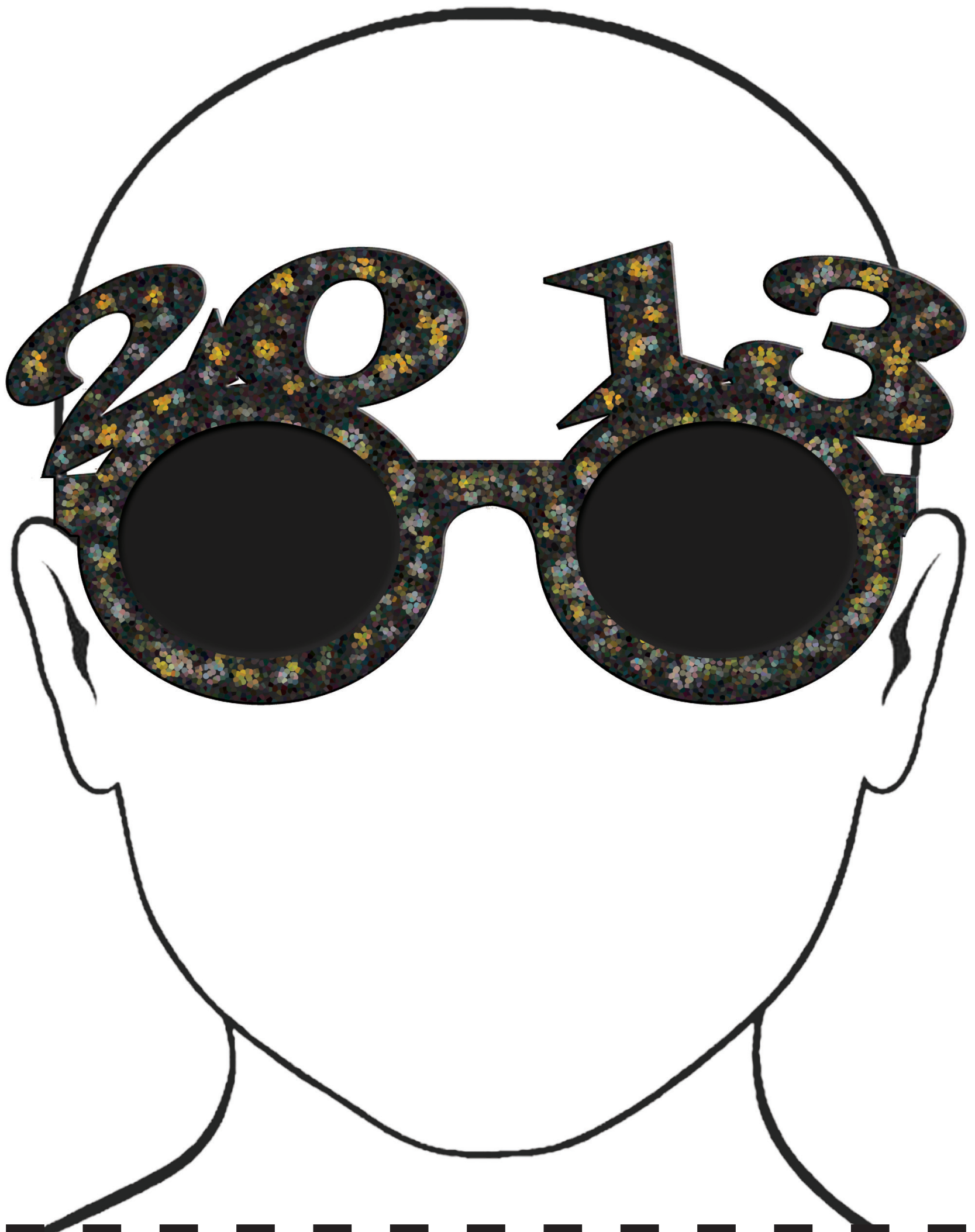


# Pro Tem



LE JOURNAL ÉTUDIANT DE GLENDALE GLENDON'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

## BONNE ANNÉE



## WHO WILL YOU BE IN 2013?



# Letter from the Editor

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Happy Holidays and Happy New Year fellow Glendonites,

If you're reading this in December, hope your exams are going well and that you have a wonderful winter break. If you're reading this in January, then the world did not end, so congratulations on starting winter term! Hope everyone is recharged and ready for a new year. On behalf of *Pro Tem's* team, I would just like to take the time and thank those who have been contributing and reading from the start of the school year. We appreciate your support! We hope you'll enjoy our December/January issue's theme of "Change". We take a look back at past events such as Fall Campus Day as well as look forward to upcoming ones like the 2013 Glendon International Symposium on Korea. We explore the changes being made in politics, climate change, the city of Toronto and the entertainment industry. By reading these articles, I hope we inspire some of you to incorporate change into your daily life or maybe even someday change the world. You can start by trying new things in the New Year, like contributing to *Pro Tem* for example. Let's make 2013 a wonderful year!

Joyeuses fêtes et Bonne Année mes Cœur de Lions!

Si vous êtes en train de lire ce message en décembre, j'espère que vos examens se passent bien et bonnes vacances d'hiver. Si vous lisez ce message en janvier, la fin du monde n'est pas arrivée donc félicitations, on commence la prochaine session! J'espère que tout le monde s'est reposé et vous êtes prêts à commencer une nouvelle année. De la part de l'équipe de *Pro Tem*, je voudrais juste prendre le temps de remercier tous ceux qui ont contribué et ont lu le journal depuis le début de l'année scolaire. Nous apprécions votre support! Nous espérons que vous allez aimer notre thème pour le mois de décembre/janvier : le changement. Nous jetons un coup d'œil sur les événements passés comme la journée d'automne et les événements à venir comme le symposium international de Glendon sur la Corée. Nous explorons les changements dans le domaine de la politique, du climat, dans la ville de Toronto et dans les arts. En lisant ces articles, j'espère que nous vous inspirons à faire un petit changement dans vos vies quotidiennes et peut-être même changer le monde plus tard. Vous pouvez commencer en essayant des nouvelles choses dans la nouvelle année, comme écrire des articles pour *Pro Tem*. 2013 sera une merveilleuse année pour tout le monde!

## TO VISIT WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME

EXPLAINING THE SUCCESS OF GLENDON'S FALL CAMPUS DAY BY ALEXA POSLIFF SECTION EDITOR OF CAMPUS LIFE

Glendon's Fall Campus Day was a huge success – that much is clear. But the question is: why? To anyone who has ever been to Glendon – be it as a faculty member, student, or even just a visitor – that answer should be just as obvious.

Glendon is not just a school, but also a tight-knit community, and the appeal of that community reaches far beyond that of its academic prowess. Many young students probably think that going to school in the largest city in Canada might be intimidating, and they could be right if they don't consider Glendon as an option. It may seem impossible to make friends as just another number in a city of millions. This is just one of the many reasons that Glendon is an attractive option – attending school here allows students to get the big city experience all while living in a safe, friendly, and ever-growing environment. With all that Glendon has to offer, it is no wonder that our school attracts so many people from so many different backgrounds. Fall Campus Day is just the first step in starting your academic career here.

On Sunday, November 18, Glendon hosted its annual open house for prospective students applying to be in the graduating class of 2017. A variety of information sessions based on acad-



COURTESY ESTHER PHUA

emics, admissions, and money matters were offered from the support staff and faculty. A mini-lecture was also offered from the Political Science course director Dr. Alexandre Brassard. This allowed students to see what life at Glendon would actually be like, while doubling as a chance for them to learn more about the application process. The Lion's Den collaborated with the Recruitment Office in providing infor-

mation to the visitors at their Kiosk in the Centre of Excellence, and campus tours were also offered throughout the day by the awesome team of Glendon Student Ambassadors.

The Ambassador Team is composed of current Glendon students who give campus tours, run blogs detailing their lives at Glendon, and work with Recruitment in order to further our school's outreach. Their work is

definitely a large part of what made Glendon's Fall Campus Day so incredibly successful. Evidence for just how far their efforts go can be found on Twitter under the hash-tag used on Fall Campus Day: #ExploreGL. Many prospective students are able to continuously interact with the Ambassador Team on social media sites like Twitter throughout the year, and the popularity of this hash-tag demonstrates the Ambassadors' dedication to connecting with potential Glendonites.

But still – why is Fall Campus Day such an exciting and popular day for these future Glendon students? It might have something to do with the fact that Glendon was on the Globe and Mail's list of university rankings as a school independently from the Keele Campus for the first time ever. We received almost exclusively rankings at the B or A level, with the average of overall student satisfaction being an A-. That is incredibly high; especially considering this was our very first year even being ranked at all.

Though Glendon is a relatively small university, its achievements are not to be denied. With such a wonderful turnout at Fall Campus Day, it is clear that our community will continue to grow and evolve over the years.

## GAN: LA RENAISSANCE AN INTERVIEW WITH AN EXECUTIVE OF THE GLENDON AFRICAN NETWORK

BY STELLA DAKPO JOURNALISTE DE LA SECTION VIE DE CAMPUS

Le GAN (Glendon African Network) est un club de Glendon qui a une histoire tout à fait particulière. En effet, après quelques années d'activités intenses sur le campus, il s'est peu à peu éteint. C'est suite à de nombreuses réflexions que des étudiants de Glendon ont décidé de lui redonner un souffle de vie.

Afin d'avoir plus d'information à ce propos, je rejoins Jenny, la présidente du GAN, au breezeway. Elle est entourée d'une grande partie du GAN en train de préparer leur première activité de l'année qui aura lieu très bientôt sur le campus.

Stella: *Comment vas-tu Jenny? Peux-tu te présenter à nos lecteurs?*

Jenny: Je m'appelle Jenny Matingu. Je suis étudiante en études internationales et j'essaie aussi de compléter un certificat en études asiatiques. Dans le GAN, j'occupe le poste de présidente, entourée d'un groupe exécutif très actif et dévoué à la cause du GAN.

Stella: *En bref, peux-tu nous donner les origines du GAN pour ceux qui ne s'en souviennent pas ou qui ne sont pas au courant de votre club?*

Jenny: En fait, il a été créé en 2007 par M. Steven Abarra. Les ambitions du groupe à l'époque étaient de créer

un réseau communautaire entre les Africains de Glendon. Il voulait également tisser un lien entre ce groupe, les autres communautés de Glendon et la diaspora du GTA. Il a continué son œuvre en créant le GAR réunissant tous les Africains, incluant les diplômés de Glendon et les Torontois.

Stella: *Well, some people at Glendon are curious to know the reason for the group's one year disappearance.*

Jenny: I've heard that question so many times but I do understand where it is coming from, since the group used to be very active around Glendon. Basically, the club stopped its activities because the executive members all graduated.

Stella: *Des étudiants de Glendon ont décidé de redonner vie à ce club et comme je peux voir avec énormément d'enthousiasme, vu que vous êtes tous présents ce soir avec moi. Peux-tu partager avec nous la vision de ce nouveau GAN?*

Jenny: We really want to raise awareness about Africa. We want to show people that it is a continent made up of different countries and many different cultures. We are planning a lot of activities to discuss subjects that affect the continent, and inform people

about its cultural aspects. This club is open to everyone; you don't have to be African. As long as you are interested and open to discovering much more about Africa, you are welcome to join us.

Stella: *Quelles sont les attentes que la communauté de Glendon devrait avoir par rapport au groupe?*

Jenny: Nous avons vraiment en tête de changer la manière dont les gens voient l'Afrique. Nous voulons être ambassadeurs de l'Afrique contemporaine. Afin d'atteindre cet objectif, il a fallu redonner vie au GAN, étant donné qu'il a été inactif pendant un an et demi. On espère aussi avoir la participation des professeurs lors de nos débats, peu importe leurs connaissances sur le continent africain (culture, politique, économie...).

Stella: *What are the different activities planned for the year 2013?*

Jenny: Our agenda includes the following: Fall activities: The Rebirth in November Financial and Life Planning Workshop; Winter activities: Pub Night (Jan. 31st, 2013), Black History Month, African Cultural Day (Feb. 2013), Symposium (March 2013), and last but not least the Gala in April.

Stella: *À ce que je vois, vous êtes en*

*pleine préparation du Rebirth. Quels sont vos projets sur le long terme?*

Jenny: Sur le long terme, on prévoit avoir un impact qui va pouvoir perdurer dans un pays de notre choix. La taille du projet dépendra des fonds qu'on recueillera pendant nos activités. On imagine pouvoir, par exemple, construire une école, un puits ou même acheter des livres scolaires pour des élèves quelque part en Afrique où ils en ont vraiment besoin.

Stella: *Thank you Jenny and all of the club for your precious time. We do appreciate it and we wish you the best of luck. Keep it up! Jenny, as-tu un mot pour la fin?*

Jenny: Bien sûr que oui (elle sourit encore). En Afrique, il est dit qu'une femme ne peut pas prendre l'initiative de construire un village, mais aujourd'hui force est de constater que tout est plausible. C'est bien une preuve que l'Afrique évolue. Au risque de me répéter, ce club est vraiment ouvert à tous. Joignez-vous à nous, car chacun a sa pierre à apporter à l'édifice. J'aimerais remercier mon équipe qui est très efficace et les membres du club qui répondent, toujours présents, quand ils sont sollicités. C'est ça aussi l'Afrique. So get ready for us!



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# Vie de Campus

## GLENDON NEEDS TO BECOME MORE ACCESSIBLE

CHANGES MUST BE MADE TO GLENDON'S OUTDOOR STAIRCASES AND THE ROSE GARDEN

BY NATASHA FAROOGH ASSISTANT ENGLISH EDITOR

Glendon is an accessible school. There is no doubt about it. There are disability and mental health counseling services. There are scribes placed in classes when students need them. All services are offered in English and French. Salon Francophone is frankly, a Godsend. (Though why we don't have a writing resource center, when the Keele campus does, is still a sore point.) Many signs indoors, if you look (or feel) closely, even have braille on them. There are several non-gendered wheelchair accessible washrooms in the old part of York Hall and in the manor. On many points, Glendon does an excellent job at making sure it addresses accessibility issues. In fact, I very proudly recommend Glendon to my high school friends as an extremely accessible school.

However, Glendon needs to do better.

The biggest issue is accessibility to the Glendon Athletic Club (GAC) and the F Lot parking lot. Since the start of this school year, we have lost the "death stairs" with which senior students were so well acquainted. They have been under construction since at least September when we started fall term. I am happy that the stairs are getting an overhaul. Last year, they were in such bad condition that one time, a stone on a step broke off under my weight - and I only weigh a hundred pounds. I was just lucky that I caught myself and didn't tumble down the stairs. I called security, and they yellow taped it off. Many of the stairs were at bad angles, and water puddles would build and often freeze over in the winter. The stairs were salted, but often not early enough in the mornings. Thank goodness the steps are getting an overhaul. Thank you Glendon for hearing your students' concerns!

