**Gage Smith**

Sports Editor

The world of sports in the 2020s is pretty different from that of the old days. Most professional athletes would put their feet up and take a vacation during the offseason. A smaller proportion of them had personal trainers and dieticians watching their every move. In the early days of the NBA, there were players who'd actually smoke at the halftime breaks of games!

Sports medicine has evolved rapidly, and with it, our knowledge of what's good and what's bad for athletes' health. Parents of high school athletes have become aware of these advancements which include newly discovered risks for their children. But what parents should know is that with these advancements in sports medicine also comes much more knowledge on the benefits sports has for their children.

For example, the world has recently started to get a grasp of the impacts of the head injuries football players can be exposed to. They can sustain concussions and sometimes even chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), which is brain degeneration caused by repeated head trauma.

This increased awareness has been an overwhelmingly good thing. It extends careers, preserves the quality of life for athletes and may even save lives. But it can also be scary for parents to know exactly what they might be getting their children into when enrolling them in youth sports leagues.

Parents are acutely aware now that the risk of their child developing problems such as CTE is low but real. With all of the new unnerving research coming out about CTE and other long-term ailments that can come from playing sports, parents may be tempted to look at the potential cost and overlook the benefits of putting their kids in sports. But the benefits are also very real.

At Your Own Risk, an organization dedicated to supporting the public's effort to promote safety in work and in sport, gathered research that shows just how beneficial high school sports can be.

For starters, participants in high school sports have consistently higher grades than non-participants and are 15 per cent more likely to go to college. Female athletes are also 73 per cent "more likely to complete a college degree within six years of graduating high school."

The benefits aren't just in the classroom. Take a look at this statement from At Your Own Risk:

"Student athletes manifest stronger peer relationships, better attachment with adults, higher self-esteem, a closer sense of family and participate more in volunteerism. They are less likely to engage in high risk behavior. They have a greater sense of initiative, persistence and personal responsibility. A survey of over 14,000 teens found that those who participated in team sports were less likely to use drugs, smoke cigarettes and carry weapons."

These benefits will undoubtedly change the trajectory of your kid's life. And that's just scratching the surface of it; these are just the benefits that can be measured and researched.

A good coach can change a person's life. The bonds players can form with their teammates are different from other friendships, having kind of "gone to war" together. And having something to work at every day, having a game to look forward to, can make all the difference for a teenager's mental health.

The more we know about injuries, the scarier they can seem. But it's important to remember that we're also learning more about just how healthy sports are for youth. The risk is there, but sports are more than worth it.



Some parents hesitate to put their kids in football leagues because of the risk of head injury. Photo courtesy of Chris Brooks



Women who play high school sports are 73 per cent "more likely to complete a college degree within six years of graduating high school." Photo courtesy of Chip Griffin



# Crowchild Classic cancelled for second straight year

**Josh Werle**

Staff Writer



**With the cancellation of the Crowchild Classic this year also comes the absence of cheers from the large crowd of supporters of Cougars and Dinos swarming the Scotiabank Saddledome. Photo by Spencer Yu**

Since its inception in 2012, the Crowchild Classic showdown at the Scotiabank Saddledome has been one of the most anticipated events of the year for students enrolled at either Mount Royal University or the University of Calgary. The Crowchild Classic event at the Saddledome features matchups between the men's and women's hockey teams from both schools, who happen to have a friendly but competitive rivalry. Having this event at the Saddledome has heightened the stakes of what would typically be just another regular season game,

as there have been more than 10,000 fans in attendance in recent years.

This game means a lot to everyone involved; the teams, the schools, the players and the fans. Unfortunately, the two institutions have collectively decided to cancel this year's event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was set to take place on Feb. 3, with the matchups now being rescheduled for a later date.

This is now the second year in a row that the event has been cancelled, with last year's entire U SPORTS season being called off due to the

pandemic. The 2022 Crowchild Classic event seemingly had its boots off the ground, but the pandemic has been impossible to predict, and there are a number of reasons as to why this year's event had to be cancelled.

As of Dec. 24, 2021, the province of Alberta announced that venues must limit their capacity to 50 per cent if said venue's capacity is more than 1,000 people. This means that the Saddledome would have its 19,289-capacity cut in half, leaving the arena with the ability to hold only 9,644 fans from the two schools. Seeing as how the Crowchild Classic attendance hasn't been below 10,000 since 2015, it's easy to see how this would have been a major roadblock for the event organizers. Coupled with the recent introduction of the COVID-19 variant Omicron and the schools' decisions to hold off on fully scheduled in-person learning until Feb. 28, it is clear as to why this event had to be cancelled.

Fear not though, both the men's and women's games are set to be rescheduled to a later date at a slightly smaller and more manageable venue. Although the event itself is always important for the



**Forward Andrew Fyten, defensemen Kade Jensen and Kyle Pow pose in front of the Scotiabank Saddledome. Photo by Spencer Yu**

Cougars, the result of the game itself is of the utmost importance for both the men's and women's teams.

Both of the Cougars teams are in the same position, as this next game against the Dinos will represent their trilogy match against their rivals this season. At the time of writing, both the men's and women's hockey teams are tied with the Dinos in their regular season series, with each team holding a record of one win and one loss against their competition. When these matchups are rescheduled, there will be a lot riding on them for the Cougars hockey teams. At the time of writing, the men's team

currently holds a record of six wins and six losses, while the women's team holds a record of nine wins and three losses.

The cancellation of this event is unfortunate, but with the current situation we face in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, it couldn't have been prevented. The good news is that this rivalry isn't going anywhere anytime soon, and both of the teams will be just as fired up next season as they are right now. Hopefully next year, the players and fans can gather under the Saddledome lights once again to experience one of the wildest nights of the U SPORTS season.



**Cougars men's hockey's third showdown with the University of Calgary Dinos will unfortunately not be held at the Saddledome. Photo by Spencer Yu**