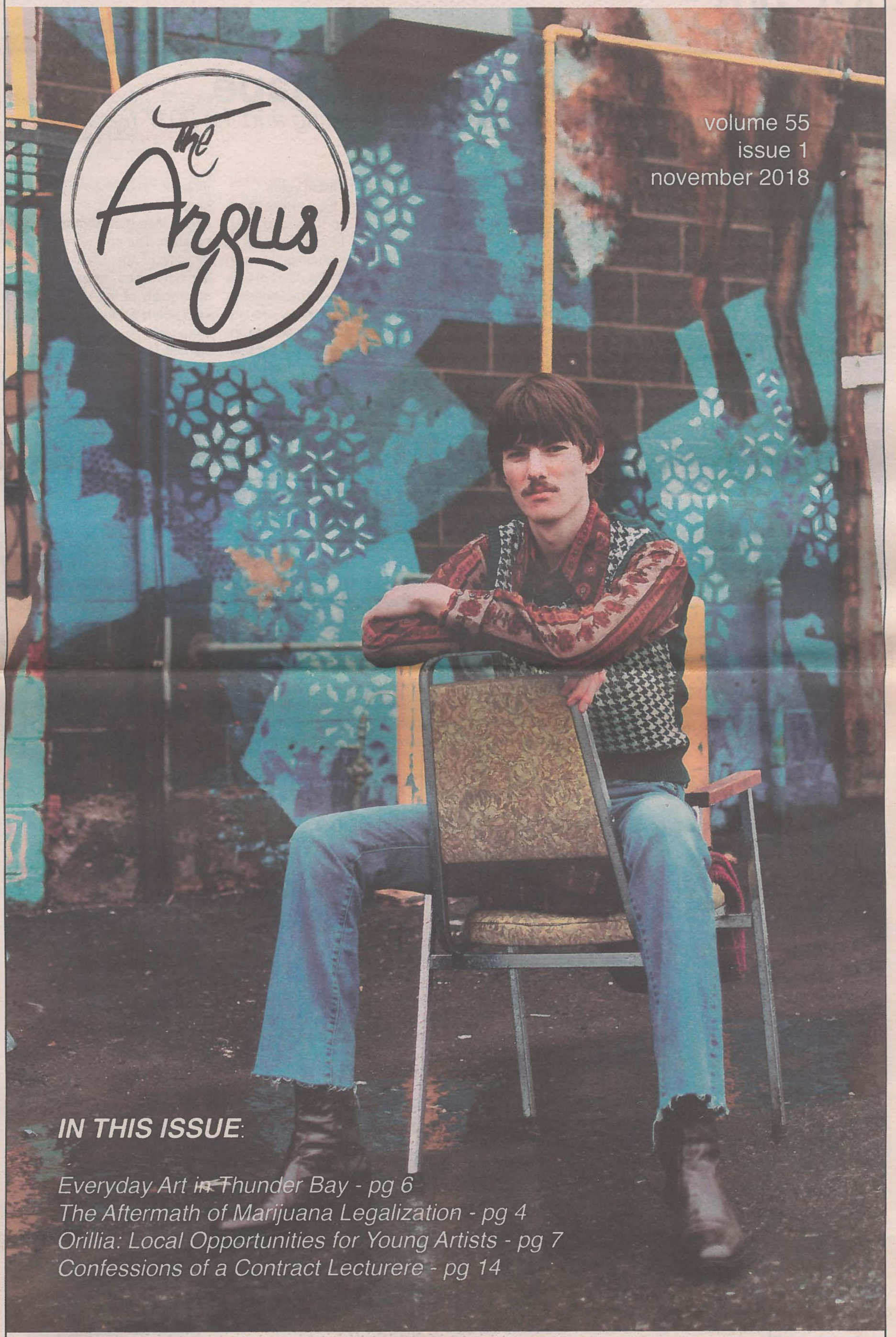
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NEWS

LUSU in Good Financial Shape

A review of the student union's Annual General Meeting and the 2017 fiscal year

GREG MCGRATH-GOUDIE
News Editor

On October 29th, the Lakehead University Student Union's Annual General Meeting took place in The Study, offering a review of the Union's 2017 fiscal year along with free pizza to the full house of union members.

The meeting was chaired by Colleen Peters, LUSU Chair for the Board of Directors, and it began with motions to approve the agenda as well as the minutes of the previous year's Annual General Meeting. Following this was a presentation of LUSU's audited financial statements by Kristen Spithoff, an auditor from BDO. Present alongside Peters and Spithoff was Farhan Yousaf, who is both LUSU's acting President and Vice President of Finance.

The audited statement indicates that LUSU has fairly represented its finances for the 2017 fiscal year. It reads that "the financial *position of Lakehead University's Student Union* as at April 30, 2018 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

"Concerning the financial position of LUSU, Spithoff stated that LUSU has "a strong, healthy balance sheet—there's lots of cash and liquid assets; there's no issue with cash flow surrounding LUSU; there's a surplus of cash in place for projects that the management team will be doing in the future." The financial statement indeed reflects Spithoff's assessment of LUSU as a financially strong organization.

At the end of the 2017 fiscal year, LUSU had $998,939 in unrestricted assets, meaning that these funds are not tied up in any ongoing or future projects, along with $1,795,000 in internally restricted assets, which are designated for future purposes, such as building repairs, emergency funds, etc. Overall, the Union commands a healthy cash surplus. On a more specific level, here are some of the differences between LUSU's 2017 and 2016 fiscal years.
Revenue from the U-Pass is up this year due to increased fees, though the U-Pass remains a cheaper option than purchasing bus passes from the cities of Orillia or Thunder Bay. The Outpost's revenue increased by roughly $15,000, owing in part to increased food sales over the past few years paired with decreasing bar sales. LUSU's overall revenue is up roughly $110,000, and it added $171,926 to its surplus, though this added surplus is slightly lower than in the 2016 fiscal year. Yousaf and Spithoff cited the increase in minimum wage as a contributing factor to the decreased surplus, and Spithoff emphasized that LUSU is in good financial shape as the mandate for not-for-profit organizations is usually to break even.

Heading into the 2018/19 academic year, it is also of note that LUSU lacks an elected president. Acting President Yousaf cites section 5.2 of bylaw 3 in LUSU's constitution for his additional executive role in the student union. It reads, "The Vice-President Operations & Finance is the most senior Vice-President of the Corporation. During the absence or inability of the President, presidential duties become the responsibility of the Vice-President Operations & Finance."

Due to the absence of LUSU's former President, Leah Ching, Yousaf rightfully stepped into the role; however, a by-election is usually held to fill vacancies with the position. Concerning this, Yousaf stated that "The reason for not having the by-election was due to no [Chief Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer]. We have had a very hard time in hiring CRO/DRO, we have had several applications but people did not have the relevant experience."

The detailed financial statement of LUSU's 2017/18 fiscal year has been made available to the public on their website, though it was not readily available prior to the Annual
General Meeting.

Doug Ford's Free Speech Mandate

How free speech policies will affect campus dialogue in Ontario

EMILY MACDONALD
Staff Writer

Free speech, a basic right set out in section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms is something most Canadians have never known life without.

Premier of Ontario Doug Ford made a promise during his campaign that he was bound to keep: a free speech mandate across all of Ontario's publicly funded post-secondary schools. This mandate provides the deadline of January 1, 2019, by which time universities and colleges must create a plan to protect free speech and create a regulated environment for staff and students to voice their ideas and beliefs in a respectful and safe manner. Any post-secondary institution noncompliant with this will risk funding cuts.

According to the Ontario Newsroom, a branch of the government of Ontario website, schools will have to meet a minimum standard to ensure their Free Speech Policy is up to code for campus use. First, it must include a definition of "free speech," which will provide a guideline for the rest of the policy and ensure everyone is on the same page.

Next, colleges and universities must create principles based on the University of Chicago Statement on Principles of Free Expression. The policy states that post-secondary institutions should be a place for open discussion and inquiry, that the schools should not attempt to "shield students from ideas or opinions that they disagree with or find offensive," and that although students have the freedom to criticize, they must not interfere with the freedom of others when expressing their views or use speech that violates the law. Hate crime and hate speech will not be tolerated in any schools or in Ontario.
Moving forward, schools will keep their established discipline policies and apply them to students whose actions do not follow the free speech policy, along with a similar system to handle complaints that could start to roll in. Lastly, funding for student groups should be conditional on their compliance with the policy and student unions should adopt the policy as well.

Ford stated: "Our government made a commitment to the people of Ontario to protect free speech on campuses. Promise made, promise kept." Universities across Ontario have begun to write their policy in wake of the news. The University of Toronto, McMaster University and Wilfrid Laurier University all had policies in place prior to the announcement.