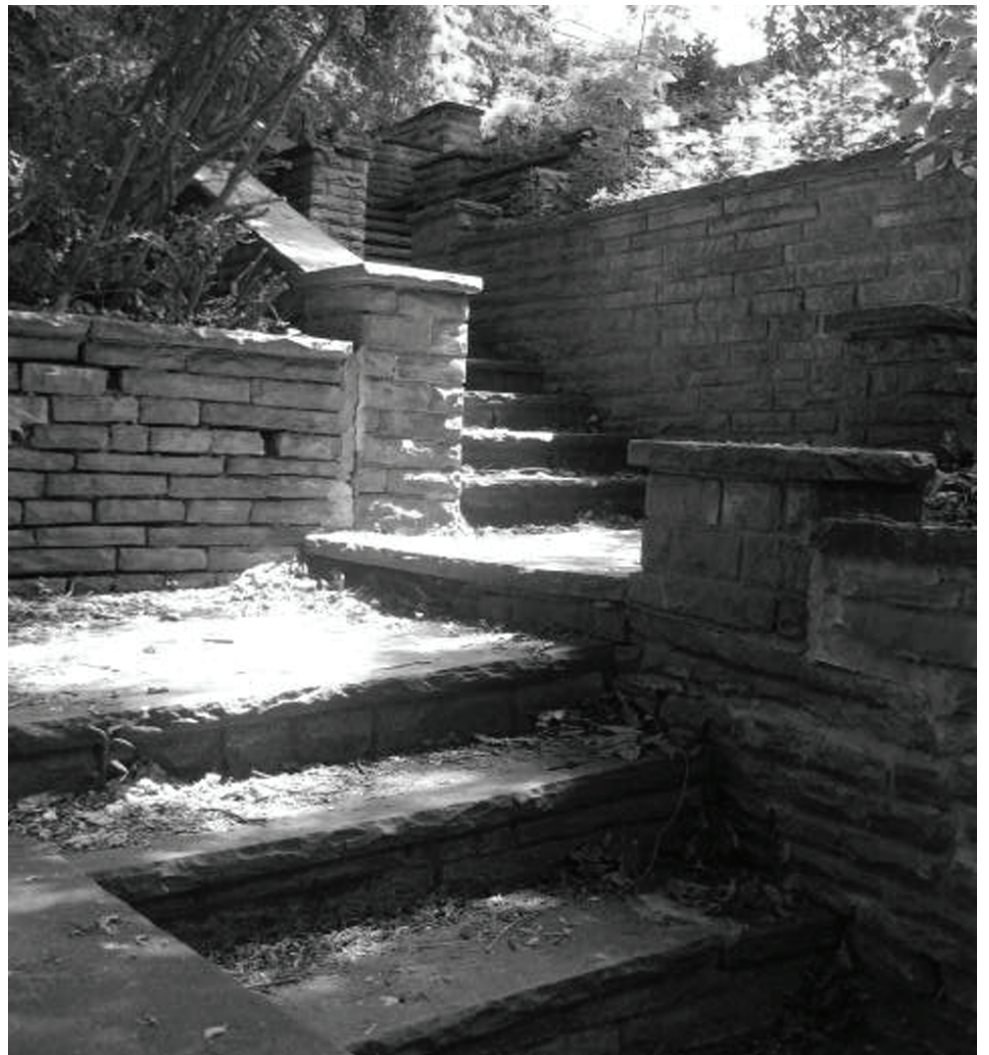
However, first term is almost over, and we still don't have new stairs leading to the GAC and F parking lot. They seem to be continuously under construction. Climbing up the trail and taking the Rose Garden stairs is at least a ten-minute detour. I can't imagine how much longer that walk will take when we have snow. Hopefully, by the time *Pro Tem's* next issue is printed in

the winter term, the new stairs replacing the "death stairs" will be built, and I will be able to write an article exalting praises of the new stairs.

Of course, making those steps a priority because "it takes too long" to walk from the lower to upper level is not the biggest problem. A bigger problem is that the pathways in the rose garden leading to the rose garden stairs are not properly lit. Anybody that walks through the rose garden realizes that the pathway, as beautiful as it is, has loose flagstones. Additionally, the sets of 2-5 stairs throughout the garden cannot be seen at night. The light coming out from the library and shining through the rose garden is not enough to light those stairs. After evening courses at York, walking through the rose garden and down those mini-flights of stairs is dangerous. I have slipped multiple times on those steps due to the lack of proper lighting, and quite simply, I expect better from Glendon. Why can't we have small lamps added throughout the rose garden? Or even inexpensive solar powered lights placed in the garden beds to light the stairs next to them? There are simple solutions to this problem.

Lastly, I am astonished that services for people who need help up and down these outdoor staircases are not prominently displayed at building exits. This is the biggest accessibility problem surrounding our outdoor staircases. Last year, I personally helped a blind person down the "death stairs" to get to the GAC. I have helped several seniors with their bags and other personal belongings up and down those stairs to get to the parking lot. Usually, Glendon does a good enough job at reserving parking upstairs for seniors who visit Glendon. However, not all of them have the opportunity to park upstairs. There needs to be a service to help walk people, or alternatively drive people from the F parking lot to the buildings upstairs, and vice-versa, if they need it.

Why is a service like that not already in place? And if there is such a service, why is there no signage at York Hall or Glendon Manor prominently announc-



PAOLA PAULINO

ing this service? I often see golf carts parked around Glendon with nobody in them; I don't see why those carts are not being used to help people who need help getting around campus. And lastly, if such services get put into place, why can't these services be open to all of us, if we really need them at a certain point. Personally, I have needed help at times getting up the stairs. I used to be a part of the Glendon Musical Ensemble (GME). I play the guitar. With my five-foot frame, and my asthma, it is almost impossible for me to carry my guitar and my backpack with my textbooks up the stairs. Luckily, Glendon has such a wonderful student population that I was sometimes able to get other students to help me carry my stuff up the stairs. At night, after rehearsals, I used to call GoSafe; and even though they are not required to,

the GoSafe crew would be kind enough to help me with my bags so that I could carry my guitar and not trip down the staircases at night. However, when I had to carry my belongings alone up and down the stairs, I would have to stop several times to avoid an asthma attack. Often people would have to ask me if I was okay when they found me gasping for air partway up the stairs. The difficulty of carrying my guitar and backpack up the stairs independently, however, has in part affected my decision not to be a part of the GME this year. And that is a shame.

Again, I reiterate, that Glendon does a respectable job at making the school accessible. However, further changes to the outdoor staircases need to be made, and more accessibility services need to be offered, to help people get around the campus.

## WOULDURATHER... A NON-SMOKING INITIATIVE

BY LEAVE THE PACK BEHIND GLENDON  
(COURTESY OF ALEX MOLDOVAN) CONTRIBUTOR

Thinking about cutting back for the New Year? Want to win up to \$1000 in cash prizes, AND some awesome prizes from Snakes and Lattes, MEC, and the Glendon Bookstore?

Sign up for Glendon's own WouldURather...Contest with Leave The Pack Behind!

Basically, it's a contest that runs for six weeks (from January 28 to March 11) where any and every student, whether they smoke a little, a lot, or not at all, can sign up and get a very good chance to win! So find a buddy to sign up with you, log on to [ltpb.org/contest](http://ltpb.org/contest), and SIGN UP! Registration runs from Dec. 1, 2012 to Jan. 27, 2013.

The Glendon LTPB team will also be doing their regular walkabouts plus a tabling event in January, so keep an eye out for us to sign up in person! Happy Holidays!



## MAKE A CHANGE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

CHARITY AT GLENDON AND IN TORONTO BY STEPHANIE SETTLE ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF CAMPUS LIFE

For many people, the holiday season is associated with giving. Some students might be going home for the first time since the summer, to exchange gifts and share meals with their families. And with the approach of the new year, some might also be thinking of resolutions to improve themselves, or even to attempt to improve the world around them. Whether you want to celebrate the holidays by giving to those in need, or your New Year's resolution is to help change the world and you want to start acting on it early, there are many charities that focus their efforts on sharing the happiness of the holiday season with people around the world. And one of these charities is easily accessible here at Glendon.

If you passed through the Breeze-way in mid-November, you might have noticed a few students collecting donations for a charity called Operation Christmas Child. According to their website at [samaritanspurse.ca/operation-christmas-child](http://samaritanspurse.ca/operation-christmas-child), this group has been distributing shoeboxes full of gifts to children in poor communities who are unlikely to receive presents otherwise since 1990. This year the countries to which these gifts are being delivered include Costa Rica, El Salvador, Haiti, and Sierra Leone. Anyone is welcome to pack a shoebox of their own with school supplies like pencils and notepads, or toys like stuffed animals. The website includes a list of items which should not be included due to customs

regulations, so anyone who is interested in participating should seek more information there. Operation Christmas Child also asks that you include a donation of seven dollars or more along with your shoebox, to help cover shipping costs. If you do not have the time or materials to pack a box yourself, you can also select items online to be packed on your behalf. Michelle Breeze made the connection between Operation Christmas Child and Glendon, in association with the church group Ekklesia.

If you would rather donate to another charity, a 2006 article by Jerrold Litwinenko at [blogto.com](http://blogto.com) estimates that there are hundreds of charities in Toronto. There are groups that help children, like Sick Kids and Children's

Aid, and groups that help animals, like the Humane Society. One organization called The Scott Mission offers people to the chance to donate \$4.25 online, which will be used to provide a meal for a homeless person. Another initiative called Sketch creates opportunities for young people without homes to get involved in the arts. No matter which issues are important to you, you can find a charity that values those same issues just as much, especially in a city as large as Toronto. So this holiday season, I encourage Glendon students to give gifts not just to their families and friends, but also to strangers who could use their help. A small donation could be all that is necessary to change someone's life for the better.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF KOREA

THE FOCUS OF THE 2013 GLENDON INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM BY THE GLENDON INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM (COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER LONG) CONTRIBUTOR

The Glendon International Symposium team is happy to announce that the subject of our 2013 conference will be... Korea! So the question is, why Korea?

As students, we must always be seeking out opportunities to advance our knowledge—to be inherently inquisitive in order to find patterns and gain understanding of issues and perspectives previously misunderstood or misinterpreted. To focus on an interesting place such as the Korean peninsula, we are hoping to do exactly that: explore, rediscover, illuminate. Geographically squeezed between Japan, Russia, and China, the history of Korea has always been fundamentally shaped by its unique geographical placement. Historically, the Korean peninsula was dwarfed by the great Asian empires surrounding it – a “shrimp between whales” – that nonetheless developed a unique and complex culture and identity that eventually carved out Korean independence. But later, as the divergent ideologies of the Cold War impacted political systems across the world, Korea too was torn along geographical lines in the North and South. The legacy of that conflict looms large today: in both Western and Eastern media alike, in international organizations and forums, and perhaps most crucially, in the question of the Korean identity itself.

In the peninsula, there is a great divergence between its two nations. We look first to South Korea, whose political system and economic development most resembles the ideals of the West. South Korea is a fascinating nation, not solely for its richly distinct culture, but also for its impressive economic transformation in the second half of the 20th century. Its transformation – from a colonized state and war-torn foreign aid recipient to a powerhouse economy characterized by its process of democratization and modernity – is too remarkable to not be addressed and discussed. As current transformations rock the world, pushing our history forward, and

radically shifting our perceptions, we should better understand the dynamism of an ever-changing world through examples like South Korea.

To the North, we find a nation so inherently converse to its neighbour, that the juxtaposition itself is fodder enough for extensive discussion. North Korea's situation in the 21st century is that of international isolation that is enshrouded in mystery—there is much to scrutinize in that there is not much that is fully understood. Yet we find the country completely inseparable from the greater socio-political climate of the region around it. Its relationship with China, its polemic nuclear program, its cycle of aggravation and denouement with its southern counterpart, and its constant denouncing at the United Nations, places North Korea squarely in the centre of Asian politics. As students we have the opportunity to explore beyond the mainstream perceptions and rhetoric, to understand better the various dimensions of North Korea.

In our increasingly globalized world, where borders are arguably becoming less significant, the Koreas are an exception. As we become more economically interdependent, and economic opportunities tend to supersede ideology, the Koreas are an exception. As we set aside the conflicts of the Cold War and refocus our attention to new and contemporary 21st century challenges, again, the Koreas are an exception. Korea embodies a unique arrangement in our world, and as we begin to examine the exception to the norm, perhaps our understanding of the norm too will be challenged and redefined.

*The Korea International Symposium will be a one day conference held at Glendon College on March 30th, 2013. Our team is Christopher Long, Monique Plessas, James Casareno, Edith Blanchet, Tanya Belleau and Simon Massey-Allard. For more information or for volunteer opportunities, please email us at [koreasymposium@gmail.com](mailto:koreasymposium@gmail.com) and visit us at [koreasymposium.com](http://koreasymposium.com).*

## LUNIK CO-OPERATIVE

COFFEE, FOOD, ART, MUSIC AND A CALL TO ACTION

BY NAZAMPAL JASWAL CONTRIBUTOR

Have you been down to your student-run co-operative, Lunik Co-op lately? It's been quite the semester with new food items, student art, and a number of events hosted by student groups on campus and by Lunik Co-op. Some of these events included a live band show with Trouble and Daughter, Lunik's Thanksgiving Dinner and a presentation from Gus Santos, the coffee farmer behind the ethical coffee served by Lunik.

We have been keeping busy; however, Lunik Co-op, being a co-operative for the students of Glendon, wants students to take charge next semester. This is a call to action to YOU: if you have an idea or project to make your community better, let us know!

Lunik Co-op's mission is two-fold: to create a positive social space for students and promote healthy, sustainable and affordable food options. If you have an idea or project that falls within those guidelines, send us an email at [lunik.cooperative@gmail.com](mailto:lunik.cooperative@gmail.com)! We have many resources including a projector, food supplies, food appliances, and art supplies. We want YOU to use them and make Lunik the space you want it to be. This can include

hosting movie nights, bringing in live bands, organizing art projects, hosting academic discussions and speakers, or leading workshops. The physical space is your canvas; let us know what you want to see!

Lunik Co-op will be especially supportive of projects that support sustainability, central to our mandate. We would also like to remind students of our Safe Space Policy (check it out at [lunikcoop.com](http://lunikcoop.com)) which ensures Lunik Co-op is a comfortable space for all students. Keeping this policy in mind, we encourage students to get creative with their ideas and explore the possibilities of creating inclusive and accessible events. This is your opportunity to create alternative events for your student community.

Other ways to be involved in Lunik Co-op include volunteering behind the counter. In addition to perks like exchanging volunteer hours for food items, Lunik Co-op volunteers are part of a dedicated team built on the principles of co-operation and our volunteers gain valuable skills, which can be used for their resumes. If interested, send us an email with “Volunteer” in the subject line.

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## A RETURN TO SCHOLARSHIP MATURE STUDENTS IN PERSPECTIVE

BY JAI JOT D.O. LAFAYETTE CONTRIBUTOR

Life is always changing. It does not take long for us to realize this statement is true. Yet sometimes we seem to be challenged by voluntary changes, an active pursuit of something different. Of course, we notice and come to accept involuntary changes like physical development, acquisition of our native language, cognitive development and aging, while more voluntary changes based on decisions and subsequent actions sometimes get tangled up in our personal modes of evasion.

As a mature student I am reminded of the years I spent in deliberation, finding my way back to “The Academy”, back to Glendon, as I navigated various career paths and life experiences. In retrospect, I learnt that success is often preceded by effective planning, acquisition of knowledge, and diverse experiences. For mature students, effective planning is essential to finding our way to the admissions office and into the classroom. As we position ourselves, become more comfortable, and adjust to our new schedules and routines, we may be reminded that our life experience brings great benefits.

