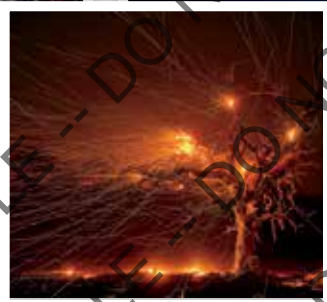
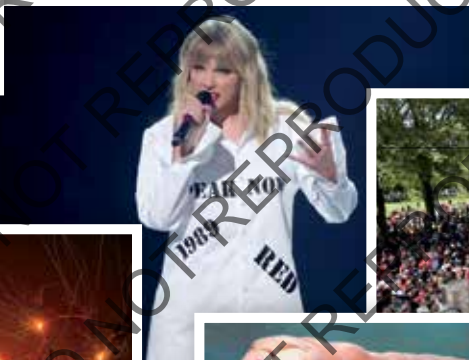
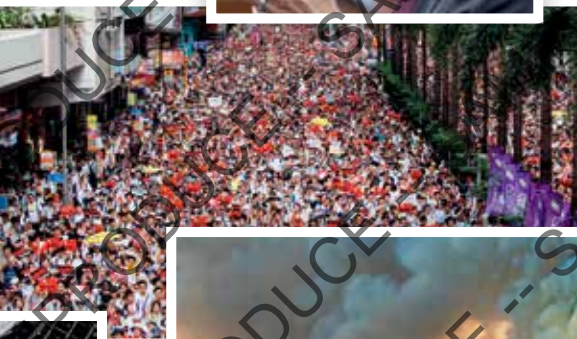


the canadian



MEMORY CAPSULE

2019-2020



canada

TRUDEAU'S VERY BAD YEAR

Despite a not-great year for Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, his Liberal party still won re-election in October 2019. But the party's loss of 20 seats in the House of Commons reduced its one-time majority government to a minority. In February 2019, it was reported that Trudeau had pressured then minister of justice Jody Wilson-Raybould to influence a case concerning engineering firm SNC-Lavalin. Then, in June, he angered environmentalists and Indigenous people by approving the extension of the Trans Mountain pipeline from the Alberta oil sands to the B.C. coast. And in September, photos surfaced revealing his youthful love of dressing in blackface. It's no wonder Trudeau returned from his Christmas vacation sporting a beard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wylie



EPA-EFF/FAJUNDO ARRIZABALAGA

MEGEXIT

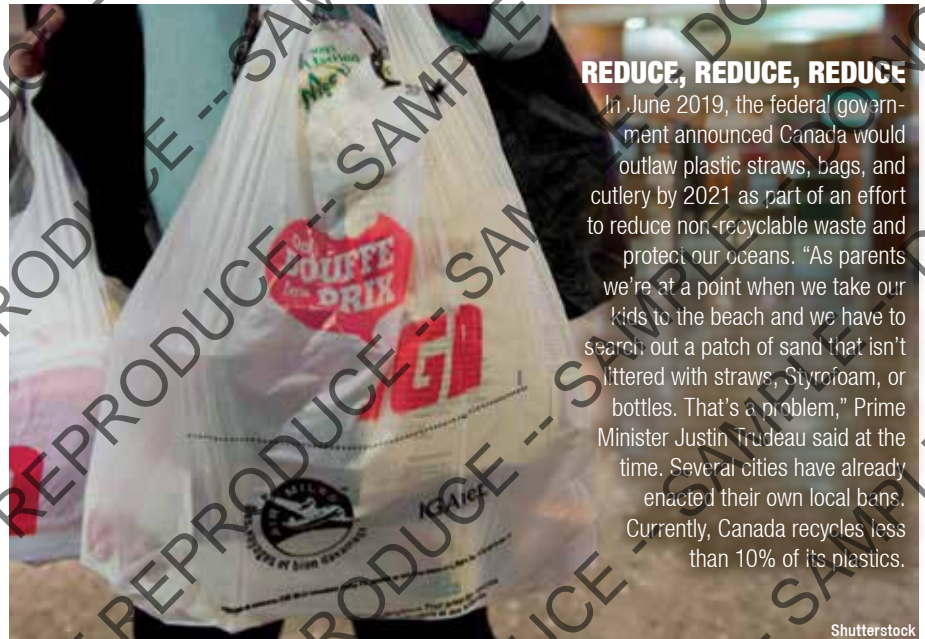
On January 8, 2020, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, announced plans to step back from their working roles in Britain's royal family. Initial reports claimed Queen Elizabeth was caught off guard by the announcement—which came in the form of an Instagram post from the couple, not through official royal channels. On January 18, the couple further revealed they had agreed to stop using their royal titles and move—potentially to Canada. Prince Harry has expressed wishes to keep his family out of the spotlight and away from the media circus that claimed the life of his mother, Princess Diana, in 1997.

A CHANGING OF THE GUARD

After 13 years as leader of the Green Party, Elizabeth May resigned her position following the 2019 federal election. May, who turned 65 that year, said she promised her daughter the election would be her last as party leader—though she didn't rule out another run as an MP. May, the first member of the party to win a seat in the House of Commons, said she planned to stay engaged in federal politics, especially in regard to the Green Party's foundational climate issues. Although the party had the best federal showing in its history, winning three seats, it remains far from the 12 seats required for official party status.



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REDUCE, REDUCE, REDUCE

In June 2019, the federal government announced Canada would outlaw plastic straws, bags, and cutlery by 2021 as part of an effort to reduce non-recyclable waste and protect our oceans. "As parents we're at a point when we take our kids to the beach and we have to search out a patch of sand that isn't littered with straws, Styrofoam, or bottles. That's a problem," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said at the time. Several cities have already enacted their own local bans. Currently, Canada recycles less than 10% of its plastics.

TOO MUCH ADVENTURE

Kristian Baxter, a 44-year-old Nanaimo, B.C., native, was looking to have an adventure when he visited Syria—a country that has been undergoing a civil war for nearly a decade—in November 2018. Baxter initially made contact with his mother back home on a daily basis, but went silent within a week of his arrival. It was soon discovered that he was being detained by local authorities for "violating Syrian laws." (Some accounts suggested he had been arrested for travelling with a metal detector, an item forbidden in the country.) Canadian diplomats worked closely with the Lebanese government to secure Baxter's release, which finally happened in August 2019. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Darryl Dyck





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MONEY TALKS, SCHEER WALKS

When the Conservatives lost the 2019 federal election to Justin Trudeau's Liberals, party leader Andrew Scheer initially vowed to stay on and fight another day. That changed in December, when it was revealed Scheer had used party money to pay for his children's private school education without the knowledge or approval of the Conservative Fund board. In a public statement announcing his resignation, Scheer made no mention of the financial impropriety, and his office denied a connection between the scandal and his decision to step down.

A NEW REASON TO STAY UP LATE

In March 2019, NBC tapped Lilly Singh, the Canadian YouTube sensation, to take over Carson Daly's 1:35 a.m. slot when he stepped down as the host of *Last Call* after 18 years. Although American late night talk shows traditionally have been dominated by white, middle-aged men, Singh isn't the first woman to steer a late night show—but she is the first open bisexual and the first person of Indian descent to helm such a show on a major U.S. network. NBC let *A Little Late with Lilly Singh* break with tradition and film an entire season of 96 shows over three months so Singh could continue her other projects. The show debuted on September 16, 2019, to strong reviews and ratings in keeping with Daly's.

