

The next weekend had a more normal-looking schedule for both the men and women (one game at home and one game away). The Thunder were set to take on the King's Eagles.

The Eagles men hadn't won a game all year and that was not about to change. Two easy wins by the score of 96-74 and 90-81 respectively had the Thunder feeling good and put them in a four-way tie for second place in the conference with 12 points. Although the games were against the worst team in the league, it should be noted that McLaren has been playing huge for the Thunder, putting up 31 points in the second game of the two-game set.

Coach Regan gave this statement after the game: "The 81 points stand out. The shift in basketball these days is to be offense-driven, and that's great for NBA teams that have guys that can score 130 points a game. In our 40-minute games,

that's a bit tougher. We have to play our game."

The Eagles women have improved greatly from last year; however, they are still not up to par with the Thunder. The first game at King's ended 70-52, which accurately reflected the skill levels of both teams. Unfortunately, the second game of the set played at Concordia was not as good. Although we won 44-38, it was the worst game I have seen our Thunder play. The first quarter ended with a 6-6 tie. Within 10 minutes of play, 12 total points were scored. Coach Robbie was shaking his head after the game as I tried to get a statement about the team's performance. He had nothing to say. Nevertheless, the Thunder women are on a 5-game win streak that has put them in a tie for first place with 16 points.

Keep it up, CUE athletics! Be sure to check the ACAC website for upcoming Thunder games.

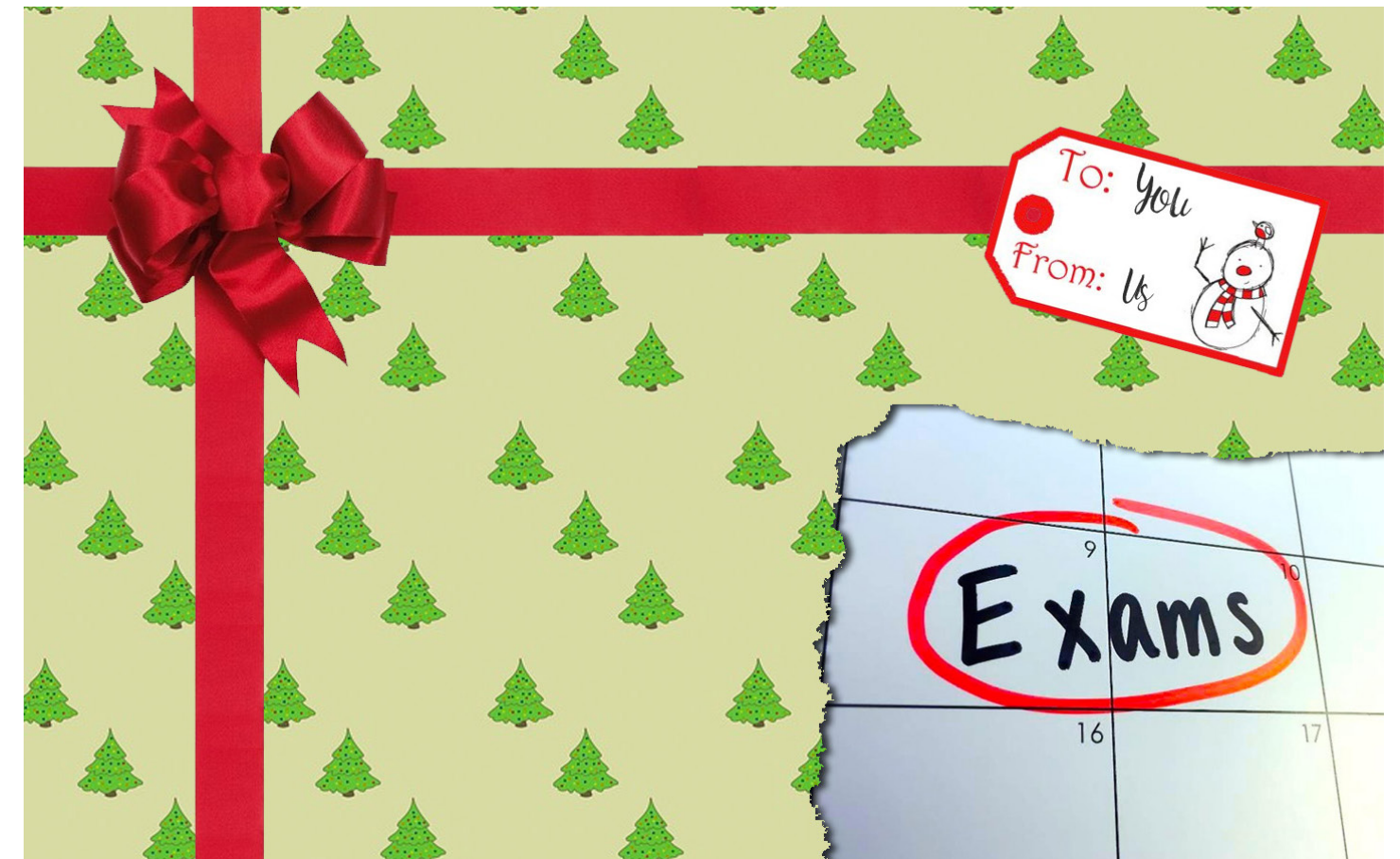
## Will you be travelling outside of Canada?

Emergency out-of-country travel insurance is covered through your student health and dental plan.



# THE BOLT NEWS

## A GIFT FROM US TO YOU



### Inside:

**JINGLE BELL HELL** - Nicole Beaver shares some tips on surviving the rush before the holidays begin.

**OUR NMUN** - Emma Bott recaps the first Concordia-hosted International NMUN conference in the beautiful Banff, Alberta.