Today, unlike in my adolescent years, I advocate being proactive, for making decisions and taking action, because these practices are reward-

ing. I recall last month’s *Pro Tem* issue and the article about procrastination. How often do we procrastinate in the process of making decisions or, subsequently, taking action? And why? Procrastination can be overcome, but it takes commitment, continued practice and sometimes support from others.

Mature students returning to “The Academy” and engaging in their studies with rigor after a long absence from school – or perhaps even attending university for the first time – have made enormous life changing decisions. How long we take to deliberate before taking action varies for each individual, and many factors are considered. Each individual has unique challenges: our schedules, finances, family, work and other priorities come into effect. We know that our attention to details must prevail to ensure success. Of course, these considerations apply to all students, but mature students have often accumulated more responsibilities to take into consideration. Our decision-making processes are expanded in scope and consequence.

As part of our deliberations, we may create a vision. We may have some foresight and goals. We understand the marketplace, the job market and the economics of everyday life; we have

the experience necessary to formulate a plan and, hopefully, we are more resourceful. We seem to know why we are here.

Perhaps we are here to pursue a second or third career, or we may be upgrading our knowledge and skills to move forward in our current careers. Perhaps we are here due to general interest. Whatever the reason, the planning process is critical and ongoing. There can also be some unexpected factors along the way. Counseling can help, and as Glendon students we have a great Peer Mentorship Program available, which is directed by our needs, goals and timetables. We can make use of as many resources as needed but we must be aware of the availability of these resources.

York’s current “This Is My Time” campaign resonates with me because it reflects my perspective on returning to scholarship. The idiom “life begins right here, right now” has never been more relevant.

An invitation to participate in a mature student survey was sent out over the past several weeks. The survey is part of a study being conducted by York researchers in partnership with researchers associated with two other universities. It is refreshing to learn

that mature students are being studied in order to improve their related services. The survey is interesting and calls to mind a variety of factors that I had not previously considered.

Lastly, we may begin to recognize how our relationships are impacted by our return to scholarship. This can be a difficult part of our transition, but we need not fret. We have a lot to learn from each other as mature students; by forming new relationships with fellow students we can celebrate our decisions and our successes while offering support during the challenges that arise. Social interaction mustn’t fall by the wayside; after all, wellness is multifaceted and includes social wellness. Wellness is a continuum to be balanced day by day. Our return to scholarship need not be at the expense of our well-being nor our relationships. In fact, new relationships with other mature students can enhance our successful transition as well as our enjoyment along the way.

If you would like to meet and share ideas with other mature students, please contact me at [jaijot@yorku.ca](mailto:jaijot@yorku.ca) and we can arrange a meeting. Find out how you can get involved and be a part of the evolution of mature scholarship.

## THAT’S WHAT SHE SAID! GLENDON’S FEMINIST (NO, SERIOUSLY!) COMEDY NIGHT

BY TINA GOUGOUSHVILI CONTRIBUTOR

You might not think that feminism can be funny (in anything other than the ‘laughing at’ sense), but the “That’s What She Said” show would have proven you wrong! On November 16th, 2012, the Glendon Women and Trans Center partnered with the GLGBT and the GCSU to bring Sabrina Jalees and Alison Grillo to Glendon for a free comedy night. In one of the big new lecture halls, comedienne Sabrina Jalees and Alison Grillo joked about gay marriage, falling under the LGBT umbrella, and their experiences as women – amid waves of uproarious laughter.

If you were to think of five prominent comedians off the top of your head, it’s not likely that more than one of them will be female. The “That’s What She Said” comedy night was all about reminding us that women can be funny, too! As Jalees pointed out, we’re living in a world where a woman can get on stage and make people laugh – that has to say something about how far we’ve come from the days where women were supposed to be docile, quiet and stay in the background. What better way to remind people that women can be funny, women can be sarcastic – women can even be gross!

After the show, I had the privilege to interview the prolific comics. The first comedienne of the night, Alison Grillo, is trans woman who describes

herself as, “a woman trapped inside a woman’s body”. Due to her background in academic institutions (she was a professor for ten years), she makes a point to perform at universities and colleges, where she believes that she can play an educational role in telling her story for a more open-minded audience.

Sabrina Jalees is half-Swiss, half-Pakistani, gay, and finds the roots of her comedy career right here in Toronto. Maybe some Glendonites can even relate to how Jalees began her career – at an amateur open mike at a club not far from Glendon; Yuk Yuk’s at Yonge and Eglinton. She said that she was inspired to begin her comedy career when she would go to see live comedy performed by women.

With bios like that, it was impossible that the comedienne wouldn’t draw on their experiences as queer women of color for their act. Grillo’s act depended heavily on her transition from male to female, and Jalees spoke about getting “gay married” (as she put it) and being a first-generation immigrant. “I’m constantly trying to push at my own envelope,” Grillo admits. She tries to include content in her shows that all women – not just trans women – can relate to, though sometimes it can be difficult to draw on different sources of inspiration.

Both women immediately identify themselves to me as feminists. “It’s

just about equality,” said Jalees who hastens to add, “Everyone *should* be a feminist.” While neither of them really strive for ‘political correctness’ in their act, they recognize the power that they have as comics – as a figure with a microphone, where an audience will listen to them for hours, often paying for the privilege – to affect people’s opinions. While comedy is always about pushing the envelope, perhaps by bringing up subjects that may shock, they agree that it’s everyone’s job to be socially responsible when it comes to potentially harmful ideas (the Daniel Tosh rape ‘joke’ incident comes to mind). Grillo even brings up transphobia, saying that she has eliminated the word “tranny” from her act and from her personal vocabulary, finding it distasteful after her experience as a trans woman.

At the end of our interview, we talked about their favorite comics (Grillo really loves the work of Tina Fey and Jalees told a joke from a Chelsea Piretti podcast) and both mentioned that they had a great time at Glendon! I think I can safely say that the audience would have extended the same compliment to them, saying that Glendon was happy to have them, if the laughter level in the room was anything to go by. Students left the show feeling pleasantly surprised, having learned that feminism can actually be funny!

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*If you were to think of five prominent comedians off the top of your head, it’s not likely that more than one of them will be female. The “That’s What She Said” comedy night was all about reminding us that women can be funny, too!*

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COURTESY MIRANDA MINAWI

*According to Trudeau, trying to sell youth on voting by painting it as the cool thing to do is a disservice to everyone. Voting and other aspects of civic engagement should be seen as crucial to citizenship and important parts of life.*

## CHANGE TO BELIEVE IN

THOUGHTS ON THE TRUDEAU CAMPAIGN AND GETTING YOUTH INTERESTED IN POLITICS

BY MIRANDA MINAWI STAFF WRITER

*“Cool is detached, cool doesn’t care... Voting isn’t cool; it’s the opposite of cool.”*

On Tuesday November 13th, Justin Trudeau visited Toronto. The Reichmann Theatre at University of Toronto was crowded with people of all ages – but mostly Trudeau’s target demographic: youth.

The “Conversation with Justin Trudeau” event was hosted by the University of Toronto Young Liberals and was attended by many students, including several members of the Glendon Liberals. During the first section of the presentation, Trudeau answered questions from hosts Semra Eylul Sevi and Jonathan Scott. This

was followed by questions from the audience and a small scrum with major media outlets.

Audience questions spanned the realm of possibility, including everything from ideology, student government, and social media to parliamentary reform, Liberal renewal, the Canada Health Act, separatists, and foreign policy. With such an array of questions, one could imagine that it might be difficult to maintain a cohesive line throughout the event. However, Trudeau did manage to tie the entire conversation together with broad, patriotic answers about unity in diversity, change and engagement of

all citizens, with a particular emphasis on youth.

One statement by Trudeau stood out: that voting isn’t cool. Put the brakes on your outrage for a moment. The point being made was that to be “cool” is to be aloof and uncaring but voting is the antithesis to not caring. According to Trudeau, trying to sell youth on voting by painting it as the cool thing to do is a disservice to everyone. Voting and other aspects of civic engagement should be seen as crucial to citizenship and important parts of life.

While Trudeau did not provide details on just how he proposes to

engage the youth vote (let alone renew the Liberal Party of Canada, change Canada’s foreign policy direction or reform Parliament) the fact of the matter is that he is getting people talking. Critics may go on about a supposed lack of experience or claim that Trudeau is running on his looks, his father’s name, or both - but he is getting people interested in politics. That is commendable. The trick is now to get some real policy discussion going on.

When the last federal election had a turnout of a mere 61.1%, increasing political engagement on any level is change to believe in.

## UN JUSTE MILIEU ENTRE FÉMINISME ET MASCULINISME

LE CHANGEMENT DE POSITION DES EXTRÉMISTES POURRAIT AMÉLIORER LE MONDE D’AFFAIRES

PAR EKATERINA RUDKOVSKAYA CONTRIBUTRICE

Le féminisme radical exige le totalitarisme des femmes dans tous les domaines de la société. De son côté, le masculinisme radical rappelle aux femmes que leur rôle domestique, c’est-à-dire de prendre soin des enfants et de s’occuper des tâches ménagères. Ces deux groupes organisent des mouvements pour proclamer leurs opinions. Les féministes pensent que les femmes sont les meilleures candidates pour n’importe quel poste dans n’importe quel domaine. « Nous sommes tous des êtres humains, donc pourquoi assumer nos compétences d’après notre sexe ? » disent-elles. Les partisans du masculinisme les opposent en expliquant que les femmes ne sont pas aussi compétentes dans les domaines techniques, car leur style de pensée est plutôt intuitif que rationnel. Voyons comment ces courants de pensée affectent l’employeur.

L’intérêt principal d’une compagnie est le professionnalisme de l’employé.

En général, le fonctionnement optimal d’une entreprise est atteint si chacun des employés comprend son rôle et ses responsabilités et peut les effectuer du mieux possible. On ignore le sexe de l’employé, car cela ne justifie pas sa compétence professionnelle. Quand la compagnie a une ouverture de poste, on commence à lire les C.V. des candidats potentiels. La première partie que le département de ressources humaines regarde est celle énumérant les expériences de travail du candidat. Les statistiques récentes des journaux d’affaires nous indiquent que la première page du C.V., où se trouve l’information générale telle que l’âge, le sexe, l’information familiale, est lue seulement dans 10% des cas. Cela veut dire que le sexe, en général, n’est pas pris en compte à l’heure du choix de candidats.

Les féministes et les partisans du masculinisme exercent une pression

sur les compagnies pour que celles-ci aient un personnel composé de 50% femmes et 50% hommes. Ceci n’est pas très difficile à atteindre au niveau de l’employé, mais c’est presque impossible d’y arriver au niveau de l’administration. C’est-à-dire, traditionnellement il est cru que les hommes soient mieux capables de diriger la compagnie, car ils sont plus aptes de se concentrer uniquement sur leur travail. L’instinct naturel des femmes les assure la responsabilité des enfants, alors leur travail devient moins efficace lorsqu’elles ont des enfants. Néanmoins, il y existe toujours des femmes qui réussissent à équilibrer leurs responsabilités au travail et leurs responsabilités au sein de leur famille. Un exemple récent de ce genre de femme est la nouvelle présidente d’INTERPOL, Mireille Ballestrazzi. On voit aussi quelques grandes compagnies qui commencent, de plus en

plus, à embaucher des femmes au sein de leur haute direction. Il est à noter que celles-ci ne sont pas choisies pour ces postes à cause de leur sexe, mais en raison de leur compétence en gestion de l’administration.

Les féministes et les partisans du masculinisme peuvent toujours discuter le pourcentage de femmes dans les lieux de travail, mais c’est les directeurs des compagnies qui prennent les décisions finales. Lorsqu’on analyse le profit d’une compagnie, on n’évalue que les résultats qu’elle produit et le professionnalisme de leurs employés. Pour simplifier la vie des compagnies et pour assurer leur efficacité, les extrémistes devraient alléger la pression qu’ils exercent sur ces compagnies. Notre sexe ne détermine pas nos capacités de travail, ni nos connaissances. C’est notre habileté de mettre en oeuvre nos compétences qui assurent notre réussite personnelle et celle de notre compagnie.

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY. EVERY DAY!

A SATIRICAL CRITIQUE ON REMEMBRANCE DAY BY ALEX MOLDOVAN CONTRIBUTOR

The last issue of *Pro Tem* focused heavily on remembering the sacrifices soldiers make, or have made, for our great country and for the cause of freedom and democracy here in Canada and abroad. I, like many, do not believe that their selfless sacrifices should be forgotten every year until next Remembrance Day, but that we, as a patriotic and thankful people, should strive to remember, and to honour the sacrifices they have made to protect global “freedom”, “liberty” and “democracy”.

*We should remember those individuals who give up years of their lives to dedicated vicious voluntary service for their country. We should heap honour and praise to those individuals, in the past and present, who make the ultimate sacrifice to eliminate our “enemies”. People like Brigadier General Jeffery Sinclair should be praised for their careers of service and not condemned for “forced sex and inappropriate relationships with female soldiers.”<sup>1</sup> Here is a man who was selflessly dedicating time and effort to bring democracy and civilization to the ungovernable savages of Afghanistan and these outlandishly false accusations were levied against him. As every student here at York already knows, and should know, if you dress like a slut you are just asking for it (a police officer told us so, and so it must be true, they, like soldiers, protect us!). This warrior of freedom is innocent. He should be praised and thanked, and given numerous medals, for his contributions to civilization and freedom. We should never acknowledge those people who fight for peace and equality! How dare they defy the status quo, how dare they!*

*We should strive to remember and honour our freedoms which soldiers have fought to preserve. Here in the*

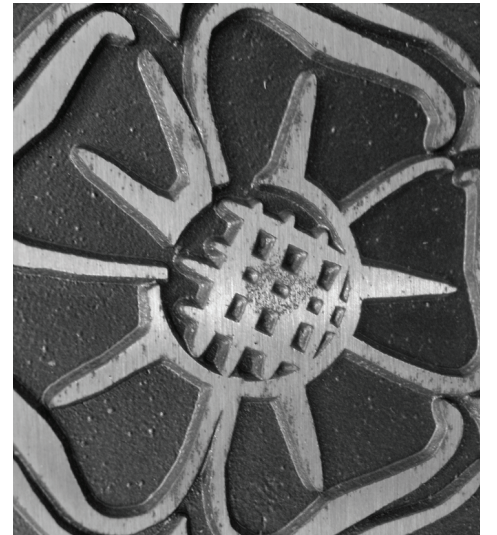
west we take our civil liberties like freedom of speech and freedom of expression for granted but people fought and died to preserve these things. And we should silence anyone who disagrees with freedom and jail the enemies of freedom and liberty indefinitely. We should pay homage to the camps we sent those “Jap” spies to in the Second World War. Without them we could have had a 9/11 style terrorist attack in Vancouver. We must protect our people; anyone else does not matter, unless they have a different lifestyle, if so, we must attack, and I trust that we are ready.

