



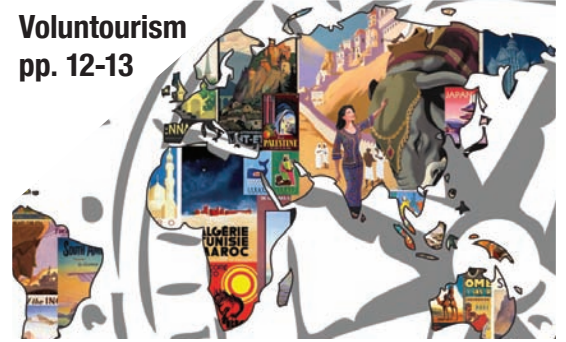
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# LETTERS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Kristyn Filip | editor@thefulcrum.ca | (613) 562-5261

**Polio: leave not a red coal**

Nunavik's community tuberculosis (TB) outbreak and the recent increase in drug resistant TB remind us of our vulnerability to infectious disease. TB kills 1.5 million people each year. The World Health Organisation has an action plan to eliminate TB. We'd be well advised to finance that plan, as we have contributed to the eradication of smallpox in the late

70s and as we should maintain our efforts to fight polio, the dreadful crippler, until its complete eradication.

We can celebrate the worldwide effort deployed since 1988 that has reduced the annual number of new cases of polio from 350 000 then, to a mere 145 since the beginning of this year. It is amazing, but beware! Vaccination must continue until the full halt of the disease because it is very contagious. Compare

it to a fire in your neighbour's house. Wouldn't you want to make sure not one red coal remains for fear the fire would rage again? Sadly, Canada, who had always been a leader in the fight against polio, has promised but a fraction of its usual contribution for the next two years. Hopefully, Prime Minister Harper will announce what's missing this week at the United Nations.

—Pamela Walden-Landry

And the award for the most dedicated Fulcrumite goes to...

**Sean Done!**

We heart you and we heart your photography. Thank you.

Join the *Fulcrum* for a volunteer appreciation BBQ this Thursday, Sept 27th outside our offices at 631 King Edward Ave.

The grilling begins at 1:30 p.m.

The Fulcrum Publishing Society is seeking applicants to fill presently unoccupied seats on its Board of Directors.

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**Got something to say?**

Send your letters to editor@thefulcrum.ca

Letters deadline: Sunday at 1 p.m. Letters must be under 500 words unless discussed with the Editor-in-Chief.

Drop off letters at 631 King Edward Ave. or email editor@thefulcrum.ca.

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.

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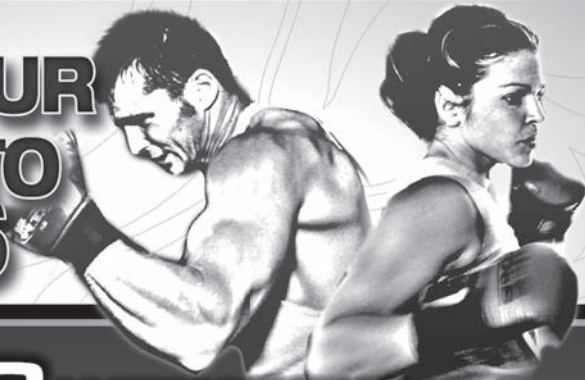
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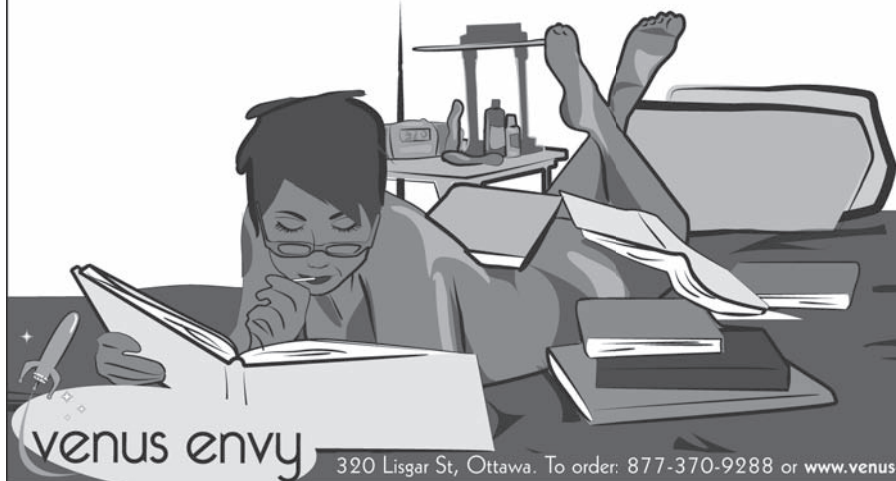
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## Democracy comes to Ottawa

photo by Sean Done

### Democracy Week holds panel for U of O education students

Andrew Ikeman | Fulcrum Staff

**E**lections Canada has been taking their Democracy Week from coast to coast talking to students about democracy and the democratic process. As part of the event, a panel was held in Ottawa on Sept. 19, in which five leaders in civic education had the chance to speak to University of Ottawa education students.

The second annual Democracy Week, which coincides with the United Nations'

International Day of Democracy on Sept. 15, was organized with the help of Elections Canada and Chief Electoral Officer Marc Mayrand.

"Elections Canada has a mandate to... inform Canadians about their electoral process," said Mayrand. "Two years ago, when the United Nations established the International Day of Democracy—on September 15th of each year—we thought it would be a great opportunity to make a larger event celebrating Canadian democracy, and that's what brought us here today."

The panel included Mayrand; Léo Duguay, president of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians; Paul Taillefer, president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation; Taylor Gunn, president of CIVIX; and Jeremy Diamond of the Historica-Dominion Institute. Gunn,

whose charity CIVIX is known for its Student Vote program, said he was happy to sit on the panel as it gave him a chance to talk to future teachers, the people his charity works most closely with.

"We [CIVIX] run programs for students, we train teachers, and we do research for everyone," said Gunn. "Our main flagship program is a parallel election for students under the voting age. In the last federal election, we had half a million students across Canada learn[ing] all about the issues and then casting a ballot on the official candidates in their district."

The panel, which focused on how future teachers can educate students on democracy and what resources are available to help them, was chaired by U of O alumni and Ottawa city councillor Mathieu Fleury, who expressed his thoughts

for future panels.

"I think we need to open it up to other

“

"We thought it would be a great opportunity to make a larger event celebrating Canadian democracy, and that's what brought us here today."

—Marc Mayrand  
Chief Electoral Officer

faculties and other individuals," said Fleury. "As much as possible, [we should be] offering bilingual service. We had a lot of discussions afterwards, and a lot of the panelists were bilingual. I know it was hosted for the English side of the [ed-

ucation] faculty, but it would have been better if it was more inclusive."

The panel formed part of a series of professional development workshops hosted by the U of O's faculty of education.

Jessica Whitley, a U of O education professor who gave the first address of the night, said students' reactions to the event have been positive.

"I've talked to quite a few students since [the panel was held]," said Whitley. "A lot of them said to me afterwards that it opened their eyes to the kind of role they can play in the classroom, in terms of building awareness among their students about democracy in general, about the different processes at work in Canada, [and] about different ways they can have their opinions heard and make change."

## Telfer cancels leadership program

### Program linked to Department of Foreign Affairs scrapped

Jesse Mellott | Fulcrum Staff

THE UNIVERSITY OF Ottawa's Telfer School of Management has eliminated its leadership program. The Canadian Orientation Leadership Program allowed students from across North America to come to the U of O to study Canadian industrial and financial practices. The funding for the leadership program came directly from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). François Julien, dean of the Telfer School

of Management, said the program was scrapped due to cutbacks at DFAIT.

"It is not a program that has ever been funded by University of Ottawa resources," said Julien. "From day one this program has been offered thanks to significant contribution from DFAIT. This is one of the programs that [DFAIT] were no longer able to provide funding for."

Dean Julien became aware of the cessation of funding to the leadership program during the spring when the 2012-13 federal budget was tabled.

Professor and Telfer Director Mike

Miles provided further details about the structure of the program itself, which involved both the U of O and McGill University, in collaboration with universities from the United States and Mexico.

"The real purpose of the program was to give [students] insights into management of economic and trade issues that related to the areas of the North American Free Trade Agreement," said Miles. "We had a maximum of 15 students that got into the program [from Telfer each year]. It was about a four-day program

“

"I would predict that it will be back. It is simply a matter of who is going to fund it, that's all."

—Mike Miles  
Telfer Director

here in Ottawa, and about two days down in Montreal."

In addition to the 15 students from Telfer, Miles said roughly the same num-

ber came from the United States, and three to four students from Mexico.

"We have actively promoted that particular program as one of our leadership programs, because it was just such a phenomenal dialogue between very senior people and students," continued Miles. "I would predict that it will be back. It is simply a matter of who is going to fund it, that's all."

The Telfer leadership program was created in 2004 by the former Dean of the Telfer Michael Kelly, who held a position at DFAIT before coming to the U of O. f

# The Debriefing

Two Canadians wrongfully linked to *Innocence of Muslims*

OTTAWA—AFTER BEING WRONGFULLY linked to an anti-Muslim film that prompted riots and protests across the Muslim world, two Canadian citizens say they fear for their lives.

The two men, Nader Fawzy and Jacques Attalla, are among a number of Coptic Christians accused by the Egyptian government of being tied to the film, titled *Innocence of Muslims*. Fawzy and Attalla said they had never heard of the movie until violent protests erupted across the Middle East last week.

Despite their claims, both men have been issued arrest warrants by Egypt's prosecutor general for their alleged involvement in the film's production, distribution, and promotion. The men believe the accusations are aimed at silencing activists who have spoken against the persecution of Coptic Christians in Egypt.

Neither man intends to return their homeland of Egypt, where they could both theoretically face the death penalty if prosecuted. However, they fear the warrants could make them targets of Muslim extremists, to whom senior clerics have offered a reward for killing those connected to the film.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird's spokesman said that Ottawa will be working on the issue privately with Egypt.

—Justin Dallaire

## South Korean navy fires shots towards North Korean fishing vessels

SEOUL—ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, the South Korean navy fired multiple shots in the direction of North Korean fishing vessels, which crossed a controversial boundary line between the two countries in the Yellow Sea. An official for North Korea stated the fishing vessels retreated and were not hit. The South Korean navy reported that the shots were meant in warning.

This is not the first time a border dispute between the two countries has resulted in violence. After the Korean War ended in a truce 60 years ago, the United Nations Command divided the Yellow Sea without consent from the two countries. In 2010, a North Korean shelling off Yeonpyeong Island killed four South Koreans, and a South Korean warship was the target of an explosion that killed 46 sailors that same year, for which North Korea has denied responsibility.

—Keeton Wilcock

## CLASSE not satisfied by tuition hike cancellation

MONTREAL—THE STUDENT STRIKES that have overrun Quebec for the past year may not be over just yet. The Coalition large de l'Association pour une Solidarité Syndicale Étudiante (CLASSE), the largest student union in Quebec, say they will not stop until they see free tuition for the students of Quebec.

While the other main student unions in Quebec, the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec (FECQ) and the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ), have said that the cancellation of a planned tuition increase has negated their need to protest, CLASSE says that their fight is just beginning.

Premier Pauline Marois, upon taking office earlier this month, struck down the tuition fee increase that was proposed by the former Liberal government under Jean Charest. The province of Quebec currently pays the lowest tuition in Canada.

