



university of ottawa
fulcrum

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Meet Justice Richard Wagner

photo by Kyle Hansford

U of O alumnus is the newest addition to the Supreme Court

Andrew Ikeman | Fulcrum Staff

The Supreme Court of Canada contains nine of the brightest legal minds in the country, and on Oct. 2, 2012, University of Ottawa alumnus Richard Wagner was appointed to the position of Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. The son of Claude Wagner, former Progressive Conservative member of Parliament (MP) and member of the national assembly (MNA) of Quebec, who also served as Quebec's attorney general and minister of justice, Justice Wagner received his bachelor and law degrees at the U of O in 1978 and 1979 respectively. He worked as a lawyer and mediator in Montreal from 1980 to 2004—during which time he became the bâtonnier of the bar of Montreal—when he was appointed to the Quebec Superior Court. He served there until 2011, at which point he was elevated to the Quebec Court of Appeal. The *Fulcrum* recently sat down with Justice Wagner to find out how he is adjusting to life on the highest court in the land.

The *Fulcrum*: What made you want to become a lawyer and, subsequently a judge?

Justice Richard Wagner: There are two main reasons, I would say. First, as a teenager, I always liked to debate and to argue; that was my personality, I guess. But I was influenced by my father for sure because he was involved in the legal circle; he was a judge, he was a lawyer, he was a teacher, he was a minister of justice. He brought me with him when I was six or seven years old to the courthouse—the Ernest-Cormier building in Montreal—where I practiced as a judge at the Court of Appeal as well. I remember that I was very impressed by the building, by the lawyers arguing. So that for sure was an influence in my career, with my personality and my interests. So what I wanted to do was to become a litigation lawyer—I wanted to go to court, I wanted to argue cases—and that's why I chose my law firm, according to this priority. I even considered working for legal aid, because in those days they were going to court very often in many cases. So I wanted to argue cases. I was satisfied because I was with the firm Lavery, Johnston, Clark, Carrière, Mason, and Partners in those days, which was a litigation firm. As an articling student I had the chance to argue a case on the merit, [in] provincial court, and superior court, and even before the Court of Appeal. That's what I did, and I was really privileged to do it.

What did you like most about your time at the University of Ottawa?

It was great; I love the University of Ottawa. We had small groups, and everybody knew each other. I had been doing both of my degrees at the same time—political science and a law degree—but they were small classes. Teachers were very good;

we had a good mix between academics and private practice lawyers. So I loved every year I spent at the U of O. It's a nice environment also—it's clean, it's good for sports, it's quiet. I loved every year.

What do you think are some of the current issues facing law students?

I think the biggest challenge is competition, because there are many lawyers coming out of schools. I think students should be ready and willing to travel, to consider all types of practice, and to keep their mind open to new things. I think that every period has its own challenges. I remember in my days, we considered that there were too many students; the job openings were not as numbered as they could be. I guess young students are saying the same things today, but the difference is that more and more young students will be able to work outside their own communities now. Whereas in our own days, you would often be called to work in your

environment—your city, your province. You will see more and more students who will go elsewhere; they will go to Europe, they will go to another province, because of the new economy. That's a big difference.

What would you tell yourself if you could speak to yourself in your first year of law school?

Don't abandon your dreams. Never. It may look difficult in the future, but we have this society that will provide all kinds of possibilities, and you should never give up your dreams. That's what I wish someone had told me when I was in first year, but I think I was able to live up to my expectations. In other words, I've done what I wanted to do, I've worked hard, and I [met] my goals.

How do you feel about being appointed to the highest court in the land?

There are a lot of feelings, I must say. It's

quite special for a jurist; I mean there are only nine people in the country sitting on this court. So I felt honoured, but with the honour also comes the responsibility. The legal issues are so important here, that you feel the weight of the responsibility. But fortunately I work with eight other people, and the welcome was great. We have a great chief justice [Beverley McLachlin] as well. [She is] very bright, very impressive; she is a real leader and will bring all of the members together. So we don't feel like we are alone. This collegial work is very positive.

What do you hope to accomplish as a Supreme Court justice?

I can say that basically it is a contribution that you can bring. As I mentioned, we are nine members of the court, so you will contribute to render justice. I'm a true believer in the legal system in Canada. I was able when I was bâtonnier of Montreal to compare [our] legal system with other systems around the world. And I have no [problem] with telling you that we have one of the best legal systems in the world. I want to make sure we keep the faith of our citizens in our legal system, and one of the ways to do it is to render the best possible decisions, and that is what I will try to do.

What do you think is the best thing about the Canadian legal system?

I think that the best quality of our system is the impartiality of the judiciary. That's the main reason we have such a [strong] democracy, and that's why it is so important that we fight for the independence of the judiciary. Maybe people will take it for granted, but we have to fight for it every time to remind people of the necessity to maintain the independence and the impartiality of the judiciary system. f



“The best quality of our system is the impartiality of the judiciary.” photo by Kyle Hansford

Racism at the U of O?

Racist epithet scrawled inside law building

Jesse Mellott | Fulcrum Staff

On Nov. 9, a press conference was held in room 302 of Fauteux Hall, which houses the University of Ottawa's faculty of law. The U of O chapter of the Black Law Students' Association (BLSA) of the U of O chapter organized the conference, which was put together to denounce a recent act of racism on campus. The room was full of other law student associations and professors showing their solidarity and support for members of the BLSA.

The incident in question was that the N-word was recently etched into a bathroom stall in Fauteux Hall.

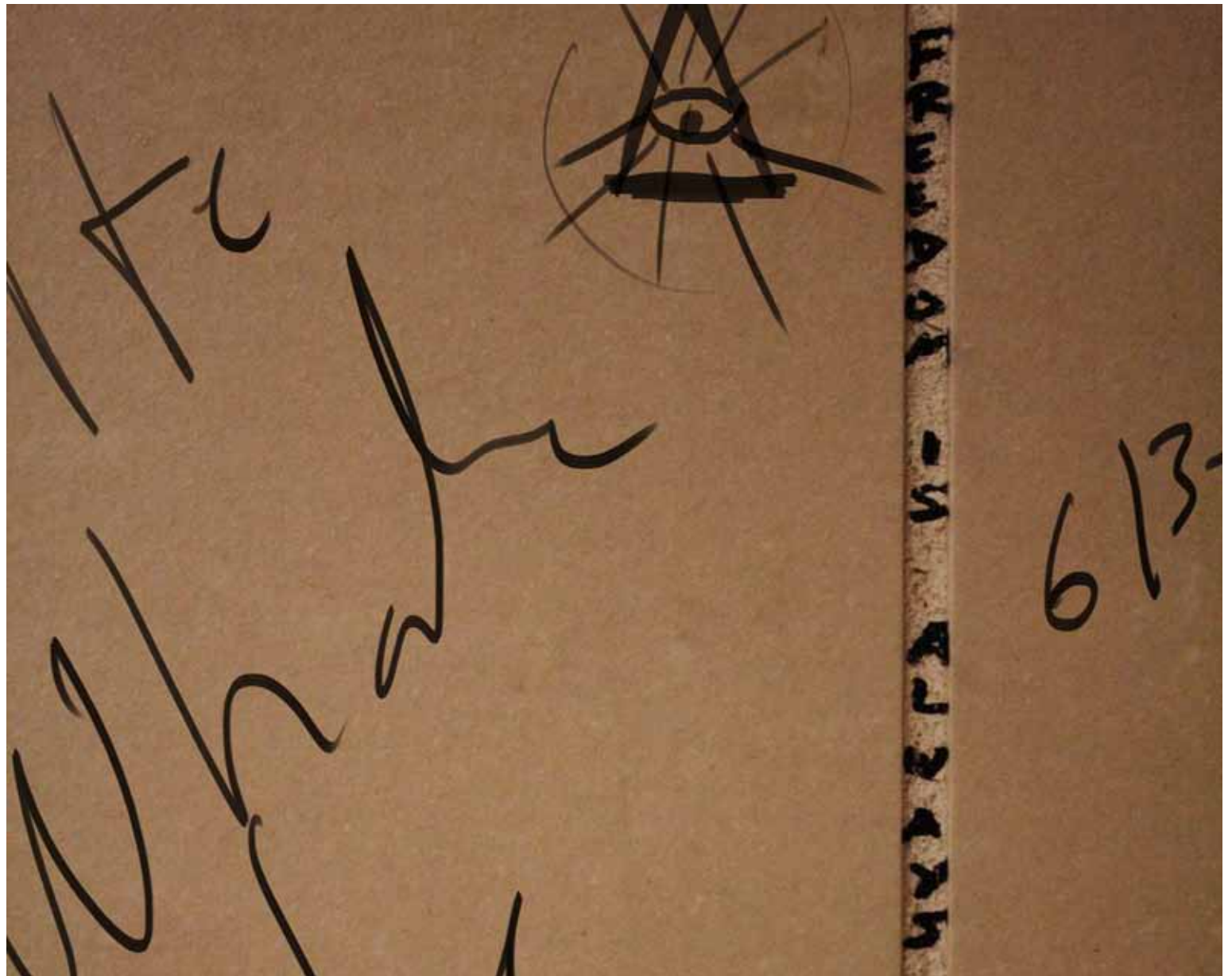
Lavinia Latham, a third-year common law student and the president of the Black Law Students' Association of Canada, explained why she believes it is important to speak out against racism.

"I think denouncing this in a public forum definitely fights back against racism," Latham said. "I feel as though it is not something that is tolerated, [and] not just by black law students, but [by] the faculty itself."

Professor Joanne St. Lewis, who teaches common law at the U of O, said the incident was an extreme example of racism, but not an isolated one.

"No, we don't have some frequency where people are carving the N-word all over our building ... in a sense it's a very extreme manifestation of racism, that's how I would see it," said St. Lewis. "[Black law students] have been experiencing racist exchanges and various things that have been cause for concern—in terms of whether they have been appropriately respected by their colleagues—and those exchanges have been racist."

According to law student Mazin Al-



Racial slur found etched into bathroom stall on campus

photo by Sean Campbell

Rasheed, incidents of racism are nothing new at the U of O's law school.

"Since starting law school, there have been numerous incidents where students, colleagues of ours, [have made] very racialized and racially problematic comments and statements," said Al-Rashed.

Latham expressed her gratitude for the students and professors who showed

their support at the BLSA press conference.

"Prior to what happened today, I did not think that we might be close to a neutral society," she said. "However, seeing the turnout, seeing the allies, seeing everybody come together against this—perhaps I will see the day when there is a race-neutral society. I do have hope, and I think that's amazing."

Christien Levien, president of the U of O chapter of the BLSA, said that the focus must not be on placing blame for the incident, but rather on growth.

"Us being here today is not about sensationalizing the incident, or about pointing fingers, or demonizing the culprit," said Levien. "Rather I believe that because we are a world-class school, be it our students, be it our faculty, be

it our administrative staff, we should use this opportunity as a moment for growth. Let's take this opportunity to self-reflect, to truly embrace our social-justice spirit and face the endemic of discrimination that is evident on our campus ... I really don't want to focus on the individualized incident; I believe that racism is a hindrance of our collective potential." f

Byelections for BOA, BOG, and senate seats SFUO elections held to fill vacancies

Jesse Mellott | Fulcrum Staff

The Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) held a byelection from Nov. 5-7 in order to fill vacancies on the Board of Administration (BOA), Board of Governors (BOG), and the senate.

The BOG is responsible for the management of the university, making financial decisions, implementing policies, and appointing university representatives including the president and vice-president of the U of O. Only two students sit on the 33-member BOG—one graduate and one un-

dergraduate. Natalie Rydell, a third-year Telfer student, won the vacant undergraduate seat.

Rydell said she ran for the BOG undergraduate representative position in part due to her previous experience as a member of the BOA.

"I really had experience working with other students on the Board of Administration, and that made me really passionate about student issues and how the university is running," said Rydell. "I had a lot of supporters who wanted me to represent student voices on campus ... I worked really hard this week and I tried to reach out to as many students as

I possibly could."

Rydell also wanted to address the issue of discrimination on campus and concerns over tuition.

"I wanted to work with the administration and students to make tuition more affordable, because the university has been raising tuition by five per cent over the past six years and had no justification to do so," said Rydell.