*We should also honour our legislators present and past, for enacting sedition laws to silence opposition. With any war there is a “divided home front,” and while at home there are questions, young men and women die in trenches. We should applaud and hold in high esteem legislation passed by our government and those governments of our allies to further this internal battle against those who condemn our troops to death. In the U.S. during the First World War bigots and worms were protesting on the streets against the soldiers of our greatest ally. Luckily, congress passed a Sedition Law in 1918 to jail and fine these cowards. I protest that the punishments were only up to 20 years in prison and a \$10, 000 fine.<sup>2</sup> Why not life in prison and a \$100 000 fine for these cowards! Without the bold heroism and commitment to the troops which legislators provide we wouldn't have any soldiers left to honour and we would be speaking German and saluting the Reich! We must honour, let us honour someone, anyone!*

*We should remember the big campaigns. When many think of WWII we remember D-Day, but we forget crucial events like the bombing of*

Dresden. We forget that the allied forces dropped over 3,900 tons of bombs on freedom hating Nazi “civilians”. Let us never forget the pilots who dropped bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki for they are the great facilitators of democratic government in Japan. For without the wake-up calls of those blasts the primitive Japanese would still be bowing to their Emperor and killing themselves due to their pagan traditions. Those brave pilots brought an end to the war and freedom to the Japanese people. “Freedom” through death, no matter who opposes, must still be honoured!

*We should remember the peacekeeping. We should not forget, nor ever neglect, Canada's modern peacekeeping role in world affairs. We should honour military men like Col Labbé, who during a Canadian peacekeeping mission to Somalia proclaimed “A case of champagne to the first one who gets [or kills] a Somali.” Let us not forget the men who “were allegedly giving noxious substances, in the form of urine in water bottles and packets of Tabasco sauce, to Somali nationals.”<sup>3</sup> Let us not forget that it was the Canadian Forces, in peace-making blue helmets no doubt, who, through ingenuity and military prowess, brought democracy and freedom to Haiti after aiding in the overthrow of Jean-Bertrand Aristide's brutal dictatorship. This oppressive monster had the audacity of destroying liberty through generous health care and social benefit programs. This madman dissolved the Haitian army! How dare he get rid of this noble army, that's never seen foreign combat and was used to keep order and justice throughout the country.<sup>4</sup> How preposterous is it to have a state without an army. I mean, whom would we remember?*



PAOLA PAULINO

Notes:

<sup>1</sup>“U.S. Army General who 'had forced sex and inappropriate relationships with female soldiers' in Afghanistan flown home in disgrace.” *Daily Mail UK*, September 2012. HYPERLINK: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2209023/Jeffrey-A-Sinclair-US-Army-General-charged-rape-sent-home-Afghanistan.html>

<sup>2</sup>“Senate Accepts Sedition Bill.” *The New York Times*, May 1918. HYPERLINK: <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=9B01E1DD103BEE3ABC4D53DFB3668383609EDE>

<sup>3</sup>“Report of the Somalia Commission of Inquiry: Annex A Somalia-Related Incidents.” Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, Department of National Defence, 1997. HYPERLINK: <http://www.dnd.ca/somalia/vol5/v5c40ce.htm>

<sup>4</sup>Engler, Yves. *The Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy*. Vancouver: Red Pub., 2009.

## EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE? A TEMPTED GLANCE ON PERSPECTIVES OF RIGHTS FOR EDUCATION

BY ARTEM ZAYTSEV ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF ISSUES AND IDEAS

Perhaps one of the most important changes that we can observe today is a change towards the acceptance of general education. Centuries ago (or even decades in some countries), public education in schools was perceived as a “criminal step” towards socialism, whereas now that idea is less prevalent, and children around the world have access to schools. Youth around the world have gained a new undeniable human right, a right for education. Unfortunately, there are still some categories of people who are excluded from this possibility.

Malala Yousafzai, a 14-year-old protester was a victim of an attempted assassination by the Taliban as a response to her demands and public activity. A sympathizer of IMT (International Marxist Tendency) and a Trotskyist, she is known in Pakistan for being a supporter of women's rights

for education. Nevertheless, barbaric customs of certain fundamentalists provide a perfect justification to an attempt to kill a young child in the name of religion. In fact, the precise statement by the Taliban declared that Malala was spying against Islam and therefore must be eliminated as a traitor and an enemy. The general population of Pakistan as well as the government condemned the Taliban's accusations and their violent methods. In no way should fanatical ideas be allowed prevail over the common morality and ability of individuals to raise their voice in concern; still, the attempted assassination of Malala Yousafzai to a great misfortune proves that archaic views still exists in our societies and that some categories of people are treated as criminals for an attempt make the right for education universally accepted.

Another problem in today's path towards recognizing education as an undeniable human right is not only the fact that certain groups of people are blatantly restricted from their rights, but also because abuses to them do not get a lot of coverage or recognition by the media. We rarely see headlines of major newspapers outlining this problem, even though it remains a major international issue. As mentioned before, Malala Yousafzai was an International Marxist Tendency supporter, and therefore placed a large emphasis on women's rights. Left-wing theorists and supporters have always contributed to the equalization of the rights for both sexes, thus providing an irreplaceable asset that shapes our modern society. In the case of Malala, the events that happened to her were so brutal and gruesome that this attempted assas-

sination gained international coverage quite rapidly. While being labeled as a hero and an icon for the hopes of improving education rights for women in Pakistan and Middle East in general, she has also instantly become a worldwide symbol of resistance to hatred and oppression. What angers one even more, is the fact that a 14-year-old girl is out there fighting and receiving death threats for standing up for what is right, while most adults like us remain speechless. Luckily, despite some serious injuries, Malala survived the attack and is expected to recover fully.

Her story proves that not everyone is treated equally regarding educational reforms in different countries, but the sole fact that there are groups of protesters battling for their rights raises the possibility of a change in the future.



## LOOKING BACK ON BACK-TO-SCHOOL JITTERS

IMPRESSIONS OF A FIRST YEAR STUDENT

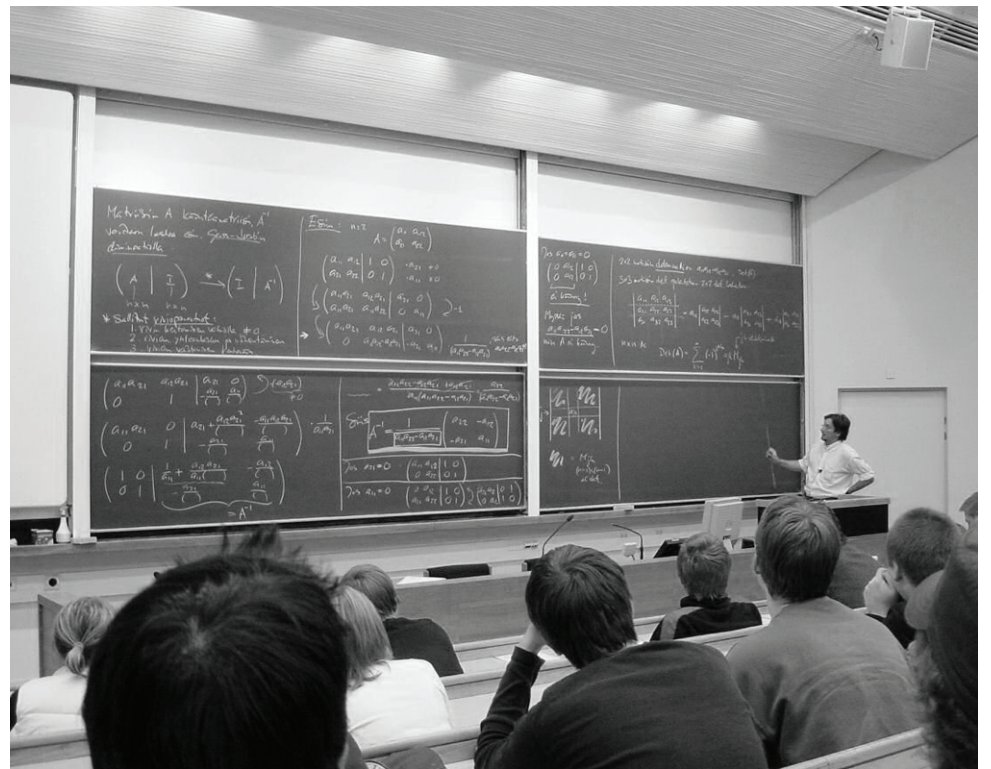
BY STEPHANIE HAMANN CONTRIBUTOR

The process of applying, and accepting an offer of admission is not all that difficult, however, choosing which University to attend requires a lot of thinking. I eventually decided that Toronto was the right city for me, and Glendon the right school. I liked the big-city-feel of Toronto, and the small, secluded, and welcoming community of Glendon. I felt comfortable at Glendon, which was what I was looking for in a University campus. It is a big commitment deciding which school to choose. With high school, the decision is normally made for you. This choice however determines students' next four years, as well as their future endeavours. This decision makes a big impact, bringing profound change in one's life. Coming from a smaller city – with a population of 130,000, it was difficult at first to adapt to a large metropolis like Toronto. In order to conserve money, I decided to not live on residence and instead stay with my grandparents who reside in Toronto.

The biggest challenge for me at first, was figuring out the public transportation system. In order for me to get to school everyday, I need to take the subway, and then a bus to Glendon. Prior to this year, taking the subway in Toronto was foreign to me. My first time alone on the subway, I had just

taken the bus from my hometown and was dropped off at Union Station. There were so many commuters swarming around me, rushing to catch the next train. Cards being swiped and flashed every which way, I took out my token and placed it in the slot, allowing me to walk past the gates to finally get underground. Traveling from Union Station to Glendon Campus was a big step for me. The overwhelming feeling of being alone on such a busy transit system had vanished. After a few trips back and forth, my daily routine was set, and I felt comfortable enough to branch out to visit different areas of Toronto. The first couple of weeks at University really changed my perspective of school. It was no longer high school – teachers weren't going to watch over me while writing my papers.

The expectations' placed upon a student are much higher in University, as opposed to high school. Receiving your grade on your first paper is often a wake up call. Although it may be a disappointing grade, it gives you the determination to try harder, and a much-needed reality check. At the beginning, there may be nervousness about not knowing how to do a certain assignment, however, the independence of learning how to do something



COURTESY WIKIPEDIA

yourself is an important step in becoming an adult – and a successful student.

School prior to Glendon felt like being trapped in a daycare. Students were supervised every minute of the day. At Glendon, I feel relieved to have some extra freedom, and at the same time, not shy to ask for advice. Glendon gives me a sense of security, where no one has to feel afraid to ask questions. It is a major change for students to make the leap from high school to

University, but once you've done it – you know that this decision will only benefit you, and your future.

As a first year student myself, I can confidently say that I am glad I chose Glendon. My experience attending this school has given me a positive outlook on my next four great years at University. I look forward to whatever challenges I may face, knowing that I have a supportive community willing to help me.

## CANADA AND IDENTITY POLITICS A PROPOSAL TO THE DECADES-LONG IMPASSE

BY CONNER MARVIN CONTRIBUTOR

Since this country's birth, we have slowly institutionalized concepts that embody a unique Canadian experience – it's never been solely British, French or First Nations in entirety. Since the Statue of Westminster, our grandparents gained a Canadian citizenship and the Supreme Court. Our parents gained a National Anthem, a flag, and patriated constitution, only to name a few. This is the result of a process, that of building and enshrining the pieces of the puzzle that express the shared idea of Canada. John Raulston Saul said it best: that Canada is first and foremost an idea of what a country could or should be. It exists in a realm outside that of the nation states that have emerged over centuries, those that have become monoliths – that is to say, one history, one language, one identity. To this day we struggle to define ourselves in our own light. But, as Saul draws upon, this is because the one thing that defines Canada best is its complexity. It is not a simple endeavour to take this vast, diverse land and condense it into a single idea, if that endeavour is possible at all. The process of building the puzzle that is Canada is vital to our collective identity, but it must be stressed that this is an incomplete project, and failing to strive for this project is detrimental to our collective identity, and, I would argue, the survival of the federation itself.

Following the Meech Lake and Charlottetown Accords, the discussion

of how to envision this country hit an impasse. It resulted in a stalemate, with English and French Canada receding into their rhetoric to forever contemplate the Canada that might have been. I resent the failure of our élites to seriously engage the population in an educated decision on how to take this country forward. Instead politicians cower behind rhetoric and avoid serious confrontation for fears of aggravating people on one "side" or the other.

It is increasingly obvious that the stalemate between English and French in this country has created a rift that suggests the status quo is not sustainable. Since Meech and Charlottetown, the idea of a constitutional amendment to recognize Québec as a distinct society is in no way palatable in English Canada, and proposals since then have reached the same wall – they simply will not work. Ideas outside the box are necessary to move this discussion forward. Being the majority, the burden of change is indeed on English Canada. That is not to say that the rhetoric in Québec does not need to change, but rather, the steps to rectify the situation lie in English Canada's hands. Keating hits the nail on the head – "We need to change our discussion from 'what Québec wants' to 'what Québec is'. It is a democratic majority inside a larger federation." So if we can't take the first steps to rectification through directly recognizing Québec as what it is, then what are the first steps?

The conflict is certainly one of identity, and therein lies the solution. The next step of building the Canadian puzzle presents an opportunity for fresh new dialogue to a complex, pressing issue that reached an impasse two decades ago. Adding another piece to the Canadian puzzle may be able to serve as something we can all identify with, although it requires the opening of a Pandora's box, a risk we've always taken in adding a puzzle piece.

Canada naturally has its institutional roots in the British monarchy – such is the reality of our history. But what is just as real is that this country is by no means a simple result of English imperialism. I need not cite historical groups present in Canada to this day, but need only mention their profound impact in shaping this country. I therefore propose that Canada move to create a head of state institution more in line with Canadian identity. Having our head of state being the British monarchy masks our complex history. To be clear however – this is not denying our English history, but rather including it in the reality that has been our shared history. Having a Canadian institution at the highest levels of government should be our next endeavour. In the current system, no Canadian has ever, or could ever be our head of state. In terms of function, the new head of state system should be close to the current one – largely ceremonial. This is to keep intact the

governing process we've developed over time. The specifics are not for an undergraduate Political Science major to define, but the idea is powerful. This generation needs a powerful idea, a large endeavour to leave our fingerprints on this country. If we are to come of age as a true nation of nations, a unique entity that embraces its diversity and flies in the face of traditional monolithic nation states, then we must take the brave steps of redefining ourselves in our own light. The reality is that the divergence in the perception of how this country should look warrants a serious discussion and some serious reconceptualising.

I've brought the idea up to many friends. Usually it is met with lukewarm sympathy, but many say the age-old line of "if it 'aint broke, don't fix it." This is the thing – it IS broken. Politicians walk on eggshells for fear stoking the flames may incite another referendum in Québec. How long are we going to ignore the elephant in the room? It is obvious that this issue needs to be solved, and that a new platform of discussion is required. That new platform can be a system developed by Canadians to represent Canadians at the highest levels of government. Let's start a discussion, let's find a solution and put in the past the quarrels that have split this country apart. Let's look at who we are and where we're going, before there is no "we" at all.



## REVISITING ELECTORAL REFORM IN CANADA

WHY CANADA SHOULD REFORM THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

BY MIRANDA MINAWI STAFF WRITER

Canada has long been touted as an international leader in democracy. In our democratic experiment however, serious flaws remain. The current “first past the post” electoral system consistently creates false majorities and parties rarely gain seats in the House of Commons in numbers relative to their share of the popular vote. The mixed member proportional system (MMP) will serve to increase democracy in this great nation, eliminating the false majorities that push bills through without public support.

