

# PRAIRIE OPINION

PRAIRIE POST is published for southwestern Alberta by the proprietor  
Alta Newspaper Group, LP  
at: 504 7 Street South,  
Lethbridge, Alta.,  
Canada, T1J 2H1  
Second Class Mail  
Registration Number 0281

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6 - Prairie Post - Friday, November 2, 2018

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## 50 years after 2001: A Space Odyssey is still the "Movie that changed all Movies"



Neel  
**ROBERTS**  
YOUR UNIVERSE

Stan Kubrick, one of the greatest and most influential directors in the film industry, was reputed for his revealing, sensational movies which almost seem prophetic.

Starting as a high school photographer, it's little known he made many movies until his blockbuster "2001: A Space Odyssey" hit box offices in the spring of 1968.

Based on a narrative of Sci-Fi British author Sir Arthur C. Clarke, its ideas come from his 1948 novel "The Sentinel" and 1953 "Encounter in the Dawn".

With a budget of \$12 Million, it's taken in over \$190 Million so not only was it a financial success but it's commonly observed as one of the best sci-fi works of all time even to today.

It's classified as "Hard sci-fi (a category of 'sci-fi' characterized by an emphasis on scientific accuracy)" for its accurate depiction of space flight, pioneering special effects, and ambiguous imagery while emphasizing sound/minimizing dialogue in place of traditional narrative techniques.

The soundtrack consists of classical music such as The Blue Danube and Also sprach Zarathustra. Noted for its scientific futurism, it's retelling when comparing it to today's view.

Specifically, AI (artificially intelligence) seemed more fictional than scientific in 1968, but today that's become more real than imaginary. I am going to write more about AI since it's now part of our daily lives and it can be either good or bad depending who's controlling it.

More significant is the coming release of advanced technology promised at President Donald Trump's Jan. 20, 2017 inauguration. With the newly-created Space Force Department (<https://www.asfpc.af.mil/>) of the military, much will resemble what's in the movie.

If you haven't seen it, catch the HD version at <http://hdvix.com/movie/2001-a-space-odyssey-1968-16444/>. At 2.5 hours long, it's lengthy but well worth it!

### Sky watch for the next month:

1. Daylight's Savings Time Ends- Sunday Nov. 4 at 2 a.m. you'll get that hour of sleep.
2. Northern Taurids Meteor Shower Peaks- Sunday, Nov. 11 after dark forecast is seven meteors per hour and the moon will set at early evening for dark skies until the wee morning hours of the Nov. 12.
3. Leonid Meteor Shower Peaks- Wednesday, Nov. 17 after nightfall into the next morning as the moon sets around 3 a.m., so look towards the constellation of Leo. Originating from the comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle, it should produce meteors at the rate of 10-15 per hour.
4. Jupiter/Sunrise conjunction- Monday, Nov. 26 look SE before 9 a.m. with a good pair of solar filters and binos or scope.

### Public Events for the next month:

Monthly Open House at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis- Mark down Saturday, Nov. 17 from 20:00 to 23:00. There will be an array of scopes operated by University of Calgary astronomers and members of the RASC Calgary. You will have the opportunity to look through the telescopes, indoor presentation and astronomers will be on hand to answer questions.

Check out the vain and boastful queen of the northern sky Cassiopeia under a sliver of a moon.

The entrance fee is \$30 per car. For further information, contact Jennifer Howe at [jhowe@phas.ucalgary.ca](mailto:jhowe@phas.ucalgary.ca), (403) 931-2366. Their website <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/> is updated regularly.

Happy Cooler days and Meteor Watching!

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada-the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1868 with over 5,000 members and 29 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at (403) 560-6574. [Neel\\_Roberts@ptccanada.com](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com). The members meet once a month on weekends at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis and you can check out times at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/calendar>. Like them at Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/272037680377/>. Twitter <https://twitter.com/CalgaryRASC> & YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/RASCCalgary>.



## Letters to the Editor

# What is happening in Canadian houses?

### EDITOR:

Barbara Bush once said, "You must take to your children and you must hug your children and you must love your children."

Your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens in the White House, but what happens inside your house."

What is happening in Canadian houses?

Parents are giving in to government and media propaganda saying their values and beliefs supersede that of the home. Unsurprisingly, our children are rejecting family values, succumbing to distressing identity confusion, abusing drugs at an ever-increasing rate and suffering unprecedented mental illnesses.

Parents need to realize that reversing these alarming trends can only be achieved by people who have a genuine

personal love for their children.

We cannot continue to allow dictatorial governments, their institutions and media ratings to set morals, values and ethical standards, from the top down. Their motives and expediency have corrupted true diversity of thought and turned the legacy of our forefathers into disgrace, shame and dishonour. No wonder our children are becoming malleable clones of an Orwellian Society!

As Frost once revealed of an unsatisfied life, "they have nothing to look backward to with pride nor anything to look forward to with hope."

We need to make Barbara Bush's maxim our goal. Our success as a society does truly depend upon what happens inside our homes.

**RICHARD DIETRICH,  
MEDICINE HAT**

# Political leaders trying to chase two opposites

### EDITOR:

My father once sat my teenager-self down. He cut to the chase, solemnly proclaiming, "He who runs after two hares will catch neither."

That's all he said but I got it. I needed to decide what was more important: school or fun. My father is long gone now but his old proverb applies to this day. Notley and Trudeau, you are

repeating a classic mistake, simultaneously running after one thing and its opposite. You need to take your fingers out of too many pies and decide which is your master, climate change or fossil fuels. I fear you both risk losing it all for yourselves and for us all.

**CAROLE VALLEE  
CHELMFORD, ONT.**



Send your community calendar events to:  
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