—Andrew Ikeman

## Supreme Court of Canada supports Vancouver prostitution challenge

VANCOUVER—IN A UNANIMOUS ruling, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down a federal government appeal against the Downtown Eastside Sex Workers United Against Violence Society (DESWUAV) and Sheryl Kiselbach, who used to work in the sex trade. The court's decision gives the Vancouver-based group of sex trade workers the go-ahead to challenge the country's prostitution laws. The federal government was seeking to halt challenges to national prostitution legislation.

The DESWUAV is arguing that sex trade workers' constitutional rights of equality, freedom of association, and freedom of expression are being violated under current prostitution laws. Katrina Pacey, a lawyer from the Pivot Legal Society, which represented the Vancouver sex workers, stated that their ultimate goal is for prostitution to be decriminalized in Canada.

Although prostitution is currently legal in Canada, many of the acts surrounding it (keeping bawdy houses, communicating for the purposes of prostitution, and living off of prostitution) are illegal. The Vancouver group's challenge may gain legitimacy from a similar case in Ontario, where the Ontario Appeal Court recently struck down a ban on brothels in the province. The federal government is currently appealing that ruling to the Supreme Court of Canada.

—Keeton Wilcock

# Prof settlement reached

## APUO and U of O reach deal for 2011–12

Today on *The Hour*, we're talking to a representative of the Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa whose union is presently working without a collective agreement, and has technically been without one for the last year...

...So tell us, how has your union avoided being locked out thus far?

Well, George, I'll be honest, some of our members did consider threatening to head over to Europe to teach...

...But, at only 25% of the pay, it seemed more practical to just stay here and cordially work it out.

So when does the agreement expire?

Uhm... well... last week actually.



Illustration by Devin Beauregard

Spencer Van Dyk | Fulcrum Staff

THE UNIVERSITY OF Ottawa and its faculty association, the Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa (APUO), reached a collective agreement Sept. 20, after 16 months of negotiations. Talks for the agreement began in April of 2011.

"The agreement includes over 130 important non-monetary amendments that will create a more streamlined collective agreement," reads the statement from the U of O. "Included is a salary increase of 1.71 per cent which is in line with the average increases that have occurred at other comparable Ontario universities during the past two years."

"Faculty will also see welcome changes in some paramedical care programs," continued the statement. "An important modification was introduced for our assistant professors, who will have easier access to their first academic leave once tenure is granted. This change constitutes an important step towards the uni-

versity's strategic plan of fostering a top research university."

Karine Proulx, a U of O media relations officer, was offered little insight into the deal.

"All I have to say is that the University of Ottawa and our faculty association, the APUO, have reached a settlement for the renewal of the collective agreement for the 2011–12 academic year," said Proulx. "The settlement is pending ratification from both sides."

Christian Rouillard, president of the APUO, said they will now have to negotiate a new agreement for the coming year.

"This was a long process," said Rouillard. "So it was high time that we came to an agreement, at least for 2011–2012, which we did, but it is just that one-year settlement, so that takes care of 2011–2012, which means that the very day the new agreement will be ratified, it will be expired."

The settlement will be ratified Sept. 25, then negotiations will recommence immediately for an active collective agree-

ment.

Until last Thursday, negotiations seemed to have been at a stalemate, with the length of time it took for the deal to be reached on the minds of both sides. The question remains why the U of O took so long to reach a decision.

"I think it was always the hope that Queen's Park would do part of the job for [the university]," said Rouillard. "First [we had] to wait for the last Ontario budget, then the report from the Drummond Commission. [We are] always waiting for the next big thing to come out of Queen's Park to do the job."

Rouillard also said that although this settlement "is nothing to be dancing in the streets about, it is fair," and has several very positive points that will be relevant to younger faculty members.

The U of O and APUO will soon begin negotiations for the current academic year, but they must come to an agreement on non-monetary issues before a settlement on salaries and benefits can be reached.

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# What's he building in there?

## Why you should really be afraid of the dark



Kaya Gaudet | Fulcrum Contributor

### The problem

There's a reason you're afraid of monsters under your bed: As soon as you fall asleep, you're a sitting duck. There may only be a small chance there's someone lurking in your room, but if there were, you would have no way of protecting yourself. In fact, you may not even wake up in time to see it happen. Every night you fall asleep and rely completely on your subconscious to save you from danger.

### The researcher

Dr. Kenneth Campbell researches the part of the brain that's supposed to be processing when you're not paying attention or are unconscious. From his undergrad to his PhD, Campbell was educated at the University of Ottawa. Now he teaches full time at the U of O and has

been doing psychological research for over 30 years.

### The project

So how can you tell if you'll wake up when a fire alarm goes off at night or a ghost is rattling around in the attic? Campbell is trying to find the answer. He performs various experiments on people both asleep and under general anesthesia. The subject's brain is monitored for activity while varying levels of sounds are made. Campbell scans the brain for a response to the sounds and then observes the physical reaction to three different types of noise: looming (getting louder), retreating (getting softer), and constant.

### The key

Campbell's studies have shown that during the first few hours of sleep, although your brain is still hearing and processing

the sounds around you, you won't be woken up unless you hear a loud persistent sound like a fire alarm. This makes the first part of your sleep the most dangerous and vulnerable.

Later in the night, you're more likely to give attention to looming sounds than to retreating sounds. This isn't surprising, considering that our great, great, great ancestors were in constant fear of being devoured by lions. Nowadays all we have to worry about are boogie monsters and axe murderers hiding under our beds. Let's just hope they make some loud noises announcing they're about to attack, otherwise our brains may not feel threatened enough to wake us up.

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Are you doing interesting science? Or do you have a professor who can't stop talking about their research? Let us know at [research@thefulcrum.ca](mailto:research@thefulcrum.ca).

# Food for thought

## What's up with all the Food Services changes this year?

Andrew Ikeman | Fulcrum Staff

Walking around campus this year, you might notice there are a lot of new options for where to eat. Bento Sushi moved out of the university centre (UCU) cafeteria and is now where the Upper Crust used to be, there is a new food truck under the Thompson-Fauteux overpass and the Faculty of Social Sciences building will soon be getting a bakery.

A lot of changes are being made to the food available on campus, which, according to Food Services Director Patrick Genest, are a part of their larger plan to improve the variety of food on campus.

"I remember when I started on campus in 2009, we were doing soup, salad, sandwich a lot across campus," said Genest. "My vision was to create destinations where people can eat, instead of the same old thing in different faculties every day."

The decision to move Bento Sushi out of the main food court was due to the fact that it is the most popular location in Canada, and the sushi shop in the food court was not large enough for the amount of traffic it received. Upper Crust, the sandwich shop that was located across from Pivik, was replaced with the full-sized Bento Sushi. The move made room for a new stand in the UCU food court called the Global Village, which offers a rotating menu selection. The University of Ottawa is also moving toward becoming fair-trade certified, a goal Genest believes we are close to achieving.

According to Genest, the changes have been well received by students, including the switch from Pizza Pizza to



Students frequent the new Bento Sushi shop

photo by Justin Labelle

Gabriel Pizza in the UCU. Blair Lebeau, a second-year criminology student, said he liked the idea of a diverse food selection on campus.

"I think that Gabriel Pizza is better than Pizza Pizza," said Lebeau. "The new changes have given us a lot more variety on campus for eating. I think the quality of the food has definitely gone up."

Quality was an important consideration for the new changes, especially

with the contract of the current food provider on campus, Chartwells, expiring in May 2013. The changes come just before the university is set to look at their options.

"We have received some bids [for the contract]," said Genest. "We are in the evaluation process ... we should be able to announce before Christmas if we are changing [our supplier] or not. We have worked a lot with Chartwells over the last three years to make these changes

“My vision was to create destinations where people can eat, instead of the same old thing in different faculties every day.”

—Patrick Genest  
Food Services Director

on campus, and it has increased student satisfaction. I feel like when I came in in 2009, the overall student satisfaction was like 58 per cent overall, and over the last two years it has been 70 per cent. So we must be doing something right.”

Genest expressed that all choices made by food services were made with students in mind, and that the suggestions submitted by students through surveys and questionnaires were considered.

## Turning Point

### Cops aren't meant to be the bad guys

Andrew Ikeman | News Editor

FOR THOSE OF you who don't know, the *Fulcrum* shares an office building with the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG). OPIRG generally posts about upcoming events on their bulletin board, which I rarely look at. However, I recently noticed a flyer entitled "Dealing with the Police" pinned on their board. I do not know whether this was posted by OPIRG, if it was a joke, or why it is on their board, but the flyer's content left a sour taste in my mouth.

"Don't wait for the cops to read you your rights," opened the flyer. "They usu-

ally won't. Law enforcement agents are legally allowed to lie, and they're trained to be manipulative. The only thing you should say to them is, 'I am going to remain silent. I want to see a lawyer.' (Don't sign anything, either, without showing it to a lawyer first.)"

Fact is, guys, the police don't have to read you your rights until you have been arrested or are put in handcuffs. If you withhold information, they may be forced to bring you in. If you simply explain what happened, instead of clamming up and saying you want your lawyer, you will appear less guilty. The argument that if you don't talk, you will be

fine is flawed. Police, for the most part, are very reasonable people. If you talk to them openly and honestly and explain your situation, they will likely be able to let you go (depending on what you have done, of course). If, however, you decide to take this pamphlet's advice, you will spend the night in a jail cell.

"When dealing with the police, keep your hands in view and don't make sudden movements," reads the flyer. "Avoid passing behind them. Nervous cops are dangerous cops. Also, never touch the police or their equipment (vehicles, flashlights, animals, etc.)—you can get beat up and charged with assault."

The majority of police officers in Canada do not act like wild animals. You do not need to fear them mauling you, and you are not at risk of being attacked if you look them in the eye. The only truth in the above paragraph is that you should never go for the officer's equipment—they carry weapons and are trained to protect those weapons for your safety and the safety of those around you.

The pamphlet—which was credited to the website of a group called the Midnight Special Law Collective, who disbanded in 2010—is an example of propaganda against the police. Listen guys, police exist to make sure the law is upheld. Their

mandate is to intervene on behalf of the state in order to keep the general population safe. The percentage of dirty cops, or cops who do not follow the law, is very low, and the fact is, if you don't like the laws they are trying to uphold, that's not the fault of the police. They don't make the rules, they just enforce them.

The truth is, most officers treat you the way you treat them. For example, if you are belligerent and drunkenly yelling at them, they will be assholes. But if you are respectful and treat them as the human beings they are, they may be inclined to be nice. Just be careful of their horses.



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## 'My van was like an office'

photo by Alex Smyth

### Rock for Steve concert raises \$860 to regain local photographer's stolen livelihood

Krystine Therriault | Fulcrum Contributor

A crowd of supporters gathered at Café Dekcuf on Sept. 21 to "rock" for Steve Gerecke, a well-known local photographer who had his van, customized wheelchair, and most of his photography equipment stolen last month.

Most people could not imagine what

they would do in such a situation, which is why many felt so strongly about the theft. As a freelance photographer, Gerecke relies on those belongings for his livelihood.

"My van was like an office," Gerecke said in an interview after the show. "Once it was stolen, it affected my mobility, and my chair was an extension of that."

CTV anchor Kimothy Walker was a big help in making Gerecke's public, which initiated a frenzy of Facebook activity and garnered some more supporters.

Patrick Dion, a businessman from Ottawa, opened the "Fund for Steve Gerecke" through Scotiabank.

Also helpful was Peter Roumeliotis, Rock for Steve's organizer and a friend of Gerecke's. The two kept in touch after

meeting at a bullying awareness event. After Roumeliotis heard about the robbery on the news, he was disgusted by what had happened and sprang to action to support the cause.

