

# Zombies!

## Need I say more?

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university of ottawa  
**fulcrum**

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ears on campus

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photo by Justin Labelle

## Consolidation experiment proves successful

### Faculty of Social Sciences building officially open

Christopher Radojewski | Fulcrum Staff

ALTHOUGH IT HAS already served thousands of students since the start of September, the new Faculty of Social Sciences building officially opened on Friday, Oct. 19. University of Ottawa administration, members of the faculty, elected officials, and students attended the ceremony that brought crowds to the foyer of the building.

Although the new building and renovations to Vanier Hall were finished later than originally projected, the speeches focused on the opportunities that lay ahead for the faculty. Social sciences dean Marcel Mérette said he is excited to have the whole faculty under one roof.

“This is really historical,” said Mérette. “[It] is a fantastic opportunity that the

university is giving us... Not only are we able to have all units together, but we are going to be able to do much more things in terms of research [and] teaching that we never thought before. It will help us to bring this faculty to the next level.”

This is the first time the faculty of social sciences, the largest faculty at the U of O, has been united under one roof. According to Simon Larivée, president of the Political, International, and Development Studies Student Association, the major benefit for students was the consolidation of all the social sciences student associations in the same area—an effort to promote cooperation.

“Everything is perfect in this building,” said Larivée. “All the associations are together. It is easier to work with them. It is

always better when we are close.”

The new building also offers students additional study space. With the rapid growth of the U of O student population over the past decade, limited study space has increasingly become an issue. According to its president, Ethan Plato, the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa has worked with the university to address the problem.

“A huge part of [this building] is the space it adds to campus,” said Plato. “It is very student-centric from what I saw, especially the first four floors. [Despite this construction,] we need more student space, period. The library, I know, is also on the plans of being expanded as well. For a library designed for under 10,000 students and now with almost [40,000], it is well overdue.”

Allan Rock, the U of O’s president, addressed the need for more space on campus in his speech. He discussed how the U of O continues to address space and modernize the campus.

“It is a milestone for the faculty and it is a great day for the university, too,” said Rock. “I think it represents in many ways all this progress that we are making on so many fronts. It is only one of five projects we have underway.”

The university has already started construction on the Advanced Research Complex while simultaneously finishing the new sports field at Lees campus. The construction of a consolidated faculty of health sciences building will also occur at Lees campus, and the Morisset Library has received funding from the province to

begin expansion to better serve the student population.

The Faculty of Social Sciences building benefited greatly from a combined \$80 million in funding from the province and the federal government, which complemented the \$40 million provided by the U of O.

Dignitaries and students put the finishing touches on the building by planting the final flowers in the six-story living wall that towered above the ceremony. Mérette believes that the future is bright for the faculty.

“I think that we have everything now to move forward,” he said. “We have been moving forward for a few years already, but I think with this building we will be able to move at a different speed. That would make us, with respect to social sciences, one of the best places to be in Canada.”

## Turning Point

### Gun registry revisited

Andrew Ikeman | News Editor

LAST YEAR AROUND this time, I wrote my very first full article for the *Fulcrum*. The opinions piece, entitled “Hey Harper,” was about my opposition to the recently announced plans to cut the federal long-gun registry, which has since been cancelled.

I wanted to know why our prime minister was so intent on destroying a list of the names of people in this country who are in possession of a firearm. It’s not unreasonable to want to know who owns a gun. I was simply trying to

understand why a country would get rid of a list of names that existed doing no harm, and was simply to inform the police and other services if a person was in possession of a gun.

“While the gun registry may have cost more than expected during its inception, its current cost is minimal—and now that there is an established registry, why destroy it and waste all the money that’s already been sunk into it?” I wrote last year.

I felt validated this week after seeing that the Canadian Press had reported

that the RCMP cited a 2008 study on the cancellation of the gun registry. According to the report, the savings gained from cancelling the registry will be between \$1.5 million and \$4 million. That’s a lot less than the \$7.7 million the registry cost from 2010–2011 and a serious reduction from some of the estimates we heard at the time of the registry’s dismantling. So why are we not getting the full amount that was going into the registry?

The article goes on to talk about how the most expensive cost associated with the registry—the actual registering of guns to

owners—was removed, but the most functional part of the registry—the database of existing gun owners—was destroyed.

Looking back on it, you have to wonder why they even got rid of the registry. Not only does its destruction seem to have been moot, but the government has now left itself vulnerable to the voters over a registry that was not hurting anyone. The truth about the registry’s dismantling is that the government has opened themselves up to more problems and more possibilities for attack, with opposition members of Parliament itching for a fight and

the province of Quebec currently facing court challenges to keep the registry alive. It would appear, at least for the moment, that the registry will once again be a pain in the backside of the prime minister and the minister of public safety.

The registry was not formed as a partisan motion. The original idea was to know who had a gun, and why. It was not to punish honest farmers, or take down criminals on the street. It was simply to gain knowledge and inform our police officers when they are going to arrest someone who owns a gun.



# Baker's dozen at the U of O

New Montreal-based bakery is first to open outside of Quebec

Spencer Van Dyk | Fulcrum Staff

As of Oct. 22, University of Ottawa students and faculty have a brand new place to get a good cup of coffee. The *Première Moisson* bakery was officially inaugurated on Monday at its location inside the new Faculty of Social Sciences Building. *Première Moisson* is a Montreal-based bakery franchise that was first opened in 1992 and has since expanded to 20 different locations. The restaurant will serve the 10,500 students, professors, and administration of the social sciences faculty, as well as the surrounding community.

"The bakery offers a wide variety of baked goods, sandwiches, salads, pastries, sweet and savoury pies, ready-to-eat meals, drinks, and other goodies to eat in or to go," read a press release by *Première Moisson*.

Patrick Genest, director of Food Services for the University of Ottawa, said that a request for proposals with the public tender was sent out in 2011, and that *Première Moisson* was then decided on by a committee.

"We had an idea of what we were looking for," said Genest. "Something with a local feel that would fit with the faculty stance, and stuff like that. So that was our main thought process. We entertained five proposals from some actual local suppliers, and *Première Moisson* is out of Montreal... On [the] committee, we had people from Student Services, Community Life, people from the faculty, some students, and the [Student Federation of the University of Ottawa]. In the end it was unanimous to



A *Première Moisson* employee shows off their baked goods

photo by Justin Labelle

choose *Première Moisson* as the vendor for that location."

Genest explained that the price point is a bit expensive, but the bakery offers quality product and high-end pieces. The location opened during reading week, and according to Genest, it has been going well.

"The stuff is made fresh," said Genest. "We don't bake off everything at once in the morning, but rather throughout the day, like the breads and muffins."

Genest also said he was excited about the new options, that are made fresh at the location.

"The good thing about *Première Moisson* is that they have a lot of organic choices," said Genest. "They have a flour mill, so they make their own flour, so there's a really great quality of food there. We also have a bread slicer, so we can slice your bread for you if you want. We can toast your panini; we bought a top-of-the-line panini press that can do a panini in about 40 seconds. You can get fair-trade coffee, and there are a lot of choices over there that are great for everybody, and I think we can please everybody's palate. You really taste the difference."

Manon Kirouac, director of communications for *Première Moisson*, said the decision to open a University of Ottawa location was an easy one.

"I think it was just a good fit," she said. "We are not that far from Montreal, so it's easy for us to ship, and we just believed the University of Ottawa would be a really good place to be. We saw the potential."

Genest added that for students living in residence, there is the possibility of using *Première Moisson* as a kind of grocery store, as they can get things like ratatouille and spaghetti sauce. The bakery will be open seven days a week and will be accepting cash payments, debit cards, and both the meal plan and flex plan from the U of O student card.

Genest said that while the bakery served many great options, there was one that he liked above the rest.

"I'd say if you're going to have anything at the store, try the brownie," said Genest. f

## Murder and maggots

A little insight into the real world of crime scenes and criminal investigations

Kristen McEwen | The Carillon

REGINA (CUP)—AS IT TURNS out, TV got it wrong—again.

Forensic entomologist Gail Anderson came to the University of Regina to give a lecture about how studying insects can get you a job like Gil Grissom, or whoever the new guy is on *CSI*.

Forensic entomology is the study of insects to determine the amount of time that's passed since a human being has died. Insects can also be used to discover if a body was disturbed at the site either by animals or by the murderer returning to the scene of the crime.

Anderson is a professor and assistant director at the school of criminology at Simon Fraser University in B.C. She is also a board-certified forensic entomolo-

gist with the American Board of Forensic Entomology.

Anderson became board certified in 1996 and took her first case in 1998. She is also a regular consultant for the RCMP and police services across Canada, and occasionally in the United States.

Anderson states that television shows like *CSI*, *NCIS*, *Dexter*, and *Bones* can give people the wrong expectations as to how quickly a forensic scientist can work when they're at a crime scene.

"I suspect my profession has been less affected than other forensic areas," she said. "Certainly, it's a bit stupid when Grissom comes in and stares at the fly on the wall and says, 'Ah yes, [he's been dead for] three days.' It sort of belittles the whole thing.

"And [writers] are inclined to make

[the forensic entomologist] an expert in everything. Grissom himself—who is basically me—[would have to be] at least 150 years old to be qualified in things he says he's qualified in."

It took Anderson 11 years of post-secondary education to get her PhD. In addition to this, she completed five more years to be certified as an actual forensic entomologist.

"You can't be an expert in everything, and that's fine because TV is TV," she said. "It's all for the entertainment; it's not there to teach us everything. But, unfortunately, the people that are watching are the future jury members or judges and they get very strange ideas of what the job actually is."

Anderson said that she believes that what students see on TV is a large influ-

ence on their view of forensics.

"As an educator, as a professor, I see [TV] influencing students," she said. "So there's so many ways you can get into a career in forensic science, and there's so many different careers in forensic science so the students don't really have a clear directive [on] how to go about becoming a forensic scientist."

Anderson said that she often sees students who want to go on in the field of forensics, but may not be in the right field of study.

"I frequently find students in my third-year class, which is a class aimed at non-scientists to explain what forensic science actually is and they think, 'Hey, this is it. This is what I want. I want to be a forensic scientist,' and I say, 'Well, sorry, but you've wasted the last three years. You need to get a science degree, you can't do

this with an arts degree," said Anderson. "It's very disillusioning for the students, I think, and very unfair."

As for the gross factor, Anderson said the decomposing remains at homicide crime scenes don't affect a person as much as one might think it would.