The BOA is responsible for the management of the federation and is composed of SFUO executives and student representatives from every faculty. Brad Lafortune, a fourth-year science stu-

dent, won the byelection for the BOA seat for sciences, after running against two other candidates.

"I am happy that a lot of people went out to vote, and that people agreed with what I was saying," said Lafortune. "[I'm happy] that they thought that I would do well at representing the faculty of science."

Lafortune added that he would like to use his position as a BOA member to look over budgetary matters.

"I want to work towards increasing student spaces, especially [for] science students and also just review the budgets and the funds of the SFUO so that they're accountable," he said. f

Check out the new 'House Sitting' video on thefulcrum.ca

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U of O Foot Patrol holds charity walkathon

Raised over \$200 for Shannen's Dream

Jesse Mellott | Fulcrum Staff

The University of Ottawa's Foot Patrol raised money last week for Shannen's Dream, a First Nations charity dedicated to equal education for all students. Foot Patrol, a student-run service provided by the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) whose volunteers safely escort students to locations within a 45 minute walking radius around campus, donated \$1 to the charity for every person they walked from November 5–9. The SFUO matched the donations. Foot Patrol accompanied students on approximately 100 walks, and the total donation came to \$224.40.

Catherine Wagner, the supervising coordinator at Foot Patrol, said donating to a charity through a walkathon is a tradition the SFUO service began last year.

"Every year or semester ... we pick a different charity, and for every walk we get during the week of the walkathon we will donate \$1 to that charity," Wagner said. "So every time a client uses our service this week, we will give a dollar to charity."

Shannen's Dream is overseen by the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCS). Andrea the Touchstones of Hope coordinator at the FNCFCS Auger was contacted by the U of O's Foot Patrol back in Octo-



U of O Foot Patrol's Catherine Wagner

photo by Justin Labelle

ber and was told that Shannen's Dream would be receiving proceeds from the walkathon. Auger was glad to know their message was getting out to the broader public and organizations like Foot Patrol.

"It makes us really happy to know that our message is getting across to lots of different organizations, not only in Ottawa, but around the country," Auger said. "It just makes us really excited to know that

other people care and they want to make a difference."

Shannen's Dream started as a campaign for equitable schools that promoted a safe and comfortable learning environment, not only for First Nations children but for all students across Canada. From 2007–08 it was called the Attawapiskat School Campaign (ASC) and was led by Shannen Koostachin, an Attawapiskat high school student. The ASC was formed

as a result of a long-standing problem in the community schools of Attawapiskat in the James Bay region of northern Ontario. Diesel fuel was leaking into school portables, an issue the community has had to deal with since the 1970s. Koostachin and her fellow students created a campaign to make the broader public aware of the problem.

Koostachin tragically passed away in a car accident at the age of fifteen

in 2010, but as Auger explained, Shannen's Dream lives on.

The U of O's Foot Patrol helps to provide students with a safe environment in and around campus—a safe environment that Shannen's Dream also believes in.

For more information about Shannen's Dream go to: <http://www.fnccaringociety.com/shannensdream>



leased of the Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews' personal life as a form of protest against his legislative agenda, it made for a good read, but it was completely out of line. It embarrassed him, and really, it wasn't remotely related to what he was doing on the Hill.

At the end of the day, dirty laundry doesn't have a place in the public eye. Sure, it's fun to read the tabloids, but we have to allow our politicians a semblance of privacy. Taking up public office is one of the most important things you can do for your country, and we should respect those who do so. If we wouldn't want the world knowing our deepest, darkest secrets, why would they?

Turning Point

Affairs happen, people

Andrew Ikeman | News Editor

I HATE SEX scandals. They are the worst. The media bears down on the perpetrators like they are O.J. speeding down the 405 with Al Cowlings riding shotgun. They had sex. Out of marriage. Oh my sweet Lord, they had sex with someone they're not married to. They cheated on their significant others. The horror!

Cheating happens, guys—it's as prevalent in our society as pot smoking. People do it, and everybody knows that people do it, but somehow when famous people do it, it's a front-page story, and their whole lives are up-ended.

I find it's the worst for political fig-

ures. Take, for example, CIA Director David Petraeus, who recently stepped down from his position due to a sex scandal involving his personal biographer. Petraeus' career of nearly 30 years in the U.S. Army has been ruined by this scandal. People have argued that his position, which requires a certain amount of discretion, renders his behaviour deplorable, but that's a clear case of double standards. Why is it big news if Petraeus is cheating, but not if the person at the end of the street is?

Yes, Bill Clinton cheated on Hillary, but if he wasn't the president of the United States, it wouldn't have been front page news. He was doing a pretty

good job running the country, and the affair had little to do with his ability to run said country. Yes, it was morally wrong of him, and I feel remorse for his family, for whom the ordeal must have been extraordinarily difficult—but why was he treated differently than any other person who cheats and is caught?

I am a believer that we have become too voyeuristic as a society, and that this voyeurism is not a good thing. I realize that being in the public eye means you have to accept that you are no longer a private person, but can we at least leave what happens in the bedroom out of the equation? If what Pierre Trudeau said about the government having no place in

the bedroom of the nation is true, then what place does the media have in the bedroom of the government?

If a political figure is sleeping around, it should only be considered a problem if it directly affects that person's ability to do their job. In the cases of John Edwards, who was charged but later found innocent of using campaign finances to cover up his affair, or of Maxime Bernier, who left classified documents at his girlfriend's house, sure, go ahead and have your firestorm—national security is national security. But when someone in the public eye is committing adultery, why should we concern ourselves in the matter?

When anonymous details were re-

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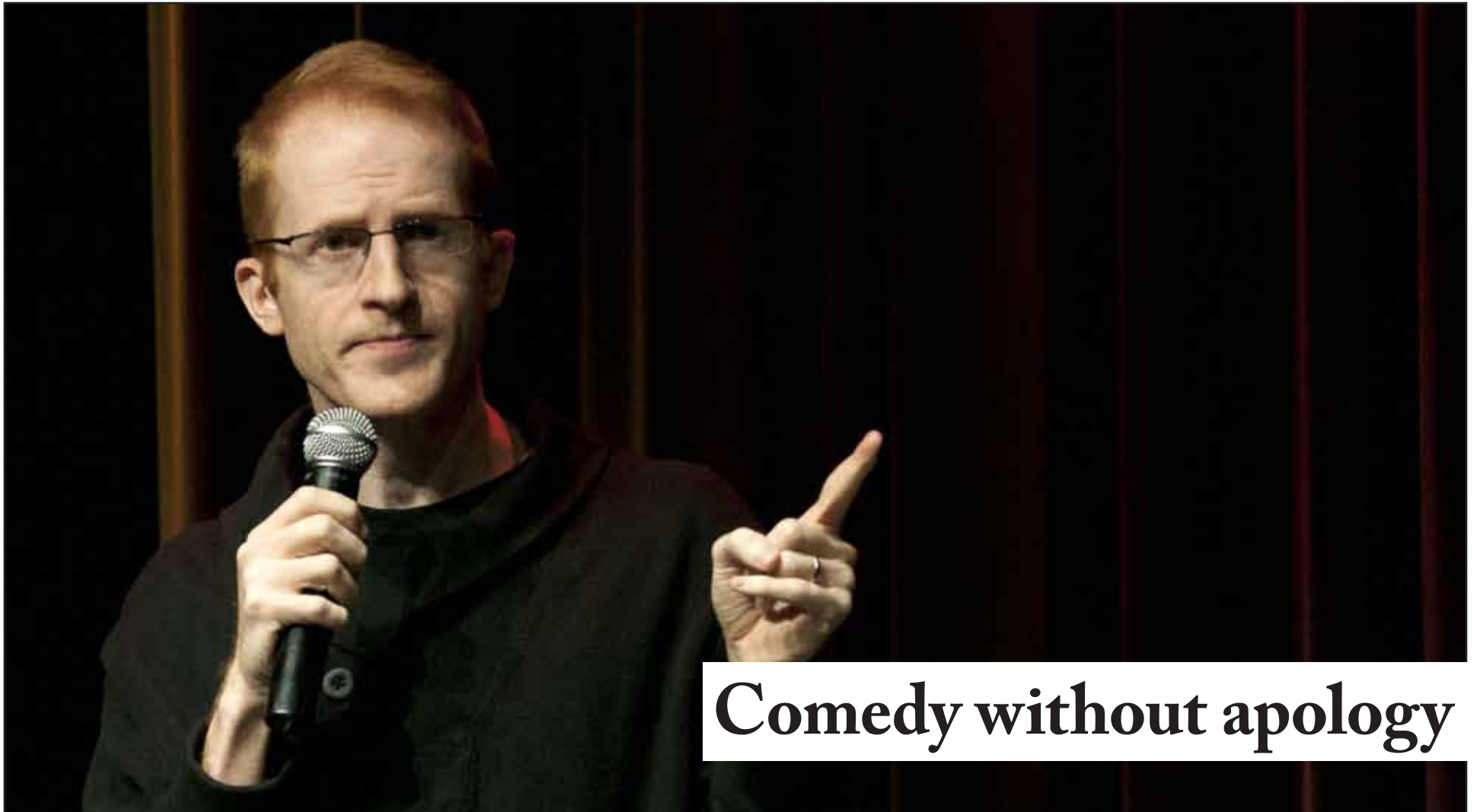
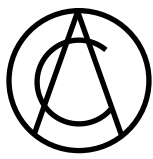
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Comedy without apology

photo by Justin Labelle

Steve Hofstetter and Danny Jolles team up for laughs at Alumni Hall

Spencer Van Dyk | Fulcrum Staff

New York City comedians Steve Hofstetter and Danny Jolles brought the laughs to Alumni Hall on Nov. 8 for a stand-up comedy show entitled “Comedy Without Apology.”

Hofstetter describes himself as a social critic who aspires to be “like Bill Hicks if he didn’t hate his audience,” while Jolles capitalizes on true stories about his life that highlight his nervous-

ness and social awkwardness. The two met when Jolles played at Hofstetter’s comedy club in Queens, N.Y. and now teamed up to perform at colleges and universities around North America.

Hofstetter started performing in Canada about seven years ago and has since made it a priority to cross the border at least once a year, though this was his first time in Ottawa.

“Part of why I love performing in Canada is comedy is really treated like theatre here, and it’s respected,” said Hofstetter. “In the States, there are some amazing clubs, and there are some clubs that treat us like a carnival sideshow and we’re there to sell drinks and it’s not considered art.”

Hofstetter is the original writer for

CollegeHumor and has also released four comedy albums and three books.

“I was 13 years old and a cute girl told me I should join the improv group,” he recounted. “I have no spine, so I said sure, and then she quit, and I was hooked, and now she’s awful, so it worked out. I had done a bunch of improv, but I stopped for a while when I was in college because I didn’t like the cliqueness of college improv groups—which is a fancy way of me saying I didn’t make the audition—but in senior year, I decided to try stand-up. I figured I’d give it a shot, and it worked, and then I graduated with no other marketable job skills and just figured, ‘Let’s give this a shot.’ And about six months in, I realized I could do this professionally.”

Jolles developed an interest in comedy and acting when he was in middle school, and then went on to major in theatre and political science at New York University, intending to stay in the city to pursue a career onstage. Since then, he has been featured on CollegeHumor and popular humour website Funny or Die and performs regularly at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in New York City.

“I think students are much more receptive to me than an older crowd because I’m just 25, so I’m pretty fresh out

of school,” said Jolles. “They get a lot of my references, and usually they’re a bit more imaginative, so some of my jokes can get a little weird and they’re much more willing to go with it.”

“Part of why I love performing in Canada is comedy is really treated like theatre here, and it’s respected.”

—Steve Hofstetter

Both Hofstetter and Jolles draw upon everyday life to write their material. Their Canada-versus-U.S. jokes were funny without being tired and overused.

“Come talk to me after the show,” Hofstetter said as he ended his performance. “Conversation is education, and education is how we get rid of all the stupid people.”

U of O group hosts series of lectures on inspiring women

Environment Canada engineer talks about day-to-day survival

Martina Gannon | Fulcrum Staff

THE UNIVERSITY OF Ottawa’s Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) group held the first conference of its Inspiring Women Series at the SITE building on Nov. 7.