The single member district plurality or first past the post system of elections has a series of flaws that render it undemocratic and unjust, the most prominent of these being the frequent creation of false majorities in government. Essentially, it is very common for a majority government to be formed without a party having 50 percent of the votes actually cast in its favour. In fact, there have been only two post World War Two federal level governments formed that actually did have the support of the majority of the voting public. Aside from those two

true majorities in 1958 and 1984, no contemporary government, minority or majority, has enjoyed support from the majority of Canadians. This represents a major issue, in that prime ministers (who, when at the head of majority governments, have few if any checks on their power) will justify their mandate by arguing that their majority in the House of Commons implies the support of most or all Canadians.

One of the more divisive and controversial agreements made by a Canadian government was the Free Trade Agreement with the United States. In the 1988 federal election, Brian Mulroney made the Free Trade Agreement the primary issue of the election and under his leadership, the Tories won a majority of seats – 57% of them. Despite the fact that the majority government was won with only 43% of the popular vote Mulroney pushed forward with the FTA talks, claiming it was what the public wanted. Clearly, in this case the false majority allowed the Mulroney government to achieve something that did not truly have public support; the actions taken by the

government did not represent the true views of the citizens.

Similarly Bill C-10 The Safe Streets and Community Act, known best as the (contentious) *omnibus crime bill*, was passed by a Conservative government with a majority of seats but a proportion of the popular vote which was much smaller – 53.9% or 166 of 308 seats with only 39% of votes. Passing bills not supported by the public contravenes the spirit and design of democracy. It was possible for this to occur due to the first past the post system. At the root of these false majorities is the fact that the percentage of seats a party receives very rarely reflects the percentage of the *popular vote* that the party received. Using the mixed-member proportional system instead would rectify this issue easily, and ensure that parties receive seats equal to their share of the popular vote, resulting in a much more accurate representation of Canadian views within the House of Commons. False majorities would be eliminated, as the MMP is designed specifically to ensure that the number of seats received is proportionate to

the fraction of the popular vote won by each party. In this way, MMP is more democratic and representative of the political views of the Canadian population, ensuring that government action is as well.

Should the faith of Canadians in our flawed democracy deteriorate any further, reforming the electoral system in favour of a mixed member proportional system will prove to be the correct choice and the right path towards restoring the Canadian democratic legacy. A mixed member proportional system provides better representation and is truly democratic, without sacrificing the stability cherished by Canadian society. Voters will actually be represented by whom they vote for, and false majorities will be a thing of the past. Mixed member proportional representation has a plethora of benefits for the Canadian political system and outshines critiques of potential drawbacks. However, electoral reform is not something to be undertaken lightly and it will require education and the beginnings of a paradigm shift within Canadian civil society.

## SOCIAL NETWORKING: THEN AND NOW

PROBLEM SOLVING AND PROBLEMS LINKED TO SOCIAL NETWORKING

BY ERIKA DESJARDINS ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF EXPRESSIONS

Change: it never stops and is constantly present, some people like it and some don't. In my opinion what is peculiar (but to be expected) is how *everything* changes. More specifically how our problem solving methods have changed.

Today, fighting is done in a cowardly way because it never solves any problems as it just allows people to let out their anger.

Back in the day, before Facebook, Twitter, and Myspace, fighting was simple. You had a problem with someone? Give them a date, time, and place and five minutes of fighting and it's done, everyone moves on with their lives and the issue is never discussed again.

Now if you have a problem with someone, you post a passive-aggressive status on Facebook, or Tweet about it, and then it goes on for days, comment after comment. Don't think it's private and mature - other people also comment on your post, and it becomes even worse. It will be the subject of gossip for days and people will take sides. They will either think you're right or that you're an immature moron for posting such an irrelevant status.

That's the problem with communication now: it's cowardly. Most people would rather talk to someone on the Internet than have a real life relationship. It might be wrong to generalize it, which is why I said 'most' and not 'everyone': a lot of people are still old fashioned! We live in a voyeuristic and exhibitionistic world. We like to

go on Facebook and see what people are up to, and we like letting people know about ourselves, but there's a limit. Some people feel the need to post twenty statuses an hour (maybe there's a slight exaggeration here), and guess what? NOBODY CARES! You don't really need to let us know that you're currently brushing your teeth, and stop complaining about your parents on Facebook, maybe some of your Facebook 'friends' don't have parents. How do you think that makes them feel? They don't have any parents and there you are crying like a little baby about how they took away your iPod and you wish something bad would happen to them. How guilty would you feel if anything did happen to them?

People don't realise how facebook statuses and tweets can affect certain people, that they can actually make people feel imprisoned. Social Networking activities control so many different parts of peoples' lives now that there is even a depression linked to it called 'the Facebook Depression'. When people post smiling pictures and happy statuses, it makes some of their friends believe that their own life is not good. However, everyone has good and bad days. This 'Facebook Depression' also comes from rejected friend requests.

Social Networking does have its positives such as being able to easily communicate with friends and families. The one thing you need to consider: do the negatives outweigh the positives for you?



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## CLIMATE CHANGE: IT'S STILL HAPPENING...

DOING OUR PART TO TAKE CARE OF OUR EARTH BY ANNA RUSSELL ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The clock is ticking but few seem to be watching the time. The global climate has been changing since the dawn of the Earth, and the changes we currently witness shouldn't be that surprising. What is astonishing, however, is the rapid pace at which these changes occur.

Our Earth's climate change is mainly due to the ever-increasing energy consumption made by today's society, and the evermore-increasing demand for it. Yet, though most of us are aware of our negative impact on Earth and the physical effects attributed to it, the demand continues to grow. To what extent must Mother Nature deteriorate in order to grasp our attention and effectively show our society what must be done to slow down these abnormal alterations?

Apparently a Category 1 hurricane in New York is not enough to grasp our attention. On the coast of the economically booming state, Hurricane Sandy pulled the trees up out of their roots. It blew the tops off of many houses, and blew the minds of people all over the world. Meanwhile, in the city, those blinded by their natural environment and consumed with energy and technology, still continued to line up to purchase the latest iPad in stores.

Sandy rained over the span of nine days, hitting the metropolitan center the hardest between October 29th and the 30th. This seems like a short span of time, but like many natural disasters, time is never an issue when it comes to destruction. As for the damage...well, the statistics paint a graphic picture: Grand Central Station, a non-stop, continuously active, prime spot closed down completely for the first time in its history due to the unruly weather. Though rain surged,

fires ignited as well, scorching houses packed in a tightly organized suburban complexes. There was also oil-spillage that ensued, hurting the people of New York as well as their already damaged environment. Hundreds upon hundreds of carts filled with damaged groceries tainted by the flood's mildew waters had to be disposed of, unused and uneaten. But was all this really due to a metal plate that lights up in the dark, keeping many of us oh-too-close to the virtual world?

Not directly, no, but think about it in this way: the accumulation of all the waste we produce daily (including electrical and heat energy) do become a burden on our Earth when the weight becomes too heavy to bear. According to research done by the non-for-profit organization, Palo Alto Electrical Power Institute:

"The average energy used by all iPads in the market is approximately 590 GWh. If, perhaps, the number of iPads tripled within the next two years, the energy required would be nearly equivalent to two 250-megawatt (MW) power plants operating at a 50% utilization rate. A quadrupling of sales in two years would require energy generated by three 250-MW power plants."

(<http://gigaom.com/apple/so-how-much-does-it-cost-to-charge-an-ipad-every-year/>)

Now, one would hope that it would not take the worst situations to occur for us as a global community to recognize the truth and act upon it. Still, it seems as such. These essential environmentally friendly changes are not out of our reach; we can make a positive impact. Even the simplest of things that we often forget to do can make a



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world of a difference. This include the 3 R's (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle), turning off the lights when they are not needed, unplugging your phone and iPad chargers after they've been used, and using the furnace and air conditioner only when necessary.

Even the smallest steps can get us from one place to another, with a brighter future and less dramatic climate change ahead of us. So, start walking with me.

*Hurricane Sandy pulled the trees up out of their roots. It blew the tops off of many houses, and blew the minds of people all over the world.*

## TAKE YOUR WORKOUT HOME! STAYING ACTIVE AMIDST YOUR WINTER HIBERNATION

BY VICTORIA RAMSAY SECTION EDITOR OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Why don't you get up off the couch? Yes, you, sitting there in your comfy post exam attire. It's time to do something. But here's the bright side, the pro, the light at the end of the tunnel, you don't even have to leave your front door.

As snow is blanketing the ground and the school semester quickly comes to an end, things, like the season, start to change. We go from ideal dedicated, hardworking students, diligently studying in the library, to free spirited young adults throwing caution (and our papers) to the wind. The holiday months of December and January are times of great change. It is ironic that a time of resolutions and the start to a new year comes at such a cold, dark time of the year. If you could stay in your comfiest sweatpants nestled in bed watching that Gilmore Girls episode for the hundredth time, sipping on some hot chocolate you would be eternally happy – but that's not going to help you maintain your pre-holiday

figure. It also would be much easier to stick to fitness resolutions in January if it were a bright, sunny and warm month. If only you could just head out for a run in your favourite t-shirt, working out would be bliss. Thankfully, there is a new solution springing up on fitness blogs and Pinterest alike.

The thought of an "at home workout" is pleasing to many. Remove going to the gym from the equation, and all of the hassle that goes along with it vanishes. No more gym fees! No more judgmental eyes of fellow gym attendees following you as you attempt to use that new weight lifting machine, or decipher the flashing buttons on the elliptical. It's just you in the comfort of your own home, accompanied by an exercise routine planned out on paper or playing on your television screen.

You can go about an at-home workout in a number of ways. The Internet is an amazing resource. From fitness blogs to YouTube video routines and Pinterest, your options are limitless.

There is a wide community of people to learn from, share tips and tricks with and even share your progress with. Because of the wide variety of resources that the Internet offers, you never have to become bored with an at-home fitness regime. There's always something new to try.

In these cold winter's days, an at-home workout might just be the perfect cure for your winter blues. The convenience factor is key. Your workout can now work more easily around your busy schedule. There is no need to factor in time going to and from the gym, and your post-workout shower and change of clothes are footsteps away. The convenience is key, but to make this work consistency has to play a role. Working out at home can bring a casual attitude to your active lifestyle, but you can't let your workout become casual as well. Make time for your workout, push yourself and maybe have a friend join you. These things will help keep you motivated.

Of all of the resources out there, here are my top 3 picks for an at home fitness routine:

3. Pinterest Daily Routines: These workouts are "pinned" in a colourful manner and plan out your week in activities. Example: Monday: 100 jumping jacks, 50 crunches, 20 triceps dips, 15 squats, 20 pushups and repeat.

2. Jillian Michaels: You might know her as a trainer from the Biggest Loser. Her workout videos are enjoyable yet tough. It is a great way to work yourself up for longer endurance.

1. And finally, my number one pick is P90x. This is my top pick because I have yet to try it. It is completely new to me. I've had multiple friends try out this routine and enjoyed it. If done consistently, while putting in effort, results are apparent. It isn't easy but it really provides a good challenge, just what I need.

So grab your computers, remotes and yoga mats this winter season and get into working out at home. Stay active!

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# Arts et Divertissement

## TOP FIVE RECORDS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED THIS YEAR

A LOOK BACK AT SOME MEMORABLE MUSIC RELEASES FROM 2012

BY LAURA STANLEY ASSOCIATE EDITOR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Whether they're for music, movies, concerts, or books, year-end lists can get to be a bit of an overkill, it's undeniable. Either way, they're always a handy tool to help sift through a busy year of entertainment. With no exception, the 2012 year in music proved both to be full of both great releases and a breakthrough time for others. Adding to the overkill, here are five standout records you might have missed from 2012.

*Small Reveal* - Aidan Knight

Victoria's Aidan Knight garnered some serious attention in 2010 with his sunny, folk-filled hit "Jasper" and the rest of his easy to love first record, *Versicolour*. In his sophomore release, *Small Reveal*, Knight reveals to listeners a new, but equally loveable, lush baroque-folk-pop style, marking a major maturity of sound for the singer. Highlighted by the big time opener "Dream Team" and the heartbreaking closer "Margaret Downe," if you're not familiar with Aidan Knight already, you better become familiar soon.

*Barchords* - Bahamas

Afie Jurvanen, better known as Bahamas, seemingly exploded in popularity this past year thanks to his newest record *Barchords*. Already known for playing with the likes of Feist, Zeus, and Jason Collett, Jurvanen's sensual melodies, voice, and of course the lyrics themselves, are all dealt in a poppy-folk, body moving beat. Bahamas' *Barchords* has appealing qualities whether you're actually in the Bahamas or not.

*The Nature of Things* - The Daredevil Christopher Wright

An example of indie-pop at its finest, trio The Daredevil Christopher Wright is one of the most under recognized bands out there right now. Best known for their affiliation with Bon Iver's Justin Vernon, *The Nature of Things*, which sadly has no David Suzuki references within, combines The Daredevil Christopher Wright's flawless harmonies with catchy melodies. Showing both their more acoustic and organic side in "I and Thou" and "The Birds of the Air and the Flowers of the Field" and the previously mentioned indie-pop sound in "We Fold Inside of Us" and "The Animal of Choice", The Daredevil Christopher Wright have made a sophomore record that's hard to resist.

*Voyageur* - Kathleen Edwards

On the short list for the 2012 Polaris Music Prize, this marking her fourth record, and with a hearty Canadian fan base, Kathleen Edwards is no stranger to positive attention. However, in *Voyageur* she has truly outdone herself. A breakup album to its core, the record follows Edwards' divorce. Edwards has written an album that tells the brutal truth about her past relationship all in a revamped music style that successfully moves away from her folk-country sound. Grab the nearest tissue box and hold onto your cat with this one!

*Fear Fun* - Father John Misty

Ex-Fleet Foxes drummer Joshua Tillman, is another one who captured hearts this year. As the front man for his new band Father John Misty, their debut record *Fear Fun* is, put simply, all kinds of fun. With Mick Jagger like dance moves highlighting their live shows and sweet 70's inspired sounds flooding the record, *Fear Fun* is both a melodious (see "Nancy From Now On") and an adventure telling ("I'm Writing a Novel") record and is easily one of the best from 2012.

## KICKIN' IT COUNTRY

THE POPULARIZATION OF COUNTRY MUSIC

BY SARAH ZASLOV CONTRIBUTOR

Young adults have always seemed to cast a bad light on the hokey tunes of country, commonly referring to it as "corny", "lame", and "music for hicks." However, in the last year or so a real popularization of the genre has come about, especially among younger people. I attended to the Zac Brown Band concert this past September and was astonished at how many young cowboy boot and hat clad people there were in comparison to the amount of adults. Country has infused itself into the lives and styles of a younger age; stretching out farther than it ever has before.

Country music has always been popular with famous artists like Johnny Cash, June Cash, Hank Williams, fellow Canadian Hank Snow, and of course the first female country artist to sell one million records, Patsy Montana. However, they were not on the same scale as today's musicians, and a lot of them did not gain most of their popularity until after their time. Today's media and technology have greatly affected the perception of this genre, making it accessible to those who weren't always big fans.