AND MORE:



## JINGLE BELL HELL?

by Nicole Beaver

For this issue, I'm bringing you a short clip on the stress that comes with every holiday season. It's the holidays, and people are hustling and bustling to get everything done on time. Expenses, time, and patience are things not all of us have the luxury of, especially as university students. What can be done? If you've waited this long, it might be too late; for future reference, however, I've decided to include a few tips that might help you keep your cool.

### 1. Budget!

I've found that when you plan out a certain amount of money you will spend on Christmas presents, things go a lot smoother. You have a limit on what you'll spend per person. Even choosing just one gift to give each person on your list is easier! Remember, it's the thought that counts, and making yourself even more broke than you already are isn't a good idea.

### 2. Shop Online!

I cannot tell you how many times this has saved me. It saves the hassle of having to navigate your way through a jam-packed store, and if you use services like Amazon Prime, shipping is free. On that note, shipping costs can otherwise be pretty hefty; when you're ordering from somewhere that does not provide free shipping, it's best to go for a slower shipment and pay a lower price rather than have it expedited for twice the cost. Protip: this only works if you order far enough in advance that you'll actually get your gifts on time! This leads me to the next point...

### 3. Shop Early!

If you know what to get someone, get it on sale. Ideally, you'd be getting everything done in No-

vember rather than waiting till Christmas Eve. After Remembrance Day, the Christmas rush begins, and with midterms, projects, and finals looming over us, it's best to avoid any added stress!

### 4. Homemade Christmas Cookies!

Who doesn't love a batch of freshly baked cookies? At my house, it isn't Christmas until my mother makes her bite-sized shortbread cookies. My sister and I make baskets of cookies for friends and teachers. Pick a few recipes online, plan out ingredients, and shop for them. (Remember to plan for any potential food allergies or dietary restrictions!) To wrap the gifts, you can purchase holiday-themed tins or mason jars from a dollar store.

### 5. Take Time for Yourself!

This is the most important tip of all. Even if the season is about giving, it doesn't mean you have to fall over in a royal Christmas meltdown due to exhaustion. This season, it's easy to get stressed because of school and the holidays combined, so don't be afraid to step back and take an hour to do something other than study and shop. Read your favourite book, watch a show on Netflix, take a hot bath, or listen to music. Anything that makes you feel happy and relaxed is good!

I hope these tips help you save some time. Good luck to everyone prepping for tests!



## SPORTY TIME WITH MACALAN: BASKETBALL RECAP

by Macalan B-J

Remembrance Day weekend was a big one for Thunder basketball with both the men's and women's teams playing back-to-back home games against the Grande Prairie Regional College Wolves (GPRC).

Starting with the women, Sofia Lucadello was a force to be reckoned with over the weekend. In game one against the Wolves, she put up 18 points in 24 minutes. The Thunder won that game 72 to 49. "I thought played okay," Lucadello said after the game. "I know Grande Prairie isn't the strongest, so it was a good game to get all the little kinks out. It's tough playing against a team that hasn't gotten a win all year, but we practise the same way. Mentally, it's harder to prepare for games like this. This isn't to take anything away from Grande Prairie, they are a good team and work hard. These games are mentally tough and the hardest ones to win. The team and coaching staff does a good job to keep us calm when the games get off track."

I asked Coach Robbie how he thought the team played after game one: "We got off to a slow start. We definitely aren't where we were last week when we beat Lakeland. I have been preaching all week that we can't underestimate the team on the bottom. I've been there, and it's tough to motivate yourself against teams like Grand Prairie that are last in the division. Those teams are always hungry; Grande Prairie wants that first win and they are going to fight to get it."

As far as game two goes, it may as well have been called The Morgan Dool Show. She scored 15 points and 7 rebounds off the bench in a highly contested 54-51 victory.

"Not the way we wanted to get the two wins," reported Dool. "As long as we get the win though, we can't be too upset."

For our Thunder men, game one went back and forth and ended with a disappointing loss. Wolves forward Kenny Johnson made a strong claim for national player of the year with 31 points and 12 rebounds. 83-78 was the final score. Thunder forwards Mike Malin and Ryan McLaren both had big 22-point games, but unfortunately, it wasn't enough to beat Johnson and the Wolves.

"We played pretty good--we just have to clean up our defense," said Malin. "But at the end of the day, getting a win is what counts, and we weren't able to do that."

In game two, the Thunder had two things they were trying to prove: that they could shut down Johnson and that they would win the game. Johnson put up 32 points, but it wasn't enough to stop the Thunder from getting the win in what turned out to be an exciting finish. The Thunder were trailing by two points late in the fourth quarter, and with 2.3 seconds on the clock, McLaren put up a three pointer which gave the Thunder a 79-78 lead, which eventually paved the way to a win. The crowd went wild and the players were ecstatic. Ralph King was shaking in the commotion.

McLaren stated, "to even have a chance at that shot is amazing! It feels good to help give our team a big lift. We needed this win badly and I'm glad I was a part of it. There wasn't a lot of time left, and I knew I had to let it fly."

What a game and what a shot. To see a game-winning three pointer is among the greatest moments in sports.



# HOLIDAY HORROR

by Tyler DeWacht

Are you in the holiday spirit yet? That special time of year is coming--where nice children are awarded with presents and naughty children are beaten up and kidnapped by a scary goat demon. Yep, you read that right. It's almost Krampus Night! Since it's happening a day after this will be published, let's take a look at the holiday.

