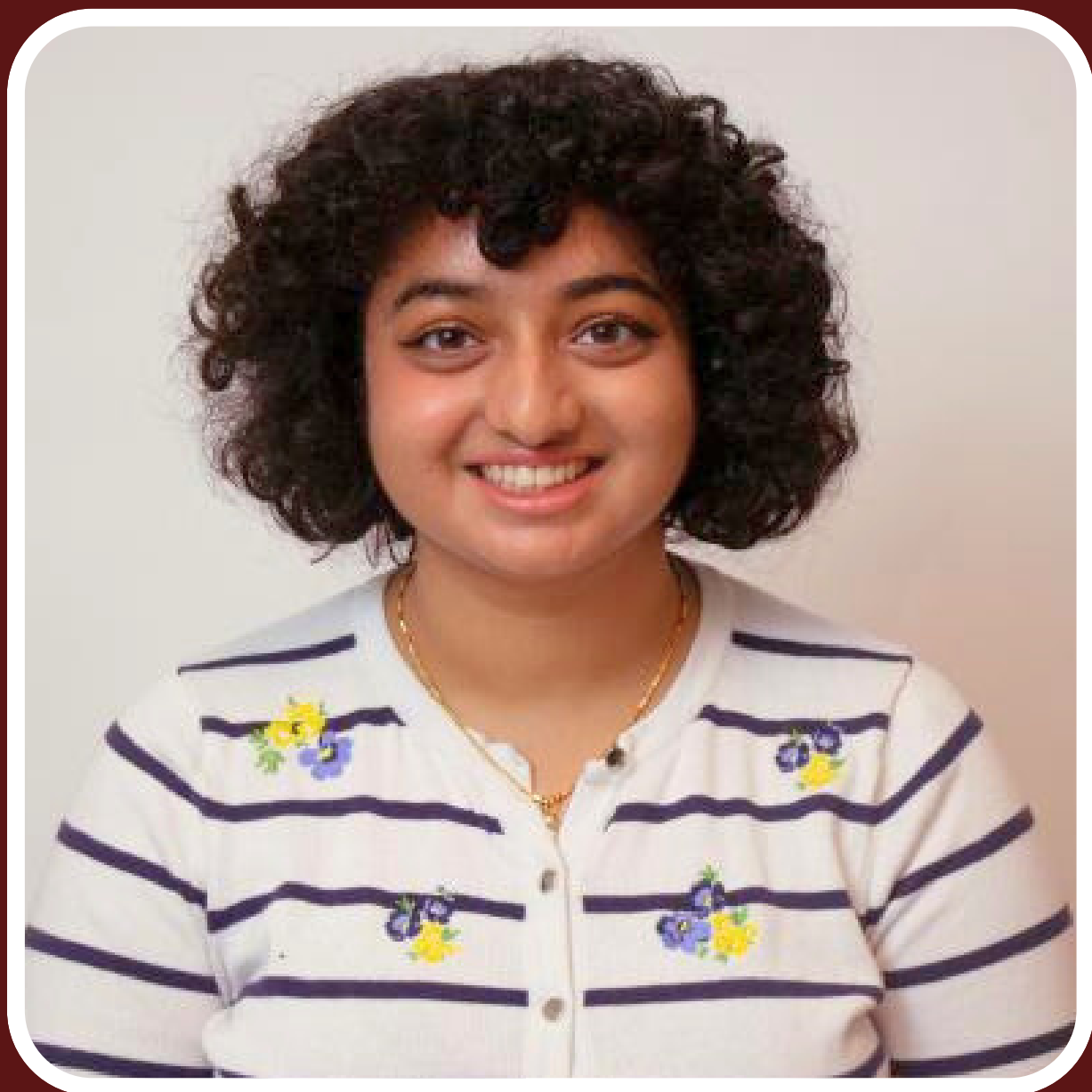




2024-2025

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF PLATFORM

Kavi Achar & Andrew Wilimek



KAVI VIDYA ACHAR

2023-24 News Editor

Public Administration & Political Science

I'm a student of Public Administration and Political Science, entering my second year at the University of Ottawa.

I started with the Fulcrum in 2023, but have been a journalist since my first year of high school. I came into this role with previous experience as a Team Editor, Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief of my high school publication, made up of over 40 students. Almost 5 years of journalism have shown me how important the job of an editor is and how much responsibility comes with this role.

In my Team Editor position, I learned to trust the journalists around me and express my gratitude and praise out loud. As a Managing Editor, I learned how to resolve conflicts effectively and protect the publication from those who sought to control our content. The role of Editor-in-Chief cemented my approach to leadership: good leaders reach down with one hand as they reach up with another; they lend a hand to those under them while reaching for their ambitious goals.

Finally, in my role as a News Editor for the Fulcrum, I have learned how to build a community and experienced the joy of working as a team to write articles and navigate complex situations. In my time at the Fulcrum, I have been guided by kind, knowledgeable people. I hope to carry that torch with me as an EIC with Andrew next year.



