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The Argus



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News

Allyship, Advocacy, and the Legitimate Role of Non-Indigenous Folks

Chantelle Bryson discusses meaningful allyship at LU

By Kelsey Raynard
Contributor

On January 29, Chantelle Bryson, a celebrated lawyer and community activist, delivered a talk entitled "Allyship in the Context of Indigenous Rights" in the Study coffeehouse at Lakehead University. Hosted by the Aboriginal Awareness Centre, Bryson provided audiences with an engaging and thoughtful discussion on the moral, social, cultural, legal, and economic responsibilities of non-Indigenous folks in the pursuit of equality in Canada.

Bryson's long list of personal and professional accomplishments demonstrates her committed role as an ally. As lawyer at Weilers Law, Bryson has been engaged in private legal practice since 2002, in the areas of municipal, Indigenous, and human rights, labour and employment, and environmental law throughout Ontario. Locally, Bryson has successfully represented Fort William First Nation in their case against Horizon Wind's proposed wind turbine project on Fort William's traditional lands. She has also served as a tutorial instructor at Lakehead University's Faculty of Law.

While Bryson's introduction clearly illustrates her continued allyship in the context of Indigenous rights, she began her talk by clarifying the nature of what it means to be an ally. Being an ally isn't a role you can claim for yourself, she cautioned; rather, it is a state achieved by an active, lifelong, and ever-changing commitment to relationship building with Indigenous individuals and communities. Citing her own growth as an ally, she explained that being an ally demands the continuous re-examination of your role, your motivation, and your commitment. Bryson explained that at the core of all allyship is a selfless desire for social justice rather than for personal or professional growth and the necessary ability to re-examine your relationships as to how they can better serve Indigenous communities.

She also stressed invitation-based advocacy as a cornerstone of meaningful allyship. Cautioning audience members against developing a "white saviour complex," Bryson consistently reminded non-Indigenous folks that you should not insert yourself into Indigenous spaces or communities to declare your intended role as an ally; rather, with a continuous commitment to building relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities, you may be invited to act as an ally and to use your privilege to amplify the voices and concerns of others.



PC - Sarah McPherson

Bryson spoke of a number of barriers that both Indigenous peoples and allies face in the pursuit of reconciliation and equality. Throughout her talk, she continuously referenced the "Colonial Dream," or the deeply-ingrained societal desire for complete assimilation of Indigenous peoples as an underlying barrier to meaningful conversations about allyship. Bryson explained that terms like "reasonable," "practical," and "financially-feasible" are rhetorical tools of the Colonial Dream used to undermine Indigenous efforts and dismiss their legally, morally and economically-justified goals.

Bryson also cited the "Rule of Law" as a barrier that many Indigenous peoples and allies face, wherein oppositional forces inconsistently apply the law in an attempt to justify the oppression of Indigenous peoples. As an example, Bryson cited Senator Beyak's open letters to the public defending the residential school systems and explicitly calling for assimilation. While defenders of Beyak are quick to use the "free speech" argument, Bryson explained that they are unlikely to acknowledge that Section Two of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms only protects speech that is positive to democracy and is not specifically forbidden by the law (such as hate speech). Bryson explained to audience members that non-Indigenous allies can use their voice to expose the Colonial Dream when they see it, to question the

Rule of Law when it is used inconsistently, and to hold politicians like Senator Beyak responsible for their factual inaccuracies and legally defined hate speech.

In addition to these efforts, Bryson provided audience members with a concrete list of actions they can take through the journey to becoming a meaningful ally. One of these actions is through the use of evidence-based advocacy. Bryson stressed that allies must continually advocate for discussions about Indigenous peoples to be centered around the actual lived experiences of these communities and the sources that support these experiences. She provided a number of examples, such as the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Feathers of Hope, Indigenous academics & authors, and various inquests and inquiries.

Talking to other non-Indigenous folks about privilege, oppression, colonialism, and the importance of allyship is another crucial action Bryson encouraged audience members to take. Having these kinds of conversations facilitates understandings of your own privilege, lack of knowledge, and encourages a continued path of learning as an ally. "This type of advocacy costs you nothing," she explained, "but as a committed ally, be prepared to lose something." Whether it be the loss of personal or professional relationships, Bryson cautioned that speaking out against racism to those closest to you is not without consequence.

Lastly, Bryson explained that "passing the mic and getting out of the way" is a critical step in developing a meaningful allyship. As a lawyer and legal advisor, Bryson explained that she always lets Indigenous communities set their own priorities and lead the process. She encouraged audience members to ask themselves: when do you get to be the face or voice of this moment? When might it be more appropriate for an Indigenous activist to take this opportunity? When do you need to be paid for your efforts? How can I use my allyship to create opportunities for Indigenous peoples, rather than to take them away? Bryson explained that she has personally turned down and passed along many different opportunities in order to "get out of the way" for other, more qualified Indigenous activists. Realizing when you are taking up too much space, Bryson illustrated, is a fundamental aspect of allyship.

Bryson closed her talk by reminding audiences that as an ally, your relationships must encompass encouragement, mentorship, and support whenever possible. As allies, she encouraged, we can audit our workspaces, relationships, and communities while demanding inclusion and diversity. If we want to live in an equitable and just Canada, we must examine our roles as allies. If we put in the effort, Bryson confirmed, we can indeed create change.

The (Preliminary) Results Are In!

2018-2019 LUSU election sees an increase in voter turnout by 1.1 percent

By Kaelen Pelaia

Staff Writer

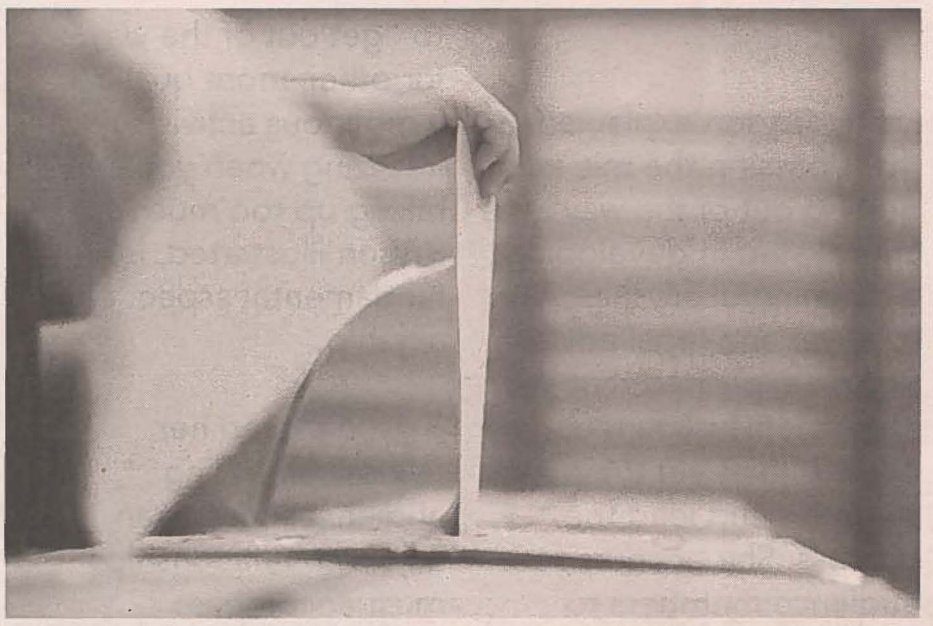
With the campaigning, voting, and tallying completed, the Lakehead University Student Union 2018-2019 Elections officially closed as of Wednesday, February 7th. With a myriad of candidates along with a multitude of platforms, the students of Lakehead University had many options for choosing their representatives at the administrative level of the institution this year.