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A NEW NAFTA

On December 10, 2019, after more than a year of wrangling, representatives of the United States, Mexico, and Canada—including Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland—met in Mexico City to sign what was expected to be the final version of CUSMA, the long-sought-after replacement for the North American Free Trade Agreement. Originally signed in 1994, NAFTA removed most of the trade barriers between North America's three countries, allowing for \$1.4 billion worth of annual trade. U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to pull out of NAFTA if the deal wasn't revamped to address modern considerations, such as the rise of e-commerce and other digital initiatives. Trump signed the implementation bill in January 2020. AP Photo/Marco Ugarte



THE BEAUTY OF CANADA

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh has seen many firsts. He was the first visible minority to lead a major federal Canadian political party, the first turban-wearing Sikh to sit in the Ontario legislature, and in 2019, he became the first turban-wearing leader of a national party to run in a federal election. Singh retained his seat, but the NDP's overall count dropped to 24 from the 44 won in 2015. Singh faced his share of racist confrontations on the campaign trail, handling each with poise and respect—when a man in Montreal shouted at him to “cut off” his turban in order to “look like a Canadian,” Singh responded with a handshake and said, “Oh, I think Canadians look like all sorts of people. That's the beauty of Canada.”



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RAISE A CUP

Hockey icon Tim Horton may be the one with his name on the sign, but it was Ron Joyce, who died in January at the age of 88, who turned the coffee and doughnut chain into a beloved national icon. Joyce, who pulled his way out of poverty to become one of the richest men in Canada, invested in the first Tim Hortons shop in 1964, eventually buying it for \$10,000. He later became a partner and purchased Horton's stake in the business after his death in 1974. Joyce grew Tim Hortons from a chain of 40 stores to more than 4,000.



Courtesy Tim Hortons

World

PARIS GRIEVES

On April 15, 2019, smoke was spotted emanating from the roof of Paris's legendary Notre-Dame cathedral. Although fire alarms eventually were triggered, the flames quickly spread across the wooden beams that made up the 859-year-old structure's roof, toppling its spire. (In a sad irony, sprinklers had never been installed in the roof—an attempt to preserve its architecture.) News of the fire spread just as quickly, as religious and non-religious alike mourned the potential loss of a gothic architectural marvel that draws more than 13,000 tourists per day. French President Emmanuel Macron insisted the cathedral would be rebuilt, and a fundraising campaign collected nearly a billion dollars in just two days.

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DEAL OR NO DEAL

The U.K. was supposed to leave the European Union behind in 2019, but lawmakers continued to be stymied on how exactly the separation would work. As the original Brexit deadline of March 29, 2019, got closer, it was extended, first to April 12, then to October 31. Then prime minister Theresa May presented three different proposals for leaving the EU to the U.K. House of Commons, each of them failing. May announced her resignation on May 24, paving the way for former journalist and two-term mayor of London Boris Johnson, a longtime Brexit supporter, to become prime minister. After much wrangling, Johnson finally announced Britain would leave the EU in early 2020, with a one-year transition period to work out the final details, such as avoiding a potentially dangerous hard border in Ireland. The official separation occurred on January 31.



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Courtesy/NASA

THE HIGHEST GLASS CEILING

On October 18, 2019, NASA astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir took part in the first all-woman space walk, replacing a piece of hardware on the International Space Station's solar arrays. Fifteen women have participated in 42 space walks since 1984, but no walk has consisted exclusively of women. Koch made history again two months later when she broke the record for the longest single space flight by a U.S. woman—289 days, which she eventually extended to 328—and Koch and Meir later took part in both the second and third all-female space walks. The first all-woman space walk was originally scheduled for March, but was cancelled due to a lack of medium-sized space suits.



Toby Melville/Getty Images/TNS

PRIVATE CITIZEN ARCHIE

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, welcomed their first baby, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor, on May 6, 2019. Several countries marked the occasion—both the London Eye and Niagara Falls were lit up in celebration of the latest addition to the House of Windsor. Baby Archie holds dual U.S.—British citizenship, thanks to Markle's American origins, though he will not receive a royal title, in keeping with the Duke and Duchess's wishes that he be raised as a private citizen.



Mark Wilson/Getty Images/TNS

"HOW DARE YOU"

Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenage activist, continued speaking truth to power in 2019, warning about the dangers of climate change and expressing anger over the environmental problems her generation will inherit. She addressed the U.K. Parliament on April 23, 2019, and travelled to New York City by boat in September to protest at the United Nations and address the General Assembly, which she condemned for not taking enough action to combat climate change, stating, "How dare you." Along the way she seemed to relish being mocked by U.S. President Donald Trump. At the end of the year she appeared on the cover of Time magazine as its Person of the Year, and in January she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.



THE WRATH OF HURRICANE DORIAN

The worst natural disaster in Bahamas history began as a tropical wave in the Atlantic Ocean on August 24, 2019. Transforming into a storm over the Lesser Antilles and becoming a full-blown hurricane four days later, Hurricane Dorian was the most intense tropical cyclone ever to strike the country. Dorian quickly intensified, peaking with one-minute sustained winds of 185 miles per hour by September 1. Although it began to lose steam in the days that followed, Dorian still did considerable damage to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland on September 8, before finally dissipating near Greenland two days later. Dorian's heavy rain and winds destroyed thousands of homes and killed at least 73 people, with hundreds more reported missing by year's end. The cost of the damage was estimated at more than \$3 billion.



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A WORLDWIDE CRISIS

In November, a collaborative study written by dozens of scientists declared the world was facing a major climate emergency. The study, which was endorsed by 11,000 scientists from 153 countries, warned that a "climate crisis has arrived and is accelerating faster than most scientists expected. It is more severe than anticipated, threatening natural ecosystems and the fate of humanity." The authors encouraged immediate action, including ending the reliance on fossil fuels, ceasing the clearcutting of forests, and reducing meat consumption. The study was published on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the first world climate conference, held in Geneva in 1979.

A CHANGING KINGDOM

Saudi Prince Mohammed bin Salman continued his reforms of the kingdom's oppressive guardianship system in 2019, extending a number of new rights to the country's women. Saudi women can now obtain a passport and travel without the permission of a male relative; request government documents and register births, marriages, and divorces; attend sporting events; and receive equal treatment in the workplace. The prince's vision for reform includes diversification of the country's economy and looser social restrictions.

HOW A BILL DOESN'T BECOME LAW

Protests erupted in Hong Kong following the proposal of a bill that could have seen criminal fugitives extradited to areas where the country had no extradition treaties, including mainland China. Citizens worried the bill would put residents and visitors a step too close to falling under China's jurisdiction, undermining Hong Kong's autonomy and the civil liberties of its people. A protest of the bill's second reading on June 12, 2019, resulted in police shooting tear gas and rubber bullets. The bill was eventually withdrawn, but the Central People's Government called the protests surrounding the extradition bill the "worst crisis in Hong Kong" since it was returned to Chinese rule in 1997.



music

THE NEW QUEEN OF POP

Taylor Swift has broken many records in her music career. This year, she took down one of the giants, beating Michael Jackson's record for most American Music Awards. Swift took home six trophies on November 24, 2019—including prizes for favourite pop/rock album and artist of the year—bringing her career total to 29, five more than Jackson amassed before his death in 2009. Swift was also named the AMAs artist of the decade, an honor Jackson won in 2000.