The evening’s lecture was delivered by U of O graduate Mia Batchelor, who is currently three years into her much-loved career as a senior program engineer with Environment Canada.

Batchelor works with her team on regulations of vehicle and engine emissions. Before she started at her current position, she spent three years as a process engineer for one of Ottawa’s high-tech

biomedical companies. Batchelor is now married with two children.

“There is no such thing as a work/life balance,” Batchelor told her audience.

Day-to-day survival is more important than long-term survival, she said. Batchelor told stories of the highs and lows of her career and family life and spoke about how appreciating life and having a sense of humour are important factors in getting by.

Google employee Cate Huston received the U of O branch of WISE four

years ago. There are currently seven female engineering and science members on the executive committee, led by co-presidents Krystle Talbot and Levannia Lildhar.

“WISE was originally set up to provide a forum for women in science and engineering, connecting students and professionals across various sectors, and carrying out valuable outreach programs to encourage the pursuit of science and engineering amongst girls of all ages,” said Talbot.

WISE communications vice-president

Hidayet Abbad said the overall aim of the group is “to create a network for women in science and engineering so that they don’t feel like they are lacking resources, especially for those in male-dominant fields, such as mechanical engineering.”

“We provide information and opportunities to grow professionally, academically, and personally in science and engineering fields,” said Abbad. “We are currently in the process of creating a mentorship program whereby we would pair up someone from the professional field with a grad student, and for undergrad students we also offer special workshops and many more exciting events to help women [and] encourage them in whatever path they are

taking in their field.”

Abbad added that being part of WISE has enriched her experience as a student.

“I am in mechanical engineering, so I don’t get to make connections with a lot of fellow female engineers,” she said. “Overall, my experience at WISE has encouraged me to work harder regardless of being a minority in my field, because I get to be around such successful and happy individuals.”

The next lecture in the Inspiring Women Series will be in early December before the exam period. To keep up to date on WISE information and events, visit uottawawise.wordpress.com.

Band AMPed up over cheating claims

AMP Magazine strips The Rowley Estate of winning status in music contest



photo by Joey Acott

Jon Liedtke | The Lance

WINDSOR, ON (CUP)—WHAT STARTED OUT as an online competition to provide exposure for unsigned punk bands has evolved into a spat of accusations levied against the contest winner, local Windsor band The Rowley Estate, by California-based AMP Magazine.

American Music Press a.k.a. AMP Magazine's Unsigned Contest VII last May featured 40 punk bands from across the continent competing for two prize packages and immense international exposure.

Five months later, the magazine is alleging The Rowley Estate or its fans cheated in the contest, which used a free website polling plugin to track votes, because the website apparently logged about 2,000 votes from one person in an hour. The contest rules stipulated one vote per person each day.

"They were coming at it like we're these terrible people that are lying and cheating," said the band's bassist Derek Boyce. "We're just an honest band. If they thought that we were cheating, they should have announced it before calling us the winner. We would have been happy to lose if we had won under false premises."

Very few rules were posted for the competition, both on AMP's website, and in confirmation emails to the finalists. AMP encouraged users to "come back every day and keep voting for the bands you love." They made it clear that voters shouldn't attempt any "tricky business," as they "can tell, and all it turns into is more work for us on our end, and the band you're voting for gets mad at you."

The Rowley Estate primarily used Facebook to inform their fans of the contest. Boyce thought his band would be at a disadvantage.

"There were bands on there with a lot more Facebook fans," said Boyce.

The Rowley Estate had their families and friends send the link out to garner votes.

"People just wanted us to win," Boyce said. "I feel like people wanted to see a smaller band from a smaller city win. A lot of people who wouldn't typically vote for us did, and I thought it was really rad."

Polls close

Following the last day of voting on May

18, AMP's website indicated that The Rowley Estate had won with 4,751 votes (21 per cent). Californian group Clouds Like Mountains placed a close second with 4,591 (20 per cent): a difference of 160 votes.

First prize included a full-page interview in AMP Magazine, an album stream and an article on the magazine's website, 1,000 free download cards from Dystrophonix, a \$100 credit for merchandise, the first track on the *Unsigned Heroes AMP* compilation, and one week of premium placement with Interpunk.com.

Boyce emailed AMP to claim their prizes. But after multiple inquiries, he only received interview questions and an email indicating that AMP contacted Dystrophonix regarding the 1,000 free download cards.

Boyce received no response when he inquired again when the article would be printed and for information on the compilation and inclusion on the AMP and InterPunk website streams.

When the printed publication arrived, Boyce found that their "full-page interview" was edited to an abridged bio. Upset, Boyce contacted AMP complaining that the article wasn't what had been guaranteed by the contest.

Things turn sour

On Oct. 17, nearly five months after the contest ended, Boyce received an email from AMP editor Brett Matthews.

Matthews accused The Rowley Estate of cheating and of being overly aggressive not only "post-contest, but throughout," referencing the band's persistence in attempting to determine whether they had won the contest and when they would receive their prizes.

Matthews replied that he didn't "want to have anything to do with your band anymore," and that AMP Magazine gets "less crap working with Rise Against."

Boyce apologized to Matthews, but defended his position that The Rowley Estate was entitled to the prizes as they had not cheated. Matthews did not respond.

John, who claimed to be an AMP employee but refused to provide his last name, explained via telephone that AMP might cancel all future contests.

"They somehow managed to get, what, 15,000 votes in a couple of weeks. They went through [and] they cheated," said John.

He also claimed The Rowley Estate was "bitching" because they weren't happy with their "big article in the magazine," and that they were "busting our balls every day."

AMP ran its contest using WP-Polls, the most popular polling plugin for the website platform WordPress. In an email to the *Lance*, Matthews alleged the "band cheated on the contest, with over 2,000 votes in just over an hour from one IP source, clearing cookies every vote."

AMP Magazine ignored repeated requests to provide a copy of the IP addresses logged by the polling plugin.

Boyce questions why any prizes were awarded to his band if AMP suspected cheating.

"Let's say we had fans and friends that did cheat, that we didn't know anything about," he said. "Why would their magazine make the decision to count those votes and call us the winner? We were assured that cheating would be caught and taken care of. I'd rather lose honestly than win by cheating."

From bad to worse

AMP recently took its claims against the band from email conversations to a more public forum. In response to a Facebook post by The Rowley Estate guitarist Mike Difazio, the magazine stated that if the band "put as much time into songwriting as they did cheating and sniveling, they'd be set by now."

Legal sources indicate there's a contractual obligation on all parties involved in a contest once the relationship is established. The promoter of the contest must adhere to the rules created and prizes awarded in adherence with those rules. The sources added there's a high bar on libel or slander (more commonly called defamation), but it isn't often fruitful to pursue defamation, as those accused can countersue on the same charges.

Boyce may consider legal action against the magazine. "I feel like we've been slandered against. The word 'consider' is very important in this question, but yes, I would consider it."

What Boyce truly wants is what they were promised and for AMP to "apologize to our fans, because it is our fans who made us win. They're insulting our fans more than us."

Devin Pinciaroli Boicchi

"I like to wear anything that expresses freedom of thought, but I'd rather wear nothing than wear clothing."

Program: Third-year psychology and philosophy
Favourite dance: Tango



CAMPUS STYLE

Emily Bray | Fulcrum Contributor

The camera's on you! We've turned the lens on students to take a look at who's wearing what on campus.

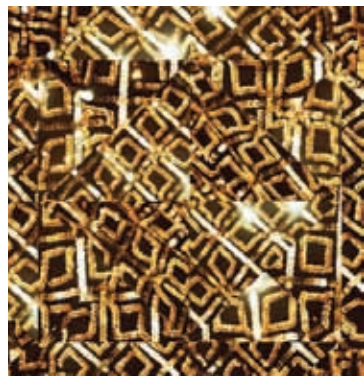


Luan Tran

"Be you, because an original is worth more than a copy."

Program: Third-year health sciences
Favourite restaurant: Vittoria Trattoria

album reviews



Mise en Scene
Desire's Despair
| Pipe & Hat



WINNIPEG-BASED POP-ROCK DUO Mise en Scene puts forth a pretty solid effort with *Desire's Despair*, leaning on a sound largely reminiscent of old surf rock. While at some points this works really well, singer Stefanie Blondal Johnson's voice doesn't quite mesh with the music as well

as it could. While at her best, Johnson is quite competent and at home with the duo's sonic spectrum, there are a few tracks on the album where she seems to miss the mark.

A handful of the songs on *Desire's Despair* are almost reminiscent of The Beach Boys, but not always in the way you'd like them to be. There are also a couple of songs that seem to suffer lyrically in the band's attempt to make them sound more classic or retro. The last track, "Sherry," is especially guilty of this. Some of the lyrics make little sense, and if you start to pay too much attention, you may find them confusing enough to distract you from parts of the song you might actually like.

Overall, *Desire's Despair* is a good debut and it's certainly worth a listen. While it could have been better executed, it marks a great start for Mise en Scene.

—Brennan Bova



Benjamin Gibbard
Former Lives
| Barsuk



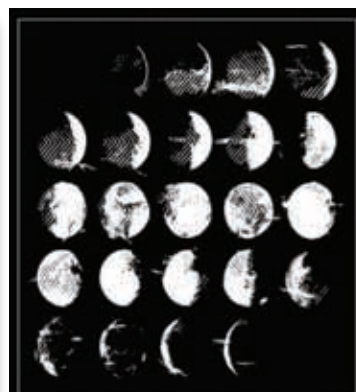
IT'S RATHER AWKWARD when the frontman of a popular band comes out with a solo record that doesn't sound much different from anything the band has already released. Benjamin Gibbard's solo debut *Former Lives* exemplifies that awkwardness. The Death Cab for Cutie frontman offers up a collection of fairly average songs that would fit in just fine as deep cuts from the band's anthology and only branches out in ways that he shouldn't.

At its best, *Former Lives* offers up a handful of succulent songs that line up with Gibbard's reputation, although they aren't exceptionally memorable. But at its worst—right around the middle of the record—it leaves the lasting impression of a disjointed effort to deviate from what's made him shine.

As tiring as it is to hear the same thing from the same guy over and over again, I'll take that over hearing whatever "Something's Rattling (Cowpoke)" is supposed to be. Gibbard is able to hit the sweet spot with tracks like "Lily" and "A Hard One to Know," but the good songs are overshadowed by unfavourable attempts like the Beatles-esque ballad "Duncan, Where Have You Gone" and the unwelcome bluesy swing of "Oh, Woe." *Former Lives* ends with "I'm Building a Fire," the quintessential closer composed of a stripped-down acoustic guitar and Gibbard's metaphorical crooning laid overtop. Sadly, this adherence to formula is one of the memorable points of the album.

"These songs span eight years, three relationships, living in two different places, drinking then not drinking," Gibbard said of the album. "They're a side story, not a new chapter." Unfortunately, what Gibbard fails to realize is that a side story should be, in a way, a chapter of its own. *Former Lives* feels strained, as if it only exists as a venue for songs that didn't fit anywhere else—like a beautiful frame for a messy painting.

—Adam Feibel



Converge
All We Love We Left Behind
| Epitaph



WHEN I FIRST heard the opening chords of "Concubine" from Converge's genre-defining 2001 opus *Jane Doe*, I was immediately hooked on the band's brilliantly chaotic hardcore sound. Ever since releasing that seminal album, Converge has proved to be one of the most consistent bands in modern hardcore music.

On the band's previous effort, 2009's *Axe to Fall*, guitarist and producer extraordinaire Kurt Ballou adopted a heavier guitar tone that sounded more reminiscent of modern metalcore bands, but Converge managed to not fall prey to any clichés and produced their heaviest and best album since *Jane Doe*. Naturally, the expectations were through the roof for a follow-up, and on *All We Love We Leave Behind*, Converge does not disappoint.

The album sounds similar in style to *Axe to Fall* but with slightly more variety in songwriting, resulting in a greater than usual number of songs during which you can actually make out what frontman Jacob Bannon is screaming. This is apparent in tracks like the groovy "Coral Blue" and the awesome straight-up punk rock attack "Vicious Muse."

As tight as the group sounds, they don't really build on the sound they established on their last release. Regardless, *All We Love We Leave Behind* is still a very welcome addition to the band's legacy, even if it doesn't stray too far from the familiar.