Post-secondary schools across Ontario have released comments stating similar perspectives about the policy. The Council of Ontario Universities states: "We welcome further discussion with the government on how freedom of expression may continue to be protected, and believe any framework must balance the right to free expression with universities' duty to maintain a civil campus environment, along with physical safety and security for faculty, students and staff."

The main issue most colleges and universities are having is ensuring campuses remain safe places. Words affect people. With this new policy entering our schools as soon as winter 2019, it's going to be important to bring back some rules everyone likely learned in kindergarten: be kind with your words and listen to the other side -- they might just happen to change your mind.

Transgender Rights in America

Trump threatens to revert to a binary definition of gender in America

SANJANA SHARMA
Staff Writer



Sourced from transequality.com

It was in 2005 that gay marriages were legalized in Canada, and it was not before 2015 that transgender marriages were recognized by the Constitution Act. Non-binary people were recognized for the first time in 2016 in the United States. The Supreme Court of India decriminalized homosexuality just about two months ago.

Despite this, U.S. President Donald Trump has rolled back in to deprive transgender people of their rights to live as free individuals.

In his latest efforts to seize control of how people define themselves in the United States, President Trump has considered redefining gender as a "biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth." For U.S. citizens, this would mean that each person would have to identify themselves by the gender listed on their birth certificate. For transgender citizens, this would mean that they would be robbed of their true identities, many rights, and the freedom to live their lives.

This is an attempt to erase transgender as an identity.

These are just a few examples that show the gravity of the struggle for acceptance that the LGBTQ2+ community and other minorities had to go through before being given basic human rights in some parts of the world.

While the LGBTQ2+ community continues to grow and be accepted around the globe, the struggle for equality has been real for transgender people. For instance, one of the first and most powerful movements led by the LGBT community, the 1969 Stonewall riots was a spark in the history of LGBT inclusion and rights that laid the path for similar movements that helped the community get a face, recognition and acceptance in heteronormative society. It must be noted, however, that behind the stories of suffering and successes stemming from the Stonewall riots, transgender people were given minimal credibility to stand up and speak for themselves.

Deanna Kerkvliet, Lakehead University's Pride Central Coordinator spoke to The Argus about the history of the LGBTQ2+ movement: "A greater LGBT movement had started, and gay men and lesbians had their own organizations. They didn't include transgender people because they wouldn't get as much support. It is still an issue in the LGBTQ2+ community to include transgender rights, but there are more rights for transgender people in Canada nowadays."

This is just one of many instances where transgender people were not given enough recognition or room to express themselves and ask for equal treatment. It must be recalled that Donald Trump attempted to eradicate the transgender population from the military forces of the United States in 2017.

By displaying such an ignorant attitude, the U.S. government is influencing its citizens to also become culturally ignorant and transphobic, reversing the progress that has been made so far to treat queer people as humans. It is equivalent to erasing history and dismisses those who lost their lives in this journey.

This is why we have Transgender Day of Remembrance. Emily Alexander, the assistant at Lakehead's Pride Central says: "[it's] unfortunate that we have to have this day, but we need it to remember that we as transgender people are still vulnerable to the injustices of this world. We need to be reminded that transgender people are at higher stakes of homelessness, suicide, and risk of losing jobs than their counterparts."

Alexander adds, "transgender rights are not taken as seriously. There's nothing special about getting to live your life the way you want to!" Kerkvliet agrees: "a disproportionate number of transgender people are being murdered or are killing themselves. We need to acknowledge that. Trump's proposals against the transgender community is violence; it's violence by the government against its people." How can we forget that transgender rights are also human rights? How can we forget that any person should not have to fight for basic human rights in the 21st century?

Although many believe Canada is more accepting of minorities than the States, we cannot shut our eyes and ears to what's happening beyond the borders, because there are still so many places where being queer is not safe. Alexander comments, "I'm concerned about the scenario around the world. Although things are good here, we live in a global world. We cannot just sit and congratulate ourselves when there's so much influence from the rest of the world. Everything happening outside affects our society, and we need to work as a Canadian society to make things better everywhere."

We need to keep evolving as a community. We need to keep acknowledging the survivors and fighters. We need to keep fighting everyday -- in public spaces, at home, and in our minds -- until equality is promised in each corner of the world.

OVERHEARD LU

"There are so many resting sad faces at university."

"A drag queen crashed my date..."

Pardon Me?

The War on Drugs, Legalization, and the Fight for a Clean Record

SAM MATHERS
Editor-In-Chief



Sourced from thestar.com. Image by Randy Riesling

In its first twenty-four hours, the Ontario Cannabis Store received 1.3 million unique visitors and 100,000 online orders. For many Canadians, the legalization of marijuana has been a long time coming (ninety-five years, to be exact.) The celebration was so great that the country literally ran out of weed. Not *everyone is celebrating*, however. It is estimated that 500,000 Canadians currently have a criminal record for cannabis possession. For these individuals, the legalization of marijuana begs the question: what does this mean for me?

The War on Drugs was officially declared in 1971 by U.S. President Richard Nixon, who called drug abuse "public enemy number one." This proclamation was responsible for the creation of the Drug Enforcement Agency and mandatory minimum prison sentences for drug related crimes.

Nixon's War on Drugs has been accused of being racially and politically motivated, and in 1994, this agenda was confirmed. His domestic policy chief, John Ehrlichman, said in an interview that by getting the American public to associate the "hippies" on the antiwar left with marijuana and the African American community with heroin – then heavily criminalizing both – they could disrupt the communities that were seen as the two biggest enemies of Nixon's political campaign. Ehrlichman continued: "Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course, we did."

The War on Drugs has persisted, both in the United States and in Canada, along with Nixon's dangerous rhetoric. Former Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino said of cannabis legalization in 2004: "I guess we can legalize murder too and then we won't have a murder case," and again in 2015 that he is "completely opposed to the legalization of marijuana."

The criminalization of drugs has not produced results – in fact, the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition says that there is no evidence to suggest that criminal law is a deterrent for drug use. Instead, it creates a "highly lucrative black market" where inflated prices lead people to dangerous drug use methods, like injecting. With a lack of access to clean equipment, this causes an increase in Hepatitis C and HIV. According to the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, as little as 10% of the drugs destined for Canada are actually seized. The fact that drugs are accessible even in prisons points to the failure of criminalizing drug use.

Dr. Mariette Brennan, an Associate Professor at Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law spoke to The Argus about cannabis legalization and the potential for cannabis amnesty. She said that individuals with a criminal record "endure a lifelong issue with their criminal conviction," affecting their employment opportunities, their ability to travel outside the country, approval for government housing, apartment leases, whether they qualify for a mortgage, scholarships, acceptance into post-secondary education, and the ability to volunteer. She also says this "has a disproportionately large impact on minority communities in Canada."

While there are no national arrest statistics by race available in Canada, independent studies have found that while the rate of cannabis use between White and marginalized populations is about the same, the rates at which they are charged are inconsistent. Investigations by Vice News and the Toronto Star found that between 2015 and 2017:

- Indigenous people in Regina were nearly 9 times more likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than White people.
- Indigenous people in Vancouver were 7 times more likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than White people.
- Black people in Halifax were 5 times more likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than White people.
- Black people in Toronto were 3 times more likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than white people.

During a press conference in January, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of cannabis criminalization: "I think certainly we know that the current legislation is hurting Canadians and criminalizing Canadians who it perhaps shouldn't be, but that is an engagement we will take once we have a legalized and controlled regime in place." Brennan says that because of the way records are kept, a grant of blanket amnesty is not necessarily possible: "oftentimes if you are charged with possession or a trafficking offense, you don't necessarily have what drug you were charged with possession or trafficking of on your criminal record – so it would be very difficult for the government to go in at the moment and be able to simply grant a blanket amnesty because they don't have a way of just searching and pulling up all of those records."

Currently, Canadians with a minor cannabis possession charge can apply for a pardon, which is different than a blanket grant of amnesty or the expungement of a criminal record, which acts as if the offense never happened. A pardon is not the clearing of a record; thanks to the Criminal Records Act, a pardon can be revoked by the parole board if it considers someone to be "no longer of good conduct" and any amendments to the Act by future governments put all pardons at risk of being revoked. Further, applying for a pardon costs upwards of $600 and there are wait periods of 5-10 years attached. Brennan says this process places the burden on "a large, marginalized community to actually go and seek a process. And that becomes a barrier to justice."

Today, the man who once likened marijuana use to murder, is cashing in on cannabis legalization. Fantino is the executive chairman of a new medical marijuana business – Aleafia, which he runs with former RCMP deputy commissioner Raf Souccar. But what about the 500,000 Canadians with a criminal record? The Campaign for Cannabis Amnesty is calling on the federal government to pardon these convictions as "an essential part of any fair and equitable cannabis legalization model," and that "no Canadian should be burdened with a criminal record for a minor, non-harmful act that will no longer be a crime."