I suppose we can partially thank Taylor Swift for getting the most popular radio stations to begin playing her country-pop music and setting the stage for the emergence of other now popular country artists. After her first albums came out and she began attracting a bigger following among a younger audience, so did related country artists such as Kellie Pickler, Miranda Lambert, and Lady Antebellum. Country artists started having huge hits on radio stations typically known for playing pop music. This introduction to radio hit country songs must have sparked an interest in the country genre and a whole new wave of popularity ensued. If you go on Youtube.com these days to watch the latest music videos starring your favourite artists you will see large advertisements around the video you watch, and at times your video may be preceded by an ad. A lot of the times these advertisements will promote emerging country artists or new songs by recent favourites such as Kenny Chesney, Brad Paisley, or Florida Georgia Line. Publicity for country has soared as it gains universality in the popular music world.

Country music has also been highly recognized by music award shows such as the Grammy's. The Grammy's have been around for years and have almost always acknowledged country music artists, however, particular attention has been made to those younger artists that have influenced this blow up of the genre among youth audiences. In 2010 Taylor Swift won five grammy's and was nominated for eight, a significant difference to the single awards won by Shelby Lynn in 2001 and Glen Campbell back in 1969. In 2011, Lady Antebellum won four Grammy's and their radio hit "Need You Now" was named the most downloaded country



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song of all time. Not to discriminate against adults, but downloading has become an adolescent phenomenon as most older people insist on buying albums. Youth fan-favorites are being taken into consideration allowing youth audiences to flourish while inspiring interest in the genre as a whole. The songs are relatable. Instead of getting derogatory language, promotion of vanities and idealizations about getting rich and famous blasted into our ears, we hear easy going guitar tunes overcast by southern accents singing about love, female empowerment, sunshine, and friendship, to name a few. Country music is filled with positivity, and what other genre can you turn to where a good song is one that gives meaning to eating a steak that tastes like burnt tire? And the music is so darn catchy. Country music is here to stay. So strap on your boots, tip your hat, and start learning the cowboy boogie.



## TOP FIVE FILMS YOU MAY NOT HAVE SEEN... BUT SHOULD!

GREAT FILMS TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE EVERYDAY BY ADRIEN BENSON CONTRIBUTOR

### 1. *The Impossible*

Premiering at TIFF to thunderous praise, this is J.A. Bayona's follow-up to 2007's unsettling and deeply moving *The Orphanage*. Ewan McGregor and Naomi Watts star in the true story of a family surviving in the aftermath of the tsunami that struck the coast of Thailand on December 26, 2004. Gloriously shot, scored and directed, the film's true strength lies with Watts, McGregor and relative newcomer Tom Holland, who at 16 displays a maturity and sensitivity rarely seen in even actors three times his age. Moment of confession: while I am more than willing to be swept up in the emotions of a film, I am generally not much of a crier (in cinema only mind you). For this though, I was brought to tears on not one, but two occasions. The film's strength is not in its ability to mercilessly tug at your heartstrings, though there's plenty of that as well; no, what makes this a near masterpiece is its ability to balance tense, riveting disaster film tropes with genuine emotion and feeling, all without stifling the truth behind the narrative beats or dampening the tragic and harsh realities that come with one's fight for survival.

### 2. *The Raid: Redemption*

Forget all the artsy stuff. Sometimes, you just want to see a lot of kicking, punching and shooting. In Gareth Evans' second feature *The Raid*, that's exactly what you get! And boy howdy, there's plenty of it to spare. A simple enough premise: a crime boss has hidden away on the top floor of his apartment complex; a team of SWAT is to bring him into custody. When all but the leader is left for dead, our lone hero must fight his way to the top until he gets his man. This is the 21st century's Indonesian answer to the John Woo Hong-Kong action epics of the early 90s, the likes of *Hard Boiled* and *The Killer*. This is a rough, violent, bloody, wickedly entertaining movie that continuously manages to up the dramatic stakes, all while never repeating itself on the action front. The tagline for the film reads: "One minute of romance, 99 minutes of non-stop carnage." If that doesn't get your adrenaline pumping for some good old fashioned balls to wall action, then look elsewhere; this film is doing fine without you.

### 3. *Bernie*

The surprise film of this list... While I've always been a fan Jack Black (and an even bigger fan of director Richard Linklater), I never thought I'd have so much affection for this little film that could. An indie sleeper hit (and by that I mean around \$9 million at the box-office), *Bernie* tells the story of a mortician from small-town Carthage in Texas. Beloved and regarded as the kindest, most generous man in town, Bernie's life is changed when he befriends the coldest, meanest lady in town, played with surprising subtlety and nuance by Shirley MacLaine. Only, friendship doesn't last forever, and in one instant of weakness, Bernie's soft gentle facade is shattered, and he quickly does away with the old broad. Without spoiling any part of the latter half, the film takes some deliciously quirky, but never unearned emotional twists, all the while leading up to Bernie's reckoning. Based on a true story, *Bernie* intersperses drama with real live interviews of the townspeople. This adds to the overall charm and authenticity of a film that deftly juggles comedy, docu-drama, tragedy, love and pathos, all while being anchored by Jack Black, who unequivocally gives one of the best performances of his career. Do NOT miss this one!

### 4. *Laurence, Anyways*

Québec's enfant terrible, 23-year-old Xavier Dolan gives us his third exploration of love, sexuality and relationships in the form of a nearly three-hour epic that spans over 10 years. Laurence (Melvil Poupaud) and Fred (Suzanne Clément – whose performance here won her the Best Actress award at Cannes) are wildly in love, that is until the day Laurence reveals he's done living a lie; he's a transsexual. So begins a tumultuous relationship, as Laurence and Fred attempt to deal with his her life choice and still make things work. This is a lush, beautifully shot, wonderfully acted and exceedingly well scored and unabashedly exuberant film that sashays a fine line between unrivaled genius and campy self-indulgence. Luckily, Dolan's confidence (make that over-confidence) keeps this film fresh and exciting, all the while staying anchored in reality thanks to its brilliant lead performances.

### 5. *In The Family*

While technically being released for the first time in 2011, I couldn't resist including what is sure to remain on my top ten list for the rest of the year, if not the entire decade. Made on a near micro-budget, this is MIT graduate turned film director/writer/producer/lead actor Patrick Wang's first feature length debut about a gay man's fight to obtain custody of his recently deceased partner's biological son (try and say that in one breath will you). While this may appear like a Lifetime channel's movie of the week, nothing could be further from reality. Once the film eases you into its deliberate pace, it begins to reveal the truths and vulnerabilities rarely on display. Wang is a genius with displaying the complexities of life and relationships through simple character interactions, all the while never condemning certain characters for making realistic, human decisions. His bravery lies in letting the camera linger on his actors and forcing his audience to soak in every inch of the screen. By the film's wonderfully moving conclusion, this technique has paid off in spades. Currently, Wang is avoiding the traditional digital methods of distribution, instead choosing to tour his film from city to city (I was lucky to have caught it twice in Victoria). If the film is playing near you, and if you are a fan of challenging, yet infinitely rewarding character dramas, then please do yourself a favor and seek this little seen gem.

## THE DARK HORSES OF CINEMA GREAT FILMS LOST IN TIME BY ASHLEY MONIZ CONTRIBUTOR

SLING BLADE (1996)

DIRECTED AND WRITTEN BY: BILLY BOB THORNTON

STARRING: BILLY BOB THORNTON, LUCAS BLACK, DWIGHT YOAKAM

Change is an important part of life, especially when we make mistakes and do our best not to repeat them. But what happens when a big decision is in your hands and you are caught on the fence between maintaining your new life and dragging out the old skeletons from your closet?

*Sling Blade* is the touching story of Karl Childers (Billy Bob Thornton), a mentally disabled man who is released from institutionalization many years after murdering his mother and a local boy. Upon his release, he returns to his old hometown, where he is given a job at an engine repair shop and is offered a room there in which to stay. He soon befriends a young boy, Frank Wheatley (Lucas Black), who convinces his mother, Linda (Natalie Canerday), to allow Karl to live in their basement. Frank's father died when he was young, and Karl becomes like a father figure to Frank; the two develop a heart-warming bond as the film progresses. Problems arise when Karl meets Doyle Hargraves (Dwight Yoakman), Linda's abusive boyfriend, who torments Linda, Frank and Karl, as well as Linda's homosexual friend and colleague, Vaughan Cunningham (John Ritter). As Doyle grows gradually more aggressive, Karl senses that the lives of Linda and Frank are at risk and feels the need to protect them at all costs, a measure that would send him back to the institution. Karl must make an important decision: does he follow the peaceful life that keeps him out of trouble with the authorities, or should he do whatever it takes to defend the people he's grown to love?

Thornton shows the true extent of his brilliance in this film: anyone who doesn't know or care for him prior to seeing this film will gain a new found respect after seeing *Sling Blade*. The screenplay he has written not only shows Karl's emotional journey throughout the film, but also evolves the audience's perception of him. The beginning of the film includes a scene where he describes his crime to a reporter in a darkened room, a scene portraying a dark and unstable, maybe even psychotic character. But not even half an hour later, you see an emotional and kind-hearted person behind that first impression. This realization is one that each of the supporting characters has as well, making the audience feel as if they are a part of his journey.

And while Thornton's character is the definite scene-stealer in this film, the other characters aid and show this progression, as well as their own personal traits. Dwight Yoakman portrays Doyle as the villain you love to hate. His performance is chilling in the sense of how real a character the abusive fiancé is for many viewers, and contrasts Karl not only in pure character, but also in how he does not try to change his ways for the best. The character of Vaughan is a bit more unique, in his depiction as the non-stereotypical homosexual in both script and Ritter's performance. The fact that his character does not comply with the general stereotypes allows viewers to see him in a more human and relatable manner, and thus instead of stealing the spotlight, he supports the storyline.

This film inspires and displays change in many ways. It not only shows how the characters adapt and make vital decisions for each other, but it also sparks a need for change within all of us. It changes our outlook on life and the people around us, teaching us to be less judgemental and focus more on who someone is as opposed to *what* they are. It tells us that despite what has happened in the past, the main focus we have on other people should be finding out who they are today. This film does a brilliant job at this, while maintaining a fair amount of tension from beginning to end. This movie is definitely a must-see.

-For more movie reviews please visit "Ashley Moniz's Movie Reviews" on Facebook.



# Arts and Entertainment

## LES MISERABLES: THE MUSICAL PHENOMENON TRANSFORMED

A CHRISTMAS DAY MUSICAL BY SARAH LITTISHA JANSEN CONTRIBUTOR

LESMISERABLESFACEBOOK

The setting is 19th century France. Jean Valjean cannot escape his past as a convict; the morally inflexible police inspector Javert hunts him relentlessly. Fantine, a young single mother, inexorably falls into destitution, exploitation, and disgrace. When Fantine is on her deathbed, Valjean vows to care for her child Cosette. So begins the complicated tale of atonement, political insurrection, unrequited love, and human dignity amidst human poverty and misery, which is propelled forward by the cat-and-mouse chase of Javert seeking to bring Valjean to justice for breaking his parole. This is the basis of *Les Misérables*, the 1862 masterpiece written by French Romantic novelist Victor Hugo.

The story and characters of *Les Misérables* are internationally renowned and beloved as classic and timeless. So, the adjective 'ground-breaking' has a low frequency among the many adjectives and superlatives used when referring to *Les Misérables*, whether in written, staged, or cinematic form. Historically, the one exception to this was the debuts of the novel in its famed musical stage production form in 1980 (Paris, directed by Robert Hossein), in 1985 (London, directed by Cameron Mackintosh), and

1987 (Broadway, directed by Cameron Mackintosh). More than a quarter of a century after the transition from novel to Broadway musical, the millions of fans worldwide are buzzing about the highly anticipated release of Universal Picture's film adaptation of the musical. The truly groundbreaking and original aspect of this production is its break from traditional methods of producing musical films.

Typically, a musical film is made in the following way: first, a cast is assembled and they record a studio album of all the songs in the film, then the playback of that album is used during the actual filming of the movie. Award-winning director Tom Hooper, whose *The King's Speech* (2010) was recently received with great acclaim, chose to deviate from this standard in order to create a challenging but spectacular result. Every single line of *Les Misérables* (2012) was sung live on set during the filming. The actors and actresses had earpieces that played their piano accompaniment live into their ears while they were singing. In the final cut the piano was replaced by an orchestral accompaniment. This approach is truly novel, and if successful, it could set a new standard for movie musicals.

In order to carry out this tall-order

production, which must meet the expectations of both the musical's fan base as well as those of the movie's demanding director, a star-studded cast of actors who are comfortable acting through the medium of music were chosen. Hugh Jackman anchors the cast by taking on the role of Jean Valjean. Russell Crowe steps into the imposing role of police inspector Javert. Anne Hathaway has thrown herself into the role of Fantine, a factory worker who falls into prostitution to support her child Cosette. Her voice rings throughout the international trailer with a chillingly fragile and moving rendition of "I Dreamed A Dream" and in a move that echoes Natalie Portman in *V for Vendetta* (2005) she also has her locks shorn on camera, cementing her dedication to the role. Amanda Seyfried, who delighted audiences in the movie adaptation of *Mamma Mia* (2008), takes on the role of Cosette as an adult and lover Marius is London-raised Eddie Redmayne, known for his roles in *The Other Boleyn Girl* (2008) and *The Good Shepherd* (2006). Samantha Barks reprises her role from the 25th Anniversary production of *Les Misérables* at the O2 in London as the tragic heroine Éponine. From the cast of the Broadway sensation *Next to Normal*, which won three



Tony Awards in 2009 and the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Aaron Tveit arrives on set to play the charismatic young revolutionary leader Enjolras. Finally, Helena Bonham Carter, the brilliant actress from *Sweeney Todd* (2007) and *The King's Speech* (2010) among countless others, teams up with the comedic Sacha Baron Cohen, star of *Borat* (2006), *Brüno* (2009), and *The Dictator* (2012). They round out the cast as the treacherous and unforgettable Monsieur and Madame Thénardier.

With such a crop of talent and attention to detail, hopes are high for this musical motion picture. More information is available online. The official website ([www.lesmiserablesfilm.com](http://www.lesmiserablesfilm.com)) is full of trailers and teaser footage. Additionally, find movie updates on Facebook ([@LesMisMovie](http://www.facebook.com/LesMisMovie)) or Twitter (@lesmiserables).

## A MODERN BALLET: A REVIEW OF ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

BY RACHEL MCLEAN CONTRIBUTOR

Back by popular demand, The National Ballet of Canada had a second run of the smash hit *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, which first premiered in 2011. The ballet, a co-production with The Royal Ballet of England, took Toronto by storm during June 2011, and continued to do so this season. Choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon, with a score by Joby Talbot, and designed by Bob Crowley, the ballet is simply stunning and modern.

The ballet follows Lewis Carroll's riveting and hilarious children's classic tale with the same name, with just a few twists. The first twist is found in Act I, at the start of the play in Oxford, 1841. Lewis Carroll is entertaining the three Liddell sisters, Lorina, Alice, and Edith, with stories and magic tricks as the Liddell family's garden is being arranged for a garden party. Trouble arises when Mrs. Liddell assumes that Jack, the gardener's boy and Alice's friend, stole a tart that in reality Alice gave to him. Mrs. Liddell fires him, which greatly upsets Alice, though her mother will not hear a word she has to say about the situation. In an attempt to cheer her up, Carroll offers to take Alice's picture, being an avid photographer. However, something strange happens. As the flash goes off, Carroll transforms into the White Rabbit and heads down the rabbit hole, followed by Alice.