"It's obviously not really for the very squeamish, because you're dealing with highly decomposed remains," she said. "But the bodies that I deal with, they're highly decomposed. So it's not like I would recognize them if I knew them in life or anything like that. And you know you're there for a very important purpose and that's to try and identify this person and catch the bad guy... make sure the police catch the right person, not the wrong person. My work can exonerate as much as it can convict somebody." f

# The Debriefing

## Burnaby high-schooler cuffed for snapping photos

BURNABY—ON OCT. 25, it was reported that 16-year-old Jakub Markiewicz was arrested in September and detained by the RCMP after he took a few pictures at the Metrotown mall in Burnaby, B.C. Markiewicz, who hopes to become a journalist, was at the shopping centre and photographed a man being arrested by mall security. The security guards asked him to delete the photo, which his film camera wouldn't allow him to do, and he turned to leave. However, when Markiewicz witnessed RCMP officers arriving, he took one more photo, which prompted the mall's security guards to push him to the ground while the local police handcuffed him. He was then taken to an RCMP cruiser and searched, and the RCMP demanded he delete the photos. Markiewicz was ultimately released from custody without being charged, but was banned from the mall for six months.

—Keeton Wilcock

## Gatineau bar accused of racism

GATINEAU—GATINEAU POLICE CONSTABLE Pierre Lanthier confirmed that officers were called to Le Fou du Roi RestoBar at about 1:40 a.m. on Oct. 20 regarding an altercation between a bouncer and a group of people who were trying to enter the bar.

The bouncer appeared to deny entry to a group of black people, allegedly saying he had an order to refuse any black people who were not regulars at the bar, as can be seen on a cellphone video of the altercation posted on Facebook.

Brigit Vanhoutte, one of the bar's co-owners, expressed regret over the incident, and said that the bar does not condone the incident.

The bouncer in question has been suspended until further notice.

—Spencer Van Dyk

## Sinkhole survivor wants OPP to investigate city's involvement

OTTAWA—JUAN PEDRO UNGER, the man who was caught in the sinkhole that formed on Highway 174 on Sept. 4, is asking the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to investigate whether the City of Ottawa was criminally negligent in the collapse of the road. Video recently released shows that during a routine inspection of the storm drain under the highway, a pipe was severely corroded. The inspection was carried out over a year before the roadway collapsed.

Unger, who managed to climb out of the sinkhole with the help of passing motorists, believes the city should have fixed the problem of the corroded pipes after the inspection turned up the problem.

The city has said they have increased repairs to the highway since the sinkhole incident.

—Andrew Ikeman



# Trick or treat?



photo by Andrew Ikeman

## March concludes PowerShift conference

Andrew Ikeman | Fulcrum Staff

GOBLINS, GHOULS, AND corporate zombies descended upon Parliament Hill on Oct. 29 to protest the government's stand on a number of environmental issues. The march—dubbed the Toxic Trick or Treat—was organized by the PowerShift conference that was held from Oct. 26–29 at the University of Ottawa and brought together over 1,000 students from across the country. The conference strived to empower students to effect change in their communities, according to PowerShift organizer Kathryn Lennon.

“PowerShift is a national convergence,” said Lennon. “It was a weekend-long gathering of youth from across the country. We had over 1000 participants attend. We had workshops and keynote speakers all weekend, focused on the root causes of climate change, and also different types of creative actions that we might take.”

The Toxic Trick or Treat march

started on Parliament Hill and made its way through the city streets, stopping at places like McDonald's on Bank Street and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, before ending outside the minister of finance's office building. Participants were encouraged to dress up, and theatrics were at a high. Some of the pageantry included a puppet giving out subsidies to zombie oil-company executives out of a modified Smarties box.

One of the speakers was Gitz Crazyboy, an activist from the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. He said he hoped to express his belief that “production equals destruction” and to inform those in attendance about some of the health problems in his community linked to the tarsands.

“It's cool to have like-minded people together,” said Crazyboy. “It's cool to plant these seeds in everybody. What they do with it, I don't know; it's up to them. Whether or not they choose to fight, whether or not they choose to raise

awareness, whether or not they choose to make a change—a healthy change—my people, in the end, we're going to have nothing if nothing changes.”

Neil Bodimeade, a recent Queen's University graduate, attended the PowerShift conference and the rally. He said he was impressed with the message the rally conveyed, and that the experience was a positive one.

“When I first came across [the conference], it seemed like a pretty cool idea,” said Bodimeade. “I had heard about the one in 2009, and I had some friends who went to that one, and this one really spoke to me because it's not just a bunch of upper-middle-class white kids who are coming together to talk about ‘what is climate change?’ It really attempted to bring a wide diversity of backgrounds together.”

The rally and subsequent march was guided through the streets by Ottawa police, and stopped traffic in the downtown core, with buses needing to be diverted.

## HOUSE SITTING

# Mission cooperation: not impossible

Christopher Radojewski | Fulcrum Staff

IS IT TIME to put a little more faith in our politicians? Not many people, particularly students, would reduce their own paycheque if they had the power to. Despite the slim odds of cooperation among political parties, members of Parliament (MPs) did just that. On Oct. 19, they voted to contribute more to their pensions out of pocket, reducing the burden on taxpayers.

Maybe it is time to give all the MPs a little credit; but first, I want to applaud the Conservatives for their role in this issue.

The Conservatives brought up the issue that MP pensions should be reduced in line with other public service employees, but there was one catch. This issue was placed within the omni-

bus budget bill 2.0, named the Jobs and Growth Act.

Omnibus bills group together multiple issues for a single vote as a way of expediting the process. But that process can easily fail when a minority government is in power, since there are many issues political parties may not agree on.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper placed the pension issue in an omnibus bill, and at first refused to remove it, despite requests from the opposition to do so. Of course it would look like opposition parties voted against reducing their own pensions, when in reality it was other issues they voted against in the combined bill.

The shocking thing was that Prime Minister Harper eventually did remove the pension issue at the request of the Liberals, but it actually took three

votes—with negotiation by parties in between votes—to pass the reduction. As a result, MPs must now make 50 per cent of the contribution to their pensions—an increase from 15 per cent.

This makes every party look good. The Conservatives made an effort to work with other parties, the Liberals initiated the motion to separate, and the New Democratic Party did a lot of the legwork to negotiate the bill's success. But did MPs have much of a choice?

Canadians are feeling the crunch of bad economic times. Many individuals and families have had to amend their own budgets to be able to afford the necessities of life. The government has also made an impact on individuals' financial stability by changing employment insurance rules and pension rules, and changing the age of retirement to

67 instead of 65. But to make all these changes without taking a hit themselves would have been truly hypocritical.

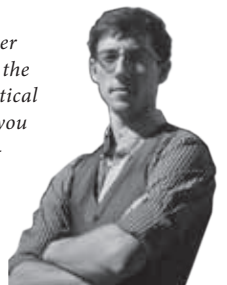
Even so, was it much of a loss for MPs? When reading the fine print, we see that MPs will start paying into their pensions at 50 per cent beginning Jan. 1, 2013. Although they changed the time of pension collection from 55 to 65 years of age, this only applies to new MPs elected in 2016. Therefore, none of our current MPs are affected.

MPs still have a pretty good deal. After working for only six years, they get a pension. What other job gives you that kind of deal? The interest on their pension plan also exceeds the interest on the average Canadian pension plan.

Regardless, I'm content. I can sleep easily knowing that it's possible for political parties to work together, that

MPs can take a monetary sacrifice (although it's nothing compared to most citizens'), and that over the next five years, this change will save taxpayers about \$2.6 billion. Although sometimes we might feel that parliamentarians have forgotten the everyday Canuck, I think they are still in touch with the problems Canadians face today.

Christopher Radojewski is the Fulcrum's political columnist. If you have any comments or questions, email [politics@thefulcrum.ca](mailto:politics@thefulcrum.ca)



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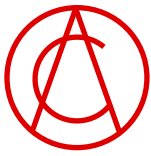
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## Brrraaaaaiinnnnsss

photo by Mathias MacPhee

### The undead swarm the streets at largest-ever Ottawa Zombie Walk

Anique Wallace | Fulcrum Contributor

Despite poor weather conditions, the fifth annual Ottawa Zombie Walk went off without a hitch as more than 2,000 dedicated participants took to the downtown streets on Oct. 27.

Undead brides and grooms, soldiers, baseball players, bikers, clowns, and even a zombie Pocahontas gathered at MacDonald Gardens Park (originally one of

Ottawa's largest cemeteries) to begin their hunt for brains Saturday afternoon. Zombie pets, children, and adults of all sizes, shapes, and levels of believability were on the move. The staggering procession ended at Parliament Hill, where participants posed for a group photo and a final monstrous growl.

"My goal was to attend all the Halloween-related events in Ottawa this season," said first-time participant Laura Dennison. "It was a lot of fun. A friend of mine did the makeup and we walked all the way to the Hill."

The event—credited by some with officially kicking off the Halloween spirit in Ottawa—receives plenty of support every year, and nearby business owners don't seem to mind.

"It's tremendous fun," said Les Gagne, executive director of the Sparks Street business improvement area, which is partnered with the Ottawa Zombie Walk. "It exceeded last year's turnout, and we hope to do it bigger and better next year."

Although he opted not to dress up, Gagne was on site with a megaphone to pump up the horde of walking dead.

The Ottawa Police Service was in attendance for the first time in the walk's history; the event has gotten so large that this year's walk required police supervision for safety and traffic control. This police supervision came at a whopping cost of about

\$3,500, which initially put the status of the event in question until local radio station Chez 106 offered to cover the expense.

One officer stayed at the front of the group, two stayed in back, and several more in squad cars were responsible for suspending and directing traffic as the group lumbered down the streets of Ottawa. The zombies headed west through the ByWard Market before turning southbound and walking through the University of Ottawa campus, west on Somerset Street, and back up Elgin to Parliament Hill.

"Despite the large numbers, everything went very smoothly, at least on my end,"

said one supervising officer. When asked if he would consider participating next year, he laughed and said, "I don't know if this is my kind of thing."

Also among the participants were spectators and curious onlookers—who might now have contracted the infection, too.

"It's my first walk—I was too chicken to dress up, but maybe next time," said one observer who found out about the event through friends and wanted to check it out.

Although the event is free and open to the public, organizers asked participants to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Ottawa Food Bank as a way of giving back to the community. Approximately 500 cans of food were donated at last year's zombie walk.

## You slam, bro?

### Spoken word poetry makes its voice heard on campus

Emily Glass | Fulcrum Staff

OTTAWA IS HOME to a vibrant spoken word poetry community. Capital Slam happens twice a month at the Mercury Lounge, Carleton University hosts the Urban Legends Poetry Slam, and plenty of youth and Francophone slams are held throughout Ottawa and Gatineau. Until recently, though, there was no spoken word poetry event on the University of Ottawa campus.

But on Oct. 21, the uOttawa Poetry Slam Club hosted its third-ever open mic night—a bilingual event that encourages poets new and old to come out and share their poetry in a comfortable and accessible environment.

Aruba Mustafa and Alex Jürgen Thumm started the club this past January to build an inclusive and encouraging poetry community on campus.

