

...INTERROBANG•

Fanshawe's Student Voice

Fanshawe and New Zealand team up 3
Get your geek on 13-23
Fanshawe grad turns pro 29

Volume 44 Issue No. 10 October 31, 2011 www.fsu.ca/interrobang/



Q.O.W QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHAT ARE YOU PROUDLY GEEKY ABOUT?



Jessica McPhail

"The Game of Thrones series – the books and TV show – I know everything about it. For the TV show season finale, my friend and I had a party, and I could name all the Houses and draw their sigils from memory."



Julien Channer

"I'm geeky about computers. Knowing about them can save you a lot of money – especially when you repair your own. The best part of all is being able to customize my 'rig.'"



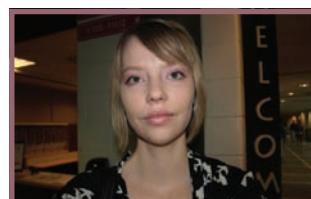
Suzanne Van beekveld

"I'm in Fashion Design – I know a lot, because I study it. I like all aspects of it."



Nathan Grynol

"Comic books – I'm kind of a huge fan. I especially love the storylines and artwork. It's really a toss-up between DC and Marvel as to who's my favourite. I think Wolverine is probably my favourite character, because he's Canadian."



Scarlet Lacasse

"I'm really knowledgeable about natural health-related things, like herbs and natural remedies."



CREDIT: KIRSTEN ROSENKRANTZ

Two groups of international students from China participated in the FSU's pumpkin carving contest on October 26. The students had never carved a pumpkin before, and Tongtong Zhang (Vicky), far right, and Yiwen Hu (Nicole), took home the first-place prize.

10 Things I Know About You...

Olah extends a hand

Vivian Olah is in her second year of Police Foundations. "I speak French, Hungarian and English. I expect a lot of things in life and I've come to realize they're going to be different than I imagined," she said. "I STRONGLY believe in karma; what goes around, comes around. I've come to realize the people who will always matter, and the ones that never did. I have my beliefs, just like you have yours. And lastly, Sundays are for football."

1. Why are you here?

I live here.

2. What was your life-changing moment?

I'm still waiting on that moment that changes my life forever.

3. What music are you currently listening to?

Claude VonStroke.

4. What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

At the end of the day you can focus on what's tearing you apart or what is holding you together.

5. Who is your role model?

Would it be cheesy if I said my daddy?

6. Where in the world have you travelled?

Hungary, Croatia, Italy, Slovakia, France, Quebec and the U.S.A.

7. What was your first job?

Waitress.

8. What would your last meal be?

Steak, medium rare.

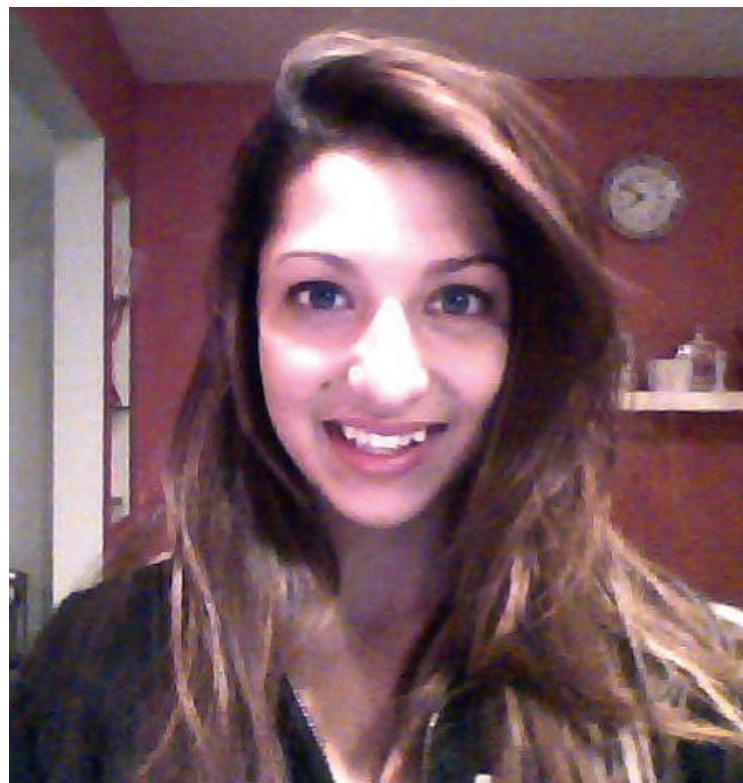
9. What makes you uneasy?

Terrible drivers.

10. What is your passion?

Giving a helping hand to those in need.

Do you want Fanshawe to know 10 Things About You? Just head on over to fsu.ca/interrobang and click on the 10 Things I Know About You link at the top.



CREDIT: SUBMITTED

Vivian Olah believes Sundays are for football.

UP&COMING EVENTS

MON. OCT. 10-31

Pumpkin Bowling Contest

Forwell Hall – 12PM

\$1 MINIMUM DONATION
PROCEEDS GO TO THE UNITED WAY.

TUES. NOV. 11-01

FREE Noonie: Deal or No Deal Contest

Forwell Hall – 12PM

MOVEMBER REGISTRATION AT THE BIZ BOOTH

WED. NOV 11-02

FREE Acoustic Open Mic

OBS – 9PM

Registration at 8PM

FREE Chemical Valley Film Screening

Forwell Hall – 12PM

First Run Film:



In Time

Rainbow Cinemas (in Citi Plaza)
\$3.50 STUDENTS | \$5 GUESTS
2 Show Times

THUR. NOV. 11-03

FREE Music Noonie

Forwell Hall – 12PM

Fanshawe Night at The Lightning FRANCHISE DEBUT

LONDON LIGHTNING VS HALIFAX RAINMEN

John Labatt Centre – 7PM

\$10 AT THE BIZ BOOTH

KICK ASS COUNTRY PUB

OBS – 9:30PM

\$3 ADV | \$4 DOOR

FRI. NOV. 11-04

FREE New Music Night Featuring: Sunparlour Players with Handsome Dan and His Gallimaufry & Graham Nichols

OBS – 9:30PM

Fanshawe at the Knights Knights vs. Brampton

John Labatt Centre – 7:30PM

\$17 STUDENTS | \$18 GUESTS

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE AT THE BIZ BOOTH



KIOSK QUIZ
HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO REPLACE YOUR BUS PASS?

Drop by the Welcome Kiosk with your answer. Five winners will be selected from correct entries and we'll notify winners by email.

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Fanshawe students team up with New Zealanders to build green

ERIKA FAUST
INTERROBANG

For over a year, students and faculty from Fanshawe and the University of Victoria in Wellington, New Zealand, have been holding videoconferences, sending hundreds of emails back and forth and working together overseas to build a house.

The partnership came about for the Solar Decathlon, a contest held by the U.S. Department of Energy for post-secondary students from 20 universities around the world to show off their green building design skills. The teams are judged in 10 competitions, including architecture, market appeal, engineering, affordability and energy balance. According to the Solar Decathlon website, "The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency."

The New Zealand team, with the help of Fanshawe students from the School of Building Technology, placed third in the competition. They were the first team from the southern hemisphere to ever compete in this competition, and they are also the highest-placing first-entry team. The house placed first in the Engineering category, and it was noted by a professor from the University that this would not have been achievable if it had not been for the students and faculty of the Fanshawe College School of Building Technology.

"(The team from) New Zealand was the main designer of the whole project," explained Joel Foster, who was on the assembly

and disassembly teams in Washington. "(Fanshawe worked on) more of the engineering and construction side of it – the hands-on, technical side of it. A lot of hours went into the engineering and the construction of the actual building and modules, which is what our school primarily does."

The 950 square foot 'First Light House,' so named because New Zealand is the first country to see the sunlight each day, was built as a 'kiwi bach' – a summer home. Foster explained one of the important criteria for the home was that it was net zero. "Net zero means it produces more energy than it actually consumes," he explained. "The way they did that is using photovoltaic panels, which is a fancy word for solar panels."

Wendy Wilson, liaison for the project and Coordinator of Technical Programs for the School of Language and Liberal Studies here at Fanshawe, added some more details about the house: "The cladding – the exterior – is made of Western Canadian red cedar. The interior is all indigenous New Zealand wood. The insulation is wool from carpet ends ... they make a lot of wool carpet in New Zealand. There are 28 solar panels on the roof. It was designed in a butterfly pattern and the decking went through the centre."

In addition to the numerous videoconferences and emails, students did a lot of travelling. In January this year, three students from Fanshawe's Architectural Technology program – Spencer Marcolini, Josh Hoggard and Shaun Haskett – travelled to Wellington to assist with the construction of the house.



CREDIT: SCHOOL OF BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

Students and faculty from Fanshawe's School of Building Technology have been working with the University of Victoria in Wellington, New Zealand to build a net zero house that uses solar panels to produce more energy than it uses. The First Light House came in third in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2011 Solar Decathlon.

After building and displaying The First Light House in New Zealand, the structure had to be deconstructed and shipped to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. for the Decathlon. It was rebuilt at the Mall with help from more Fanshawe students and faculty: Foster, Matt Stewart, Shawn Douglas, Jason King, Jeremy Gardner, Tyler McLean, Haskett, Stephen Hotke, Professor Marty Askes and Professor Dave Sleevers.

Once the competition finished, the house had to be disassembled once again to be shipped back to New Zealand. The Fanshawe students and faculty who assisted

with disassembly were Foster, Darcy Comerford, Spencer Vermue, Juduk Lee, Ben Gerber, Kyle Kane, Professor Sandi Burns, Professor Rob Geoghan-Morphet and Professor Askes.

Though the teams worked well together, they did encounter a few minor problems. "The one funny thing was the language barrier," laughed Foster. "For example, our 'flashlight' is their 'torch.' They would be talking about a certain tool, and we'd be like, 'What are you guys talking about?' And then we would be talking about the same tool, and they'd just be like, 'What?'"

Despite the minor road bumps,

both Foster and Wilson were extremely proud of the work that had been done. "I thought the (Fanshawe) team was absolutely fantastic," said Wilson. "One of the professors from New Zealand said they were a joy to work with, hardworking, honest, reliable, and I totally agree with him. They were just a great team."

The First Light House has been purchased by someone from New Zealand, who plans to use it as a summer home.

For more information about the Solar Decathlon, visit solardecathlon.gov. For more information about The First Light House, visit firstlighthouse.ac.nz.

Get your bits checked!

ERIKA FAUST AND
KIRSTEN ROSENKRANTZ
INTERROBANG

With National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week having just wrapped up and Movember just beginning, health is on a lot of people's minds – specifically, cervix and prostate health.

With eye-catching awareness campaigns that incorporate everything from fairy godmothers to bristly moustaches, health care providers are reminding everybody to 'get your bits checked.'

This year's National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week, sponsored by the Federation of Medical Women in Canada, ran from October 23 to 29 and encouraged women across the country to get their annual Pap smears. But just because the week is over doesn't mean it's too late; cervical health isn't just a one-week-every-year thing.

It has been estimated that 500 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer in Ontario this year, and of those women, approximately 140 will die from the disease, but that doesn't have to be the case.

"Cervical cancer is almost entirely preventable," said Dr. Monique Bertrand, Gynaecologic Oncologist at the London Health Sciences Centre and spokesperson for The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. "Regular screening is an essential defense against cervical cancer and the best way to detect early cell changes on the cervix that might lead to cancer."

You can protect yourself against cervical cancer with regular

screenings (which can be conducted at the Middlesex-London Health Unit at 50 King St., call 519-663-5446 for more information), following up on abnormal results and by getting vaccinated against the human papillomavirus.

"In the past 30 years, cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates have declined by more than 60 per cent in all age groups due to widespread cervical screening with Pap tests," said Bertrand. "Despite this progress, many women in the south west (Ontario) region are still not being screened for cervical cancer regularly enough, or are not undergoing follow-up testing after an abnormal Pap test."

The South West Regional Cancer Program is one of 13 regional cancer programs created by Cancer Care Ontario in 2005 to ensure cancer care is delivered according to province-wide quality standards. The SWRCP put out a series of informative videos about cervical cancer, HPV and what to expect during a Pap test for National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week, which you can view at youtube.com/user/TheSWRCP.

Movember is a campaign that runs for the entire month of November where men, or 'Mo Bros,' grow a mustache to raise awareness and money for prostate cancer research. Since its conception in 1999 in Australia, Movember has raised \$176 million and has had 1.1 million Mo Bros and Mo Sistas register to participate. In 2010, Canada alone had 119,000 registered participants and raised \$22.3 million.

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, one in seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime. In 2011, an estimated 25,000 men will be diagnosed and 4,100 will die of prostate cancer.

Though prostate cancer is most prevalent in men over 60, factors such as family history and being of African descent can increase chances of developing prostate cancer at a younger age. Men rarely experience symptoms during the early stages of prostate cancer, but as the cancer develops, men can experience frequent and urgent need to urinate, a burning feeling when urinating, finding blood in urine or semen, difficulty starting or stopping urine flow, inability to urinate and pain when climaxing during sex.

There are two tests for prostate cancer, the first being a blood test called the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test, and the second is the digital rectal examination where a doctor feels the prostate gland.

For more information about prostate cancer, visit the Public Health Agency of Canada website at phac-aspc.gc.ca.

Don't let your bits fall to pieces – take good care of them and they'll take good care of you. Call your family doctor to get checked out.

For more information on the National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week, visit womenscollegehospital.ca. For more information about Movember, visit movember.com.

Be a bro – grow a mo

KIRSTEN ROSENKRANTZ
INTERROBANG

On October 31, men in countries all around the world shave their faces in preparation for one of the most exiting campaigns of the year.

Movember is becoming one of the world's most recognizable campaigns where men, also known as Mo Bros, raise awareness by growing mustaches for the entire month of November. You can sign up solo or create a team and collect donations to help raise money for prostate cancer research.

In 2010, Canada had 119,000 registered Mo Bros and Mo Sistas and raised \$22.3 million. This year, the Fanshawe Student Union is putting together a team and is running a bunch of exciting events to help raise money.

"Last year, we did Movember for the first time. The pilot project went really well, but we're hoping for an even bigger turnout this year," said FSU President Veronica Barahona. "It's a really great cause. We need to think about our boys. I'm a proud Mo Sista!"

Anyone who wants to join the FSU Movember team can register at the Biz Booth from November 1 to 4 for \$5. When you register, you will have a clean-shaven "before" picture taken to compare to your wicked 'stache at the end of the month.

All month at the Out Back Shack and Oasis, you can purchase a paper mustache for \$2, write your

name on it and have it displayed on the wall of mustache glory. This year, paper mustaches can be charged to meal plans.

On November 10 in front of the library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be a Movember bake sale, and on November 17 the Oasis is holding a Paul Bunyan breakfast special from 7:30 to 10 a.m.

In keeping with Movember tradition, there is a pub night in the Out Back Shack on November 24 where they will be raffling off men – yes, men.

Finally, for all the members of the FSU Movember team, on December 6 and 7 there will be online voting for a series of awards such as best 'stache, worst 'stache and most creative 'stache. Winners will be announced on December 8 and will receive some awesome prizes.

FSU Recreation and Leisure placement student Martin Flanagan is very excited for this year's Movember campaign. "I'm really looking forward to seeing Fanshawe's men support this great cause and promote awareness about prostate cancer."

Whether you're growing a handlebar, a walrus, a dali, a fu manchu, or you're just a Mo Sista supporting your Bros, there are plenty of ways to get involved with Movember.

For more information on Movember, visit movember.com and check out the FSU website at fsu.ca.

"Aspie" educates and entertains

KIRSTEN ROSENKRANTZ
INTERROBANG

On October 21, the very inspirational (and very funny) Jay Serdula came to Fanshawe College to speak to students from the Autism and Behavioural Science program.

Serdula has a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics, a Master's in Physics/Oceanography and is currently working at the Royal Military College of Canada as a Research Assistant in the Chemical Engineering Department. Serdula also has Asperger syndrome and has spent the past few years speaking to various groups about living with this disorder.

In 2008, Serdula swam across Lake Ontario to raise money and awareness for Asperger syndrome. Though the task seemed daunting, Serdula described how determined an "Aspie" can be. "When they make up their mind that they're going to do something, they do it – they may just have to change the course of their plans."

With months of training under his belt, Serdula successfully completed his swim, though he admitted that it was not an easy task. At

one point he found himself wanting to stop the swim and said, jokingly, "Does this lake even have another side?" But, thanks to his support team, Serdula finished his swim and has been publicly speaking about his cause ever since.

Serdula's parents tried for years to get him a diagnosis as a child, but he wasn't diagnosed with Asperger syndrome until he was 26 years old. Throughout his presentation, he told funny stories from his life in order to better explain the difficulties he had growing up surrounded by people who didn't understand the details of his disorder.

He told the story of how, as a young boy, his dad caught him jumping on the couch. His dad said, "Jay, stop jumping on the blue couch," and so he did. A few minutes later, his dad came back and found him jumping on the yellow chair, which in Serdula's mind wasn't breaking any rules. As an "Aspie" he said he requires very specific instructions, such as, "Jay, don't jump on any piece of furniture."

He said that people with

Asperger syndrome typically also take longer to learn social rules, have a hard time multi-tasking and take words and phrases literally. "When people say the same thing to mean two different things, that's what confuses me," said Serdula, using the question 'How are you?' as an example. For many people, a brief 'How are you?' in passing is just a greeting requiring a quick response, but for Serdula, it is a question demanding a detailed answer. As he puts it, "If you ask me 'How are you?' it will take me 30 minutes to tell you. Do you still want to know?"

Serdula's first-hand account of what it was like growing up with Asperger syndrome offered insight into a disorder that many people still don't fully understand, and his humourous story-telling style of speaking kept the class engaged for every minute of the presentation.

To read more about Sardula, visit swim4aspergers.wordpress.com, or pick up a copy of his book *The Ambition of an Aspie* at The Mustard Seed bookstore at 502 Springbank Dr. here in London.

Looking for a part-time job? Look no further than D1063

ERIKA FAUST
INTERROBANG

If you're looking for a job, you probably know how tough it can be to find one, let alone one related to your field of study here at Fanshawe.

That's where Career Services, located in D1063, can help, said Christina Cook, Customer Service Representative. "We have a new staff member, Liska Martindale-Dubrule, who is our Student Services Specialist. When students come in and they don't have time for an appointment, and they want some resume revisions, they want a little one-on-one resume assistance, she's there for them."

Martindale-Dubrule started working at Career Services just over a month ago and said she can help students with everything from finding part-time work to perfecting resumes and cover letters to navigating Career Services' job search website.

A typical meeting with Martindale-Dubrule will see her going over what the student's needs are at the moment, such as if the student is looking for full- or part-time work, or if the student wants to work on or off campus. She also encourages students to bring their resumes so she can critique it. She will provide the student with tips for searching for jobs and making connections with employers.

Though Martindale-Dubrule has not conducted any mock interviews with students thus far at Fanshawe, she said she would use her past experience to conduct one with any student who may feel like he or she would benefit from it. "In the past, when I've done a mock interview, I've set the appointment up and said, 'Come like you're coming in for an interview,' because I also critique them on their attire," she said. "I'd do mock

interviews based on the type of job that they're trying to get, whether it's in service or it's dealing with kids. I've asked them certain questions to see how they answer them." She said the appointment would likely take an hour – half an hour for the "interview" and half an hour for the critique and to answer any questions – but added that she can be flexible around students' schedules.

For students looking for a career after graduation, it's important for them to seek out their program-specific Consultant through Career Services. "(They) can certainly work with the student one-on-one to give their resume a good critique and give them some good feedback and assistance to make it more career-specific. But if you're looking for anything in general, Liska can help you as well," Cook explained.

"If you have any questions, stop by the office," said Martindale-Dubrule. She is usually available to answer any quick questions on the spot, or you can make an appointment with her for more in-depth help.

Martindale-Dubrule will also be holding two free workshops in November. The first one, on November 10, will take a look at resumes and cover letters, and the second one, on November 24, will discuss the job search. Both workshops take place in F2005 from 2 to 4 p.m. Students can sign up in Career Services in D1063. If you're unable to attend the workshops, Martindale-Dubrule said she would be more than happy to conduct one-on-one workshops with interested students.

For more information about what Career Services can do for you, visit www.fanshawec.ca/careerservices or head to the office in D1063 or join the facebook group at tinyurl.com/fanshawecareerservicesfb

Social Justice Club event aims to raise awareness

ERIKA FAUST
INTERROBANG

On November 2, from 12 to 2 p.m. in Forwell Hall, the Social Justice Club will be screening *The Beloved Community*, a film they hope will get people talking.

The film looks at the Aamjiwnaang (the name refers to both the people and the location) in Sarnia, Ontario, and the effect that local chemical companies have had on the people living there. According to the National Pollution Release Inventory, there are currently 42 chemical companies located within 10 km of Aamjiwnaang First Nation. *The Beloved Community* shows the impact the chemicals have had on the Aamjiwnaang people, from miscarriages and stillbirths to birth defects to skyrocketing statistics of learning disabilities diagnosed in children (23 per cent of Aamjiwnaang children have been diagnosed; the national average is four per cent) to an ever-present chemical smell that blankets the area.

Three days and two nights in the Big Apple: A NEW YORK CITY EXPERIENCE departing London on February 24 and leaving New York City on February 26: A wonderful Spring Break adventure!

After the film screens, there will

London shining a light on woman abuse

TABITHA MCCARL
INTERROBANG

In light of the provincial government's Woman Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, various local businesses and organizations are making efforts to bring attention to an issue that will affect nearly half of Canadian women in their lifetime.

According to Christy Floyd from the London Abused Women's Centre, the hope is to get people in the community talking about the issue, a conversation sparked by local organizations colouring themselves purple – the official colour of abuse awareness. According to the LAWC website, "Purple is a symbol of courage, survival and honour, and has come to symbolize the fight to end woman abuse."

Going into only its second year, the Shine the Light on Woman Abuse campaign already has city-

wide involvement and support. "Last year there were purple floodlights on some of the bigger buildings downtown. We also encourage businesses to put up purple window displays, either with their own merchandise and supplies or purple campaign merchandise."

Starting with the campaign launch in Victoria Park on November 1, a tree in the park is going to be illuminated with thousands of tiny purple lights. November 15 is Wear Purple Day; everybody is encouraged to celebrate the campaign by making purple a part of their outfit, whether it's with clothing, accessories or makeup. Purple floodlight film, Shine the Light t-shirts, posters, purple string lights, bracelets, purple light bulbs, temporary tattoos and purple ribbon car magnets are available to purchase at the London Abused Women's Centre, located at 217 York St., Suite 107.