What is Krampus? Descending from pre-Christian paganistic roots, he's said to be the son of Hel (from Norse mythology), his name derived from the German word krampen (meaning "claw"). Coming from Germanic lore, Krampus is a half-goat and half-demon creature who hangs out with Saint Nick, and his job is to scare naughty children into behaving. If a child has been particularly naughty, Krampus beats them with a birch stick, drags them in a sack to his lair in Hell, and tortures them for a year. Despite being the polar opposite of Saint Nicholas, the two get along pretty well, and Krampus even does occasional jobs for the guy.

Next, what is this holiday known as Krampus Night? It begins on December 5, the night before the Feast of Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas and Krampus go around to different houses where children have left their shoes outside; if the child is good, Saint Nick leaves a gift for them in their shoes, and if not, Krampus leaves coal as a warning. If these warnings aren't heeded, you know what happens next. He also appreciates it when parents set aside a nice bottle of Schnapps for him.

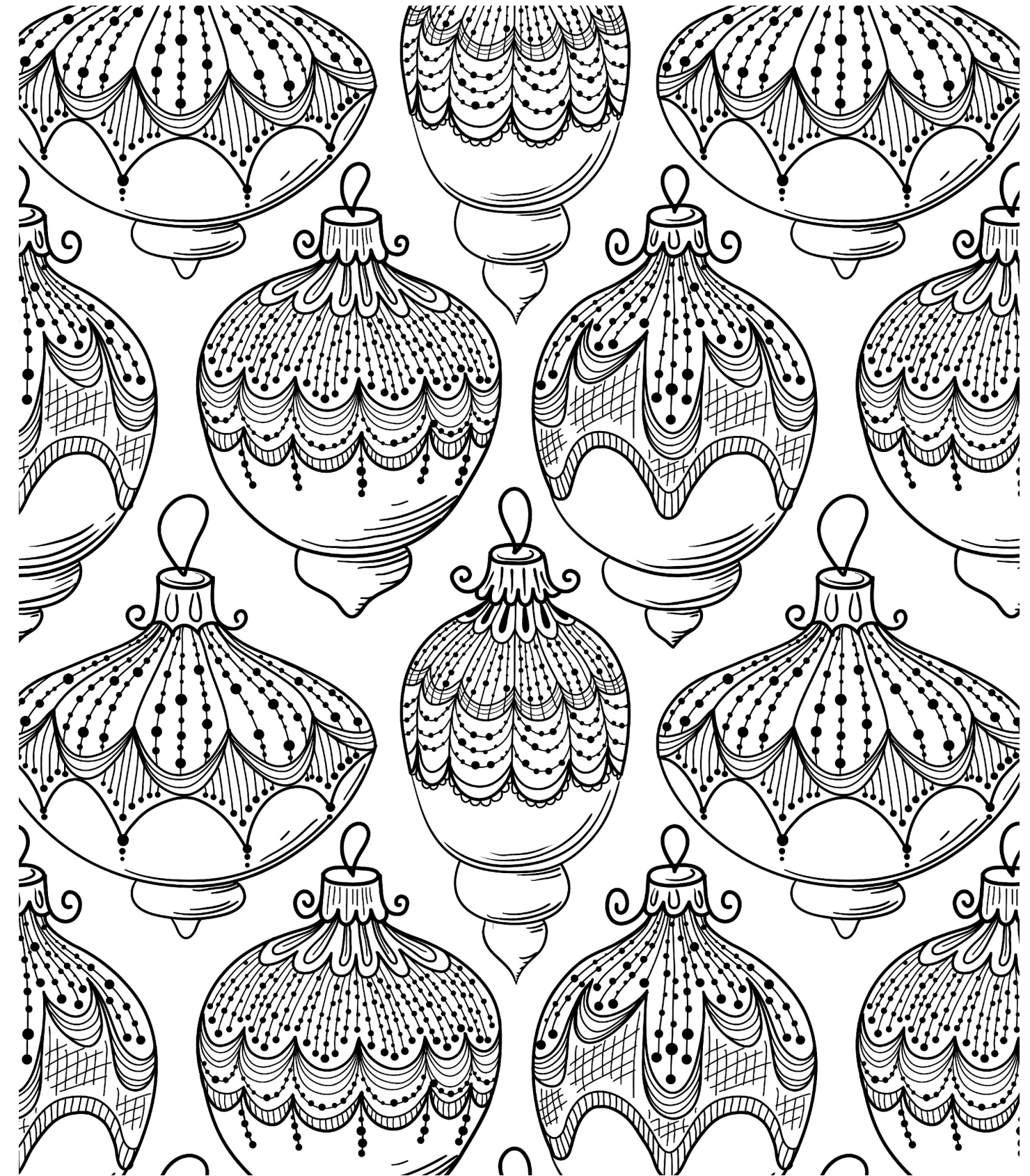
Krampus Night is mainly observed nowadays in the Germanic regions of Europe such as Bavaria, Austria, Hungary, and parts of northern Italy. Though citizens and unsuspecting tourists may end up being chased by someone in a

Krampus costume, it's all in good fun. Despite being a controversial holiday for centuries over the issue of whether or not it's child-friendly, it has recently gained a fair amount of traction in pop culture. Krampus Night celebrations and parades are starting to become more common in major cities throughout North America--there's even one right here in Edmonton! This year, it starts at 8pm around Whyte Ave; consider checking it out tomorrow if you get the chance!

Now you know a little more about Krampus Night and the unholy beast known as Krampus. Whether or not you prepare yourself, he'll be walking through our city tomorrow. Have you or someone you know gotten on Krampus's bad side? It might be a good idea to watch your back this holiday season...