"I loved performing," says Mustafa, who is in her first year of common law at the U of O. "I realized that Capital Slam can be a bit intimidating—and for me, I'm obviously pretty new—and I wanted to create a space for people who have performed a little bit or who have never performed, and really just give them a space where they feel comfortable, and to make it accessible."

Held at Café Alt, the open mic night is a casual affair, with comfortable couches, snacks, and beverages for audience members and poets alike to enjoy. The supportive environment is important to Thumm, a second-year political science student who regularly MCs at the events.

"It's truly beautiful to see the energy and solidarity we build up," says Thumm. "Everyone genuinely appreciates everyone's poems. We have something of an organic atmosphere: no rules, everything is flex-

ible, and any piece—rhyming or not, fast or slow—is welcome."

Bilingualism is also an important aspect of the club; poems are performed in both English and French at the open mic.

The first event of this year saw 11 poets share their work with a full house. This month's event was not quite as large—likely because it took place during reading week—but was equally encouraging for new poets. One student performed a poem for the first time ever, and an anglophone student even shared some work in French. The club has plans to keep expanding, including thematic shows and writing workshops held on campus.

"Recently, we've started talking about



photo by Aruba Mustafa

using our open mic nights as a sort of feedback," says Mustafa. "So if people want ideas or feedback, they can come ask us, and we can make it interactive."

Thumm says a common question from students about spoken word is whether their poems would be appropriate for the open mic nights. The answer is that anything goes; the point is to get new poets performing.

"Spoken word, for our purposes, defines itself," says Mustafa. "It's the words you speak."

The uOttawa Poetry Slam Club hosts open mic nights on the third Sunday of every month at Café Alt.

# Giving hugs and helping pugs

U of O fraternity holds charity event for Pugalug Pug Rescue

Siyuan (Emily) Fu | Fulcrum Contributor

Students and pug lovers gathered at Morisset Terrace on Oct. 17 to participate in Hugs for Pugs, a charity event hosted by the University of Ottawa's Lambda Theta chapter of Sigma Chi fraternity.

For a \$2 donation, partakers were able to give a hug to either a pug or a fraternity brother. All proceeds went to Pugalug Pug Rescue, a Toronto-based rescue centre that shelters and re-homes abandoned or surrendered pugs with the help of donations. Since 2005, they have successfully found homes for almost 250 pugs.

Benjamin Sammut, a Sigma Chi brother and the event's organizer, said the idea for Hugs for Pugs occurred to him when he heard that the rescue had recently met with some financial struggles and could not afford surgeries for some of their pugs.

"I currently have three pugs adopted from Pugalug, so I've been associated with them for a while now," Sammut explained. "Helping them was really important to me and my family."

The undeniable star of the event was Sammut's nine-pound, five-year-old pug named Cocoa, a successful Pugalug adoptee who was brought to the event from her new home in Orangeville, Ont. by Sammut's parents, Andrea and Joe, to enjoy the afternoon and put a face on the initiative.

According to Andrea Sammut, the "cute factor" plays into many purchases and adoptions of pugs that



This five-year-old pug named Cocoa was the star of the Hugs for Pugs charity event on campus Oct. 17



photos provided by Benjamin Sammut

don't last.

"People will often buy cute pug puppies from unreliable breeders, stores, and off of Kijiji, but when these pugs have health problems from unreliable breeding that their owners didn't expect, they end up being tossed out," she said.

Cocoa herself was found abandoned in an apartment and needed surgery on her legs after being rescued.

"Pugalug is very careful with who

they send their pugs to," said Andrea. "They have home inspections and intake inspections so that the pugs don't risk being homeless again."

Matthew Staton, a first-year U of O student and pug-hugging participant, agreed.

"Pugs tend to have a lot of health complications as a breed, so it's great that [Sigma Chi] is raising money for surgeries," said Staton. "This is a fantastic cause, and Sigma Chi has done a

great job with bringing attention to it."

Hugs for Pugs is one of Sigma Chi's three main philanthropic events. The other two are the annual Derby Days (a fundraiser for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario) and Homeless for the Homeless.

"Ben has done a really good job running this event," said Trevor Patterson, the fraternity's philanthropy chair.

Sammut has high hopes of making Hugs for Pugs an annual U of O event

as well.

"We'll judge it by its success, but that is the long-term goal," he said, and added that people who were not able to attend the event can raise awareness of pugs in need by "donating, fostering, and maybe eventually adopting."

By the end of the six-hour event, Sigma Chi-Lambda Theta had raised more than \$560 for Pugalug Pug Rescue—good news for the organizers, but even better news for the pugs. f

## The Open Mic

# If you're going to do it, do it right

Movember participants should draw the line between activism and slacktivism

Adam Feibel | Fulcrum Staff

THE TERM "SLACKTIVISM" playfully and succinctly calls out all those vain acts of armchair activism that the web generation feels so good about.

I'm not here to say that the month of Movember is a concrete example of said phenomenon, but that it can be.

Movember is both a passive way of having fun with friends and a way of "changing the face of men's health" by raising money and awareness for prostate cancer and men's health issues. But combining fun with effecting real medical and social change can be tricky; it's when people adopt a genuine mindset but apply it with laziness that things go awry.

In order to participate in the month of

Movember without seeming like a complete hack, there are two options.

The first and most basic one is to just grow a moustache for the hell of it. Most people need an excuse to grow a moustache, because it isn't the '70s anymore and Freddie Mercury is, sadly, dead. It's all well and good having some fun growing a moustache for a month; it's like being Tom Selleck for Halloween and then for another 30 days after. But it's important not to tell people your lip fuzz is part of a campaign for men's health when it isn't.

The second option is to grow your moustache in order to contribute to cancer research. Taken out of context, it's a non sequitur. But some people will actually take it at face value (like when people changed their Facebook profile

pictures to their favourite childhood television characters in order to "raise awareness" of child abuse in one of the most inane acts of slacktivism in recorded history).

That's why if you're going to do it, you should do it right.

Movember Canada funds Prostate Cancer Canada as well as the Movember Foundation's own initiatives, including awareness and education, the foundation's global action plan, and the Canadian Male Health Network, all established in order to address critical male health issues in the present and future.

Movember intends to accomplish this not only by raising awareness—which, if used on its own, results in the empty-handedness of slacktivism—but also by

funding research on prostate cancer and men's health as well as survivorship initiatives that provide information for men and their families affected by the disease.

"Via the moustache, Movember aims to fulfill its vision of having an everlasting impact on the face of men's health by continuing to spark conversation and spread awareness of men's health each year," the Movember Canada website states.

More than 1.9 million people worldwide have participated in organized Movember campaigns since 2003. In 2011, approximately 854,000 registrants raised \$125.7 million globally, and the campaign has raised more than \$301 million in total.

The University of Ottawa has its own Movember team captained by Student Fed-



eration of the University of Ottawa vp social Jozef Spiteri. The team is registered to receive donations on Movember.com and will also host several fundraising events.

Avenues like these, along with asking friends, family, and neighbours for donations for this cause, are just some of the ways you can make a real contribution to the Movember initiative. If you're going to claim your soup strainer does more than just strain soup, you have to back it up.

Some people might still say the whole thing is stupid. But while it's a good idea to take a critical look at an initiative to determine its validity, it's not fair to dismiss it completely. Those who do might be growing a bitter mo just because theirs won't grow in as thick as Ron Burgundy's. f

movie reviews



The Master



PAUL THOMAS ANDERSON'S *The Master* was the most powerful movie experience I've had in years. I sat through the ending credits not out of interest, but out of fear that if I stood up, my legs would give out. This film electrifies. Discharged after World War II, the already unbalanced Freddie Quell (Joaquin Phoenix) struggles to adjust to civilian life and becomes captivated by Lancaster Dodd (Philip Seymour Hoffman), whose cult is beginning to gain momentum. Much has been made of Dodd's resemblance to Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, but caricature would bore us. This film transcends it.

*The Master* knows that film is best at its simplest, and abandons spectacle to perfect its most basic elements. Hoffman and Phoenix are two of our greatest living actors, and are given beautifully written, three-dimensional roles and the freedom to run wild with them. Phoenix has the greater part—the unhinged follower filled with rage—but Hoffman's deception never abandons the screen. With the film's frames nearly all shot in extended close-ups, we see the actors' faces for minutes at a time—an unfettered examination of every muscle and every nuance. It is performance in its rawest, most intimate form.

The strangest complaint levied against the film is that, for all its beautiful camera work and great acting, there is no emotional depth. I couldn't disagree more. I was moved, riveted, and sometimes frightened in a way I've rarely been. Anderson once studied our great directors—now he has become one.

—Simon Sankoff



The Paperboy



BACK IN 2009, director Lee Daniels shocked and dazzled audiences with *Precious*, a heartbreaking portrayal of an overweight teen suffering from physical and sexual abuse in the heart of Harlem. Daniels directs his focus to the old, ugly South in his latest film, *The Paperboy*, a movie that is also hard to stomach, but for all the wrong reasons.

Zac Efron and Matthew McConaughey star as a pair of brothers who are investigating the murder of a small-town sheriff, believing that the man being held on death row for the crime (John Cusack) has been wrongly accused. The investigation is spearheaded by a mysterious woman (Nicole Kidman) who has fallen deeply in love with the convict.

Now this sounds pretty straightforward, and it really could have worked given the mostly solid performances from the star-studded cast. Unfortunately, Daniels pretty much abandons the murder investigation story halfway through the movie, instead focusing on Efron's erotic daydreams, a weird BDSM subplot, and Kidman's increasingly hideous outfits. It's at this point that the movie begins to fall rapidly apart, and the rest of the running time feels like a collection of loosely related scenes tied together by tasteless moments that are intended to shock the audience.

Ultimately, those expecting another Oscar contender like *Precious* will be sorely disappointed by Daniels' latest work. Instead, *The Paperboy* will give them 107 minutes of grade-A, exploitative trash that seems content to wallow in its own sleaze.

—Kyle Darbyson



Seven Psychopaths



*SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS* RANKS among the best films of this year. The film reunites director Martin McDonagh with lead actor Colin Farrell after 2008's *In Bruges*, and also features Sam Rockwell, Christopher Walken, Woody Harrelson, and Abbie Cornish.

The plot follows an alcoholic screenwriter (Farrell) who's trying to come up with his next project while dealing with his floundering relationship. He's helped and hindered by his best friend, an out-of-work actor (Rockwell) who helps run a scam to steal people's dogs and return them for the reward. But when they steal the beloved dog of a hot-tempered gangster (Harrelson), things get out of hand very quickly.

Much like McDonagh's last film, *Seven Psychopaths* is driven by its characters—in this case they are a naturally colourful mix of oddballs and gangsters who are often fully aware of their violent tendencies. The cast does a fantastic job, especially Rockwell, whose character will undoubtedly be a fan favourite among audiences for his off-the-cuff humour and contained craziness. We're also treated to a cameo by Tom Waits, who plays one of the psychopaths mentioned in the title.