The second twist occurs when Alice awakes; she is on a park bench in our own time, having drifted off while reading Lewis Carroll's famous novel. Her boyfriend, Jack, is listening to music and when Alice explains what she dreamt; Jack assures her that it was just a dream. A photographer comes along, and at Alice's request takes a photo of her and Jack on Jack's phone. The photographer reminds Alice of the White Rabbit, but after assuring her he doesn't know her, Alice and Jack exit. The photographer calls after them, as Alice has left her book behind, but they are gone. So he sits on the park bench and begins to read. This twist at the end made me wonder if some sort of *Inception* reference was occurring, or whether the Oxford garden party had also been a part of Alice's dream. Either way, the play was a lovely portrayal of a classic literary story.

The ballet makes use of several modern methods to portray a beautiful three-dimensional work. Projected images are used to convey the tumble down the rabbit hole, as well as the change in Alice's stature as she eats the food and drinks the liquid found in the room of doors, and eventually the fall back up the rabbit hole. Puppets are also used frequently in the ballet, such as Alice as she descends to Wonderland, the Cheshire Cat, and flamingos used for croquet mallets.

The sets are stunning, each fitting the mood of the characters Alice interacts with, including the dark and slightly gruesome encounter with the Duchess in her cottage of violence. And the costumes are lovely as well, very thoughtfully designed by Bob Crowley; especially the Queen of Hearts', which includes a portable metal throne/skirt.

The music is a masterpiece on its own, and weaves itself so well into the rest of the production as Talbot and Wheeldon remained in close contact throughout the making of the play. The music sets the tone of the slaughterhouse that Alice finds in the Duchess' house, smoothing into a romantic atmosphere as Alice and the Knave of Hearts dance, and descending into the madness that occurs during the trial at the Queen's Court, the music flavours the choreography and shines in its own brilliance.

The choreography is yet another work of art. Each step conveys more of the characters to the audience, but also allows the dancers to add their own personalized touches. Second soloist Chelsy Meiss was an incredible Mrs. Liddell/Queen, portraying the narcissism of Her Majesty of Hearts with a beautiful, yet terrifying grin on her face as she ordered the famous line, "Off with their heads!" Additionally, her dance after she steps out of her moving throne delighted the audience with laughter, as her courtiers were so terrified of her, they shook with fear, irking the famous queen. Heather Ogden (Alice) and McGee Maddox (Jack/Knave of Hearts) had lovely chemistry and partnering on stage, with beautiful lifts and assisted jumps and pirouettes. Ogden's ability to communicate Alice's emotions soared and my heart ached as she danced alone after the Cheshire Cat disappeared during Act II, with a series of turns and intricate footwork. Piotr Stanczyk's performance as Lewis Carroll/White Rabbit/the photographer, stands out in my mind too, as he charmed the Liddell sisters in the garden and then jumped and leaped with impatience and anxiety as the White Rabbit. But it was the four young student dancers who stole the show, dancing as the hedgehogs for the Queen's game of croquet with the Duchess.

At the end of the performance, a standing ovation was given to an incredible cast of dancers, conductor and orchestra, who took the audience on a mesmerizing journey down the rabbit hole. While the story is not new, this interpretation is, and Karen Kain is clearly making sure that the National Ballet has an amazing repertoire filled with modern ballets, as well as the classics, making the 2012-2013 season one to anticipate.



## GRAFFITI FOR THE MASSES

FRENCH CANADIAN ARTIST NOT LOOKING FOR STREET CRED **BY VENDREDI MOUNSEY** *EDITOR OF ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT*

Students were able to drink, eat and relax while looking at vivid floor to ceiling displays of graffiti from October 30 – November 23, 2012 at the Glendon Gallery in Pascal Paquette's latest exhibit, "What I've Learned in the Past Five Years."

Born in Hawkesbury, Ontario, French Canadian artist Pascal Paquette has spent the last decade portraying different social themes and exploring different cultural transformations through his art. In the exhibit "What I've Learned in the Past Five Years," Paquette wanted viewers to sit, relax and enjoy themselves while looking at art that depicts environmental, political and cultural issues. He's also debunking the negative stereotypes (the ghetto, thug life and vandalism) often associated with graffiti. This is not your typical street art. Through the exhibit each of his displays tells a personal story of something he's encountered.

The relaxed vibe that the display gives off was intentional. For many people who have never gone to an art gallery, they are very conservative places. They're almost like libraries in that sense because everyone is always really quiet (unless you have a rowdy school group in that day) and not knowing who Salvador Dali is means you'll probably have people rolling their eyes at you (true story). Paquette, through his graffiti was trying to take that stuffy feeling out of the gallery. "Not a lot of people go to galleries. It's important to make the space inviting where everyone could feel good about being here," says Paquette.

A true artist to the core, he's trying to share his views with the world via his art. "I'm always looking at things differently and I want to create a better feel for viewers. My work isn't on a pedestal...it's street art for the masses," says Paquette.

For this exhibit Paquette goes under the pseudonym "Mon Petit Chou" his street name, which like the exhibit is also an oxymoron. You expect graffiti to be crass or associated with thug life, however this exhibit has depictions of koala bears and hearts. Love and animals... not gangster at all. Mon Petit Chou translates into "My Little Darling"...also not a cool street thug name. However, Paquette's not trying to be a thug, he's not trying to have street cred. He's attempting to reach all artists and people alike with an art form we're all familiar with because we see it everywhere, but we often misinterpret it because it's an eyesore on buildings.

"I chose Mon Petit Chou because it was French and cute...it challenged the realm of what I was about to enter," says Paquette. "Graffiti is something that's often misunderstood, it's often related to crime. Mon Petit Chou plays with that notion."

And although he may not have gangster street cred, this exhibit has made waves across the city of Toronto and was recently shown at the AGO with Paquette and Sean Martindale as a collaborative installation.

Paquette has over a decade of experience under his belt and is inspired by other artists who are known to stretch boundaries (i.e. Morris Louis, Canadian artist Eleanor Bond and Steve Powers who demystified graffiti by writing love messages on walls).

"Stick to your guns, be yourself and know your work," says Paquette. "If you love art it becomes a way of life."



JANNY LE



JANNY LE

## STUDENT VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION

ENCOURAGEZ VOS CŒUR DE LIONS !

BY THE GLENDON GALLERY (COURTESY OF ENINNA LULI)

CONTRIBUTRICE

The Glendon community is invited to attend the opening exhibition of the Student Visual Arts Competition at the Glendon Gallery, from January 15–25, 2013. The top four artistic works will win money. Don't miss this chance to support your fellow Glendonites!

La communauté de Glendon est invitée au vernissage de la compétition d'arts visuels des étudiants à la Galerie Glendon, le 15 janvier 2013. Des prix en argent seront décernés lors du vernissage aux quatre œuvres jugées les meilleures. L'exposition se poursuivra jusqu'au 25 janvier 2013. Ne ratez pas cette occasion d'appuyer vos collègues Glendonites!

15 au 25 jan / Jan. 15 to 25	
GLENDON	EXPOSITION DE LA
STUDENTS	COMPÉTITION EN
VISUAL ARTS	ARTS VISUELS
COMPETITION	DES ÉTUDIANTS
EXHIBITION	DE GLENDON



## ANOTHER CONDO?!

GLENDON STUDENTS, A BUBBLE IS BREWING AND IT'S NOT PLEASANT **ELSA ASCENCIO** CONTRIBUTOR

Odds are, when Torontonians are walking down a street and see an empty patch of land, they will immediately know what's going to happen next – a new condominium will be built. Toronto's housing market has been growing fast and furiously in recent years. Near Glendon's Lawrence Park neighbourhood, condos have been popping up. Whilst, the housing market has provided economic boom to the city (and an eyesore to Toronto's landscape), there are increasing signs that it will crash – and sooner than you might think.

Toronto's condo market is a classic story of supply and demand, but in this story there's a lot more supply than actual demand. Any Glendon student will tell you that if you have too much of a particular thing, it will be problematic. Domestic buyers have purchased many of Toronto's condos; however international buyers are actually fueling a large chunk of the demand. Many high-end investors from, Russia or Saudi Arabia to name a few, have seen some of their assets plummet since the global recession of 2008. As a result, there has been foreign interest to invest in Canada and Toronto because of Canada's relatively decent economic activity since 2008; however, there are reports suggesting that the economy will slump again in 2013.

It has been four years since the global recession of 2008. During those four years, Toronto has seen an upsurge in construction and an increase of traffic-related nightmares. Currently, Toronto is undergoing 132 high-rise condo projects, versus the much-populated New York City's 86 condo projects<sup>1</sup>. It is at this point, of Toronto's condo supply and demand story, where things begin to look bleak. Experts have lamented that too much artificial demand has been generated throughout the years and as a result, Torontonians will see a lot more condo supply than actual buyers interested in buying a piece of Toronto property. Consequently, many economists are warning the public that Toronto's housing bubble will burst and crash<sup>2</sup>. They point out that condo prices are cooling and this may be one of many signs that the market is struggling.

So the question then becomes, how does this affect the average Torontonian? Not surprisingly, high-end property gambles end up hurting the average Joe. Many construction jobs have become dependent on the housing boom. In fact, Bloomberg suggests that construction jobs make up around 7.4% of Canadian employment, versus the 4.2 % of the U.S employment. There is fear that once the condo market goes bust, many workers will be unemployed. This not only affects the workers but their families. Furthermore, the average Canadian is fighting to either buy or sell their house because of the foreign-fueled prices. This becomes worrisome when people have to think about their credit loans, banks and mortgages.

Students may be thinking, "Well, thank goodness I'm not a homebuyer nor do I work in construction. Thus, this article doesn't affect me." If you are making this assumption you are mistaken. To respond to Canada's housing crisis, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has changed the mortgage period from 30 years to 25 years. This will hurt first-time buyers, such as students who have graduated and are working towards eventually buying a house. Not to mention that there is a possibility that property taxes will go up since property prices have increased. Also like many aspects of our free-market economy, if a sector like housing is struggling, there are high chances that this will trickle down and affect other areas of the Canadian economy. However before students start to panic, there is one piece of hope that should comfort them. Economists argue that the housing meltdown in the U.S.A contributed to the recession of 2008. However, experts don't believe that this will apply to Canada because Canadian banks have better prepared themselves against declining prices.



### (Endnotes)

1 <http://www.torontolife.com/daily/informer/cityscape/2011/10/05/toronto-highrises/>

2 [http://business.financialpost.com/2012/07/25/canadian-housing-looks-to-be-in-soft-landing-but-actually-heading-for-25-crash-capital-economics/?\\_\\_lsa=b4aa-269a](http://business.financialpost.com/2012/07/25/canadian-housing-looks-to-be-in-soft-landing-but-actually-heading-for-25-crash-capital-economics/?__lsa=b4aa-269a)

### Also consulted:

1. <http://www2.macleans.ca/2012/09/11/canadian-housing-theres-an-obvious-oversupply-problem-in-vancouver-toronto-and-montreal/>
2. [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/09/26/canadian-housing-bubble-unemployment\\_n\\_1916681.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/09/26/canadian-housing-bubble-unemployment_n_1916681.html)
3. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/housing/toronto-condo-market-seen-stabilizing-in-2013-cmhc/article5271277/>
4. <http://www.torontolife.com/daily/informer/from-print-edition-informer/2012/11/06/toronto-condos-foreign-buyers/4/>





## WHAT TO DO IN THE WINTER?

UNE LISTE D'ACTIVITÉS AMUSANTES POUR L'HIVER  
PAR AYELEN BARRIOS RUIZ PAGANO *EDITOR OF METROPOLIS*

It's that time of year again, where all you want to do is wear fuzzy socks, drink hot chocolate and curl up in a ball by the fireplace. Walking along the streets isn't as fun as it was during the summer, where all you had to bring with you was a pair of sunglasses. Now you have to bundle up only to unbundle when you enter a store and rebundle when you leave once again. L'hiver est une nouvelle saison qui apporte plus qu'un changement. Elle offre une toute nouvelle sélection d'activités pour vous aider à combattre les blues de l'hiver. Voici quelques suggestions :

1. Le théâtre Soulpepper vend des billets à bon marché. Ils coûtent une somme modeste entre 21 et 30 dollars. Un prix tout à fait abordable pour les étudiants ! De même, si vous avez 20 ans ou moins, vous pouvez obtenir des billets pour 5\$. Pour plus d'informations, visitez [www.soulpepper.ca](http://www.soulpepper.ca)
2. Ever wanted to go see an opera? The Canadian Opera Company has a program offering anybody under the age of 30 discounted tickets. The program allows you to buy two tickets per show for only \$22 each! For more info, check out [www.coc.ca](http://www.coc.ca)
3. L'hiver n'est pas seulement un temps pour rester à l'intérieur, mais un temps pour s'habiller chaudement et pour respirer de l'air frais. Le patinage est sûrement une activité extérieure classique. En fait, il y a de nombreuses patinoires à l'extérieur à Toronto, comme Harbour Front Centre et Nathan Philips Square, où vous pouvez justement enfiler vos patins ou en louer, si vous n'en avez pas. D'ailleurs, les samedis vous pouvez patiner gratuitement au Harbour Front Centre au son de la musique fournie par un DJ. Pour plus d'informations, allez au [www.harbourfrontcentre.com/thenatrelink](http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/thenatrelink)
4. AGO is only \$11 dollars for students with valid ID. They have a special exhibition running till January 20th and its only \$16.50 for students. Not to mention that on Wednesdays from 6:00-8:30, entry is absolutely free to see their permanent collection. Check out the AGO's website for more information [www.ago.net](http://www.ago.net).
5. Est-ce que vous aimez la comédie ? The Second City à Toronto offre des billets à prix réduit pour les étudiants. Le code promotionnel est STUDENT pour obtenir ce rabais.
6. The ROM also offers discounted student tickets, for only \$13.50 to see their permanent collection. Check it out at [www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca).

Vous voyez, l'hiver peut vraiment être amusant, si vous lui donnez la chance. So go out and enjoy this wonderful season !

## FAST FORWARD: CHANGES IN THE MAPLE LEAF GARDENS OVER THE YEARS

BY DANICA MOHAMED *STAFF WRITER FOR METROPOLIS*

It's been more than a year since the retail section of the renovated Maple Leaf Gardens at the intersection of Carlton and Church streets opened its doors to the public on November 30, 2011. And in September 2012, the Mattamy Athletic Centre was officially opened.

Originally, the Maple Leaf Gardens was built in 1931 and was home to the Toronto Maple Leafs. In addition to sporting events, the building also hosted celebrities such as Elvis Presley and The Beatles. However, in 1999, Toronto's National Hockey League (NHL) team played its last game in the Gardens before moving to the Air Canada Centre, now known as the Rogers Centre.

In 2004, the Maple Leaf Gardens was bought by the grocery store chain, Loblaw Companies Limited, but construction did not start until 2009, which is when they partnered with Infrastructure Canada and Ryerson University to house a sports and recreational facility in the building as well. To their surprise, a hidden time capsule was found during renovations in January 2012. Inside the box were newspapers dating back from 1931 during the Great Depression, hockey paraphernalia, and a mysterious little ivory elephant.