You can learn more and sign the petition at cannabisamnesty.ca.

ARTS & CULTURE

The Argus Reads

Five Books You Should Read This Winter

ERICH OTTEN
Arts & Culture Editor

As students, we do a fair amount of reading in our time, with the majority being academic and for our courses. When we are not reading, we are logging an exorbitant amount of screen time. Whether that is from writing, research, or social media, we spend much of our days in front of screens. Victoria L. Dunckley M.D., author of "Gray Matters: Too Much Screen Time Damages the Brain," published by Psychology Today speaks about how our screen time and social media habits might be negatively impacting our mental health. The blue light from screens keeps us up later at night, more exhausted during the day, and causes an overall slower response time. Thankfully, even as students, there are ways we can reduce our screen time and social media use in the evenings, with therapeutic reading being one.

Reading can be fun. When we think about reading as students, we often groan and attest to how much course readings we have left. I think that this is something almost all students can relate to; however, we don't often think about reading creative non-fiction, fantasy, or poetry for its therapeutic benefits. Bibliotherapists are counsellors and therapists who advocate for the use of therapeutic reading along with other interventions to help treat mild to moderate depression, anxiety, and mood disorders. They argue that reading for fun increased dopamine and oxytocin production (our feel-good hormones) and decreases cortisol levels (stress hormones).

Reading in the evening after studying can reduce the amount of screen time you are logging each day (of course, only if you are reading a physical book and not an ebook). Reading at night is especially helpful because physical books do not produce blue light which can keep your brain alert by reducing melatonin production. Reading at night before bed can easily be incorporated into your self-care routine, providing you with decompression space to wind down from the stresses of student life during the day. Christopher Bergland, in "Reading Fiction Improves Brain Connectivity and Function," published by Psychology Today, speaks on how some recent findings in neuroscience research suggest that reading for fun is good for your overall mental health.

Feel like finding out for yourself? Pick up one of the following books and see if therapeutic reading is a benefit for you:

1. Heart Berries: A Memoir by Terese Marie Mailhot

Heart Berries is a beautiful poetic memoir, a wound bursting with the weight of memories, loss, mental health, motherhood and love. This is a powerfully vulnerable coming of age narrative on Seabird Island Indian Reservation.

2. A Two-Spirit Journey: The Autobiography of a Lesbian Ojibwa-Cree Elder by Ma-Nee Chacaby

Ma-Nee's account of her life is painful at times, but can also be lighthearted, loving, and joyful. Ma-Nee's memoir highlights the social pathologies that Canada's imperialist, capitalist, white-supremacist, heteropatriarchy subjects Indigenous people to on a daily basis. It is a testimony of how she has overcome sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, alcoholism, raised her children, come out as a lesbian and how her path has led to the immensely important work she now does as a two-spirit Elder. In 2013, Ma-Nee led the first 2SLGBTQ*+ pride parade in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

3. Po Man's Child by Marci Blackman

An intense and engaging novel, Blackman writes on the character Po Childs, who after sustaining an injury during a S/M session with their lover, seeks healing in the psychiatric industrial complex. While there, Po reflects on their family's legacy, trauma, substance dependencies, mental health, and their shared relationships.

4. There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé by Morgan Parker

This is a stunning collection of poetry, Parker utilizes pop culture, contemporary American politics and cultural references to navigate the nuances of Black American womanhood. In doing so, this collection explores femininity, depression, racism, and feminist thought.

5. I Am Woman by Lee Maracle

This book about linking sociology, feminism, and Indigenous knowledge is a must read for any aspiring academic in today's world. A powerful book on colonization and decoloniality, it is intense, needed and written in beautiful prose.



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editor@theargus.ca
for more info

Five Clubs You Should Know About

From medieval combat to yoyo-ing, these clubs are sure to enhance your experience on campus

TAYLOR ONSKI
Contributor

It can be daunting to decide which extracurricular clubs to join. Do you pick your major's club or the one your friends are in? To ease that stress, here are five Lakehead clubs you should join (that you may not have heard about):

Shelter House Volunteering Group
The Shelter House Volunteering Group's (SHVG) President, Madison Sameshima, organizes biweekly trips to the Shelter House where students prepare and serve dinner. "There is a huge volunteer culture in Thunder Bay," says Sameshima, who ensures Lakehead students can "come together, volunteer together, learn more about Thunder Bay, meet new people, and enjoy their time at Lakehead" while volunteering at the Shelter House. Keep an eye out on March 12th and 13th, 2019 for the SHVG's end of year burger fundraiser. Email mmsamesh@lakeheadu.ca to start or continue your volunteer journey.

The Belegarth Medieval Combat Society of Lakehead University
The Belegarth Medieval Combat Society of Lakehead University brings medieval history to life outside of social science classes! Members gather at the Hangar to safely reenact medieval combat from sword fighting, armour building, and shield yielding. Belegarth is an inclusive environment founded on a shared love of medieval history and combat, physical activity, and meeting new people. Contact club President, James Peake at jwpeake@lakeheadu.ca, or sign up to their Facebook group, Warriors of Thunder Guard and try wielding a sword for yourself.

Lakehead Campus Lions
Lakehead Campus Lions (LCL), "piggybacks on Lions Club International" (LCI): an international organization responding to local and global needs. President Dhaval Thanki's recent fundraiser to distribute winter clothing in Thunder Bay extends LCL's goal to encourage members to give back to the community as best they can. "Your work in this club is not bound by Lakehead borders" states Thanki. An LCL membership on your resume can lead you to become a Lion after leaving Lakehead. Interested in becoming a lifelong Lion? Email dathanki@lakeheadu.ca.

Drama Club
Jo Steffens always loved drama; but with no available programs at Lakehead, decided to create the Drama Club. "It is a great outlet for anyone interested in drama" says Steffens, "we mostly play acting games that help us get out of our comfort zones and hone our acting abilities." Steffens ensures club members are always having fun "while developing their acting abilities." To expand not just your acting skills, but also your critical thinking and confidence, email sjsteffe@lakeheadu.ca or stop by RC 1001 on Saturdays at 1:00 pm to partake in the class.

Lakehead University Prime Power Yo-Yo Club
Feng Guo started the Lakehead University Prime Power Yo-Yo Club to introduce his love for yoyo-ing to Lakehead students. "We meet, play, and teach each other new tricks" says Guo, who wishes to teach students hand extreme sports such as yoyo-ing, Kendama, and magic cube. This club will help anyone improve their hand eye coordination as yoyo-ing is "good training for the hands and eyes." Guo sees yoyo-ing as a source of confidence, as he himself gained confidence by performing yo-yo tricks onstage. Email fguo@lakeheadu.ca to start your yoyo-ing journey.

Sameshima offers this advice to LU students: "Lakehead is not just about the classes. Clubs feed this awesome community and will help you build skills that can be used outside the classroom."

Everyday Art

An Exploration of Thunder Bay's Public Art Scene

SANJANA SHARMA
Staff Writer

When I first came to Thunder Bay, the city's picturesque skies mesmerized me. On some days, it was sunshine that mingled with the clouds above me, and at nights, it was the stars that embellished the dark, serene sky.

A few days after arriving, I went Downtown for a scavenger hunt organized by the university. On that short trip, a few abstract murals and a metal sculpture caught my attention. The graffiti reminded me of similar artwork back from my hometown, New Delhi, India, which really excited me as my best friend and I used to go to different places while I was still in New Delhi, to discover murals and appreciate art. There is a non-profit organization called St+art that works in public spaces in India to create more art, which is similar to the recent trend in Thunder Bay of installing public art. The idea of getting public masses more involved in art than ever before is very fascinating. This adds to the beauty of Thunder Bay.

When I first started learning about public art in Thunder Bay, I was amazed to find that there are over 400 individual pieces that have been installed throughout the city. To name a few, the Vickers Street Bridge Sculpture of John and Catherine Vickers by John Books, Wild Life by Brandon Vickerd, and The Angler and the Fish by Krzysztof Zukowski stand apart as reminders of history, wildlife and environment, respectively, in the city's busy life. As pieces of art, they have been used to express a range of ideas, which are centered around the significance of Thunder Bay. This helps viewers take a break from the rush once in a while, and appreciate the ideas, efforts and emotions that go into creating art, which many would say is the foundation of life.

When asked about his opinions on the public art scene, Yamandeep Singh Malhi, a Life Sciences student at Lakehead University, said, "The people who have displayed art in the public always have a message, a story. Their work is free for interpretation. Sometimes when I see art, I am so stunned by the ideas and the work that goes into that art, like a painting can take so long to be completed." He adds, "There is this one lady who made a colored portrait of my cousin sister at Folklore Festival. When I looked at the painting, I was amazed; I wasn't expecting that! Making that portrait must have been a lot of work. Sometimes, art really inspires me. It's a challenge in itself as to how perfect, how creative a person can get with those colors."