*Seven Psychopaths* delights in taking seemingly random, unconnected events and tying them together so seamlessly that you stop disbelieving anything by the end of the movie. McDonagh's excellent writing fuses comedy with drama, violence with reflection, and the real with the surreal in a joyous experience of storytelling that you just didn't see coming.

—Kyle Climans



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# Me, my mom, and Alzheimer's

## 'I am my mother's caregiver'



illustration by Mathias MacPhee

Joanne Cave | Fulcrum Contributor

Some of my peers are motivated in university by grades, future salaries, or parental pressure. I'm motivated by something else—the desire to make something of myself early enough in my life so my mom will remember it.

### When your mom loses her memory

Fall 2011 marked the start of a particularly rough semester: the first semester of my third year at the University of Toronto. Not rough in the sense that you wrestle with too many readings and not enough time—rough in the sense that you very unexpectedly break up with your boyfriend, get 60 days' notice from your landlord, and start to realize your mom is losing her memory.

It started to click over Thanksgiving. I

tearfully arrived at the Toronto airport after sleeping in and missing my flight home to Edmonton for the long weekend (rough, right? I wasn't joking). Booking a later flight, I was so excited to spend time relaxing at home with my parents as a respite from the difficult semester I'd been going through. On the flight, I thought about my mom's homemade pumpkin pie and elaborate turkey dinner with a feeling of relief and satisfaction.

What I wasn't prepared for were the very visible signs of early-onset Alzheimer's I noticed in my mom—the woman I had always known as an adept and busy wife and working mother.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative disorder that attacks the brain's nerve cells. The damage results in loss of memory, thinking, and language skills and behavioral changes.

I drove to the grocery store three

times in one day, as my mom kept forgetting to add items to her list and I was sent out to get them. This time was for cranberry sauce.

"The doctor doesn't want her to drive anymore," my dad quietly told me.

Pulling into the grocery store's parking lot, I unexpectedly burst into tears. This wasn't the Mom I knew. I had never needed to take care of the woman who always took such good care of me. I made another 10 trips to the grocery store that weekend alone.

At the time, there was no diagnoses, but we knew for sure something was not right with my mom.

Throughout my visit, I learned about her coping mechanisms.

During the day, when my dad was at work, my mom would follow a specific routine to comfort herself. She would take local transit with her favourite bus driver, who would drop her off at her fa-

miliar grocery store. All of the cashiers knew her by name and had memorized our home phone number. When she shopped, she did so almost mechanically—saying hello to the cashiers, picking up ingredients for the same rotation of three to four dinners, and then once again boarding the bus. I caught her preparing dinner at 3 p.m., just to give herself something to do.

Later that weekend, as my parents and I watched the late-night news together, my mom turned to my dad.

"Where are you sleeping tonight?" she asked him, sounding slightly dazed.

My dad and I, as would become typical, exchanged startled looks. He grinned.

"I was hoping to sleep beside you—like I have for the past 20 years?"

On the drive back to the airport that weekend, my dad explained to me he had been noticing the symptoms for some time and was ready to take my mom to a

geriatric specialist. My usual excitement to return back to my school semester after a holiday break was replaced with an excruciating sense of guilt.

### A change of priorities

The following summer, I sat across from my mom on the patio of our favourite café, eating lunch. By that point she had been tested and officially diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's.

"This is so nice," she said, smiling at me. "This is just so nice. We like this place, don't we? What a nice place. I don't think I've ever been here before."

The depth of our conversations has changed dramatically since she first started showing signs of Alzheimer's. Our chats are often quite circular, with my mom repeating thoughts and stories multiple times. My dad and I talk politics; my mom and I talk about the weather.

"What I wasn't prepared for were the very visible signs of early-onset Alzheimer's I noticed in my mom—the woman I had always known as an adept and busy wife and working mother."

The symptoms of dementia and Alzheimer's are complex and not restricted to memory loss. My mom sometimes struggles to solve simple problems, rationalize situations, plan sequences of time, participate in social settings without anxiety or confusion, and find appropriate words to complete sentences. On multiple occasions, she has gotten lost in public places, or doesn't remember where she is or why she went there. Some days, simple daily tasks are near impossible for her to complete independently.

My credit card statements have started to show more flights home and fewer clothes and impulse purchases. I spend less time on Facebook and more time on the phone with my parents. But it doesn't matter to me—nothing could be more important than visiting my parents in person to see how my mom is doing. At this point, only going home once every four months is too large and distressing of a gap to handle.

One year after initially noticing symptoms of Alzheimer's in my mom, I returned home for Thanksgiving once again. My entire family now knows about my mom's condition, and is quietly sympathetic. This year, I helped my mom prepare Thanksgiving dinner, made decisions about what to start cooking first, and ensured we had all the ingredients we needed. I took her shopping, for walks around the neighbourhood, and to visit our friends and family. While I often feel the need to apologize on her behalf—her not-yet-greying hair doesn't help to explain her confusion or disorientation—I realize it's not an apology anyone should have to make.

My mom is happy, but shows signs of anxiety and frustration during the brief moments when she starts to realize the loss of agency in her own life. What's particularly scary is that my family can't seem to convey a lasting understanding to my mom about her condition. She expresses frustration with her doctors—she often doesn't understand why they ask her so many questions or make certain recommendations. My dad helps to mediate those conversations, but my mom has started to sense that she's living partially in the dark.

#### Thinking about the future

I've always known, with a strange mix of anxiety and teenage embarrassment, that my parents were getting older. My dad, in his early seventies, still works as a heavy-duty mechanic after recovering from two major heart attacks. My mom, in her early sixties, had been encouraged into early retirement because of her inability to keep up with the pace of her workplace.

It became especially daunting when my parents sat me down in our living room to talk about their wills and retirement savings. I quickly did the math in my head. I'm 20, my mom is 60. I'll—hopefully—have a decade before my brother and I need to start thinking about home care or assisted-living facili-

ties for our parents.

That's a decade I'll have before the guilt and sense of family obligation kicks in fully—that sense of obligation that pushes me to move closer to my parents and settle there long-term, to get the travel bug out of my system, and to start making “adult” choices. I want and need my mom to be lucid enough to see me

myself. Should I move home after I graduate? How long should I plan on living with my parents? What if I decide to go to graduate school abroad and my mom's condition deteriorates?

#### Dementia & Alzheimer's in Canada

Maybe your grandparents are starting

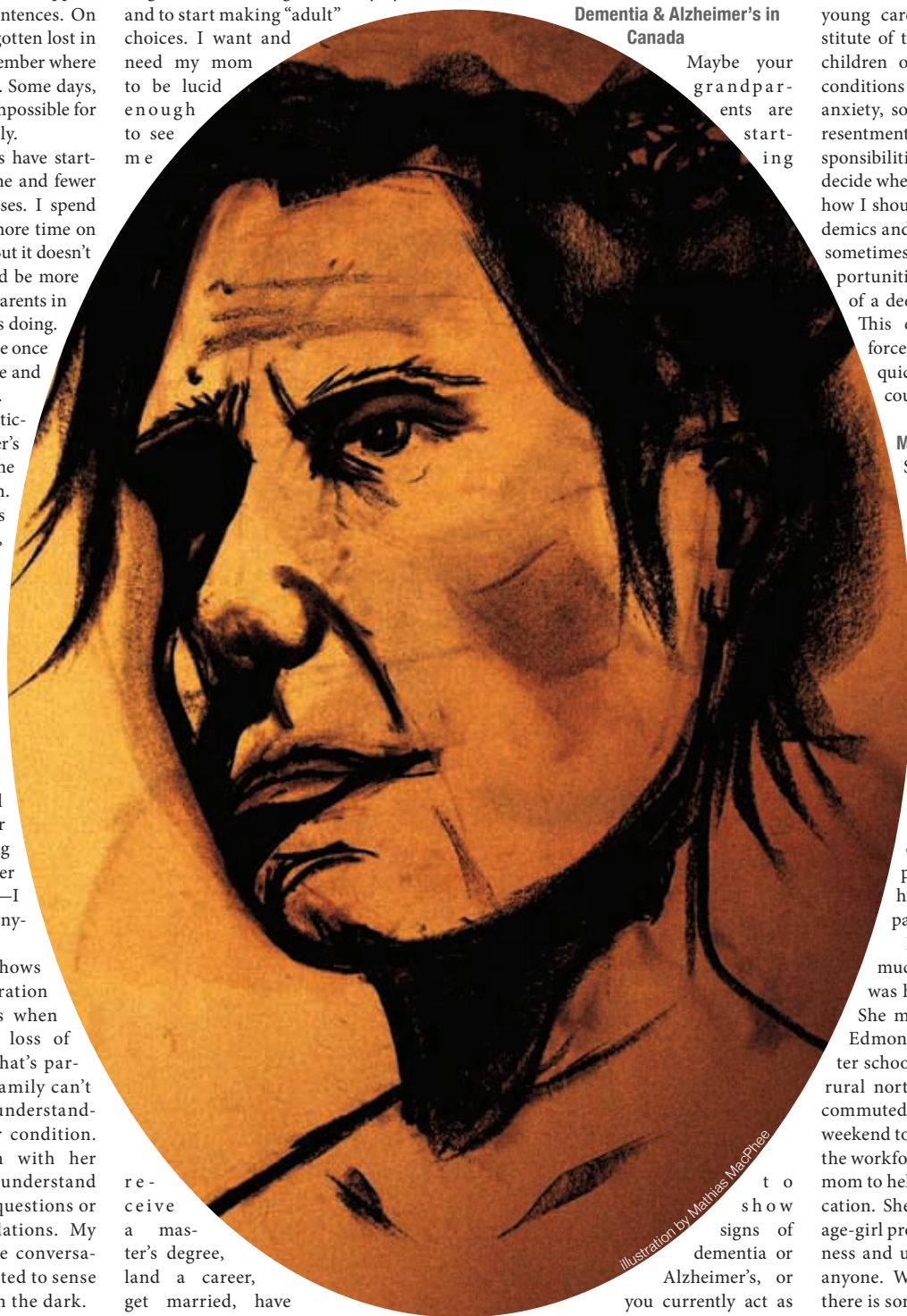


Illustration by Mathias MacPhee

receive a master's degree, land a career, get married, have children, and lead a happy and successful life. It is a difficult compromise: my sense of independence and newfound adulthood versus my growing sense of obligation to be my mom's informal caregiver. It's also a difficult reality to explain to my friends—if it's even a familiar situation to them, it's something they experience more distantly with their grandparents.

At an age when we are repeatedly told that our futures are ours and ours alone, it feels strange to start making decisions around someone other than

to show signs of dementia or Alzheimer's, or you currently act as an informal caregiver for another family member facing a degenerative condition or disease. According to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada, nearly 750,000 Canadians currently live with dementia or Alzheimer's, and this number will increase to nearly 1.5 million by 2031. Canadian policy makers are expressing concern

that the Canadian health-care system will not be able to keep up with the increasing caregiving demands of an aging population. Unlike many degenerative physical conditions, much of the support and treatment for individuals living with dementia or Alzheimer's often rests

with their families instead of the formal health-care system.