@CodySchibi





## THE PART-TIME JOB

by Kohan L. Eybergen

Donny was staring out of the passenger side window of the car, thinking about what his kids were up to at school as Angelo, the driver sitting next to him, steered the car down the hot Chicago street. The windows were both cracked open, cigarette smoke trailing up from each man's hand to escape the confines of the vehicle. Donny and Angelo sat in relative silence; they had only just met one another that day before setting out on their errand.

"When did you start working for Frank?" Angelo asked, breaking the silence at last. "You look familiar."

"Just over a week ago. This is just a part-time gig for some extra cash."

"Hope you're liking it so far. I started in '28, so it's been almost nine years now." Angelo flicked his cigarette butt out of the window, then wrested another from the box. He tilted it toward Donny, offering him another.

Donny gave a short shake of his head in a polite decline, "No thanks; I'm only a casual smoker. My youngest daughter's got asthma so I don't smoke at home. Now, when I do smoke, I get headaches."

Angelo broke into a smile, dropping the open pack of cigarettes back onto the seat. "Ah, a family man. How many you got?"

"Three. One boy, he's fourteen, and two girls, they're eight and six."

Angelo laughed. "Must keep the wife busy then huh?"

"Well, she died about a year back now. Cancer."

"Ah shit man, I'm sorry. I didn't know."

"It's alright, don't worry about it. What about you?"

"Nah; too busy with work I guess."

The two men stayed silent for a few moments before

Angelo broke the quiet with another question. "So if this is just part-time for you, what do ya do then?"

Donny hesitated for a moment before answering. "I bartend at a place every weeknight."

"What place?"

"Marco's, just a few streets off downtown."

"Marco's! No shit! That's why you look so familiar, I've met my cousin Moe there a few times for drinks. Small world, huh?" Donny nodded his head and Angelo told him a few stories about his cousin Moe. "And then Moe says, he says to the guys, 'I already drank your beers, but you can have 'em back in about an hour if you want 'em, and these guys look pissed, but there's five of us and only two of them, so they just left.'" Both men laughed briefly before falling silent again.

Donny reached forward to turn on the radio. "Do you mind? The Cubs game started a few minutes ago."

"Not at all, I love baseball."

"Thanks."

"No problem." Angelo kept driving as the radio commentator announced the score of the ball game. "You play at all? Men's league or anything?"

"I used to play minor league back before the war. Was pretty good too, but then I took a bullet in the right shoulder in France in '17; haven't played an organized game in years."

"Damned shame, man. Me and some of the other boys have a team in the men's league and we're looking for a third baseman."

"Well, I'll think about it. Thanks for the offer though." Donny smiled, thinking about how maybe this part-time job could work its way into something bigger.

Angelo pulled the car up to the curb and parked across the street from a sky blue painted business front. The sign above the door read O'Donnal and Son's Shoes. The two men got out of the car and walked across the street to-

vorite for many. They offer a variety of items but are most famous for their charm bracelets. Maybe that particular someone has been collecting charms for a while or are in love with the ring collection there. Either way, Pandora has you covered.

### 8. Painting

If you have some creativity in you, draw or paint something thoughtful. You can add a message to the back of the picture.

### 9. Fitbit

Every year we make the same New Year's Resolution: "this year I will save money, lose weight, and be successful." However, sometimes, we actually accomplish our resolutions. Maybe both of you are trying to achieve these goals together. A Fitbit could be just the thing you both need to finally get it done.

### 10. Homemade Bath bombs

Girls like bath bombs, but imagine how much more they will love them when they are handmade by you. First, you will need to combine, in a bowl, 8 oz of baking soda, 4 oz of cornstarch, 4 oz of Epsom salt, and 4 tbsp of cream of tartar. Then, in a separate bowl, combine 3/4 tbsp of water, 2 tsp of essential oil or fragrance, 2 1/2 tbsp of vegetable oil, and 1 or 2 drops of food coloring. Next, you will have to mix the wet and dry ingredients, adding the wet ingredients slowly to the dry. After, pack the mixture into plastic ornaments, then let them dry overnight. Voila!