According to LUSU's record of the election, total student turnout numbered 1475 out of 9474 total potential electors - around 15.6% of the student body (only 10% of the student population must vote for the election results to be deemed valid.) This is a slight increase from the 2017 election, which saw a mere 14.5% of eligible electors casting their votes. Despite efforts from LUSU to encourage student engagement, as well as the increase in the number of candidates this year (last year only one candidate ran for both President and Vice President of Finance), the student participation rate in elections remains low.

The candidates for President included Jessica Kearney, who is the current Vice President Orillia, and incumbent LUSU President Leah Ching. Ching managed the election victory, with over 60% of votes cast in her favour. Pending board approval, Ching will continue into the next term as President.

LUSU has three Vice Presidency positions, which include the VP Operations and Finance, VP Advocacy, and VP Orillia. The incumbent VPs are, respectively, Farhan Yousaf, Lindsay Kelly, and Jessica Kearney. Only Yousaf and Kelly returned for re-election this year, and both secured victory as election polls tallied 68.9% and 66.4% respectively. The candidacy for Vice President Orillia, meanwhile, saw newcomers Theresa Vandeburgt and Cody Avery duking it out for the privilege of office. After the election closed, Vandeburgt claimed victory with over 56% of the total votes.

The Thunder Bay Board



PC - Alexandru Nika - Shutterstock

of Directors also saw a multitude of candidates vying for positions, with eighteen individuals running for a seat on the board. These include, in descending order of total votes:

Harleen Bhullar, 545 (11.3%)
Victoria Erickson, 415 (8.6%)
Annaah Malik, 414 (8.6%)
Shahroze (Shezzy) Arshad, 399 (8.3%)
Josh Pogue, 371 (7.7%)
Feras Battah, 321 (6.7%)
Prabhjot Singh Ahuja, 319 (6.6%)
Mathew Nowak, 261 (5.4%)
Richard Mullin-Cote, 249 (5.2%)
Joseph Carew 235, (4.9%)
Jake Penton 219, (4.6%)
Timothy Thomson, 214 (4.4%)
Victoria Mechis 213, (4.4%)
Konnor J Davidson, 197 (4.1%)
Tannis Kastern 175, (3.6%)
Lauren Kaus 108, (2.2%)
James Barsby 94, (2.0%)
Basil Patrick 63, (1.3%)

The Orillia Board of Directors had no new candidates, so the incumbent members of the position were subject to a vote of confidence. The results are as follows:

Yes (Vote of Confidence for Rachel Murray) 157 (44.1%)
Yes (Vote of Confidence for Paula Clark) 148 (41.6%)
No (Do not elect Paula Clark) 29 (8.1%)
No (Do not elect Rachel Murray) 22 (6.2%)

Concerns about not meeting quorum are present with every election – last fall in fact, a by-election for Vice President Advocacy did not receive enough student voter participation and was subsequently deemed invalid. While there was a slight increase in the percentage of student participation compared to the 2017 election, the voter interest of the majority of the student body is still disturbingly low.

These results will be considered preliminary until the board approves the validity of the election, and if valid, the candidates will assume office in May.

Do You Feel Safe on Campus?

Campus safety audits to provide students with safer and more accessible spaces

By Brandy Bond
Staff Writer

Lakehead University's Office of Human Rights and Equity is conducting a series of safety audits this month with the mission of improving accessibility and safety on both the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses. The audit will consist of the touring of various campuses spaces in order to assess their physical features, such as lighting, signage and access, as well as their non-physical features, such as whether the space feels welcoming or uncomfortable.

The Office of Human Rights and Equity is looking for student, faculty and staff volunteers to participate in the audit, and is particularly members of equity-seeking groups such as women, gender minorities, racialized minorities, religious minorities, Indigenous peoples, individuals with exceptionalities and LGBTQ2 individuals. According to the Lakehead University website, "safety audits are premised on the notion that users of a space are often the experts on the problems and solutions for creating protective and inclusive environments. Thus, it is key to have an audit group that is reflective of the diversity in our user population."

Dreeni Geer, the Director of Human Rights and Equity told The Argus that the main goal of the audit is to create a "welcoming environment." Additionally, when asked about how the audit will be conducted, she explained that it will involve a series of tools, including "having users of the space get together and do a walk about of the area with a check list, along with a safety audit leader who can support discussion and make sure that people are heard and that their opinions are taken down." Geer also says that after each of the spaces have been evaluated and thoughts and opinions from students have been noted, the session will conclude with a debriefing led by the audit leaders.

Safety audits are not new to universities across Canada, according to Geer, however, this is the first time that Lakehead University has conducted a safety audit across the entire campus. Recently, an audit of the Bora Laskin Education Building was conducted, where students and audit leaders assessed various aspects of the building, such as washrooms and accessibility options. Geer says she hopes to replicate this process across both campuses to make improvements where they are needed.

Geer hopes the safety audit will allow the university to hear directly from students about their specific safety concerns

and needs. This will allow the school to improve in a meaningful way at meeting the needs of its students and ensuring that students feel safe on their campus.

Results of the audit are expected to be available in March, at which point the University executive will decide how to act on the recommendations.

The audits will take place during the day and will last approximately two hours. If you would like to participate, visit the Lakehead University website or contact Amna Siddiqui at sv.hre@lakeheadu.ca for more information

Two Minutes to Midnight

A look at the Doomsday Clock throughout history

By Sam Mathers

News Editor



PC - Flickr - The Offficial CTBTO Photostream

Last month, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' Science and Security Board moved the hands of the Doomsday Clock forward by 30 seconds. The Doomsday Clock has served as a symbol of the likelihood of a man-made global catastrophe, reflecting the threat of nuclear weaponry, climate change, and technology. It is now two minutes to midnight. In consideration of the imminent threat of nuclear war – particularly the progress of North Korea's nuclear weapons program and the "downward spiral of nuclear rhetoric" between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un, the lack of global response to the threat of climate change, and the misuse of information technology, the Board has stated that this is "the closest the Clock has ever been to Doomsday, and as close as it was in 1953, at the height of the Cold War."