The Maple Leaf Gardens is now home to a 70,000 square foot flagship Loblaws store located at street level, with underground parking for customers. Once inside, the entrance contains a large blue maple leaf sculpture made out of reclaimed stadium chairs. Other decorative details that the company kept to connect with the building's past include wall murals, restored windows, ice-rink lighting fixtures, and a small red dot at the end of one aisle which marks what used to be the original centre ice of the hockey arena. The massive store also includes a sushi bar, a patisserie, a Tea Emporium, and an 18 foot wall of cheese, just to name a few of the features the MLG location offers.

“Once people step inside and take in all the store has to offer they will agree that Loblaws at Maple Leaf Gardens is indeed the crown jewel of food stores,” remarked Galen G. Weston, executive chairman of Loblaw Co. Ltd. «We never imagined that the store would anchor a historical restoration initiative that would bring ice back to Maple Leaf Gardens and welcome the community back through these doors in such a fitting way.»

Not to forget that on the second and third floors of the Maple Leaf Gardens is the 222, 970 square feet Mattamy Athletic Centre. It is owned by Ryerson University and named for Mattamy Home's CEO, Peter Gilgan. The lower level comprises of a fitness centre, several studios, a gym, and a multi-purpose court used for basketball or volleyball. On the top level is the Mattamy Home Ice, which is the highest elevated skating rink in Toronto, according to Ryerson's website. The NHL-sized ice rink also has a seat capacity of 2,700.

The Mattamy Athletic Centre was funded through several contributions, including \$20 million from Canada's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. Additionally, a collaborative fundraising campaign by Ryerson and Loblaw Companies Limited collected \$20 million, and \$15 million was donated by Peter Gilgan himself. Another \$20 million was even raised through Ryerson University students, who agreed to pay an additional \$126 in yearly athletic fees.

“A tremendous partnership and shared vision...has resulted in the spectacular rebirth of a building that will be a centre for excellence and a lively community hub in the heart of our city,” Ryerson University president, Sheldon Levy, beamed. “This building has a tremendous history and what it needs now is a tremendous future.”

## OH, THE THINGS TORONTONIANS WILL SEE

SOME CHANGES AND NEW IDEAS FOR FUN IN THE CITY  
BY CAITLIN BATTAGLIA *ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF METROPOLIS*

Especially to those who normally live outside of Toronto, the city can seem like a place where there's always something new to do and discover. It helps of course, that like any city there are always things changing: whether it's the stores in the mall, the movies that are playing, or what shows are on at a theatre. Every now and again though, there's something completely different like the opening of a new attraction, or the loss of an old landmark. Many readers may have already heard about changes such as the closing down of the Princess of Wales theatre, but there are more new things to be found in the upcoming months in the city.

Due to open right next to the CN Tower in 2013, after about two years of construction, is a new attraction. Ripley's Aquarium of Canada boasts that it will have over 45 exhibits, including some that are interactive, with over 13,000 creatures, covering 12,000 square metres. Having completed its hydro testing in August, the site is set to open up in the summer. It hopes to be a leader in Toronto tourism as well as in conservation in the world. Not just an attraction, the aquarium will also have on-going breeding efforts for endangered species, including tracking and working with biologists and agencies to ensure safety of all animals. Though some activists have spoken out against the capturing of sharks for the aquarium, the vice-president of communications has assured that measures have been taken to ensure the health of the animals. The building itself will also include a long walkway of nearly 100 metres that stretches below their expansive Shark Lagoon. The first of the chain in Canada, the website proudly states that it will become “a jewel in the heart of this great metropolis.” Check out [www.ripleysaquariums.com/canada](http://www.ripleysaquariums.com/canada) for more details.

An old favourite, the Canadian Air and Space Museum is also currently undergoing some changes. Having closed down its current location in March of this year, after the current buildings were designated to be repurposed, the proprietors entered talks to move the museum to the Pearson International Airport. Unfortunately however, the museum does not have the funds and is currently raising money for the move. The home of the AVRO Arrow has only raised a small fraction of its goal—and at its current fundraising rate it will only raise one-fifth of the amount by the deadline at the beginning of March. For those interested in the science-fiction scene it's an extra treat that actors such as Harrison Ford and Canada's own Amanda Tapping have spoken out in favour of the move. To read more about its history, the negotiations, or to donate to the project, visit [www.casmuseum.org](http://www.casmuseum.org).

Of course, if you're not looking for as big a change, there are always the ever-cycling options of shows, exhibits, and more. The ROM of course regularly changes its exhibits, and other events are there for only a limited time. If you are looking for something new, check out the various dinner theatres in the city such as Mysteriously Yours. In places like these the shows change every few months. Or be on the lookout to see what else might be limited-time only for a unique day on the town.



## LES FANTÔMES DU MANOIR

UNE HISTOIRE QUI VOUS EMPÊCHERA DE DORMIR PAR STÉPHANIE MAK *CONTRIBUTRICE*

Je vous avise que ceci une vraie histoire. Elle prend place en 1968, deux ans après l'ouverture du Collège Glendon. Le collège vient tout juste de finir la construction du pavillon York à côté de l'ancien manoir de M. et Mme Wood. Mais, celui-ci est toujours fermé à clé parce que, considérant son âge, on dit qu'il doit être rénové. Pourtant, on raconte que chaque nuit les fantômes des ex-proprétaires reviennent à leur manoir et que des choses bizarres se produisent. On dit que ces fantômes cherchent quelque chose. Qu'est-ce qu'ils cherchent? Personne ne le sait. Alors, se fiant à cette histoire, beaucoup d'étudiants croient que le manoir est hanté.

—C'est ridicule! Les vrais fantômes n'existent pas, dit Michelle.

—Alors, pourquoi est-ce qu'il y a des affiches partout sur le campus qui avertissent les étudiants de ne pas entrer dans ce manoir? demande Sophie.

—Parce que...commence Michelle...

—Parce que les fantômes sont dangereux, interrompt Sophie. Et nous allons les trouver.

—Nous? Trouver quoi? Trouver qui? demande Michelle, d'un air très inquiet.

—M. et Mme Wood bien sûr, dit Sophie en souriant. Nous devons trouver des preuves qu'ils existent.

—Oh mon dieu! T'es folle! déclare Michelle en faisant non de la tête.

Sophie voit le regard de Michelle et l'encourage que ça va être une superbe aventure.

—Mais comment est-ce que nous allons entrer? Le manoir est fermé à clé, dit Michelle curieusement. Et on n'a pas les clés.

Sophie sort justement ces clés de sa poche et les montre à Michelle.

—Tu les as volées du concierge? interroge Michelle.

—Empruntées, corrige Sophie en souriant.

—Bien, si tu insistes...hésite Michelle.

La nuit suivante, les deux filles se rencontrent devant la porte du manoir à onze heures du soir. Michelle apporte de l'ail et porte un chapelet pour se protéger.

Sophie apporte une lampe de poche et son appareil photo pour capturer les preuves que M. et Mme Wood sont toujours ici.

Quand elles entrent, elles ne peuvent rien voir. Sophie allume alors sa lampe de poche et elles commencent à monter lentement l'escalier.

Au deuxième étage, des portraits de M. et Mme Wood sont toujours accrochés au mur. Sophie s'en approche et les examine attentivement.

—Mme Wood est très belle. Qu'en penses-tu, Michelle? demande Sophie en se tournant vers elle.

Mais Michelle ne lui répond pas, car elle s'aperçoit que les yeux des portraits s'ouvrent et se ferment.

—C'est ton imagination, explique Sophie en riant. Allons donc visiter les chambres.

En arrivant près des chambres, les portes s'ouvrent automatiquement. C'est comme si les fantômes attendaient les deux étudiantes.

—Peut-être que c'est le vent, explique Sophie. Pas trop convaincue, Michelle suit de près.

Dans la chambre, il y a une chaise berceuse que Mme Wood aimait. Michelle sent qu'elle s'assoit toujours sur ce fauteuil et que de là elle regarde les deux filles.

—Regarde ces livres! Je pense que Mme Wood aimait les plantes et les herbes, dit Sophie.

Michelle s'approche de la table sur laquelle Mme Wood avait laissé des livres. Par hasard, elle voit une souris et prend un livre pour la tuer. Malheureusement, la souris réussit à s'évader.

—Ne touche à rien. Il ne faut pas toucher aux objets, ordonne Sophie. Nous ne voulons pas fâcher M. et Mme Wood.

À ce moment-là, Michelle regarde dans le miroir et, naturellement, il y a un reflet des deux filles qui apparaît, mais il y a aussi un reflet de M. et Mme Wood, debout derrière elles.

—Sortez du manoir, ordonnent les fantômes, de voix fermes en unisson. Et n'entrez plus jamais chez nous!

—Ah! crient les filles. Elles courent vers la sortie le plus vite possible et jurent de ne jamais retourner chez M et Mme Wood.

Alors, les fantômes, existent-ils vraiment?



## A FALSIFIED ACCOUNT OF A SUMMER'S MEETING

SOME PEOPLE AREN'T ALWAYS

WHAT YOU THINK THEY ARE

BY ELIZABETH MOLYNEAUX *CONTRIBUTOR*

When she looked at me  
A spark of something ignited  
a part of me that I can't name.

Her fingers tapped  
a rhythm so true,  
it was all I heard for days.  
Her hair was light  
itself, a river of gold  
that carved its bed out of her back.  
She tipped her head  
and angels sang sweet praises  
of the smoke flowing from her lips.  
I want, she said,  
precisely the opposite  
of what you are proposing.

Her eyelashes  
were a forest of charred saplings  
surrounding two dead meadows.

## STILL BURNING AND BEATING

THE DESERT NEVER CHANGES BY LISA CHEN *CONTRIBUTOR*

The winds can remove away all the sand,  
Up into the clouds, the sky far away  
Yet the desert still burns and beats with heat

Wind will shape the dunes as the sculptor  
And when we see the sand fly by gust you say:  
"The winds can remove away all the sand."

Sand barren: the heart is still in this land  
Vultures: even they will not come this way  
Yet the desert still burns and beats with heat

The desert's womb, dried from all it withstands;  
Beating winds, sucking life beneath sun rays,  
The winds can remove away all the sand

We witness the flowers, see growth expand,  
The roots stretch and shall embrace all it may  
Yet the desert still burns and beats with heat

Dry sand, yet you've never seen life so grand  
You can't name a force that keeps life at bay.  
The winds can remove away all the sand,  
Yet the desert still burns and beats with heat.



## THE POND STORY

PUBLIC PLACES ARE LONESOME WHEN BROKEN

BY ROSEMARY RICHINGS *EXPRESSIONS SECTION EDITOR*

After rainfall  
drops of water,  
drops of water  
In an empty pond.

As the birds  
Dip their feet  
Workers fixing  
The empty pond:  
The destruction  
Of vibrant life.  
Till its repair  
I'm a passerby.

Weeks pass  
and still the workers keep working  
Trying to create  
bittersweet inevitability.

One day  
The water will return  
And the birds will disappear...  
Far away.

And on that future day,  
The familiarity...  
So far away.

Empty ponds  
leave spots of water  
Spots of water,  
Of a past long gone,

Not so lifeless  
with the occasional presence of birds.

Whatever happened  
to a sense of certainty  
of an ongoing presence of life?

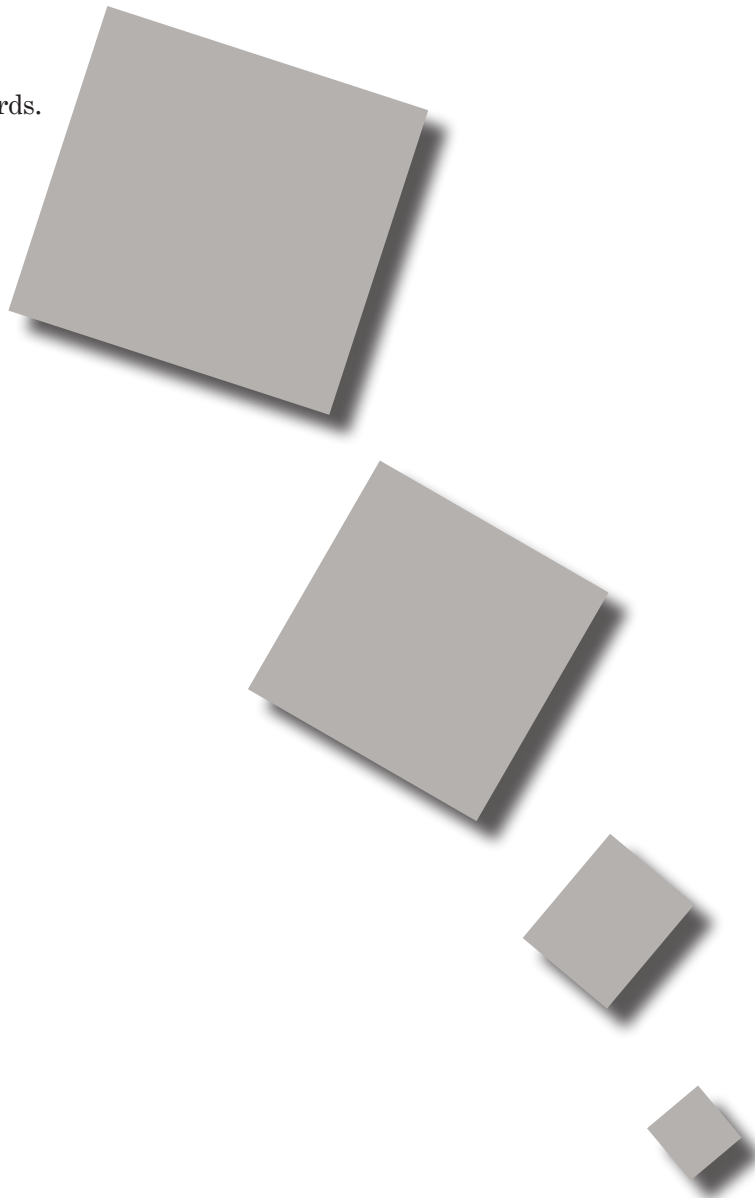
There's nothing but myself  
And a casual gathering:  
A flock or a family of birds:

You take away feature  
You take away vibrant life.

Time passes  
And the workers stop working  
Replaced by a caution sign  
And still I can't help wondering:

Whatever happened to the pond  
and its water supply?

You take away feature  
you take away vibrant life.



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## FALLEN ANGEL

YOU YOURSELF CANNOT  
RECOGNIZE WHO YOU  
ONCE WERE

BY CHLOE DUMASAL

STAFF WRITER OF EXPRESSIONS

Hollow eyes stare back at me  
Searching for a spark of recognition.  
Her quivering lips frown:  
So thin and frail.

A body so small  
Bones poke through the once flawless  
skin.  
When she speaks  
She cannot hear her own voice.

What has become of her?  
Once an angel who could soar  
The sky and touch the hearts of many,  
Now so weak.

I stare long and hard at this creature  
Looking for this angel.  
But her appearance disgusts me,  
And I turn away from the mirror.



# MAX OVERACTS

IDEAS AREN'T MADE... THEY'RE RELEASED!