"If it weren't for these people, I probably would have crawled under a rock and not said anything," Gerecke admitted.

He had to take a piece of advice that he'd told others before: "This isn't about just you; sometimes you need to allow people to help you so they can feel like they're doing something."

Roumeliotis booked Café Dekcuf and found several local bands who were happy to participate. Rydell, Port Manteau, The Second Silverado, Tanner Kettles, and Randy Frobel all performed at the show Sept. 21.

"I'm pretty sure that I speak for all of us when I say when we first heard about what happened to Steve, we were floored," said Braden Sabourin, guitarist for The Second Silverado and a University of Ottawa student.

"I could not imagine how difficult and discouraging it would be if all of a sudden the tools with which I made my living and created my art were stolen from me," he said. "We felt very proud to be able to help Steve by spreading the word and bringing in some donations to put towards the cause. We are all about the music, the good vibes that it puts out, and to couple that with such a great cause; it's tough to ask for much more."

The show was a clear example of artists binding together and supporting

each other. An energized atmosphere and talented local bands (along with two unexpected Taylor Swift covers thrown in the mix) made it a great night for a great cause.

Gerecke called it a "bizarre twist" to be the benefactor of such an event, when he's usually the one who covers them. The event raised a total of \$860.

As a man who has always had to fight the odds for his art, Gerecke sees this as just another struggle to overcome, and has found the support very encouraging. f

*Donations can be made to the "Fund for Steve Gerecke" at any Scotiabank branch in Canada or by email money transfers to fundforstevegerecke@gmail.com*

## Canada comes together for Culture Days

### All questions of identity aside, it's time to celebrate Canadian culture

Kyle Darbyson | Fulcrum Contributor

THE THIRD ANNUAL Culture Days weekend will engage Canadian communities of varying sizes and compositions from Sept. 28-30.

The celebration invites Canadians everywhere to its many exhibits and activities of visual arts, theatre, music, dance, digital media, and everything in between. The people behind Culture Days have no shortage of imagination or ambition, having organized about 1,600 events across the country.

The City of Ottawa alone will host more than 100 different events, such as a pottery handbuilding class at the Nepean

Visual Arts Centre and an Afro-Caribbean dance workshop at the Cultural Arts Studio School of Caribbean Dance. This is only the tip of the iceberg; a full list of events can be viewed online.

Despite the fact that many of these activities occupy some of Ottawa's most prestigious venues, the organizers of Culture Days have no intention of making this an exclusive affair.

"Our goal is to organize an event that allows for free access," says Warren Garrett, chair of the Ontario Culture Days volunteer task force. "Without the need for tickets and passes, we realized that we could include people from all walks of life, regardless of education or income

bracket."

Garrett emphasizes it's a celebration that will explore all the different facets of Canada.

"We hope to create a national spotlight that will highlight the diversity of the people of our land, whether they be French, English, Indigenous or whatever else," he says.

While shedding light on Canada's cultural diversity is a socially progressive way to promote discussion, it also raises questions about our collective national identity. How do these activities and events fit into our definition of what it means to be Canadian?

Some believe that Canadians have

simply adopted or borrowed the majority of our cultural traits from our European ancestors and neighbours to the south, and feel that we lack a truly unique Canadian culture.

University of Ottawa international economics and development student Ashley Flynn echoes a familiar sentiment of cultural uncertainty.

"People are justified in thinking like that," says Flynn. "Even though I could name off a ton of Canadian writers, artists, poets, and other icons, I often ask myself, 'What ties it all together?'"

U of O English major Kyle Climans is unsure of the definition of an overarching Canadian culture, but settles on a

well-known idea.

"Canadian culture, as I've always seen it, is very inclusive," says Climans. "It's more of a multi-faceted mosaic, as opposed to an assimilative American melting pot."

Regardless of this potential identity crisis, the goal of Culture Days is not to enforce a specific idea of what Canadian culture is supposed to be. With so many diverse events on display, organizers are happy to provide the people of Canada with their own blank canvas and brush—tools that will allow them to draw their own conclusions about what constitutes culture in the Great White North. f

# White night shines with colour and light

Ottawa's first Nuit Blanche brings city's simmering arts community to a boil

Aidan Parchelo | Fulcrum Contributor

**A**vibrant night of art descended upon the city Saturday night for Ottawa's first ever Nuit Blanche.

The annual all-night arts festival has taken place in cities all around the world for more than 20 years, but made its Ottawa debut Sept. 22 between 6:22 p.m. and 4:23 a.m. at a myriad of locations throughout the city.

Artists were to contribute works based on this year's theme, "Life is beautiful."

Some exhibitions were set up at stalls, others under bridges; they overran whole buildings, were projected onto walls, occupied courtyards, or simply roamed the streets. The majority of exhibitions converged within the ByWard Market and Hintonburg, with free shuttles to transport festival-goers between the two areas. There was also a kids' zone in Hintonburg for the younger art enthusiasts.

By the wee hours of Sunday morning, there was evidence all around of a magical night wrapping up. Marie Antoinette and her musicians packed up string instruments and a giant cake, great herds of clay elephants migrated out of the Planet Coffee courtyard, and a giant toy top teetered to a halt on the wall of the Rideau Centre across from Arts Court.

The massive event boasted dozens of locations, scores of volunteers, and an incredible turnout.

Karen Dieveven, editor and chief financial officer for local arts and culture blog Apartment 613, was set up in the market at what she called a "Canadiana photo booth." Festival-goers got to dress up as Mounties, explorers, or soldiers, and pose in front of a mountain backdrop for a photo, which was then uploaded to Instagram and projected from the window of a nearby building.



"It's been awesome; we've had tons of people come through ... everyone's really excited and there's a really great energy going on," Dieveven said. "I'm really excited that this has taken off and that there's so much interest. I think it's awesome for Ottawa."

Ottawa's inaugural white night was held one week before Toronto's seventh Nuit Blanche, while Montreal's 14th begins Feb. 21. Nuit Blanche Ottawa also operated in tandem with Festival X, Ottawa's photography festival, and the Ottawa International Animation Festival.

While many exhibits occupied repurposed venues, some local arts studios opened their doors to public perusal of resident artists' work. As event-goer Adam Moscoe observed, Nuit Blanche shone the spotlight not only on new and exclusive arts venues and exhibits, but

also on galleries that are open all year.

"I have been to Nuit Blanche in Toronto and Israel ... but this is something really different," said Moscoe.

"It's nice to be in my own city and experiencing all the artists ... there are places and galleries here that are around year round, not just special for tonight," he said. "I wouldn't normally go in, but a night like this gets people excited about the arts and gets people energized to walk—and not only to the special exhibitions in the one-night-stand type things, but also just to the permanent galleries that we have in our city and the richness of art in Ottawa."

Nuit Blanche was an opportunity for artists to garner exposure for their name and craft, and was received with an outpouring of support that brought the city's simmering arts community to a boil.



Nuit Blanche Ottawa 2012

photos by Justin Labelle

1. An arc of shopping carts sits at Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts
2. The ByWard Market thrives during its first white night
3. Rectory Art House hosts a winter-themed exhibit

album reviews



**Silvergun & Spleen**  
*Semi Truck* | Maple Music



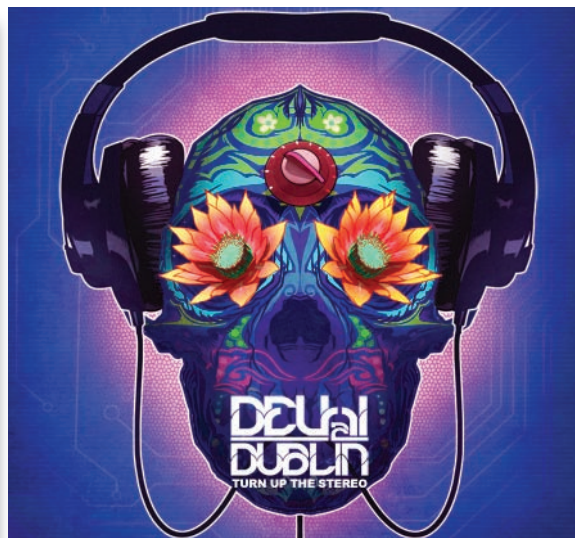
MY FIRST INTRODUCTION to Silvergun & Spleen was an online video clip of an edgy brunette jumping around onstage, donning a pin-up hairdo, retro exercise shorts, knee-high athletic socks, and an OBEY T-shirt. Though the sound quality of that recorded live show was not the best, the Ottawa natives' new album *Semi Truck*—released Sept. 11—delivers a full and infectious sound.

The first track on the album, "Just Enough to Dance," introduces sister songbirds Marie-Eve and Veronique Mallet—a.k.a. "Merv" and "Vern"—as the rich vocalists they are. As *Semi Truck* plays out its nine-song sequence, the guitars, keys, and drums prove tight and powerful while the vocals ceaselessly command the attention of the audience.

The majority of the tracks are catchy and upbeat, and at the forefront of these is track four, "Crack." The song's synthetic beat and punk-inspired bass lines and power chords make for a sound reminiscent of Metric, Die Mannequin, and Paramore. The song also incorporates some hilarious lyrics and tops it all off with a cowbell.

*Semi Truck* is Silvergun & Spleen's second studio album, and all in all, it expresses itself as the edgy and sometimes dark musical reflections of a woman (or in this case women) scorned—and it works wonders. With the band often playing intimate music venues across Canada, be sure to check out Ottawa's own Silvergun & Spleen the next time they book a local show.

—Dana Simpson



**Delhi 2 Dublin**  
*Turn Up the Stereo* | Self-released



DELHI 2 DUBLIN is a band that would like you to think their roots are based firmly in traditional Celtic and Bhangra music. But in actuality, they're about 80 per cent generic house/pop music and 20 per cent Celtic and Bhangra.

For the most part, the Vancouver-based group sounds a lot like the brand of electronic pop you might hear in a club, but will occasionally break away into a frenzied Irish-violin bit or some Bhangra drums or vocals. Rather than merging well and offering a unique sound, these variances seem abrasive and unwelcome, arbitrarily trying to fit into a slot that just wasn't made for them.

*Turn Up the Stereo* is a misguided attempt at being both something traditional and something fresh—a dangerous combination when executed poorly.

What I will say for it, though, is that the physical copy of the album contains some wicked art. If you're looking for a tiny poster, you can get it and cut the cover off, as I have done. It looks cool on a wall, or propped up on a desk. Beyond that, though, I'd skip this one.

—Brennan Bova



**The Avett Brothers**  
*The Carpenter* | Universal Republic



GROWING OLD AND dying are the two prominent themes of The Avett Brothers' seventh studio album, *The Carpenter*, and maybe in conjunction with those themes, they've recorded a work that feels in many ways softer and more measured than their raw and emotional offerings of the past. Indeed, some might argue that the polish on some tracks edges the album toward pop, but the brothers' North Carolinian folk roots (hey, banjos!) are still very apparent throughout the thoughtful and generally sweet-sounding album.

The Avetts, along with producer Rick Rubin, chose well in kicking off the album with "The Once and Future Carpenter," as the track showcases Avett lyricism at its best and gently introduces the record's heavy themes, before the depressing "Winter in My Heart" rolls around two songs later.

"A Father's First Spring" is a highlight, with a touch of violin to back up a pretty little acoustic riff and absolutely beautiful lyrics, and "Geraldine" offers a nice breath of whimsy in one of the few departures from the album's persistent sombreness, before things go weirdly wrong with "Paul Newman vs. The Demons." Fortunately, the brothers tie things up neatly with "Life," where their vocal harmonies shine.