1947: 7 Minutes to Midnight. Created by Martyl Langsdorf, the Doomsday Clock appears on the cover of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists for the first time. The Manhattan Project, based on Enrico Fermi's research on nuclear fission (which Langsdorf's husband worked on) created the first atomic bomb, sparking great debates among scientists at the University of Chicago about the dangerous technology. As the only artist they knew, Langsdorf was asked by the co-editors of the Bulletin to design the cover for the first magazine edition of their publication. She designed the clock hands ticking down to midnight based on the urgency of the conversations she had heard about the looming danger of the atomic bomb.

1949: 3 Minutes to Midnight. The arms race is officially started when Truman declares that the Soviet Union has tested their first nuclear device, and tells the American public that they "have reason to be deeply alarmed."

1953: 2 Minutes to Midnight. This is the last time the Doomsday Clock was this close to reaching midnight. The United States had tested its first hydrogen bomb, Ivy Mike, leading the Soviet Union to subsequently test their own hydrogen bomb.

1963: 12 Minutes to Midnight. Atmospheric nuclear testing is banned when the United States and Soviet Union sign the Partial Test Ban Treaty.

1968: 7 Minutes to Midnight. France and China develop their own nuclear weapons as the involvement of the United States in Vietnam deepens.

1969: 10 Minutes to Midnight. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is signed by nearly all of the nations of the world, except Pakistan, Israel, and India. The purpose of the treaty is to end the spread of nuclear weaponry, to achieve nuclear disarmament, and to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

1972: 12 Minutes to Midnight. The United States and the Soviet Union sign the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, limiting the number of ballistic missile launchers that can be possessed by either country and stopping the development of an arms race.

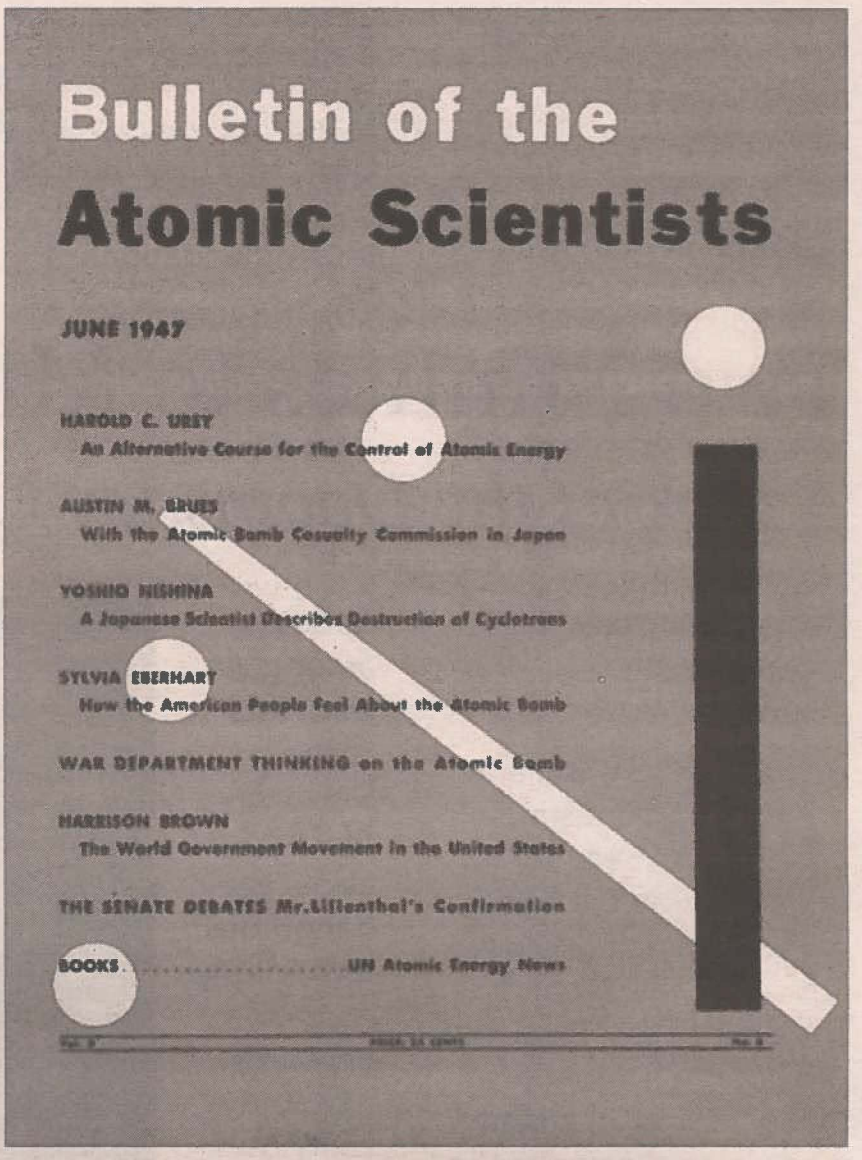
1981: 4 Minutes to Midnight. The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan and Jimmy Carter pulls the U.S. team from the Moscow Olympic Games.

1990: 10 Minutes to Midnight. The Berlin Wall has fallen and many Soviet republics begin to secede from the Union.

1991: 17 Minutes to Midnight. The furthest the Clock has been from midnight. The Soviet Union officially dissolves after Gorbachev resigns and declares his office extinct, ending the Cold War.

1995: 14 Minutes to Midnight. The United States believes Russia could pose as great a threat as the Soviet Union.

Fears about the potential abuse of the former USSR's poorly secured nuclear facilities at the hands of terrorists circulate.
2002: 7 Minutes to Midnight. Following 9/11, global anxiety around a nuclear terrorist attack increases. The United States refuses to sign several arms control treaties and withdraws from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.
2007: 5 Minutes to Midnight. Amidst growing concern around climate change, North Korea performs a nuclear test.
2010: 6 Minutes to Midnight. At Copenhagen, industrial and developing nations commit to taking responsibility for carbon emissions as concern around climate change increases. Negotiations to reduce Russian and U.S. nuclear weaponry are in progress.
2015: 3 Minutes to Midnight. World leaders fail to make positive and significant progress in the area of climate change, while the United States and Russia continue to embark on projects to modernize their nuclear weaponry.
2017: 2.5 Minutes to Midnight. With world leaders still failing to take palpable action to curb climate change, the problem becomes even more urgent.
President and CEO of the Science and Security Board, Rachel Bronson, PhD, stated: "It is urgent that, collectively, we put in the work necessary to produce a 2019 Clock statement that rewinds the Doomsday Clock. Get engaged, get involved, and help create that future. The time is now."



PC - Martyl Langsdorf - Bulletin of Atomic Scientists

Beside the Point?

Trudeau and the politics of "peoplekind"

By Jaina Kelly
Staff Writer

During a town hall session in Edmonton last Thursday, Justin Trudeau made a quip that quickly cascaded into a media frenzy of battling opinions. It's no surprise that opposing sides of the Canadian political spectrum remain eagerly poised to locate the next potential Trudeau controversy. It seemed perfectly fitting that Trudeau's comment about "peoplekind" being more suitable than "mankind" produced a press field day, as people slung emotionally charged responses right and left.