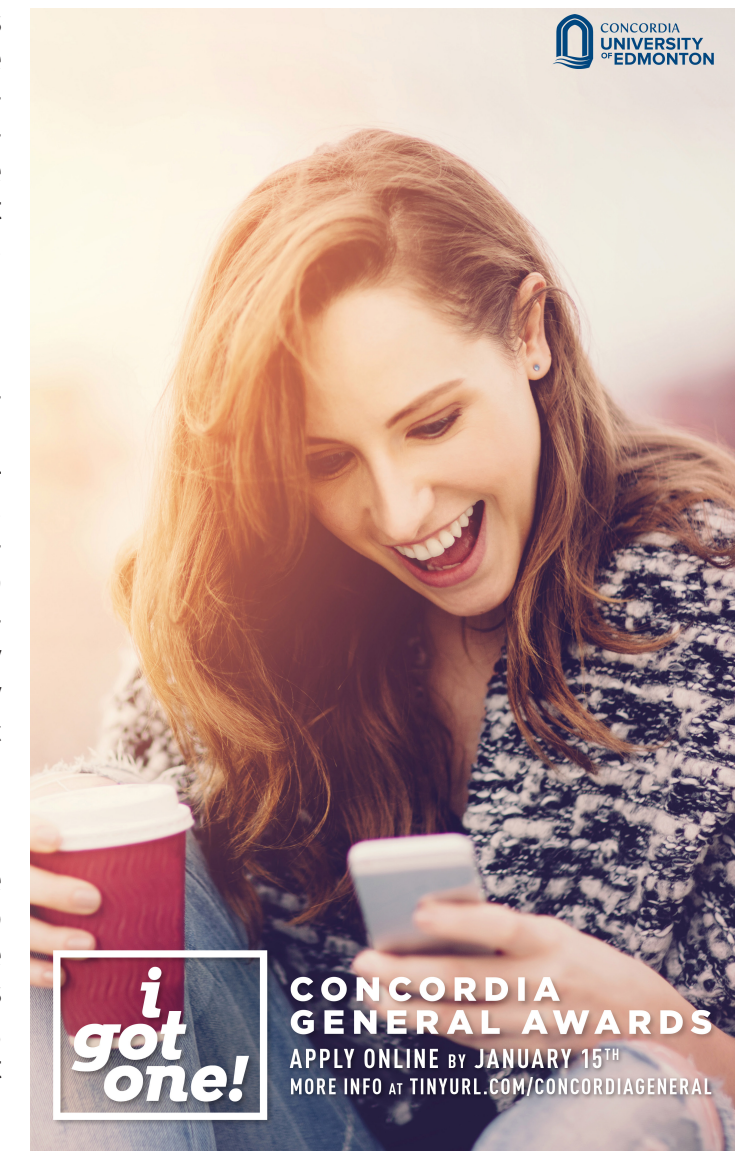
### 11. Scrapbook

Are you both sentimental types? Do you have all the ticket stubs of every movie you went to with her? Even better, mementos of your time spent with each other, pictures too? If so this gift idea is perfect for her! Get a scrapbook, and add all those memories to the pages. Let it be a reminder of what you did with each other and a window to what is yet to come.

### 12. Book

Is she a bookworm? If so, books will be the way to her heart. If you have no idea which book or books to get her, figure out what genre she likes. Then, go to a bookstore and tell a sales associate, who can show you the best sellers that might be of interest to her.

One of these twelve ideas should do the trick! Figure out what she likes and adhere to that. The most important thing is to make sure you give it some thought. It's the thought that counts, after all. Good luck!





## 12 PERFECT GIFT IDEAS FOR THAT SPECIAL GIRL

by Marina Gendi

Christmas is almost here gentlemen, and it's nearly time to get that special someone a present. Let's be honest; it's a confusing time of the year. By now you're feeling kind of stumped and that special someone has had her gift picked out for you for months. Don't worry, though, because I will show you the 12 best gift ideas for this holiday season, whether you want to buy a fancy, expensive gift or craft something for her yourself. The most important thing is that you are thoughtful in your process, and she will be happy for sure! This means that you take into consideration what she likes and work with that.

### 1. DIY Candles

Ok, this is super easy. You will need crayons, a candle wick, candle holder, and whatever your heart desires regarding decorations (this can be ribbons or cut up hearts, etc...). First, you take the wick and add it to the candle holder. Then, take the crayons and melt them into the candle holder. Next, decorate to your taste! Finally, add a personal sweet-heart message to go with your candle. You can even step it up a level and make a bunch of candles--maybe even with different color selections!

### 2. Tiffany & CO.

There is just something about that blue that appeals to a girl's very soul. Prices can be a little hefty here but there are still options for nearly every range. What you may not know is Tiffany & CO is one of those companies that have been advertising daily on females' Facebook pages. Maybe that special someone

is already fantasizing about that blue box.

### 3. Snow Globe Cookie Jar

There is nothing sweeter nor more heartwarming than making a present for your special someone. It shows you put in time and thoughtfulness. What you will need is a jar (mason, cookie, anything with a lid and see-through), marshmallows, cotton, and the accessories you wish to design your jar with (Christmas tree, snowman, Eiffel tower, etc.), and ribbon. First, take the marshmallow and place it in the bottom of the jar. Then, add your chosen trinkets! Next, take tiny pieces of the cotton and put them in the jar. Once you are satisfied with it, seal the jar and tie the ribbon around the seal. Don't forget to add the heartwarming message!

### 4. Sweater

This might be the last thing you think you should give as a gift, but haven't you noticed that your significant other takes your sweaters anyways? The sheer comfort is blissful, and sweaters bring comfort to the soul.

### 5. A Mug

A mug--but not just any mug, a thoughtful mug, maybe even engraved with a sweet message for her. Complete the present by filling it with her favorite treats. If she loves to read and you want to take the gift to the next level, include a gift card to her favorite bookstore with her favorite treats.

### 6. Charmed Aroma Candles

These candles are also advertised heavily on female-focused Facebook pages. But what is it? They're candles that come in every smell, and it gets even better: in the center of the candle is a hidden ring. These rings can value up to \$5000! If this is the way you want to go, just know that you have to order them online, and they sell out super fast!

### 7. Pandora

Jewelry has always been a girl's best friend and jewelry from Pandora has been a longtime fa-

wards O'Donnal's shop and Angelo lit another cigarette.

"Just follow my lead tough guy," Angelo told Donny, who had a slightly nervous expression. "Relax man, it's easy." Donny nodded and Angelo opened the door and walked into the shop, Donny at his heels.

"You Sean O'Donnal? The owner?" Angelo asked the short, heavyset man behind the front desk.

"Yessir." O'Donnal smiled a rather lopsided smile full of crooked, browning teeth; Donny thought he gave off an air of simple-mindedness.

"Excellent." Angelo glanced sideways at Donny and winked before continuing. "We're here on business as representatives for Frank Morretti."

O'Donnal's expression changed to a look of deathly fear at Angelo's words. "I...I don't have the money right now. I need another month."

"Morretti already gave you an extra month of lenience, O'Donnal, and he's none too pleased with you. Ain't he Donny?"