—Max Szyc



Flyleaf
New Horizons
| A&M/Octone



FLYLEAF'S THIRD STUDIO album *New Horizons* will be the last released with their beloved singer Lacey Sturm. Kristen May, formerly of Vedera, will be replacing the vocalist in their upcoming tour.

Sturm, arguably a better version of Evanescence singer Amy Lee, will be leaving the band. Her departure follows the death of Rich Caldwell, one of the band's audio engineers, and the birth of her son last year.

While many fans would argue that the band will never be the same without Sturm, she ends her time as a member of Flyleaf with another great album.

New Horizons contrasts with Flyleaf's recent *Remember to Live* EP, which contained surprisingly lighter songs and uplifting lyrics. The songs on *New Horizons* are darker, but still have familiar themes of faith and perseverance for which the band has become known.

"Green Heart" and "Call You Out" are heavier songs that inspire nostalgia for the uniqueness of the band's self-titled first album. Other highlights include "Great Love," a moving and intense love song that was beautifully pulled off, and "Bury Your Heart," which critiques society's values of consumerism and capitalism.

New Horizons is yet another example of how Flyleaf shares their faith and brings strength to their fans through music.

—Krystine Therriault

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Illustration by Mathias MacPhee

REFLECTIONS

NOVEMBER 11 MAY be over, but many students believe the day symbolizes values that should be reflected upon throughout the whole year. Others feel it's time to move on from a bloody past and focus on a peaceful future. Here, students share what Remembrance Day means to them.



“Despite being confined to a wheelchair, every day for the past two weeks she’s put on her uniform and her many pins and badges and rolled into the airport, poppies in hand.”

—Brennan Bova

photo by Justin Labelle

My grandmother’s day

When I think about Remembrance Day, as much as it’s about everyone who served our country and the people who supported them, I can only think of my maternal grandmother. Even though all of my grandparents served during the war, she stands out for me. My grandmother is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and has actively volunteered for it for as long as I can remember. Every November, she goes down to the airport and waits in the arrivals area, selling poppies to people coming into town. I still remember putting loonies into her plastic box when I was little to buy poppies from her each year. The money she raises goes to support many worthy causes in the community.

I know selling poppies means a lot to her, even more so now that she is in a nursing home. Despite being confined to a wheelchair, every day for the past two weeks she’s put on her uniform and her many pins and badges and rolled into the airport, poppies in hand. Even at her age and in her circumstances, she wants to continue to do her part. When November 11 comes, she’ll go to the Legion with other veterans and take part in a ceremony, as she always has. For me, Remembrance Day and the weeks before it are a chance to see my grandmother at her best, doing something that gives her pride and purpose. Seeing how happy she is to be out there honouring our veterans, I can’t help but be happy too.

I believe we should not be limiting ourselves to one day of reflection, but I also understand that one day is all that’s possible for some people. While war isn’t something one can just forget about, it’s also not an easy thing to dwell upon—it’s sombre, and wholly depressing, really. While people should certainly never forget, it’s good to have a single day where we can remember the fact that people were brave enough to fight for their countries’ freedom. While people can reflect as much as they want on their own time, having a day specifically for it creates solidarity among all Canadians. Hopefully for many future Remembrance Days, the entire country, myself, and my grandmother included, will reflect with you.

—Brennan Bova

The white poppy

On November 11, many Canadians don the blood-red poppy on their lapels, keeping it close to their hearts to honour the veterans who fought for their country’s freedom many years ago. I think we’re missing the bigger picture.

What about the civilian deaths that occurred during the great wars of our past?

More pressingly, what about the civilian deaths occurring today? What about the 12,000+ Afghans who died during Canadian occupation of their country between 2006 and 2011? Although the United Nations attributes around 65 per cent of those deaths to the Taliban, it takes two sides to wage war. When do Canadians take a moment of silence to reflect upon the death and destruction faced by other nations, by other human beings? Can we not see beyond borders to recognize suffering should end for all, regardless of citizenship?

The CBC reported that this year, the Department of Veterans Affairs spent \$3.5 million to promote Remembrance Day, including a campaign targeted at engaging youth through contests that offer “cool prizes” like laptops that can be won by tweeting about Remembrance Day. It appears there’s a disconnect—isn’t Remembrance Day about loss, not winning? Furthermore, that’s a lot of money to be spent—some of it on advertisements that I believe, at times, glamourize war.

Whether intentionally or not, videos emphasizing the courage of soldiers fighting demonized enemies, or the nation-building aspect of war, such as when Canada was “truly formed” at Dieppe, carry a certain message. Perhaps Remembrance Day funds would be better used if directed toward veterans themselves or toward non-violent peacekeeping activities.

I think to engage younger generations, the emphasis needs to move from reflection on the past to focus on the present. Sure, war is a grey area and some will argue that at times in our history, such as during the First and Second World Wars, there were no options other than resorting to violence for the greater good. But is that the case today? I hope not.

I hope the meaning of Remembrance Day can widen. Instead of solely mourning and reflecting upon the past, let’s use November 11 as a reminder that war still goes on today. Let’s respect the memories of the fallen by implementing non-violent solutions to current conflicts. We are at a point in society where we can reject war as a tool for social change.

Respecting civilians and advocating for peace need not necessarily conflict with our current understanding of Remembrance Day. Next year, why not wear a white poppy alongside your red one?

—Ali Schwabe

An insider’s view

I stumbled into the army almost by accident when a friend dragged me to an information session in 2000. My friend didn’t end up joining, but I did. Twelve years ago, what seemed to me a part-time job opportunity, is now an interesting and unique career.

I have been to Afghanistan twice, for a total of 14 months, and am fortunate to have returned home both times. I currently work for the Small Arms department as a weapons and range instructor at the military base in the small town of Oromocto, N.B. My philosophy is that things can always get worse; you can always be colder, wetter, or more miserable than you are right now, so appreciate your current conditions.

For me, the meaning of Remembrance Day is simple; it’s a day to reflect upon those who went overseas to protect their country and gave their life in the process. In 2006 I was the pallbearer for a close friend who died overseas in Afghanistan. Remembrance Day has since become more personal for me. I will watch the ceremonies with sadness and optimism for the future as our work does good.

—Sergeant Alexandre Siccard as told to Nadia Helal

Respecting the little our veterans ask of us

Remembrance Day, to me, is a time to thank our veterans for the sacrifices they have made for us. I think it’s sometimes difficult to fully realize what soldiers go through, especially in the context of the First and Second World Wars. The Great Wars are just something that we read about in our textbooks, paragraphs interspersed with black and white pictures. But once you meet someone who has been to war and has fought for their life and ours, it totally changes your perspective.

When I was in high school, I was chosen to go on a trip to Dieppe, France, organized by the Government of Canada and Veterans Affairs Canada, to commemorate the 1942 raid on Dieppe. It’s an organized trip that happens every five years; I went for the 65th anniversary. We laid wreaths alongside various dignitaries and attended numerous receptions, but it was the veterans who made the greatest impact on me.

There were about 17 veterans with us, all of them 85 to 90 years old. Being able to connect with them was an experience I will never forget. It was incredible to see them in France where they had fought so many years ago. I think I cried the entire week.

I remember one man in particular. We were on the beach and we were supposed to lay roses. He just kept walking and walking and walking further down the shoreline. I went with him, helping him out because the beach was so rocky. Finally he put down the rose and started to cry. He said to me, “This is where I was shot.” I didn’t know what to say; I just started to cry. It was an unbelievable,

surreal experience.

More than anything, I think the veterans on our trip appreciated that we cared enough to listen to what they had to say. To care about our collective history and their personal sacrifices and stories, and never take our freedom for granted, is all these veterans have ever asked of us.

On Remembrance Day, it is important for us as Canadians and as young adults to not just observe the necessary moment of silence, but to put a face to the names in our history books and remember that these were real people who made sacrifices for our freedom. Remembrance Day should not be an opportunity for anti-war political commentary—it should be one day where we can get over ourselves and thank the people who have made the ultimate sacrifice for us.

—Natalie Morris as told to Spencer Van Dyk

Violence within ourselves

Walking around downtown this past weekend I was hard pressed to find somebody not wearing a poppy. People came out in droves this year, as they do every year, to watch the planes fly overhead and celebrate the sacrifices made by so many. Where is the day heading as we move almost 100 years away from the exact moment for which we take a moment of silence: 11 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918? With fewer and fewer veterans alive from WWII and Korea to tell their stories of war, how will young people learn what Remembrance Day is supposed to mean? More to the point, what does this day represent at its core? In an age where hopefully there will continue to be fewer veterans than in previous generations, will this day retain its significance?

I think the answer to this last question is a resounding yes. The idea of Remembrance Day is not about one specific war or one specific period in time. Remembrance Day is about the victims of violence. And we should start thinking about violence in a more broad sense, not just when it occurs between opposing states. Victims of violence are more than just victims of war—there are victims of terrorism, victims of domestic abuse, and yes, even victims of self-inflicted violence and depression. As the minister of an Ottawa Ascension church said in his service I attended on Remembrance Day morning, unreasonable violence exists in all of us. He said that every time our temper rises and we swear at the car that swerved in front of us or curse at a sales representative over the phone, the banality of our own violence is manifest.

This type of violence within us, in both its uncontrolled and politically correct forms, leads to harassment at the

misogynist workplace, bullying in the schoolyard, and, if enough hate exists in a society, war. Remembrance Day should not be about celebrating war. Remembrance Day should be about celebrating the lives that were lost and the lives that were never begun because of war. It is a chance to commit ourselves, all 35 million of us Canadians, to a country and to a world with more peace and less hate. Lest we forget.

—Daniel LeRoy

Peace

Lest we forget. The last century has been the most innovative and productive period in human history. Each year as Remembrance Day comes and goes, we gather to remember the price paid for our freedom and independence. It’s hard imagining the phrase “history repeats itself” coming to fruition in our current, restructured society; yet, almost a century after the First World War, there are still wars raging around the world. We continue to feel the effects of war that are seemingly in direct contention of Remembrance Day’s original message. All politics aside, there is a very honest and moral conversation that needs to come out of our remembrance: is war necessary for peace?

The first Remembrance Day in 1919 was honoured by a Canadian population who had recently lost nearly 65,000 people. It was a tribute to fallen loved ones and a celebration of the end of violence—violence which would never have to happen again. Unfortunately, 93 years later, the latter message has gone astray and been somewhat forgotten: the irony in Remembrance Day.

As much as November 11 is about remembering those who fought in war and paying respect to those currently fighting, the global pursuit of peace should not be left out of the commemorations. Today’s Remembrance Day ceremonies carry the underlying message that military action is justified and required as a means of obtaining peace. Although this is a time to empathize with those who have lost loved ones, it is also a time to refocus our efforts. To truly pay tribute to peace is to strive toward a time where there will be no grieving due to war and no lives lost due to violence in the name of our country.

Considerable controversy surrounds this debate, a debate itself which is seen as disrespectful to those who lost their lives at war. However, when we look at the facts, what better tribute could be made to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice than to uphold the original message of Remembrance Day?

—Amy Kurtz

the thryllabus

Want your event listed on the thryllabus? Email events@thefulcrum.ca

Music

- Nov. 16: Kraken the Case, We Are the Union, Freshly Cut, and Murder State play Café Dek-cuf (221 Rideau St.), 8 p.m.
- Nov. 16: Cuff the Duke, Kalle Mattson, and Dave Norris & Local Ivan play Mavericks (221 Rideau St.), 9 p.m.
- Nov. 16: The Sheepdogs and Yukon Blonde play Ritual (137 Besserer St.), 7 p.m.
- Nov. 16: Sal Piamonte, The Rogues, Animal Cash, and Black Market Candy play Zaphod Beeblebrox (27 York St.), 8 p.m.
- Nov. 19: Cunninglynguists, Tonedeff, Sadistik, and Dj FlipFlop play Ritual (137 Besserer St.), 10 p.m.
- Nov. 22: Cryptopsy, Insurrection, Dissident, and Deformatory play Mavericks (221 Rideau St.), 7 p.m.