ANDREW WILIMEK

2023-24 Sports Editor

Commerce - Business Technology Management


I'm entering my fourth year of Commerce here at the U of O, with an option in Business Technology Management.

I joined the Fulcrum as a contributor during the summer of 2023, and was shortly thereafter hired as the Sports Editor for the 2023-24 publishing year. I quickly fell in love with The Fulcrum, even sooner than I learned the ropes of the job.

In addition to sports, I've had pieces published in the Arts & Culture section, the Opinions section, the Features section, and the Tomato section. I have also published articles from our archives and had my multimedia content posted. Throughout the year, as my writing improved and I got the chance to cross over to other sections, I began to think about the EIC position. I love this newspaper, and I want to make sure that it functions as the best possible version of itself.

I didn't have huge ambitions when I applied to be the Sports Reporter way back in the spring. On the contrary, I was happy having any kind of position with the newspaper. But when the Sports Editor position was offered to me, I was happy to accept the challenge. Likewise, my ambition is not the driving force behind our campaign to be the next EICs. I simply think we have the tools, knowledge, and work ethic to be the best people for the job.

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PLATFORM

The Fulcrum's new leadership must look to the future, one with Bill C-18 and without paper distribution. Bill C-18 has really hampered our online presence, and because we are years removed from paper distribution, that is no longer a financially viable option. However, good organizations adapt. We're ready to usher in a new era of The Fulcrum and want to put in the groundwork to see that through.

Although it may seem unprecedented, the Fulcrum has had co-EICs in the past. The distribution of workload posed a problem in the 2022 year, but the two of us believe that our unique skill sets not only ensure that we bring more experience to the table, but also that our workload is divided according to our expertise. Andrew, with his experience as a Sports Editor and a student of Telfer, brings perspective to the sports section as well as the business, science and tech section. Kavi, with their experience in news, multimedia and features, brings knowledge to the news and features sections, as well as the multimedia department. The EIC position is more reliable as a team: the presence of two committed EICs will help streamline the editing and problem-solving process, while preventing burnout.

Working as a team to overcome problems is not new to us. Both of us have experienced struggles and issues in our sections, and have worked with the Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief to overcome them. Over lengthy conversations, we've come to realize that our goals are the same: upholding the standards and integrity of the Fulcrum, fostering informed discussions, and maintaining a commitment to excellence in campus journalism. And of course, ultimately we are responsible for fulfilling the organization's mission statement, and providing high-quality journalism to the U of O's student body. We hope to use our experience to lead the Fulcrum team through the 2024-25 publishing year.

GENERAL

As part of our movement into the future, we want to move away from traditional print timelines, and focus on getting time-sensitive pieces out on short deadlines. Different sections require different timelines, and what works for Arts or Science may not work for Sports or News.

We think implementing specific timelines for each section, such as maximum time periods to finish an article, maximum time periods to edit, and to publish on WordPress would benefit us all, so we have a framework to reference back to. With that being said, we also want to utilize our backgrounds to divide sections such that each editor-in-chief and the managing editor oversee about two sections each.

We would like to put more of an emphasis on professional development, and have weekly or bi-weekly meetings where various activities would be conducted. This year, our leadership has placed a large emphasis on social activities, which we feel strongly about continuing.

NEWS SECTION

We envision a news section consisting of 2 news editors and a dedicated news reporter. Instead of two staff reporters and one sports reporter, we would like to see one news reporter, one staff reporter and one sports reporter. We've noticed that when staff reporters have an option to choose articles for the week, they gravitate towards the Arts section. Even though the Fulcrum has made it mandatory for a staff reporter to pick up at least one news piece a week, we've found that that rule is not always upheld and is not sufficient for a robust news section.

A dedicated news reporter would allow the section to cover more timely stories. Often, as Kavi has noticed, longer, investigative pieces in the news section are almost immediately put on the back-burner because of a breaking news story. Depending on who are hired for these positions, the 3 people in the section can rotate covering breaking news and longer-form stories.

One more idea we have is to bring back a weekly listings post for clubs, sports, and events happening on campus. At the start of the year, we would reach out to these clubs and set up a dedicated email address for them to send blurbs to about things happening on campus.

SPORTS SECTION

Supporting the incoming sports editor is at the top of mind. We plan to surround them with as many contributors as possible, a list of which Andrew has started to curate this year. Having contributors take games allows for writers to focus on more in-depth pieces, like features, opinions, and other things that allow for more creativity and longer-form pieces.

Andrew has fine-tuned the process for writing about games this year and we feel ready to expand our offerings. We see an opening for weekly highlight videos, in sort of a SportsCentre format, to be posted on TikTok and Instagram. When coverage enables us, like at the big few games each year, the department has experimented with highlight replays and live-tweeting on Twitter and Instagram. This is a huge part of sports media going into the future, and we would like to train editors, not just of this section, on how to create short video content.