Ultimately, *The Carpenter* is a success, though a minor one. While some might miss the simplicity and rough edges of earlier albums like *The Second Gleam*, The Avett Brothers' latest effort is a contemplative and mature work that serves to satisfy those who are already fans of the folk-rock genre.

—Keeton Wilcock



**Swans**  
*The Seer* | Young God



IF 2012 IS indeed the year that the world is going to end, then it may at least finally be the year that Swans and their mysterious leader Michael Gira finally get their due praise. The group's blend of art-rock, folk, epic post-rock passages, and angry heaps of noise have gained them a small but loyal following since their earth-shattering debut *Filth* hit unsuspecting ears in 1983. Regardless of their short reach, influential artists such as Kurt Cobain and Godspeed You! Black Emperor have cited Swans as an influence.

The album lives up to its description by Gira as "a culmination of 30 years of work," as *The Seer* indeed combines virtually every sound from every period of the band's varied history, with wonderful results. From the terrifyingly noisy guitar buildups of the 32-minute title track to the beautiful folk stylings displayed during "Song for a Warrior"—an unlikely collaboration featuring Yeah Yeah Yeahs singer Karen O—diversity is the name of the game here.

The album's only real con is that it runs for just about a full two hours. But take the time to listen to it all in one sitting and you'll be rewarded with a chilling, apocalyptic atmosphere that demonstrates why Michael Gira remains one of the best and most underappreciated underground musicians of our time.

—Max Szyk

Tune in to the *Ivory Antenna*, the *Fulcrum's* radio show on CHUO 89.1 FM, on Wednesdays at noon to hear tracks from our reviewed albums!



# Avoiding voluntourist traps

## Vacationing and volunteering aren't easy to mix

Ali Schwabe | Fulcrum Staff

You're planning spring break. You want to see a new country and have a few adventures, so you do a little research and stumble upon a voluntourism trip. Nine days in Costa Rica. It seems ideal. In the mornings you'll volunteer at a school site, building a well and hanging out with local kids, and every afternoon you'll go off on some cool activity: zip-lining on Wednesday, sampling local beer on Friday. What could be better? You get to experience a new culture, do a bunch of fun stuff with your friends, and as a bonus, give back and make your vacation meaningful—right? But according to the experts, these short, supposedly helpful trips may be doing more harm than good.

### Word on the street

At its most basic definition, voluntourism simply means travel that includes some element of volunteering. In theory, it sounds awesome: you get to see a new place and enjoy yourself, plus you feel like you're making the world a better place. In practice, though, experts like Stephen Brown, University of Ottawa political science professor, say there are too many grey areas in development for volunteering during vacation to automatically be a good thing.

"I'd say among the general population, voluntourism has a positive connotation in the sense that rather than just having fun, people are also making an effort to help others," said Brown. "But among people who study the field or are experts in the area of international development, there's a lot more skepticism. How much of an impact can you really have in working for one week or two?"

Alyson Rode is a fifth-year French as a second language student at the U of O. In 2008 she took part in a voluntourism trip, spending a week in Costa Rica planting trees and bringing school supplies to students whose school had been destroyed by a storm.

"I chose the trip for the experience of going to another country [and] seeing a climate and a style of living that was foreign to me," she said in an email to the *Fulcrum*. "The volunteer aspect of the trip was an added bonus."

Some companies have marketed the idea of doing good while on vacation to make a profit. Hands Up Holidays says on their website, "The secret ingredient that makes our trips so special is the combination of a fantastic tailor-made

luxury holiday with a 'taste' of volunteering or philanthropy."

These holidays often include hotels, afternoon adventures, and a tour guide to take you through the entire experience. Christian Euler, a fifth-year biotechnology student at the U of O, spent a summer in Ghana as part of Engineers Without Borders' (EWB) international development Junior Fellowship (JF) program. He thinks there's little benefit to voluntourism trips.

"EWB as a whole is sort of critical of people who go and stay in a hotel and build a bridge," he said. "Our thing is that it's much more complex than that, and you can't learn all of the complexities if you don't immerse yourself."

Rode, on the other hand, felt that she got to experience a fun vacation while still learning and giving back.

"The trip brought to light what living conditions are like in developing countries," she explained. "We were [also] able to partake in a lot of activities not related to volunteering. We went zip-lining, hiking, surfing, horse back riding, swimming, [and] partied in our hotels."

A shortcoming of voluntourism is that it doesn't address root problems.

"[Voluntourism] seems to be based on a simplistic understanding of what the problems of international development are," said Brown.

Mireille Mather is the executive director of the Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD), which works to reduce global poverty by providing grassroots community organizations—called community partners—with training and key resources, including Western volunteers, to address pressing socioeconomic issues.

Mather's experience spans programs in 30 countries and in U.S. federal legislative advocacy, and she has worked as director of the Institute for OneWorld Health. She recognizes good intentions behind voluntourism, but doesn't see its benefit to communities.

"I personally have a pretty negative perspective of voluntourism. I think that there's a lot of well meaning behind what's considered voluntourism, where people go and they want to experience the culture of another place where they're not from and also to gain a greater understanding of what issues face those areas," she said. "But [their volunteering] is in a way that doesn't really help to resolve the issues. It's more of a one-way interaction where they may gain more knowledge on an issue, maybe there's a donation involved to a local charity, which of course I'm not minimizing, but it doesn't do anything to address any of the root causes of the issues."

"It may make the person feel good about themselves...but it doesn't make the community feel good about themselves, because they're being objectified and only being seen as having problems."

Laura Sie is the community engagement coordinator at the U of O's Centre for Global and Community Engagement (CGCE). She hesitates to label any of the international volunteering projects offered by the centre "voluntourism."

"We're kind of scared of that term actually, so we've tried to avoid picking projects that have a voluntourism feel," she said.



### Avoiding (volun)tourist traps

There was unanimous agreement among the experts on what differentiated volunteer trips that benefit communities from typical voluntourism. The key? The project has to be desired and needed by the community, not imposed by the volunteers.

"We've selected projects that we understand to be community-driven projects where a need has been identified," said Sie. "[Local communities have] requested this assistance."

"It's the idea that the communities involved are identifying what their needs are and beyond that intervention, someone in the community is helping," added Stéphane Sophie Cardinal, director of the CGCE. "You can build a lot of things, but if nobody is maintaining them or nobody is trying to...the benefits will not continue."

The FSD also offers short-term projects only with community partners who decide what needs are to be addressed, and takes the idea of community-driven volunteering one step further.

"The community partners are deciding how people who participate in our programs are contributing," said Mather. Sustainability's key too.

"What we're interested in is the sustainable," said Sie. "How is this going to continue after the volunteers have left?"

The CGCE and FSD focus on sustainability to ensure projects benefit communities long term.

"A really key factor for us is the social and cultural sustainability," said Mather. "That's ensuring there's local participation in every step of the way in the project design and often the project implementation. And that can be quite challenging. Because frequently, there may be certain skill sets within the community, but there may not be. So we support a lot of training, workshops, building knowledge, and helping those who do have certain skill sets within a community to share that more broadly out. [We're trying to make it] so that an external person isn't holding all that knowledge."

### Do no harm

According to the experts, another pitfall of voluntourism is that often it can have the opposite of its intended effect, and actually harm communities in developing countries.

"I think in a lot of the cases [of voluntourism], there was no needs assessment done. It's just the photo op: I'm going to hold a baby for one week and feel like I'm volunteering," said Sie. "What impact does it have on the baby? On the young child that grows attached to this person for two weeks and then the person leaves and they never come back? There's a sense of abandonment."

Brown believes voluntourism can also damage the West's image.

"Sometimes people undertake these activities who aren't very sensitive to local culture or local customs. They could even behave in a way that might appear shocking to local communities," he said. "It could be around gender roles, it could be through sexual activity, it could be around drinking or using illicit drugs, [or] it could be in the way they dress. So



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## Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do?

Illustration by Mathias MacPhee

### Gee-Gees coaches and U of O students weigh in on the bad boys of sports

Andrew Ikeman | Fulcrum Staff

**L**oved, hated, and feared, “bad boy” professional athletes have popped up in sports history more times than we can count. In light of the recent Yunel Escobar eye-black incident—see this week’s “From the Sidelines”—the *Fulcrum* recalled some notorious bad boys of sports and asked U of O students and coaches to share their thoughts.

#### Chad Johnson (a.k.a. Ochocinco)

Known for catching touchdown passes and then celebrating with goofy dances, Chad Johnson has been the clown prince of the National Football League (NFL) for the past decade. He is an avid tweeter and has mastered the art of forming a true bond with his fans and followers. His charming antics certainly entertained, but it was his inability to control his anger that almost ended his career.

On Aug. 11, 2012, Johnson was arrested after allegedly head-butting his wife Evelyn Lozada, star of *Basketball Wives*, after the couple argued over a receipt for a box of condoms discovered in his car. The star wide receiver, who was competing for a place on the Miami Dolphins roster following a disappointing season in New England, was released by the team the next morning and has reportedly received very little interest from

other teams. Johnson accepted a plea deal on Sept. 21, 2012, accepting 12 months of probation and mandatory domestic violence awareness classes.

Blair Lebeau, a second year criminology student at the U of O, is dismayed by the example set by deviant athletes.

“There are a few players who do commit violent crimes, and they should not be the face of the NFL,” said Lebeau. “It is still a good league, and there are far too many examples of athletes committing crimes in the news right now”.

According to Geees head football coach Gary Etcheverry, teams should wait to confirm whether their players are guilty before deciding how to deal with them.

“I would look at each circumstance individually,” said Etcheverry, who has also been a coach at the professional level. “I’ve been involved in circumstances like [Johnson’s], and been involved with athletes and cases where they were later found guilty and some where they were not, or charges were not pressed. So you have to take them all individually, and be very careful; it’s a delicate situation.”

#### Melky Cabrera

Sometimes you hear a story and can’t help but think, “WTF,” and the story of Melky Cabrera is definitely one of those. A journeyman in baseball, Cabrera has bounced from team to team, his longest commitment being four years with the New York Yankees. He is currently in his best season: he leads the National League (NL) with a .346 batting average, was named an All-Star for the first time in his career, and even won the All-Star game

Most Valuable Player award.

On Aug. 15, 2012, Cabrera was suspended for 50 games for violating Major League Baseball’s (MLB) drug policy, after being tested and found to have an elevated testosterone level. He admitted to using a banned substance and accepted the suspension—but not before he had an associate create a fake website in order to justify the elevated testosterone levels. The website was supposed to make it appear that the amount of testosterone in his system was a result of a supplement he ordered online, but this plan backfired.

According to Gee-Gees men’s baseball coach Larry Belanger, Cabrera’s actions could affect the rest of his team.

“Cabrera was one of [San Francisco’s] top players, and now he’s gone for the season, and that really hampers their chances of making it to the post season, or ultimately winning [the championship],” said Belanger. “Really players are about winning, and when you have a player like [Cabrera] who takes that chance away from you because of his foolishness, players don’t like that.”

Sean Campbell, a U of O history student, would stop watching sports if steroid use was allowed.

“I think that steroids is cheating,” said Campbell. “I don’t want to watch a team of cheaters run around and play a game that they are going to win not based on sport [but] based on influence from outside sources, namely drugs.”

#### Jason Kidd

Jason Kidd has played in the National Basketball Association (NBA) for 18 years. He competed in 10 All-Star games, and played for the 2011 NBA champions, the Dallas Mavericks. He is recognized as

one of the best point guards in the game, recording 107 triple-doubles—the third highest of all time.