In 2011, family caregivers in Canada spent 444 million unpaid hours caring for loved ones with dementia according to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada. The effects are particularly profound for young caregivers. Ottawa's Vanier Institute of the Family reports that many children of parents with degenerative conditions face increased stress and anxiety, social isolation, and a sense of resentment about their caregiving responsibilities. Much like my struggle to decide where to move after graduation or how I should balance time between academics and family, young caregivers can sometimes feel like their choices or opportunities are compromised because of a deep sense of family obligation. This experience has undoubtedly forced me to grow up much more quickly than my move across the country for university did.

#### Moving forward

So, is the situation only going to get worse? Is my future as child of a parent with degenerative conditions destined to be one of compromise, sadness, and grief? I have no choice but to come to terms with what will be a very uncertain future.

My mom teaches me to live every day with patience, grace, and a deep sense of caring. To have a relationship with my mom as she is today, without using my childhood as a point of comparison, is a true exercise in humility, maturity, and compassion.

For years, my mom did so much to make sure our family was happy, healthy, and cared for. She moved my brother and me to Edmonton so we could attend better schools than what was available in rural northern Alberta. For years, we commuted two hours each way every weekend to visit my dad. She returned to the workforce after being a stay-at-home mom to help save for our university education. She listened to my trivial teenage-girl problems with a sense of gentleness and understanding unmatched by anyone. While her memory will fade, there is something that won't—her deep sense of respect and investment in the well-being of her family.

It's easy to grieve for what feels like a life-changing and unexpected loss, or to fear for the day my mom won't remember who I am. To only miss the person my mom once was feels dehumanizing and doesn't do her current self justice. It's also easy to be angry—not at anyone in particular, but at a circumstance that is both heartbreaking and deeply infuriating. In some ways, I have been robbed of my mother. She can't give me the rational, adult advice about graduate-school programs or future next steps that my friends' parents can provide with ease. Sooner than I ever imagined this would happen, I am my mother's caregiver—and that's okay.

#### By the numbers

An estimated 750,000 Canadians have Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Approximately 50,000 are under the age of 60.

17% of Canadians have someone with Alzheimer's disease in their immediate family.

Women make up almost three quarters of Canadians with Alzheimer's disease.

In just five years, as much as 50 per cent more Canadians and their families could be facing Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

Within one generation, the number of Canadians with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia will more than double, ranging between one and 1.3 million people.

36 per cent of Canadians know someone with Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's disease is the second most feared disease for Canadians as they age.

Source: The Alzheimer's Society of Canada and “Brain Health” Public Opinion Poll by Leger Marketing, 2006.

# the thryllabus

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

## Music

Nov. 1: Internal Bleeding, Fumigation, and Placentophagia play *The Rainbow* (76 Murray St.), 7 p.m.

Nov. 2: Three Crowns, The Afterimage, The Thirteenth Floor, and All Fallen Angels play *Club SAW* (67 Nicholas St.), 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 2: The Tom Fun Orchestra, The Stumbellas, and Jonathan Becker and the White Devils play *Café Dekcuf* (221 Rideau St.), 9 p.m.

Nov. 5: Crown the Empire, Horizons, Of Reverie, I Am King, and Letters From the Princess play *Mavericks* (221 Rideau St.), 6 p.m.

Nov. 6: King Conquer, Aegaeon, Legion, The Last Ten Seconds of Life, Torn Apart by Wolves, and Infiltration play *Mavericks* (221 Rideau St.), 6 p.m.

Nov. 7: Gallows, Barn Burner, Swarm of Spheres, and Cut the Kids in Half play *Mavericks* (221 Rideau St.), 7 p.m.

Nov. 10: Citizen, State Champs, and Candy Hearts play *Pressed* (750 Gladstone Ave.), 8 p.m.

## Film

Nov. 1–4: Free Thinking Film Festival at the Library and Archives Canada (395 Wellington St.)

Nov. 2: *The Bay* released to theatres

Nov. 2: *The Stories We Tell* plays at the Bytowne Cinema (325 Rideau St.), 4:30 p.m.

Nov. 6: *Killer Joe* plays at the Mayfair Theatre (1074 Bank St.), 9:30 p.m.

Nov. 8: *Robert & Frank* plays at the Bytowne Cinema (325 Rideau St.), 4:45 p.m.

Nov. 9: *Skyfall* released to theatres

Nov. 10: *The Room* plays at the Mayfair Theatre (1074 Bank St.), 10:45 p.m.

## Visual art

Now–Dec. 2: *Prairie Companion* displayed at Cube Gallery (1285 Wellington St. W.)

Nov. 2–25: *Exquisite Corpse* displayed at La Petite Mort Gallery (306 Cumberland St.)

## Theatre

Now–Nov. 3: *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* plays at the NAC Theatre (53 Elgin St.)

Now–Nov. 3: Linden House Theatre Company presents *You Never Can Tell* at Elmwood School (261 Buena Vista Rd.)

Now–Nov. 3: *Julius Caesar* plays at the Centrepointe Studio Theatre (101 Centrepointe Dr.)

Now–Nov. 3: *The Death of Dracula* plays at the Gladstone Theatre (910 Gladstone Ave.)

Nov. 3–9: *Cinderella* plays at the Arts Court Theatre (2 Daly Ave.)

## Sports

Nov. 2: Men's and women's swimming: Gee-Gees compete in quad meet at Montpetit Hall (125 University Pvt.), 6 p.m.

Nov. 3: Women's hockey: Gee-Gees play the McGill University Martlets at the Minto Sports Complex (801 King Edward Ave.), 2 p.m.

Nov. 3: Women's volleyball: Gee-Gees play the University of Guelph Gryphons at Montpetit Hall (125 University Pvt.), 2 p.m.

Nov. 3: Men's hockey: Gee-Gees play the York University Lions at the Minto Sports Complex (801 King Edward Ave.), 7 p.m.

Nov. 4: Men's hockey: Gee-Gees play the University of Guelph Gryphons at the Minto Sports Complex (801 King Edward Ave.), 2 p.m.

Nov. 10: Women's vol-

leyball: Gee-Gees play the Brock University Badgers at Montpetit Hall (125 University Pvt.), 2 p.m.

## Miscellaneous Events

Nov 1–30: Movember! Visit [Ca.movember.com](http://Ca.movember.com) to learn more.



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photo by Justin Labelle

## Semifinal success

# Gee-Gees soccer team moving forward in playoffs

Spencer Van Dyk | Fulcrum Staff

Despite playing in the cold rain and wind, the University of Ottawa women's soccer team have maintained their undefeated record, beating the Carleton University Ravens 1-0 on Oct. 28 in the semifinal game of the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) playoffs.

The Gee-Gees played a consistent first half, with striker Pilar Khoury scoring with eight minutes remaining before halftime.

"It feels great," she said. "All season I've been wanting to contribute and help out the team, so it feels good to get the winner here."

Carleton, despite playing a strong game, were unsuccessful in scoring a goal in the second half of the game. Khoury said that despite Sunday's weather, the Gee-Gees played a solid game.

"I think we came out really hard and strong," she said. "We have to give credit to Carleton: they fought hard, but in the end we were able to pull through and win 1-0. I think we kept it together."

Gee-Gees head coach Steve Johnson agreed, saying the team played a much better game than at their previous match

against Trent University on Oct. 14, where despite a 9-0 win, he was dissatisfied with their actual play.

"We had a better performance than we did against Trent, despite that our score may not have reflected that," said Johnson. "Both had difficult field conditions, because the other one was raining, but this one was a game that meant something. It was sudden death to determine who would go through to the championships. The other one, we had already clenched first place, so I think that that game did not have the same desire that this one did. Here we were able to be more emotionally involved in the game without panicking or

losing ourselves." Johnson said that despite not having generated as many shots as he had hoped for, he feels confident going forward.

losing ourselves."

Johnson said that despite not having generated as many shots as he had hoped for, he feels confident going forward.

"I think this was the game that I was worried about because you don't get another chance," he said. "When you go to the OUA finals, only three of the four teams will go to nationals, so there your percentages and your odds are much better. We're a good enough team that we should be able to win one of those matches."

Khoury said she believes the team could do well at the upcoming finals.

"We've been preparing for this since

last year, so it is an amazing feeling knowing that we have a chance to go back to nationals," she said. "We are not taking it lightly. Our opponents are only going to get tougher from here."

"We have to give credit to Carleton: they fought hard, but in the end we were able to pull through and win 1-0. I think we kept it together."

—Pilar Khoury  
U of O striker

The Gee-Gees will host the OUA Final Four this weekend, starting on Nov. 3. The final teams are the Queen's University Gaels, currently ranked second from the east division; the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks, and the McMaster Marauders, both from the west. These are the same teams that participated in last season's Final Four tournament. The Gee-Gees will kick off against McMaster on Saturday at 11 a.m.

# Three Gee-Gees given RSEQ all-star nod

## Meng, MacCormack and Savary among the best in league

Maclaine Chadwick | Fulcrum Staff

AFTER THEIR SEASON ended in a semifinal game against the Université Laval, where the Rouge et Or defeated the Gee-Gees 32-13—three University of Ottawa players were honoured by the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) as league all-star players.

Fifth-year Sarah Meng, a consistently strong player who was given her first all-star nod in 2008, her rookie year, was

voted best centre player by the RSEQ and given her second all-star title.

"She works harder than anybody else," said rugby coach Sue Chaulk of Meng's performance this year. "She is passionate about being a great player, and that shows every time she puts her foot on the field."

For the second year in a row, fourth-year centre Allison MacCormack was recognized as being one of the best in the league, particularly for her speed, but

Chaulk also credits her as being the "Energiizer Bunny" of the team.

"Allison is that player that, once you turn the 'on' switch, it's hard to turn her off," said Chaulk. "This year she came together and became that three-dimensional player. In the past, her defence was good, but it certainly wasn't sterling, and this year it was exceptional."

Simone Savary, who plays backrow, was the third Gee-Gee to get a spot on the RSEQ all-star team, which is particularly

significant given Savary's rookie status.

Chaulk explained that it is rare for a backrow rookie to be given all-star status, "particularly in [her] position, because that's a highly competitive position."

"She's a very intelligent player," said Chaulk. "She's very focused and intent in what she does, but in an unusually relaxed way for a rookie."

Unfortunately for rugby fans, the RSEQ doesn't host an all-star game featuring these players. For some Gee-Gees,

including Meng, this means their days of playing university rugby ended in the semifinal game.

The Concordia Stingers emerged as champions of RSEQ rugby and will be representing RSEQ in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport nationals this upcoming weekend at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. The Gee-Gees took fourth place in the league, with eight points and a season record of 4-3.