Other events happening throughout the rest of the month include a co-ed ball hockey tournament, a day of purple pedicures, a day devoted to wearing purple and more. To wrap up the event at the end of the month, there will be a luscious three-course celebration dinner on November 25. For more information, visit lawc.on.ca/ShineTheLight.

Along with raising awareness, one of the most important messages being spread is that "Women who are being abused know that there is somewhere to go to get help or just to talk," Floyd explained.

For more information about events, participation or the campaign itself, contact the London Abused Women's Center at 519-432-2204. For crisis counselling, call the Abused Women's Helpline at 519-642-3000.

New York City experience

BY STAFF
INTERROBANG

The Fanshawe Student Union is again offering students and their guests three days in New York City for around \$300 in Canadian funds. This includes quad accommodation (four people in a room with two double beds), coach transportation, Blue Cross coverage and all applicable taxes. Students pay only \$295 and non-students pay \$315, and all individuals must be a minimum of 18 years of age.

Instead of heading south for Spring Break, why not spend an amazing weekend in the Big Apple? We depart February 24, travel by coach through the night and you should be on the streets of New York by 1 p.m. You have all day February 25 and 26 until 6 p.m. to explore the island, and you should be back in London by 7 a.m. for your Spring Break week off.

While anytime is a great time to

make a lasting memory, you'll find that there's a bit more magic in the air in the middle of New York City one block from Times Square. We are staying at the Hotel Edison where there are over 20 Broadway theatres within a few blocks, famous concert halls, art galleries, museums and never-ending shopping, plus nightclubs and restaurants for everyone's tastes.

This trip sold out last year, so get your deposit in ASAP. Due to changes in the hotel booking and the deposits required for this trip, it has been increased to \$150 per person and you must confirm the room as a full quad with four deposits. Further information may be obtained at the Biz Booth or check the info online at fsu.ca.

Your chaperone has been to NYC over 30 times so you may ask him any questions regarding New York tours, places to visit, etc. We are less than half a block from TKTS, where you may purchase ticket to Broadway shows

for half price. For shoppers, a four-storey Forever 21 store is only one block from the hotel entrance. What's better than that – you can stay in the middle of one of the busiest cities in the world and save!

Three days and two nights in the Big Apple: A NEW YORK CITY EXPERIENCE departing London on February 24 and leaving New York City on February 26: A wonderful Spring Break adventure!



CREDIT: TRIBECATAROTREADER.BLOGSPOT.COM

be a panel discussion with some people from Aamjiwnaang. "Students will have a chance to talk to the people being affected by what is being shown to them on film," explained Jessica Conlon, a member of the Social Justice Club. "(The Aamjiwnaang) will be talking about their efforts and what they've been trying to do – this is a good chance for students to get involved and see what's going on."

Conlon said she hopes the film and discussion will encourage students to think about the consequences of chemical factories and the products they produce, and may inspire some to take a more holistic approach to life.

Fanshawe's Social Justice Club aims to raise student consciousness about political and environmental issues and get students involved in the community. This is their first big event of the year. For more information about upcoming Social Justice Club events or to get involved with the group, email Peter Van Stee at peter_vanste@mail.com.

5 QUESTIONS

JASON KING - SAC REP FOR BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

Erika Faust INTERROBANG



1. WHAT'S ONE THING WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU AND ONE THING WE SHOULDN'T?

Most people who know me know that I love to travel. I've been lucky enough to see some very cool things in some very interesting places. Something that you shouldn't know... um... the trips are really just scouting missions for a world domination plan. Damn, I've said too much.

2. WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST MEMORY AT FANSHawe SO FAR?

That's easy since it is so recent. I was able to be part of the build team for First Light, which was a project from Victoria University of New Zealand. We helped people build a house entered into the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon, which placed third overall in the competition. It was a great experience.

3. IF SOMEONE FORCED YOU TO GET A TATTOO, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I would get the Chinese symbol for 'Junk' tattooed above my junk. It could be the start of a 'whole body labeling system.'

4. PUT YOUR MP3 PLAYER ON SHUFFLE - WHAT THREE SONGS COME UP?

iPod? I'm old school. I was born when 8-tracks were cool, and an 8-track don't shuffle.

5. WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson. Yup, I'm a geek.



Green eyes of envy look at others



PSYCH YOUR MIND
Rose Cora Perry
www.rosecoraperry.com

This past summer, I attended the wedding celebration of a dear friend of mine. Because I strongly believe that one should get decked out for special occasions (and, well, I like any excuse to dress up, really), I purchased myself a fine little Jessica Rabbit-inspired number and styled my hair and makeup à la 1940s era. Not to toot my own horn, but if I do say so myself, I looked rather smashing. Indeed, my friend the bride and I were exchanging compliments all night.

Before the formal ceremony began, I excused myself from my date in order to “powder my nose.” While I was in the loo, I encountered an older woman (likely in her 50s or 60s) who was accompanied by a little girl I can only assume was her grandchild. Upon seeing me, the little girl’s face lit up. She turned to the older woman and expressed that she was a great fan of my personal style.

Despite being in the position of “role model,” the older woman commented under her breath (but loud enough so I could hear) in a snarky tone, “Well, some people feel they need to get all dressed up for weddings.” At this point, it’s imperative to note that the older lady was draped head-to-toe in a bland, well-worn tracksuit, and her hair and makeup appeared equally neglected. I should also note that while there were a few other stragglers dressed questionably for such a formal gala, the aforementioned older woman definitely took the cake in terms of a clear lack of effort.

Perhaps she had given up on herself long ago, perhaps she didn’t buy into socially constructed ideas of formality or tradition, perhaps she never conceived of herself as an attractive woman; irrespective of the deep-seated subconscious underpinnings informing her reaction, one thing was/is clear: she

felt threatened by me. Like defensiveness and “people pleasing,” unprovoked jealousy (a.k.a. cattiness or envy) comes from a place of insecurity. As academic/author James Leonard Park explains, unprovoked “jealousy arises because of three (related) factors: 1) comparison, 2) competition and 3) the fear of being replaced.”

Now, the important factor that distinguishes unprovoked jealousy versus provoked jealousy (we’ll be discussing this next week) is “rational thinking” – or a lack thereof, I should say. In the above described example, it is not as though I deliberately selected my outfit and styling in an attempt to “show up” the older woman. For that matter, we had never been acquainted before that very moment, nor did either of us know the other would be in attendance. Yet, somehow, on a subconscious level, my appearance was perceived by her as an “attack” to her self-concept. Accordingly, instead of acknowledging the truth of the matter (i.e.: that she was under-dressed), she projected her insecurities onto me via criticism in an attempt to regain her confidence and win back the perceived lost respect from her granddaughter. As per Park’s three factors, the older woman compared herself to me, saw me as competition in terms of being a potential role model for the little girl, and because the older woman feared being replaced in her position as role model, she used the only ammunition she had available to her: defensive criticism. As we’ve already discussed at length, this falls into the psychologically IMmature response category.

I’d be bending the truth if I didn’t come right out and say we all get jealous (myself included) from time to time. What sets apart the psychologically mature and immature, however, is how said “green” feelings are dealt with:

How to Overcome Unprovoked Jealousy

1. For starters, acknowledge there will ALWAYS be those who are MORE talented, beautiful, intelligent and well-off than you are, BUT also acknowledge that you will be



CREDIT: PAD2.WHSTATIC.COM

perceived exactly that same way by others.

2. Develop a self concept defined by what Parks refers to as “irreplaceability,” in which you identify all of the factors about yourself that make you uniquely you. Take pride in your uniqueness.

3. Self-talk is crucial: if you find yourself becoming catty toward someone (and this applies to guys and gals alike, don’t kid yourself), ask yourself what it is about this other individual that you find so threatening.

4. And finally, acknowledge that those you’re jealous of can actually be fantastic resources as well as sources of motivation. If they have something you want, instead of wasting energy putting them down (and making yourself look like a jerk in the process), re-direct that energy toward self-developing exercises in which you strive to achieve that which you feel you are lacking. Respect what others have to offer and what you can learn from them. Who knows? They may even turn out to become some of your greatest allies.

One final caveat: There’s nothing “sexy” about real-life arguments between women. Any guy who thinks that “cat fights” will miraculously turn into stripteases in which he’ll merit an invitation for a threesome is an idiot.

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Delicious Diwali lights up India

SHIVANI DHAMIJA
INTERROBANG

Diwali is also known as Deepawali, a major Indian festival. It is celebrated all across the globe as the “Festival of Lights.” The festival, which usually comes in the month of October, has already started. The arrangements are underway and the spirits are high in every Hindu, Jain or Sikh. The victorious self is celebrated on the 10th night as Vijay Dashmi – also popularly known as Dussehra.

According to Hindu mythology, it is the day when Lord Rama defeated Ravana – the triumph of good over evil. Diyas, crackers and candles add colour to the Festival of Lights. Every house is lit up with illuminations and decorations, you won’t find darkness in any part of India.

Rangoli (colours), sweets and delicious savories add flavour to this festival. The bliss and attraction is unmatched in celebration with any other festival in India. Markets are merrily decorated and lit up. Everybody is festooned with new and bright clothes – especially ladies adorned with the best knick-knacks – to capture the social mood at its gladdest. This is an occasion for young and old, men and women, rich and poor – for everyone to celebrate. It is the festival that unites all of India.

On Diwali, “Goddess Laxmi,” a symbol of prosperity, and “Lord Ganesha,” widely revered as the remover of Obstacles, are worshipped. The lights are the way to signify the welcoming of prosperity Goddess Laxmi. I still remember how I used to make small coloured footprints of Goddess Laxmi, asking her to visit our house to bless us with riches.



CREDIT: DEEPAVALILIGHTUP.SG

Crackers are the happiness of every child. The noise of crackers doesn’t disturb anyone, but increases the enthusiasm to scare away evil spirits. The anticipation of buying new clothes and bursting crackers never dies in any person.

Diwali falls on the day of “Amavasya” when the moon does not rise and darkness is all over. Light, being the hope of every individual, gives the positive energy to celebrate the victory of Lord Rama. The people of all age groups celebrate the festival with equal passion. Diwali brings five ceremonious occasions. Starting from “Dhanteras” to “Narak Chaturdashi,” which is popular as “Chhoti Diwali” (Small Diwali). Narak

Chaturdashi is the day allotted to the worship of Maha-Kali, and it is believed that on this day, Kali killed the wickedest. The third day of “Badi Diwali” (Big Diwali) is the main day of celebrations. The fourth day is “Govardhan Puja” and then comes the “Bhai Dooj,” the time to honour the brother-sister relationship.

The festival which has been celebrated since ages brings smile to every Indian face. It is a fun event for most of us. The one time I miss India the most is the festival season, but I am happy that our college organized a Diwali special event on October 28 for people like us and I am waiting for the most-awaited festival, Diwali.



What's Jesus got to do with the future?



NOTES FROM DAY SEVEN
MICHAEL VEENEMA

Some say that the world would be a better place if Jesus were in it just a little more. That's a way of saying that life for most people could be better if more people shared and lived the Christian faith.

Is that true? Some say that we can get along better without Jesus or any suggestions of God. There is a belief that religion is dangerous. According to some authors and bloggers, any God-talk is a danger because it generates fanatical attitudes that lead very quickly to acts of violence against others. If you believe God is on your side, then others could end up on the receiving end of your Inquisition or Islamic Jihad.

On another level, there is the feeling that the world is improving without any involvement of God, or *belief* in a god if there is none. The prosperity we enjoy appears to come through secular economic and political systems that have jettisoned all connections with religious institutions. Without praying, it seems, we are able to overthrow and kill dictators. The Arab Spring, current student uprisings and the Occupy Movement might be a quest that is more about universal human aspirations toward justice and freedom and a whole lot less about religion – in spite of the apparent revival of Islamic politics and Sharia Law where the Arab Spring continues.

I don't want to pose the question, "What does religion have to do with the future?" because that immediately leads the question, "Which religion?" They are definitely all not "basically the same," as we are so often told. The question has to be much more specific. "What does Mohammed have to do with the future?" or "What does the Buddha have to



CREDIT: NATURE.DESKTOPNEXUS.COM

do with it?"

I'm limiting my question to this: "What does Jesus Christ have to do with the improvement of our lives for the future in this world?"

The response some Christians have to this question can be disappointing. Some believers feel that Jesus' main plan is to take his followers away from this earth to Heaven, and that ultimately, Heaven is the fitting home of those who believe in him. If that's true, this world doesn't have much value and its improvement is not a great priority. This is the kind of view you get, for example, in the very popular *Left Behind* book series.

Other Christians, especially in the later 19th and earlier 20th centuries, used to take the view that such interventions seemed too crude for God and for Jesus. They surmised that Jesus is intervening in a more sophisticated sense: through human evolution of all kinds, he is helping the world reach utopia. Two barbaric world wars cut away this understanding – though some religious optimists failed to catch on.

What if, though, the Bible's account of Jesus suggests something different? That he is indeed present in some way, especially through his people and his Spirit; but that he is in another sense absent and preparing to come back. His return will not be for the pur-

pose of lifting his own to Heaven, but for the purpose of welcoming Heaven back into our world and into our lives. He will come put all things right. Judgment will happen. But God's judgment in the Bible is always a good thing. It is a judgment in favour of the oppressed and marginalized and a judgment against oppressors of all kinds.

This would mean that his people should be preparing for his return by thinking and acting in hope. Preparing for him does not mean withdrawing into a life of only prayer and devotion waiting for his return. Rather it means getting your hands dirty; it means putting your feet on the ground, looking for ways to demonstrate compassion towards people in trouble right where you are; it means working for justice and fairness in every way that is available to you; it means supporting others who may not share faith in Jesus, but are also on a quest for a world that is more just than it is.

Jesus will return. And in the meantime, his people can be a signpost of hope in a world that is difficult to negotiate. God cares, and the evils that currently trouble all of us will one day, *suddenly*, fade to black. When he comes back, Heaven's light, grace and redemption will dramatically fill this world, our planetary home.

The recession and your job hunt

VICTOR DE JONG
INTERROBANG

Concerned about the recession? Well, you should be. If an issue doesn't interrupt our sleep at night, make us fat or push up the price of coffee, most of us don't really care about it.

The problem with this recession is that it has no effect on the average citizen unless they work in an affected industry. The price of bread won't go up, and even your taxes will be virtually unaffected, then your job is gone and all those tiny percentages that the politicians have been talking about for months become very real.

Those of us with part-time jobs can no doubt remember a few co-workers who were working full-time at minimum wage despite having a degree or even experience in industry. 'Sure,' we think, 'That won't be me! I'm driven to excel, and I make sure to network.' That may be the case, but in the event of a factory closure or corporate merger, all it means is you'll know the people in line with you in the unemployment office. Being qualified in your field is no longer enough to ensure you an opportunity to work in that field.

The constant outsourcing of manufacturing has stripped Ontario of a huge chunk of its industry. Dofasco had to cut jobs to stay competitive, IBM and other major tech firms were forced to follow suit as cheaper labour overseas offered the allure of bigger profit margins, which made outsourcing an easy decision for financially vested stockholders. The big three auto makers in Detroit would be long gone if the loss of jobs hadn't been such a frightening prospect that the Canadian and American governments saw fit to throw billions of dollars at the problems to form a temporary band-aid of money.

Here are the industries that are on the decline according to Statistics Canada: finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, manufacturing, information, culture and recreation are all experiencing negative growth. On the other hand, the same study showed that jobs in the educational, professional, scientific, technical, accommodation and food industries, as well as jobs in natural resources and public administration, are on the rise.

So, will the recession affect your ability to get a job in a couple of years? The global economy is something that we can only react to, not control. The trends, however, are worth noting. Obviously going into auto manufacturing isn't a wise choice, not only because if you're reading this you're probably in school and aren't aiming to work an assembly line, but also because the industry is, and has been, in trouble for years. If you want to go into healthcare, you can expect a fairly easy time with it; the population is aging and demand for healthcare workers rising.

The bottom line is this: do your homework before you pick a career. Use your common sense, identify your strengths, identify how you can best apply them in today's economic climate and live happily ever after.

Thank You to cover model

The Interrobang staff would like to extend a thank you to Robert Appleton of the London Rogues Star Wars Fan Group of Canada (londonrogues.com) for posing for this week's newspaper cover. Mr. Appleton was gracious enough to take time from his schedule to visit the Interrobang to set up and take part in this photo shoot.

The power of compound interest



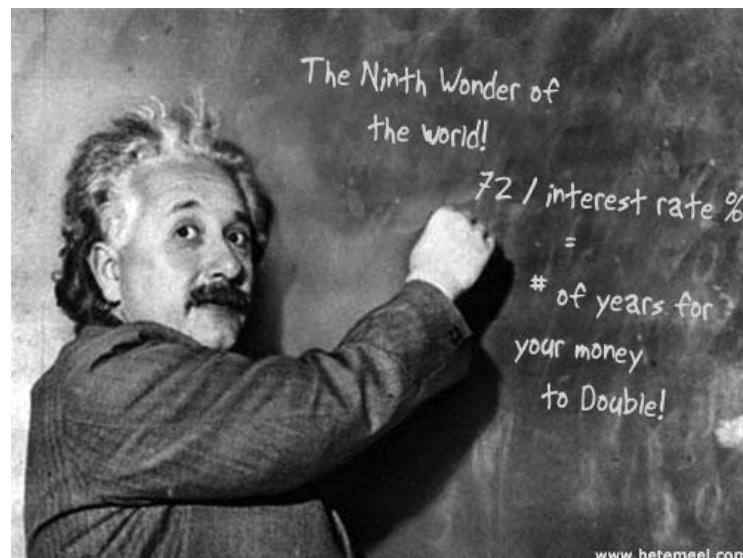
TALKING CASH
JEREMY WALL

Albert Einstein once said, "The most powerful force in the universe is compound interest." In case you haven't heard, Einstein was a pretty smart guy. He knew what he was talking about when it came to ultra-geeky concepts such as the theory of general relativity. It turns out that he also knew what he was talking about when it came to personal finance.

Compound interest is an extremely powerful tool in finance. It's a tool that you could (and should) use to get rich. Financial geeks like me are already aware of this, but it's a concept that every person who wants to have more money (i.e. every single person) ought to understand.

Compound interest is simple, but awesome. When you earn interest on a principal amount, that interest is added to the principal. You then earn interest on both the principal and that previously earned interest. After that, all the interest you earn is paid on the principal and any previous interest you earned, so you are making interest on top of interest (on top of interest on top of interest on top of interest, etc.) for as long you keep the money invested. Simple, but awesome.

Understanding the fundamental concept of how compound interest works will greatly serve you when you begin to work and save money after you graduate. Once you're working, it's generally wise to start saving, be it for retirement, for a



Albert Einstein knew the power of compound interest, you should too.

down payment on a home, for a car, whatever. I know it sounds like a lot of these things are many years off (who is thinking about retirement right after they graduate from Fanshawe?), but that's where the power of compound interest comes into play: the more time the interest has to compound, the more money you earn.

Time is money, man. It can be debt, too, though. Many financial experts advise that it is a good idea to focus on paying off debt before one focuses on saving. This is good advice. Compound interest also applies here. If you have credit card debt, for example, all the interest that accumulates is added to the principal, and then you pay interest on top of interest. This is where compound interest is a double-edged blade, because if you owe money, it's compounding. That means you want to eliminate your debt as quickly as possible, that way the power of compound

interest doesn't have much time to kick into full effect.

Whether you're saving or paying down debt, it is the concept of compound interest that will help or hinder you. Understanding the very basics of how it works will assist you in managing your money. Calculating compound interest can be pretty difficult, but fortunately there are a number of online calculators where you can plug in your figures and get it all figured out for you. Moneychimp.com has a number of compound interest calculators that can help. A cursory Google search of the keywords 'compound interest' will also turn up a ton of results (although the quality of those results may vary, so you're warned).

Jeremy Wall is studying Professional Financial Services at Fanshawe College. He holds an Honour's Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Ontario.

Beautiful Imperfection nearly perfect

JAYMIN PROULX
INTERROBANG



Born in Paris and moving to Lagos, Nigeria at a young age, singer-songwriter Asa recalled an upbringing where she found joy immersing herself in her father's records and listening to artists such as Fela Kuti, Bob Marley, Michael Jackson and Lauryn Hill. While turmoil existed around her, she was peacefully sitting beside her music collection, blissfully happy and undoubtedly aware that her time as a musician would eventually come.

Years passed; an education in Paris and extensive guitar lessons led Asa to release a few albums and her present one, *Beautiful Imperfection*. She was on the right track to becoming the musician she dreamed of when she was young.

"The first album reflected my state of mind then. I had a lot to talk about – social and political issues. This time, I felt different: I wanted to create something that would help people come out of sad moods and feel uplifted."

Beginning her newest album with the swingingly upbeat "Why Can't We?", Asa does an excellent job of drawing the listener in. *Beautiful Imperfection* is a soulful rendition of toe-tapping soul tracks that blend some blues and funk with some slower melodies peacefully swaying in the background. She created a sheer masterpiece with a



CREDIT: ASA-OFFICIAL.COM

sound that emulates Lauryn Hill or India Arie, but with strong ties to her own voice, not to mention powerful songwriting that sends a message of freedom, faith, happiness and living life on your own terms.

"Bimpe" and "Ore" are Yoruba songs (a language of the Nigerian people) and tie the album back to her roots in West Africa. "Preacher Man" is a slower song where she prays to God about her crimes of worshipping money and ignoring those in need, her album is a far cry from trivial pop and bubble-gummed up sex on mainstream

radio stations.

Asa's goal with *Beautiful Imperfection* was to create an album that was uplifting and positive. This was a definite accomplishment on her part. She has worked with musical greats Lenny Kravitz, Katie Melua and Angelique Kidjo, who have invited her to perform duets on various occasions. Her skill lies in her ability to speak her mind and do so with sensitivity and with creative songwriting.

For more information, visit asa-official.com.

The Grand Masters the Art

ALISON MCGEE
INTERROBANG

Post-War France. An American woman whose husband works long hours in Paris longs for a hobby. She finally decides on cooking, and she sets out to master the art of French cooking.

The life of Julia Child is one that has been chronicled in many media. From books to movies, this charismatic woman has become a household name, and now, The Grand Theatre presents Julia Child in a fun new way: live theatre.

To Master the Art tells the story of Julia's time spent in Paris, starting with her very humble beginnings. Upon arrival in Paris with her husband Paul, former intelligence worker Julia proves to be a worse than terrible cook. After sampling the best food that Paris has to offer, and finding herself bored and with time on her hands, Julia decides to enroll in the prestigious Cordon Bleu culinary school. There she hones her skills as a cook and quickly begins work on a French cookbook for American women. After more than a decade of work, Julia's book is finished and America is taught how to master the art of French cooking.