Kidd has had two highly publicized incidents that have almost ended his career. The first came in 2001, when he was arrested and charged with domestic abuse after beating his wife. He pled guilty, was forced to take anger management classes for six months, and allegedly gave up drinking. This past summer—a mere 10 days after signing on with the New York Knicks—Kidd was arrested for driving while intoxicated after he crashed his car into a telephone pole. The charges are still pending, and there has been no word on whether or not he will face suspension from the league.

“I don’t believe it is okay for anyone to drink and drive” said Lebeau. “[Athletes] shouldn’t be made an example of or be let off easy because of their status.”

Gee-Gees men’s basketball coach James Derouin said that players like Kidd might not be as affected by these charges as one of his own players would be.

“It’s different at the professional ranks than it is at the university level,” said Derouin. “If these kids get in trouble with the law, it’s a lot more [problematic]. I don’t think Jason Kidd is as worried about his future.”

#### Nick Collins, Andrew Fritsch, and Mark Petaccio

Nick Collins was one of the better players in Ontario Hockey League (OHL) hockey last year. Playing for the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, he racked up 35 goals last season and was drafted to the National Hockey League (NHL) by the Philadelphia Flyers in the third round. The Phoenix Coyotes drafted his teammate

Andrew Fritsch in the sixth round after Fritsch posted a respectable 32 points.

On Aug. 25, 2012, Collins and Fritsch—along with fellow Greyhound Mark Petaccio—allegedly sexually assaulted a woman in Sault Ste. Marie and were arrested later that day. As of yet, the three have not been suspended and are still representing their team in games this season as police continue to collect evidence. They are due back in court on Oct. 1.

Campbell thinks the absence of punishment is hypocritical of Greyhound management.

“It’s like if a kid goes and does something wrong, but his parents still let him go out to the movies. It’s not fair really,” he said.

#### Focus on the positive

According to Gee-Gees women’s hockey coach Yanick Evola, dealing with student athletes is about helping them to become better people.

“I personally address [problems] with the player only,” said Evola. “Meet the player, ask what is going on, ask if they need help, especially on the women’s side ... I think we would need an explanation, [to] try to help that person to become a better person, and to realize what [they] did wrong.”

The vast majority of athletes are good people, but the media tends to focus on the few who step outside the law. The NFL, NBA, NHL, and MLB all have programs for their athletes to get involved in community outreach, and many players take their job of being a positive role model seriously. Unfortunately, a few bad apples can sometimes tarnish the reputation of the rest of the bushel.

# Football team remains winless

Playoffs now a long shot for the Gees

Maclaine Chadwick | Fulcrum Staff

In the second home game of the season, the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees were defeated by the Wilfrid Laurier University Golden Hawks. The Gees, who were in desperate need of a win for a better chance at making the playoffs, lost the game with a score of 35-27.

The game started off in strong favour of the Gee-Gees. Fourth-year quarterback Aaron Colbon exploited weaknesses in the Hawks' defence and completed a 106-yard touchdown pass to rookie slot-back Vincent Campbell in the first minute of play.

It didn't take long for Laurier to catch up though, and the Gee-Gees lost their lead early in the second quarter when Laurier's Josh Pirie caught a touchdown pass from quarterback Steve Fantham.

It was a rough game for both teams, who had flags flying during many plays.

"The penalties just killed us. We play as a team and have a great atmosphere, but the penalties are just really bad," said Campbell after the game.

“

"Seeing every game now [as] almost your last opportunity to play a game that you love; it's obviously disappointing not making playoffs, but you still wake up every Saturday looking forward to playing."

—Trevor Seal  
U of O football player

The Gees were set back further when Colbon was put out of the game with a thumb injury.

"When we lost our starting quarterback, it was significant, but his replacement, a rookie, did a very good job given the circumstances," said coach Gary Etcheverry, referring to first-year quar-



The Gees lost to the Laurier Golden Hawks 35-27

photo by Sean Done

terback Zac Lesko.

"I was really nervous coming in, but after the first couple plays it felt just like high school and every other time I've played football," said Lesko, who played for almost the entire second half of the game.

At the start of the second half, the Gee-Gees were in the lead with a score of 19-17, but two plays by fifth-year linebacker Tyler Sawyer—he forced two fumbles from Laurier and the Gees capital-

ized off the turnovers by kicking two field goals—brought the score to 25-17.

Laurier pulled through to score a touchdown and a field goal and increased their lead to 35-25 with only six minutes left in the game. Ottawa scored two points after blocking a punt for a safety, but was unable to secure any further points in the final minutes.

While a win for the 0-4 Gees was crucial this weekend, there is still a chance

they will make the playoffs.

"I've been here for five years and we've made the playoffs every year," said fifth-year linebacker Trevor Seal. "But you know, at this point in the year it's not all about making the playoffs ... it's about going week to week and being able to give your best. Seeing every game now is almost your last opportunity to play a game that you love; it's obviously disappointing not making playoffs, but you

still wake up every Saturday looking forward to playing."

The Gee-Gees football team will be on the road for the next two weekends, playing the Queen's University Gaels at Richardson Stadium on September 29 and the University of Toronto Varsity Blues at Varsity Stadium in Toronto on October 6. The Gees will be back to playing at Beckwith Park on Oct. 13, against the University of Waterloo Warriors. f

## From the Sidelines

### Yunel Escobar, tu ere idiota

Maclaine Chadwick | Sports Editor

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN sports and homophobia seems to be taking two steps forward, one step back.

On Sept. 15, Yunel Escobar—Cuban shortstop for the Toronto Blue Jays—emerged from the clubhouse with a phrase written into his eye black. This is something that many athletes do, but normally the messages say nothing more than the generic "Go team!" or maybe "John 3:16" in the case of Tim Tebow of the New York Jets.

Escobar decided—apparently 10 minutes prior to the game—to write "Tu ere maricón" into his eye black, a phrase

that roughly translates from Spanish to "You're a fa\*\*\*\*t."

What I find even more troublesome than the words themselves are the excuses that Escobar gave for his actions. In a press conference he said that the phrase, which was not directed at anyone in particular, was "something that's been said around other Latinos" and that he has nothing against the LGBT community—proven by the fact that "the person who cuts [his] hair is gay."

While it is true that the word is used commonly and almost playfully in Latin culture, I have a hard time accepting this as an explanation for Escobar's actions. Dragging a whole population into the

debate and assuming that all members of the population use this expression lightly wasn't a smooth move in my opinion.

One more thing that surprised me is that nobody pointed out the error in Escobar's judgment before the game. If it is true that this phrase is used commonly among Latino players, surely someone on the team might have considered it would be offensive in another language. Why didn't anyone speak up?

This becomes even more serious when we take into consideration that this exact term has been an issue in the past.

Let's step back to Madison Square Garden, 1962. Boxer Benny Paret calls

his closeted opponent, Emile Griffith, "maricón" and dies 10 days later after a coma-inducing beating in the ring from Griffith. Yes, things were different in the sixties (admitting to homosexuality was career suicide for athletes), but we can't dismiss the fact that what Paret said offended Griffith to the point of provoking a beating far past the acceptable level of a boxing match.

Fast-forward 50 years to Escobar. It's fairly safe to say he won't be beaten for his actions, but he was suspended for three games, and the \$82,000 he would have made during those games will be donated to You Can Play—an organization that advocates for gay athletes.



While some critics call this a slap on the wrist in the grand scheme of Escobar's salary, we have to remember his reputation will likely be permanently affected as well. His explanation—though weak and still borderline offensive—does correlate with the fact that it was a poorly thought out decision, made on a whim. And after the sensitivity training Blue Jays organizers are sending him to, hopefully this is the last time we will see anything like this come from Escobar. f



MISSION NUTRITION | YOU 1 HILLS 0

# I want to be purple

Ali Schwabe | Fulcrum Staff

AFTER A BRIEF love affair with running in the fourth grade—I came 35th out of about 180 students at a cross-country meet—I officially broke up with the sport. Since then, we’ve flirted a few times, but each time something about it pushed me away. I hate how running makes me wake up early. I am not a fan of how sweaty it gets me. I get frustrated because I start in one place, and with running as my companion for 20, 30, or 40 minutes, I still end up right back where I started. I dislike how guilty I feel when I take a break from running and hang out with walking instead. And I’m miserable when I commit to running—instead of a mutually beneficial relationship, I get fire in my lungs and a cramp in my side.

But at the end of last summer, something changed. I saw a bunch of other people enjoying running, and I got a little jealous. Then my dad introduced me to a new way to run. In the first week of the training program, you run for one minute and then you walk for one minute. Repeat for a total of about 20 minutes. You only do it three to four times a week, and the next week you up the amount of time you’re running for, while maintaining a one-minute walk break, and so on.

Following this program for two months, I became a runner. Sure, I still need to take walking breaks. And yeah, I haven’t suddenly become a fan of waking up at the crack of dawn. And I’m really, really, really slow. But I do it. A couple of times a week, I run.

Running in and of itself still isn’t that incredible to me. Now that I know I can do it, one of the only reasons I continue

to is because I know logically that it’s healthy. I don’t get that runner’s high people talk about. A lot of it is convenience: I can throw on my running shoes and be on my way—no need to remember a gym pass or a lock. I can simply go.

Enter Color Vibe 5K—a race where participants wear a white shirt and become a canvas. As you run through the course loop, volunteers at various “colour stations” throw dyed cornstarch at you, so by the time you cross the finish line, you’re a vivid masterpiece.

Sounds awesome, right? Well this past Saturday, I participated in the Ottawa event. It was my first-ever race and the only motivation I’ve had to drag my butt out of bed to run in the mornings since school has started. I had an exciting event to look forward to—and a reason to not be the slowest person on the planet.

I trained. Trained! Me, the girl whose co-worker asked incredulously, “Wait—you’re athletic?” as I explained to him I was running a 5K while simultaneously using my teeth to rip into a tub of Ben & Jerry’s.

Yes, I am athletic. I ran the course in the pouring rain and cold, and came in at 33 minutes, a record I haven’t hit since I was nine! Seeing a puff of colour off in the distance was enough motivation to keep me going. “I’ll just keep running till I get to the purple. I want to be purple!” Repeat for pink, blue, yellow, and orange, and bam! You’ve beat your record time and you’re covered in colours.

The race was fun, I feel good about myself, and I’m ready to hit the canal pathway tomorrow morning. Who knows when another race is going to come up? Maybe next time, I can crack 30 minutes!

# Meet a Gee-Gee

Megan Drake | Synchronized Swimming



photo courtesy Ralph Buchal

Kristyn Filip | 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.

MEGAN DRAKE, A third-year University of Ottawa student majoring in psychology and minoring in French as a second language, has been a member of the Gee-Gees synchronized swimming team for three years. She opened up to the *Fulcrum* about her plans for the future, staying focused, and what she loves most about being a Gee-Gee.

**The *Fulcrum*:** Can you describe a week in the life of a member of the Gee-Gees synchronized swimming team? How often do you practice? What competitions do you participate in?

Megan Drake: We practice seven and a half hours a week—7 a.m. practices on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, as well as a three-hour practice Sunday nights. The Gee-Gees compete in three competitions throughout the season: McGill invitational in Montreal, Eastern Divisionals, which will be hosted by Queens in Kingston, and Nationals, which will be at the University of Western Ontario in London. We also have an end of the year water show at the U of O to showcase our

clubs routines.

**Did anyone encourage you to pursue the sport?**

My mom encouraged me to try synchro and ever since she has been my biggest supporter and number one fan. She’s helped me with everything from gelling my hair to [sewing sequins on] my suit, and she’s always there to cheer me on. I know I would not be where I am today without all of her support.