It must be noted though, that art is an expression of ideas, which means that art is not only limited to paintings and sculptures. Poetry, dance, music, creativity -- everything is art.

Fortunately, Thunder Bay acknowledges and appreciates all forms of art. For example, Movie Nights in the Park at Prince Arthur's Landing is a part of the city's summer programming, where the city hosts a series of free film screenings to appreciate and promote local artists/producers. Pulse by Scott McKay; Written Art Installations throughout Prince Arthur's landing, which feature sandblasted text onto granite block; Embedded History by Studio Kimiis; and SnowDay (an annual snow carving event) are among some other works/events that bring the like-minded people and artists of Thunder Bay together.

Dreams Come to Life

Somniatis and Other Local Opportunities for Young Artists

ZOE DHILLON
Orillia Bureau Chief

The City of Orillia is abundant with creative opportunities for young artists. One local fashion show, Somniatis, is particularly interested in recruiting innovative and artistic students for future fashion shows. Somniatis, which originally debuted in 2015, is a wildly successful and collaborative "wearable art" fashion exhibition that features the works of aspiring local artists, models, hair stylists, jewelry makers, makeup artists, photographers, and other artists.

The Facebook page, "Somniatis III: A Wearable Art Show" describes their approach to wearable art as "inclusive" and "multi-disciplinary." As an inclusive group, many local elementary school, high school, college, and university students have volunteered in Somniatis in the past, including many talented Lakehead Orillia students. Volunteers do not need prior exhibition experience to get *involved -- everyone is welcome.*

All of the proceeds from Somniatis are donated to local organizations, including the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital and the Orillia Museum of Art and History, and the show is organized and run on a purely volunteer basis. The current director of Somniatis, Tammy Hill, acknowledges that a project this vast is only able to thrive because of community spirit. Hill says, "This group offers so much to a small community. We are all volunteers, and when we all work together, our artistry and passion transfer into something so magical. Dreams come to life."

In a town as small as Orillia, it is impressive that artistic ventures like Somniatis can flourish, utilizing hundreds of local volunteers and bringing in hundreds of audience members from all over Ontario.

Volunteering for creative groups like Somniatis is a great way to increase your artistic output, hone your creative skills, foster original and unique ideas, build up your resume and portfolio, and meet other young local artists, including other Lakehead students. Even then, as Hill says, the opportunities do not stop here: "There are so many artistic opportunities for university students in Orillia. You just need to know what the events are and put yourself out there."

Other local events and organizations that are available for young creatives include: Starry Nights, Still Life Drawing Classes (OMAH), Streets Alive, Mariposa Arts Theatre, Orillia & District Arts Council, and Greater than Gatsby.

With so many fantastic and artsy opportunities available, why not get involved from the comfort of your own community?

If you are interested in volunteering for Somniatis' next event, contact Director Tammy Hill at shadowssalon@ rogers.com.



Photo by Through My Eyes Photography byDeb Halbot.
Designer: Lise Rowlandson.
Model: Patti Sanderson.

The Argus

POSITION OPEN: ***Business Manager***

Part-time position.

Must have efficient people skills and strong math skills.

Contact editor@theargus.ca for more info.

MEET THE STAFF

Photos by Sarah McPherson



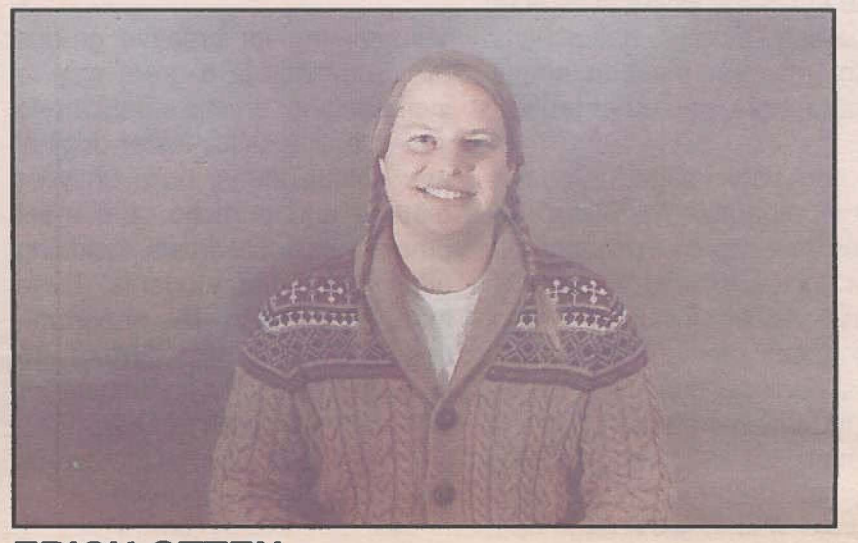
SAM MATHERS
Editor-In-Chief

Originally from Winnipeg, MB, Sam moved to Thunder Bay in 2016 to obtain her Bachelor of Education. After graduating in June, she returned to LU this fall to complete her Masters in Social Justice Education. She also began working with The Argus in 2016. Hoping to be involved in some small way, she inquired about a job to find they were looking for a News Editor. Accepting the position on a leap of faith, she ended up spending two wonderful years there. Sam is thrilled to be taking on the role of Editor-in-Chief this year, as The Argus continues to be an integral part of her university experience.



GREGORY MCGRATH-GOUDIE
News Editor

Gregory is a first year Master of Arts student in English. He completed his undergraduate degree at Lakehead's Orillia campus, and this is his third year as an editor with The Argus. His primary research interests as a graduate student are ecocriticism and postcolonialism, particularly within a Canadian context. Aside from studying, Greg enjoys good books, getting outdoors, and reckless adventures with his friends. After completing his MA, he plans on working some job or another until he is 65 years old.



ERICH OTTEN
Arts & Culture Editor

Erich is a first year Master of Arts student in Sociology. They completed their undergraduate degree in Bawaating at Algoma University/Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, a joint University housed in the former Chief Shingwauk Residential School dedicated to cross cultural education. Their areas of research include investigating sexual health literacy, the intersections of adverse childhood experiences, developmental trauma, sexual practice and emergent sexualities. Outside of academic life, Erich keeps a small practice as doula and loves memoirs.



DEREK PATTERSON
Sports & Recreation Editor

Born and raised in Thunder Bay, Derek is in his third year of BSc Physics. He is a part of Lakehead's cross-country running team, and has a penchant for anything Star Wars or Forrest Gump related. He's one of the friendliest people you could meet, and is very excited to be a part of the Argus team this year.



KARYN VANDEN BOOMEN
Copy Editor

Karyn recently moved to Thunder Bay to begin a Masters of Education for Change with a specialization in Social Justice Education. Originally from Middlesex Centre, Ontario, Karyn has lived in/or visited multiple places around the world and Canada. In each place she's seen how caring relationships bring out the best in communities and people, and she's looking forward to being a part of the Thunder Bay community -- starting with this role at The Argus!

2018-2019



ZOE DHILLON
Orillia Bureau Chief

Before attending Lakehead University, Zoe Dhillon studied Political Science at the University of Ottawa, where she gained a great interest in political discourse analysis. Exercising this passion, as well as her love of literature, Zoe transferred to Lakehead University Orillia where she is now a fourth-year English student. This is her first year working as the Orillia Bureau Chief of the Argus. In addition to her work with the newspaper, she also works as the Writing Coach at LUO. Zoe is multilingual and loves to study foreign languages; she also loves travel, music, art, and theatre. After graduating this upcoming Spring, Zoe intends to pursue a Masters degree in Professional Communications.



EMILY MACDONALD
Arts & Culture Editor

Emily is first-year history major in the concurrent education program. Her favourite period of history to study is either the Tudor dynasty with Queen Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots or anything in the Victorian period. She has a passion for naps, makeup and books. Her favourite drink is hot tea with sugar and milk. She can never have enough cookies, and normally eats a pack a week!