The character of Julia is one that is always entertaining to watch, and in *To Master the Art* she is brought to the stage by Sarah Machin Gale in her debut at The Grand Theatre. Gale does a truly outstanding job of giving Julia all the complexities and personal quirks that make the infamous

woman instantly recognizable. Julia left big shoes to fill for those who want to bring her back to life, and Gale does not fail to impress.

Julia's husband Paul is portrayed by Geoffrey Whynot, who has appeared at The Grand previously in *Misery*. Whynot gives the character of Paul a true air of love for his wife, undying support – even when he is forced to eat varieties of onion soup for weeks on end – and the burden that comes with helping to rebuild a war-torn country.

Jane Miller in her debut at The Grand takes on the role of Jane Foster, a fellow intelligence worker who worked with Paul and Julia in the Pacific. Miller is entertaining, but sometimes falls a little flat.

Julia's teacher, the revered Chef Max Bugnard, is played by Thomas Hauff, who brings enormous talent to the somewhat minor role. Appearing only briefly throughout the play, Hauff is both fun and funny on stage. The main cast is rounded out by Leanna Brodie, who plays the role of Julia's fellow cookbook author Simca, who gives an entertaining performance.

Everything from the stage dressings to the actors' accents to the music evokes an atmosphere of the romance of Paris. The story is so enthralling that the audience is drawn into every aspect of it through the ups and the downs.

To Master the Art is a show that is not to be missed, and plays at The Grand Theatre through November 5. For tickets, visit grandtheatre.com.

Beware the splatter zone

ALISON MCGEE
INTERROBANG

You know when you were a kid and you went to Marineland and there was a section at the front where you would get splashed when the whales flopped into the water? Well, if you go see *Evil Dead: The Musical* at the McManus Theatre, downstairs at The Grand, you will have a similar experience – only instead of whales splashing you with water, it's a severed hand (among other things) covering you with fake blood.

The cult classic *Evil Dead* trilogy of films from the 1980s have been turned into a two-hour musical play by director John Iglesias, complete with interactive blood splatter. *Evil Dead: The Musical* tells the story of five college kids who are on their way to a vacation in an abandoned cabin in the woods. Of course, there is only one way into, or out of, the cabin and it is essentially isolated from humanity. After finding a creepy old book and playing an old audio recording of a strange language, the kids inadvertently release a horde of evil Candarian demons. Blood, guts and glory ensue as Ash, the leader of the college gang, tries desperately to save himself and his friends from the bloodthirsty demons.

Mark Nocent stars as Ash, the leader of the group and killer of demons. Everything about Nocent, from his gestures to his expressions, will have you laughing uncontrollably. Megan Schroder takes on the role of Linda, Ash's co-worker turned girlfriend. While Schroder does indeed have some serious acting talent, where she

really impresses is in the vocal department; her musical numbers are outstanding.

Ash's sister Cheryl is brought to life by Valerie Cotic, who does an incredible job of playing the prude turned exhibitionist demon. Cotic delivers some of the play's funniest lines and all of the show's bad puns.

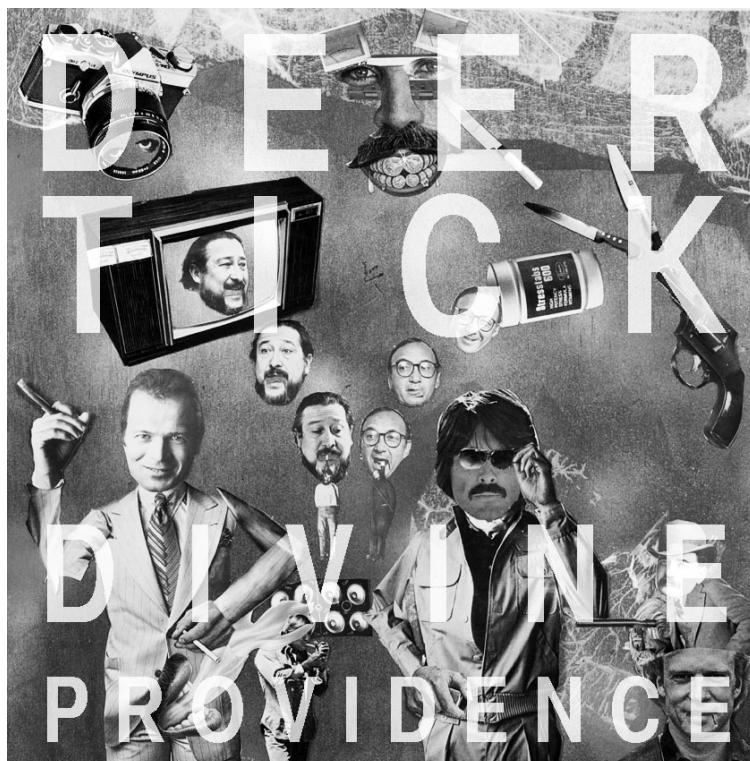
Jeff Insell takes on the role of Scott, Ash's best friend, and Laura Giberson plays alongside him in dual roles of Scott's "girlfriend" Shelly and demon expert Annie. Sam Shoebottom, who was most loved by audiences, plays local woodsman Jake, and Phil Calauit plays the non-bit part of Ed.

The entire cast is strong, and together they bring audiences one heck of a good show.

What makes *Evil Dead: The Musical* a truly unique experience is the audience interaction. The McManus Theatre is a small, intimate theatre where the audience sits literally feet away from the action. The actors run through the rows of seats, the characters speak directly to those watching, and of course the splatter zone covers its visitors in buckets upon buckets of blood.

The highlights of the show include Ash severing his own hand in a bloody free-for-all, body suit-clad extras bringing to life the broken footbridge with hilarity and side-splitting song and dance numbers.

Grab a poncho and your rain boots and head on down to the McManus Theatre for *Evil Dead: The Musical*. For tickets, visit grandtheatre.com and click the buy tickets tab.



CREDIT: PARTISAN RECORDS.COM

Deer Tick divine

BOBBYISMS
BOBBY FOLEY

I write about random things a lot. I write a lot about random things. Did you know that Deer Tick, an indie folk band from Rhode Island, are also sometimes Deervana, which is perhaps the most revered Nirvana tribute band in America?

I'd wager that first impressions have a lot to do with the positive response that the band — formed by John McCauley and later joined by Christopher Dale Ryan, Dennis Ryan, Ian O'Neil and Rob Crowell — has enjoyed since they first played a Nirvana set. Certainly, few would expect such a transformation when the band is widely described as folk, blues and country.

But a grand transformation it was, even leading to a now-infamous gig at the Lustre Pearl in Austin, Texas as the last act on the last night of the annual SXSW Festival. It also provided direction, because it helped McCauley to recognize that the band wasn't being completely represented by their catalogue.

I'd also wager that the experience had an impact on *Divine Providence*, Deer Tick's fourth studio album in only five years and a look deep into the heart of rauous roll.

"After so many years of critics praising (and making fun of) us for our 'folk' and 'country' sounds, and hardly ever mentioning the fact that we've also recorded virtually dozens of other kinds of music, we wanted to make a record that was truer to our live set: raw, loud, heartfelt and completely uninterested in whatever the hell the rest of the music industry is up to," said McCauley. "The results are unlike anything you've heard on a Deer Tick album."

True to word, the album bounces and bumps with all the twang and abandon of a band in the studio without an agenda. "I've got a lust for life," McCauley croons as the record begins, and non-ironically; the album quickly takes on a life of

its own as the band coaxes a sense of timelessness into the songs — this is the kind of rock and roll that Bob Seger would love.

From the opening seconds of "The Bump", with its gritty thump and whiskey-soaked call and answer, this album will grab your attention and hold it. "Let's All Go To The Bar" may be your favourite new drinking song, or perhaps "Main Street" will charm you with its garage sound and shimmering keys. The current single, "Miss K", is the album's closer, though the album flows so smoothly that it will be the fastest 45 minutes you spend on anything all day.

Divine Providence may only be removed from the other Deer Tick albums by a year, but it represents the first batch of truly new Deer Tick material in years; after their debut record was released in 2008 by Partisan Records, the band underwent an ambitious 20-day marathon recording session that resulted in enough material for their next two albums — 2009's *Born On Flag Day* and 2010's *The Black Dirt Sessions*.

This new album sees Deer Tick in their most natural setting, emulating the energy and spirit behind their live set. They're loud and they're unapologetic, they're brash and fun, they're the Ramones and the Bangles and the E Street Band and they're spectacular.

Here in Canada, the album was released last week in digital stores, and will be released next week in physical formats everywhere. This record also marks the band's first release here on Dine Alone Records, who are still steadily growing the amount of talent on their roster.

Though their current tour won't bring them to London, Deer Tick are performing in Toronto on November 16 at Lee's Palace. For more information on Deer Tick, their latest LP and their tour, visit deertickmusic.com or follow them on Twitter @deertickmusic.

And for the latest music news, views, streams and more, follow me on Twitter @fsu_bobbyisms or on Tumblr at bobbyisms.com. Don't forget to check out the latest in the Music Recommendations thread in our FSU social network, I'm out of words.

Cackles, chuckles, guffaws and snorts in store for London

KIRSTEN ROSENKRANTZ
INTERROBANG

The legendary Just For Laughs Group is known for hilarious comedy tours, television shows and live comedy, some of which has included celebrities such as Jerry Seinfeld, Jeremy Hotz, Louis C.K. and Steve Martin. Founded in 1983 in Montreal, Just for Laughs has continued to grow with offices in Montreal, Toronto, Paris, Los Angeles and London.

On November 2, the Capital One Just For Laughs Comedy Tour is coming to London's Centennial

Hall. For the first time ever, Just For Laughs is doing a British edition of the tour. Opening act Abandoman is a hilarious musical sketch group that performs songs based on audience requests. The show also features Matt Kirshen (a finalist on *Last Comic Standing*), Stephen K. Amos, Hal Cruttenden (appearing only until November 5), Terry Alderton and Sean Meo.

The tour kicked off on October 24 in St. John's, Newfoundland and travels across the country, ending on November 20 in Victoria, British Columbia.

"Some of comedy's best talent comes from the United Kingdom. Therefore, we have put together a line up featuring some of the hottest acts from the U.K. scene who will be introduced by one of Canada's funniest comedians, Steve Patterson," said Christine Melko, Just For Laughs Vice President of Operations.

Tickets are available at centennialhall.london.ca or at the Centennial Hall box office at 550 Wellington St.

Wear your heart on your wrist

BY STAFF
INTERROBANG

Remembrance Day is just around the corner, and those famous red poppies will soon be sprouting up on lapels everywhere. The We Remember With TLC Veterans Campaign is also selling wristbands to get people to honour veterans with their wrists as well as their hearts.

For \$2, purchase a wristband at one of four locations across the city. The money raised goes to 11 community organizations that support veterans, including The London Poppy Fund, the London Military Family Resource Centre and local branches of the Royal Canadian

Legion.

"Our historical past teaches lessons of human folly, but also teaches lessons of generosity, compassion and goodness that have inspired future generations," explained Rick Austin, Advisory Council Member for the campaign. "We Remember With TLC will be part of that inspiration, highlighting simple acts of kindness and sacrifices of appreciation and remembrance each year for those who gave us our freedom."

Wristbands can be purchased at The London Military Family Resource Centre at the Wolseley Barracks, 701 Oxford St. E. (519-660-5366); The Duchess of

Kent Legion, 499 Hill St. (519-438-6521); The Royal Canadian Air Force Association 2155 Crumlin Side Rd. (519-455-0430); and The Royal Canadian Naval Association 2155-B Crumlin Side Rd. (519-659-9657).

On November 3 from 2 to 3 p.m., a concert performed by singer Michelle Iurman at Parkwood Hospital for all veterans there.

For more information, visit the We Remember With TLC Facebook event page at tinyurl.com/remembranceday-wristbands2011.

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Computer geeks to geek chic



FASHION WRITER
AIMEE BROTHMAN

Historically, say, a few decades ago, an individual keen on electronics and interested in computers could certainly have been classified as a nerd. Fast-forward to present day, and you may very well find the opposite is true. In today's age of iPads, Facebook and clouds, razor sharp technology has made nerds cool. (Oversized 'nerd' glasses and geek chic, anyone?) As technology shifted to a mainstream way for everyday people to socialize, shop, play or do just about anything, the definitive 'computer geek' image has drastically changed.

The way the world communicates has changed by leaps and bounds on various occasions, arguably with one of the most major advances taking place in 1876 with the introduction of the telephone. In the 1980s, when the world was introduced to what is now practically prehistoric technology compared to modern day cell phones, clunky mobile phones were installed in cars and yet again technology advanced. This was the earliest time (in my lifetime, anyway) that technology moved away from inaccessible nerdiness to glamorous exclusivity and its now-

standard prevalence.

In today's modern society, a Facebook account is as common as an email account and 'google it' is a phrase people heavily rely on. As Walkmans turned into Discmans and now iPods, and mobile phones progressed into Motorola Razrs and now smartphones, technology is something of a status symbol; you wouldn't see the rich and famous without their iPhones and BlackBerrys, and by no means does that translate into a computer geek today.

Technology has also become imminently cooler with the introduction of Twitter. Everyone and anyone can voice their opinion and thoughts on the mini-blog and its popularity is extraordinarily widespread. Celebrities and fashion designers have the most followers, and some big names have even chosen to debut their collections via an online stream and upload photos on TwitPics fresh off the runway. Marc Jacobs, ever the up-to-the-minute designer, even hired his last batch of interns on Twitter by allowing any possible candidate to tweet their assets and why they should be a MJ intern in the standard 140 characters.

The fashion industry has especially benefited from the transformation of technology solely based on the ease of retailing online. Accessibility and exposure has increased tenfold for designers and stores that wish to expand their market. An uncountable number of



CREDIT: EDU.GLOGSTER.COM
Using an early telephone is nothing like today's technology.

sites dedicated solely to selling fashion have emerged with the trend of buying online, and most recently, couture and designer flash sale sites have become the new online trend. A number of sites require an invitation that must be accepted in order to gain access, thus creating a sense of cool via modern technology. So now that you finally scored that 3.1 Philip Lim blouse you've been lustful after and it's been delivered to your door, you can TweetPic a photo of it and make all the other online-lovers #totallyjealous @you.



CREDIT: ARIANA PINDER
Red lips are the key to adding drama and colour to this simplistic look.

The classy '50s



BEAUTY BOY
JOSHUA R. WALLER
joshua.r.waller@gmail.com

Do you feel like you are wearing the same style of makeup every single day and are too afraid to make a change? Or do you feel that your makeup skills are not up to par to try something new? Well, the truth is that there are so many looks you can achieve with minimal products that don't need a professional level of makeup artistry skills. A look that is quite simple yet sophisticated that most people can pull off is the 50s-inspired look. This look is seen on celebrities such as Dita Von Teese, Katy Perry and, of course, the classic '50s icon: Marilyn Monroe.

To achieve this look, one of the most important components is the complexion. In the '50s, having a pale complexion was considered very elegant, but of course in this day and age, the only thing sexy about a pale complexion is if it is on Edward Cullen. Of course, you can tweak the look by just using a normal high-coverage foundation (such as CoverFx) and applying a translucent powder over top to give the complexion some finesse. Adding some matte bronzer to the cheekbones is also key to achieve this very classy look.

The eyes are the simplest part of this look because the eye shadow is merely used to help accentuate the eyebrows, so not much skill is needed. Start by applying a fairly light cream

colour all over the lids up to the brow bone. Then, using a crease brush, blend a dark brown or grey throughout the crease of the eye to give it some depth. The next step is the most important for the look, which is applying the liquid eyeliner. The easiest way to do this is by using an eyeliner pen (Stila, Lise Watier) and starting with a very thin line in the inner portion, gradually getting thicker and then wing out the end on the outer edge of the eye.

To finish off the eye region, you either need to have a mascara that will add a lot of volume (such as Dior Show, Hypnose Drama, BADgal) or use false eyelashes that are a bit flared out on the outer area. This helps define the eye and give it that classy '50s look. Next, make sure your eyebrows are filled in with an eyebrow pencil so that you can achieve that high arch, which was one of the milestones in '50s beauty.

To complete the look, you need a matte red lipstick. Most people are afraid to put on red lipstick, but give it a try because chances are you will like it. If you feel that it is too much for a day look, then simply use a nude colour or a toned-down red. However, don't make that decision until you have actually tried on the vibrant red lipstick.

Everyone will have their own interpretation of different looks, but for someone who is looking to revamp their makeup routine a bit and is afraid to try something new, the classy '50s look is a perfect template to play off of. It is simplistic but still creates an overall elegant and beautiful look.

Smart = sexy



Love, Lust & Lies
Patricia Cifani
asklovelustlies@gmail.com

It's true that good-looking people have an easier time getting a date, but looks can only get you so far. The older you get, the more you see girls going after the nerdy/geeky guy instead of the "hot guy." I am not going to pretend that girls all go for the smart guy; usually we fall for the stereotypical jacked guy who cares more about working out than he does about anyone else, but we all have our weak moments in life. Don't be fooled by the girls who chase the wrong guy, because there are still the kind of girls that end up with the right ones, you just haven't found one of them yet.

The problem is that women aren't always attracted to geeky types in the beginning, so it can be discouraging for some guys to pursue a woman. Yes, maybe at first you will have to work a bit harder than someone else, so what? We all have things that we find difficult that don't come easily to us, but that doesn't mean we just give up or stop trying.

The good thing is you know when someone likes you, it's more than just because the way you look; they like you for you. I know girls who have dated guys they weren't originally attracted to, but they were drawn to them because of their intelligence and then the more they got to know the guys, the more they became captivated by them. I'm not saying that geeks are physically unappealing,

because that's not true, I'm just saying it's a common observation that once you get to know a person, the more physically attracted you become to them.

It's the same for someone with an ugly personality: the more you get to know them, the less attracted to them you become. The two guys I have liked the most through my years and years of dating were the ones who were incredibly smart and kind geeks. I just found they were generally more interesting and had more to offer than all the other guys I dated.

So here are a few reasons why some girls find intelligence sexy:

1. More to talk about: Have you ever gone on a date with someone that you thought was good-looking, but when it came to having a conversation with them, you realized they didn't have much more to offer than a good time? Girls want to be able to have a conversation with someone they are dating and not just about what happened on *Jersey Shore* the night before. Let's be honest for a minute: if you are a smart guy and on a date a girl wasn't interested in having a stimulating conversation and all she did was talk about television shows, would you even want to date her? Probably not, so why would a girl want to date a guy like that either?

2. Goal-oriented: Girls like it when a guy has his life together and knows what he wants. They become attracted to his motivation and drive to succeed, and geeks usually fit this category. Nothing is more unattractive than a guy who does nothing with his life and has no goals or ambition. A man who is able to think and support himself is the kind of guy a woman wants

CAN YOU HANDBOOK IT

Geek chic is not what you think



CHRISTINA KUBIW
KALASHNIK
FASHION WRITER

Geek chic: it has recently become a huge part of the fashion industry. People love looking smart, nerdy and fashionable. However, what does geek chic really mean? Is it wearing fake glasses, suspenders and orthopedic loafers? I really hope that's not what it means, because I don't see how that could possibly be fashionable.

I think that geek chic is being completely misinterpreted; nobody has really set a definition of what it means and what it looks like – not officially at least. Some say it is using aspects of the nerd stereotype in the way we dress, while others say it's a little less or a little more.

What I have noticed most recently is that fashion has split itself into three separate categories. The first category is made up of people who wear outrageous things, looks that half of us wouldn't even dream of touching. They wear teacups on their heads and ballerina slippers to work. They do

unconventional things to mix fashion, art and design. This stream of fashion usually consists of figures such as Lady Gaga and Anna Dello Russo. The second category of fashion consists of ready-to-wear runway looks, garments that most of us could wear. These are looks that aren't too outrageous – clothing pieces that could be individualized into our closets with a little effort and imagination. The third string of fashion is you and I; it is made up of the people who take what they see and turn it into mainstream looks.

Most recently, these fashions have become much more accessible for the masses. What's funny is that the majority of these fashions are now less conventionally sexy, and they're being interpreted as geek chic.

This is where I encountered a true issue with geek chic: just because women don't have their boobs hanging out doesn't mean they're geeks; furthermore, just because they do doesn't mean they can't be geeks. Ever since geek chic has emerged, we are seeing many different versions of this trend. However I would like to try to clearly define what I think geek chic should be and how we should interpret it.

Realistically, 'geek' is another

word for nerd, which has a negative connotation associated with it. However, by adding the word chic, we allow geek to be 'in.' Geek chic means dressing in a respectable way. It doesn't mean having to dress with suspenders, it simply means wearing clothing that makes you look like you aren't exploiting your body but are using your mind instead, while of course using aspects of current fashion in the way you're dressing.

Two women who do this best are Anna Wintour and Tavi Gevinson.

Wintour is the British Editor-In-Chief of American Vogue. Growing up in a privileged and well-connected family, Wintour was sent to North London Collegiate School, where she was often seen rebelling against the dress code.

Always having an interest in fashion, Wintour eventually moved up in the fashion world. Now one of the most powerful

women in fashion, Wintour is always seen looking fashionable and respectable. Some declare that she rocks geek chic better than anyone. She is always dressed very ladylike with a touch of '50s housewife. She wears fitted printed dresses with clear and distinct silhouettes. She sports a classic bob and a gaze that would make you shake in your boots. Needless to say, geek chic is powerful and strong when it's seen on Wintour, and in fact the geek aspect is simply her intelligence and does not truly reflect any sort of stereotype when worn on her: no suspenders, no taped glasses and no orthopedic loafers – just class.

The second fashion figure is Gevinson. Only in her mid-teens, she proves that no girl or woman should feel the need to conform to the standards of itsy bitsy t-shirts and skirts. She has no desire to be recognized for young provocative style such as Miley Cyrus. She

uses her intelligence to captivate the attention of millions. Her words, thoughts and ideas are what qualify her as a nerd, however the fact that while reporting on fashion she is caught sporting \$900 MiuMiu sandal wedges is what qualifies her to be chic. Her incredible passion for fashion is what drives her and that is why she is a powerful geek chic young woman.

Recognizing that geek chic is ignited from within is what truly makes it fashionable. These women aren't chic because of how they look, they're chic because their minds encouraged the way they look. Coincidentally, they look respectable and intelligent, and since they are powerful, fashionable women, others are following their example. Clothes can't talk; just because you look smart doesn't mean you are.



CREDIT: GALMOUR.COM

Tavi Gevinson in a mismatched outfit at the Herve Leger show.