Film

- Nov. 15 Dec. 2: European Union Film Festival at the Library and Archives Canada (395 Wellington St.)
- Nov. 15: *The Bourne Legacy* plays at the Mayfair Theatre (1074 Bank St.), 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 16: *You've Been Trumped* plays at the Bytowne Cinema (325 Rideau St.), 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 16: *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2* released to theatres
- Nov. 16: *Celeste and Jesse Forever* plays at the Bytowne Cinema (325 Rideau St.), 7 p.m.
- Nov. 18: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* plays at the Mayfair Theatre (1074 Bank St.), 8:30 p.m.
- Nov. 20: *Antiviral* plays at the Bytowne Cinema (325 Rideau St.), 7 p.m.

Film

- Nov. 21: *Life of Pi* released to theatres
- Nov. 23: *Vampyres* plays at the Mayfair Theatre (1074 Bank St.), 11:30 p.m.

Visual Art

- Now–Dec. 2: *Prairie Companion* displayed at Cube Gallery (1285 Wellington St. W.)
- Now–Nov. 25: *Exquisite Corpse* displayed at La Petite Mort Gallery (306 Cumberland St.)

Theatre

- Now–Nov. 18: *Fly Me to the Moon* plays at the Great Canadian Theatre Company (1233 Wellington St. W.)
- Nov. 21–Dec. 8: *Pride and Prejudice* plays at the National Arts Centre (53 Elgin St.)

- Nov. 23–30: *Footloose* plays at the Centrepointe Theatre (101 Centrepointe Dr.)

Sports

- Nov. 16: Women's basketball: Gee-Gees play the McMaster University Marauders at Montpetit Hall (125 University Pvt.), 6 p.m.
- Nov. 16: Men's basketball: Gee-Gees play the McMaster University Marauders at Montpetit Hall (125 University Pvt.), 8 p.m.

- Nov. 17: Men's and women's swimming: Gee-Gees compete in the Stratten Divisional Championships at Montpetit Hall (125 University Pvt.), 4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 17: Women's basketball: Gee-Gees play the Brock University Badgers at Montpetit Hall (125 University Pvt.), 6 p.m.
- Nov. 17: Men's basketball: Gee-Gees play the Brock University Badgers at Montpetit Hall (125 University Pvt.), 8 p.m.

hard

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hours

9 - 6

last day

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The hurdle

photo by Maclaine Chadwick

Men's rugby team tries once again to attain varsity status

Maclaine Chadwick | Fulcrum Staff

They compete against other universities, they practice for hours every week, and they proudly sport garnet and grey on their jerseys. But the men's rugby team—along with many other teams at the University of Ottawa—is a competitive club, which means they receive less financial support from the school.

They are also a team who are working hard to change that.

"I've been happy with what I have been able to achieve at the U of O," said Owen McMorris, a fourth-year health sciences student and captain of the men's rugby team. "But I want the new guys coming in to be able to get more from it than I did, and that means going varsity."

It's one of the most common sport-related questions at the U of O: Why are some teams varsity, and others only competitive clubs? What's the difference?

Danika Smith, student-athlete services officer at the U of O, explained that although being a club team isn't necessarily a stepping-stone to becoming a varsity team, the main difference is simply the level of funding provided to the team.

"There are lots of clubs who would like their sport to be varsity—men's rugby is one of them, [along with] men's soccer,



The men's rugby team in action on Nov. 11

photo by Maclaine Chadwick

rowing, and fencing, to name a few—those are all clubs that outperform the funding that we give them," said Smith. "We give them the funding so that they can participate, and they take that funding and they actually create teams that are very successful. They go above and beyond, and that's because of their volunteer coaches and all of the support that they have created around the team."

Above and beyond certainly describes the effort that the men's rugby team has put into their season. They organize their own games, promote themselves online and on campus, and hold fundraisers throughout their season to gain support for the team.

"We actually use a lot of varsity teams as examples to try and follow what they do extra-curricularly," explained Jean-Louis Murphy, fourth-year student and social representative for the men's rugby team. "We try to follow how they structure their programs; they are the benchmark in a way."

That's not to say they are mimicking other programs completely.

"We are not trying to compare ourselves to football [and] say we deserve to be varsity because they are," said McMorris. "We are different sports, we understand the process, and we respect it and are trying to take the appropriate steps to become varsity."

One step the team is taking is circulating a petition to gain recognition from the university. Their goal is to obtain 5,000 signatures by March 31—which is when the competitive clubs will be re-evaluated. The petition, which was only started last week, has nearly 1,000 signatures already.

The petition alone, however, won't be enough to give the team the varsity nod that they strive for.

"If that petition comes with a giant cheque, then we could try to make something work," said Smith. "Realistically, funding-wise, we would have to eliminate [a team] to add one."

The team is well aware of the obstacles

that they will face along the way.

"Of course, there are the hoops that we need to jump through—the petition, and we need to make sure the university has the funds to support us," said Colin McCann, a fourth-year economics student and second-year forward on the team. "But another thing we need to do in order to get varsity status is prove that we can play at the standards that make fans want to come and watch us."

The team isn't far from achieving those standards—they lost by only 11 points to their main competitors, one of the squads from Queen's University on Oct. 13—and won one of two games this past weekend against their other top competition from Kingston, the Royal Military College Paladins. The Gee-Gees finished their season with a 5-4 record.

Unfortunately, the biggest hurdle is the issue of support from the school. Smith explained that it's nothing personal—taking on an extra varsity team just isn't in the works right now.

"I try to help the teams as much as I can in my position," said Smith. "But watching how things work and how we try and squeeze every dollar to try and make it work for our teams, I know that the decision is not based on somebody deciding 'no, we don't want that team,' it's that we just can't handle supporting more teams."

Despite this, in true rugby fashion, the Gee-Gees are going to keep pushing to get the status they know they deserve.

"We want to go varsity because we believe that we can properly represent the students and faculty at the University of Ottawa," explained McMorris. "I 100 per cent believe that this team can be and deserves to be a varsity team at the university." f

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL

Gees' volleyball team sweeps Badgers at home

THE GEE-GEES' WOMEN'S volleyball team (6-0) kept their winning streak alive on Nov. 9 when they swept the Brock University Badgers (2-5) in three straight sets at Montpetit Hall. The Badgers were unable to challenge the Gees, ranked fifth nationally, and the Ottawa squad easily rolled to six straight victories with sets of 25-10, 25-14, and 25-17.

"The thing I loved about this match is that our team, in their eyes, their body language, and their movements, looked the same from start to finish, and it was a great match from that point of view," said Gee-Gees head coach Lionel Woods after the match.

Third-year communications student and hitter Karina Krueger Schwanke and third-year social sciences student and hitter Kelsie English led the Gees with 12 and six kills respectively. The team's next game will take place on Nov. 18, when they will host the University of Western Ontario Mustangs.

—Keeton Wilcock

Rough road trip for women's basketball team

THE UNIVERSITY OF Ottawa's women's basketball team (0-2) opened their regular season with a road trip, first facing off against the Western Mustangs (1-1) on Nov. 9, then the University of Windsor Lancers (2-0) on Nov. 10. Unfortunately, the Gee-Gees—who are currently ranked tenth in the country—dropped both games to their more experienced hosts.

The Gees came out strong in their season-opener against the Mustangs, leading 21-18 after the first quarter, but they proved unable to hold on to their slim lead and eventually came out on the losing end of a 74-72 battle. A bright spot for the U of O team was the play of second-year forward and human kinetics student Maddie Stephen, who scored 20 points in the game.

The Gees suffered another defeat on Nov. 10 when the Windsor Lancers took the lead in the first few minutes and never let up, easily beating the Gees by a score of 71-47. Shooting was a rough spot for the Garnet and Grey in both games. The Gee-Gees will look to turn things around this weekend, as they host the McMaster University Marauders (1-1) on Nov. 16 and the Brock Badgers (2-0) on Nov. 17.

—Keeton Wilcock

Men's basketball program opens season with a win and a loss

OPENING WEEKEND WAS one of mixed results for the University of Ottawa's men's basketball team (1-1). They started off strong by defeating the Western Mustangs (0-2) on Nov. 9, but then fell to the Windsor Lancers (2-0) the very next day.

The Gees faltered out of the gate against the Mustangs, trailing 16-14 after the first quarter, but they quickly found their rhythm in the second quarter, and poured it on to finish on top with a 77-61 victory. Fifth-year arts student and experienced Gees guard Warren Ward was the standout player in the opener, as he was good for 24 points. Third-year guard and economics student Johnny Berhanemeskel also had a solid performance, scoring 20 points in the match-up.

On Nov. 10, the Gee-Gees faced off against the Lancers in a game that stayed tight until the very last minute. The Ottawa squad gave up some costly turnovers and was ultimately outgunned by the Lancers, losing 72-68. Again, Berhanemeskel lit up the board for the Gees against the Lancers, netting a huge 26 points.

The men's basketball team will play back-to-back home games at Montpetit Hall this weekend, facing off against the McMaster Marauders (1-1) on Nov. 16 and the Brock Badgers (1-1) on Nov. 17.

—Keeton Wilcock

Warriors and Mustangs outplay Gee-Gees

ON NOV. 9 and 10, the U of O men's hockey team took on the last two of four Ontario University Athletics (OUA) West opponents in the second weekend of the league's annual crossover schedule. The Gees were unable to prevail over the University of Waterloo Warriors (6-4) or the Western Mustangs (7-3).

On a Nov. 9 trip to Waterloo, the Gee-Gees once again led their competitors into an overtime game, but the fifth-ranked Warriors defeated the Gees 3-2 in a shootout after a scoreless fourth period. It was Waterloo's second goal of the game, made while the Gees were shorthanded halfway through the third period, that cost the Ottawa squad the win. The game's clincher came when Waterloo forward Justin Larson scored on Gees goaltender Russell Abbott in a shootout.

On Nov. 10, the Gee-Gees travelled to Western University to take on the Mustangs, resulting in a 4-0 shutout in favour of the Mustangs. A bright spot in an otherwise poor performance was Russell Abbott, who stopped 34 of 38 shots and made a number of spectacular saves. Mustangs forward Zach Harnden broke the 0-0 tied game five minutes into the second period on a shorthanded play for Western. The Mustangs, who scored three goals to finish off the scoreless Gee-Gees, owned the third period. The loss to Western leaves Ottawa in third place in the OUA East, only three wins behind the first-place Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes.

The Gees will travel uptown to take on the Carleton University Ravens on Nov. 16, and will then host the Concordia University Stingers at the Minto Sports Complex on Nov. 18.

—Danny Bronson

McGill triumphs over Gee-Gees in blowout game

IN THEIR THIRD attempt to overcome the McGill University Martlets—who are ranked first in the country—the U of O's women's hockey team fell short by five goals, losing to the Martlets 8-3. Not only were they taking on the best team in the country, but the Gees were also disadvantaged by injuries—fifth-year forward Fannie Desforges, fourth-year defender Carley Porcellato, and goalie Cassie Seguin all sat out.

McGill took the lead in the game with two goals in the first period, but it was the second period that stunned the home team—the Gees allowed four goals in four minutes. Rookie forward Cindy Laurin scored a goal for the Gees, followed by goals from fourth-year forward Dominique Lefebvre and first-year defence Maude Laramée, but the Ottawa squad couldn't catch up to McGill, who got two more before the end of the third.

The Gee-Gees, now fourth place in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec, will visit the Carleton Ravens on Nov. 18 at 2 p.m.

—Maclaine Chadwick

Meet a Gee-Gee

Gee-Gee | Mascot



photo by Justin Labelle

Maclaine Chadwick | Fulcrum Staff

"Meet a Gee-Gee" takes a look at the people under the jerseys. Whether they're varsity athletes or otherwise, we ask the players questions you want answers to. We get the dirt, straight from the horse's mouth.

MEET THE GEE-GEE: avid dancer, sports fan, and U of O enthusiast. In an email interview with the *Fulcrum*, the Gee-Gee's handler Stacey Birtch translates the answers of our beloved steed (after all, he only speaks Horse).

The Fulcrum: What is your favourite part of going to the games?

Gee-Gee: My absolute favourite part about going to games is meeting all those crazy, enthusiastic, and passionate Gee-Gees fans. They never cease to amaze me with their cheers and face paint.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

My biggest pet peeve would be when Rodney the Raven tries to out-dance me and falls flat, like he hit a glass window mid-flight. I mean, why even try? You know that Gee-Gee has the best dance moves!