PC - Peter Bregg

John Robson for The National Post dove right into the controversy, with the misleading and dramatic tagline which stated that Trudeau is not "a totalitarian, of course" because he lacks "the requisite gravitas as well as
the depth of malice."
Already, it seemed to be a very daunting response to a very mild incident. Robson's tagline made it seem like he was genuinely disappointed Trudeau lacked the malice for totalitarianism.

The article is spectacular in its irrelevance, eventually descending into a web of thinly veiled anti-feminist assumptions, somehow reaching the conclusion that feminist theory boils down to a premise that "manliness is artificial and bad." Robson continues to deflate feminism in a few short, misled paragraphs, adding that "third-wave feminists who want women equally represented on corporate boards or in Parliament express no desire to see them equally represented in prisons, workplace fatalities or suicide statistics."

Ah yes, the good old "men commit more suicide, therefore feminism

is defunct and selfish" argument. Of course, women don't want to increase our rates of being marginalized, it's kind of what feminism is about.

Unfortunately, a mildly-feminist leader who encourages gender-neutral language is perhaps more inflammatory and terrifying to Conservative individuals than is a leader who is seconds away from pressing the nuclear war button because he didn't get a cheeseburger.

Naturally, the humble and woman-friendly National Post was hardly the only media corporation to capitalize on the miniscule moment *which* Trudeau called, in his own words, "a dumb joke". The Toronto Star has hosted an array of public responses on their website, which range from "not a big deal" to "this liberal conceited idiot is ruining mankind!" In an official apology, Trudeau said it "played well in the room" (it did, if you look at the video – he receives applause and laughter) but of course the arena of greater public disdain can't just pass up such delicious bait.

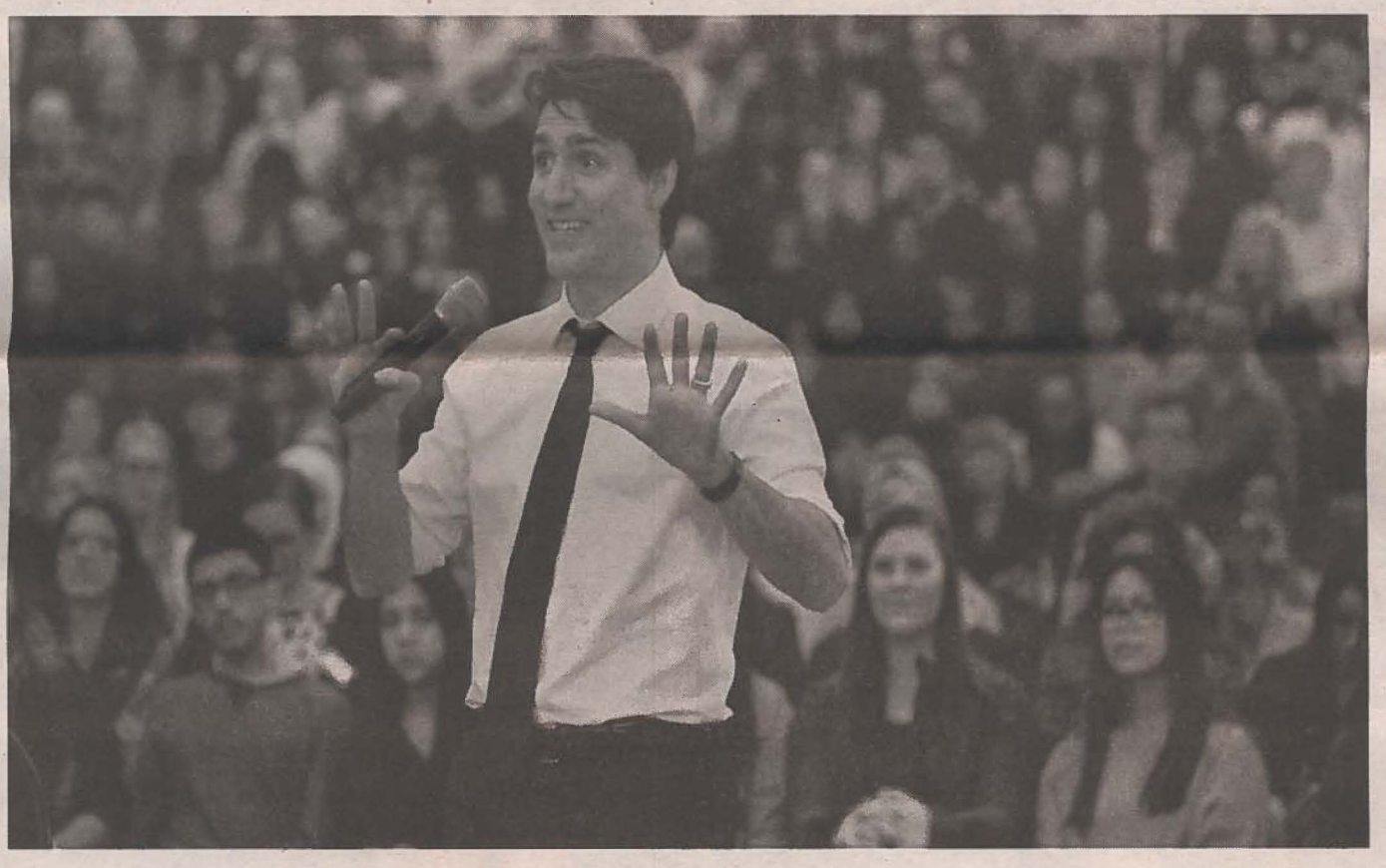
It seems that we've acquired a love for the spectacle of controversy, and it's overshadowing the issues coming to fruition under Trudeau's government. For example, what about his decision to overrule the B.C. government's halt on a Trans Mountain pipeline expansion? Or his failure to make meaningful change for Indigenous communities? What about his total dismissal of a major campaign platform promise – to bring about election reform in the government? Indeed, our appetite for scandal seems to outweigh our appetite for clearly considering the most imminent political issues.

A woman writing in to the Toronto Star claimed that Trudeau's recent speech in Chicago was full of positive and well-received ideas, yet it hardly received any press next to the fleeting "peoplekind" remark that has somehow dominated the national discussion for days. She has a point – are we opting for the more comfortable side of democracy? The side where we allow issues to go over our head while immersing ourselves in the aftermath of irrelevant dramatics?

It makes sense. It's not all that fun to sift through endless information about policy, statistics, economics, and other issues. Except, if nobody is keeping an eye on the real issues then are we even a democracy? Another write-in comment posted on the Toronto Star was from David Schreiber of Scarborough, who wrote: "We need a bit of humour to put our lives into perspective. We live in a bully's world. Might is right and common decency and respect are kicked to the wayside so profits can be made and electoral agendas can be fulfilled." Shreiber has a point – 'might is right,' apparently. If you take one look at American politics, you can see that whoever shouts the loudest and has the most egregious display of arrogance seems to command the most attention.