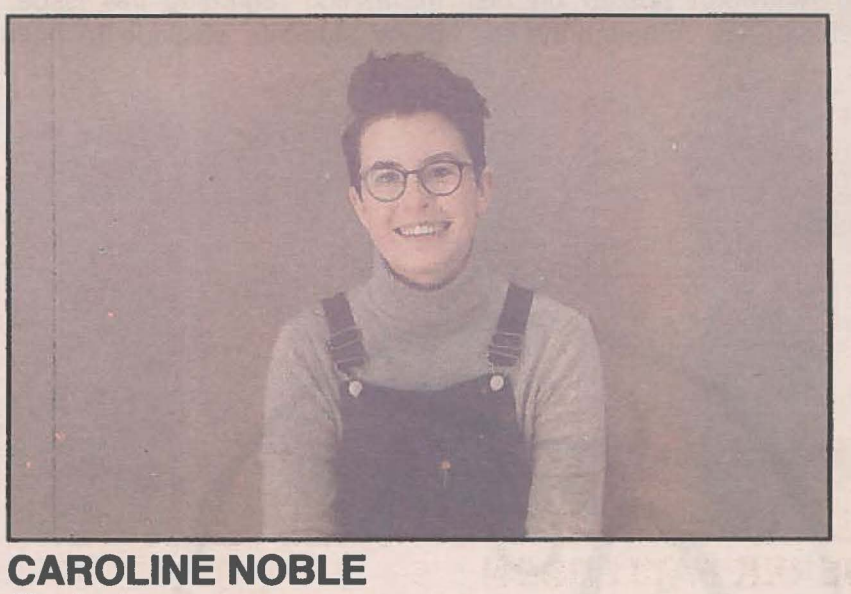
SANJANA SHARMA
Arts & Culture Editor

Sanjana is an international student, who grew up and did her schooling in New Delhi, India. She is currently in the first year of her undergraduate studies in Computer Science at Lakehead University, and loves every bit of it. She also has interests across different fields; as much as she likes to code, she also loves to write. Poems, stories, articles... you name it, and she writes it. Apart from writing, Sanjana also loves to socialize and volunteer, motivate people, sing, cook, write poetry inspired by stars, and drink coffee!



SARAH MCPHERSON
Multimedia Editor / Layout Editor

Sarah is a third-year English student at the Thunder Bay campus. This is her third year working for the Argus. Born in Toronto but raised in Thunder Bay, she is a mixed Ojibwa photographer and artist with a passion for supporting projects and local businesses within her community. Always growing and learning, Sarah is dedicated to experiencing the beauty of Northwestern Ontario and sharing it through environmental portraiture. She also works for Neechee Studio as their standing photographer and is a devoted member of the local art community. Sarah loves to hike and travel, and is always pursuing a new adventure.



CAROLINE NOBLE
Illustrator

Caroline is a third-year Nursing student at the Thunder Bay campus. She is originally from Oakville, ON but moved to Thunder Bay to pursue a degree in Nursing. In her spare time, Caroline is an independent artist/illustrator. Creating quirky images depicting the world around her, Caroline enjoys drawing anything that makes her smile. She is currently taking commissions and is working on a website where she will be selling prints and stickers of her designs. You can follow her @doodlercaro on Instagram to see more of her work.

See the back page for Caroline's first illustration for The Argus!

ORILLIA cont'd

Lakehead Student Re-Elected to City Council, Not Without Controversy

Mason Ainsworth will serve second term as councillor for Ward 3

AADAM BANDAISHA
Contributor

Lakehead Orillia Political Science and Pre-Law student, Mason Ainsworth, the youngest city councillor in Orillia's history, has been re-elected for his second term as councillor for Ward 3 in Orillia.

This victory comes after a hard-fought campaign against five other candidates. Ainsworth has been an active member of the Orillia community and can often be found at public events around town. His platform is based on the values of "Accountability, Approachability, and Hard Work". His last election into City Council was seen as a source of pride for many at Lakehead Orillia.

During this re-election, however, Ainsworth's character has been called into question by some at Lakehead and elsewhere around town. There have been a few sources of controversy in particular and some students have shared their opinions on these matters.

The main source of this controversy comes from an "endorsement" for Lakehead Political Science professor, Dr. Syed Islam, which Ainsworth posted on his Facebook page. Although the endorsement is a bright letter of recommendation which successfully highlights Ainsworth's character and great work ethic, it was not intended to be used as a political endorsement, but rather, as a reference letter.

Dr. Islam distances himself from this "endorsement" with the following statement in Orillia Matters: "All I wrote in my recommendation letter [was] that he was a good student in my courses ... and if he wants to use that letter for his self-promotion to project his past academic background in the school that's up to him as long as he does not claim that I have endorsed him for election." This statement by Dr. Islam was quite the buzz around campus at the time. (In a town of our size, of course, every political occasion is a big occasion!)

Ainsworth responded to this controversy by claiming, "I did post a reference letter on my Facebook from Dr. Islam as I was told I could use it whenever I needed it for help." The opinions of Lakehead Orillia students have been polarizing around the issue. While Ainsworth may have been misleading regarding this issue, many students continue to hold him in positive regard as he is a symbol of the university's progress, opportunity, and success.

Ainsworth's platform has been one of transparency, and he has been diligent in pushing his peers to also exemplify this quality. Perhaps this is why it came as a shock to many when this bump in the re-election road occurred. It is, however, possible that this bump was merely the result of a miscommunication.

Whatever the case may be, it is certainly to the benefit of many Lakehead students that we have a student from our campus sitting on the City Council, so that young academics' problems can be represented at some political level.

The Argus attempted to interview Ainsworth directly regarding this issue and the election, which he initially agreed to. However, he failed to answer the questions presented in the given time frame. The reasons for this are unclear but hopefully, in the future, an interview with the councillor will occur and prove fruitful.



Mason Ainsworth

Sourced from simcoe.com

The Argus Student Newspaper

c/o Lakehead University Student Union

Room UC 0017B

955 Oliver Rd

Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1

(807) 766 - 7251

SPORTS

Tell Your Stress to Take a Hike

A comprehensive look at Thunder Bay's recreation trails

KASSANDRA ROSSI
Contributor

Autumn is always a stressful time on campus. The midterms, project, and essay due dates that seemed so far away in September have slowly crept up on us and are suddenly staring us in the face. Being able to balance school work with daily physical exercise can prove to be challenging for many. Luckily for Lakehead University students, Thunder Bay offers an amazing recreation trail system that any student can access, many of which are multi-use (biking or walking) and are open year round.

There are trails that start right on campus, running along the McIntyre River to an extensive trail system connecting Trowbridge Falls, Centennial Park, Cascades Conservation Area, The Bluffs, and Boulevard Lake. Closer to campus, trails go alongside Golf Links Road and Balmoral Street, as well as leading into George Burke Park, which is directly across from the LU Campus.

Cameron Gillis, a third year Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism, and Political Science student who frequents the trails around campus says, "I just like to wander around on them! It's super nice. I love being outdoors."

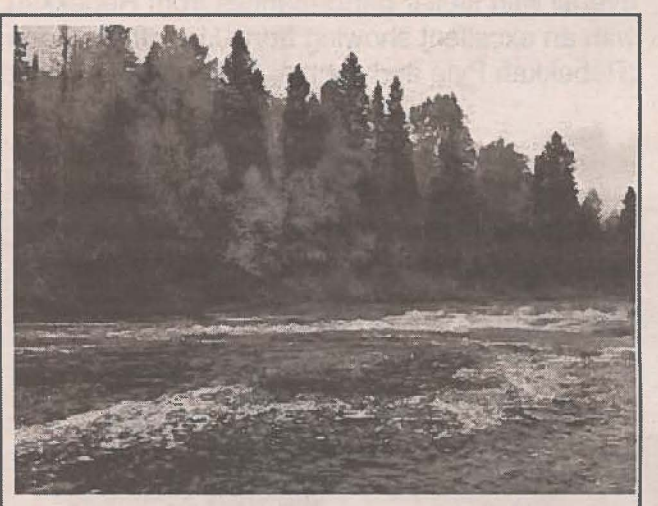
Managing stress during the school year is critical to maintaining a balanced life. With extra-curriculars, homework, exams, work, and/or volunteering, as well as daily stresses, getting outside and going for walks can be a great stress management technique.

Part-time position

Gillis says, "spending time in the outdoors is easily one of my top ways to de-stress. No matter what the weather is or how I'm feeling, if I can go for an adventure or just outside I feel immediately better."

Going outdoors requires little to no equipment and with such easy access on campus and the surrounding area to trails, it is a great opportunity for anyone to help them de-stress.

The recreation trails are not just for Outdoor Recreation students. Janika Pölkki, a second year Social Work and Psychology student, uses many of the trails in Thunder Bay to combat stress: "During exams, I really think that sitting outside or going for a walk helps to calm my nerves. Sometimes I'll walk around campus right before an exam to help clear my head."



Centennial Park, Thunder Bay
Photo sourced from AllTrails.com

Many of the trails connect together, or are accessible by bus, so students can explore trails a little further away from school. These trails also connect to multiple parks within the city that offer frontcountry experiences like Trowbridge Falls or more tourist like destination like Prince Arthur's Landing at Marina Park.