What is something that most people don't know about you?

I wear boxers, not briefs.

What are you doing when you aren't at games?

When I'm not attending Gee-Gees games and

events, I'm out mingling with my peeps on campus, attending classes, and studying hard. Like my fellow student-athletes, I like to find a good balance between sports, academics, and my social life.

You really rock out at games. Do you have a favourite dance move?

It's all about staying in touch with the "in" dance moves. Right now I'm working on perfecting my own version of Gangnam Style (stay tuned at future games for my breakout performance). But my all-time favourite dance move is the moonwalk.

Who is your idol?

My idol is of course Youppi, the Montreal Expos mascot and one of three mascots to be inducted into the Baseball Hall Of Fame!

If you had to pass along one piece of advice to any young colts out there trying to break into the mascot business, what would it be?

Be all you can be! Work hard, have complete dedication, and of course have as much fun as a horse can possibly have! The grass is without a doubt greener on this side! Go Gee-Gees Go!

Keep an eye out for the Gee-Gee at many varsity games on campus, which students can get into for free with their student cards.

Check out geegees.ca for more information on upcoming events.

Ouch... that hurts!

Common sports injuries

Sofia Hashi | Fulcrum Staff

THEY'RE AS INEVITABLE as the final whistle blowing: injuries in sports. All athletes, professional or recreational, risk injuries when they're training or playing on the field. Certain maladies are more common than others. Who can forget about the Sidney Crosby concussion saga of last year? Or how about those career-ending ACL tears we always hear about? Some other injuries aren't as well known, but affect athletes all the time—delayed onset muscle soreness, anyone? The *Fulcrum* decided to look at some of the sports injuries that could be holding back your favourite athlete right now.

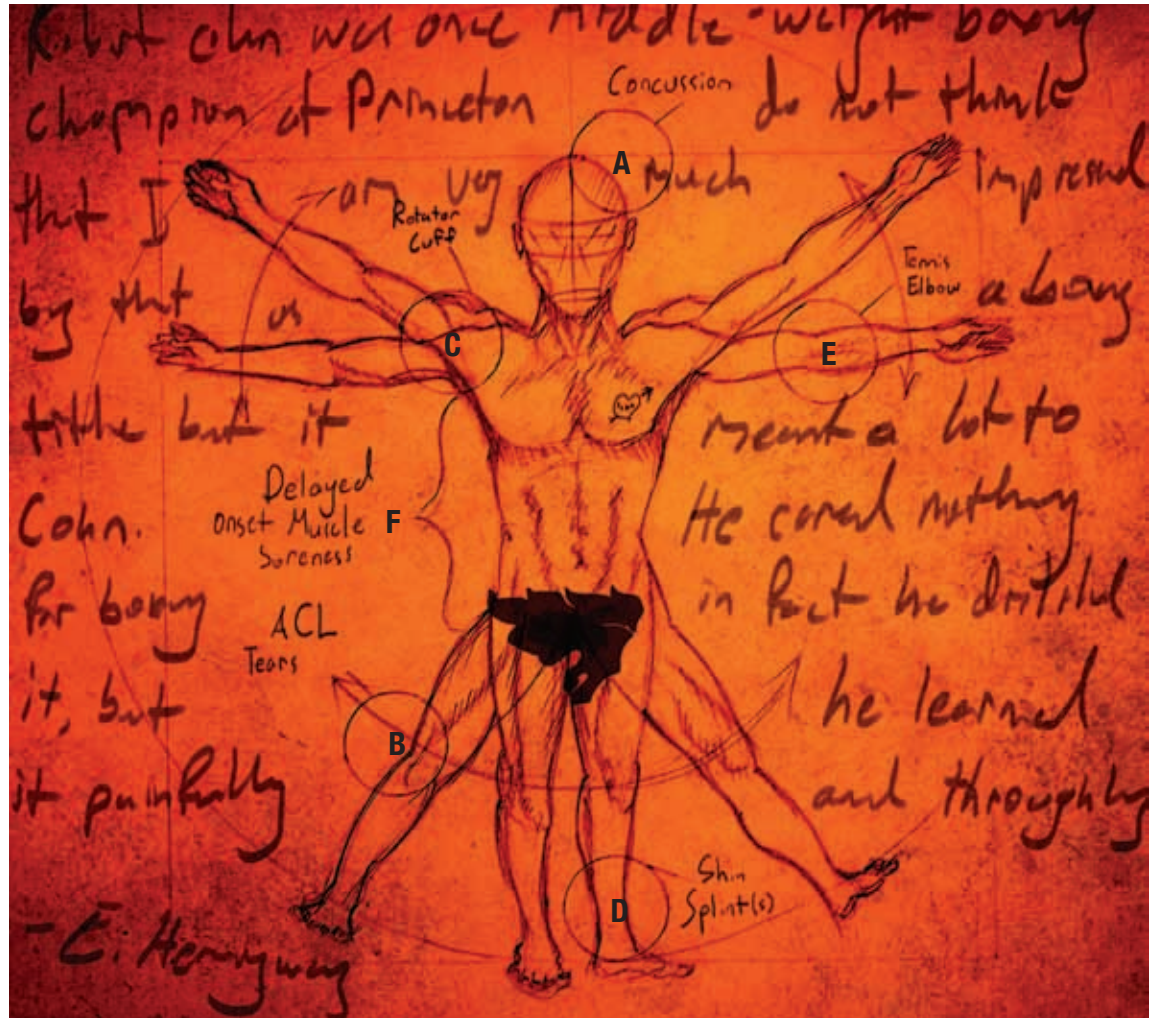


illustration by Mathias MacPhee



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A) Concussions
 The term concussion derives from the Latin word *concutere*, which means to shake violently. Yikes—no wonder this injury is taken seriously in the sports world. Essentially, a concussion is a form of a traumatic brain injury resulting from a blow to the head. Concussions vary in degree of severity, but all manifest similar physical and cognitive symptoms. Usually those suffering from concussions do make a full recovery and are prescribed the best medicine out there: time and rest. If you think you have a concussion, don't assume it will go away on its own—this is definitely the kind of thing you want to get checked out.

B) ACL tears
 ACL stands for anterior cruciate ligament—thank God for acronyms, eh? An injury to this area of the body can be debilitating to an athlete's career. The ACL is one of the four major muscle ligaments in the knee, and ACL tears are almost exclusively sports-related. ACL tears are also non-contact, meaning they usually occur when an athlete falls down or pivots irregularly on their knee, resulting in an unstable joint. Depending on the severity of the injury, surgery may be required.

C) Rotator cuff injuries
 Composed of muscles and tendons, the rotator cuff gives the shoulder joint a wide range of motion. Connecting the upper arm to the shoulder blade, the rotator cuff also helps stabilize the shoulder. Damage to this area of the body results in limited mobility and pain in the shoulder, especially when reaching overhead. Rotator cuff injuries are usually sustained from repetitive overhead movements or from falling down.

D) Shin splints
 The medical term for shin splints is medial tibial stress syndrome. Although athletes may suffer from shin splints, anyone can have a nasty run-in—no pun intended—with such an injury. More common in activities that have sudden and extreme stops and starts, like soccer and football, shin splints occur when there's too much force placed on the muscle tissue in the lower leg. Swelling and pain in the lower leg are often signs of a shin splint. This injury can usually be treated with rest, ice, and over-the-counter medications.

E) Tennis elbow
 Lateral epicondylitis, otherwise known as tennis elbow, refers to the pain that is developed in the elbow joint due to overuse. Tiny tears form in the tendons that join to the forearm and surround the outside area of the elbow, which leads to inflammation and pain. Racket sports are the most common culprits of this ailment, but other activities that require frequent use of this part of the body can also cause such an injury.

F) Delayed onset muscle soreness
 Technically not an injury, this ache arises usually 24 to 72 hours after extreme physical exertion. Consisting of tenderness and some mild pain, delayed onset muscle soreness (DOMS) is exactly what it sounds like. DOMS often occurs when someone is new to exercise or sports, but usually decreases over time as their body builds up its tolerance to physical exertion.



Dear Di...

Dear Di,
Is it true that I can get an STI or HIV easier from an uncircumcised penis than a circumcised one? Thanks!

—Avoiding Certain Dicks

Dear ACD,
Interesting question—let's start with the facts. The difference in an uncircumcised gent is that his wiener has a bit of wrapping. The foreskin is the retractable fold of skin that covers the tip of the penis, helping keep it moist and sensitive to stimulation. There are some studies that suggest being circumcised reduces the risk of HIV transmission in male-to-female vaginal sex—but some studies don't. The risk may be higher because tiny micro-tears can appear in a cock's turtleneck as it's made of more delicate tissues—thus increasing the chances of infection.

Either way, ACD, you can't always tell if a sausage has gone bad by looking at it. Hedging your bets by skipping out on hooded hotties isn't smart, plus you might miss out on some dynamo action. The best way to protect yourself, regardless of the amount of skin surrounding the salami, is by using condoms—no excuses: You can get them for free from Health Services on campus, or pick up a pack of Trojans for less than six bucks. With the amount of boning I do, I personally prefer to buy in bulk. Find a friend with a Costco membership and tag along on his or her next shopping trip to grab a box—you'll get much more bang for your buck.

Pun intended. Just make sure to use them before the expiry date, and enjoy!

Love,
Di

Dear Di,
I've been with my girlfriend for about six months now, and things are great between us—there's just one problem. When we're having sex, I can't seem to orgasm unless I imagine a guy watching the two of us. Kinda awkward for a lesbian, eh? Is there something wrong with me? I love my girlfriend a lot and I'm scared that if I talk to her about this, she'll think I'm weird or will think she's doing something wrong—which she's not at all.

Not to mention, how many lesbians out there would think I am a traitor on the "not just for male entertainment" issue?

—Peeping Tom be Gone

Dear PTG,
You've fallen into a trap that far too many people fall into—thinking that your sexual behaviours and preferences are somehow wrong. Students write to me with their worries about being interested in feet and balloons and diapers and anime characters. The truth is, there are a bunch of people in this world, and a huge spectrum of things that turn them on. You're no different, PTG—you're just a bit of an exhibitionist!

And you're not a traitor—for some people the forbidden nature of a peeping Tom watching two women is thrilling in

and of itself, and might be the reason thinking about a voyeuristic guy gets you off. You're probably picturing him getting all hot and bothered while he watches, making you feel sexy and uber desirable—feelings that are no doubt helpful in reaching the big O.

From what I can tell, your fantasies are having no ill effect on your sex life. You're able to orgasm and your girlfriend is probably satisfied that she's able to make you reach your peak too—sounds like a pretty solid situation to me! What appears to be your problem is the feeling that you're keeping a secret from your girlfriend and worrying about what other gay chicks would think of your fantasy.

You have a couple of options. The first is to keep mum, keep fantasizing about a man watching you two, and keep having great orgasms. Hopefully I've calmed your fears a bit about there something being wrong with you—there isn't, for the record—and you can continue on with your superb sex life guilt-free.

Of course, feel free to tell your girlfriend about your fantasy. I would advise you not to word it as, "I'm unable to orgasm without imagining a dude watching us." Rather, share that one of your fantasies is being a little bit exhibitionist and having a pair of male eyes on the two of you—tell her that sometimes thinking about that during sex makes the orgasms she gives you all the better. Sure, you'd be bending the truth a little, but it will let you gauge her thoughts on the matter without the risk of damaging her ego. Maybe just getting it off your

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answers on page 14

SUDOWEB.COM

Got a question for Di?

email deardi@thefulcrum.ca

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Nerdy/Dirty Pick-up Line:

Are you the square root of two? I just feel so irrational when I'm around you.

STURDY STUDY FACTS

Banging your head against a wall burns 150 calories an hour.

MY HOBBY:
SITTING DOWN WITH GRAD STUDENTS AND TIMING HOW LONG IT TAKES THEM TO FIGURE OUT THAT I'M NOT ACTUALLY AN EXPERT IN THEIR FIELD.

ENGINEERING:
OUR BIG PROBLEM IS HEAT DISSIPATION
HAVE YOU TRIED LOGARITHMS?