We do require a perspective-shift, however, there's a tactical and purposeful side to this anti-Trudeau commentary that reaches beyond Trudeau himself. He becomes a symbol of what we either hate or love in ourselves. In the case of the National Post, and Piers Morgan for Daily Mail, he is the simply the perfect scapegoat to direct anti-feminist, anti-PC sentiments. To these Conservative voices, Trudeau is the prime peddler of what they call "Newspeak", a poor and inaccurate representation of a great book by Orwell.

In a world that has built its language around male domination, it's no wonder that gender neutral terms make people like Piers Morgan shake in their boots. Whether it is cause for a media firestorm, well, that's up to us. It's also up to us to sift through these meaningless moments and find the real issues. Our obsession over small comments says much more about our journalism and our public priorities than the PM himself. What do we prioritize in our democracy and where are we going to draw the line? Is "peoplekind" the hill we're going to die on? It feels juvenile and truly beside the point.



PC - Jason Franson - Canadian Press

Arts & Culture

Photoessay

By Sarah McPherson
Multimedia Coordinator



MCC's Cultural Day Promotes Celebration of Diversity

Fusing food and fun to spread awareness

By Brandy Bond
Staff Writer

One of LUSU's centres, the Multicultural Centre, constantly strives to promote diversity and inclusivity within the Lakehead community. The centre provides support and information through a variety of forms, but one of the most well received ways in which they promote inclusivity and diversity is through the many events they hold throughout the year.

On Tuesday February 6th,

the Multicultural Centre held their annual Cultural Day event in the agora of the Thunder Bay Campus. This event typically includes many different booths, which are set up by student volunteers, and represent different countries and cultures from around the world. As the overwhelming fragrance of diverse cuisines and music wafted from every corner, the smells, sounds, and vast crowds of people successfully drew in hundreds of students throughout the day. However, the event's success can be largely attributed to the energetic and lively students who managed the tables and booths.

The booths and tables were run by student volunteers who were thrilled to share the cuisines of their culture and the places that many of them call home. However, it was perhaps due to their contagious energy that the students were able to truly succeed in bringing different people together to celebrate diversity. At a table representing Indigenous heritage, April Hid believes that events such as these are vital to Lakehead as "sharing cultures is important and it's a part of learning." Hid continued on the note importance of showing people that "we do have our authentic foods and we do have our language." This statement seems to be synonymous with the mission of the other cultures represented at the fair and was demonstrated by everyone's enthusiasm to share information, food and languages from their homelands.

Some of the other cultures featured at this year's event included those from the countries of Trinidad and Tobago, Pakistan, Germany, Scotland, China, India, and many more. In addition to the delicious food, many of the tables had extra activities to encourage the participation of students and faculty. The individuals who organized the table representing Saudi Arabia also brought traditional garments for students to wear in their photo booth, and table representing China, had small cards and envelopes where event attendees could learn to write their name in Mandarin. The event was also covered by a local TV news outlet, spreading the goal of cultural awareness across to the entire city.

Students who have attended this event in the past knew to be there early, as the food is generally gone in the first 2 hours – and this year's event was no exception. Although the food may have been gone earlier in the day, the music, dancing, and learning opportunities lasted throughout the entire day.

To any individuals who are interested in events such as this one, the Multi Cultural Centre holds many other enjoyable events throughout the school year, including workshops, concerts, and cultural dinners. These events allow LUSU's Multi Cultural Centre to help bring awareness, advocacy, and action to various humanitarian and social justice causes pertaining to cultural identity, international development concerns, and racism. There are many opportunities to become involved with the MCC, you can contact them at mcc@lusu.ca as or visit their on-campus center where you can access an abundance of volunteer opportunities, support, and referral services.



PC - Multi Cultural Center - MCC Facebook Page

Page



PC - Multi Cultural Center - MCC Facebook Page

10 Netflix shows you need to binge this Reading Week

Distract yourself this coming study break with some quality programming

By Kaelen Pelaia
Staff Writer

With the winter Reading Week nearly upon us, everyone could use a good distraction from their ever-looming and mountainous pile of work. Whether it's an upcoming laboratory experiment, or an outstanding essay, the stresses of the school can seem insurmountable. That's why, in the midst of caffeine-fueled studying and reading this winter term, it's important to put away the pens and pencils and just relax. What better way to do that than with our selection of the ten best shows on Netflix for binge watching this year?

10. Master of None (8.4/10 IMDB, 100% Rotten Tomatoes)

With only two shortish seasons, this dramatic comedy series, written by Aziz Ansari, is the perfect length to digest in a few days, but is still good enough to leave you craving more. The show depicts Ansari playing a man in his late-20s named Dev, as he navigates adulthood and responsibility in the modern world. Critically acclaimed around the world, there's no reason not to check out this hilariously heartfelt traipse through the life of an average person in the 21st century.

9. Ozark (8.2/10 IMDB, 86% Rotten Tomatoes)

This riveting crime drama is among the best of Netflix's original programming, and for good reason. The story of a shady financier charged with laundering 500 million dollars in the Missouri Ozarks for a Mexican drug cartel may seem a bit cliché, but its execution tells a different story. Stellar performances by Jason Bateman and Laura Linney have earned the show critical and audience acclaim alike. Since there's only one season, it's the perfect length to consume over the course of reading week.

8. Marvel's Defenders (7.6/10 IMDB, 74% Rotten Tomatoes)

For those who enjoyed Daredevil and Jessica Jones, the culmination of those series features all of the characters introduced in the Netflix Original Series, including Luke Cage, the Immortal Iron Fist, and many more. Dubbed 'the Avengers of TV' by critics, this series aims to bring the stars of their respective series together for a no-holds barred, entertaining experience that only Marvel could provide.

7. Atypical (8.3/10 IMDb, 76% Rotten Tomatoes)

This series follows Sam, a young man on the autism spectrum, on his adventure through the world of romance, and his family's attempts to understand what it really means to be 'normal.' Though many



PC - Alison Watkins - Flickr

argue that the show misrepresents autism in a glamourized manner, the quality of the production itself remains well above the norm for many comedy series. Its renewal for a second season speaks for itself - the show is well worth a watch.

6. The Crown (8.7/10 IMDb, 91% Rotten Tomatoes)

Following the story of a young Queen Elizabeth II and the early years of her reign, this is a compelling and dramatic adaptation of the famous monarch's life. The show sheds light on Britain's beloved monarchy, and the intrigue, romance, and drama that helped to shape the modern world as we understand it. Scratch your itch for a breathtaking personal drama with the life of Canada's nominal head of state, and witness the life and struggles of a young woman coming into her own.

5. Black Mirror (8.9/10 IMDb. 96% Rotten Tomatoes)

This episodic thriller harkens back to the classic The Twilight Zone, with stand-alone dramas that tell the story of a particular dystopian future that plays on modern technology and society. From sinister social media to the issues associated with internet anonymity, Black Mirror will give you nightmares about your life, and you'll hate that you love it.