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JC Olivera/Getty Images/TNS



DOLLY PARTON: RENAISSANCE WOMAN

Dolly Parton has always been an enigma: a feminist icon who doesn't like to call herself a feminist. In any case, it seems to be working. Parton had something of a renaissance in 2019: she inspired both a podcast (Dolly Parton's America) and a Netflix series (Dolly Parton's Heartstrings) and appeared as the featured vocalist on an EDM song by Swedish group Galantis. On top of that, she's got nearly five million Twitter followers who tune in for her self-aware "Jolene" memes.



LIZZO TAKES THE WORLD BY STORM

Lizzo came along exactly when the world needed some unbridled joy and positivity. Cuz I Love You, the 31-year-old singer's major-label debut album, released in April 2019, gave listeners a reason to get up and dance, with its funky mix of soul and hip hop and a little classical flute thrown in for good measure. But what really set Lizzo apart was her body-positive attitude and strong feminist message. In December, Time magazine named her its entertainer of the year.

UP IN SMOKE

In 2008, a fire swept the backlot of Universal Studios Hollywood, damaging several buildings, including the Back to the Future courthouse, a New York streetscape, and Building 6187—a storage library for audio master tapes of some of the best-selling recording artists in history. Universal initially assured the public that nothing significant had been lost. But a New York Times investigation published on June 11, 2019, revealed the opposite to be true. Nearly 200,000 master tapes were likely lost in the fire, the work of artists ranging from Chuck Berry to Nirvana—a staggering loss to music history. AP Photo/APTN

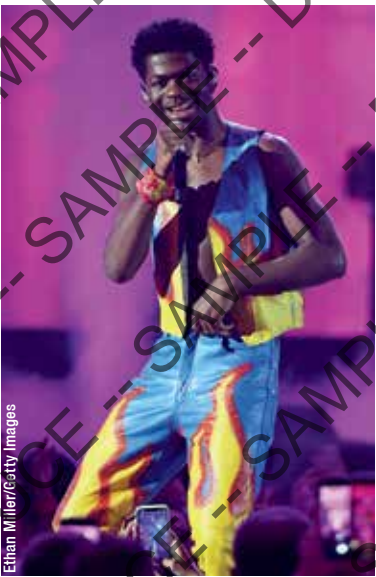


Myung J. Chun/Los Angeles Times/TNS

WHEN WE WIN ALL THE GRAMMYS

Billie Eilish dominated the Grammys on January 26, 2020, taking home the ceremony's four top prizes—song of the year, best new artist, record of the year, and album of the year—as well as the award for best pop vocal album. Eilish—whose debut album, When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?, was released in 2019—was only 17 when nominations were announced in November, making her the youngest artist ever simultaneously nominated in all four general categories. The artist's win capped off a big month, which also saw Eilish named Billboard's 2019 woman of the year and announced as the performer of the title track to next James Bond film, No Time to Die.





Ethan Miller/Getty Images

A LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Lil Nas X's masterful and unique combination of musical styles earned him a hit with "Old Town Road," a song that belongs squarely in the recently created genre of country rap. The song gained popularity following its original release in December 2018, thanks in part to its video on TikTok. "Old Town Road" was making its way up Billboard's country chart when it was disqualified for not meeting the definition of country music. But that didn't stop a remix recorded with country star Billy Ray Cyrus from reaching the No. 1 spot on Billboard's flagship Hot 100 chart on April 13, 2019—where it stayed for a record-breaking 19 weeks.

BEST GIFT EVER

Most of the popular Christmas songs we hear each year have been standard favorites for decades, and breaking into that club isn't easy. One song that succeeded is Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas," originally released in 1994. The song has not only received annual play ever since, but each year it manages to inch its way a little further up the charts. In 2018, it reached a high of No. 3 on Billboard's Hot 100. This year, in celebration of its 25th anniversary, fans gave Carey a Christmas gift by pushing it to No. 1—the first holiday song to top the chart since "The Chipmunk Song" in 1958.



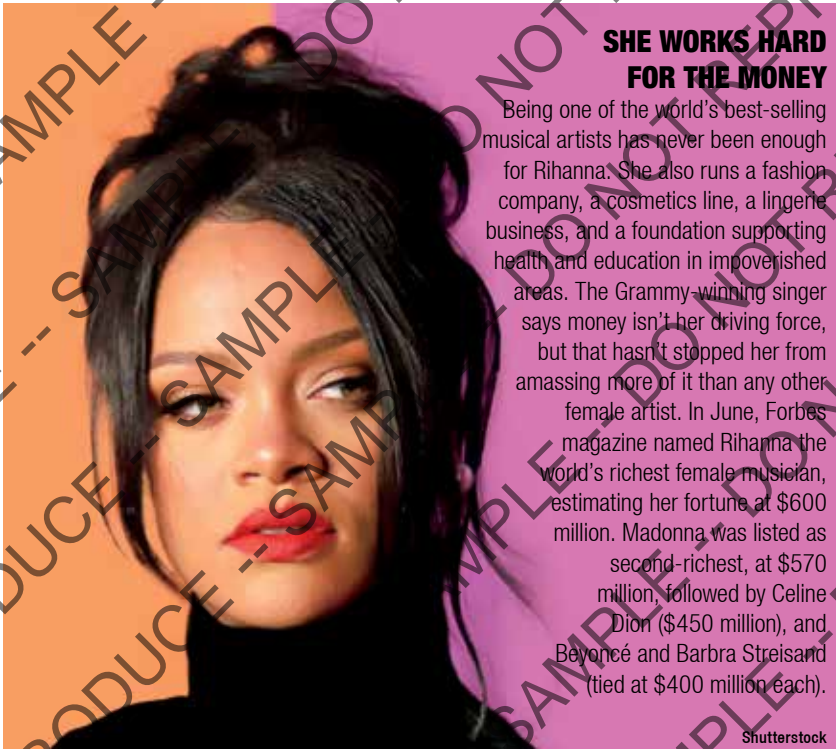
Andres Utrero/Everett Collection



Laura P. J. / New York Daily News/TNS

ARIANA GRANDE TOPS THE BEATLES

The Beatles proved their staying power in 2019—a 50th anniversary reissue of 1969's *Abbey Road* became a top-selling album in several countries. But elsewhere on the charts, Ariana Grande was catching up to them. On February 19, 2019, she became the first artist to simultaneously hold the top three spots on Billboard's Hot 100 songs chart since the Fab Four pulled off the same feat in 1964. All 12 of the songs from Grande's album *Thank U, Next* charted on Billboard, with only one failing to make the Top 40. This allowed Grande to break another record: most simultaneous Top 40 Billboard Hot 100 hits by a female artist.