**What has been the highlight of your time on the U of O’s synchronized swimming team?**

The 2011-2012 season was definitely a highlight for me. We had such a dedicated, talented group of swimmers, along with our coach, and we all meshed very well together. We managed to work hard and have fun at the same time. Placing second and third at two competitions also contributed to making it such a fun year.

**Fill in the blank: My teammates would say I am the most likely to \_\_\_\_\_.**

Help maintain focus among the group. Especially during hard workouts, it helps to have our team focused and actively working towards our goals.

**What is the most challenging part of synchronized swimming?**

The most challenging part about syn-

chronized swimming is that we have to successfully combine gymnastics, swimming, and dancing. We spend excessive amounts of time underwater, either throwing people out of the water or sticking our legs out from upside down. When we are above water and get to breathe, we have to make it all look easy and as if we are having the time of our lives while performing.

**What is the biggest misconception about your sport?**

That we touch the bottom of the pool—that would be a big time penalty. Also, if one synchronized swimmer drowns, the rest don’t follow.

**What is your favourite thing about being a Gee-Gee?**

The supportive atmosphere at the university is amazing; there is always a push to do it stronger, faster or better.

**Do you plan to continue participating in synchronized swimming after you graduate?**

I plan on coaching and staying involved in synchronized swimming as long as I can. I love the sport, and I don’t think I could ever get my fill.

*If you have a suggestion for an athlete you would like to see interviewed, email [sports@thefulcrum.ca](mailto:sports@thefulcrum.ca)*



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# the thryllabus

Want your event listed on the thryllabus? Email [events@thefulcrum.ca](mailto:events@thefulcrum.ca)

**Music**

Sept. 27: Mutemath and Civil Twilight play the Bronson Centre Theatre (211 Bronson Ave.), 7 p.m.

Sept. 27: Hunter Valentine, Apocalyptic, and Doll play Café Dekcuf (221 Rideau St.), 8 p.m.

Sept. 27: Propagandi, Comeback Kid, and Fuck the Facts play Ritual (137 Besserer St.), 7 p.m.

Sept. 28: Hollerado, Elliot Brood, and Change of Hear play Vankleek Hill Fairgrounds (92 Main St. W.), 7 p.m.

Sept. 28: Hey Ocean, Family of the Year, and The Zolas play Ritual (137 Besserer St.), 9 p.m.

Sept. 28: The Musettes and Jon and Roy play Zaphod Beeblebrox (27 York St.), 8 p.m.

Sept. 28: Black Walls, Male Nurse, and Heavy Bedroom play Café Alt (60 University Pvt.), 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 29: Beau's Oktoberfest at Vankleek Hill Fairgrounds (92 Main St. W.)

Sept. 30: Go Long (!) plays

Brasseurs du Temps (170 Montcalm Rd., Hull), 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 5: The Bouncing Souls, Dave Hause, and Luther play Ritual (137 Besserer St.), 7 p.m.

Oct. 6: Metz and Big Dick play Babylon (317 Bank St.), 8 p.m.

**Film**

Sept. 27: Capital City Opera presents *Mozart's Così Fan Tutte—In Concert* at the Mayfair Theatre (1074 Bank St.), 7 p.m.

Sept. 28: *Hellbound?* released to theatres

Sept. 28: *Easy Money* plays at the Bytowne Cinema (325 Rideau St.), 9:05 p.m.

Sept. 28: *Bringing Up Bobby* released to theatres

Sept. 30: *To Rome with Love* plays at the Bytowne Cinema (325 Rideau St.), 4 p.m.

Oct. 3: *Flash Gordon* plays at the Mayfair Theatre (1074 Bank St.), 9 p.m.

Oct. 4: Treepot Indie Filmmaker Festival 4 at the Bytowne Cinema (325 Rideau St.), 6:45 p.m.

Oct. 5: *The Paperboy* released to theatres

Oct. 5: *We Are Legion: The Story of the Hacktivists* plays at the Mayfair Theatre (1074 Bank St.), 9:15 p.m.

Oct. 7: *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* plays at the Bytowne Cinema (325 Rideau St.), 2:30 p.m.

**Visual art**

Now–Sept. 29: *Fantomatique: An Exploration of Arts Court's Haunted Architecture* displayed at SAW Gallery (67 Nicholas St.)

Now–Sept. 30: *FLASH* displayed at Foyer Gallery (1701 Woodroffe Ave.)

Now–Sept. 30: *An Embarrassment of Riches* displayed at the Carleton University Art Gallery (1125 Colonel By Dr.)

Now–Sept. 30: *The Price of Sex* displayed at La Petite Mort Gallery (306 Cumberland St.)

**Theatre**

Now–Sept. 29: *Stones in His Pockets* plays at the Gladstone Theatre (910 Gladstone Ave.)

Now–Oct. 6: *Hay Fever* plays at the Ottawa Little Theatre (400 King Edward Ave.)

**Sports**

Sept. 28–30: Women's volleyball pre-season classic at Montpetit Hall (125 University Pvt.)

Oct. 5: Women's hockey: Gee-Gees play an Ontario Hockey Association team in an exhibition game at the Minto Sports Complex (801 King Edward Ave.), 3 p.m.

Oct. 5: Women's rugby: Gee-Gees play the Bishop's University Gaiters at Matt Anthony Field (801 King Edward Ave.), 6 p.m.

Oct. 6: Women's hockey: Gee-Gees play a Nepean Minor Hockey Association team in an exhibition game at the Minto Sports Complex (801 King Edward Ave.), 4 p.m.

Oct. 7: Men's hockey: Gee-Gees

play the Canisius College Golden Griffins in an exhibition game at the Minto Sports Complex (801 King Edward Ave.), 2 p.m.

**Miscellaneous Events**

Sept. 27–30: 156th Metcalfe Fair at the Metcalfe Fairgrounds (2821 8th Line Rd.)

Sept. 28: Cinema Academica presents "Exposing the Red Line in Syria," video interview with Michel Chossudovsky and speak Elias Assad at room 135 Fauteux Hall (57 Louis Pasteur Pvt.), 7 p.m.

Sept. 28: Travelling exhibition *In the Money*, opens at the Currency Museum (245 Sparks St.)

Sept. 28: Best Buddies Fund-raiser with Jimmy Strip, Mostro, and Uppercut at Mansion Nightclub (400A Dalhousie St.), 8 p.m.

Sept. 28–30: Oktoberfest Ottawa at Clarke Fields Park (93 Houlahan St.)

Sept. 30: Mischvious Harvest Ball, location yet undisclosed

Comfort Quotes

“Life is a moderately good play with a badly written third act.”

—Truman Capote



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## Death of the media

illustration by Mathias MacPhee

### Is real journalism gone?

To quote a famous American journalist, Howard Kurtz,

“There is a cancer eating away at the news business—the cancer of boredom, superficiality, and irrelevance—and radical surgery is needed.” With the advent of the Internet, a handful of media owners controlling the news, and fewer people buying papers, some would side with Kurtz and commit the first incision themselves.

However, there is a flipside. Some say the media isn’t dead; it’s just evolving. Just because the way we receive our news has changed in the past 20 years doesn’t mean that we should start writing eulogies and making funeral arrangements.

#### Point: Bye-bye, good journalism

I first began to have misgivings about the state of Canadian media during and following the G20 Conference in Toronto two years ago. While I didn’t attend the protests myself, many of my friends did, and I listened to their stories once the weekend was over.

Some related the camaraderie of the 20,000 peaceful protestors who came together to voice their opinions. Others had darker stories to tell, of police brutality, unprovoked arrests and detentions, and rampant civil rights abuses.

These stories were shocking and moving; yet these were not the stories the mainstream Canadian media chose to relate to the rest of the country. Instead we saw images of masked youths breaking windows and setting cars on fire.

Two years later, the same media reaction to the unprecedented student uprising in Quebec cemented my fears that something was terribly wrong with our country’s fourth estate.



“The Canadian media world is essentially dominated by five large corporations.”

In the last few decades, what was formerly a diverse network of public and privately owned media has quickly fallen to monopolies at the hands of gargantuan corporations.

According to Elizabeth May’s informative book *Losing Confidence*, the Canadian media world is essentially dominated by five large corporations, with two in particular—Bell Media and Shaw Media—acting as the reigning disseminators of news and information in the country.

It is not just the outlets in major urban centres that have been hijacked, either. Osprey Media, a subsidiary of Sun Media, owns the rights to many small-town and local newspaper chains throughout Ontario. Whether you pick up the *Toronto Sun*, the *Ottawa Metro*, or the *Haliburton County Echo*, you are essentially acquiring the news from the same source, with the same perspectives and biases.

In 2012, information is power. It is no surprise that massive corporations like Bell continue to swallow smaller media outlets year after year in an attempt to acquire this currency. Whoever owns the means of information dissemination owns the information itself. By controlling the content of newspapers and television stations, as well as Internet bandwidth, these conglomerates hog consumer attention and make it incredibly difficult for diverse opinions and information to be exchanged on a national level.

Unless Canadians become informed, attentive, and resilient, our media will continue to be dumbed down and dominated by corporate interests. What is the point of free speech if only five voices are allowed to say anything?

—Conor Kelly

#### Counterpoint: It’s a brave new world

Journalism isn’t dead. Like so many of the other industries people have labelled “dead” in the wake of the Internet’s integration into daily life, a number of individuals have opted to give up on formal media. This is an absurd thought.

Journalism has been around in one form or another for hundreds of years. When a population becomes large enough that it wishes to remain informed about events beyond their direct neighbours, they turn to the media.

Some may argue that good journalism is dying because media companies are increasingly falling into the hands of monopolies like Bell Media. With smaller companies being taken over and fewer people buying print newspapers, where does journalism turn to ensure it doesn’t trail along with just enough rope to hang itself?

Many of the print publications owned by these monopolies have decided to try to place their content behind pay walls online—taking what was once free information



and charging a fee to access it. Subscription-based models for online distribution isn’t a terrible idea, and in many ways is probably a good starting point. However, these publications have done nothing to modify the content, only charged for the same content they always had. These changes have resulted in media monopolies that have yet to see a strong response from their new online models.

So, even if the monopolies control a large portion of the content, if the content fails to attract the audience, where’s the threat? Now is the ideal time for strong, talented, and content-oriented journalists to find their own audience.

Amid re-strategizing to optimize online monetization and streamlining production to reduce overhead, the large media companies have failed to place any focus on the content they’re providing.

The U.K.-based print magazine *Monocle*, founded by Canadian-born journalist Tyler Brülé, has proven that a strong focus on the product yields results. With the slogan “A briefing on global affairs, business, culture and design,” the magazine launched in 2007 and publishes 10 issues a year plus two seasonal supplements—one in the winter to complement the ski season, and the other in the summer to join you at the beach.

The *Monocle*’s focus on a great product can be seen through its unique paper quality, sharp modern layout, and carefully chosen word-to-photo ratio. This combination has allowed *Monocle* to not only grow its subscription base, but its staff numbers too.

So we should not fear the media monopolies, since they seem to have forgotten what they’re doing. Journalism isn’t dead, it’s simply lying dormant. All we need is a creative and focused Prince Charming to give her the refreshing kiss she deserves.

—Kyle Hansford

# Ear in the air

## Why music snobs should get off their high horses

Max Szyz | Fulcrum Contributor

It's happened to me and it's happened to you. I was sitting in the lunchroom at work, minding my own business, and suddenly, my co-worker, who I'm not particularly fond of, sits down next to me and sees my iPod. He then demands to see my playlists, so reluctantly I hand over my iPod and he proceeds to scrutinize my library. After he shockingly proclaimed, "Dude, I don't know any of these bands or artists, but your music sucks," I wondered if I had met my first douchebag clairvoyant. Sadly, no. I had just encountered another run-of-the-mill music snob.