Recreation trails not only provide a means of getting around, but can also contribute to a healthy balanced lifestyle and are a convenient and fun way to explore Thunder Bay's natural landscape.

Pölkki says, "My favourite trail in Thunder Bay is probably the Centennial/Trowbridge/Cascades trail because there are so many different components and different parts of it." So, the next time you are feeling the stress of school life, grab a friend or two, get outside and hit the trail!

Join the Wolfpack

Find your fit with athletics at LU

DEREK PATTERSON
Sports & Rec Editor

Hey all you Thunderwolves!

With school back in full swing many of us are once again hitting up the old gyms, pools, courts and trails to burn that school stress away. Why not make full use of what's available to you in your own backyard and head down to your local Fieldhouse? You could sweat those troubles away, or simply enjoy the thrill of watching one of many varsity teams crush the competition.

Lakehead University is home to an extensive range of athletic facilities featuring: THE THUNDERDOME (i.e. full gymnasium), a 50m 8-lane Pool, cardio rooms, the Wolves Den weight room, a full turf indoor soccer field surrounded by a 200m track, an outdoor soccer field, beach volleyball court, yoga studio and change rooms complete with saunas. Access to all these facilities are included in your Student Fees and we encourage you to explore what is available to find activities that work for you! The reception desk will even loan you various equipment like basketballs to be used when the gym is open.

Have you already become bored of your usual gym/fitness routine and you want to try something new? You might be interested in joining one of our many club sports such as: Curling (M/W), the Dance Team, Hockey (F), Rugby, Soccer (M/W), Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball (M), Equestrian or even Alpine Skiing!

Or, if you're looking for some structured physical activity, you may want to consider the various campus-rec opportunities. These include: flag football, ultimate frisbee, basketball, volleyball, coed hockey or non-body contact coed hockey. It is too late to register for the fall semester, but worry not -- registration opens again on January 7th for the winter semester.

Our varsity sports teams are always looking for your support and your voice to cheer the Wolves to victory. Most weekends, there are basketball and volleyball games in the THUNDERDOME or even the men's hockey team at Fort William Stadium. Lakehead is also home to our wonderful track and XC teams, Nordic Ski and Wrestling teams as they compete across the country in their journeys to have Lakehead at the top of the podium.

Thunderwolves logo
Sourced from www.thunderwolveshockey.com

If you are looking to get involved: check out the athletics website @ www.thunderwolves.ca where you can find more information on teams, schedules and all things athletics.

Athletes of the Month

Celebrating your top cross-country athletes

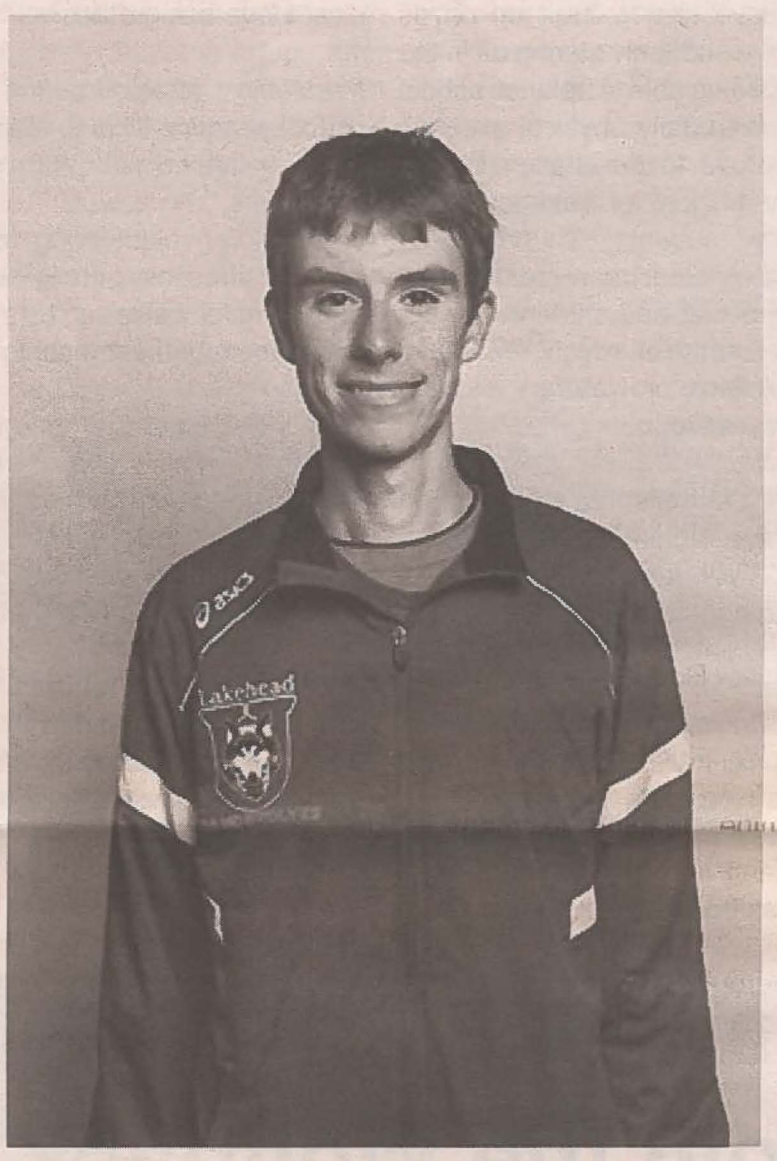
DEREK PATTERSON
Sports & Rec Editor

The provincial cross-country season ended on the Thames Valley Golf Course of London, Ontario on Saturday, October 27th. Despite the muddy conditions, both the Lakehead Men's and Women's teams ran arguably their best races of the season. The Women's team placed 7th overall with stellar performances from Rebekkah Pyle (10) and Hailee Morisseau (25). The Men's team ran equally as well placing 8th overall with an excellent showing from Johnathan Stoppa (25) and Derek Patterson (26). Both teams placed higher than last year and two individuals (Rebekkah Pyle and Johnathan Stoppa) qualified for the U Sports Championships held in Kingston this month.



Rebekkah Pyle *(Burlington, Ontario)*

This will be Pyle's second opportunity to race at the U Sports Championship since her rookie season in 2017. Rebekkah has proven herself on and off the track, being awarded Ontario University Athletics' Rookie of the Year for cross country and has returned to Lakehead to prove that once again she will be a strong contender as a collegiate athlete in the years to come. Despite struggling with various injuries throughout part of the summer, Pyle consistently proves that on race day she is ready for action and to run with the top of the pack at the U Sports Championships. She says, "I look forward to U Sports because, as with every race, it will be another chance to improve my racing skills and to see what I can do…[U Sports] will be a good opportunity to implement all the training and learning I have had this season since there will be a lot of high level competition."



Johnathan Stoppa *(Barry's Bay, Ontario)*

Johnathan Stoppa has been blazing the trails this fall, proving himself to be one of the top rookies in the OUA. Despite this being only his first year on the team, Stoppa brings extensive experience to Lakehead boasting a very successful high school career and various high-ranking national performances. Johnathan looks to improve upon his OUA performance at this U Sports Championships saying: "I am excited because this is a great opportunity to race against new and different competitors from across Canada…it will help me develop as an athlete and as a racer, [with] new people to help push me in the race."

OVERHEARD LU

"I just want to like, smash the patriarchy, you know?"

A Look Back

Reflections from an Argus alum

JIM MASON
Former Sports Editor, 1976

For a school without a journalism program, Lakehead has churned out a newsroom full of employees for the Canadian media industry.

Admittedly, we're talking a miniscule sample size here.
And, with full disclosure, I'm in that late 1970s' sample. Somehow.

I was a first-year economics student at Lakehead who somehow wrangled an invitation to try out for the school's basketball team in the fall of 1976. My athletic claim to fame was never being cut from that team that would play in the CIAU (now U Sports) championship final that season. Ten minutes into the first practice, I destroyed an ankle and ended up carting a cast around the Oliver Road campus for seven weeks.

That piece of plaster was a goldmine, leading to many a conversation, including several with young women.
Them: "So, you're on the basketball team then?"
Me: "Well…"

Terry Smith, a young man who was in every one of my classes that semester, heard the story.
"So, you like sports," he said. "Ever thought of writing about it? I've been named editor of The Argus for next year. I'm looking for a sports editor."
That's the complete transcript of the interview. The job, including a small pay cheque, was mine.

My high school English teachers are still shaking their heads. Same for the economics teacher. They're joined by the basketball coach.

My first assignment was accompanying entertainment editor Bob Klanac, an old pal – we're still friends – who wrote record reviews for The Argus while we were in high school. We interviewed Rush in a post-concert locker room at the Fort William Gardens.