# Lockout lowdown

Canadians weigh in on how the NHL can avoid work stoppages and save the season

Daniel LeRoy | Fulcrum Contributor

NO STATISTICS ARE needed to show how much the nation is hurting from the NHL lockout. To us Canucks, hockey is as Canadian as the red maple leaf.

Given that hockey is such a big part of many Canadians' lives, the NHL lockout has hit hard and left many people looking for answers.

"I feel like most Canadians will be affected by the lockout in some way," says Alex Murata, a die-hard NHL fan and communications student at the University of Ottawa. "At the most basic level, everyone knows a hockey fan ... It's intense to think about how popular hockey really is in this country and to see all the little ways it's tied into our lives."

The main issue of the lockout is a debate over revenue share between teams, owners, and players.

Let's look at the example of the Phoenix Coyotes, who have a stadium filled to quarter capacity on average nights and tickets being sold for almost half the price of the average Montreal Canadiens game. This means that a lot of money has to be transferred from Montreal to Phoenix to ensure that the Coyotes can compete with "Les Glorieux" when they hit the ice together.

This is commonplace, though, because after the 1994-95 NHL lockout—the first of three since Gary Bettman took over as league commissioner in the early '90s—it was agreed that a percentage of the revenue taken in by the top 10 teams would be shared amongst the bottom 15. This is what allows teams to survive in areas where hockey is less

popular. To compare, the Coyotes lost an estimated \$16 million last season and are competing against teams like the Habs, who gained \$70 million.

This poses a question: Why should Canadian NHL cities, most of which are in the top 10 in the league for revenue, pay for a relatively small number of fans living in cities like Phoenix, AZ and Columbus, OH to go to a game for lower costs?

Trevor Drummond, commentator for the McGill Redmen and sports contributor to the *McGill Tribune*, says the issue can and should be solved not by constantly giving the employees (players) less money, but by moving the teams to locations where they'll be profitable.

"I would move them from where they can't make money to where they can," says Drummond, who also adds that of the six or so teams that should be moved right now, at least four of them should be moved to Canada for economic reasons alone.

With all this said, why is there yet another lockout? Well, the players have been asked to take another cut in salary so that the team owners in those downtrodden markets can keep more of the money for themselves.

The players feel that it's unfair, which is understandable. It also seems unfair to the Canadians who count on the action of the country's seven NHL teams to lighten its long and dreary winter months. Fans and analysts would agree that if Bettman were to move the 10 NHL teams that are losing money north of the border to profitable cities like



photo illustration by Mico Mazza

Quebec City, Markham, and Hamilton, it could solve a lot of problems and a lockout wouldn't be necessary.

"I'd love to see some of the struggling American teams move up north," says Murata. "When you hear stories about free tickets being handed out with the purchase of a case of beer in the southeast division and see [only] 9,000 strong at a [Columbus] Blue Jackets game, it seems like an obvious decision." f

## Gee-Gees lose in overtime

Men's hockey team clinches third place in OUA East

Maclaine Chadwick | Fulcrum Staff

AFTER WINNING AN emotional game against crosstown rivals the Carleton University Ravens on Oct. 26, the University of Ottawa men's hockey team lost their second game of the weekend to the Université du Québec à Trois Rivières (UQTR) Patriotes 3-2.

Although the Gees managed to tie the match up on two occasions, it was a goal scored only 53 seconds into overtime by UQTR defenceman Raphaël Boudreau that ended the Gees' second game against the visitors from Trois Rivières.

Gee-Gees head coach Réal Paiement said he thought the team simply came out flat, especially in comparison to the winning game they played against Carleton earlier that same weekend.

"Today wasn't a question of a lot of mistakes; we came out flat and they stepped on us," Paiement explained. "When you look at the stats and you are behind on everything—behind on shots, behind on face-offs, behind on scoring chances, behind on hits, it's usually because you are behind the [entire] play by a fraction of a second."

Both Gee-Gee goals—from defenceman Dominic Jalbert at 11:04 in the first period and forward Mathieu Ouellette at 4:13 in the third—were scored on power plays where the Gees capitalized on the one-man advantage. Despite this, Paiement cited



The Gee-Gees fell to UQTR in overtime

photo by Justin Labelle

power plays as the number one aspect of the game he wants to see improved.

"We need to improve our power play, partly to give us some relief sometime. The games when we get it to work, it works well, so we need to really improve that part of the game," explained Paiement.

Even though the Gee-Gees are still working on some areas of their game, penalty killing isn't one of them—the Gees killed six of UQTR's seven power plays. However, Paiement wouldn't consider penalty kills the team's greatest skill.

"Our number one asset would be our balance," he said. "We don't have the big star; we are just a hard-working team.

When we work hard and execute, we do pretty well."

The loss, which gives the Gees one point, pushed UQTR into second place with 10 points in the Ontario University Athletics East standings, while the Gee-Gees sit closely behind at third place with nine points. The University of Toronto Varsity Blues hold the first-place spot with 11 points.

The Gee-Gees play back-to-back home games this weekend, taking on the York University Lions on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. and the University of Guelph Gryphons on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. at the Minto Sports Complex. f



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# Meet a Gee-Gee

Tyler Sawyer | Football

Maclaine Chadwick | Fulcrum Staff

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

**MEET TYLER SAWYER:** fifth-year linebacker, human kinetics student, and poster boy for University of Ottawa football. In an email interview with the *Fulcrum*, Sawyer told us about his plans after graduation, his favorite memory at the U of O, and football’s unofficial team mascot.

**The Fulcrum: What will you miss the most about playing football for the U of O?**

Tyler Sawyer: The camaraderie of playing with my teammates.

**Do people ever recognize you from the poster on the side of the Sports Complex?**

All the time!

**What are your plans after graduation?**

To keep living the dream. I would like to coach and pass on my knowledge.

**My team members would vote me “most likely to \_\_\_\_\_”**

Be the original prankster.

**On a Sunday afternoon, you can find**

me\_\_\_\_\_.

In sweats, watching the old pigskin.

**If I didn’t play football, I would be\_\_\_\_\_.**

Running track and field.

**What is something that most people would be surprised to know about you?**

I like elephants.

**What is your favorite memory of the U of O aside from football?**

Carrying my cooler of food around campus and eating in class.

**Is it true that you kept a goldfish in the locker room last season?**

Every year! Unfortunately this season on day three of camp, it was gone. [There was a] tank full of water, but no fish.

**What is your motto/words to live by?**

“Get to vs. got to” and live the dream.

**If you had one word to sum up the 2012–2013 season, what would it be and why?**

Together. What we did as a team together...Words cannot even describe the emotion behind it.

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



photo by S. Costanzo

## MISSION NUTRITION | YOU & MUNCHIES @ Midterm munchies

Britta Schiemann | Fulcrum Contributor

**WELCOME TO MIDTERMS:** when sleeping hours decrease, caffeine intake skyrockets, and snack habits are in full force.

The occasional study snack seems harmless, but during this stressful time of year, it’s counterproductive to try to fuel your body with junk food. What your body needs is food packed with nutrients and energy to keep you going without crashing after a few hours.

Instead of grabbing a sugary energy drink and a bag of chips for your next cram session, try one of these healthy snack ideas that will give you the fuel you need to ace those midterms. The key is adding protein and healthy fats whenever you can—they keep your tummy from rumbling and satisfy you more.

**Trail mix**

This is a great snack because the protein in nuts and seeds will keep you full for long periods of time. Control what goes into your trail mix by choosing your own ingredients (Bulk Barn has a great selection). That way you are eating exactly what you want, and it may even spare you a few dollars, because pre-packaged trail mix can be mighty expensive. If you want, you can even toss a few chocolate chips in there to satisfy

your sweet tooth.

**Hummus and carrots**

Easy, popular, and always a good idea. Hummus—made primarily from chickpeas—gives you protein, and the carrots are loaded with vitamins and fibre.

**Apple slices and almond butter**

You know what they say—an apple a day keeps the doctor away! To make this a little more exciting, you can slice your apple, add almond butter, and sprinkle a bit of cinnamon on top. Trust me, it makes all the difference.

**Rice cakes with nut butter and jam**

The rice cakes don’t add a lot of nutritional value, but they sure make up for that in crunchiness! Take two rice cakes, put a dollop of nut butter on top, and add some toppings. Jam is always a go-to, but you can be creative with honey, chocolate chips, shredded coconut, or whatever your heart desires.

**Protein pudding**

In a bowl, mix together one scoop of your favourite protein powder and 2/3 cup of yogurt. If you are using Greek yogurt, you might want to add a few splashes of milk (almond, soy, dairy, etc.) to give it a creamy consistency. Add any toppings you like—fresh berries and nuts are great—and enjoy!



This paper ain’t big enough for the both of us!

Check out [thefulcrum.ca](http://thefulcrum.ca) for online exclusives about the women’s hockey game and coverage of the Jack Donohue basketball tournament



stick figures hand drawn by Maclaine Chadwick

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When you're young you just want to fit in and try new things. For me, that new thing was drugs.

I started with marijuana. Then add. K&K and morphine.  
I started moving toward from there and before you know it I'm a 21 year old prostitute trying to support a crack habit. Then it happened.  
I had a baby. I wanted an abortion but I got thrown in jail before I could do it. That gave me time to think. When I got out I knew what I had to do. So I started to help me find what I'd been missing. My self-esteem. Today I'm 3 years clean and have a beautiful baby girl.



That's the war on drugs The Salvation Army helped me win.



## It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a...

illustration by Kyle Hansford

### Superhero showdown

SUPERHEROES ARE LIKE colours, ice cream flavours, and bands—we all have a favourite. Whether it's because they're relatable, mysterious, the most powerful, or just the best damn superhero out there, there's something about a cape-wearing good guy (or girl) saving the day that gets us every time. With the explosion of Comic-Con, countless superhero action movies, and comic book memorabilia, it's no secret we're all obsessed with a good adventure story. So, we've decided to battle it out and find out once and for all which superhero is the best. Pitting the good guys against each other, with some villains thrown into the mix, the *Fulcrum* takes a look at our favourite action stars.

#### Lara Croft

She's athletic; she's smart; she can leap a 50-foot gap and grab onto a tiny ledge without a single hair falling out of place. Oh, and she's hot.

I first fell in love with Ms. Croft in her most pixelated form—that's right, back in the days of *Tomb Raider Chronicles*, when Lara's curvy figure was admittedly a little fuzzy around the edges, and her boobs looked a little... pointy. But don't judge a book by its cover, right? After countless hours glued to my computer screen, I soon discovered the vast and varied talents this foxy femme was capable of. She could traverse a Roman empire in what could only be described as a slow sprint without getting winded, swan dive with perfect form and a rip entry every time, and wile the answers out of villains with her cunning and trademark cat-like side-glance. Who wouldn't hand over the artifact or drop their Uzi when

faced with such a formidable female?