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Museum London's Wearable Art Sale: 'Regional art at its best'

BROOKE FOSTER
INTERROBANG

"Not all art is for hanging ... some art needs to be worn" is the motto for the third annual Wearable Art Sale. The sale features hand-crafted jewellery, purses, scarves, hats and clothing all designed by local artists. The free admission sale takes place at Museum London, located at 421 Ridout St. N., on November 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and November 13 from 12 to 5 p.m.

Mary Lake-Collins, President of the Volunteer Committee to Museum London, said she's excited about being able to showcase the local contributing artists' work.

Artists such as Christopher Lake, who creates framework jewellery; Katie Walker, who works with silkscreen printed accessories; and some of Fanshawe's own Fashion Merchandising students are only a few of over 45 local artists who will be featured in the show. The Wearable Art Sale heavily focuses on regional artists in order to support London's local art scene. Lake-Collins said she expects a wide variety of art work of both traditional and contemporary styling.

She also said that because the sale is organized by volunteer workers, all the funds raised will be used to purchase works of art for Museum London.

Thousands of people have visited the previous Wearable Art Sales, and Lake-Collins said this is likely to continue this year. "It's the perfect place to start your holiday shopping," she added.

This year's Wearable Art Sale is a feature in the ArteMusea Festival. The ArteMusea Festival is an exhibition and sale that also showcases regional artists and their works. A preview night on November 3 will start at 7 p.m. and the regular festival will run from November 4 to 13 during regular Museum London hours.

The ArteMusea Festival works similar to the Wearable Art Sale, although instead of selling clothing and accessories, everything from paintings to glasswork will be available to purchase.

Lake-Collins said to expect to



CREDIT: VALERIE SWEET

Necklaces, scarves and hats are just some of the wearable art pieces that will be for sale during the ArteMusea Festival at Museum London.

see works from Tom Benner and Ron Benner, who have each contributed works to Museum London; Duncan de Kergommeaux, who has an individual show currently running; and Eric Atkinson, a former Fanshawe Fine Arts professor, in the Festival.

She mentioned that there has always been some sort of art sale at the gallery and the ArteMusea Festival and Wearable Art Sale are expanding on that history.

With these sales, the volunteer committee is looking to attract different groups of people who have never visited the gallery before,

such as students. Lake-Collins said she is expecting to see more students this year than in previous years because of the participation of Fanshawe's Fashion Merchandising students. She added that she hopes to see more students taking an interest in the art community.

For more information about the ArteMusea Festival, visit museum-london.ca/events:150. For more details about the artists who will be displaying their wares at the show, check out thewearableartshow.blogspot.com.

Respect for everybody, even nerds

BOB CLARK
CODE OF CONDUCT ADMINISTRATOR

Two of the three Rs I mentioned in the last article are in the Student Code of Conduct pamphlet: Respect for yourself and Respect for others.

Respect for yourself

We all feel the need to fit in somewhere. Finding your place here at the college is quite likely important to you. Most of us have been brought up to observe values that are important to our family; your values are therefore ingrained in you. These are the things that make us who we are, and although different in many ways from others, we're also very similar in many ways. Our cultures may be very different, but for the most part we

all want to be successful and live life to the fullest. Remember what's important to you and don't allow yourself to do anything that you'll regret or that will cause you embarrassment.

Respect for others

Accept that we are all different and embrace the difference. Just as you have values that are important to you, so do the others around you. The college is an extremely diverse community and is an opportunity to learn and grow from those here with you. Everyone here at Fanshawe deserves the opportunity to be successful and to feel they can be themselves. This includes being accepted and not having to worry about their personal safety or their belongings.

What about nerds?

There is a good chance you've already met someone who you consider to be a nerd. That goes with the territory at a college. Although they may be "out there," consider other nerds who – because of being "out there" – have made your lives easier and better. Here are a few: Bill Gates (Microsoft); Steve Jobs (Apple); Jimmy Wales (Wikipedia); Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook); Larry Page and Sergey Brin (Google); and Chad Hurley, Steve Chen and Jawed Karim (YouTube).

Something to think about

A quote by Bill Gates: "Be nice to nerds. Chances are, you'll end up working for one."

Eating smart is a no-brainer



Nutrition Ambition
Emily Nixon

Did you know that all those potato chips, cookies and pizza rolls you've been shoveling down your gullet during late-night study sessions are making you smarter?

Bazinga!

Once again, you've fallen for one of my classic pranks.

Even the brilliant Sheldon Cooper would agree: good nutrition contributes to good brain function.

Fortunately, you don't need to be a theoretical physicist to boost your cerebral stamina. As I've mentioned many times before, what you put into your body has a direct impact on how your body performs. This means that by choosing to eat foods rich in certain vitamins and minerals over processed "junk" foods, you are giving your brain a huge advantage. So get geeky, not greasy, and fill up on foods containing some of these nutritious nourishments before your next big test.

Omega-3 Fatty Acids

These are considered "essential fatty acids," and it's no wonder; they are needed for proper growth of nerve cells, and contribute to your body and brain's overall health. The best way to get these into your system is by eating fish such as salmon, tuna, trout and sardines. For once, the fattier the fish, the better. By substituting take-out burgers for grilled salmon steaks, or even just eating a can of flaked light tuna, you are not only lowering your risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer and arthritis, you are also helping to improve your cognitive behavioral function (which can mean increased retention of your course material!).

Antioxidants

Found in a high variety of foods,

antioxidants are constantly being pushed by popular health media. The most accessible antioxidants are found in darkly coloured fruits and vegetables. Blueberries are highly renowned for their nutritional qualities, being labeled the "brain berry" by some scientists. Research has found that with regular consumption, blueberries can improve memory, and help to reverse age-related declines in motor function, balance and coordination.

B Vitamins

Think "B" for brain. Foods with vitamins that fall under the B category are great for the human nervous system. Everything you do, from picking up your pencil to shading in answers on a multiple-choice scantron, requires your nervous system to send messages back and forth from your brain to your muscles. It's not too difficult to find foods with B-complex vitamins in them either; romaine lettuce, beans, peanut butter, eggs (with the yolk) and whole wheat bread are all rich sources.

Vitamin E

With the power to stave off deterioration of the brain, getting your daily dose of vitamin E is a smart choice. To stay sharp, go green with vegetables like broccoli and spinach. Not a fan of the veggies? Snacking on olives, almonds and sunflower seeds can also be a canny way to absorb your vitamin E, which will in turn help you absorb the content of your endless textbooks.

Iron

You need this mineral to help your blood supply oxygen to your body, including your brain. In fact, getting too little iron in your diet may lead to scary outcomes like ADHD, learning disabilities and a lowered IQ. Therefore, eating foods high in iron like lentils, Brussels sprouts and tofu will keep your mind-muscle strong and resilient enough to make it through yet another three-hour lecture ... awake.

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What's in a name? You would be hard-pressed to find two words as simultaneously synonymous and antonymous as 'geek' and 'nerd,' two words whose meanings seem to bend and twist in context like the spoon in *The Matrix*.

Depending on the context of the scene, and the person who is bestowing the title, the words have wildly different connotations. And although they seem to be used interchangeably, there is most definitely a reason for both to exist. Before we continue, let's establish a level ground of understanding.

A 'nerd' is someone who is passionately interested in a field of study, and is most often highly intelligent. Often introverted, most nerds are too busy with their academic pursuits to invest time into social skills, instead developing and honing a wide base of knowledge and skill sets as diverse as they are focused.

EMBRACING YOUR INNER GEEK

Bobby Foley | Interrobang

Famous nerds include Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg and Sheldon Cooper from TV's *The Big Bang Theory*.

On the other hand, a 'geek' is someone whose passion is purely voluntary and often mired in fandom. A geek doesn't necessarily have the best grades, but does have a sharpened knowledge on a particular topic (or

several!), such as (but not limited to) fashion, *Harry Potter*, video games, sports cars or Star Trek. Famous geeks include Alan Cross, Perez Hilton and Dwight Schrute from TV's *The Office*.

To be a geek is to be a self-made expert on any given topic, regardless of the nerd value of the topic itself. Sports fans are huge geeks. Just by watching their favourite teams and events they gain an intimate knowledge of players' stats,

performances and histories. Yet they're no more or less a nerd than someone who can recite every line of the cow-tossing scene in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Everyone is passionate about something; it's that interest that provides the drive we need to get through the things we don't enjoy. A long day of classes is easier to bear knowing you're going to see the new Tarantino film, and extended wait times at the hospital don't

seem nearly as long when you've got new apps to play with on your phone.

No longer should geekery be confused with nerdiness; being so driven to expertise in any given topic is a commendable trait, and that fan club membership or subscription is a badge of honour and dedication. One day, your specialty will qualify you above all others in a given situation, and that sweet moment will be yours to enjoy.

So embrace your geekiness! The only thing you're really declaring is your passion for your particular interests, and it's only by being honest and forthright about them that you're going to find those exciting opportunities to network with other superfans like yourself.

Owning your geekhood, and if anyone gives you a hard time about it, well ... they're just jealous.

FROLICKING THROUGH THE WORLDS OF SCIENCE FICTION & Fantasy

Alison McGee | Interrobang

Fantasy and science fiction are among the most prevalent genres in today's vast realm of entertainment. Many books to television shows and movies focus on fantasy and science fiction, and there is a discernibly growing audience for these genres of storytelling. There is undoubtedly a forceful appeal that pulls people into the dimensions where the fantastic exists, and it seems that appeal is growing ever stronger.

Professor Ingrid Hutchinson, who teaches a course on science fiction and fantasy at Fanshawe College, explained the basic appeal of these genres. "People like the contact with science and the suspension of disbelief." This is the phenomenon of allowing yourself to believe that what you see on screen is actually happening – to leave behind the knowledge that Vulcans don't actually exist and allow yourself to accept that Mr. Spock is real.

Hutchinson revealed her long-time love of science fiction and fantasy, which began when she was a child. "When I was a kid, I got a telescope. It was the best gift ever. How wonderful it was going out there and seeing things at a distance. In the summer, I would go out and lay on my back and just look at Vega. Then I began to read the classics of science fiction, I read Isaac Asimov and *The Chrysalids*."

When *Star Trek* debuted in 1966, Hutchinson admitted she fell in love with the series. It was precisely the element that is so often criticized about the original series of *Star Trek* that Hutchinson found so appealing. "Roddenberry, in that fake, cheesy, staged environment really captured our imaginations," she explained.

Science fiction appeals to people on many different levels. "It has a lot to do with speculative science," she said. People use science fiction as a way to explore scientific phenomena that may or may not actually exist, such as invisible men, monsters and, of course, aliens.

about it in *On Fairy Stories*, about how it goes so much deeper than that."

Stephanie Sandrock,

an active member of the fantasy and science fiction community, shared her thoughts on the appeal of the genres. "I love immersing myself in a different world and getting away from the day to day problems, like doing dishes and cleaning the house, to someplace where every character is more important than that."

"It goes beyond logic," Hutchinson said of what drives people to the worlds of fantasy and science fiction. "Take, for example, *Star Trek*. Kirk and Spock represent this passion/emotion and intellect/logic, but you have to have a kind of blending of the two. Fantasy and science fiction offer exactly that," she added, "Beyond that, you have to have a deeper social message, and science fiction and fantasy offer that too. They also offer us something that speaks to our hearts."

Hutchinson gave some insight on the direction that fantasy and science fiction are headed. "It used to be nerdy, pimply 12 year old boys, so it's always had that pseudo sexual charm, but now it's moving more into the mainstream." Hutchinson cites J.J. Abrams' 2009 reboot of the *Star Trek* franchise as a big step towards a mass popularization of science fiction and fantasy.

If you're interested in reading more about the ideas behind science fiction and fantasy, be sure to read the essays *On Fairy Stories* by J.R.R. Tolkien and *Why Fantasy, Why Now* by R. Scott Bakker.

The future life of the fantasy and science fiction genres will undoubtedly prove to be long and prosperous.



THESE ARE NOT THE BLU-RAYS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

Alison McGee | Interrobang

Star Wars fans can all at once rejoice and recoil in horror at the new Blu-ray release of the entire Star Wars saga. In case you've been living under a rock since 1977, Star Wars tells the epic story of the Skywalker family; a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, the family scattered, chose sides and went (unknowingly) to galactic war with one another. Planets are destroyed, ancient Jedi knights live in swamps and the man who made the Kessel run in 12 parsecs proves himself a hero. Wookies, Ewoks, Sith Lords and tauntauns-turned-sleeping-bags abound. If you have no idea what any of these things are, you can probably skip the rest of this review. Let's look at this release in terms of the good as well as the bad. Let's start with the good.

The films look fantastic. No doubt about it, this is the best Star Wars has ever looked, as it is remastered to full high definition. You can now watch (more or less) all of your favorite scenes like you've never seen them before. Another great feature is the additional material included in the box set that includes over 30 hours of bonus features such as deleted scenes, rare footage and in-depth documentaries about the making of the films. There is enough Star Wars knowledge packed into these nine Blu-ray discs to keep any geek entertained for at least a day or two. For Star Wars fans that thirst for knowledge and rare footage, or for hardcore collectors, this set is absolutely worth buying. Now let's get to the bad. The biggest problems with this edition of Star Wars are the multiple changes; while they are seemingly minute to outsiders, they are enraging for fans to behold. Creator George Lucas has made his opinion more than well known that he feels no remorse in changing integral details within his films. The more notable changes are Darth Vader yelling a cheesy, overdone "Nooooo" as he overtakes the Emperor at the saga's conclusion; computer-generated eyelids on the now-creepy-looking Ewoks; and numerous computer-generated effects and objects. The truly disappointing thing about this newest release is that Lucas is seemingly oblivious to the fact that changing scenes – most notably the aforementioned cheesy Vader yell – more than upsets the fans, it changes the way the scene is understood. Another move many fans will take as a snub is the absence of the theatrical cuts of the flicks, which means that there is no choice but to watch the altered scenes. Additionally, Greedo still shoots first. If you're a lover of the films the way they were originally seen, this set is probably not worth your time or money. It can be assumed that Mr. Lucas is somewhere thinking, "The films have been altered; pray I do not alter them further," and let's hope for the Ewoks' sake that he doesn't.

CRAFTING A CULT CLASSIC

Alison McGee | Interrobang

Every once in a while, a little-known about, unassuming and humble film will find itself magically transformed into a cult classic. This is a subtle process that happens away from the spotlight of Hollywood, and it can take years upon years to complete.

According to Tim Dirks, Editor of the American Movie Classics website, cult films are often "strange, quirky, offbeat, eccentric, oddball or surreal, with outrageous, weird, unique and cartoonish characters or plots, and garish sets." Cult classics often begin as independent, low-budget flicks that can span a multitude of genres – Dirks cited horror, sci-fi and teen comedies as the most prevalent ones. The journey to cult classic generally starts with a complete and utter failure at the box office. *Blade Runner*, undeniably a cult favorite, opened in 1982 to less-than-stellar reviews and an opening weekend box office gross that more than disappointed the studios. Now, nearly 30 years after its release, more than six versions of the film exist on DVD, Blu-ray and HD DVD. More than half a million copies have been sold since 2007.

The journey from box office flop to cult hit is difficult to pinpoint exactly, however there are patterns that this process tends to follow. Generally the quirks of a film, such as the cheesy effects of *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, are the very attributes that cause them to achieve a cult following.

Jordan Ham, an avid *Star Trek* fan, explained the appeal for him. "I enjoy the cheesiness – I really have fun going to watch a film with obviously fake sets and spectacular over-acting from William Shatner."

Once a particular audience has latched onto a film and embraced its offbeat characteristics, such as *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, it has the chance to become a cult classic. Cult classics are generally defined as films with a very specific yet loyal audience. *Rocky Horror* plays without fail each and every year at Halloween in theaters across North America. Theatregoers dress up, often in outrageous drag much like Tim Curry's Dr. Frank-N-Furter, and sing along to all the charmingly vulgar songs within the film.

Rachel House is one of those who regularly spends her Halloween nights watching *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. "I go almost every year to see it ... The thing I really love about it is that it's so bad that it becomes really good."

There is no certain way to ensure that a film will ever reach cult status, though some directors such as Quentin Tarantino make films with the intentions of producing a cult classic. Many bad films simply remain unpopular, yet there will always be those that, while unsuccessful at first glance, become beloved cult classics.

Alison McGee | Interrobang

ONE BLU-RAY TO RULE THEM ALL

5/5 stars

J.R.R. Tolkien's epic high fantasy story *The Lord of the Rings* has been beloved by fans for over half a century. Between 2001 and 2003, director Peter Jackson brought the story to the big screen to the delight of fans around the world, and in 2004 the extended versions of all three films became available on DVD. June 2011 finally gave the fans what they were really looking for: the extended editions of the trilogy in full high-definition plus over 25 hours of bonus material.

One of the best features of this edition of the films is the inclusion of all the additional scenes that were previously removed from the theatrical cuts. The total run time of the complete trilogy is 682 minutes, or almost 11 and a half hours. The highlights of the additional scenes include the trolls turned to stone in the story of *The Hobbit*; the Huorns advancing towards Helm's Deep, killing the fleeing orcs; and the Mouth of Sauron speaking at the Black Gate, deceiving the fellowship into believing Frodo is dead.

The overall look of the films – the vivid greens of the Shire, the pale blues of Rivendell and the horrific cold steel of Mordor – is brilliant in high-definition. The CGI is astoundingly vivid, particularly in the characters of Gollum and Treebeard. The lands of Middle Earth, created with a variety of miniatures, location shoots and film matting and grading, look flawlessly realistic.

Beyond the films themselves, this release contains 15 DVDs with over 25 hours of special features. Included are all 12 "appendices," the complex making-of features that Peter Jackson commissioned during the span of production. These give insight into production aspects such as casting choices, location scouting, consulting Tolkien scholars and artists and much more. There are especially detailed and enlightening features covering how the creature Gollum was created so realistically, the groundbreaking work of Weta Digital and the Weta workshop who were responsible for all the special effects and props in the films, and the use of a program called MASSIVE, to create artificial intelligence in computer-generated crowds and armies.

This edition of the films also contains the three feature-length making-of documentaries by Costa Botes. Botes was the sole independent permitted access to the set, actors, director and many other aspects of the filming process. With the footage collected, he crafted enlightening and entertaining documentaries to correspond with each film.

You will also find download codes for a digital copy of the trilogy in high-definition, as well as full-length commentaries and access to online content.

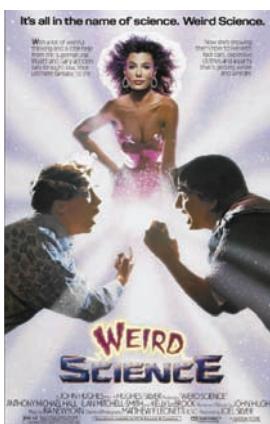
This is by far the most comprehensive edition of the films released, and for the super-fan, it has it all. Tolkien lovers will revel in watching the magic and brilliance of the trilogy in its uncut form.

TOP 10 GEEK MOVIES

Alison McGee | Interrobang

Geeks love movies. Filmmakers are (more often than not) geeks themselves. Presented for your geeky viewing pleasure, here are my top 10 movies by geeks, for geeks and all about geeks.

10 WEIRD SCIENCE (1985)



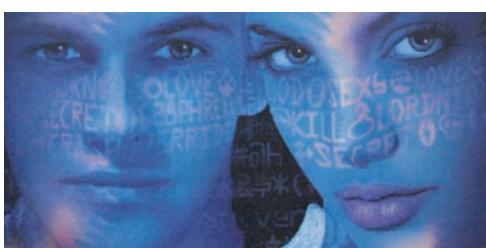
Two 1980s era geeks try to create a perfect woman with their computer in order to gain popularity at school. The boys' creation allows them to act like real men through various hijinks and schemes that go awry.

9 OFFICE SPACE (1999)



When a disgruntled worker and his friends finally get fed up with the apathetic corporate world, they break free and live out their dreams of doing absolutely nothing.

8 HACKERS (1995)



A group of computer hackers have discovered a plot to release a dangerous computer virus and must find and stop the writer of the virus before it's too late. Adding to the danger, the hackers are hounded by the Secret Service, who they must continue to evade.

4 ROLE MODELS (2008)



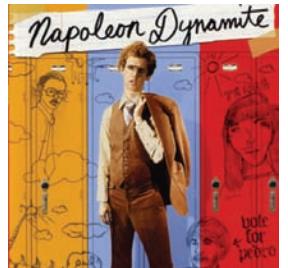
When two men are arrested and choose doing community service over serving time in jail, they are assigned to be Big Brothers to a couple of misfit kids, including one who to LARP. Together they must learn to accept their differences and conquer role-playing evil.

5 SUPERBAD (2007)



Two nerdy best friends finally get an invite to one of the cool parties at their high school, but things don't go exactly as planned. The night quickly devolves into awkward and hilarious social adventures.

6 NAPOLEAN DYNAMITE (2004)



Napoleon Dynamite is a quiet, nerdy high schooler who decides to try to help his best friend win the school election while navigating life with his eccentric family.

7 REVENGE OF THE NERDS (1984)



A group of bullied college nerds decide to fight back by forming their own fraternity, defeating the jocks and winning the affections of the girls on campus.

3 THE KING OF KONG (2007)



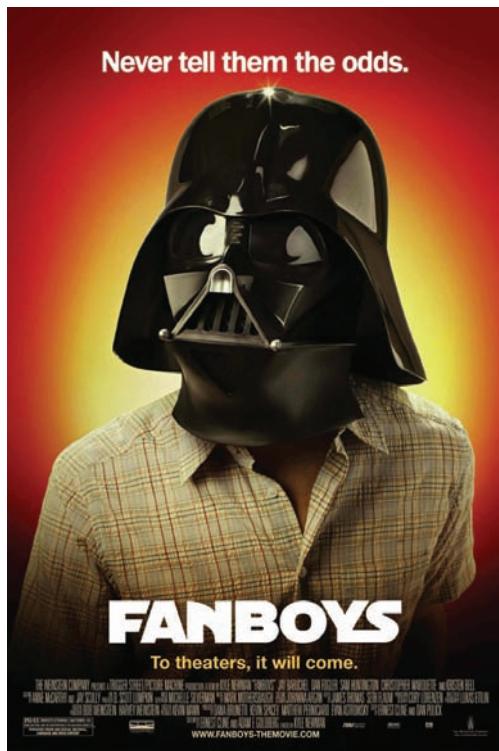
It's a battle of the arcade kings in this documentary film as Steve Wiebe and Billy Mitchell compete in a brutal battle to hold the high score in the original *Donkey Kong* arcade game.