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SHE WORKS HARD FOR THE MONEY

Being one of the world's best-selling musical artists has never been enough for Rihanna. She also runs a fashion company, a cosmetics line, a lingerie business, and a foundation supporting health and education in impoverished areas. The Grammy-winning singer says money isn't her driving force, but that hasn't stopped her from amassing more of it than any other female artist. In June, *Forbes* magazine named Rihanna the world's richest female musician, estimating her fortune at \$600 million. Madonna was listed as second-richest, at \$570 million, followed by Celine Dion (\$450 million), and Beyoncé and Barbra Streisand (tied at \$400 million each).



1. Taylor Swift - *Lover*
2. Lady Gaga & Bradley Cooper - *A Star Is Born* soundtrack
3. Billie Eilish - *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*
4. Queen - *Bohemian Rhapsody* soundtrack
5. Jonas Brothers - *Happiness Begins*
6. BTS - *Map of the Soul: Persona*
7. *The Greatest Showman* soundtrack
8. Lauren Daigle - *Look Up Child*
9. Michael Buble - *Love*
10. Mumford and Sons - *Delta*

Life

Style

THEY

WORD OF THE YEAR

"They" is one of the most basic words in English, officially used as a third-person plural pronoun. In December 2019, Merriam-Webster named "they" its word of the year, recognizing it for all the extra hours it's spent filling in as a singular gender-neutral pronoun. That secondary use has taken on more meaning in recent years, as the word has been embraced by the non-binary community to refer to those who identify as neither male nor female, a third usage Webster's has now added to its online dictionary. According to Merriam-Webster, searches for "they" increased 313% in 2019 over the previous year.

THE MEME OF A NEW GENERATION

Millennials scored a point in the generation war when it found the perfect meme to mock and dismiss its elders. "OK Boomer" originally was coined in 2009, but the phrase gained popularity in early 2019 when it was used in a popular TikTok video showing an older man criticizing millennials for holding on to their youthful utopian ideas. Some called the phrase ageist, but its popularity continued, spawning countless parodies and thinkpieces. Like all anti-establishment sentiments, it wasn't long before OK Boomer was co-opted for financial gain: an art student made more than \$25,000 selling a hoodie featuring the phrase, and several companies, including Fox Media, have attempted to trademark it.

OK
BOOMER



THE KONMARI PARADOX

Marie Kondo's profile was raised significantly in 2019, thanks to her hit Netflix series, Tidying Up with Marie Kondo. The 34-year-old Japanese organizing consultant convinced millions of viewers to follow her KonMari method, which involves picking up every item in their home and asking themselves if it "sparks joy." Some of Kondo's suggestions, such as keeping no more than 30 books, sparked more backlash than joy—as did the irony of the November launch of her online store offering exactly the type of knick-knacks she promotes getting rid of.

◀ HOW DO YOU SPELL "WINNERS"?

In 94 years, the famous Scripps National Spelling Bee has never ended in more than a two-way tie. That changed on May 30, 2019, when eight contestants out-spelled the dictionary. Organizers failed to stump the young players, who ranged in age from 12 to 14, despite throwing words at them for the better part of a day. Shortly after midnight, the historic eight-way tie was called. Each contestant received the full \$50,000 prize.



RE-BAN

Alex Jones, the far-right conspiracy theorist and founder of fake news website Infowars, was banned from nearly every social media platform in 2018, but his Facebook ban proved to be short-lived, as the platform continues to figure out whether or not it should police lies and hate speech. On May 2, 2019, Jones was banned from Facebook for a second time, along with several other controversial figures, including Louis Farrakhan and Milo Yiannopoulos. Jones quickly created a new account, which was also removed. Among his outlandish theories, Jones has accused Hillary Clinton of being a demon (literally) and claimed the Sandy Hook school shooting was a hoax.

IT IS WHAT IT IS

Fast food chain Popeyes launched its first chicken sandwich in August, prompting a Twitter feud with Chick-fil-A over which restaurant's sandwich was better. Popeyes encouraged followers to try its sandwich for themselves, unexpectedly resulting in hours-long lines and, unfortunately in some cases, rioting. Popeyes ran out of its chicken sandwiches—a product two years in the making—in less than a month. The product returned permanently in the fall, its Twitter feud won.



Mick O'Waley / normal@masslive.com



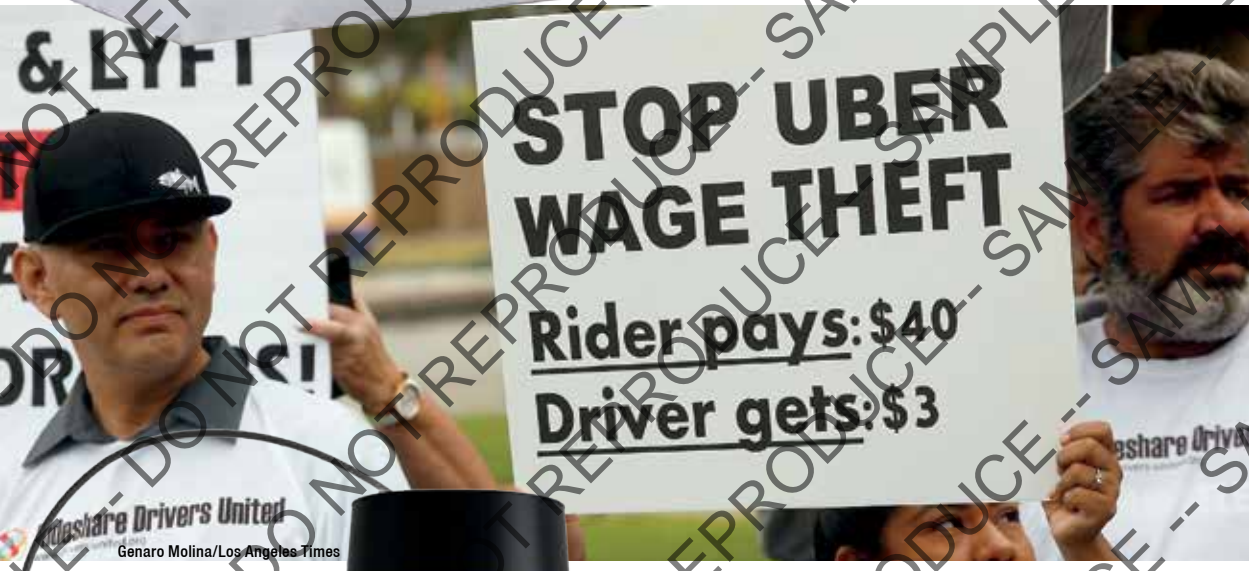
Courtesy Beyond Meat

A TASTE OF SUCCESS

Beyond Meat, the U.S.-based producer of plant-based meat substitutes—most famously the Beyond Meat burger—went public on May 2, 2019. By July, the company's value had skyrocketed from an initial \$3.8 billion to \$11.7 billion. Over the course of the year, the company expanded its offerings and launched new partnerships with a number of meat-centric restaurant chains, including Dunkin', KFC, and McDonald's.

UBER, LYFT, AND WEWORK STUMBLE

Ride-share services Uber and Lyft and workspace real estate company WeWork all planned highly anticipated initial public offerings in 2019. But instead of earning their investors high returns, all three ended up as poster children for the dangers of overvaluing hot tech startups. Within months of their IPOs, Uber and Lyft were trading for less than half of their initial market caps, while WeWork ended up scrapping its IPO entirely.



Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times

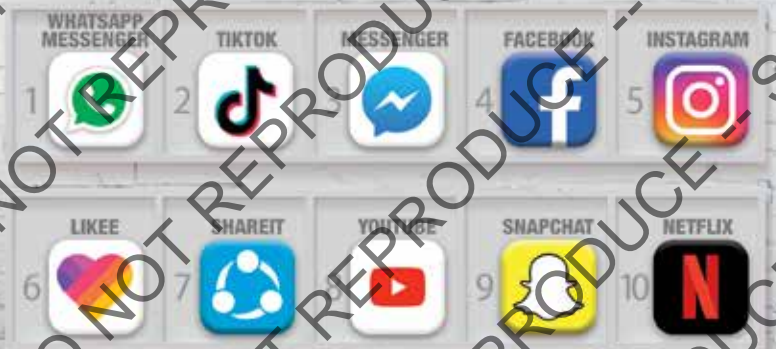


Most Searched 2019 (U.S.)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Disney Plus | 6. Luke Perry |
| 2. Cameron Boyce | 7. Avengers: Endgame |
| 3. Nipsey Hussle | 8. Game of Thrones |
| 4. Hurricane Dorian | 9. iPhone 11 |
| 5. Antonio Brown | 10. Jussie Smollett |

(Source: Google Trends)

MOST DOWNLOADED APPS (IOS & ANDROID)



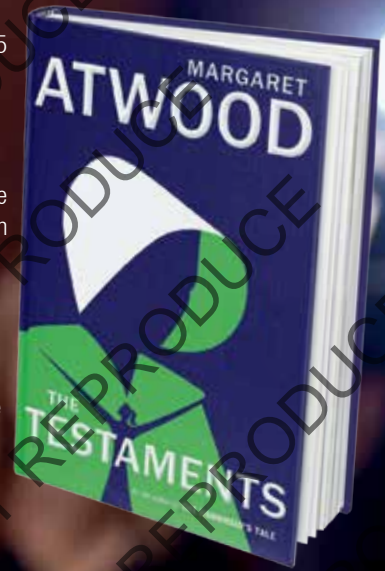
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THE CANADIAN PRESS/Chris Young



A TALE OF HOPE

The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood's 1985 dystopian novel about a patriarchal society, underwent a resurgence in 2017 when Hulu released a TV adaptation (now entering its fourth season), starring Elisabeth Moss and produced by Atwood herself. The book became a touchpoint for women in the Me Too era, with protestors frequently donning handmaids' cloaks and bonnets. In September 2019, Atwood released a sequel, The Testaments. The book, with an initial print run of 500,000, was critically well-received and won the Man Booker Prize. Rather than revisit the nightmare scenario of her original story, Atwood opted to make her new book a tale of hope for the defeat of misogyny.



CELEBRITY PASSINGS

Toni Morrison, who died in 2019 at the age of 88, became one of the greatest chroniclers of Black life in America through books such as *Beloved* and *Song of Solomon*, and was an inspiration to both readers and writers. Other entertainment figures who died this year included fashion icon Gloria Vanderbilt, character actor Rip Torn (*The Larry Sanders Show*), Broadway star Carol Channing (*Hello, Dolly!*), social media celebrity Grumpy Cat, and—briefly—Planter's mascot Mr. Peanut.



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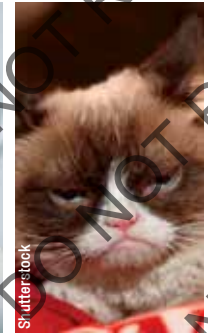
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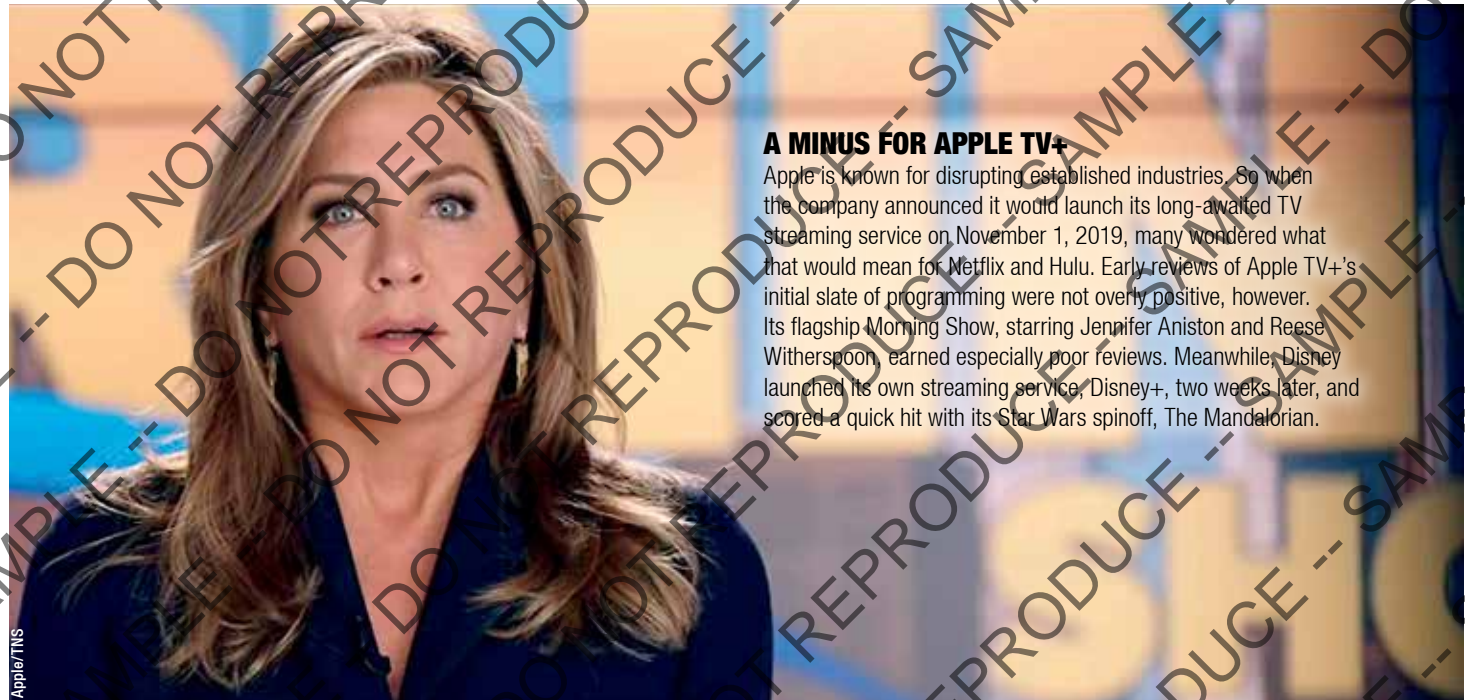
THE CANADIAN PRESS/Chris Young



Getty Images Collection



Shutterstock



Apple/TNS

A MINUS FOR APPLE TV+

Apple is known for disrupting established industries. So when the company announced it would launch its long-awaited TV streaming service on November 1, 2019, many wondered what that would mean for Netflix and Hulu. Early reviews of Apple TV+'s initial slate of programming were not overly positive, however. Its flagship *Morning Show*, starring Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon, earned especially poor reviews. Meanwhile, Disney launched its own streaming service, Disney+, two weeks later, and scored a quick hit with its *Star Wars* spinoff, *The Mandalorian*.