"That's right." Donny straightened his posture, showing off his full height. Angelo and Donny both towered over the little man behind the counter.

"I know. I'll pay next month, I promise! I'll pay with twenty five percent interest if Morretti wants! I swear I'm good for it!" The little man was panicking now, and his heavy face was turning a violent shade of scarlet.

"Oh yeah?" Angelo said while taking a short length of thick chain out of his suit jacket pocket. "I'm not sure you understand, O'Donnal. You're already two months late, and Morretti wants us to make sure you fully comprehend what happens to folks who don't make good on their deals with him."

Donny was feeling more confident now that he was immersed in the thrill of the shakedown. "Morretti's a very serious man O'Donnal. Very serious, and very upset by your unwillingness to make good on your deal."

"I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I swear I'll pay next month,

I promise!" He was stammering. Donny moved the bottom of his jacket aside to reveal a revolver strapped to his right hip. Angelo walked around the side of the counter, trapping O'Donnal behind it.

"You'll be paying with more than money O'Donnal. We can't just let this slide or people will start thinking they can cross Morretti left and right. And we can't have that, can we Angelo?"

"You're damned right Donny. Get it Mr. O'Donnal?"

"Fifty percent interest! Fifty! I swear, next month, please!" O'Donnal was yelling now.

The door to the shop's storeroom behind Angelo burst open and a young man with a shotgun hustled through it. Both Donny and Angelo turned quickly at the sound of the door as O'Donnal shouted "No! Idiot boy!" The young man sent a round of buckshot into Angelo's chest before turning to Donny who was reaching for his revolver. The young man was quicker than Donny and he pumped the shotgun and squeezed the trigger before Donny could get a round off. The buckshot tore through Donny's right shoulder, and he dropped his revolver and sank against the wall, sliding to a seated position on the floor.

"Stupid boy! They'll kill us now and torch the shop!" O'Donnal stepped over Angelo's body and ripped the gun from the young man's hands. "We need to run! Now! Out of the state--hell, out of the country if we can!"

The young man stood stunned. "I...I heard yelling Pa. I panicked!" The colour was draining from his face.

"It doesn't matter now. We need to leave, son, right now!" O'Donnal and his son moved across the room to the door, avoiding the pool of blood on the floor surrounding Donny. The O'Donnals left hastily, taking nothing with them except the shotgun.

Donny lay slumped against the wall, sliding slowly lower, soaked in his own blood. His vision was blurring; he was thinking about his three kids who would soon be arriving on the school bus to an empty home. "They'll think that I'm working late at my new job," he thought to himself as he closed his eyes and slid to rest on the floor.



# A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO SOLIPSISM

by Jacob Burgess

The way we view the world is subjective. Everything I experience is inextricably linked to my past experiences and how I have interpreted those experiences. The only tools that I have to interpret my surroundings are my senses and my mind. But how can I be sure that what I see, touch, hear, smell, or taste is really there? There doesn't seem to be any way around this problem; the only way that I can gain knowledge of anything is by trusting my senses. But what if they are feeding me misinformation? What if everything outside of my mind is an illusion, either created by my mind, or by something else? I can feel you rolling your eyes. I know it sounds ridiculous but really think about it for a moment. How can you be sure? Is there any other way besides the senses to interpret our world or some sort of way to test the accuracy of our senses? How can we really know that we don't exist in a simulation or in a dream, and if we do, does that make all of this any less real? It seems pretty real to me. Well, I don't have any answers for you, but these are the kinds of questions that a solipsist might ask. Solipsists believe that one's mind is the only thing that can be sure to exist. The existence of other minds and the external world can't be certain, and metaphysical solipsism even goes as far as to conclude that the external world and other minds do not exist.

## Origins of Solipsism

The very first solipsist was an ancient Greek sophist named Gorgias of Leontin (483-375 BC). He is the author of *On Nature* or the *Non-Existent* (also *On Non-Existence*), which has been lost. Today

there are only two paraphrases left of the text. We know that the work developed a sceptical argument, which has been simplified as follows:

1. Nothing exists.
2. Even if something exists, nothing can be known about it.
3. Even if something could be known about it, knowledge about it can't be communicated to others.
4. Even if it can be communicated, it cannot be understood.

This has caused Gorgias to be labeled "The Nihilist," as the argument seems to imply that he doesn't believe anything exists. However, Gorgias himself may not have straightforwardly endorsed this view. Gorgias was a sophist, meaning he took a fee to teach rhetoric to those who could pay. Aristotle was one of Gorgias' main critics, and he accused Gorgias of only wanting to make money by appearing wise and clever. Gorgias' arguments are meant to be both persuasive and performative, and he goes to great lengths in his writings to demonstrate his ability to make absurd arguments appear stronger. For this reason, it is difficult to distinguish which views are really his. Plato was also a strong critic of Gorgias. In his dialogue on Gorgias, Plato characterises Gorgias as an orator who merely entertains his audience and is uninterested in learning about actual matters since he has mastered the art of persuasion. This characterisation of Gorgias is demonstrated by his quote from the dialogue: "Rhetoric is the only area of expertise you need to learn. You can ignore all the rest and still get the better of the professionals!"