2 STAR TREK: THE MOTION PICTURE (1979)



Feel the trekkie love in this first-ever *Star Trek* feature-length film. The crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise must stop an evil space being before it destroys Earth.

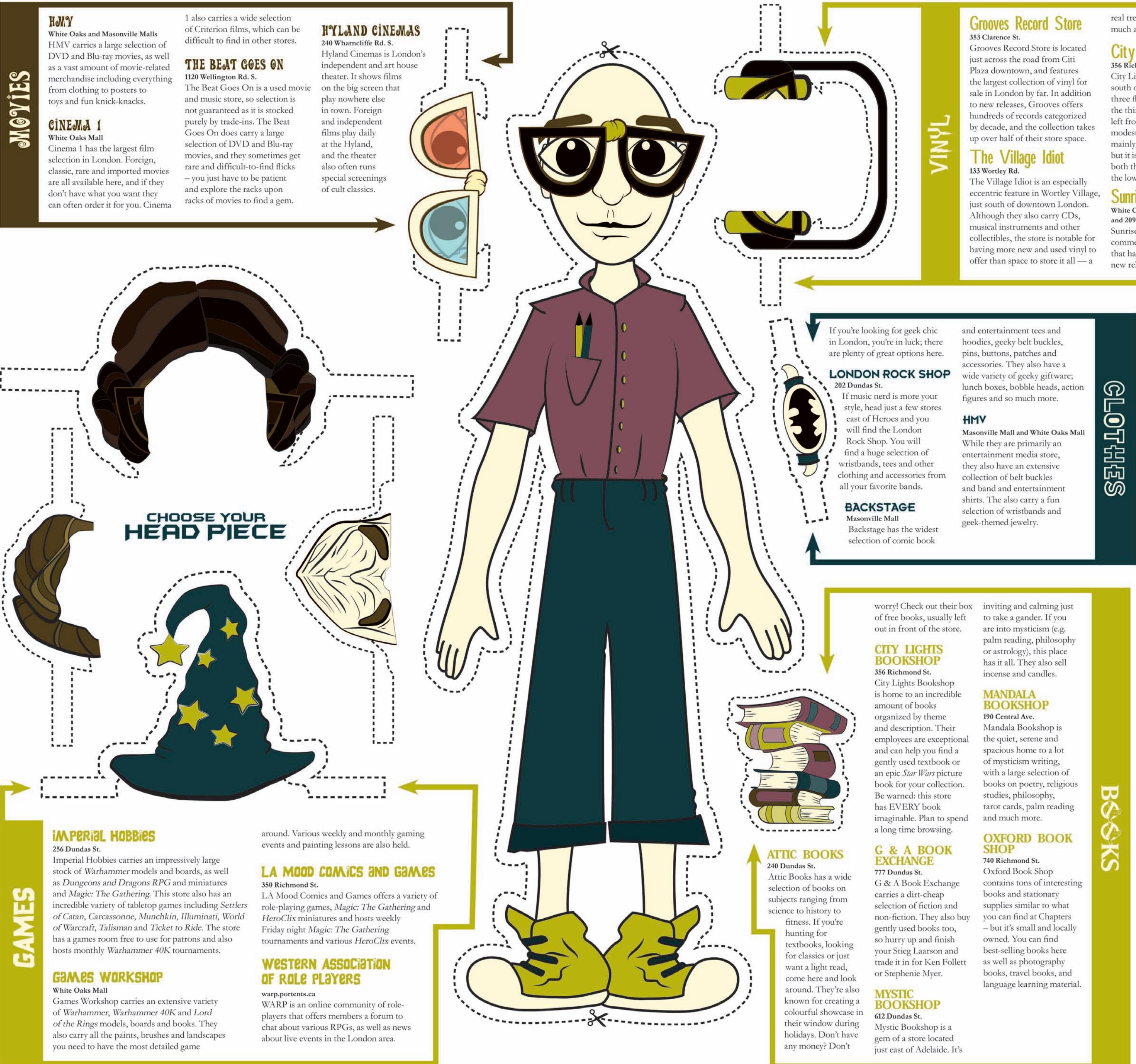
1 FANBOYS (2008)



A group of *Star Wars* mega-fans must help their friend break into George Lucas's home to watch over the unreleased *Star Wars: Episode I* before he succumbs to his fatal cancer.

GUIDE TO GEEK LIVING IN LONDON

Bobby Foley, Alison McGee and Jaymin Proulx • INTERROBANG



average roughly \$18 to 25 and the selection varies slightly from location to location. Sunrise also carries a great selection of movies, toys, action figures, posters and pop culture collectibles, as well as a decent selection of band, entertainment and other shirts, belt buckles and accessories.

LA MOOD COMICS and Games
350 Richmond St.
LA Mood Comics & Games may not be the first place you think of when it comes to vinyl, but the store has dedicated some of its table space to a modest collection of new and used vinyl. In addition to all the other collectibles they have to offer, you're sure to enjoy the time you spend browsing here.

HEROES COMICS
186 Dundas St.
Heroes Comics is making it London's oldest comic shop. Through its lifetime, the store has grown and now includes toys, games and statues.

NEO TOKYO THE ANIME STORE
787 Dundas St.
Neo Tokyo The Anime Store is London's only anime specialty store. Not only is it the leading distributor of manga books in the city — with an expansive collection that continues to grow — it also offers the largest collection of anime feature films for rent, anime collectibles and costume rentals.

LA MOOD COMICS AND GAMES
350 Richmond St.
LA Mood Comics & Games is an eccentric shop downtown, and unique in that its proprietors all seem to fit the geek milieu themselves — individual staff with specific areas of expertise help to make this a leading outlet for comics, toys, games and more.

WORLDS AWAY
666 Dundas St.
This store is notable for the large painting of Bruce Campbell's *Evil Dead* character, Ash, in its front window, and for the wealth of comics and games available inside. The store is as packed full of merchandise as it is large on the inside, so leave yourself plenty of time to browse.

THE COMIC BOOK COLLECTOR
779 Dundas St.
The Comic Book Collector has been in business on Dundas

CATCHING UP WITH A COSPLAYER

Alison McGee | Interrobang

Playing dress-up appeals to children on a very basic level: they can pretend to be anything from princesses to cowboys. But there seems to come a point in everyone's life when their parents tell them, "Enough, it's time to stop playing dress-up." A growing number of people, from children to teenagers to older adults, have taken a stand and continue to indulge in a form of dress-up – but what they choose to do is so much more sophisticated than donning a simple child's costume.

Cosplaying (short for "costume play") is the act of bringing a character from a comic book, video game, TV show, film or other media to life through costuming and skits. This new art finds its origins in activities like medieval fairs, fancy costume balls and Live Action Role-Playing (LARPing). Cosplaying is an increasingly popular activity and a growing number of conventions dedicated to the art are developing. These conventions are becoming more frequent, involved and competitive places where individuals can express themselves through intricate costumes and role-playing.

Stephanie Sandrock, a former Fanshawe student who graduated from the Fashion Design program in 2009, owns the cosplay costume company Too Much Sugar in Guelph. TMS offers costumes and commission work for various characters and events.

Sandrock explained her hereditary predisposition towards cosplaying. "My parents have always been Trekkies. They've always gotten dressed up to go to *Star Trek* conventions." She finally tried cosplaying for herself in 2003. "I was part of the anime club during high school. I was invited to go to Anime North for a day with the club and I thought it would be fun." And just which character did Stephanie become for her induction into the world of cosplay? "I dressed up as Kiki, from *Kiki's Delivery Service* (an anime movie). I even had my hair cut like hers," she said. "I've been doing it ever since."

It may seem difficult for some to understand the appeal of cosplaying, but a large part of what makes it so much fun is getting the chance to be someone other than yourself

for a while. "I love the chance to be someone else for the day," explained Sandrock. "I like the attention ... I mean, you get to receive all this attention, but as someone other than yourself."

Sandrock enjoys the creative process that goes into creating a costume. "I love making the costume from scratch. Taking something like a 2D drawing and making it 3D is really fun for me," she revealed. This can be quite a time consuming process. For a simple schoolgirl costume, Sandrock estimated it takes about three hours from start to finish. She has also worked on some costumes so complex they took around 100 hours to complete.

All her hard work is not for nothing, as cosplaying is turning into quite a profitable business. Sandrock divulged that the most she's ever profited from creating a costume for a client was somewhere in the area of \$1,300.

For Sandrock, cosplay is a serious thing. "Personally, I go all out," she said. "I enter a lot of competitions. I've won master level

awards that are recognized by the International Costumers' Guild at Anime North." Her usual costume entails handmade undergarments, clothing, shoe or boot covers, wigs, contact lenses and false teeth.

Anime North and FanExpo in Toronto and Con-G in Guelph are the most popular area conventions for cosplayers to strut their stuff.

Anime North focuses heavily on anime, while FanExpo and Con-G offer a wider range of "geek culture," including fantasy, science fiction and comic books. These conventions are gaining in popularity so much that heavyweight stars such as Adam West, Nichelle Nichols and Robert Englund have made guest appearances over the last few years.

For Sandrock, cosplay is more than just a hobby, it's a passion and a big part of her life. As far as her favorite cosplays go, she said, "Edward Cullen, Yoko from the anime series *Gurren Lagann*, and Fai D. Flourite from *Tsubasa: Reservoir Chronicles*." With no signs of slowing down soon, both Sandrock and the world of cosplay continue to become more involved and complex, allowing people everywhere the chance to live out their fantasies for a day or two at a time.

For more information, check out Sandrock's cosplay design company at toomuchsugar.ca; Anime North at animenorth.com; FanExpo at fanexpocanada.com; and Con-G at con-g.com.

MOTION CONTROL GAMING

DO GAMERS REALLY WANT TO GET OFF THE COUCH TO PLAY?

Alison McGee | Interrobang

Since 1972, when Magnavox released the Odyssey, the very first home video game console, video games have quickly and steadily evolved. From 8-bit animation and sound to 3D platforms to interactive and competitive online gaming, gamers have been experiencing new heights of gameplay with each innovation.

One of the most recent moves by designers was motion-controlled games. The first modern system to come out that used motion controls was the Nintendo Wii, released in 2006. Presently on the market are the Wii, the Kinect for Xbox 360 and PlayStation Move.

Motion-control games sound like a great idea in theory: you can get up off the couch and physically control what the character in the game does with your own body movements.

Some gamers seem thoroughly excited for this development, like Christine Harris, a casual gamer who plays once every couple of weeks. She said she especially enjoys playing games on the Kinect. "It's awesome! I love being so involved. Like in *Kinect Sports* – to box, you have to really punch!"

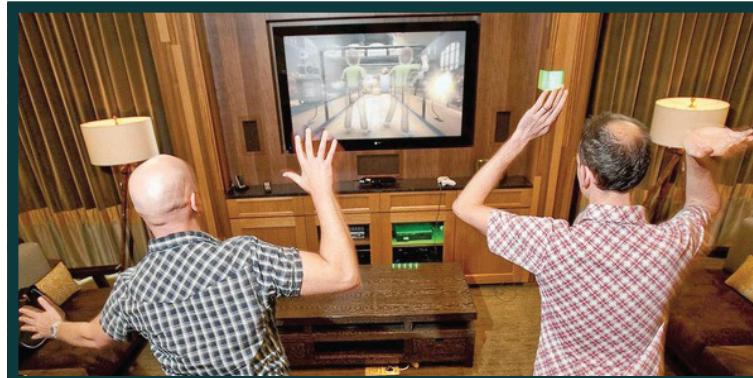
Serious gamers seem to have a different opinion on the matter. Joe Huntington is an avid gamer who spends an average of 10 hours per week playing all types of games, from first-person shooters to role-playing games. Huntington got his gaming start early in life. "I got a (Nintendo) Game Boy from my

parents when I was probably six or seven," he explained. "I took it everywhere with me, from friend's houses to family events. But they never let me have a real console. They thought I would spend too much time just sitting in front of the TV playing games."

After working odd jobs for an entire summer and saving every penny, Huntington finally took matters into his own hands, buying a friend's old Nintendo 64. Just as his parents had feared, "I spent hours sitting

"When you think back to like, a (Nintendo) Virtual Boy or the Nintendo Power Glove, they seem really gimmicky. The big thing today is trying to turn that gimmicky product into something that people absolutely need."

Going overboard with motion control would definitely hinder the gaming experience, said Huntington. "It has to be done delicately to be done well. Too much motion control will take away from the experience. There are subtle things, like if I'm



in front of the TV playing *Perfect Dark*," Huntington confessed. "My gaming kind of just kept going from that point on. I bought myself a PlayStation 2 and an Xbox. Now I have all the new systems (Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, PlayStation 3) and I collect vintage systems and games."

Huntington said he is unsure how he feels about new motion control games. "I believe that it could go in a good direction, but it could also go in a really bad direction," he explained.

playing Wii, Kinect or Move, and all it's having you do is run on the spot, that's really good. With motion control, I find that if it's getting you to try to do too many things with the motion, it takes away from the enjoyment of the game."

There are some games that look as though they'll be achieving the right balance for motion control, such as Microsoft's implementation of Kinect into their new racing game, *Forza Motorsport 4*, said

Huntington. "It's integrated in a way that enhances the experience instead of trying to redefine the whole game." He explained that the game uses an innovative technology called head tracking. "While you're still playing with a regular controller, if you turn your head to the left or right, the driver's head on the screen and your view of the game pans in that direction."

Another devoted gamer, Pat Vis, holds a similar viewpoint. "I don't really care for motion controls, as most of the games that use them aren't made for the core gamer," he explained. "However, I think they are a great way for kids and families to play games and to get into gaming."

In essence, what Huntington wants from a motion-control game is simplicity. "Less is definitely more," he expressed. So it would seem that the more serious the gamer, the less interest there is in motion controls, but even the most enthusiastic gamers can't turn down every gimmick. "I will say that I'm very excited for the *Star Wars* game for Kinect. I want to be able to hold my hand up to the screen and use The Force," Huntington confessed.

There appears to be a great divide between those who are eager for motion-controlled games, and those who are wary of the change in gameplay. Gamers hope that game designers will be able to strike a balance and give all gamers exactly the new experience they are looking for.

FINDING LOVE IN AZEROTH: A PIXEL-PERFECT LOVE STORY

In college, many couples meet in class or through friends. Others find each other in the bar and club scenes. Still others turn to online sources like Plenty of Fish. But once in a while, you'll meet a rare couple who didn't meet in this world at all: they met in the *World of Warcraft*.

World of Warcraft is an online multiplayer role-playing game. Each player controls a character of a certain class, and each class has a special set of abilities and talents. Players complete quests to level up, eventually defeating bosses with large groups of other players in events called raids.

Tyler and Kelsie (last names withheld to protect privacy) are one of these unconventional couples who met in the game. Their story begins with Tyler teasing Kelsie on the *WoW* online forums. Kelsie looked him up on her server, Demon Soul, and the two began chatting in-game. Tyler played a number of characters, including a Hunter named Central and a Death Knight named Letdown, and Kelsie was working to level her second character, a Shaman named Delightful.

"We really hit it off and ended up becoming close friends for five months, talking on the phone and through texts," she explained.

Chatting in-game was definitely an unconventional way of getting to know each other. "Before we got together, it was sometimes the only way we could talk ... I wouldn't even say we really 'played' together for the first few months. It was just casual talking when we were online at the same time," said Tyler. "Eventually it caused us to actually get to know each other a lot better because we started organizing things (in-game) together."

The couple didn't consider themselves "official" until July 2009, when Tyler drove from Kansas City to Indianapolis. Kelsie packed up all her worldly possessions (her desktop and clothes) and moved across state lines to be with him.

After moving into an apartment, the couple continued to play together, and Kelsie joined Tyler's guild. "For me, it wasn't too hard (to separate *WoW* from our real-life relationship) until new content came out," said Kelsie. With new content, different parts of the world become accessible, meaning new dungeons and more complicated bosses to defeat. Kelsie said she especially felt pressure from the difficulty of new content. "It felt like we were bashing our heads against a wall. I don't deal well with failure, so I was taking out in-game things on him."

Tyler said he has also noticed that playing the game together occasionally puts some strain on their relationship. "Raiding together could lead to arguing outside of the game, or one of us getting angry at the other for messing around. Quite a few of our offline fights stemmed from *WoW*, especially when, for example, she would want to go out and do something on a raid night, things like that."

"It really comes down to balancing the game without making your significant other too angry," he added.

But *WoW* definitely doesn't only add negativity to their relationship, Kelsie was sure to add. "It's inexpensive and really fun, especially with all the new quests and zones with

(the *Cataclysm*) expansion. Leveling characters together is a blast, and it gives us something to do on nights we'd otherwise be spending \$60 to \$80 at a bar or with friends."

Other gamer couples could consider *Warcraft* a different way to hang out together, they said. "It's a fun way to enjoy each other's company, sitting right next to each other or a thousand miles away," said Kelsie.

Today, the couple has been together for over two years and they are currently working to remodel their home. "*WoW* has brought us together," said Kelsie. "We level alternate characters, do heroic dungeons or run 10-man raids together." The couple is also sure to take breaks a few nights every week from the game so they don't feel as though that is all they do. "We could live without *WoW*, it's just a pastime, but we play because we enjoy doing something together that's inexpensive and fun," she smiled.

When they tell people how they met, "Most people are pretty surprised that a relationship from a game was successful or even came to fruition," said Tyler, but it's clear that these two love fools couldn't be happier.

So go on, /wave at that cute Gnome, or /wink at that hot young Undead – you never know who you might meet!

HELP DONATE A PERFECT CHRISTMAS



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GAMES | GEEK PRIDE

THE LOWDOWN ON LARPING

Alison McGee | Interrobang

www.SCA.org



It's a grey, overcast day with a cool breeze blowing over the field. The sounds of swords clashing fill the air, along with war cries and shouts of defiance. The battle is taking full force – knights exchanging blows with their opponents with longswords and axes while lords and ladies watch from their seats. Across from the field is a shopping plaza full of curious onlookers trying to figure out why there is a medieval battle taking place in this modern world.

LARPing, which stands for Live Action Role-Playing, is when a group of people play or act out a game or story in the real world. Instead of rolling the dice to clash swords with your opponent, as in a traditional tabletop role-playing game like *Dungeons and Dragons*, you suit up in your best real armor, grab a real (albeit wooden and completely harmless) sword and have a real battle. LARPing has been around for decades and spans the globe, and a particularly large society exists now right here in London.

Jenna Hegler is a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism and has been since her university days. "I went to Carlton and there was a society on campus called the Carlton Medievalists," she explained. "It was really just a 'gateway drug' to the SCA." After graduating university, Hegler returned to London and got involved in the local group. That's where she met her fiancé, though she knew him only by his character name at first.

The SCA is "old, massive and worldwide," according to Hegler. "The world is divided up into kingdoms; where we are right now is called Ealdormere, which is more or less Ontario. Then it's broken down into local chapters. London/St. Thomas is called Trinovantia Nova." Within Trinovantia Nova there are approximately 75 to 80 members, although they rarely convene simultaneously. "Usually at a local meeting there are about 20 people," said Hegler.

The Known World Handbook is a basic introduction to all the elements of the SCA, including a guide

to the language, costuming and etiquette. "There are a vast number of choices for characters you can create," she said. "The SCA encompasses everything from the early Romans to about 1550 AD. At a feast you could have a Roman guard sitting next to a Tudor lady." With such a wide variety of choices of who to be and what to do, and with a schedule that could keep you busy nearly every night of the week in London if you were involved in everything, the SCA is everything that a history-loving LARPer could want.

The SCA is much more than simply dressing up in costume and pretending you're in the Middle Ages; a large part of the society's activities centre around fighting. There is heavy fighting, which involves swords; thrown weaponry, which involves knives and axes; and archery. "It's really safe," said Hegler. "We have martialists who check your armor and weapons all the time to make sure no one gets hurt. The weapons are all made of rattan and rubber, so they can't actually slice you up." The SCA also offers activities for those who enjoy more peaceful pursuits including sewing, cooking, brewing, herb-craft and different kinds of dance.

Hegler said newcomers are made to feel welcome, and that there is a strong sense of community within the SCA. "Every group has a person whose job it is to make new people comfortable, to make sure they know a few things and really get them to their first event."

If the Middle Ages, swordfighting and sewing aren't really your style, but you're still interested in LARPing, there are other options out there. For fans of the supernatural, particularly vampires, there exists a Live Action Role-Playing game known as *World of Darkness*. "It's essentially a vampire-by-night sort of game," explained Dan Stark (name has been changed to protect privacy), who was at one time very active in that game.

"I enjoyed doing dramatic arts in high school, and after I graduated, this was a way to continue that for me," he said. *World of Darkness*

is a form of LARPing that takes place in public, yet in total secrecy. "You could go into a bar or a restaurant and have the game going on and no one else knew," explained Stark.

World of Darkness is a complex game with its own mythology and extensive rules. "There are books available that set out the rules," said Stark, "and there are guides to creating your character." The mythology of the game follows the idea that the biblical Cain was the first vampire, making him the most powerful, and every generation he sired had weaker powers than the last. Every character has three major traits: mental, physical and social.

According to Stark, many of the players were eager to take the game to the next level. "A lot of people got into costuming with it, and that wasn't always feasible to do in public." He added that the reason for the secrecy from the public was because "vampires aren't supposed to exist

in real life. If you're found out by a member of the public, that would be a big problem." To adapt to the deeper involvement of the game, "We started having private sessions. We would rent a place out for a night and then everyone could come in full costume while maintaining that secrecy."

If you love to get dressed up, act out things that would regularly never happen in your day-to-day life or you're really into fantasy worlds, LARPing might just be the thing for you. Live Action Role-Playing is a great way to play games and meet some awesome new friends.

Both the SCA and *World of Darkness* are still going strong, with opportunities for playing both games available locally. For more information on how to get involved, visit sca.org or worldofdarkness.com

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CHECK OUT SOME CHIPTUNE BANDS

Interested in checking out some chiptune bands? These groups provide a broad spectrum of sounds and serve as great examples of different ways that artists can incorporate chiptune into their music.

Anamanaguchi

From: New York, NY

Sounds like: classical music composed for video games. Anamanaguchi begins with rich 8-bit compositions and then blends in traditional rock elements like guitars, drums and bass. The chiptune is the main instrument here.

Sky Eats Airplane

From: Fort Worth, TX

Sounds like: metal meets Mega Man. Sky Eats Airplane is a tight hardcore metal outfit that employs chiptune elements for texture throughout their songs a modern rhythm section.

Supercommuter

From: Seattle, WA

Sounds like: space-age hip-hop. Flowing over top of chiptune compositions seems like the kind of game Kanye might've gotten into if he could have done it as well as this trio from Seattle.