“They're cutting edge, but most importantly, they're cool. You do not listen to their music. Therefore, you are not cool.”

These self-proclaimed super cool dudes and dudettes don't just listen to music—they live and breathe it. They spend a good chunk of their free time perusing the Internet, or whatever hip, musically inclined hotspot they frequent for new, unknown sounds. They're cutting edge, but most importantly, they're cool. You do not listen to their music. Therefore, you are not cool. It's as simple as that. What these “seriously legit” music fans don't seem to realize is that

there are few people that actually enjoy this type of behaviour. Nobody wants to spend prolonged amounts of time with a person who flaunts their “superior” musical taste and then berates you for yours.

These arrogant folks can come in a variety of forms, all of whom may worship a different type of music. Whether it's '80s art-pop, '90s post-hardcore, or early 2000s house music, if the opportunity arises, they will snob all over you with snarky, condescending

comments. Anybody can be an elitist, regardless of whether their preferred music is obscure or mainstream. These people tend to be very passionate about their favourite artists or bands, which they may or may not listen to exclusively on vinyl. All it takes is you playing that new Carly Rae Jepsen and Owl City single at a barely audible level. If one of the music snobs is within earshot, he or she will tell you to get your act together.

These pretentious types tend to prey on the musical libraries of unsuspecting

“These arrogant folks can come in a variety of forms.”

victims in order to assert themselves as dominant musical deities. They can either ridicule you for what you do have (“Both LMFAO albums?!”), what you don't have (“Not a single Thee Silver Mt. Zion Memorial Orchestra track?”), or what you should have (“Get rid of Nicki Minaj and trade her for Azealia Banks.”).



Illustration by Brennan Bova

And yes, even people who listen to nothing but mainstream artists can still slam you for having too little Taylor Swift and too much At the Drive-In on your favourite listening device.

Sorry, let me just pick up all those names that I dropped.

At the end of the day, if someone else's musical tastes don't synchronize with your own, then why not just move on and find someone else to socialize with? Different people listen to different music, and that's all there is to it.

# The “P” word

## Globe and Mail writer accused of plagiarism

Jane Lytvynenko | Fulcrum Contributor

IN AN AGE of bloggers, micro bloggers, and status updaters, reliable journalism is more necessary than ever. To separate fact from fiction, readers rely on news organizations that write articles citing legitimate sources. Articles also go through a thorough and extensive editing and fact-checking process. So, why the hell couldn't the *Globe and Mail* figure out their employee of 20 years, Margaret Wenté, might've been plagiarizing parts of her columns?

Known for her controversial opin-

ions on social and political issues, Wenté has been editing and writing for the newspaper since 1992. But on Sept. 20, OpenFile, an online news organization, reported some of Wenté's fame might not be deserved. Recently, a number of experts and columnists have come forward claiming Wenté partially reprinted their content.

The response from the *Globe* has been feeble at best. Wenté herself apologized she wasn't clearer about “paraphrasing” other works. But what gets me is Wenté being allowed to publish another column like nothing happened.

Are you kidding me? The point of journalism—even if it's an opinion piece—is to investigate and relay facts to the public. Journalism is one of the most honest and noble professions one can choose and it is most certainly not a platform for people trying to get famous for what they write. Well, Wenté sure butchered that.

Of course she is not the first journalist to be accused of lying, cheating, or stealing, and she won't be the last. Movies like *Shattered Glass* recap true stories of journalists falling from grace because of plagiarism. Even a reputable news source like the *New York Times* has had to deal with their share of deceptive writers.

“But what gets me is Wenté being allowed to publish another column like nothing happened.”

The difference in this case is the lack of punishment for Wenté, who should have been, at the very least, suspended until the end of the investigation and certainly not allowed to publish her next piece. At least this would prove the *Globe* is serious about its reputation and accountability to its readers.

By admitting she is at least partially

guilty of the accusations and then publishing Wenté's column on Sept. 22, titled “Surprise! A little fat is good for you,” the *Globe* basically turned a blind eye to the whole situation. It is a slap in the face to the paper's readers, who expect quality content from one of Canada's most read dailies.

If Wenté is still allowed to write, the *Globe and Mail* might as well load up on misinformation and forget honesty and integrity in Canadian journalism. The choice of writers and content is completely up to the publication. Surprise, *Globe and Mail*, it's time to trim the excess fat and become a healthy publication.

# Quebecer and proud

Tales from an English Québécois

Daniel Le Roy | Fulcrum Contributor

When a Canadian says “I am a Quebecer,” we usually assume that person is francophone. But often, this is wrong. As Canada’s only officially bilingual university, the U of O is perhaps one of the most linguistically diverse universities in the nation. As a fourth-year student, I know many students from linguistic-minority communities of almost every province: Franco-Albertans, Franco-Manitobans, Acadians from all three Maritime provinces, and Franco-Ontarians. But one linguistic community always seems to be forgotten: the Anglo-Québécois community.

According to the 2006 census, there are approximately 575,560 native English speakers in Quebec. In contrast, Ontario was reported to have 418,815 native French speakers out of a population almost two times larger than Quebec’s. Our numbers leave us as not only an important voting block, but a community that is essential to the fabric of Quebec culture.

On Sept. 4, Quebecers headed to the polls. French, English, Aboriginal, and every other background—we all had the opportunity to change the political course our province was on. However, the voice of non-francophone Quebec-



Illustration by Mathias MacPhee

ers—particularly Anglo-Quebecers—is often a whisper. In Quebec’s last provincial election, the regions with the highest concentration of anglophones had the lowest voter turnout. In the Westmount-Saint-Louis riding, an overwhelmingly anglophone area, voter turnout in 2008 was a measly 36 per cent.

“It is no secret that we English Quebecers feel a certain disconnect with our own province.”

It is no secret that we English Quebecers feel a certain disconnect with our own province. This disconnect explains why we turn the television off when Jean Charest or Pauline Marois come on and why we choose any activity over heading to a ballot box.

The feeling of political “appartenance”

that glues together the francophones of our province dismisses the reality of English Quebecers. In arguably every election since the Quiet Revolution, provincial politicians have won electoral votes from the majority of the francophone community by creating a culture that is increasingly hostile to English Quebecers—with policies like obligatory French signage, mandatory French education for all non-francophone students, language of work, the list goes on. When both major parties implement policies that further limit your already-limited access to services and diminish your right to self-expression in your maternal language, it becomes a matter of which party will screw you over less. Suddenly, the allure of the voting booth vanishes.

But, on Sept. 4, a third party en-

“In arguably every election since the Quiet Revolution, provincial politicians have won electoral votes from the majority francophone community by creating a culture that is increasingly hostile to English Quebecers.”

tered the mix of provincial politics in Quebec, the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ). For the first time since the Equality Party, this party offered a viable, non-sovereignty-seeking alternative to the Liberals. For many English Quebecers, including myself, the relief of finally having an alternative to the apathetic Liberals was enough to secure my vote.

With these elections seeing voter turnout massively up in anglophone-concentrated ridings, and the almost impregnable Montreal Liberal vote down to a CAQ increase, it would seem that English Quebecers may finally have found a sense of that “appartenance.”

## Perspectives

### Innocence of Islam

Sofia Hashi | Fulcrum Staff

SURPRISE, SURPRISE, THE Middle East is making headlines once again. Except this time there’s no uprising, revolts, or overthrown leaders being talked about. By now most people will have heard of the anti-Islam movie *Innocence of Muslims* that Nakoula Basseley Nakoula wrote, directed, and produced under the pseudonym Sam Bacile. The film, chock full of B-list actors, depicts Prophet Muhammad pbuh and Islam in a hateful and monstrous way, demonizing the religion practiced by millions throughout the world.

The film, which was broadcast on the Egyptian television station Al-Nas TV, resulted in revolts and protests in both Libya and Egypt. It is reported that on Sept. 11, these demonstrations took an

awful turn and resulted in the tragic death of U.S. ambassador John Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

The outcry against Islam, a religion of peace, has been astonishing, to say the least. As an American-Canadian Muslim, I was shocked to read the reactions from columnists, journalists, religious leaders, and the average online commentator.

Comments like “i will show respect for islam and their book of lies the very second i see a moderate muslim stand up to those who are carrying out the violence. until then they are all the same and their religion is filled with hate [sic],” and “Just more Islamic nonsense...when will they all disappear?” littered the Internet. Condemning all Muslims around the world for supposedly not being able to take a joke, or not

understanding freedom of expression is shocking, to put it simply.

The problem here is not with Islam. The crux of the issue lies in the massive culture clash between the West and the East.

Those who say that Muslims need to lighten up and not be so defensive over Prophet Muhammad pbuh clearly know nothing about how Islam is practiced. The main division between Shia and Sunni Muslims comes from the interpretation over the legacy of Muhammad pbuh. As well, the objections to the video were not over its criticism, but its mockery and humiliation.

Demanding Muslims to step up and condemn the acts of the extremists, as many Internet commentators have done, is ridiculous. Of course, what happened to John Christopher Stevens is a tragedy,

whether or not it was linked to the viral video. My heart and prayers go out to the Stevens family and the families of the other three Americans killed in the attack. But does anyone demand Christians or Jews apologize for the deranged individuals of their faith who commit violent and atrocious acts? Did anyone apologize for Anders Behring Breivik, before he was found to be psychologically ill? No, no one did. People like that are viewed as sick individuals and nothing more; they aren’t terrorists, just people who committed heinous crimes. But people still continue to generalize Muslims, condemning the many for the actions of a few.

The problem here is freedom of expression and how it is interpreted in other nations. Clearly, people living in regimes in which speaking ill about



their leaders is forbidden won’t understand how a movie like *Innocence of Muslims* can be made without approval from the state. Cue the protests and the demonstrations.

As an American-Canadian Muslim, I believe peaceful protests should be allowed in a free and democratic society. As Voltaire once said, “I do not agree with what you have to say, but I’ll defend to the death your right to say it.” Freedom of expression is a cornerstone of our society. What’s happening here is a massacre of Islam through words. Condemning a religion and those who practice it is just as ignorant as those who hold violent and brutal demonstrations over a stupid video made by a stupid individual.



## Dear Di...

*Dear Di, I lost my virginity to my non-virgin girlfriend of 10 months. While I completely understand and am fine with not being her first, I don't like the fact that before we started dating, she had three one-night stands with complete strangers. I wasn't overjoyed hearing the news when she told me early on in our relationship, but it only truly started to bother me once my feelings grew stronger for her and I fell in love.*

*I do not believe in casual sex, and it hurts me to know she was so easy and put out for guys she had met just hours before. I feel as though I am getting sloppy seconds, damaged goods, or whatever you may call it, and it makes me think the sex between us isn't as special as it could have been. She regrets it, and says she has changed, but the damage is already done, right?*

*Apart from that, everything in the relationship has been perfect. We love each other very much, our communication is great, and the sex is amazing! This is really the only aspect causing trouble, and I would like to get past it and get the negative feelings out of my head, but haven't been able to do so.*

*Are my feelings justified? Is there anything I can do to get over it? I would really like to make things work out with my girlfriend, and I'm hoping that you can help me out!*

—Beautiful Girlfriend, Ugly Past

Dear BGUP,

I am going to be brutally blunt with you for a second here: you are a dick. Or, at the very least, this is dick-like behaviour.