Over the years, Lara and I have grown together. She can now ride motorcycles, swim with sharks, and do all sorts of other things that make her even cooler than she once was... which was pretty damn cool. Plus, she's a girl, and the male-dominated career field of superhero needs more of those!

Lara Croft may not be able to fly, save children from falling boulders, or scale a high-rise building, but who needs that when you have a fly body, sexy British accent, and skills so smoking those tombs practically raid themselves?

—Julia Fabian

#### Catwoman

Move over, Batman—there's a new superhero in town. Catwoman, the classy cat burglar who always seems to have more than nine lives, is always my first choice when it comes to superheroes. Although more befitting of the title of antihero than star of the show, this villain-turned-good-girl has more mad skills than Batman or any other DC Comics personality, making her the best-ever superhero.

Going by the name Selina Kyle when out of costume, Catwoman's story is compelling. Choosing a life of good after having been a thief and prostitute, Kyle demonstrates that anyone can overcome obstacles and still land on their feet. And unlike some other superheroes, Kyle doesn't rely on mysterious gifts bestowed upon her through some freak accident. Instead, she takes up martial arts and relies on her street smarts and intelligence to get by. She shows that she's just a regular person

who's ready to do good in Gotham City. At first she's a little more than a nuisance to Batman, and at times plays the villain, but ultimately Catwoman joins forces with the light.

This cool cat is stronger and more down-to-earth than any other male or female superhero, and she doesn't need nine lives to prove it. One is more than enough—but a woman always comes prepared.

—Sofia Hashi

#### Green Arrow: the biggest bad-ass

I will admit, I have a mild obsession with superheroes with bow and arrows. Robin Hood, Hawkeye, Speedy, Huntress—they are all amazingly awesome. How cool is it when you see a superhero shoot down a bad guy with an arrow with the same precision as someone using a gun? The bow and arrow is an ancient weapon, but there are a number of deep and brooding modern heroes who happen to be skilled archers.

The best of this sharp-shooting bunch is without a doubt Green Arrow. How can you not love him? Born as a rich boy, he makes it his mission to fight the crime and social injustice plaguing his city. He becomes a grittier version of Robin Hood—doing what is right, but sometimes not in the best way.

Green Arrow is the best superhero because he has no true superpower, yet manages to be incredibly accurate with his shot; this means he can be any ordi-

nary person—even you! His wide variety of trick arrows and his kick-ass costume make him even more awesome!

With the new TV series *Arrow* focusing on his birth as a hero, and reimagining Green Arrow's backstory, being a fan of our favourite hero in green is only going to get cooler.

—Andrew Ikeman

#### Robin

I'm not a superhero connoisseur by any means, but I did grow up watching the original *Batman* TV series. While everyone else was busy idolizing the show's main character, I was always more partial to his trusty sidekick: Robin.

Robin is the prototypical best friend that we should all aspire to be. He may not be as big and strong as his Gotham-saving counterpart, but he did everything a friend could be expected to do, short of helping Batman pick his outfits in the morning. He was one of the most dependable sidekicks ever! Except for in the 1997 series reboot film *Batman & Robin* when he fell in love with Alicia Silverstone against George Clooney's wishes and then drove his motorcycle off a city bridge during a drag race against gangsters. But we all get one, right?

There are two lessons we should take from Robin's example. First, it's important to be there for your friends whenever they need you. Second, wearing astonishingly skimpy tights is acceptable when you're out doing the public good.

—Darren Sharp

#### Hellboy

The best superheroes aren't heroes. The superhero genre suffers from its own sense of invincibility. Sure, Superman kicked the bucket during his rumble with doomsday, but the continual cycle of demise and resurrection so prevalent in mainstream comic books renders many superfolk thin as cardboard.

Therefore, I nominate Hellboy, the half-man half-demon brainchild of Mike Mignola, as the best "superhero." This character exists in a surreal, modern world that is plagued by supernatural forces. Here, Mignola has done his research and weaves a rich tapestry of human mythology from art and literature. At the centre of all this sits Hellboy, the brooding anti-hero who saves humanity one exorcism at a time with the help of the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense. Surrounding Hellboy is a quirky cast of characters including an ectoplasmic man and a homunculus named Roger. The comics aren't just an action show either; much of the story includes philosophical dialogues combined with beautiful artwork, painting a darker and richer atmosphere than what is seen in most comics.

For those looking for a superhero with substance, class, and a stone fist of brute force, look no further than Hellboy. Oh, and literary critics love Hellboy too; writer Joyce Carol Oates commented "In the ruins of the American empire, what more appropriate figure of salvation/damnation [exists] than Mike Mignola's Hellboy?"

—Mathias MacPhee

# Justin Trudeau—more than just a name?

## Spotlight on a potential prime minister

Daniel Le Roy | Fulcrum Staff

Justin Trudeau. No matter which province they live in, anyone who has taken an eighth-grade Canadian politics class will recognize the name. They'll also attach the thought of this man to the golden age of Canada. When we hear the name Trudeau, the bright red colours of the Liberal Party come to mind. We recall the image of Pierre Elliott Trudeau sitting at the table with Queen Elizabeth II, bringing into existence the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms with our beautiful red and white flag waving in the background. We think of a man who brought in the Multiculturalism Act and the Official Languages Act, oversaw the first Olympic Games in Canada, and faced the worst acts of terrorism on Canadian soil since the Fenian Raids of the 1860s, with the Front de libération du Québec [FLQ] crisis. Just seeing a photo of Pierre Elliott Trudeau is a moving reminder of all he did for this country—a reminder



photo illustration by Mathias MacPhee

of his conviction for a united and distinct Canada.

In short, if Justin Trudeau wins the Liberal leadership contest, you won't be seeing any ads of him "rolling up his sleeves" to present himself to us, unlike the new leader of the official opposition, Thomas Mulcair—those won't be necessary. But should we really be allowing ourselves to become so incredibly reminiscent to the point that we give a default electoral landslide to a candidate just because his father inspired us?

A snap Forum poll taken a couple of weeks ago gave the New Democratic Party 35 per cent of the vote, 31 per cent to the Tories, and 21 per cent to the Grits. When Forum asked the same people who they would vote for if Trudeau were the Liberal leader, the Liberals' 30 seats rose to a total of over 160, giving them a comfortable majority government. Quite the difference one man can make.

But is it really the man that provoked this change of opinion? Or is it the name? Now, I'm not saying we shouldn't vote for Trudeau because he isn't his father; I'm saying that this is the reason we should vote for him. We should get to know Trudeau outside of his father's shadow and legacy. Who is he? What makes him tick? What are his grand visions for our great land?

It is more likely than not that Trudeau-mania will sweep our country again in 2015. I just hope that if this 40-year-old man becomes our 23rd prime minister, he will be able to whip out a vision worthy of our great nation. With environmental degradation worsening at an alarming rate and the confluence of other issues plaguing an otherwise great country, like national depression rates at 25 per cent, we deserve more than a prime minister who simply reminds us of a glorious past. We deserve a prime minister who can create a glorious future.

## Perspectives

### I'm not entitled

Sofia Hashi | Fulcrum Staff

HOW MUCH WOULD you pay for a piece of paper? Probably not that much, but what if that piece of paper came with a lifetime guarantee of steady work and a salary? Then it might be well worth the investment. Too bad most twentysomethings today don't feel the same way.

The paper I'm talking about is your degree—the one most university students slave away for four or five years to get, all with the dream of landing a job afterward. Unfortunately, those dreams are just that—dreams.

Recently, the *Globe and Mail* came out with a report on recent graduates' or almost-graduates' job prospects. The

bleak and dreary images presented, while not new, are still disheartening to read. According to the report, Canadian youth unemployment sits at 19.6 per cent, the highest it's been in 15 years. For young Canadians hoping to establish a life far away from their parents' basements, it might be a more difficult undertaking than it was in the past.

What makes it worse is that the financial numbers just don't match up. Paul Kershaw, a professor from the University of British Columbia, found that while the average young Canadian couple's income has risen only five per cent in the past 36 years, housing prices have skyrocketed 76 per cent—hardly a promising prognosis.

Although the stories we university

students hear may all be doom and gloom, there is always a glimmer of hope. With the natural influx of the job market, a lot of baby boomers should be retiring, leaving a major gap to be filled by the next bright-eyed generation.

The problem is that with the economy's current state and rising living costs, it doesn't seem as if that gap will open up anytime soon. And recent graduates will find that most jobs offered are temporary, or are contract positions that don't offer security, a steady income, or benefits. This, coupled with the stag-

gering debts most students accumulate throughout their university career, means that most young Canadians will find themselves delaying a lot of their firsts—first real career, first car, first house... the list goes on.

“We're the most educated generation ever, but clearly education doesn't equate to a profession.”

proof. The lie we were told as high schoolers is that a university degree will set you up for a comfortable life. A quick glance at our prospects implies that it was just that—a lie.

We're the most educated generation ever, but clearly education doesn't equate to a profession. We're living



To those who say we're whiners and entitled, I say we're not. Something has to change, whether it's companies offering more on-the-job training for young employees, or the government giving incentives to businesses that hire young workers. Universities could help by offering more co-op or apprenticeship programs to ensure their students graduate with some job experience.

Most twentysomethings I know are actively seeking work. From networking, constantly applying to jobs, and working at internships that don't pay, it's clear that we're trying. Let's just promise to keep trying and hope that something does change—and quick. After all, we can't be basement babies forever.

# Bye bye feminism

## Why don't women want to be feminists?

Sofia Hashi | Fulcrum Staff

FEMINISM. IT'S A word that has seemingly become quite offensive to many people. Packing more of a punch than the original F word itself, these eight letters denote a social theory that many young women are distancing themselves from. But why should women be afraid of feminism? Why shouldn't we want to label ourselves as feminists or stand up for women's rights? It seems as if there's an anti-movement going on right now, and it's subtler than you think. This movement is our fear of feminism.

Many powerful women have come out to say that they would not like to be labelled as feminists. Music star Taylor Swift, French actor Juliette Binoche, and Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer have all tossed the term out the window. Lady Gaga, too, was quoted as saying, "I'm not a feminist. I hail men, I love men, I celebrate American male culture and beer and bars and muscle cars."

While Lady Gaga is certainly no authority on the topic, she is a powerful and successful woman in the public eye. Many young girls look up to such women, and we do take into account the image they're selling—which, in this case, isn't feminism friendly.

So what happened to the golden age of girl power? Did it disappear with the previous generation, to be forgotten as a



illustration by Mathias MacPhee

The new F word

thing of the past?

The short answer is yes and no. We women have fallen into a false sense of security. We've won; in Canada, we're protected under the law and legally en-

titled to the same rights and freedoms as men are. We can do anything we please now. Wear pants. Check. Pursue higher education. Check. Wear skirts. Check. Be a stay-at-home mom. Check. We have

endless choices, and that's all thanks to the feminist movement. But have we really won?