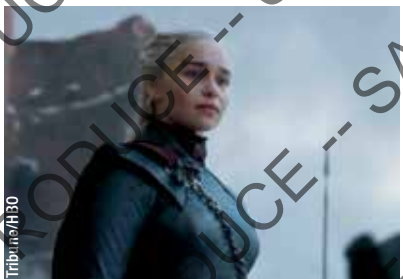
Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times

PHOEBE WALLER-BRIDGE'S BIG YEAR

Phoebe Waller-Bridge was already a highly praised writer and actress going into 2019, thanks to the first season of her critically acclaimed Amazon Prime show, *Fleabag*, and the stage show on which it was based. Her star rose even higher this year: Critics loved *Fleabag*'s second season, which debuted in April 2019 and won six Emmys and a Golden Globe; Waller-Bridge took her original *Fleabag* show back to the stage over the summer, receiving more positive reviews; HBO greenlit a new show she co-created; and she was tapped to co-write the screenplay of the 25th James Bond movie, *No Time to Die*.

SUNNY DAYS

When Joan Ganz Cooney conceived of Sesame Street—which celebrated 50 years on television in 2019—the idea of an educational show for preschoolers based on academic research was groundbreaking. Today, it's hard to imagine a time when Big Bird, Oscar, and Cookie Monster weren't a part of growing up. Some early critics felt the show's fast pace and short segments would harm children's attention spans, but initial mixed reviews quickly faded, and there are now more than 150 versions of Sesame Street shown around the world, in 70 languages.



GAME OVER

Game of Thrones, the HBO series based (at least initially) on A Song of Ice and Fire, a series of fantasy novels by George R.R. Martin, became a ratings juggernaut over the course of its eight-season run. Fans disappointed by the show's final episode, which aired on May 19, 2019, might eventually get a do-over. Game of Thrones surpassed the source material of Martin's still unfinished book series after Season 5. Martin has said the books will have a slightly different ending—though when they will be released has been anyone's guess for years. Martin's last book in the series was published nearly a decade ago, with two books still in progress.

CELEBRITY PASSINGS

Beloved '90s teen heartthrob Luke Perry was having a comeback when he died of a stroke on March 4, 2019, at the age of 52. The cast of Riverdale, the CW show in which Perry played Fred Andrews, father of Archie, devoted a special episode to Perry on October 9, featuring a guest appearance by his former Beverly Hills, 90210 co-star Shannen Doherty. Other celebrities who left us last year included Carol Spinney (Sesame Street's Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch), Valerie Harper (The Mary Tyler Moore Show), Peggy Lipton (The Mod Squad, Twin Peaks), singer and actress Diahann Carroll, Tim Conway (The Carol Burnett Show), and Katherine Helmond (Soap, Who's the Boss?).



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Canadian Press Images



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Nicholas Khayyat/Miaca Press



AP Photo/Jean-Jacques Levy



AP Photo/Wick Lij Fille



Ralph Dominguez/Aljabe Photos/ZUMA Press/INS



STRONG ON THE HEARTSTRINGS THIS ONE PULLS

With Star Wars fans divided on the franchise's new direction under Disney, a hero was needed to bring balance to the toxicity overtaking social media. Enter "Baby Yoda," a character everyone seems to agree is the best thing to happen to the galaxy far, far away since, well, adult Yoda. Baby Yoda—who, spoiler, is not actually Yoda as a baby—was introduced in the first episode of The Mandalorian, a Star Wars spinoff that debuted November 12, 2019, on Disney+. The character quickly became the one thing fans didn't realize they had been missing in their lives.



Disney/TINS



TOP TRENDING YOUTUBE VIDS OF 2019



1. "No More Lies" - James Charles
2. "Gordon Ramsay Savagely Critiques Spicy Wings I Hot Ones" - First We Feast
3. "Investigating Conspiracies with Shane Dawson" - Shane Dawson
4. "I Bought Everything In A Store—Challenge" - MrBeast
5. "We Believe: The Best Men Can Be" - Gillette

movies

AVENGERS DISASSEMBLED

After 10 years and 22 films, Avengers: Endgame closed a major chapter in the highly successful series of interconnected movies based on the characters of Marvel comics. It also retired several popular favorites, including Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man, the hero whose eponymous first movie kicked off the series in 2008. Although Endgame received only a single Oscar nomination, the movie earned near universal praise and \$2.8 billion at the box office, making it the highest-grossing film of all time.

© Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures / © Marvel Studios / courtesy Everett Collection



© Warner Bros. / courtesy Everett Collection

WAIT'LL THEY GET A LOAD OF HIM

Can you have a Joker movie without Batman? Should you? That was just one of the questions surrounding the release of Joker, an origin story of the caped crusader's longtime nemesis, played by Joaquin Phoenix. Joker's new take on the character was decidedly different than Heath Ledger's famous turn in 2008's The Dark Knight, and led many critics to call the film an incel training manual. Joker still went on to become the highest-grossing R-rated movie in history and was nominated for 11 Oscars.

THE LAST BOW OF SKYWALKER

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker brought to a close a story that began a long time ago — 42 years, to be exact. Many felt this ninth installment was better than 2017's The Last Jedi but were still decidedly mixed on whether director J.J. Abrams did justice to the beloved original trilogy or ruined their childhood.

DISNEY/LUCASFILM LTD.

LEGENDS WHO LEFT US

Although Peter Mayhew, who died on April 30, 2019 at the age of 74, relinquished the role of Chewbacca in the Star Wars films after 2015's The Force Awakens, fans will always consider him the one true Wookiee. Other Hollywood stars who died last year included the multitalented Doris Day (The Man Who Knew Too Much, The Pajama Game), producer Robert Evans (The Godfather, Chinatown), and actor Peter Fonda (Easy Rider).



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2019 OSCAR Winners

Best Picture: Parasite

Best Director: Bong Joon Ho (*Parasite*)

Best Actor: Joaquin Phoenix (*Joker*)

Best Actress: Renée Zellweger (*Judy*)

Best Supporting Actor: Brad Pitt
(*Once upon a Time...in Hollywood*)

Best Supporting Actress: Laura Dern
(*Marriage Story*)



A HERO WITH THE POWER TO DESTROY ALL COMPETITION

Captain Marvel is the most powerful hero among the Marvel Comics characters. But saving the universe was nothing compared to convincing Hollywood that a female superhero could carry a major motion picture. Captain Marvel, starring Brie Larson in the title role, earned more than \$1 billion—the first female superhero movie to do so—making it Marvel's seventh biggest film. Captain Marvel was the first of Marvel's now 22 films to feature a female lead, but Larson has already suited up to make a sequel, and the female-led Black Widow, starring Scarlett Johansson, is due this year.



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MOST EXCELLENT

Fans of Keanu Reeves have reported enough genuine, respectful interactions with the public over the years that the actor has been dubbed the Internet's boyfriend. Despite the thought of losing him, fans still swooned at the news in November 2019 that Reeves, 55, was dating artist and longtime friend Alexandra Grant, 46—the first relationship he'd made public in more than a decade and one, in keeping with his respectful nature, deemed "age appropriate."