I Fight Dragons

From: Chicago, IL

Sounds like: pop rock music for dancers. All the energy and polish of pop rock acts are present, however the electronic element provided by the chiptune undertones make for a musical flavour just begging you to get up and get down.

YMCK

From: Tokyo, Japan

Sounds like: a Nintendo came to life and started to sing. Since 2004, YMCK has been performing around Asia and composing chiptune, even filtering singer Midori Kurihara's vocals through a vocoder to emulate the 8-bit effect. The music is infectious, but there isn't much English to hear.

CHIPTUNE ON LIKE DONKEY KONG

Bobby Foley | Interrobang

While it doesn't take much to be a music geek, what with diversity in musical styles and the high collectibility of music itself these days, there is a special place in geekdom for chiptune.

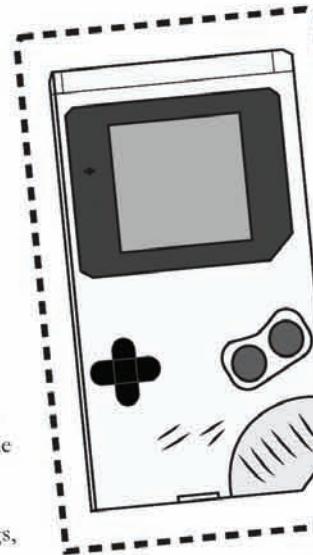
Chiptune is a unique form of music in that it has a very specific niche without being tied to any distinct genre; you needn't be interested in a particular style of music — like country, rap or rock music — but you may need to have an open mind and a penchant for whimsy.

As an art form, chiptune takes its beginnings from the creation of computerized music back in the 1950s, but it was the advancement of home entertainment technology in the 1980s that provided the real push into the foreground. Computers like the Commodore 64 and NEC PCs, as well as Nintendo gaming systems, evolved to the point that they required an in-board 8-bit sound chip or subsystems to support the game, and the musical canvas was just broad enough for composers to create some elaborate works of music.

Gaming systems continued to evolve, but not all of the composers followed suit. MIDI music would continue on through the 1990s, and that concept of distilling music down through 8-bit filters would also prove to survive.

Enter the geek. These home entertainment systems all featured variations on a waveform generator, a module within that provided some control over tracks and tones, though often within the confines of a certain pitch or timbre, the quality or colour of the notes themselves. While an 8-bit tone is much more forgiving than voice-quality recordings, it presents more in the way of a challenge when it comes to composing.

Chip music continued on, elaborately composed and used in all manner of private or commercial projects, though was rarely performed in a live setting outside of being used in samples in works of hip-hop or rock music. But then the 2000s hit, and young bands and composers began to incorporate the old equipment to complement their sound with specially designed 8-bit electronic textures. Chiptune was one of the first triumphs of the musical open-source movement empowered by the Creative Commons copyrighting protocols, which meant that composers could share and connect with each



other in all new ways over the Internet.

When Anamanaguchi — a chiptune rock band from New York that incorporates a custom hacked Nintendo Entertainment System from 1985 into their live setup — was featured on CollegeHumor's online show *Bleep Bloop* in 2009, the exposure opened doors for them to explore

exciting opportunities, like composing the soundtrack to *Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World: The Game*. The band is still as active as ever before, and spent the summer touring France.

And while it's commonly known that the Internet age has had some profound impacts on music and the industry, there aren't many other examples of it having so direct and important a hand in the birth of a new cultural music, a real contribution to music lovers and geeks alike.

For more information on chiptune or to browse, listen to and engage with a thriving chiptune community, visit the 8bitcollective at 8bc.org.



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MUSIC | GEEK PRIDE

THE SCIENCE OF IMAGINATION

Bobby Foley | Interrobang

Comic books have gotten an unfair rap. Long considered a nerd milieu, comics are a celebrated art form enjoyed in countries around the world by readers of all ages and backgrounds. However, the way they came about being the subject of uncool association is a simple misunderstanding: roughly 50 years ago, comics made a shift from the supernatural to the superhuman, and everything shifted along with them.

"Comics, as a medium, are a little magical," explained Conor McCreery, who created IDW's *Kill Shakespeare* with Anthony Del Col in Toronto. "There are lots of things you play with in a comic. A comic is rarely ever completely realistic — in fact, I think most comics that are totally realistic are probably boring and misuse the medium."

McCreery pointed out that even since the shift in comic stories brought on all those years ago, the only thing one needs in order to enjoy comics today is imagination — which is exactly what comics set out to ignite when they first emerged in their present-day format early in the twentieth century.

THE BACK-STORY

Though comics have been printed in their earliest forms since the 1840s, the beginning of the age of comics as we know it is a result of the 1935 debut of National Allied Publications, which was responsible for the creation of the comic book format, and its eventual takeover by the newly formed Detective Comics, Inc. in 1937.

Detective Comics (or DC, as they would come to be known in the following years) was responsible for launching a number of notable series, including their namesake *Detective Comics* — which introduced the world to Bob Kane and Bill Finger's Batman in 1939 in issue #27 — and the *Action Comics* series, which introduced Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's Superman in its premiere in 1938.

At the same time, Timely Publications — founded in 1939 — was launching a number of series as well, including *Captain America Comics*, which debuted in 1941 with the Cap himself punching Hitler in the face. Timely would go on to become Atlas Comics in the 1950s, and eventually be known as Marvel Comics in 1961.

This is where the major shift occurred; as comics began to enter what is known as the Silver Age in the late 1950s, the superhero archetype enjoyed a positive boom with the debut of the Flash in DC Comics and the creative revolution out of Marvel Comics in the early 1960s, led by mastermind Stan Lee.

THE PREQUEL

Lee's vision was simple: a new era of superheroes and comic icons based in reality. Not only would heroes and comic stars live and work in real cities across America — a concept that competitor DC rarely forayed into — but they would be real people with real lives, jobs, relationships and all the problems that come with them. It was that vision that launched *The Fantastic Four* in 1961, and *The Amazing Spider-man* in 1962.

One aspect of this vision, however, meant embracing reality in the creation of the heroes; each new hero was created with a back-story that embraced the scientific over the supernatural, like unforeseen complications on a mission to outer space or a bite from a radioactive spider. So important was this drive that many of the comics that sprang forth from the new Marvel age were

heavily steeped in meticulous science fiction theories and concepts, unintentionally relegating them to the likes of the nerds and geeks alike.

The casting of characters in the new Marvel series as regular people was also revolutionary — Reed Richards (Mr. Fantastic) and Peter Parker were, themselves, widely considered unpopular and nerdy, a new concept in an industry where the heroes were aliens with superhuman abilities or millionaire playboys with unlimited resources. In fact, Peter Parker was the first teenage character in comics to step beyond the traditional sidekick role into the limelight, mixing his teenage fears and insecurities with the added responsibility of protecting his native New York from evil.

THE PRESENT

Though there's an element of familiarity in being able to relate to the characters, one can debate whether it is important to be realistic in comics. Indeed, if writers were expected to be perfectly realistic, not only would they need a team of researchers working for them, verifying every fact and concept, the comic itself could be so technical as to overwhelm the underlying story.

Whether they realize it or not, comic readers are adept at suspending their beliefs in order to enjoy a story. To illustrate the point, McCreery related it in a way that geeks everywhere will understand.

"Even though it's set in space, in a lot of ways *Star Wars* isn't science fiction," McCreery posited. "It's more like fantasy-adventure, in that it's got this prophecy, it's got this 'Force' story, it's got this young man learning how to use this innate power. And, you know, you've got laser guns and you've got spaceships, but at its heart it obeys the demands of the fantasy-adventure drama."

"*Star Trek* to me is much more like classic science fiction in that it's about the technologies and how you apply them," he continued. "It's about

logic conquering — or, sometimes, logic facing — faith, and how that can't be explained and how that's sometimes a problem for the characters. And you look at *Star Trek* fans, and they're very exacting as to how that world should work."

Similarly, while comics can have their foot in science fiction, McCreery pointed out that despite the theories and concepts embedded in the work, there is a lack of specificity inherent in the science.

"Marvel tried to make things fairly realistic, but still they never said, 'Well, this much radioactive spider venom went into Spider-man, meaning he can only lift this much weight.' They don't play with those rules, they just let you know that there are limits to Spider-man."

"We have fans who view almost Shakespeare's canon through the lens of a Trekkie, in that there is one answer, and one answer only," he explained, relating the theory to *Kill Shakespeare* writers. "But just as freeing — and a little more often, thankfully for us — are people looking at Shakespeare again, almost as if it was a fantasy adventure, or a spiritual type of story."

TO BE CONTINUED?

A lot can be learned from comics and comic creators; not only do they excel at crafting and relating original stories on a frequent basis, excelling at the art of visual storytelling in ways that few others have, they've discovered and routinely demonstrate that the key ingredient to adventure, to wonder and to marvel is only imagination, and lots of it.

Comics have enjoyed a rich history over the past seven decades, and are going as strong as ever. London has a lot to offer comic fans, and in this issue, Interrobang has a guide to the finest comic shops here in town worth perusing — perhaps you'll rekindle a lost love of adventure, intrigue or even introspection.



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Bobby Foley | Interrobang

THE ENIGMA OF THE JOKER

In all of comic book history, there is one character that has stood the test of time and interest unlike any other, one figure that has defied explanation and remained a mystery to readers the world over. Truly, there is no character in literature as unpredictable and inscrutable as the Joker.

Despite being born over 70 years ago in the pages of *Batman #1*, published in 1940 by DC Comics, the Joker is shrouded in mystery. Accountable to no one, bound only by his imagination and spurred on by his bravado, the Joker is possibly the most sinister literary villain in the history of fiction.

When it comes to the Joker, the biggest mystery of all is that he has no back-story, no concrete origin tale. He simply came to be that day back in 1940, simply arrived and started leaving bodies in his wake.

If you're not an avid comic reader, chances are you know the Joker from one (or both) of the feature-length Batman movies in which he appeared. You may also have noticed that each treats the character in very different ways, but that's a story as old as the Joker himself.

Though rated by Wizard Magazine as the greatest villain of all time, the Joker was portrayed as a mere nuisance during the "camp" Batman years — the period that spawned the television series starring Adam West as the caped crusader and Cesar Romero as the Joker.

In the 1970s, the Joker was reinvented and returned to his roots as a straightforward mass murderer — the evil archetype that fans of this generation are far more accustomed to — and it was a 1986 book called *The Killing Joke* by acclaimed writer Alan Moore that provided the most widely accepted possibility of the origin of the Joker.

In it, a nameless engineer at a chemical plant gives up his job to pursue stand-up comedy, but when he can't support his pregnant wife, he agrees to aid some criminals in breaking into his old workplace. Batman arrives to stop the crime, and in the scuffle the troubled comedian falls into a vat of chemicals with terrible consequences to his appearance and sanity.

In Tim Burton's *Batman* (1989), Jack Nicholson portrays the character as Jack Napier, a mobster who becomes the Joker after a similar accident in a chemical factory. Prior to that, however, it shows a young Jack ambush and murder young Bruce Wayne's parents in an alley. In the end, Batman is unable to save the Joker from a fall off of Gotham Cathedral, and he plummets to the street below to his death. Interestingly enough, the Joker of the comics universe was nearly killed off after his appearance in *Batman #2* in 1940, and narrowly avoided death several times thereafter.

If you're familiar with Christopher Nolan's resurrection of the Batman franchise, you're undoubtedly aware that Bruce Wayne became the Batman without the assistance of mobsters or the Joker, in any shape or form. This holds much truer to the accepted continuity of the series, something Nolan worked very hard to do. But even in *Batman Begins* (2005), hints of the Joker exist.

Of course, it was *The Dark Knight* (2008) that introduced Nolan's Joker to the world, brilliantly brought to life by the late Heath Ledger. Simply the new guy in town, the Joker arrives on the scene — as he did so many times in the comics — showing up out of the blue to claim by any means necessary what he felt was his: total control of the criminal underworld of Gotham City.

And perhaps that's where this character is the most terrifying; despite actions that seem to embrace the insane, the truth is more that the Joker operates with a frightening clarity. Though they seem to contradict his true nature of chaos and chance, his every action and every victim seems almost meticulously calculated — that is, until Batman comes around to reel him in.

The Joker's fear of the Batman is very real, and it is in fact the only emotion he seems to register. He acts aloof, driven by plans he never completely reveals to anyone and for reasons he never explains. Yet when the Batman arrives, the Joker is often swept by sheer panic ... and puzzling joy. Theirs is a unique symbiotic relationship — the Joker often acts as though he is trying to win Batman's approval, constructing each crime or murder "masterpiece" like a macaroni portrait presented to a father figure.

Ledger's Joker captured that passion like no other; he appears without warning or explanation, bearing the Glasgow smile — the scars that seem to extend his smile ear to ear, received in the comics when a cop dressed as the Caped Crusader shot him in the face in *Batman #655* — and seems to have a master plan that for every eventuality.

Ledger prepared for his Academy Award-winning role in an isolated month-long hotel residence, exploring and constructing the essence of the character and recording his thoughts into journals. The result was cinematic genius. Sadly, Ledger captured that disposition so well that it drove him to insomnia and a dependence on sleeping pills and other prescription drugs, which led to his eventual death.

The Joker, then, has become the first comic book villain responsible for claiming the life of a real person, further testimony to the sheer diabolic madness of the character set into motion all those decades ago. Ironically, Ledger has dealt a blow to the Joker in return, as the mantle may simply be too much for another actor to assume for years to come.

Nolan's vision of the Batman will return next summer with *The Dark Knight Rises*, but glimpses of the movie so far seem to indicate that the Joker will not be a part of the film. The future of Gotham's Clown Prince of Crime is as uncertain as his past, but like so many times before, you can be sure we haven't seen the last of him.

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COMICS / COLLECTABLES | GEEK PRIDE

Bury Me Beneath The Horsefeathers

MADISON FOSTER
INTERROBANG

On October 22, friends, family and fans all found themselves piled into the main room at the London Music Club to celebrate the CD releases of two local artists: Alanna Gurr's *Oh, Horsefeathers* and Graham Nicholas' *Bury Me Beneath The Dance Floor*. Both artists played songs from their first full-length albums on a stage decorated with a feather backdrop as others clapped, stomped and danced in the small spaces within the crowd. At the show, I was lucky enough to snag both releases and spent most of the next day listening to both, one after the other.

The first one I put on was *Oh, Horsefeathers*. Gurr, a native of Guelph, Ontario, made her mark on the London music scene before graduating from the Fanshawe/Western Media Theory and Production program. In that time, she recorded an EP which was released in September 2010 on Oh! Records, the same label that has released titles from other local artists including Olenka and the Autumn Lovers and The Whipping Wind.

When asked about the EP, Gurr said it was to basically try out what she had since, she had only began

booking shows at the time. "The LP (*Oh, Horsefeathers*) is in response to what felt like a positive reaction to the EP by the music community in both London and outside of it."

Gurr, whose influence when writing includes One Hundred Dollars, Julie Doiron and Frazey Ford, described the full-length album as a transition into the folk rock sound from where she started as a singer-songwriter but with a lot more of a full body sound. One thing I noticed as I looked over the case of *Oh, Horsefeathers* is that there are a few tracks that are repeated from the self-titled EP including "Lovely Girl", "October" and "Chapel". The difference in sounds between the tracks on the EP and LP make the songs unique in their own way. While the songs were originally recorded with more acoustic, instrumental accents, when listening to the full-length LP, I was astounded by the more electric and raw guitar sound – the perfect complement to Gurr's soft twang that could be described as a voice that could sing lullabies to kittens. Lovers of the original acoustic sounds that were first produced by Gurr should not fear, though; the more gentle melodies can still be

heard on newer, heartfelt songs including the tracks like "Little One".

Gurr credited a lot of time and patience to achieving the sound given to stories of love and loss. "Dan Beeson from Magnetic Sound Studios in Guelph recorded and mastered the album. He was amazing, and really understood what I wanted to do with the songs," she said. "I'm really going to try to get *Oh, Horsefeathers* out there and hopefully noticed. Its more what I wanted the songs to sound like from the beginning." Although Gurr said the recording time needed to create this album of beautiful and soulful folk and blues songs took longer than anticipated, it was worth it because in the end there were a lot of friends who came out to help produce a sound that make *Oh, Horsefeathers* a true success for Alanna Gurr and makes it an album definitely worth the listen.

One of the friends responsible for the success of *Oh, Horsefeathers* is Graham Nicholas, who created his own success with the release of his full-length album, *Bury Me Beneath The Dance Floor*.

Nicholas, a veteran of the local band Red Horse, said that band-

mate Scott Brunt was one of his main influences when writing. "He was the one who really encouraged me the most to start singing and songwriting," said Nicholas.

He confessed that some tracks on the album are some of the first songs he had ever written, but recording them for *Bury Me Beneath The Dance Floor* is how Nicholas was able to finally get to know them a little better. "I've been playing some of them for so long that it's kind of like seeing the preacher's face in the other side of the confession booth for the first time." The love and pride he has for these songs show in the tender care taken to make the stories that have inspired him for years into a well-rounded and blended sound with the perfect mix of instrumental and vocal harmonies. The dosey doe-ing, foot-stomping sounds of tracks like "Her Name is Rock and Roll" play well against some of the more heartfelt newer tracks including "In the Blue of Noon" and "Keepin' the Soul Alive". Although these slower, more sway-worthy numbers may act as a bit of a breather when your hands are sore from clapping to the beat, they also show Nicholas' maturity as an artist with a different style of songwriting he has been moving

towards.

With the full, hearty sound of the album, you would never guess that the recording process was done by personal friend Casey Wolfe, who plays bass on the album. Nicholas described the experience as "bare minimum, low-key and at times guerrilla style," and said it couldn't have been done without Wolfe, Simon Larochette, who mixed the album, and CHRW, the radio station owned and operated by the University of Western Ontario Students' Council, who helped by loaning equipment to the cause and by supporting Nicholas and *Bury Me Beneath The Dance Floor* 100 per cent.

Nicholas said that the sound created on the album, clearly influenced by great musicians including Townes Van Zandt, Hank Williams and Bruce Springsteen, also couldn't have been possible without all the great local musicians in making *Bury Me Beneath The Dance Floor* what it is: a creative and confident first step for Graham Nicholas.

Both albums, *Oh, Horsefeathers* and *Bury Me Beneath The Dance Floor*, are available at Grooves Records, located at 353 Clarence St.



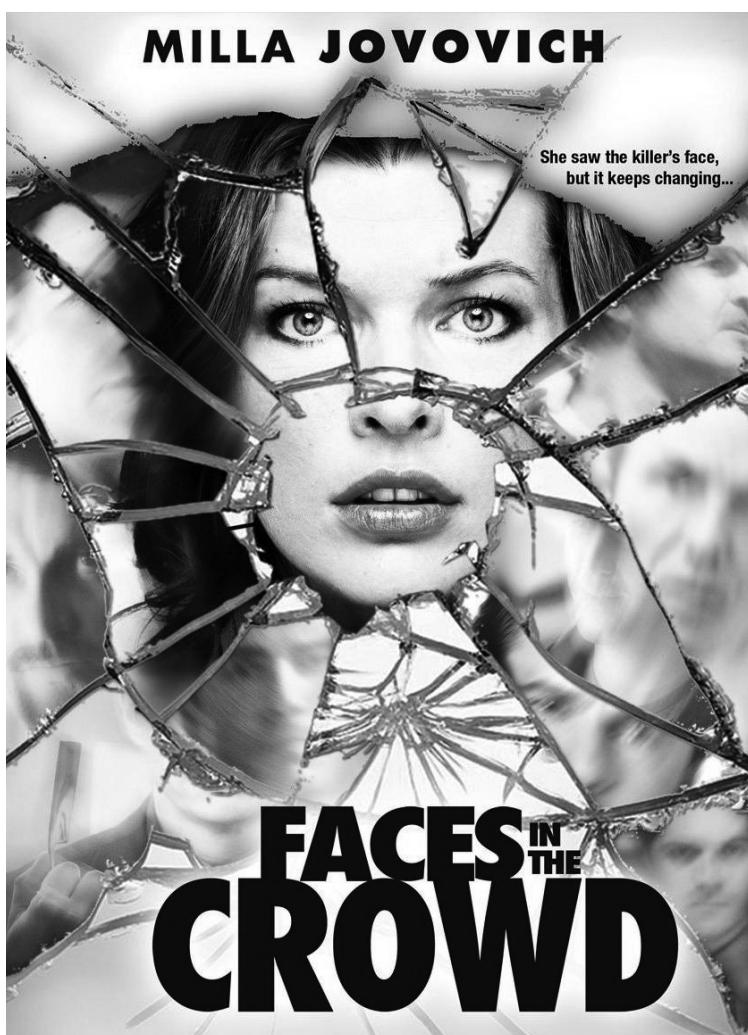
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Jovovich faces a challenging role

REMINGTON BOCKWINKEL
INTERROBANG

Faces in the Crowd (2011)



Milla Jovovich takes a break from tangling with the undead to star in the new to home video thriller *Faces in the Crowd*, which tells the tale of a woman suffering from a rare condition after witnessing a murder.

In *Faces in the Crowd*, Jovovich (*Resident Evil*, *The Three Musketeers*) stars as Anna, a schoolteacher who witnesses a serial killer offing yet another victim. In her attempts to flee the killer's wrath, Anna takes a nasty fall, and wakes up with a life-changing condition.

Anna awakens in the hospital suffering from Prosopagnosia ("face-blindness"), which seriously impairs her ability to recognize anyone. While she can still see other objects and bodily features, she may look at someone's face 10 times and it will look different to her each time.

This condition obviously prevents Anna from helping out with the case against the killer, much to the dismay of her contact on the

case, Detective Kerrest (Julian McMahon of *Nip/Tuck*). As you might suspect, though, the detective's frustration towards Anna soon turns to affection. Kerrest works closely with Anna as the killer, who learns of her condition, begins to play mind games.

Jovovich and McMahon are both very good in this film playing against type. Jovovich, currently working on her fifth *Resident Evil* film, has become known as one of cinema's top female action stars, kicking zombie butt and taking names, yet here she plays a very fragile character, and she pulls it off beautifully. McMahon is best known as plastic surgeon Dr. Christian Troy of *Nip/Tuck*, one of television's most egotistical and self-centred characters, but he seems equally adept at playing the no-frills, heroic detective. Both show that they are anything but one-trick ponies.

Faces in the Crowd features a really unique premise and great acting from the two leads. The film does drag a little near the end, but it really does outperform most other films in the serial killer/victim on the run genre. It also really makes you think about the gifts most people taken for granted, like the ability to distinguish one face from another.