4. Narcos (8.9/10 IMDb, 88% Rotten Tomatoes)

Follow the thrilling and controversial life of Pablo Escobar, the Colombian cocaine dealer renowned for his wealth and influence in the 1980s. The three seasons of crime drama are reminiscent of Breaking Bad, both quality, theme, and subject matter - which should be plenty enough reason to give it a shot. Narcos is a worthwhile, fantastic historical character drama, and is perfect for a binge this Reading Week.

3. Unbreakable Kimmy

Schmidt (7.8/10 IMdb, 98% Rotten Tomatoes)

This light-hearted romp follows Kimmy Schmidt, a woman who spent 15 years as a part of an apocalyptic cult, and her life after she was saved from an underground bunker. After spending more than a decade underground, what's the first thing to do? Move to New York City, of course! For those looking for a cheery, hilarious comedy to distract them from the unpleasantness of studying, this is the show for you.

2. Stranger Things (9/10 IMDb, 94% Rotten Tomatoes)

Having taken the world by storm, this sci-fi thriller follows the story of Joyce Byers, a woman living in 1983 Indiana, whose search for her missing son leads her to stumble upon a myriad of mysteries, government experiments, and an immensely curious young girl. Get caught up with the international phenomenon of Stranger Things this study break.

1. Bojack Horseman (8.5/10 IMDb, 89% Rotten Tomatoes)

Back in the 90s, Bojack Horseman was the star of the beloved sitcom Horsin' Around, and now, it's time for a booze-fueled comeback. Don't be fooled by the cutesy cartoon animals and silly pun jokes - Bojack Horseman is a dark comedy, and explores serious subject matter such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse/addiction. For those willing to watch, you will be rewarded with a compelling and funny narrative, but beware - the emotional introspection this show invokes should not be understated

Second Chances & New Beginnings

By Tannis Kastern
Contributor

After some soul searching and reflection on my academic journey, I would like to share a little about myself and how second chances really do change lives. When I first arrived at Lakehead, I was a mature student and had applied for the Native Access Program. I came into post-secondary academia completely blind. I did not complete high school—I struggled before I eventually dropping out at 16, and not returning until I was 37 years old. I have worked in numerous positions throughout my life and raised four awesome kids who are now teens. While they are a big part of the reason I wanted to return to school someday, I also wanted to do it for myself!

One day, a friend of mine suggested applying to the Native Access Program. I must admit that I was terrified and thought I'm not smart enough to go to university. She came with me for support on the day of my interview. The interview went extremely well and two days later I received my offer of admission. I began the program in 2013 and began to get adjusted to the new routine and responsibility. The transition and feeling comfortable in a place that was foreign to me was difficult. I felt overwhelmed with the size of the classes, and the fast-paced lives of students. I slowly got into the routine and schedule of discipline and assignment due dates. The ages ranged in the access program and we were like a family after spending eight months together. Triumphs, failures, tears, and laughter were all a part of the journey. I completed the program in April of 2014 and was accepted into an undergrad in the fall. Even though the access program assisted me in being able to handle a university course load, I did not know what to expect and how I would do. My first year of university was extremely difficult as I took a lot of intro classes and it was too much! I barely made it, but I did make it, and carried on into my second year. That is when I became involved in student governance. I attended a conference hosted by the Canadian Federation of Students in Toronto and had so much fun. I met students from all walks of life and from many different campuses. It was a place where issues such as student debt, mental health, financial stress and numerous other barriers students face during the academic journey were discussed. I was immediately intrigued with the people and their passion. Their histories, knowledge, and sharing were inspiring, and it made me feel like I was a part of something that was making a difference. The student election began, and I teamed up of with two other candidates. We did class talks together and hosted a bannock and East Indian tea meet-and-greet.

It was a fun process, but then our election posters were vandalized. One of the candidate's faces was burned with a lighter and I had red tacks put in my eyes. It was very childish and hurtful. I couldn't understand why this was happening. We reported it to security and head office, but there were no cameras to investigate it further. I was in shock that this kind of behaviour happened at the university level. However, I wasn't shocked as an Indigenous woman. I was and I am used to it.

Board training took place and our term began. I was eager to learn and be a part of a great team of students. Politics and power have a way of changing people. I have been on the board for two terms now and most of it has been a pleasant experience. But, there have been moments when I've wanted to quit. Robert's rules are a colonial structure that are used to silence and control people. Board meetings are conducted according to Robert's rules and it is highly oppressive. It excludes people from sharing valuable conversation and perspective. I oppose this, yet also support it – I know it is needed to keep order, but it is also used to cut people off. The new board

members coming in are often overwhelmed and a little intimidated with procedural formats.
Privilege was all around me and as a Anishinaabe woman, that was terrifying. At times I felt as if I were being ganged up on because I didn't know the terminology, and it was extremely frustrating to try to have my voice be heard.
I have seen the weakness in student unions, but I have also seen the strengths. This is one of the reasons I have run for the last two terms and sought re-election again.
I believe we are all unique and our histories and experiences are unique. I take people's feelings seriously and can usually feel where they are coming from. Lived experience *sometimes outweighs* academic excellence.
There are politics and privilege everywhere today, as well as many different worldviews. Respecting the fact that this campus is on the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation, we hope to see more relationship building actions between students and the administration. It took many years to have the Fort William First Nation flag be hung with all the others in the Agora. I couldn't understand why that had not been done many years ago. There were flags from countries all over the world except the flag of the territory that permits settlers to come to work everyday. After many attempts and excuses as to why a ceremony may be disturbing in the Agora, it was done.
The fact of the matter is, we are in the day and age of Truth and Reconciliation. We even have a commissioner located here, but when Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler called out Lakehead University and the college for not backing the call to action to have Senator Lynn Beyak removed from office, I was shocked and hurt. We, as a student club that represents students here on campus, decided to set up our own day of action. It was a day to remember the victims of the Residential school system. It was a day to acknowledge the privilege it is to come to university. The kids that didn't make it home to their families will never attend college or university.
The turnout wasn't what I expected – not a lot of students, faculty, or staff. We had bannock and information tables set up. I said, "we are here to educate, share and create knowledge. We are here to honour the families and the many intergenerational survivors that walk these halls." The invitation notice went out to the public and the board, but no board members came. I was upset to see the lack of support or care. Everyone is busy, but come even if only for a few minutes, to at least try to understand. Change is happening slowly, and the Grand Chief said, "it is nice to see students take the lead in these kinds of campaigns and host them in their campuses." However, the communities are divided, and people don't take the time to get involved. But, we need to change something. We need to get to know one another. Meet someone new – you may just have something in common.
As for the experience of running in elections, I encourage anyone who is motivated and driven by passion to give it a try! Do not let fear or opinions interfere or stop you from enjoying your academic journey. Let your guard down, and do not let the normalization of privilege ever stop you. If it weren't for second chances, I would not be where I am today. I came here with two high school credits. I am now graduating this spring with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree and I have just accepted my offer of admission to law school. Don't let other people determine what you are thinking, feeling or experiencing. Speak up for yourself and for one another! Chi-Miigweech!