48 SECONDS

LINGUISTICS:
AH, SO DOES THIS FINNO-UGRIC FAMILY INCLUDE, SAY, KLINGON?

63 SECONDS

SOCIOLOGY:
YEAH, MY LATEST WORK IS ON RANKING PEOPLE FROM BEST TO WORST.

4 MINUTES

LITERARY CRITICISM:
YOU SEE, THE DECONSTRUCTION IS INEXTRICABLE FROM NOT ONLY THE TEXT, BUT ALSO THE SELF.

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How to be emotionally and mentally prepared...

photo by Sean Campbell

...For that essay!

Sofia Hashi | Fulcrum Staff

ESSAY WRITING: THOSE two words can make the most experienced fourth-year student shudder and run all the way back to their hometown. No matter how hard we pray otherwise, the words “essay” and “final paper” always seem to find their way onto our syllabuses. Regardless of the class for which these dreaded assignments are required, the thought of writing them induces panic and anxiety in even the most veteran of students. But never fear, there are strategies for coping with the stress of slapping together a well-articulated essay. And no, just in case you’re wondering,

none of them are “drop the class.”

1. Read your syllabus

Remember the piece of paper your prof gave you way back in September? Pull out that crumpled thing from whatever dark place you’ve stuffed it, and smooth it out. Now read it. If you didn’t go to your first class, that’s okay. There’s almost always an online version of the syllabus, and chances are you can hunt it down. Carefully read the requirements for the paper. Margins, spacing, page numbers, citations, and more should be committed to your memory. Just kidding—write it down just in case you “lose” your syllabus again.

2. Go to the library

You know that building on campus called Morisset? It is also the library. Shocking, I know. The last time you visited the building might’ve been during your high school campus visit, but with finals and papers coming up, this is where you need to be. Bustle your butt on over and start your essay research there. Do your research—hopefully you won’t need a step-by-step guide on how to do research?—and get to work. Take out books if you need to; read journal articles; read peer-reviewed works; just make sure to go further than Wikipedia and Google. Trust me, your professor will know.

3. Start writing

As the saying goes, starting is the hardest. After you’ve done a sufficient amount of research, turn on your laptop and get to typing. Get off Facebook and Twitter, and turn your cell phone off. Any distractions at this stage might be enough to completely halt your progress and have you contemplating dropping that class. It might be difficult at first, but as the stress starts to fade away with each double-spaced page you churn out, you’ll feel more confident. You don’t need to do all the writing at once, so take some breaks. Just make sure your breaks don’t entail having a grand old time at the Royal

Oak three nights in a row.

4. Edit

Most people ignore this phase. But do your professors and final marks some good, and reread your work—doing so out loud can be especially helpful. You’ll catch typos and spelling mistakes and you’ll end up with a stellar mark. Okay, so don’t quote me on the last part, but you never know.

5. Hand it in, repeat process

You’re done! Congratulations, it’s time to celebrate, right? Nope, it’s not. You’ve only finished one essay out of five. So stop, breathe, and repeat. You can celebrate in December.

Perspectives

It’s never too late to learn something new

Sofia Hashi | Fulcrum Staff

“WHY NOW?” THAT’S the question my friend earnestly asked me after I told her I was learning how to play to guitar. Caught off guard, I didn’t know how to answer, so I mumbled, “Oh, you know, I’ve just always wanted to try.” I didn’t realize that my latest endeavour would be such a big deal amongst my friends and acquaintances, but I should’ve known. Nearly everyone I’ve mentioned it to has asked, “Why now?”

While this question may make sense to

some, for me it’s like asking why the sky is blue, or why I chose to wear a purple shirt as opposed to a yellow shirt. It doesn’t make sense. Why can’t we continue learning? Why can’t we, as adults, find new things to try and new skills to develop?

Recently, while I was on Thought Catalog, an online magazine composed of submissions primarily from twenty-somethings, I came across a post that echoed my sentiments: “Why do we stop growing and experiencing new things as we get older?” While the author had no real answer to provide, the article ,com-

bined with the recent inquisitions about my guitar-playing, got me wondering.

It might be because we associate school with learning, and let’s face it, four to five years on a campus, no matter how awesome that campus is, will put you off cracking open a textbook for a very long time. Learning becomes associated with snoozeworthy lectures and dry, boring books that our professors seem to have an uncanny ability for choosing time and time again. But do we forget about learning once we become older? Do we think we’ve learned all that we can by the time

we’ve hit our mid-twenties? I don’t know about you, but I sure don’t want to stop educating myself just because I have a degree or two under my belt.

The idea that seems to be perpetuated constantly is that we can only learn through accredited institutions. This is only a half-truth. Sure, you won’t be formally recognized for learning to change a tire or knit a scarf, but learning doesn’t have to be about some end-game result. You learn for the fun of it. We do have public libraries for a reason, you know.



Cultivating new skills can be exciting too. I’ve always wanted to play an instrument and now I’m doing it. Who cares if I’ll never be able to jam like Jimi Hendrix or throw down tracks like Eddie Van Halen? That’s not why I decided to pick up a guitar and rock out.

When most people ask me why I’m learning guitar now, what they really mean is, “What are you going to do with it?” Am I going to go to Nashville anytime soon? Will I try to form a band? Probably not. But when I do, you know they’re going to want to be in it.

Euthanasia: It literally means “good death”

Olivia Robinson | The Cadre (University of Prince Edward Island)

I recently sat in on a presentation titled “A Concise History of Euthanasia.”

The presentation, given by University of Prince Edward Island history professor Dr. Ian Dowbiggin, aimed to establish why physician-assisted suicide (PAS) should not be made legal in Canada. Though Dr. Dowbiggin’s opinion opposes my own, it was still a highly interesting presentation.

The definition of physician-assisted suicide specifies it as “the assisting rather than the causing of death; the prescribing, not the administration of lethal medication”—in latent terms, it involves a doctor providing his or her patient with medication necessary to kill themselves. So here’s a question: if this practice is in fact legal in many parts of the world, including the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and U.S. states such as Oregon and Washington (where the practice of PAS is written in their constitution), why is it such a taboo in Canada?

Fun fact: the word euthanasia comes from Greek and literally means “good death.” I know my opinion on this issue will likely cause rage in a few readers, but I’m going to state it anyway. I believe that PAS should be legal in Canada. I realize that I am young and have very little experience with the death of people, but I do have experience with the death of animals.

Another fun fact? People are mammals.

Many people view euthanizing animals as a way to end their suffering. When I was in the twelfth grade, I got into a rather heated debate with my history teacher over this very issue. I explained that if my horse had a terminal illness or injury, I would immediately have him put down to end his suffering—and I would want the same



Should physician-assisted suicide be legal?

photo by Sean Wilkin

done for me. If I knew I was dying, I would rather choose the time of my death than suffer for a seemingly endless period of time—a suffering that without doubt would put unnecessary stress on my loved ones. Some people are quick to claim that the idea of PAS goes against nature, but then what gives us the right to choose when animals die? It frustrates me that humans have developed such a superiority complex that we believe it is perfectly fine for us to choose when to end the suffering of animals, but when euthanasia is applied to humans, it is deemed as going against nature.

On the other hand, I cannot ignore that several of the points made by Dr. Dowbiggin were quite valid. Noting blurred distinctions between choice and coercion, Dr. Dowbiggin raised concerns of population control and how some people believe that if PAS were to be made legal in more places, it would be used as a means to rid the population of individuals seen to put a drain on society.

While I understand Dr. Dowbiggin’s point of view, I believe the likelihood of these events occurring is small. Generally speaking, people are kind-hearted. If PAS were legalized, I do not believe

that it would suddenly be employed as an excuse to rid the world of the sick, infirm, or elderly. Quite simply, I see little likelihood that legalizing PAS would lead to the justification of killing people for no reason. After all, there is already a word associated with that: murder. Unjustified killings happen daily across the globe. Legalizing or preventing the legalization of PAS would not affect this.

I realize that the issue of PAS is a sensitive one, and I recognize that it could be a slippery slope—there is always the possibility that it could end up going too far. However, I view PAS

as a humane way for suffering people to end their lives. It simply is not fair for people to be forced to continue to suffer a terminal illness when there is a solution.

I realize there will always be exceptions, and the law cannot cover every situation perfectly, but I feel that people should still have a choice. Personally, I would prefer to be euthanized peacefully than die painfully, and I certainly do not doubt that a lot of other people share this opinion.

After all, if people can’t find a way to die peacefully, there are less favourable ways to end a life. f

You’re not cultured

You just have Internet access

Sofia Hashi | Fulcrum Staff

Something happened between 2007 and 2012. During the online-blogging boom and our need to over-share everything, something changed within us. That change is what I’d like to call the I’m-an-artist complex.

This syndrome plagues many people with a computer and access to high-speed Internet. Scrolling through blogs and re-blogs of interesting photos, breath-taking travel destinations, and inspiring quotes might be a nice way to pass the time, but it certainly doesn’t make you the next van Gogh or Hemingway. Sorry I couldn’t let you down gently, but someone had to tell you. Spending hours perusing Google images or Tumblr, trying to find a hilarious, cute, or deep photo doesn’t mean you can take credit for that pho-

to’s existence.

The Internet culture may be one of sharing and posting on each other’s timelines and feeds, but the key word here is sharing. That clever meme? Not yours. That avant-garde, too-chic-to-be-real photo? Not yours. That sad, yet inspiring quote? You didn’t say it. You just found it.

True creativity takes time to hone and cultivate. Becoming talented at something is no easy feat either. It takes countless hours of dedication and effort. Being an artist means picking up

a brush and painting; it means picking up a pen and writing; it means picking up a camera and taking a photo. It definitely does not mean sitting behind a computer screen and reposting all the pretty, motivating, or lovely images found on the World Wide Web.

When reading through a blog, most people enjoy original content. Why? Because an original thought is more inspiring, thought-provoking, and relatable than a carbon copy of an image you’ve seen time and time again. I don’t know about you, but I’d rather

read about someone’s life than look at another picture of a waterfall behind some block letters that are meant to inspire me.

I’m not telling you what to put on your blogs or Facebook feeds, because that’s your space. Just know that there are better uses for your time and creativity than reblogging and reposting everything online. It might hurt to realize it at first, but when you do apply yourself in a truly creative way, the result will be something that you can really be proud of. f

Happy whatever

Celebrating nonsense

Spencer Van Dyk | Fulcrum Staff

Happy hug-a-journalist-day. If this page does not receive one million “likes” by 3 p.m., the wrath of journalists everywhere will come down on you. Keep in mind, this is also Sanitation Engineer Week, wherein you must tell your garbage collector how much you appreciate him or her. Oh, and it’s also Yellow Day, so God help you if you are wearing any other colour. If we were to listen to the Facebook pages we “like” out of sheer boredom, we would be handing over our autonomy our behaviour completely. Let’s face it: the “share if you agree” phenomenon on Facebook is the 2012 version of the “forward this email to 15 people in the next three minutes or your head will explode” trend of 2005.

The other day there was a meme on Facebook that read, “Like’ if you believe nurses rock.” Can’t we all agree nurses are important and we appreciate their work? Unless you’ve had a nurse who administered an unnecessary enema, it is a generally agreed upon fact that nurses rock. So why the need for validation? Is the nursing



photo illustration by Kyle Hansford

profession so insecure that they need people everywhere to remind them that we do, in fact, enjoy being treated kindly while receiving medical attention? It isn’t just nurses who get online adoration. The Internet itself seems to be wholeheartedly dedicated to continuously commemorating some profession, relationship, or colour—365 days a year.

Why do people “like” things on Facebook? Is it to show support for a cause? To show support for the person posting the link? Simply to show they have read and acknowledged the post? Would the world end if we did not observe Purple Day? Would the zombie apocalypse ensue if we did not show sufficient support for some cause? As a rule of thumb, if you don’t care about something enough to personally organize a fundraising event for that cause, keep it off my

Facebook, and stop guilt tripping me into “liking” it.

Even more prevalent are the Facebook statuses that celebrate Friends Week, Sisters Week, or some other special bond—what’s next, National Goldfish Week? These constant posts celebrating insignificant events detract from legitimate causes. Don’t get me wrong, I absolutely love my sister, my friends, my mom, my teachers, my nurses, and the colour red—but the act of “liking” those things on a website doesn’t show legitimate support for people or causes.