Another change that would benefit the section would be to list each major sport in the drop-down list on the website: hockey, football, basketball, soccer, and rugby.

Finally, we feel it important to speed up publishing times, and get stories out quicker. The Fulcrum has a chance to be 'first on the scene', especially at large events like Panda and Capital Hoops. Supporting sports writers is the goal. They spend hours of their weeks attending games, and are often able to get their stories out on tight timelines - just like the real sports world. Game recaps will get more readership if they are pushed out the same night as games or the morning after. Having deadlines just like real media outlets is part of the allure of working at a student newspaper. We want Gee-Gees fans to trust Fulcrum Sports as their place to get all campus sports news.

ARTS SECTION

The Arts section, we believe, does not require any changes. We foresee a steady influx of contributors next year who will be willing to write articles for the Arts section, similar to this year. We will keep the position of Arts Editor and rely on them, the staff writer and contributors to write for the section.

SCIENCE & TECH

Currently, the Science and Tech section covers U of O research, musings about current topics in science, and more. A change that would reshape and benefit the section would be to rename the section, to 'Business, Science, and Tech'. Some papers, (like the much bigger U of T Varsity) offer a separate business section, because they have the capacity. Others, like the Queen's Journal, simply group it with their Science and Technology section.

Including business with science and technology would attract writers from Telfer, who make up a tiny minority of current writers, even with the size of the faculty. This section could expand its offerings to include policy, local business news, and U of O businesses. Covering U of O research is imperative, but even if this change simply entices contributors to write some pieces for the section, it would be worth it.

FEATURES

Considering we will again not have a Features Editor, having two editors-in-chief will give us more time to work on long-form features pieces. We plan to include features based on interviews with more Gee-Gees athletes, owners of small businesses, and professors on campus. These will generally be "softer" pieces, but we will also keep an eye out for opportunities to do investigative journalism.

OPINIONS

The opinions section is where the editor really has the freedom to choose what the section looks like. We don't foresee any major changes here. The opinions editor also oversees the Tomato and Dear Di sections. The Tomato section is important because it draws in readers and sparks conversations; in the past many articles have done very well online.

DEAR DI

The Dear Di section is where writers can ghost-write answers to questions about sex, relationships, and campus. In the past, the section has been used both satirically but also seriously. Discussions will be had about the best usage of this section. Something we foresee is collecting pieces of writing, potentially from different writers, and grouping them into a larger piece that is released once a month.

ARCHIVES

Bringing previous Fulcrum articles online has been made much easier by certain applications's photo-to-text features. We will train staff on how to quickly and properly transcribe articles from the archives, with the goal of seeing at least two archived articles posted a month.

Old articles give us the chance to gain perspective on how previous generations talked about the campus and community in general. Much of what has been written in the past is still relevant today. Slowly, we hope to bring more and more articles online, so they are accessible for years to come.

MULTIMEDIA

The multimedia section comprises a photographer, a videographer, the online editor, and our proposed new position, the visuals director. The visuals director, replacing what was previously the second graphic designer role, will still be able to create graphic designs, but will have photography assignments as well. This provides more flexibility for the section, and allows the director to use their weekly hours in varying ways. The incoming director will also be responsible for multimedia contributors.

Another change we foresee in the section is to create more infographics and graphs for articles. Infographics are part of the new wave of data journalism, which combines traditional journalism with data analysis and visualization techniques to communicate complex stories, trends, and insights more effectively. We aim to ensure proper training is conducted at the start of, and throughout, the year to prepare our staff to successfully use these methods.

SOCIAL MEDIA

While being hamstrung by Bill C-18, the Fulcrum has had to change methods of distributing information. Talks will continue as to how to best do this. TikTok has become an important medium, and Twitter's importance has increased. In the second half of this year, Ayai has begun doing more weekly recaps on TikTok, which we would like to continue and build upon.

WORDPRESS

We want to refresh the website a bit to align it with our current offerings. Most drop-downs on the website are currently not being used, so we need to decide which we would like to keep and revive, which can be delisted, and what new ones we would like to introduce (sport-specific ones in Sports, for example.) We would also like to explore more plug-ins, to update the website further.

CONCLUSION

Though we continually strive to increase the quality of our publication, we envision a path next year that still retains and emphasizes the heart of the Fulcrum. The changes we hope to make to News, Sports, Science & Tech, and Multimedia will lead to a more streamlined and efficient way of writing and publishing content. Renewed dedication to the Features section will also help us put out more investigative pieces.

In addition, we strongly believe that the two-EIC system will bring accountability and more oversight to the team, while preventing burnout. We feel that while our individual time at the Fulcrum has been short, our collective skill sets— Kavi's journalism and leadership experience, and Andrew's sports and business expertise— uniquely equip us to lead the Fulcrum to new heights. We hope to serve the Fulcrum as your 2024-25 Editors-in-Chief.