Gorgias believed that persuasive words had power that was equal to that of the gods. In one of his surviving works, *Economium*, he compares the effect speech has on the soul to the effect drugs have on the body: Just as different drugs draw forth different hu-

## SHOW TIME!

Here is what is playing in theaters this week:

**Coco**  
G

**Justice League**  
PG

**Thor: Ragnarock**  
PG

**A Bad Moms Christmas**  
14A

**Daddy's Home 2**  
PG

**The Man Who Invented Christmas**  
PG

**Murder On The Orient Express**  
PG

**Wonder**  
PG

**Yukon: Wild Beauty-Passport to the World**  
G

**The Star**  
G

**Three billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri**  
14A

**Cinaplex North**

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1	5	8	4			
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9	2		3			6



### Across

1. Sarah's Olympic predecessor
5. Attempt
9. Make a lousy match
14. "Mila 18" author
15. Special influence
16. What you'll need for the big game?
17. President's navigator?
19. Corporate has-been
20. Justice Fortas
21. Gaelic
22. Certain ladder
23. Fruity wine
25. The Wizard's unmasker
26. Baloney!
27. Protected
31. Source for D.C. news
34. Valley
35. Alaska port
36. Candid
37. Uncle Sam's call-up
38. Pork choice
39. Sail support
40. Budget allocation
41. Distress
42. Bully
44. Follow relentlessly
45. Break
46. Enthusiast
50. The Empire State Building's 1,860
53. Groovy!
54. Paul Bunyan's tool
55. Blood distributor
56. President's big concern?
58. Welcome
59. Swordsman's challenge
60. Capitol worker
61. Catch on the sly
62. Spot for the masses?
63. Irish offering

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### Down

1. Low brass
2. Dutch island in the Caribbean
3. Out of the sack
4. Wood used for baseball bats
5. Zeal
6. Major oil hub
7. Burn remedy
8. Quick lunch?
9. Dream up
10. President's personal papers?
11. Cornrows alternative
12. Neat freak's nemesis
13. Layers in the barnyard
18. Andrew Lloyd Webber subject
22. Shared
24. President's wordsmith?
25. Shoplifting
27. Incline
28. Portal
29. Middle East notable
30. Turn down
31. You may part with it
32. Trade punches
33. Change in Chihuahua
34. Superb
37. Word with code or rehearsal
41. "Mrs. Dalloway" novelist
43. Scold
44. Note taker's diversion
46. Tiresome talkers
47. Implied
48. Ooze
49. Adjust some seams
50. Slumps
51. Of two minds
52. Territory
53. Brilliant stroke
56. U.S. health watchdog
57. W. Hemisphere assn.



chael Eato, also addressed the audience. The keynote speaker was the Honourable Paul Roche. Mr. Roche highlighted the issues of the world today such as nuclear disarmament, the environment, and the need for reform of the Security Council.

Committee sessions began on Tuesday evening and ran through until each committee had two topics of research and had decided upon which topic to discuss. The General Assembly's topics were the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People: A Decade in Review*, and *Civilian Capacity in the Aftermath of Conflict*. The GA went with the second topic. The United Nations Environment Assembly's topics of the *Protection of the Environment in Areas Affected by Armed Conflict*, and *Sustainable Consumption and Production*. UNEA went with the first topic. The Security Council's topics were *Children and Armed Conflict* and *Situation in Cyprus*. The SC went with the first topic. The Economic and Social Council topics were *Sustainable Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples*, and *Promoting Rule of Law to Facilitate Economic and Social Development*. ECOSOC went with the second topic. Delegates worked on policy and worked in the spirit of cooperation. They went through many rounds of edits filled with late nights and working during lunch and dinner. I was honoured to work as the Assistant Director of the Economic and So-

cial council; I learned so much more that I ever thought was possible. There were late nights and many rounds of edits. I chaired formal sessions. I was very proud of the delegates in ECOSOC as they worked hard to get through both topics.

The closing ceremonies took place on Friday afternoon. The two keynote speakers were Danika Littlechild and Paul Lacerte. Danika Littlechild discussed her work as an indigenous person at the UN and the work being done at the UN for rights of indigenous people. Paul Lacerte provided more insight into the conditions of indigenous people. Michael Eaton and Kelsea Gillespie once again addressed the audience. They reflected upon the past week as well as the progress moving forward. Dr. Chaldeans Mensah, a political science professor from Macewen and a member of the NMUN board, also spoke to the audience. The mood was one that held reflection of the past and promise of the future.

What Model UN really means is so much more than just giving speeches and working on papers. It is about the connections and the learning. Every individual at this conference earned something. You grow and you connect. From all of the Model UNs I have attended over the years, I have made so many connections around the world. Concordia should be proud to be a sponsor of this conference.



mors from the body – some putting a stop to disease, others to life – so too with words: some cause pain, others joy, some strike fear, some stir the audience to boldness, some benumb and bewitch the soul with evil persuasion (Gorgias 32).

Later in the Plato's Gorgias dialogue, Plato attempts to convince Gorgias that the power of persuasion is actually quite dangerous, as it allows an ignorant man to seem more intelligent than a smart man in front of an audience.

**Solipsism and Descartes**

In Meditations on First Philosophy, Descartes attempts to discover what is incontrovertibly certain. The first item of knowledge he believes he has found can be summed up with the famous statement "Cogito Ergo Sum" (I think, therefore I am). Descartes argued that he could be sure without a doubt that he must exist, as if he didn't, he wouldn't be able to question his existence; however, Descartes goes on to argue that while he can't doubt the existence of himself, he can doubt the existence of his body. From this, he reasoned that the person Descartes and Descartes' body are two separate things, because one could be known to exist while the other couldn't. Solipsism takes this idea a step further by claiming that only things that can be known to exist should be considered to exist. Descartes attempts prove the existence of other minds and the external world by building on this first item of knowledge, but solipsism finds these later arguments unconvincing.