The first problem I have with your question is that you call your girlfriend, whom you supposedly love, "easy." By saying that, you're judging and shaming her and all women who enjoy their right to get freaky when, where, and with whomever they please. While it is absolutely your prerogative to abstain from casual sex, where do you get off calling your lady, or any other woman for that matter, "damaged goods"? How misogynistic can you get?

Does your girlfriend know this is what

you think of her? If so, I have some advice for her, and it involves dumping you.

I'll admit it sounds like y'all have good communication, and I'm glad you were honest with each other about your sexual histories. Why, though, would you sleep with her if her previous adventures in the sack bothered you so much? Oh wait—it didn't really get under your skin until you loved her, right? So, did you sleep with her before you loved her, just like she slept with those guys without loving them? Or did you wait until you were in love, and somehow managed to overcome your devastation enough to get hard and do her? In the first case, you're a hypocrite; in the second you're just stupid. Why would you sleep with her if you don't agree with her past? In my opinion, that makes you one box of condoms short of a medicine cabinet.

While I doubt you'll get over this any time soon, I have a couple of tips that might help you past all the negative thoughts. First, I hope you can recognize that your feelings are unjustified. If you love your girlfriend and she's as wonderful as you say, her sexual past should have little to no bearing on your current relationship. Second, have you ever considered that the sex is amazing because she has some past experience? Instead of hating the fact that your gal's had a handful of previous encounters, you should appreciate that you're the one now reaping the benefits of her carnal knowledge with the added bonus of a loving relationship. Know that you're the one she's decided to stay with, and the sex you have is all the more intimate for it.

Get over yourself, and if you're lucky your girlfriend will keep getting under you.

Love,  
Di

### Sexy Sidenote:

Twin studies have shown correlation between genetics and when in life one loses their virginity. Uh... thanks Mom?

### Nerdy/Dirty Pick-up Line:

Baby, you make my floppy disk turn into a hard drive.

*Dear Di, Why does every guy want to finish on my face?*

—Facials From the Spa, Please

Dear FFSP,

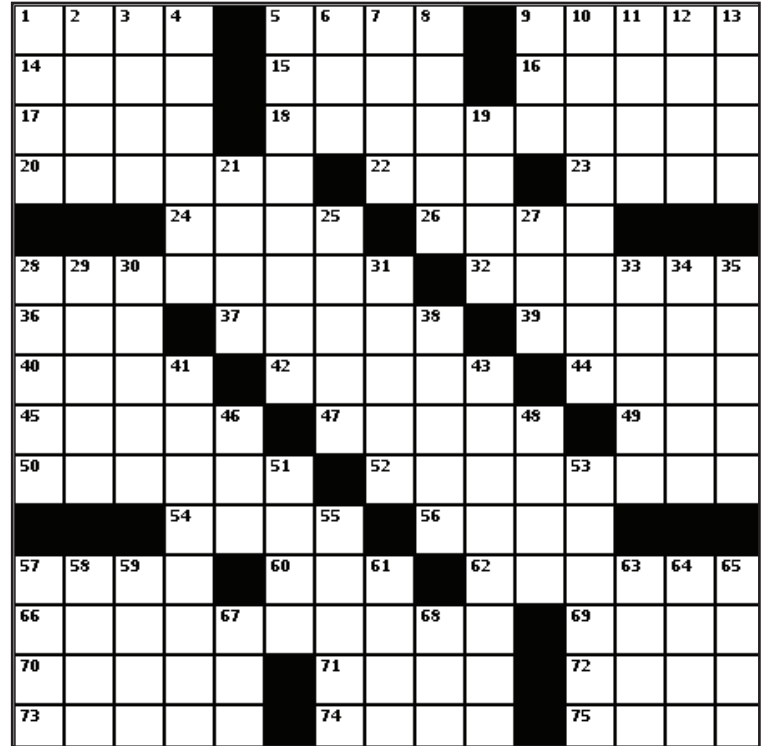
Ah, one of life's great sexual mysteries, like "When did pubes get such a bad rap?" and "Why do guys feel threatened by vibrators, but no woman is intimidated by the Fleshlight?"

There are plenty of reasons why a guy might want his love juice dripping down your cheek. This is a porn scene that gets way overplayed. Too many an Internet video ends in a man pulling out, telling the girl to get close, and then spraying all over her visage—obviously this makes for a better visual finish than if he were to simply grunt and blow his load inside and unseen. Guys who get off to porn tend to find this move extremely erotic, and thus want to try it out for themselves.

Another reason why dudes like to shoot off on your face is because it's super intimate. Not all peeps are down for the move, for a variety of valid reasons—hello, sperm can hurt if it gets into your eyes, and is a bitch to clean out of your hair. When someone's willing to put up with all the associated risks, it shows he/she's into the man and is either pretty turned on himself/herself or really cares about the guy getting off, both of which make a man happy.

I haven't yet known a guy to say no to a pearl necklace or backslash as an alternative, and it's up to you if you want to get sprayed above the neck or not.

Love,  
Di



Puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission. Answers on page 18

### Across

- 1- A dish with many ingredients; 5- Attack a fly; 9- Disconcert; 14- Ripped; 15- Mata \_ ; 16- Rate; 17- Support beam; 18- Extend; 20- Flirt; 22- Brit. lexicon; 23- Bottom of the barrel; 24- Mex. miss; 26- Heroic adventure tale; 28- Temerity; 32- Pertaining to the mind; 36- Be in debt; 37- Praying figure; 39- Bring out; 40- Makes lace; 42- Clogs, e.g.; 44- Complicit; 45- Betelgeuse's constellation; 47- Angry; 49- 401(k) alternative; 50- Pay as due; 52- Having three feet; 54- Islamic call to prayer; 56- Split; 57- "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author; 60- Chatter; 62- Resounds; 66- Seaplane; 69- As to; 70- Curt; 71- Kiln for drying hops; 72- Approached; 73- Handle; 74- Gusto; 75- Break, card game;

### Down

- 1- Auricular; 2- Timber wolf; 3- Oil-rich nation; 4- Attack; 5- Breaks; 6- Move from side to side; 7- Golden Fleece ship; 8- Wearies; 9- Prince Valiant's son; 10- Barren area; 11- End in \_ (draw); 12- Dimensions; 13- Makes a row?; 19- According to the Bible, he was the first man; 21- Cube creator Rubik; 25- Japanese beer brand; 27- "Fancy that!"; 28- Chopper top; 29- Alert; 30- Take hold; 31- Nasal grunt; 33- Bombastic; 34- Legend maker; 35- Juridical; 38- Eye drops; 41- Member of a lay society; 43- Short dagger; 46- Pince- \_ ; 48- Heroic; 51- Sturdy wool fiber; 53- Morals; 55- Influential person; 57- P.M. times; 58- Peter Fonda title role; 59- Bronte heroine; 61- Male swine; 63- Son of Judah; 64- Humorist Bombeck; 65- Leak slowly; 67- "The Matrix" hero; 68- Faulkner's " \_ Lay Dying";



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**Need more distractions?**

Check out the blog of the week:  
[Gurlgoestoafrika.tumblr.com](http://Gurlgoestoafrika.tumblr.com)

is a highly satirical look at voluntourism. It's laugh-out-loud funny. For those looking for an informed take on international development, check out [Owen.org/blog](http://Owen.org/blog). The posts are academic and very interesting.

**I'M GOING TO BUY THIS \$10 GAME I WANT, AND I'M DONATING \$10 FOR MALARIA ERADICATION.**

**IF YOU ACTUALLY CARED, YOU'D SKIP THE GAME AND DONATE ALL \$20. WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT? GAMES, OR MOSQUITO NETS AND MEDICINE FOR KIDS?**

**LATER:**  
**I THINK I'M GOING TO BUY THESE TWO \$10 GAMES I WANT.**  
**COOL; WHICH ONES?**

## In defense of regrets



illustration by Gustave Doré

LAST WEEK, WHILE in line at Tim Hortons, I was standing behind a young woman with a rather large tattoo. The words “Live life with no regrets,” written in a script and nestled amongst pink and purple shooting stars, were stretched across her back in what I can only assume would translate to size 72 font. A few hours later, while crossing the street at Laurier and Russell Avenue, I happened upon another inked stranger, this one whose shoulder read “Never regret something that once made you smile.” Later, I logged onto Facebook and counted no less than eight friends who had recently uploaded photos with captions endorsing a life without regrets. On Twitter, the trend continues: #YOLO—or “you only live once,” for those who have yet to emerge from under the proverbial rock—became so popular so quickly that it’s now universally panned and parodied. This recurring theme in our body art and social media—both important forms of self-expression for the early 20-something—begs the question: what does our generation have against regrets?

In 2011, Kathryn Schulz, American journalist and author of *Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error*, gave a TED Talk about the psychology of regret, in which she says those who “drink

the great cultural Kool-Aid about regret” believe there is no activity more pointless and unproductive than despairing the past. What’s done is done, and if it can’t be undone, then why torture yourself thinking about it? The trouble with this philosophy, Schulz says, is that if we do not acknowledge our regrets, we deny ourselves the chance “to learn to love the flawed, imperfect things that we create, and to forgive ourselves for creating them,” because “regret doesn’t remind us that we did badly—it reminds us that we know we can do better.”

Thinking about the mistakes I made during the four years of my undergraduate degree is an exercise in humility, sure, but true to Schulz’s words, I realize that if I refused to own up to those actions—or inactions, perhaps more accurately—I would never know I could do better. When I decided to simply stop making payments on my student line of credit because I’d rather spend the little money I had elsewhere, my parents received an angry letter from Scotiabank threatening legal action against us. Do I regret putting my mom and dad’s financial standing—not to mention their mental health—at risk? Of course. Have I ever missed a payment again? Not once. After all, YOLO, and I’d rather not spend the

one life I get plagued by a dismal credit rating and a justifiably furious mother and father.

I’ve made some pretty big mistakes in the academic department, too. I decided to minor in French as a second language, believing as I do that fluency in both our national languages should be a goal of every Canadian, yet I was too terrified to ever participate in French class. I was embarrassed by my horrific accent, I constantly struggled with vocabulary, and I can’t roll my Rs to save my life, so instead of forcing myself to practice, I zipped my lips and barely spoke a word. I somehow managed to survive the four years of French classes and now I have a degree that essentially deems me bilingual, but no real fluency in the language to speak of. Not opening my mouth in French class or taking advantage of the professors I paid to teach me was a monstrous mistake—one I pay for every single time others around me *parlent en français* and I simply can’t keep up. What have I done to rectify the regret? I now speak the language as often as I can with anyone and everyone who will give me the time of day. Does this change the fact that I screwed up for four long years? Not at all, but acknowledging the regret made me determined to never again spend an-

other 48 months faking my way through anything.

Perhaps generational dislike for regret boils down to responsibility—and our knee-jerk response to shirk it. Anyone with a sibling will agree the best way to avoid punishment for a wrongdoing is to blame it on someone else. As we age, our mistakes aren’t as minor or as easily displaced as they were in childhood—what was once a broken dinner plate, a defenseless younger sibling, and an angry parent has become a night of excessive drinking and no one but ourselves to blame or answer to. Rather than acknowledge the flame of self-loathing burning in the pit of our stomachs, we throw our hands in the air and loudly exclaim, “No regrets!”, thereby effectively removing our guilt—but also our opportunity for personal growth.

So instead of futilely attempting to convince yourself and those around you that you live a life with no regrets, consider owning up to your mistakes and doing whatever you can to never make them again. Hold yourself accountable. Don’t drink the Kool-Aid.

—Kristyn Filip

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