Brew & Beethoven: Making Dreams a Reality, One Song at a Time

One band, one dream, and many beers

By: Savannah Tillberg
Arts & Culture Editor

As many are already aware, this coming Friday, February 16th is the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra's 6th annual Brew & Beethoven event. What some may not know, however, is that this event is fulfilling the long-time dream of local band, Phoebe the Feeb, to play alongside an orchestra.

Phoebe the Feeb is an eclectic group of "dudes" with a sound that draws its inspiration from a multitude of different genres including funk, reggae, rock, metal, and folk. The groovy group consists of three members: bassist, Will Trembley, lead vocalist and guitarist, Nathan Bortolon, and drummer, Aaron Gee. Gee told The Argus that each of the band's members "brings a different slice of pie to dessert." Although the band has three members now, the original vision for Phoebe the Feeb was much different. Initially, the band was supposed to be a 10-piece hip hop group, however the scheduling of such an arrangement proved to be exceptionally difficult, and so the "3-piece prog rock band" was born and will be playing alongside the TBSO this Friday night.

Playing with an orchestra has been a

life-long dream of each of the members for different reasons, the band explains. "When Nathan was a little dude he figured out Phantom of the Opera by ear on his Piano. It opened the floodgates of love for orchestral music, then when he started playing guitar, he wanted to collaborate with an orchestra due to that love." Trembley, who took up learning the bass later in his life, attributes his desire to play with an orchestra to his longstanding aspirations of playing "with high caliber musicians in a setting like [Brew & Beethoven]." Lastly, Gee says that he has always wanted "to be in the position to have a band be accompanied by an orchestra after watching a video of Deep Purple playing with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra."

Phoebe the Feeb expressed this long-standing wish of theirs to The Walleye in an interview in October of 2017. The local magazine asked the members if they could play any band, who would it be, and if they could play any concert, what would it be. Without hesitation, the band told The Walleye that it would be the TBSO at their Brew & Beethoven event. No later than three days after their interview, the band was contacted by TBSO's event coordinator, Kerry Berlinquette, and the process of claiming the featuring artist spot at Brew & Beethoven had commenced. The band explained that they responded to Kelly "with a passionate message about how this was a dream of ours - bucket list stuff." They added, "it resonated with her, and she said she was going to go to bat for us. She then went to the TBSO, pitched us to them, and boom we were off to the races! We were in."



PC - Phoebe the Feeb

Kerry Berlinquette, Brew & Beethoven event coordinator, told The Argus, "this is a joyous story—Essentially, I read their interview in The Walleye and reached out and they accepted the challenge! It was amazing for me to hear how grateful Phoebe the Feeb was for the opportunity, and I honestly cannot WAIT to meet them next week and be a part of their dream coming true." TBSO Operations manager, Sylvie Di Leonardo, also commented that, "Arts organizations are in the unique position to ask and to answer the, 'Wouldn't it be cool if...'questions. It's important that as a community organization, we work hard each season to respond to that. That's why we go to work every day. When Kerry showed me Phoebe the Feeb's interview, I knew this was our chance to uphold that vision."

The band told The Argus that gaining this opportunity was only the first step on their journey to performing with the TBSO. They explained that they were tasked with writing 48 accompanying parts to their songs for the orchestra in just over one month. "We immediately reached out to a few other musicians who had been involved with the event in previous years, just to get a little more detail on what was expected of us, and what we should expect," added Gee. "Some of us have dabbled in MIDI sequencing before, and had some basic musical theory under our belts, so we just needed to learn a new (and sometimes frustrating) interface and get to work!" The task of arranging orchestral accompaniments was taxing, especially on top of the full-time jobs each band member already has. "We would put in a lot of hours separately, then would meet up and build off whatever we had come up with, it was a solid 4 to 5 days of the week," they explained. Despite the overwhelming challenges associated with such a task, the members of Phoebe the Feeb knew just how rare an opportunity this was, and for the month leading up to their due date, they worked tirelessly to get the work done, explaining that, "we had to make an effort to let everyone shine through in their own right- it's what we would want!" The band explained one of the biggest challenges they faced was striking "an optimal balance between what came out of the creative process organically and what we could reasonably expect of the busy, professional musicians that would graciously be joining [them]."

Despite the tight deadlines, the band and the orchestra are ready to blow their audience away with their unique pairing. The annual event will once again be held at the O'Kelly VC Armoury, and the doors will be opening at 7pm. Tickets are $30, and should be purchased in advance, as the event has previously sold out every year. Your ticket gets you in the door, your butt in a seat, and one complimentary beer (and commemorative glass) in your hand – just remember that Brew & Beethoven is a 19+ event, so remember your I.D.

Brew & Beethoven is a fun and unique way to get out and support our local musicians. Phoebe the Feeb wants readers to know that "if you love music, written and performed by people who love music, then

come and have a delicious beer and listen." The band concluded with a touch of humour, adding, "if you end up hating it, you can just find us and hurt our feelings about it afterwards. Then, we'll turn around and write a song about that mean person who said the thing that time. Come be our muse!"

Tickets are available for purchase online at tbso.ca, and you can check out Phoebe the Feeb's Facebook page to download their EP, The fire that burns against the cold.

fragments

By Austin Campbell

The kitchen floor is cold
on a Friday morning in late December.
We should be dancing
a snowy backdrop
that Nat King Cole song –
you know the one:
chestnuts roasting
on an open fire.

We used to own that flame.

I did it again: pretended things are okay.
The Christmas tree blinks at me,
mocking me in elaborate sequences.

Tried to call you again this morning –
you pretended you were too busy to answer.

All I taste are sour memories,
that milk being in the fridge for weeks,
and having to go to work at seven a.m.

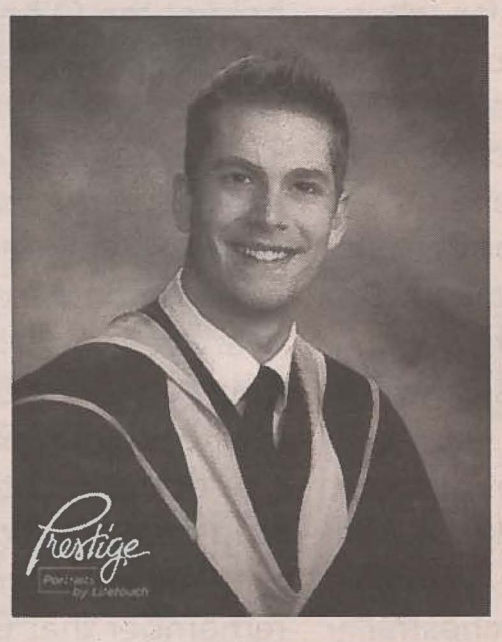
Neon lights downtown
the snow made it a movie scene;
your eyes were so alive
you were so happy.