**Criticisms of Solipsism**

Solipsism doesn't seem to be capable of being falsified, as described by Karl Popper and Imre Lakatos; there wouldn't appear to be any way to disprove the hypothesis. This doesn't necessarily mean that solipsism is false, but it is rather troubling for the theory. Others have made the claim that the point solipsism tries to make it ir-

relevant. It is best to assume that the world exists independently of our minds, as the only way to escape our limited perception of it is through death. It has also been pointed out that if the external world existed within our own minds, it would seem plausible that we would be able to manipulate it without using our bodies. Because things like telekinesis seem to be impossible, the external world must therefore exist.

While the claims that solipsism make seem rather implausible, the questions it raises are definitely interesting to think about. Even if you become a radical sceptic convinced that only your mind exists and everything and everyone around you are only figments of your imagination, you are still likely to continue your imaginary life with little difference to the way you lived it before adopting solipsism. But I doubt any of you are likely to do that. Still, it's fun to question existence. The most frustrating part about dealing with radical sceptics is that although their ideas may seem ridiculous, it is often incredibly difficult to come up with answers to the silly questions they keep asking.





## NMUN: CANADA CONFERENCE 2017

by Emma Bott

This past week, Concordia hosted National Model United Nations (NMUN) international conference in Banff. The theme of the conference was issues surrounding Aboriginal people and the environment. It took place at the Banff Centre, which is located on Sleeping Buffalo Mountain (formerly known as Tunnel Mountain). It is important to note that Banff is on Treaty 7 land. Model UN is defined by BestDelegate.com as “the extra-curricular activity in which students roleplay delegates to the United Nations and stimulate UN committees.” Concordia not only was the host institution, but also had delegates participating in the committees representing Bolivia and Senegal. Concordia provided volunteers and staff with Concordia alumna, Kelsea Gillespie, serving as Secretary-General. For those who aren't familiar with this terminology, the Secretary-General is the individual ruling the event.

This conference brings students from all over the world together: Canada, the United States, Germany, Philippines, Japan, Italy and China. There are two days of cultural tours followed by four days of committee. There are simulations of four UN Committees: General Assembly (GA), Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC), United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the Security Council (SC). As I mentioned previously, one of the main themes of the conference this year was the environment. The conference reflected this emphasis by taking delegates and staff on a tour of some of the sites of the Banff

national park. The order of the stops varied depending on the bus, but I will take you through the stops in the order my group went through.

First, we went on hike to Johnston canyon, in which we were able to hike to the lower and upper falls. The sights looked like something out of a winter wonderland! Luckily, the temperature was warm. Lake Minnewanka was the next stop. This lake has many stories regarding why it was not used by the original people of the land. Some say they feared a monster that lived in the lake, while others say that it was holy and should not be contaminated. The lake is both beautiful and eerie. There definitely is a sense there is something otherworldly about it. On the road to the gondola, we learned the history of the name of buffalo mountain. It was originally named Sleeping Buffalo due to it literally being shaped like a sleeping buffalo. It was renamed Tunnel Mountain when the railroad was built. For a time, the company believed that building a tunnel through the mountain was the best route. It was continually put off due to lack of resources. Maps showed “x” where the planned tunnel would be. It wasn't until later that they decided it would be easier to go around the north side of the mountain and



then meet back up with the river; thus, the name Tunnel Mountain stuck. Participants also learned how British Columbia came to join Canada. The federal government promised to build a railroad to connect them to the rest of Canada. We were able to take the gondola up Sulfur Mountain. The sights were amazing and many participants were able to see a family of mountain goats. The bus drove by the Banff Spring Hotel, which was the prime vacation spot for the wealthy when they came to Canada. The last stop on the tour was the Beau Falls. (Fun fact: there was a phone booth by the falls that had suffered the wrath of an angry bear!). The next morning, we were given a presentation on grizzly bears, which contained information on why they're endangered and what the Banff National Park is doing for them. The challenges facing the grizzly bear population are food availability, landscape, railway, humans, and canines. One of the most fascinating ways the national park is helping grizzly bears and other animals survive the landscape is by creating both overpasses and underpasses on the highway for animals to use. They actually look like they're part of the scenery. Food sources from near the railway are being cleared away from railways. Participants were able to learn on how



to protect the environment, nature and wildlife. The second theme of the conference was Aboriginal issues. Stephanie Harpe gave a presentation about the problem of missing and murdered indigenous people, specifically women. She talked about the legacy of the reservation schools. She discussed the deep level of trauma within the communities. She raised the point of how reconciliation has, for the most part, been giving indigenous people money but not always healing and counselling them. After this, we went through a blanket exercise that described the history of the paths taken by the indigenous people of Canada. At first, the blankets were all connected and the people could move freely. Then we restricted certain areas and the blankets were no longer connected. People died off from diseases and residential schools. The new borders separated people; many of them lost their status and left. We were able to see how, in recent years, some ground has been made, but obviously not enough. After this exercise, participants were given the option to vocalise any realisations and thoughts. Lewis Cardinal then led a cleansing smudging exercise.

Opening Ceremonies took place on the Tuesday evening. Before the opening ceremonies, there was a panel discussing the protection of rights of Indigenous Peoples, with focus on the impact of the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Peoples. The panel was moderated by Lewis Cardinal and included Dr. Dwayne Donald, Dr. Jim Miller and Rachel Holmes. We were able to watch traditional dances and hear drums and singing. We then proceeded into the opening ceremony, where Lee Crowchild addressed the audience and provided some enlightening words on the issues. We heard members of the Concordia family speak--Dr. Tim Loreman, Dr. Manfred Zeuch, Ian Lee, and Kelsea Gillespie, and Rector Jario Jose Campos da Costa from one of our partnership universities in Brazil. NMUN Executive Director, Mi-