We were right at home, considering our window-free Argus offices were in converted showers -- aqua ceramic tile and all -- in the basement of the school. Between the pinball room and the janitors' closet.
Save for compiling the popular concert listings for Duluth and Minneapolis, I pretty much stuck to my beat at The Argus.

Some things don't change. Hockey and basketball were the big sports on campus, but there were also wrestlers, swimmers, soccer players, several coaching changes and a student referendum on athletic funding to write about.

Lakehead's teams played league games against schools in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and many an exhibition tilt versus colleges from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

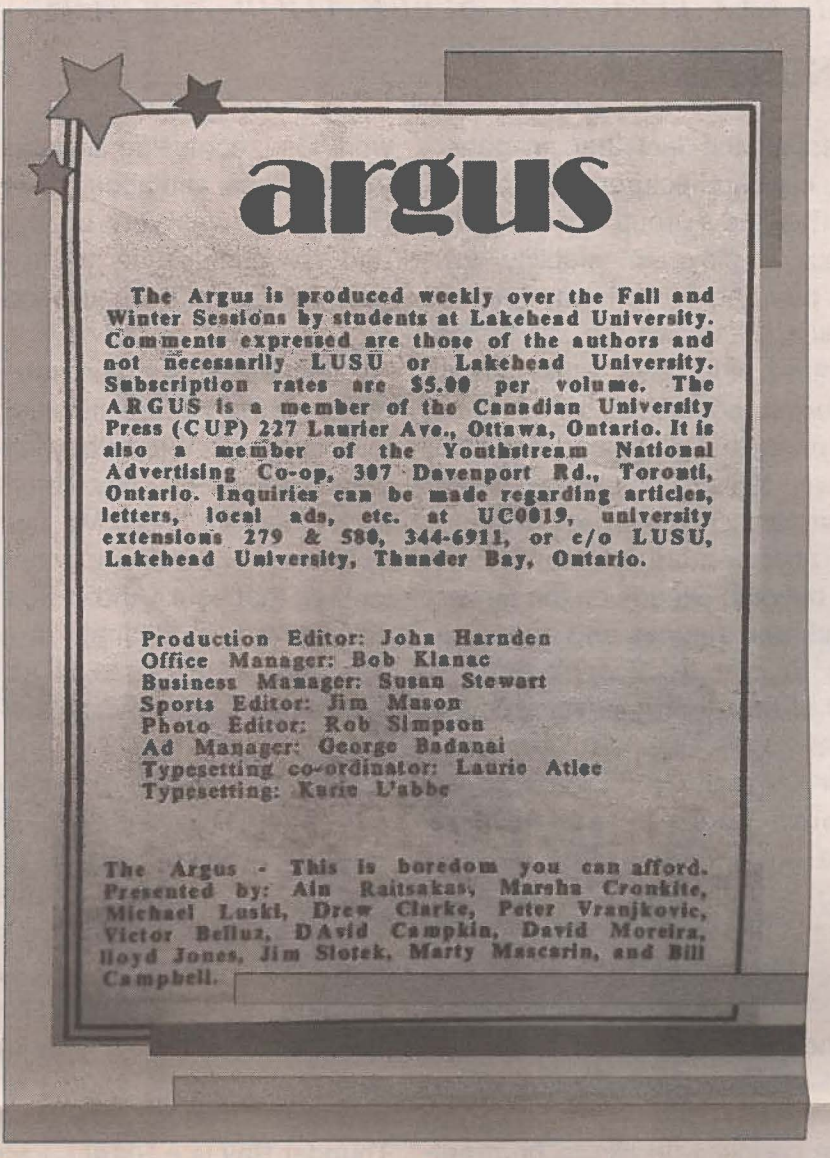
Karl Subban was an all-star on the basketball team and Henry Staal was a Lakehead hockey player. Both have multiple sons in the NHL today.

The Argus moved up a couple of floors, in what's now known as University Centre, but has since been sent back to the basement showers.

Lakehead's a different place today: pinball has long lost its bounce.

There's now a full-time campus bar, The Outpost. No more commutes to The Crest or The Uptown for a table-full of draughts. Both establishments are long gone, anyway. (It can now be said that we were well served at school. The Argus had a fridge fully stocked with ice-cold, locally brewed Doran's products, long before craft beer was a thing. And the back stairs swept us up to The Agora to see Bruce Cockburn, Murray McLauchlan and Jesse Winchester in concert).

The school teams were the Nor'Westers – named for the majestic mountain range that welcomes flights into Thunder Bay International. Think Colorado Rockies and Avalanche. Sorry, I don't know what a Thunderwolf is. And who added gold to the classic blue and white uniforms?



argus

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Production Editor: John Harnden
Office Manager: Bob Klanac
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The Argus - This is boredom you can afford. Presented by: Ain Raitsakas, Marsha Cronkite, Michael Luski, Drew Clarke, Peter Vranjkovic, Victor Belluz, DAvid Campkin, David Moreira, lloyd Jones, Jim Slotek, Marty Mascarin, and Bill Campbell.

Graphic deisgned by Sarah McPherson. Image of exerpt from the Argus archives.

Lakehead jumped east, to Ontario University Athletics, several seasons ago.

The hockey team has moved from the quaint confines of the Port Arthur Arena to those Gardens and replaced senior and minor pro clubs as the town team. The basketball squads still play out of the C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse, a facility that has stood the test of time but is now dwarfed by the adjoining Hangar. All across the street from the Thunder Bay Regional Hospital, where the drive-in theatre was, right?

Lakehead now has a medical school and a law school. And more than three times as many students studying on the shores of Lake Tamblyn as there were 40 years ago. Back when we needed computers the size of a Chevrolet Caprice to do half of what today's phones accomplish.

And that unofficial journalism school tucked in the Lakehead basement?

Out of that former shower room would exit reporters, editors, ad managers, photographers, salespeople, compositors, public relations experts, spokespeople and creative types who would go on to work in news organizations, corporations and the public service. From British Columbia to Southern Ontario. From one-stoplight towns to big-city dailies.

Maybe Lakehead does have a journalism program.

Thank you, Argus.

Jim Mason is a Thunder Bay native, Lakehead University graduate and former Argus sports editor. Following a 36-year career at newspapers in Northwestern Ontario and the Toronto area, he is director of communications for the Ontario Junior Hockey League and tour manager for Jason Wilson Music.

EDITORIALS

Confessions of a Contract Lecturer

An LU Teacher Spills Their Secrets… Is it Yours?

ANONYMOUS

Despite the fact that, in general, contract lecturers can be described as a group of people with poor employment stability, lower pay and benefits, and limited office space; we are still professionals who must work hard at proving themselves. In our quest to prove that we belong in the hallowed halls of academia, we are constantly challenging our brains to absorb more information and to become experts on the newest and best theories and approaches in our field/teaching focus. All of this energy devoted to our brain power has also fine-tuned our senses… to basically superhuman levels in fact. Students are not aware of this, so here are some observations, (confessions) that may enlighten you:

1. We like and appreciate it when you say hello. At our core, we are actually people! (And not *only the superhuman kind*). We are people who like to be greeted warmly and who like to feel that when you are coming into our class you are glad to see us and happy to spend the next few hours in our company.

2. When you have conversations about other profs we can hear you. After you enter class, (having said good morning or good afternoon or maybe just, "hi"), perhaps you are chatting with your fellow students while you are waiting for the instruction to start. We may be sorting papers, typing on the computer or writing things down all in preparation to deliver our amazing lecture…but we can still hear you. Sometimes we are actually listening intently, (which is not difficult because of our superhuman hearing.) It's fascinating to hear complaints about marks, work load, confusing assignment expectations, and about how Prof So and So was very dismissive and downright rude when you went to ask a simple question.

A few things run through our minds while we are listening to this, such as: When they are in other classes do they complain about me like this? My course outline and rubrics are way better than that right? And… Do they actually remember that I'm right here and I do the same job as the people they are bitching about?!?

Best case scenario, we listen to your complaints and take it as notes for our own teaching practice. Not-as-great case scenario, we are thinking "man these students are whiners." Worst case scenario, and one that you should pay strong heed to, we may know and/or actually be good friends with the person you are dissing. Thunder Bay is a SMALL town… you may be shocked to realize the amount of people that know each other (it's everybody) and you are pretty much not safe anywhere! Nowhere. Seriously.

3. We know when you are paying absolutely no attention to what we are saying but are pretending that you are. Laptops, tablets, iPads…all wonderful devices for doing a multitude of tasks. Some students even use them to take notes during class, faithfully taking a record of all of the intelligent and relevant things we are imparting to you. But guess what? With our superhuman eyesight, we can tell that A LOT of students with their devices open in front of them are actually doing no such thing. Instead they are emailing, doing some online shopping, trying to hook up on Tinder, or completing work from other classes. And guess what else? I could confess that our superhuman eyesight has evolved to the point where we can see through the back of your device like an x-ray machine, but the sad thing is, we don't even need that particular power – any regular non-super person can see it. When a student's eyes are glued to the screen in front of them and they don't look up once in two hours… really?!? When they poke the person beside them and point to the screen and have a little chuckle together… REALLY?!?