PC - Isabelle Soares Teles - Flickr

Even three years would
have been nice
between us
though we'd still dwell as much –
on those mountains we never climbed
or the child we lost too soon -
you wouldn't have gotten a proper life…
not with me, I convince myself.

Time opened these wounds.
Healing is a matter of perspective.



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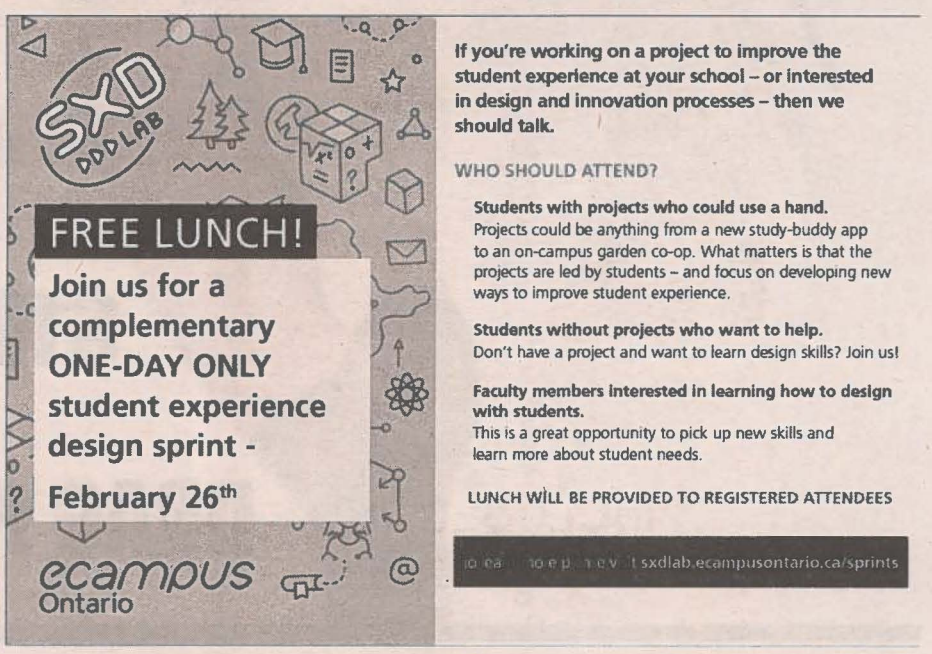
Tannis Kastern
Contributor

The Argus is an independent student-run newspaper that operates out of Lakehead University. As part of Lakehead University's Student Union, LUSU, The Argus has been the voice of Lakehead students since 1966. This October marks our fiftieth anniversary.

For fifty years, The Argus has been doing more than writing. We've been employing students and providing an enriched atmosphere to learn, grow, and develop journalistic passions and skills.

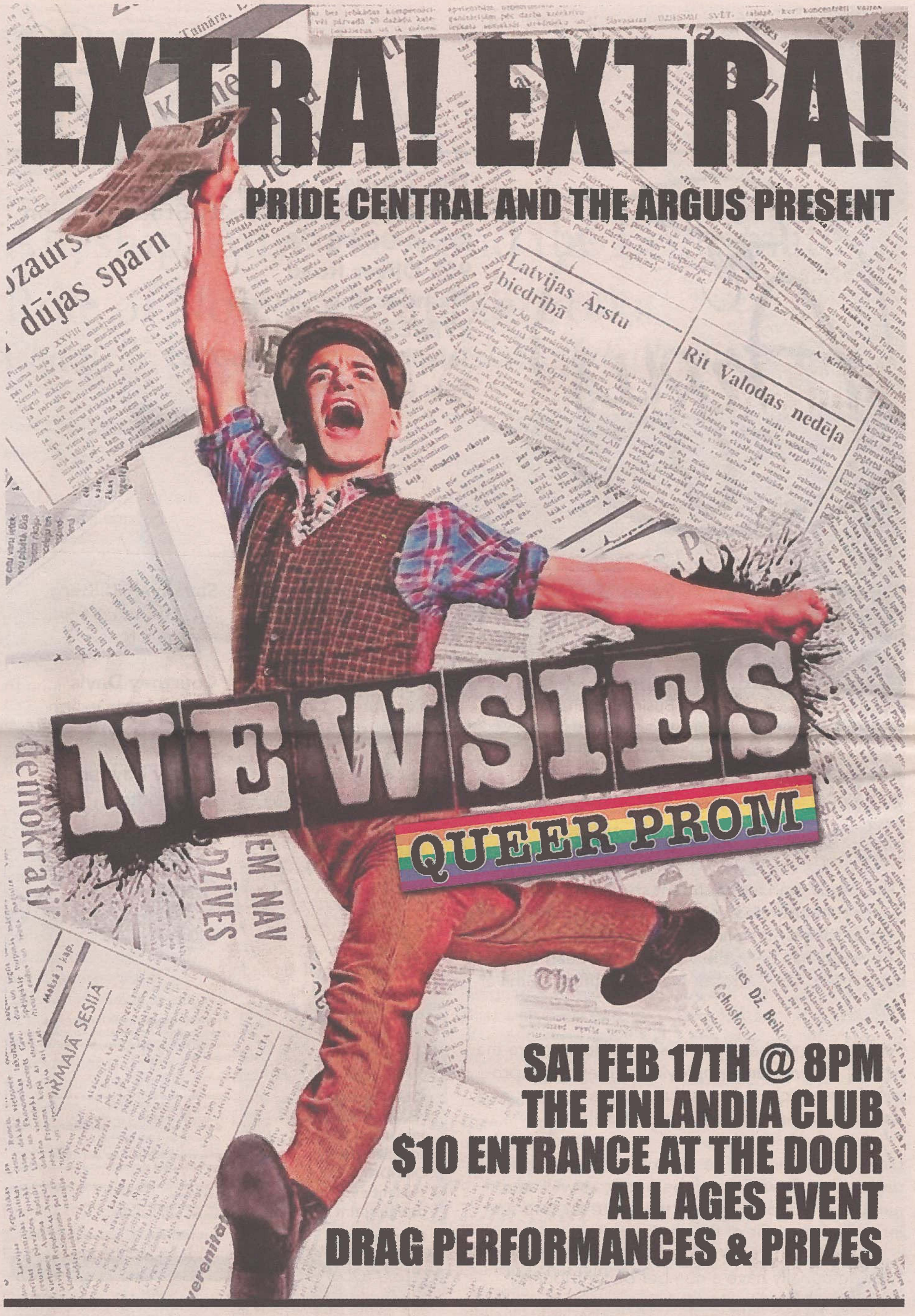
Our staff consists of five executives that control the day-to-day operations of the paper, as well as a number of editorial staffers that write for, and run, individual sections of the newspaper.

We additionally have a number of contributing members that write stories for us on an issue-to-issue basis. If you are interested in employment opportunities, or would like to write for The Argus, have a look at our job openings, or email editor@theargus.ca



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