Netflix / courtesy Everett Collection

SCORSESE BREAKS NEW GROUND

With The Irishman, legendary director Martin Scorsese went back to his roots, crafting a real American crime drama with many of the genre's best actors, including Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, and Joe Pesci. But the movie is more than a throwback. The Irishman employed cutting edge CGI to de-age several of its actors, and was available on Netflix on November 27, 2019, only three weeks after a limited theatrical run. Netflix, which rarely releases viewership figures, said in December the film had been viewed by 26 million accounts, making it the platform's fifth most popular release ever.

2019 TOP GROSSING MOVIES (USD, WORLDWIDE)

1. Avengers: Endgame (\$2.8 billion)
2. The Lion King (\$1.7 billion)
3. Frozen II (\$1.4 billion)
4. Spider-Man: Far From Home (\$1.1 billion)
5. Captain Marvel (\$1.1 billion)
6. Toy Story 4 (\$1.1 billion)
7. Joker (\$1.1 billion)
8. Aladdin (\$1.1 billion)
9. Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (\$1 billion)
10. Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (\$758 million)

A CAT VIDEO NO ONE WANTS TO WATCH

Audiences were seriously creeped out by the sight of Judi Dench, Jennifer Hudson, and Taylor Swift sporting CGI-generated cat ears and fur when Universal Pictures released the first trailer for a big-screen adaptation of Cats, one of the highest-grossing stage musicals of all time. Reaction was so negative that the studio went back and tweaked the effects before the film's release on December 20, 2019. But it wasn't enough: critics were less than generous and audiences stayed away in droves, leading to a \$100 million loss that some dubbed the biggest Hollywood disaster of the decade.



Tribune/Universal Pictures

sports

THEY ARE THE CHAMPIONS

The U.S. women's soccer team entered the 2019 World Cup with three previous championships and a defiant attitude. While many criticized the way players celebrated every goal on the field as arrogant, the team earned its celebratory ways, outscoring its opponents in the tournament 26–3. Team co-captain Megan Rapinoe won both the Golden Boot, as the Cup's top scorer, and the Golden Ball, for being its overall best player. She was also the tournament's most polarizing figure. The openly gay midfielder refused to sing or place her hand on her heart during the U.S. national anthem as a protest against racial injustice and oppression.

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Carlos Gonzalez/Minneapolis Star Tribune/TNS



GAMES FOR ALL

The Canada Games has long prided itself on being more progressive than other sports associations. On February 18, 2019, the organization announced it would allow athletes to compete as their identified gender. Its new policy states the organization recognizes that “sex and gender are not the same thing,” and that it aims to create “a safe and welcoming environment for transgender or intersex participants at the Canada Games.”



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RUSSIA BANNED FROM OLYMPICS

Russia's collection of Olympic medals is second only to the United States. There's one area, however, where Russia has the U.S. beat: a record 43 medals stripped due to doping. On December 9, 2019, the World Anti-Doping Agency decided it had had enough and banned Russia from the all international sports competition, including the Olympics, for four years. (Russia previously was banned from the 2018 Games.) This means the country can't compete in either the 2020 Tokyo Games or the Winter Games in Beijing in 2022.



BIANCA ANDREESCU RISES TO THE TOP

Canadian tennis star Bianca Andreescu had a breakout year in 2019. She quickly rose through the ranks of the Women's Tennis Association, finishing runner-up at the Auckland Open, reaching the second round of the Australian Open, and winning a WTA 125K title at the Oracle Challenger Series in Newport Beach. On October 21, 2019, she became the top-ranked player on the WTA Tour. But her crowning achievement came on September 7, when she won her first Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open by defeating Serena Williams, making Andreescu the first Canadian to win a Grand Slam singles title and the No. 1 ranked player in the world. Andreescu also became the first tennis player to win the Lou Marsh Trophy, an award given annually by a panel of Canadian sports writers to the person deemed Canada's top athlete.



A RECORD-SETTING WIN

On June 13, 2019, the Toronto Raptors beat the Golden State Warriors in Game 6 of the NBA playoffs, winning their first championship in the team's 24-season history. The Raptors became the first Canadian team to win an NBA title, as well as the first sports team in the country to win a major league championship since the Toronto Blue Jays won two World Series back to back in 1992 and 1993. Fans immediately took to the streets in celebration, and a parade held in the team's honour a few days later drew, by some estimates, two million fans.

Carlos Gonzalez/Minneapolis Star Tribune/TNS



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TWO FIRST MAJOR LEAGUE WINS

The sporting world saw two big firsts in 2019, one of which was long overdue. The St. Louis Blues, Philadelphia's 52-year-old NHL franchise, started the year in dead last place out of 31 teams. Thanks to rookie goalie Jordan Binnington and a solid defence, the Blues fought their way to the Stanley Cup finals, defeating the Boston Bruins on their home ice to capture their first league win. Meanwhile, D.C. saw its first World Series victory in nearly a century, when the Washington Nationals beat the Houston Astros in the seventh game of the World Series, taking home the team's first pennant in its 15-season history.

2019 WINS

World Series:

Washington Nationals (over Houston Astros)

Super Bowl:

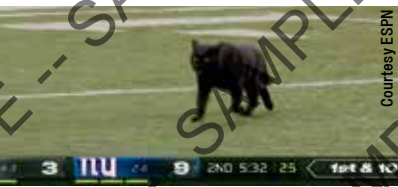
New England Patriots (over Los Angeles Rams)

NBA Final:

Toronto Raptors (over Golden State Warriors)

Stanley Cup:

St. Louis Blues (over Boston Bruins)



Courtesy ESPN

EVEN FOOTBALL FANS LOVE CAT VIDEOS

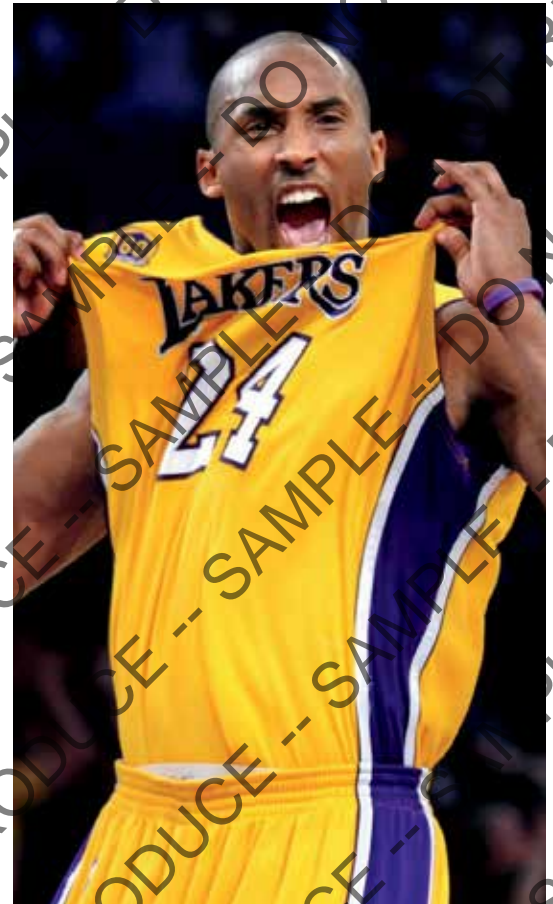
A black cat covered more ground more quickly than any player during a November 4, 2019, NFL game between the Dallas Cowboys and the New York Giants. The cat, reportedly a stray that lives in the bleachers of MetLife Stadium, was spotted on the field during the second quarter, stopping play and captivating viewers of Monday Night Football.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