All of this begs one of the most important questions of our time… WHY ARE YOU HERE? And I don't mean in an existential way. Why are you sitting in this classroom right now if you're not even going to listen to what I am saying? What is the point? If the lecture is that boring, or irrelevant, or the lecturer just bugs the crap out of you… then why are you there? Perhaps attendance is a requirement for your course…Ok. Taking up a seat in a classroom, then ignoring the lecturer and doing every other possible thing except for participating in the learning is not attendance. Your brain has to attend as well. Just saying.

4. We know when you have spent a significant amount of time in the pub before you come to class. Beer has a distinct odour. Especially beer that comes in plastic pitchers. Because of our superhuman sense of smell, the air that wafts past us while you file into the classroom can be tinged (or saturated!) with this distinctive scent. This confession is not meant to shame anyone, it's just simply for your interest. I thought I should say that because I realize now that confession #3 may have started to take on a bitter tone.

Anyway, maybe pop a Tic Tac or a gum after you leave the pub – it's just a thoughtful thing to do. I do have to add though, that even if you freshen your breath, we will still know where you spent the afternoon. We probably don't mind, we might even be a little jealous. (We may be superhuman, but we are still human.)

Watching someone deliver a presentation in a slightly tipsy state (especially when they think that we don't know they are tipsy), can actually be entertaining and amusing for us, and doesn't always have to affect your mark in a negative way. But let me be clear… if this happens with a particular student more than once, it is no longer even a little bit entertaining or amusing. It is now irritating/very concerning.

The other thing to keep in mind is that spending a significant amount of time in the pub before going to class can have an direct influence (positive or negative) on #2 and #3!

I'm hopeful that these confessions are helpful and illuminating to you. I have taken a risk sharing them…not all of my fellow superhumans think you should be informed of all of the things we know about you (that you think we don't know about you.) Take what you will from this, but I sincerely hope that the next time you are sitting in front of a contract lecturer, you are thinking… "Is this the one that cared enough to confess their secrets?"

OVERHEARD LU

"I think it's completely fine to dress up for Halloween on November 1st, don't worry."

"Do you ever just do Kirchoff's voltage loop rule and you're just like… oh f**k."

Familiar Faces

Meet Sarena Favaro, Student Success

ZOE DHILLON
Orillia Bureau Chief

The Argus: *As the Student Success Advisor, what does your job entail?*
Sarena Favaro: Well, I work in the Student Success Centre where I help students with career advising and academic advising, so that would be anything skills-based that the student needs, which could include management, writing, note-taking... It could just be like "I don't know what I want to do with my degree" and then we just have a conversation based on that. I also help students with their co-curricular record and I sometimes help students with their co-op applications, but most of that is done through Thunder Bay. I also do some different programming, including the Orientation Week programming for first-year students.

A: *How long have you worked here?*
SF: I've worked at Lakehead for a year and seven months, but I initially worked at Student Central. I began my new role in September.

A: *What is rewarding about your job?*
SF: There are so many things, honestly. The most rewarding thing is knowing that students can leave my office with a toolkit that I was able to provide for them. I know they're leaving with something tangible to take them into the next stage of whatever it is they're trying to figure out and that is really exciting. Also, hosting and organizing an event and seeing people enjoying it is amazing.

A: *What is challenging about your job?*
SF: Engagement, maybe. I know that what we're doing in the Student Success Centre is really important and I know it is very valuable for students, but, of course, students are busy. They have chaotic schedules and planning a time to come to talk to me about time management or something similar isn't always their top priority, which I totally understand.

A: *What's your favourite part of working at Lakehead Orillia?*
SF: In my role here, I am able to help students transition into their life after university and I am able to help them as they shape themselves into whatever or whoever they want to be. It is amazing to be an integral piece of someone's journey and development.
I also really love the other staff members in Student Affairs. The mutual understanding and the relationship we all have with each other is really unique and wonderful. We collaborate when we can and I think that is really, really important.

A: *Why did you choose to work in Orillia? What do you like about our community here?*
SF: Orillia is very quaint and underrated. We have an excellent trail system here and hiking is very accessible, and I like being near the water with Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe. The community of Orillia is also really unique. When you go into Mariposa Market, you see all different types of people but you know so many of them. You're really a part of the community. I like it. It's a really interesting town with great opportunities.

A: *What services or opportunities would you recommend for the average student?*
SF: Well, come to the Student Success Centre! It's tough being a student so at some point you'll need help with the things we offer here. The Wellness Centre is also really important, as it allows students to have a comfortable and safe space to acknowledge anything they're going through. I think getting involved with different opportunities on campus, like Aboriginal Initiatives, is also really great. Aside from that, get involved on campus, volunteer on campus, build up a co-curricular record, and keep building up a diversity of skills by staying involved.



PC: Elana Weber

Meet Severin Lai, Barista at The Study

SAM MATHERS
Editor-In-Chief

The Argus: *How long have you worked here?*
Severin Lai: This is my third year.

A: *What is rewarding about your job?*
SL: A lot of stuff actually. It's just a super fun job with really cool coworkers so that is a big plus. I mean I get to meet a lot of really cool people around campus as well, plenty of profs, plenty of students. You talk to all of them. You hear a whole bunch of random goings-on throughout the day, so that's pretty sweet. And you get to make a bunch of smiling faces because people love coffee.

A: *What is challenging about your job?*
SL: Customer service, like in any job. It can be pretty tough because you can get pretty rude people at times. People don't understand certain aspects of the job, so they'll get mad at you for taking too long but if you're the only person working and there's a thirty-person line, then that happens, right? It's just inevitable.

A: *You've kind of touched on this, but what is unique about working on a university campus compared to other places you've worked?*
SL: So yeah, you get to talk to a lot of different people and that's pretty sweet, but I mean like, university is a centre for knowledge, so a lot of people bring that knowledge to their conversations. I've learned about really random, cool stuff because I've asked about what people are taking for their classes.

A: *What's your favourite part about Lakehead, specifically?*
SL: Probably the campus. I mean, we've got plenty to work on, as an actual university, but the campus is just so gorgeous. I don't even know how much of it is actually just wilderness in the end, probably the majority of it – the actual building aspect is pretty low in comparison. It's nice to just be able to take walks around campus.

A: *Lastly, what would you recommend to people on the menu at The Study?*
SL: Lattes are always good. You can't go wrong with them, they just taste amazing. All of our teas are fantastic as well.



PC: Sarah McPherson

The Word on Campus

The Latest News According to LU: On Marijuana Legalization

SAM MATHERS
Editor-In-Chief

"I do think that marijuana legalization is a good thing because it'll destigmatize users and those who use it for a more holistic purpose… I think [the government] did an okay job. It seemed kind of rushed, but overall I think legalization is a good thing; what the federal Liberals could do is a pardon on pre-existing drug offenses, non-violent drug offenses."

- Nigel Van Teeffelen, Psychology and Philosophy Student

"I think [charges of] under 30 grams cleared, because that's the law now, right? Over 30 grams is like, a lot of weed. If you have over an ounce, it's like, maybe something's up – is that your personal stash anymore?"

- Bryn Doering, Nursing Student

"I guard at the pool and on the day of legalization the ladies at Aqua Fit were talking about [it] – and maybe they'll try it now. I think it is a positive step because for some people it doesn't really change anything but for a lot of people it opens up that door… I do also think that it's a little bit concerning that there are no breathalyzers for marijuana. I kind of hate to make that comment… it is a fair point, if we can't persecute people for driving while high, that is going to cause danger and people will die as a result of it."

- Kat Day, Nursing Student

"For me it's more the political issue of people being [convicted] of felonies and then having criminal records and then they can't find jobs, and then they're stigmatized, and they can't do this and that because they have this petty criminal record of carrying a joint around."

- Roberto Vasquez, Nursing Student

"It's decriminalizing and destigmatizing as well, plus it's better for you than a lot of other substances that people are using anyway."

- Hannah Viau, English and History Student

"I think it's a good thing because it generates a lot of business opportunities and marijuana itself is not really a detrimental drug in my opinion – I don't see how it's any worse than alcohol, so I'm all for it… I think [the government roll-out] was pretty sloppy, I'm not going to lie…I know a lot of people who've ordered through the OCS haven't gotten any product really, [with the] Canada Post strike and just high demand overall."

- Lucas Holmes, Accounting Student

"It was happening anyways, so why not make it legal?"

- Anonymous