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Everybody cut *Footloose*

REEL VIEWS
Alison McGee
a_gaze@fanshawec.ca

Footloose (2011)



Sure, nothing can really compare to the 1984 Kevin Bacon classic dance flick *Footloose*, but the new 2011 modernization from director Craig Brewer certainly comes close.

Ren MacCormack has moved from big city Boston to small town Beaumont in the wake of family tragedy. With his father gone and his mother dead, Ren is taken in by his aunt and uncle and forced to adapt to the conservative, Christian ways of Beaumont. Ren quickly learns two things about Beaumont: he's falling for the preacher's daughter and dancing within city limits is against the law. As Ren navigates his way through a dangerous love triangle, new friendships and a new life, he sets his sights on having the law against dancing repealed.

Attempting to fill the shoes of the infamous Bacon is relative newcomer Kenny Wormald. Previously appearing in dancing roles in *Centre Stage: Turn it Up* and *Clerks II*, Wormald now boogies his way into leading man territory. It can be daunting to appear in a beloved remake, but Wormald does not fail to impress. With the same vim and vigor that Bacon originally brought to the role, Wormald gives an electric energy to Ren MacCormack, making every moment he appears on screen thoroughly entertaining.



CREDIT: PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Kenny Wormald and Julianne Hough star in *Footloose*.

Bringing life to the mischievous, rebellious preacher's daughter Ariel is another newcomer, Julianne Hough. Hough, who is best known for her amazingly talented performances on *Dancing With The Stars*, proves that she also has acting chops in her first leading role. Hough plays the rebel, the good girl and the activist all in one in the complicated role of Ariel. Hough never falls flat for a moment, and through her character's good times and bad, she draws the audience in and makes them care.

Dennis Quaid and Andie MacDowell play Ariel's parents, Shaw and Vi Moore. Quaid gives an adequate performance as the Southern preacher, but it feels more like he is simply reciting his lines than putting any emotion into it. MacDowell seems to simply fade into the background.

Fan favourite (and certainly my favourite) awkward Willard is

played by the immensely funny and talented Miles Teller. Teller embodies the shy, awkward side of Willard as well as the inarguable attractiveness of the down home country boy.

All in all, *Footloose* is a good watch. It is not the original. It is not a total overhaul of the story. It is a tasteful, entertaining update to allow a more modern audience to identify with and enjoy the story. Although remakes are not always favourites of either fans or critics, this one is worth your time if you have any affection for the original.

The music, the dancing, the laughter and the well-intentioned rebellion against "the man" make for a fun-filled flick. A warning, though: if you intend to go into this hoping for an exact replica of the original, you may be well advised to skip it and save yourself agonizing over minor details that have been changed.

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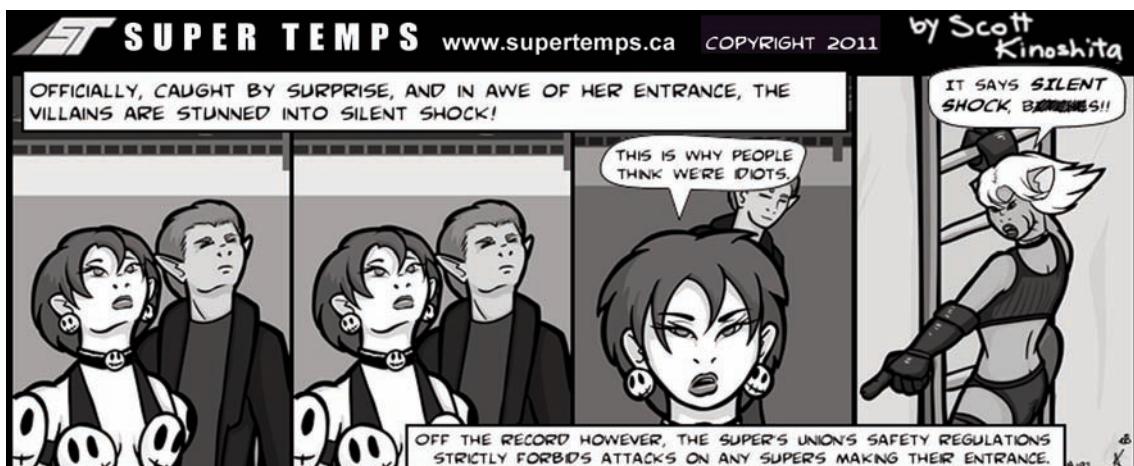
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**Graphical Deviants****Butt sweat n Tears** by Andres Silva**NOT NEUROTYPICAL****NERDS****BEST IN LATE NIGHT COMIC RELIEF****LATE NIGHT with Jimmy Fallon**

The iPod's been around for 10 years, which is also the length of time it takes to untangle your iPod headphones.

Wal-Mart is planning to reduce its healthcare plan for new employees. Which explains why today, my greeter was like, "Hello, welcome to Wal-Mart. Would you mind checking out this mole?"

I just read that a bear broke into a candy store in Tennessee and started eating all the candy. That's right, a live bear filled with candy. Or as Sarah Palin calls that, "the best piña-ta ever."

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is going to Israel. He's going to be pretty disappointed when he finds out the Gaza Strip isn't a steak.

CONAN with Conan O'Brien

McDonald's announced that they will sell the McRib sandwich only until November 14. Unfortunately, it looks like I'll have to cook for Thanksgiving after all.

A bank in Washington was robbed by two men in George W. Bush masks. Luckily, right afterwards two guys in President Obama masks came and bailed the bank out.

President Obama was back in Los Angeles today, where he will appear on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, to highlight the one job that was saved during his administration.

They have buried Moammar Gadhafi at a secret undisclosed location. In other words, it's going to be the best season of *The Amazing Race* yet.

**THE TONIGHT SHOW with Jay Leno**

A judge has ordered Lindsay Lohan to work at the L.A. morgue. This way she can do community service and visit her career at the same time.

It seemed that after he was killed, Gadhafi's body was stored at a commercial freezer at a shopping mall. It's one thing to hunt a guy down and shoot him twice in the head, but then to drag him to the mall? Come on, guys hate that.

A Libyan rebel has admitted to killing Moammar Gadhafi. He said he shot Gadhafi twice in the temple, while Michele Bachmann said, "I didn't even know the guy was Jewish."

Rick Perry unveiled his new tax plan. He says he wants a flat tax. He believes that tax should be flat, just like the earth.

JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE with Jimmy Kimmel

I personally didn't watch *Dancing With the Stars* tonight because if there's anything I learned from the new *Footloose* remake, it's that dancing is a sin and should not be tolerated.

The world was supposed to end Friday. I don't think it did, though. Harold Camping also predicted the apocalypse was going to happen back in May and I don't think that one happened either. Well, you know what they say, the third apocalypse is the charm.

Today was National Greasy Foods Day. This is America, every day is greasy foods day. So, you hear that, Michelle Obama? You can take your celery sticks and throw them in the deep fryer.

**BUS STOP**

zodiac stargazer HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Unilateral decisions won't make you any friends. Your desires outweigh all conceivable consequences. If you seek renewal, this will definitely change things. How it might change them is another matter.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Mystery is a rich experience if you can afford it. You have a passion for uncovering the truth, and no tolerance for anyone who gets in the way. Stay balanced to retain your advantage.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

You're out of step, off your feed or under the weather. Gemini should understand the difference between guidelines and mandates. At least you can appreciate what you can't control.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Water aligns favourably with Earth and Fire. Cancer is in love with a person, project or process. Explain yourself. Show your feelings. New developments make the good parts that much better.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Put away the whitewash. No one will accept partial answers and half-truths. The original program is still in effect for a very good reason. Leo needs to be a team player for the next few days.

Virgo (August 23 - Sept. 22)

A hot tip goes to waste if you don't use it immediately. Circumstances favour rush jobs and ruthless optimism. You'll happily show the way to anyone who can handle your kind of guidance.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

You're more intermediary than instigator. This is a chance to determine whether you're making full use of your available budget. Frame your questions academically so that others won't be suspicious.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Others may have control issues, but these days you just have control. Policy is Scorpio's specialty, whether dictating or enforcing. Your bright light illuminates the field of your choice.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Attend to your personal needs before giving the world its due. Rough play is unwelcome during delicate times. You're in the mood for a quiet retreat, even though your absence would inconvenience others.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You have many plans and no secrets. Art and passion play orderly roles in your world. Recite the facts again and again until the fearful regain their courage.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Activists make a bigger splash than ever. You'll volunteer to fix anything, no matter who broke it. Prove your worth once again, but this time try to be happy with who you are.

Pisces (Feb. 18 - March 20)

Morality influences you without consuming you. Pisces isn't escaping – just moving on. Your rules may apply better in the next world than in the one that you're leaving behind.

when they kiss. Some scholars speculate this preference starts in the womb.

3. The most important muscle in kissing is the orbicularis oris, also known as the kissing muscle, which allows the lips to "pucker."

4. The Kama Sutra lists over 30 types of kisses, such as "fighting of the tongue."

5. A woman in China partially lost her hearing after her boyfriend reportedly ruptured her eardrum

Across

- Weight watchers regimen
- Capital of Vanuatu
- Object of worship
- Aboriginal North American (combo. form)

- Angry
- Dam
- Alter written material
- Migrant agricultural workers (informal)

- Mythological Egyptian goddess of nature
- Involuntary muscle twitch

- Masculine name
- Shuts
- Butterfly

- Colour of snow
- Raggedy doll
- Parti-coloured
- Greek letter

- Speed at which music is played
- Catches sight of

- Its atomic number is 50
- Part of the eye
- Small streams

- Web-footed bird
- Metal fastener
- Sat for a photographer

- Keeps from view
- Small rorqual
- Small islands in rivers

- Unit of wire measurement
- Light weight wood
- Searching through

- Need a drink
- West African country
- Tongue-in-cheek rejoinder

- Long country walk
- Electronic communication
- City in W. Saudi Arabia

- Port in Yemen
- Awaken
- Formerly

- Compass point
- Perished
- Perishes

with a passionate kiss. Apparently, the kiss reduced the pressure in the mouth, pulled the eardrum out, and caused the breakdown of the ear.

6. The Longest Underwater Kiss: 2 minutes and 18 seconds in Tokyo, Japan, on April 2, 1980.

7. The mouth is full of bacteria. When two people kiss, they exchange between 10 million and one billion bacteria.

8. Some nail polishes and hardeners contain formaldehyde, which can cause an allergic reaction or irritation that may lead to finger nail separation.

9. More germs are transferred shaking hands than kissing.

10. Your tongue is germ free only if it is pink. If it is white there is a thin film of bacteria on it.

11. Soap and water are more effective at killing germs than antibacterial hand sanitizers. Sanitizers strip away the outer layer of oil from skin, thereby preventing existing bacteria (not all of which is bad) from coming to the surface.

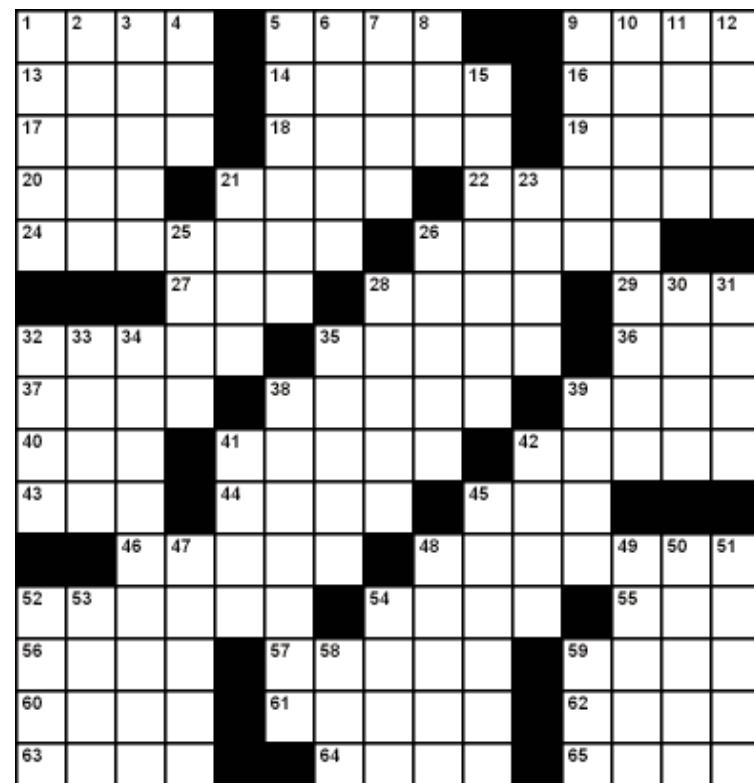
12. No matter how tall a building is, if you want to leave a building via the elevator you'll have to press the first floor button. It's exceptionally dirty, and a prime place to catch a cold germ.

13. Children born in the month of May are on the average 200 grams heavier at birth than children born in any other month.

14. A cyanoacrylate (Krazy Glue) spray was developed and used during the Vietnam war to stop bleeding. A medical version of this spray is used in health care.

15. You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.

16. Laughter provides a boost to the immune system, which helps fight off diseases.

**Down**

- Weight watchers regimen
- Asian country
- Decree
- Small child
- Musical instrument with four strings
- Irritated
- Non-cleric
- Dined
- Fool
- Cut into pieces
- Migrant agricultural worker (informal)
- Fewer
- Deliberately avoids
- Florence river
- Removable covers
- Talks incessantly
- Hold and use a weapon
- Heaps
- Employ
- Country hotels
- Waitress reward
- One of the Great Lakes
- Mopeds
- Scenic wide view
- Revel noisily
- Prepare ground for seed
- Friends (informal)
- Audio system
- Made flour
- "__ you going?"
- Put into a higher position
- Designating a high-quality Japanese porcelain
- Sound
- Presents
- Melt
- Keep from view
- Second largest of the Hawaiian islands
- Modern (informal)
- Turn hay over and spread out to dry

Solution on page 30

Word Search



Star Trek

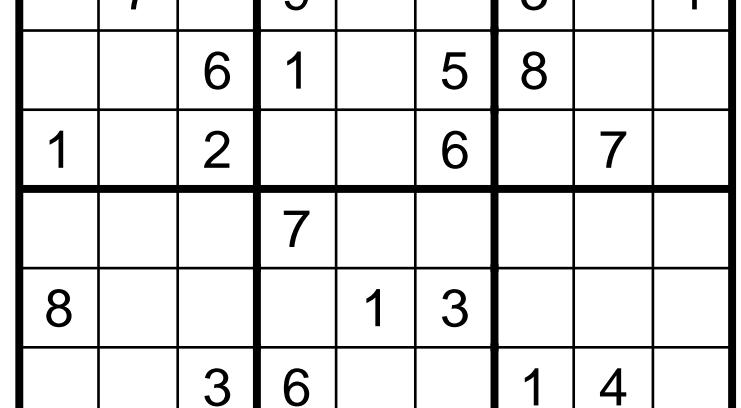
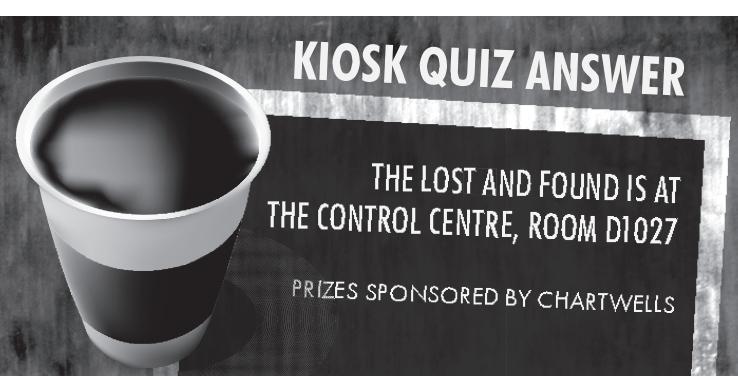
(Words in parentheses not in puzzle)

- | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|
| Chapel | La Forge | Spock |
| Chekov | McCoy | Sulu |
| Crusher | Picard | Troi |
| Data | Riker | Uhura |
| Kirk | Scott | Worf |

KIOSK QUIZ ANSWER

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puzzle rating: very hard

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means no number is repeated in any column, row or box. Solution can be found on page 30.

Googling for jobs



CAREER CORNER
Susan Coyne
Career Services
Consultant
Fanshawe Career Services

There is no question that we have at our fingertips one of the most revolutionary methods of looking for employment: googling. Using the Internet is a great way to access advertised jobs or to research employers, so make sure you are using all the online resources you can, such as job search sites, job search engines, networking sites and resume posting sites.

Focus your job search by using appropriate search words: 'Jobs in Canada' is obviously too large to search, but searching specific job titles and locations won't be as overwhelming. Remember, if you want to increase the chances of getting a job, you need to balance searching for advertised jobs with an active approach to networking in the hidden job market.

Here are some steps to get you started:

Resume and covering letter: To conduct an effective job search, it is imperative you have a winning resume and covering letter. Need assistance? Check out the information on how to write resumes and covering letters distributed by Fanshawe's Career Services Office located in Room D1063. Ask to have your resume critiqued by the Career Services Consultant responsible for your program. You can also google "Resumes and Covering Letters" for sample formats.

Research your chosen field: Develop a list of employers either by location or industry. Search for directories, professional associations, publications or the newspapers as possible sources.

Narrow down your list: Focus on only 20 or so employers from your list at one time. Break the task down into smaller ones by not focusing on too many employers at once. When you have your list, start finding out specific details about the organizations by visiting their websites.

Accessing advertised jobs: There are a number of sites that post graduate employment opportunities. Fanshawe Career Services posts all jobs directly to our job posting system, which you can access at fanshaweonline.ca or

www.fanshawec.ca/careerservices. Also check out the "Related Job Search Websites" link for useful links to other job posting sites, directories and other resources.

Following up: Keep track of whom you sent your resume to. Contact them by email or telephone four to seven days later and inquire about the status of your application. Offer to answer any questions they may have and express your interest in arranging an interview.

Network to access the hidden job market: Approximately 80 per cent of jobs never get advertised. Your first step in developing a network to help you in your job search is to gather information. This means developing a list of everyone you know, including friends, relatives, professors, former employers, fellow classmates, social groups, professional associations, etc. Call or email these people and explain that you're not asking them for a job, you're gathering information to learn more about a job. Be candid and ask for some advice in your work search.

Accessing information has never been easier or more readily available, and you need to realize that many employers are also becoming savvier in their search for suitable employees. If you have a Facebook page and you're searching for a job, you may have heard that you need to be careful about the information you post. Hiring Managers can and will check the web for information about prospective candidates, and Facebook is one of the sites they are checking. You do need to be careful about what information (and pictures) you make public. A sure way to be eliminated from a job competition is to have embarrassing pictures of yourself out there for all to see. Go ahead, google yourself and then answer this question: "Would you hire this person?"

Got questions or need help in your job search? Drop by the Career Services office located in Room D1063 or call 519-452-4294. The Career Services staff is available to assist you on an individual basis. You can also join the Fanshawe Career Services Facebook group at tinyurl.com/fanshawecareerservicesfb. For Fanshawe student job listings, visit fanshaweonline.ca or www.fanshawec.ca/careerservices.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

University of Western Ontario (Main Campus) Information Session, Tuesday, November 1, 12 - 1 p.m. in D1041; Brescia University College Information Session, Tuesday, November 8, 12 - 1 p.m. in Alumni Lecture Theatre, D1060; Huron University College Information Session. Date: Tuesday, November 15, 12 - 1 p.m. in D1041; King's University College Information Session, Tuesday, November 22, 12 - 1 p.m. in Alumni Lecture Theatre, D1060; MIA Information Session, Tuesday, November 29, 12 - 1 p.m., D1041. For more information on post-secondary Information Sessions listed above, please contact Jan Robblee 519-452-4176. For information on ESL Information Sessions, please contact Monica Venegas 519-452-4430 ext. 4426 or Corrine Marshall 519-452-4430 ext. 4358.

GENERAL

CAR POOLING - I am looking for any other students that live in the Cambridge, Kitchener-Waterloo areas that are students at Fanshawe and commute to London every day and would be interested in car pool-

ing, even if it is just a few days a week. Email me Jaimie at jlaurence14@gmail.com

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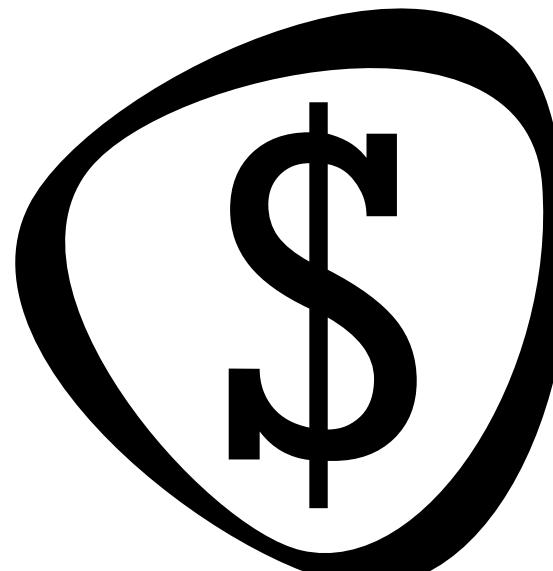
CIVIL ENGINEERING BOOKS - Microsoft word 2010 introductory Microsoft Excel 2010 complete Construction Health and Safety Manual. Email Mitch at lilfarmboy_16@hotmail.com

LEATHER CHAIR - Brown leather chair with ottoman (Jysk) brand new \$75. Email Tracey at t_renfrow@fanshaweonline.ca

FANSHAWE CULINARY CHEF COURSE - Uniform for culinary chef course - black/white checked pants like new, size med. Reduced to \$10



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FOR FALL INTAKE STUDENTS

Men's volleyball gearing up for tough season

TYLER GARY
INTERROBANG

Fanshawe's men's volleyball team has been practicing hard this week to maintain the Falcons' winning tradition.

With the team losing over half of its roster this year and filling it with new faces, they knew they would have to learn how everyone plays and bond as a team. Over the past few weeks, the men have been doing just that; they have been practicing every night, to gear up for the start of the season.

Team members said they are focusing their practices on serving and defensive positions. They all know that they can hit when they

get the right set, but sometimes they find themselves out of position and missing some easy balls. But they are finding it easier to trust one another on defense now and are learning each other's strengths on offence.

With the team being a very young one this year, they feel that when they come together completely, they will be a very strong and fast team.

The men headed to the Humber Cup tournament October 28 where they got a good look at the competition for this year and also saw whether all their practice is paying off. They haven't had much in-game experience this year so far

and they were very excited to finally see what all the other teams look like.