Buy a card, sign the card, mail the card, and tell your loved ones how much you appreciate them. Wear the colour purple. Organize an event for a cause you hold dear. That means a lot more than pressing a button and activating a little blue “thumbs up” on your Facebook page.

Heckles Your phone’s vibrating... again

Emily Manns | Fulcrum Staff

YOU KNOW WHAT I like the most about cell phones? It’s not so much the way they look, or how they let us stay in contact with anyone anywhere—it’s their off button. This convenient little switch is what’s most attractive about these portable devices. Yes, I know, you’re probably expecting a really important text from your best friend who you haven’t seen for almost an hour, and you’re afraid that maybe you’re not friends anymore unless you hear from him or her soon. Whatever the reason is, I don’t really care, as long as you don’t set your phone on vibrate and place it on the table!

When I’m in the library cramming for a massive midterm, I welcome silence. Stepping into Morisset, I know I’m going to get a lot done because there is nothing to distract me—I can focus all of my attention on the task at hand. I sit down at one of the cubicles and take a moment to

close my eyes and savour the silence... and then I hear it.

At first I pray it’s just someone drilling down in the basement—it’ll surely stop soon. It does stop. I sigh with relief. I set off to work, once again enjoying the lack of sound. It comes again. This time, I can feel the table vibrating slightly under my arms. I look around in irritation, trying to locate the source of the noise, and find it almost instantly. A cell phone—buzzing away on the table next to me.

In class, they tell you to put your phone on vibrate because professors don’t want to be interrupted by loud ringtones. There’s just enough noise made during lectures to mask the gentle hum of a cell phone stuffed in someone’s pocket. But when you’re in the library, where the only sound is the tapping of laptop keys and the occasional rustling of papers, that damn humming sounds like someone is drilling into the earth’s

core right next to you. It’s even worse when they set it on a table, thereby amplifying the noise that comes from two hard surfaces bouncing off each other in rapid succession. The whole point of the vibrate setting is so that if you have a phone in your pocket and you’re in a loud area, you’ll feel your phone ringing even though you can’t hear it. Key words: can’t hear it.

Unless the world is coming to an end and you are waiting to hear how much time you have left, you don’t need your phone to be on at all times. I can guarantee you I’m not the only person put off by the buzzing and humming—if you don’t believe me, ask anyone within a 20-metre radius of your table at the library. If I am mistaken—if your phone has shattered the outer layer of planet Earth, and the world is, in fact, coming to an end, then I will admit I was wrong, but until then, please put that bloody phone on silent.

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 Letters must include your name, telephone number, year, and program of study. Pseudonyms may be used after consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. We correct spelling and grammar to some extent. The *Fulcrum* will exercise discretion in printing letters that are deemed racist, homophobic, or sexist.

We will not consider hate literature or libellous material. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the authority on everything printed herein.

Willing to lead the party

Re: "Why does no one want to be premier?" (News, Nov. 8)

WITH ALL DUE respect to Mr. Ike-man, the neglect of other notable names running for provincial Liberal leadership, who had not made a decision either way, including Cabinet members and notable former Cabinet members

Disappointed in the SFUO

I ATTENDED THE beautiful and sorrowful Remembrance Day ceremony on Friday, Nov. 8 in Tabaret Hall.

At this ceremony, I saw that Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) vp finance Adam Gilani was present. At first I felt my faith in the SFUO to do the right thing had been restored (following their desecration of last year's Christmas lighting ceremony),

Women are capable of speaking for themselves

 Re: *At the expense of men* (Letters, Nov. 8)

LAST WEEK, A response was written by Patrick Jenish about an article titled "Why don't women want to be feminists?" First I want to address the fact that it is problematic for men to even speak on that question. I want to state firmly that as men, we (including me) should not only claim "we do not pretend to speak on behalf of all women", but rather men do not speak for women, any women, not one single woman. Full stop. Women are capable of speaking for themselves. Also, I want to briefly suggest that in order to speak to "inclusion" in a movement about gender, it cannot be a movement of "both genders" but of all genders. There are far more than two, all of them beautiful. In addition, I want to address the arguments Patrick makes about "problems" he claims to notice about feminism, from a perspective of male engagement. I will engage with the "statistics" he presents, not his conclusions about women and feminism, for the reasons previously discussed.

The first statistic that was refuted was the wage gap, suggesting it was a median, not an average. Aside from that 2011

makes this zealous piece verge on one of negative intent. I know any neutral, balanced, and objective pundit would try to cover more bases before publishing an opinion piece such as this, but it seems now we need to make it clearer.

There are currently six people in the race for provincial Liberal leadership—with time remaining still to en-

since Remembrance Day ceremonies are a chance to say thanks to veterans for their service and to recognize that we are freer today because of their actions.

Yet my warm feelings quickly turned to dismay when I saw that Mr. Gilani chose to turn his back on etiquette by not wearing the poppy (the one distributed by the Royal Canadian Legion to raise funds for disabled veterans and their families). And to make matters worse, Mr. Gilani used the solemn occasion to make a political statement by

study (that I read in my research), there is a full length study you can purchase (rather than the public summary). It includes a more critical breakdown that highlights that women and men were of equal educational and experiential background, and the gap persisted despite of that. Also, you refer to "women's choices." I am sure you are aware that some form of reproduction is necessary for human existence, and furthermore for the capitalist economy in which we live. Penalizing women who choose to have kids is a bit like biting the hand that feeds you. These are also only choices women can make, and as a result they are devalued. That IS sexist. Not to mention, that as a result of similar generalizations, women who opt not to have children at all still suffer from lower wages than do men, all else equal. If women take lower paying jobs, they are only compared to men in those same lower playing jobs. Statistics Canada does not compare CEOs to food service workers; they compare CEOs to CEOs and food service workers to food service workers.

I do want to point out that men do account for over 90 per cent of workplace deaths, as mentioned in the previous piece.

ter—all of which have been elected as MPPs and ministers previously. Currently we have recently freed up Ministers Charles Sousa, Kathleen Wynne, Sandra Pupatello, Eric Hoskins, Gerard Kennedy, and Glen Murray.

Premature condemnation need be apologized for. Renewal is happening within the party that allows things to grow past the party's nine years in gov-

wearing the so-called "white poppy."

It is sad that by wearing the white poppy, he perpetuated the myth that Remembrance Day is about the glorification of war. None of the veterans who were present that day would tell you that war was glorious, nor did my own late grandfather, who served in World War II, wish for war to occur again.

That Mr. Gilani attended the ceremony and laid a wreath on behalf of all students while not wearing the poppy is

Interestingly, the claim was made that this is the reason both for higher wages, and proof of the irrelevance of the feminist movement. The two are contradictory. The feminist movement has been fighting for women to have access to these jobs, in addition to fighting against the idea that men have to be sole support breadwinners for many years. This reduces the number of men needing to take full time employment, including risky jobs. Men going into science, technology, engineering, and medicine (STEM) jobs that pay more is a moot point, as they are only compared to women in those same positions.

Your statement about there being fewer women in hard sciences, while true, simply suggests there is more work still to be done by feminists, not that it is irrelevant.

Your perception of statistics relating to violence is without context. While 69 per cent of people in heterosexual relationships are likely to report that both partners have perpetuated violence (Statistics Canada 2010), almost 85 per cent of that is situational or single acts of violence. Women are five times more likely to be killed by their partners than are men. In almost 80 per cent of cases involving ongoing escalating violence by

ernment. It is clear that a healthy competition is already beginning to form in the early stages of this contest, and that many of the "best" of the party are willing to lead the party and seek the premiership of this province.

Shane Mackenzie

Third-year public
administration student

Ontario Young Liberal policy director

appallingly bad judgment. Only a true political opportunist would not follow the etiquette of a public ceremony to mourn our war dead. Mr. Gilani may be an elected member of the SFUO, but he certainly did not represent me at that ceremony, nor do I feel the SFUO represents me anymore, since none of the other executives could be bothered to attend the brief ceremony. Shame, shame, shame.

Amélie Cadieux

Fourth-year arts student

a partner, it is men who are the abuser. Also, courts have long recognized that in many cases where there is assault by both partners, often the women are acting in self defence. The statistics and issues you discuss are not new. They are regularly oversimplified by Men's Rights Associations.

Lastly, I would like to suggest that feminism has offered men a great deal of support, and is largely the reason why, as men, it is now socially acceptable for men to choose to be a stay at home dad rather than being forced into a rigid role of breadwinner. I encourage you to be critical of your views. In addition, please recognize the unearned privilege we receive as men, and avoid commenting on what women ought not to do. Lastly, when advocating for inclusive gender campaigns, please avoid using restrictive binary definitions. It is important to be inclusive of all genders and spend some time unlearning before replying to articles about women meant for women.

Ron Couchman

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Feminist

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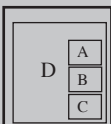
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No place like home



Illustration by Mathias MacPhee

LAST WEEK, I was stopped on Rideau Street and asked by a woman if I could please point her in the direction of the nearest Starbucks. Before I could answer, she asked, "Or are you not from Ottawa?" The ease with which I responded, "Yes, I'm from here," surprised me. It's a sentence I've struggled to say in the past. Last week was not the first time I've been asked if I'm from Ottawa, but it was certainly the first time I've answered without feeling strangely compelled to mention that I am not, in fact, a native Ottawan, but that I moved here from Sarnia, Ont. to attend university. My response left me wondering: at what point does a person make the transition from transplant to local? And when does a city become "home"?

It's a question I've posed to my out-of-towner friends before: when did you start considering Ottawa to be your home? Some said they began a month after moving here, while others reported it took a year or two. Their reasons for doing so were unsurprising: many prefer Ottawa to their small-town-Canadiana birthplaces, while others cited simplic-

ity. It's much easier to say yes, I am from Ottawa, Ottawa is home, than to give a SparkNotes version of your residential history, as I've felt oddly obliged to do in the past.

Perhaps my hesitance to declare myself an Ottawan is a result of my unwavering affection for my hometown and a certain feeling I couldn't, or didn't want to, shake—the feeling that Ottawa was something of a pit-stop in the journey of my life. I saw it as the city I would live in for a few years while I attended university, but never as a place to settle down. The thought of living in the capital of our country was exciting, and I was eager to have an opportunity to practice my French, but I moved to Ottawa with the knowledge that I would spend a limited amount of time here and then make the requisite move for any aspiring writer: to Toronto. I considered Sarnia my home, Ottawa a momentary resting place, and Toronto my future.

After a few weeks of residing in Ottawa, I no longer needed maps of campus and the downtown core to find my way back to my 90U residence room.

After a few months here, I felt I could finally stop carrying around my camera. After a year, I could ride many of the major bus lines without panicking I would miss my stop. After half a decade of life in Ottawa, I have a favourite OC Transpo bus driver, a circle of irreplaceable friends, a strong sense of belonging in the Sandy Hill and campus community, and gratitude for the opportunities I've been afforded as a person who calls this city home.

I've studied on the grass in front of the most important buildings in our country, I've skated on the world's largest outdoor rink, and I've stood in crowds, eagerly anticipating the arrival of foreign dignitaries. It may have crept up on me and taken me by surprise, but nonetheless, the fact remains: at some point in the last five years, Ottawa wrestled its way into my heart, and I became a local.

There is a certain pride associated with being considered a local. Locals know shortcuts, and where to get the best pizza in town. They know their city's neighbourhoods, and they can

perfectly describe the type of people you'll find dwelling within each. Locals fall asleep while riding public transportation and still know where they are when they wake up. Having such an intimate knowledge of a city like Ottawa is a privilege, certainly, and one I couldn't claim as my own until very recently.

According to the writers of *Sex and the City*, "if you live in New York for 10 years, you can officially call yourself a New Yorker." By those standards, I'm slightly more than halfway to official Ottawan status, and yet my time here will come to a close in a few short months. Just like I always knew I would, I'll be making the move to Toronto—insert obligatory eye roll here—and although I anticipate the change, I'm preparing myself for the dull ache I know I'll feel when I think about our city. Perhaps next year when someone on a Toronto street stops me to ask for directions, I'll respond, "Sorry, I don't know. I'm from Ottawa." And I'll be proud to say it.

—Kristyn Filip

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