Mike Babcock had a solid coaching record: He took the Detroit Red Wings to Stanley Cup victory in 2008, got the Anaheim Mighty Ducks to the finals in 2003, and helped the Canadian men's hockey team win Olympic gold in 2010 and 2014. But he had obviously never encountered a challenge like the Toronto Maple Leafs, a team that hasn't won the Stanley Cup since 1967. When Babcock signed a \$50-million, eight-year contract with the Leafs in 2015, hopes of success were high. But Babcock was unable to get the team past the first round of playoffs in three seasons. He was fired on November 20, 2019, after a six-game losing streak.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/Hans Deryk

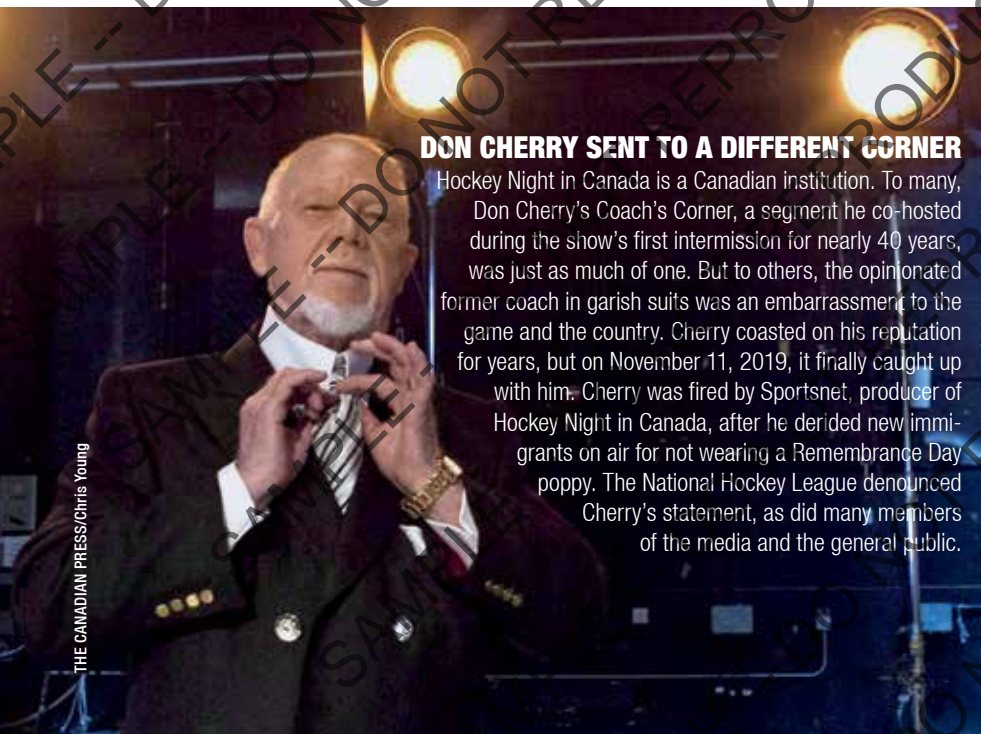


A SAD DAY FOR BASKETBALL

On January 28, 2020, a helicopter carrying basketball legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, and six family friends crashed into the side of a mountain north of Los Angeles, killing everyone aboard, including the pilot. The exact cause of the crash wasn't immediately known, but the copter was flying in extreme fog that hampered visibility. The L.A. Lakers, Bryant's team for his entire 20-year NBA career, paid an emotional tribute a few days later during a memorial game against the Portland Trailblazers, featuring performances by Usher and Boys II Men.

DON CHERRY SENT TO A DIFFERENT CORNER

Hockey Night in Canada is a Canadian institution. To many, Don Cherry's Coach's Corner, a segment he co-hosted during the show's first intermission for nearly 40 years, was just as much of one. But to others, the opinionated former coach in garish suits was an embarrassment to the game and the country. Cherry coasted on his reputation for years, but on November 11, 2019, it finally caught up with him. Cherry was fired by Sportsnet, producer of Hockey Night in Canada, after he derided new immigrants on air for not wearing a Remembrance Day poppy. The National Hockey League denounced Cherry's statement, as did many members of the media and the general public.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/Chris Young

science

MEET THE NEW NEIGHBORS

Oops. Any Star Trek fan can tell you that introducing an alien species to foreign planets is a no-no. But that's exactly what happened in April 2019, when an Israeli lander crashed on the surface of the moon, stranding thousands of microscopic dehydrated tardigrades, also known as water bears. In most cases, this wouldn't be a problem, but water bears have already proven to be considerably resilient and able to survive the vacuum of space. If anyone crashes a glass of water next to them, they might be greeting us on our next visit.



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HOPE FOR A CURE

On March 5, 2019, it was announced that an HIV-positive patient was showing no evidence of the disease after receiving a stem-cell transplant that replaced infected white blood cells with HIV-resistant ones. The patient, who remained unidentified, had been off their antiretroviral treatment drugs for 18 months and continued to show no signs of the disease returning. A similar treatment was undertaken a decade ago on a patient who also remains free of HIV. Scientists say it is too early to say whether this new patient is definitely HIV free, but it is the most hope they've had of curing the disease to date.

TESLA CYBERTRUCK UNVEILING GOES WRONG

Tesla CEO Elon Musk hoped the company's new Cybertruck would make a splash at its November 2019 unveiling. Unfortunately, the launch of the electric battery-powered light commercial vehicle might end up being remembered less for the Cybertruck's demonstrated speed and sustainability than for the failure of its armored glass window during an onstage test. The window had passed at least one earlier test before the unveiling, but when Tesla's design chief threw a metal ball at the glass, it shattered in front of the assembled media and invited guests. Production of the Cybertruck is expected to begin in 2021.



Frederic J. Brown/AFP via Getty Images

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS OFF

Opportunity, the flat-topped rover that charmed space exploration fans when it landed on the surface of Mars 15 years ago, was built to last just 90 Martian days and travel no more than 1,100 yards. Not only did it exceed its expected lifespan 60 times over, it traveled a lifetime total of 28 miles over the planet's surface. Opportunity went quiet in 2018 in the appropriately named Perseverance Valley, following a severe dust storm. At first NASA hoped the rover might reboot, but eventually it announced the completion of Opportunity's mission on February 13, 2019. The information collected by Opportunity will help NASA undertake an eventual manned mission to the red planet.



NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS

A NATURE EMERGENCY

A report delivered by the United Nations in May 2019—written by hundreds of experts from more than 50 countries—said up to one million species on Earth are currently threatened with extinction, some within the next few decades. The report called the number “unprecedented in human history,” and blames human intrusion into natural habitats. It warns that a decreased biodiversity could take away many of the resources humans need to survive, such as trees and plants.



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