If the men are willing to work hard enough and come together as a team, the sky's the limit. The Falcons open the regular season with three road games beginning on November 3 at Redeemer, followed by games on November 5 at Humber and November 9 at Sheridan. The Falcons have their home opener on November 11 at 8 p.m. versus Mohawk in J-gym. Support the men at all the home games and tournaments – check tinyurl.com/mensvball2011 for the full schedule.

Women's volleyball team playing strong

TYLER GARY
INTERROBANG

Fanshawe's women's volleyball team started the year knowing they had to rebuild and focus on team chemistry to win, and the team is doing just that: they've started the year strong, playing in a Niagara Falls Tournament October 21 and placing third.

The women said they were playing very strong defense and their offence was on, with spiking and serving being game-changers throughout the tournament. They have started to come together as a

team, focusing on each member's strengths. They said the competition is looking strong this year, but that isn't bringing them down because even with the fresh-faced team, they have still found the way to win.

With the near win at the Niagara tournament, the team is even more excited and geared towards a very strong year. They look strong on offence, but like all sports, defense wins games, so my hope is that they always keep the focus towards that.

The women played at Humber

on October 28 and 29 for the Humber Cup tournament. The Falcons open the regular season with three road games beginning on November 3 at Redeemer, followed by games on November 5 at Humber and November 9 at Sheridan. The Falcons have their home opener on November 11 at 6 p.m. versus Mohawk in J-gym. Show your Falcon pride at all the home games and tournaments – you can find their schedules online at tinyurl.com/womensvball2011 or outside the Athletic Office.

Men's basketball shaking off jitters

TYLER GARY
INTERROBANG

The Fanshawe men's basketball team have been working to fix the holes in their game. The team is full of first-year players and different talent sets and they are working on putting it all together.

"We have been working a lot on chemistry and defense over the last couple weeks. We're still looking lost out there at some points, and we are working to get rid of that," said player Aaron Ragobar.

The team played a strong game against Centennial on October 2,

but they ended up losing in late in the game. Despite the loss, it was a great time for the team to feel out the competition and each other in an exhibition game.

"We lost the game in the last quarter. We were down by three points going into the second half and were keeping it close, but the last quarter just killed us," said Ragobar.

The game was also missing a lot of key players, said coach Glenn Johnston, "which was a perfect opportunity to play the rookies and let them have some playing time,

which is never a bad thing."

Another strong point to the season thus far is everyone seems to be playing with a lot of hustle and heart; they want to win no matter how much work has to be put in. The men begin their regular season November 2 at Sheridan, then on November 4 travel to Lambton. The Falcons home opener is November 9 versus Humber at 8 p.m. in J-gym. Remember to come out and support your Falcons – check their schedule online at tinyurl.com/mensvball2011 or outside the Athletics Office.

Lady Falcons kicking for championship

CHRIS LETHBRIDGE
INTERROBANG

They needed extra time to do so, but the Fanshawe Falcons women's soccer team is heading to the final four after defeating the Durham Lords 2-1 in their OCAA quarterfinal on October 22.

Jory-Lynn Uyl was the hero on the day, scoring both goals for the Falcons and putting them in the championship weekend tournament for the third consecutive season.

Uyl opened the scoring in the 22nd minute by putting home a rebound from inside the box. Durham responded in the 31st minute with a goal of their own after a defensive breakdown gave the Lords a 3 on 2 break. Durham player Leanne Fomenko chipped the ball over Fanshawe keeper Sarah King, making the score 1-1 after the first half.

The second half of the game was

filled with excellent scoring chances for both teams. The best chances for both came inside the last 10 minutes. For Fanshawe, it was Uyl who got in behind the Durham defense and sent the ball just over the crossbar. Minutes later, it was Durham player Megan Arsenault who had a clear shot at the net and sent her shot just past the left post.

After 90 minutes, the score remained 1-1, forcing 30 minutes of overtime and, if needed, a shootout. Twenty-five minutes into overtime, Uyl capped off her all-star performance with her second goal of the game and seventh of the season. The goal stood as the game winner and Fanshawe avoided the upset and ended the Lords' season.

Fanshawe advanced to the final four tournament, which was played October 28 and 29 at Humber College. Their semi-final game took place on October 28. They

will play the eighth-ranked team in the country, the Algonquin Thunder, who defeated Conestoga 4-1 in their quarter-final game. Algonquin hold an overall record of 7-0-1, scoring 32 goals while allowing just 3.

The other semi-final game has the number two ranked team in the country, the Humber Hawks, facing off against the Seneca Sting. Seneca who are 5-0-3 on the year, defeated Sheridan 4-1 in the quarter-finals. They will be looking to upset the defending champions who are 9-0-0 this season and coming off 1-0 win over La Cite.

The winners of both semi-final games faced off in the championship on October 29. The winners of that game were crowned provincial champions and will represent Ontario at the National Championships in Quebec City from November 9 to 12.



CREDIT: JOHN MATISZ

Former Fanshawe Falcon basketball player Pat Sewell is embarking on a professional career with the London Lightning. The Lightning will be playing in the newly formed National Basketball League. Even better for Sewell, he's a life-long Londoner.

Lightning's local player a proud Fanshawe alumni

KIRSTEN ROSENKRANTZ
INTERROBANG

What does being on the London Lightning team mean to you?

"It's a dream come true. What else can I ask for, I'm playing at home professionally."

What would you be doing if you weren't playing basketball?

"Well, I graduated from Construction at Fanshawe, so that's what I was doing prior to this. I was currently trying to become a police officer, so that's kind of on hold right now."

What are your hobbies?

"Sports! I've also played volleyball, badminton, bowling, pool everything and anything athletic. That's what I enjoy doing."

Which basketball player do you admire most, whether they're in the NBA or any other league?

"I've never really had a favourite player or team or anything like that as I was growing up, just because I was always on the go myself. I played OVA (Ontario Volleyball Association) volleyball, I played volleyball in high school, stuff like that, so I never really attached myself to any player or team. I guess I just mostly looked up to my parents."

What are your future goals on the court?

"Well, it's hard to say really. I didn't think I'd get to this point and here I am, so I'm just taking it in."

Lastly, do you have any advice for young basketball players and current Fanshawe Falcons?

"Train hard; off season is huge. You can accomplish anything. When I was at Fanshawe, my first two years I never really trained. It was after my second year I was like, 'Alright, I want a championship, I know what I need to do,' and I trained every single day, always in the gym working out, getting shots up and it paid off. We went undefeated, I got named player of the year; it couldn't have been any better."

Tickets for the November 3 London Lightning regular season home opener against the Halifax Rainmen are available at lightning-basketball.ca and johnlabattcentre.com.

Protect your patellas



FUN AND FITNESS
RICK MELO
melo_rick@hotmail.com

If you've been unfortunate enough to be an athlete who has suffered from patellar tendonitis, you know how debilitating it can be. It is often called "jumper's knee" because the jumping sports are typically the cause. If you are a basketball or volleyball player who has never experienced the issue, then you should be extremely thankful.

Jumper's knee is an inflammation of the patellar tendon caused by overuse. When considering the biomechanical forces acting on the tendon caused by repetitive jumping, it is easier to visualize the

cause for the injury. It can humble the most athletic person by severely limiting their vertical leap, or slowing their overall agility and speed. Like most injuries, there are different stages of severity: initial stages typically include minor pain after activity, while chronic stages involve pain during activity or, in worse cases, can linger even without any physical activity. The important thing to understand is that there are several causes that can lead to patellar tendonitis.

First and foremost, like any type of tendonitis, it is an overuse problem, as mentioned. Oftentimes, rest is enough to alleviate the pain. In other cases, ice immediately after the activity followed by rest will suffice. However, time away from the physical activity may not be enough and there are most likely other mechanisms of action fur-

thering the injury. Tight and inflexible quads and/or hamstrings can lead to unnecessary strain from different angles on the tendon. Weak quad muscles often force exponential amounts of stress on the tendon as well. A well-balanced flexibility and strength training routine focusing on these muscle groups is often prescribed. Playing surfaces are also an important factor to consider. If you grew up your entire life playing such sports on hard cement, chances are you've experienced bum knees at one point or another.

Whatever it may be that contributes to your patellar tendonitis, it is important to get it diagnosed as soon as possible. It's one thing to be out of commission for a few regular season games, but it's another if you need a cane by the time you're 45 years old.

Calling an audible



NFL CZAR
JUSTIN VANDERZWAN

I was going to go with the "Dream Team" vs. the Bears on Monday night, but I have decided to make a switch for the first time this year. Instead, I am going to highlight a key AFC East matchup between the New York Jets and the Buffalo Bills. Shockingly enough, the Bills are in position to push for a wild-card spot in the AFC playoffs. In order to make it, they will have to win tough games like this one. With a win over the Patriots already, the Bills are ready for the spotlight.

The Jets, on the other hand, have been an up-and-down squad for much of the year. The defence hasn't been as good as in recent years,

and the offence hasn't been able to pick up the slack. However, after a big win against the Chargers, the Jets had a bye week to get ready for this game.

Key Matchups

1. Darrelle Revis vs. Stevie Johnson: In order to beat the Jets, it usually means staying away from "Revis Island." Unfortunately for the Bills, Johnson will likely be facing Revis in this one. They need to keep Johnson involved, but it will be a tough task.

2. Mark Sanchez vs. Ryan Fitzpatrick: Both of these quarterbacks have been inconsistent on the year, but have led their teams to impressive records. The main problem with each of these QBs is that they must limit the turnovers. If they do that, they may have big games.

3. Shonn Greene vs. Fred Jackson: Tough running will decide this game. Greene has been

a bit of a disappointment at times this year, and the Bills have defended the run well. Expect a good load of LaDainian Tomlinson as well. Jackson may well be an MVP candidate if the Bills make the playoffs. However, at some point, the Bills will want to get backup running back (and 2010 first round pick) C.J. Spiller more involved.

The Rundown

This one should be tighter than people think. As I said before, a lot of the focus will be on the QBs, and the one who plays better likely wins the game for their team. This time, I think it will be Fitzpatrick and the Bills in the upset, 24-20. Just for fun, I'll give you the Monday night pick anyway. Give me the Bears, 31-20.

For next week, I will take a look at a huge NFC matchup, which will likely have playoff implications.

Dixie returns to TNA ownership



THE HEEL TURN
SCOTT STRINGLE
stringle78@gmail.com

It was an emotional start to last week's Impact as Dixie Carter made her return as owner of the company after being shut out for nearly a year. Carter was very nearly in tears as she thanked all the fans for supporting her and never giving up hope that she would gain control again. She specifically asked Sting to come out, and a surprising development occurred as Sting was granted a general manager position of sorts. This means he now has the authority to run the day-to-day wrestling business, as Carter is headed back to TNA headquarters to try to deal with the mess Hulk Hogan and Eric Bischoff left her with.

Despite Sting having new authority, there were some questionable incidents that he could have perhaps overruled. Karen Jarrett is still the VP of the

Knockouts division for some reason, even though Immortal has lost their power, and she is still intent on making life hell for the Knockouts. The only way to make this situation right is to send Karen packing with the rest of her Immortal family and raise Traci Brooks back up to the Knockout Law position she had originally. Sting now has the power to do that if he really wants to wipe the stain of Immortal out of TNA.

Perhaps the icon Sting just needs time to grow comfortable with his new power, which he never actually asked for or expected. He was also apparently unable to change a stipulation in the contract between Bobby Roode and Kurt Angle that stated that Roode was not allowed a rematch against the Olympic gold medallist. I may not know anything about how binding contracts are, but surely this no longer applies as it was a stipulation that Hogan and Bischoff put in, and they are no longer at the wheel.

The bottom line is that Roode did not get to face Angle again

after losing to him in a very controversial fashion. I still can't believe how much effort they put into building Roode up for what amounted to nothing. He got through the Bound For Glory points series ahead of everyone else, and his recent promos were bordering on epic as he flat-out stated that his 13 years of hard work and sacrifice in the business were leading to this title shot. How can you give someone such a heavy push, only to deny them the heavyweight gold that they unquestionably deserve?

Instead, TNA allowed the Cowboy James Storm to beat Angle for the belt, in a match that had to be around five minutes at most. This is rumoured to be leading towards a Roode heel turn, so maybe the company actually does have a plan. I'm sure most fans would agree that it better be a good one to make amends for Roode being screwed out of the championship run he should have gotten.

Hockey for math geeks

JEREMY WALL
INTERROBANG

Are sporting outcomes determined by chance, or by a series of complicated metrics? This is the geeky question that has been posed in the film *Moneyball*, based off the bestselling book of the same name by Michael Lewis.

In *Moneyball*, Billy Beane, general manager of the Oakland Athletics, attempts to build a competitive baseball team on a budget by using scientific scouting. Scientific scouting employs complicated metrics and algorithms known as sabermetrics, pioneered by stats geek Bill James, to determine who the most undervalued ballplayers are. Sabermetrics attempt to measure every tiny little performance of every player in a baseball game, breaking each game's event down into what are essentially mathematical probabilities.

This sort of statistical geekiness has gained popularity mostly in baseball, as evidenced by the success of *Moneyball* (both the book and movie). But this concept has been exported to other sports, including hockey. A number of websites have been created by super-fans and statisticians to focus solely on complex hockey metrics, alternatives to traditional statistics such as goals, assists, points and goaltender goals-against-average. The stats professed by these websites attempt to break the game of hockey down into a series of individual events with mathematical outcomes. Considering the speed and flow of a single game of hockey, this is not a simple task.

One of these websites is behindthenet.ca, run by Queen's University grad Gabriel

Desjardins. Behind the Net describes itself as "the first site to break player performance down for every man-advantage (5v5, 5v4, 4v5, etc.) and to statistically measure the Quality of Competition that players face when they're on the ice. In addition, we track advanced statistics such as On-Ice Shot Differential, Faceoff Zone Starts and On-Ice Shooting and Save Percentage." For stats geeks, it's hockey heaven. For everyone else, it's a bit complicated, so I'll try to give a couple of clear examples.

Take, for example, the statistic known as With Or Without You (WOWY). Describing this stat, behindthenet.ca states that it looks at what happens to a team's goals for and goals against when a player is in the line-up as opposed to when he is out of the line-up. The idea is to measure statistically the effect a single player has on the outcome of a game. Another example is Wins Above Replacement (WAR), which sets a replacement level for a goaltender's save percentage and then determines how much higher a goalie is above that save percentage in both five-on-five even strength and five-on-four penalty kill situations. The idea here is similar to WOWY, to measure how much a single goalie contributes to a team's win.

The metrics can get pretty complicated. They're stuff for sports geeks. And stats geeks, too. As Professor John Frink said in an episode of *The Simpsons* that was about sabermetrics in baseball, "Baseball is a sport played by the dexterous, but understood only by the poindexterous." It seems that the same could be true for any sport, hockey included.

London Knights serving it up at Jack Astor's

PATRICIA CIFANI
INTERROBANG

On November 1, the London Knights will be at the newly opened Jack Astor's on Richmond Row. From 6 to 8 p.m., all 24 players will be signing autographs and serving your Jack Astor's favourites. If you're a fan of the Knights, this would be a great way to meet your favourite players and support them.

This is a great opportunity for the London Knights to get out into the community and give back to their fans and supporters. "This event is about getting out into the community and working with our sponsors," explained Natalie Wakabayashi, Marketing Manager at London Knights Hockey Club

and a recent graduate of Fanshawe from the Corporate Communication and Public Relations program. "It's important for us to give back to those who continue to support us and we love being out and about in the city. To have the opportunity to drive our fans directly through the doors of Jack Astor's makes it a successful event for the restaurant and for the team."

If you're a London Knights fan, come out to Jack Astor's and meet the team. Who knows, one of these boys might be a future NHL player, and not only can you say you met them and got an autograph, but you can say that they served you at Jack Astor's.

9	4	1	5	6	8	2	3	7
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6	1	4	7	8	2	9	5	3
8	5	9	4	1	3	7	2	6
7	2	3	6	5	9	1	4	8



CREDIT: MAZDA
The Mazda 3 GS is great car to drive, and with pricing under \$20,000, it can fit into any budget.

Mazda3 GS a real pleasure to drive



MOTORING
NAUMAN FAROOQ
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The Mazda3 is a popular model for its maker, and there is a good reason why: it is easily one of the best new cars you can buy for under \$20,000.

For this reason, Mazda sells these by the bucket load. It makes up one-third of all Mazdas sold in North America and Mexico. Since this model's birth, over three million units have been sold globally, of which 367,000 of these found a home in Canada.

Due to this model's popularity, Mazda has just opened a new production facility in Mexico to produce the Mazda3 for North American consumption.

The model being built will be the new Mazda3. From the outside, it doesn't look much different. The keen eye will spot the new front bumper; otherwise all is pretty much exactly the same, which is not a bad thing.

Inside is pretty much the same story as well. It is the same interior that has been with us for some time, and it continues to stay that way.

What has changed, specifically on the mid-range GS-model, is the stuff you cannot easily see. I'm talking about the internals of the engine and transmission.

The Mazda3 GS will become the first model in the company's portfolio to receive their new SkyActiv engines and transmissions.

What is SkyActiv all about?

This is Mazda's new technology, and the innovation they have come up with is a first in the industry. While nearly all combustion engines have pistons (except the rotary engine), the piston in any car from a Fiat to a Ferrari is almost the same. The pistons in the SkyActiv engines are different. They have radically reshaped the piston head to make more use out of a combustion – in other words, it requires less effort to make more power. So while the old 2.0-litre, four-cylinder engine (which is still offered on the base Mazda3 GX) produced 148 hp, the new engine with the same displacement produces 155 hp. Not a huge gain, but when you take into consideration that it has also improved fuel economy by 15 per cent (average of 7.2-litres/100 km on a combined cycle), the improvements are a step in the right direction.

The engine, however, is only part of the new technology – the transmission has received just as

much attention. While the new six-speed manual benefits from shorter throws and lighter weight, it is not the big story here. The big changes have been reserved for the new six-speed automatic.

This new automatic not only improves fuel economy by seven per cent, but also gives a much more connected feel when being used in a sporty manner. This new transmission has a torque converter for low speeds and a multi-plate clutch for higher speed shifts. What this all means is when you use this transmission in its StepTronic mode, the gear changes are lightning fast when you gear up, and even blips the throttle on down shifts. This is very clever and exciting stuff.

Trust me, if you bought this automatic for convenience, you won't feel short-changed for times when you just wanna have some fun.

However, all is not glowing regarding the new powertrain. While the new engine is more powerful and more efficient, it has very little torque at low speeds. When accelerating away from a traffic light, my co-driver and I both found the acceleration to be a bit sluggish. Talking to other people at this car's launch in sunny California, and they all agreed it could make do with some extra get up and go.

Once on the move, the engine is fine and the transmission really does make up for any deficiency in power.

One area the Mazda3 was always very good at was in the ride and handling department. That remains unchanged and I'm glad about that. No other compact car is as much fun to drive through the twisties as much as the Mazda3, and that still remains true with the new model. No wonder Mazda had chosen a twisty route through the hills and canyons of Pasadena, California for this launch. The roads we drove on were easily the best I have ever seen, and hope to one day again visit the area and drive on those roads again.

The base Mazda3 GX, which does not get the new engine and transmission, starts at \$15,595. The Mazda3 GS SkyActiv (the new model) starts at \$18,995. The top-of-the-line GT model also doesn't get the new hardware, and it is priced at \$23,695. Quick note: both the sedan and hatchback body styles are available on all the models.

So the SkyActiv engine is good, the transmission is even better and the pricing is very competitive. Should you go out and buy one? Yes.

Games for soccer geeks



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Every sport seems to have their own thing that fans use to geek out. Football is no different. A new season brings new toys for soccer fans to drool over.

The *FIFA* video game series by EA Sports is one of the most popular game series in the world. The series continues to improve on itself, and that's no different with this year's newest release, *FIFA 12*. The new edition includes a groundbreaking defensive system. Players of previous titles were bound to just hold down the 'Standing Tackle' button and watch their defender hurtle towards the ball, but no longer is it that simple. Players now must manually run and jockey with the ball carrier and press the standing tackle to stick out a leg at the ball.

Along with slight tweaks to offensive play, the newest edition is much more difficult than previous ones. When playing the AI, early players will have a rude awakening: this game is hard. Many experienced *FIFA* players have been left to scale their difficulty levels back a few as the AI's defence is ruthless and its attack is also much more capable. However, the game offers new tools you can use to beat defenders, such as precision dribbling. Things like the new impact engine and dynamic presentation prove to be neat little additions that keep this series relevant and entertaining year after year.



FIFA 2012 gives soccer fans everywhere something to geek out over.

The second video game for soccer geeks this fall is *Football Manager 2012*, the newest installment from Sports Interactive. If any player of the far more popular *FIFA* series found themselves playing the 'Manager Mode' to no end, this is the game for you. In *FM*, you play as the manager of a team and use all tools at your disposal to create a winning side, doing everything from team talks to tactics to buying and selling players. And with just about any league in the world available, it's the most enjoyable – and geeky – game out there for football fans.

To the current *Football Manager* players, the newest edition truly doesn't disappoint. The layout has seen some major improvements since last year's version. In short, the new layout allows you to make educated decisions about your team quickly and

easily through a number of different ways. More emphasis is made on the star system to grade ability and potential, as most of it is made available without having to go to each player's scouting reports. The game also features a system that allows a vast amount of information per page by your resolution, so you will always have as much info as you need. For new players, the brand new tutorial has received plenty of praise, and will easily help you through how to play. A new depth chart system and a completely revamped team talk structure give this game an update to the devoted and an easy pick-up-and-play value for newer gamers to the series.

With consistent updates to these already incredible series, these two tools for soccer fans should be enough to geek out on in between games.

GET IN THE GAME



SOCCER

The Women's Soccer Team is at the Ontario College Athletic Association Championships on Oct 28-30. They take on the Algonquin Thunder in the Semi-Finals. The tournament takes place in Vaughan at the Ontario Soccer Centre. Good luck ladies!



CROSS-COUNTRY

The Men's and Women's Cross Country team are headed to Ft. Henry for the OCAA Provincial Championships. They will give it all they have to defend their title as provincial champions. Good luck!



VOLLEYBALL

The Men's and Women's Volleyball Teams are on the road this week battling Redeemer University College on Nov. 3 and Humber College on Nov. 5. The Women play at 6pm and the Men play at 8pm.



BASKETBALL

The Men's and Women's Basketball Teams compete at Sheridan College on Nov. 2 and at Lambton College on Nov. 4. The Women play at 6pm and the Men play at 8pm.



OPEN RECREATION

Come participate in some fun events taking place every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday night at 10:00.



INTRAMURAL SPORTS

still accepting women's hockey individual entries.
Deadlines have been extended.
See J0134 for more information.



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