According to Statistics Canada, as of 2008, full-time working women still earn 71 cents less per hour than their male counterparts. Women are also two and a half times more likely than men to experience the worst kinds of violence, including being beaten, choked, sexually assaulted, or threatened with a knife or gun. The statistics are staggering—and these figures are just in Canada. Can you imagine the numbers for the rest of the world?

There are those who say feminism isn't compatible with being a humanist. You can't be a feminist if you celebrate male culture. That's not true. Being a feminist simply means that you advocate for women's rights on a social, political, and economic level. It's not a guys-versus-girls sort of deal. In fact, all feminists are looking for is equality.

Feminism isn't a thing of the past, and does belong in the 21st century. So, go ahead and call me a feminist. I'm not afraid.

## Heckles

## Getcho own dawg!

Julia Fabian | Fulcrum Staff

NOT ONCE BUT twice have I been told by random people on the street that my dog has to pee. Sound ridiculous? I thought so too. I was walking in Sandy Hill a couple of weeks ago, minding my own business, when my Chihuahua-mix, Pepa, stopped to take a leisurely sniff of a flowerbed. I indulged her for a bit, then gently tugged her away to keep going, as we had places to be. As we started back on our way, I heard some guy on the lawn of a house yell to me, "Your dog needs to pee!"

First of all, woah, buddy. Lower your voice. This guy seemed so angry at the perceived bladder-denying injustice

that he felt he was perfectly within his rights to call me out on it—loudly.

Second of all, no, she didn't. Pepa had done her business—with ample time given by me to choose the most appropriate blade of grass, I might add—about two lampposts back. The fact that it was out of this guy's line of sight was hardly my fault.

As I didn't see arguing with a stranger over my dog's urinary function a good enough reason to be late for the friend I was on my way to visit, I said nothing and kept walking as the guy muttered under his breath behind me.



dogs go four or five times on a single walk, you know."

Yes, I do know. I know that because I give my dog two long walks a day, during which she often goes pee 10 times! I know that because I adopted her months ago and have learned her peeing habits like I have learned my phone number. I know that an, "I gotta go" grass-sniff is different from an, "I think there's chicken here somewhere" one. I know that when she gives me the big brown eyes and looks

towards the back door of my house, it means, "Let me out, Mama."

Look, I have nothing against well-meaning people. I, too, cringe when I see an animal injustice, like a dog in a hot car or a dog being dragged along the sidewalk in a too-tight choke chain. But please, get your facts straight before you open your mouth and don't tell good pet owners how to do their job. The truth is that I strive to be the most loving, most responsible, and best pet owner I can possibly be to Pepa.

So instead of these people trying to tell me what's what, why don't they put their good intentions (and I am giving them the benefit of the doubt here) to good use. Volunteer at a local shelter if you want to make a difference—they always seem to be looking. If you truly love pets, give a better life to one, like I did. But for the love of dog—leave me alone!



It was not three days later when it happened again, this time downtown, with a different flowerbed and different person. I can't help but wonder where are all these misguided animal activists coming from? These incidents were increasingly pissing me off (pardon the pun), so this time I replied, "She actually just went." A true statement. The man then replied quite strongly, "Some

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## Dear Di...

**Dear Di,**  
*Have you heard of autofellatio? Is it dangerous to try? I'm interested in the possibility of sucking myself off. I think I could do a pretty good job, but I'm also a little grossed out by the thought of tasting my own cum. Not sure how to proceed here, Di—what should I do?*

—Off On My Own?

Dear OOMO,  
 Of course I've heard of autofellatio—what good sex columnist hasn't? The name is pretty self-explanatory, but for those who don't know, autofellatio is a blow job that a man gives himself.

There's nothing dangerous about your mouth coming into contact with your member. What can be tricky, and potentially risky, are the acrobatics necessary to get into a position where your lips reach your love stick. A 1954 study reported that less than one per cent of men can successfully perform a front bend that would allow their mouths to peck their peckers. Getting a whole wiener down one's own throat is a feat only three in 1000 men can perform.

The front bend, however, is not the only way to get your tool to the tip of your tongue. Get gravity on your side. If you lie on your bed and can swing your legs up and over your head, your schlong will be dangling right over your mouth. Whether or not you can maintain that position for long enough to suck yourself off is another story.

How else can you achieve prick



**Nerdy/Dirty Pick-up Line:**

Want to reenact the Battle of the Bulge?

to pie-hole nirvana? Training! Regularly practicing gymnastics or yoga may make it possible to successfully get what you want from yourself.

As for the ick factor, you'll probably find out exactly where you stand on tasting your own cum when it happens. It's perfectly healthy to swallow your own load, but if the thought makes you cringe, be prepared to get your mouth away from your penis when you feel you're about to blow. In the heat of the moment, you may find yourself willing to take a taste. Some men find it super erotic, and finishing off inside a wet, warm mouth is arguably more enjoyable than just jerking it at the end. If you can comfortably get your soldier into your smacker, you may find yourself loving the process and the results.

I recommend enjoying yourself fully.

Love,  
 Di

**Dear Di,**  
*How can I convince my boyfriend to snowball with me? I really think the idea of passing his cum from my mouth to his and back is super sexy, but I'm afraid to approach him because he might think I'm weird and gross. Should I just go for it one night after he's had an orgasm in my mouth?*

—Snowballing

Dear S,  
 If you haven't yet approached him about this, it could be risky to suddenly surprise your guy with his own splooge right when he's coming down from an orgasm. Is there something to suggest he might be game? If he's normally willing to kiss

you after you give head, I say next time go ahead and try leaving a little bit of his love juice in your mouth. Swirl the cum around his tongue with yours, moan a bit to show how much it turns you on, and gauge his reaction.

If, on the other hand, he always insists that you brush your teeth and gargle with Scope before he'll get anywhere near your lips post-BJ, you're better off broaching the subject before your next session in the sack.

There are various ways to bring this up while leaving yourself an easy-out in case he does end up finding it kinda weird. You can try finding porn that depicts what you want to do, then see how he reacts as you watch it together. Another option is to ask him about his fantasies and listen with an open mind before telling him about yours.

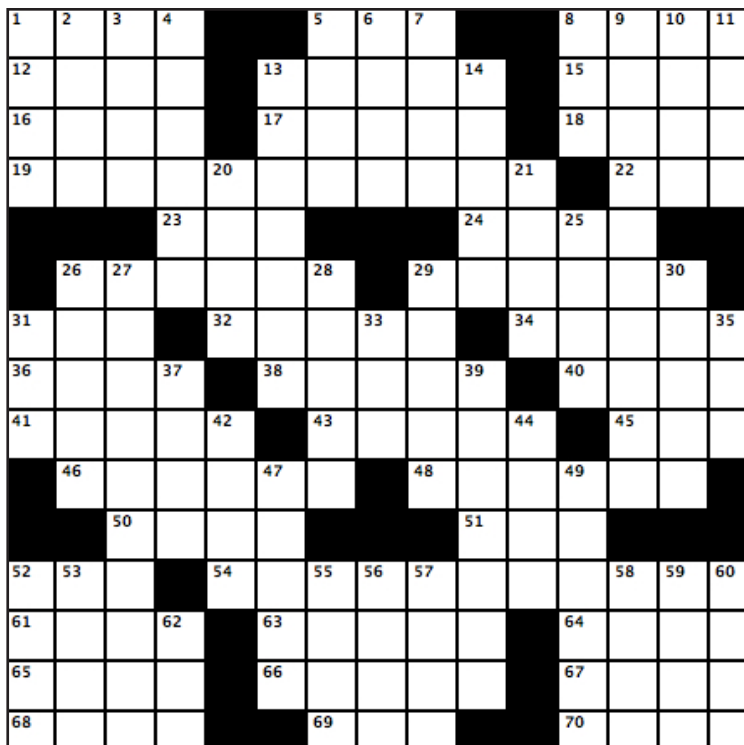
Hopefully he's game, but some guys just won't be willing to taste themselves. If this turns out to be the case, you can try to achieve the same eroticism another way—maybe suck on one of his fingers after a blow job, swirling the cum around his digit with your tongue then having him outline your lips with his semen.

Good luck, and I hope your snowballing experience culminates in a load of fun!

Love,  
 Di

**Sexy Sidenote:**

The word "vagina" comes from a Latin root meaning "sheath for a sword." Ouch. No wonder plenty of women would rather refer to their girly parts as "va-jay-jays."



Puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission. Answers on page 14

**Across**

- 1- Addition column; 5- Express; 8- Downfall; 12- Monetary unit of Lesotho; 13- Judges' garments; 15- Not \_ many words; 16- \_ kleine Nachtmusik; 17- Customary; 18- Very dry champagne; 19- Mum's mum; 22- Clean air org.; 23- Where some vets served; 24- \_ vu; 26- Stage plays; 29- Pretended; 31- Driver's aid; 32- Monetary unit of Zambia; 34- Jack; 36- \_ browns; 38- 71% is under water; 40- Abba of Israel; 41- Fuming sulphuric acid; 43- Gives a 9.8, say; 45- Old Ford; 46- Peace salutation; 48- Federal soldier in the Civil War; 50- Pealed; 51- 1950 film noir classic; 52- Brit's raincoat; 54- Woman who sails a yacht; 61- Bounce back; 63- Bullwinkle, e.g.; 64- Gammy; 65- Nothing, in Nantes; 66- Dole out; 67- Monogram ltr; 68- Corm of the taro; 69- Loser to DDE; 70- Capone's nemesis;

**Down**

- 1- Designer Cassini; 2- Film \_ ; 3- Gas burner or Sicilian volcano; 4- Yellowish brown pigment; 5- Fair; 6- Adjoin; 7- Casual assent; 8- Curved bone; 9- Illegible; 10- The jig \_!; 11- \_ bene; 13- Fossick; 14- Snow conveyances; 20- Ruin; 21- Smell; 25- Sixth month of the year; 26- Trades; 27- Investigated; 28- Body of honeybees; 29- Minor; 30- Egg-shaped; 31- Howe'er; 33- Baseball stat; 35- Break off; 37- Hawaiian native dance; 39- Earphone; 42- Numerous; 44- Reason to cancel school; 47- Brightly colored lizard; 49- Fine white clay; 52- Nothing more than; 53- Biting; 55- Soft drink; 56- Gap; 57- General \_ chicken; 58- Long luxuriant hair; 59- French friends; 60- Devices for fishing; 62- Lennon's lady;

Alphabet | XKCD

BABY, IF I COULD REARRANGE THE ALPHABET, I'D FORGET ABOUT YOU IN A HEARTBEAT.

I'M NOT GONNA WASTE MY ONE CHANCE TO HELP FIX THE MESS THAT IS ENGLISH ORTHOGRAPHY.



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