

Fall 2015

# glue

THE OTTAWA STUDENT MAGAZINE

## Beauty and the Rich

**Homegrown  
Hip Hop**

*Honing Ottawa's sound*

**Enough is  
Enough**

*Women stand up  
to harassment*

**Football  
Fantasies**

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# glue CONTENTS

THE OTTAWA STUDENT MAGAZINE

Fall 2015

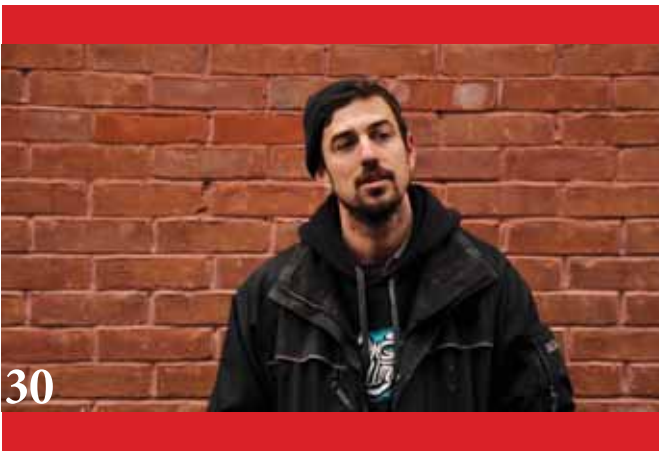
## LOUNGE



12

- 8 Cute Cuddly Creatures
- 10 The Things Money Can't Buy
- 11 An Introvert Opens Up
- 12 Arranged Marriage
- 14 Brothers & Sisters
- 16 Hallway to Hell
- 17 Girl Gamers
- 19 Taking Back the Streets
- 20 Dingy and Dangerous
- 22 Date Rape Prevention Inventions

## FEATURES



30

### Full Disclosure:

A male stripper and Ottawa sugar babies confess to *Glue* readers why and how they do what they do

24

### Ottawa State of Mind

Hip-hop artists discuss the growing trend of the genre in the capital city

30

### Expecting Mom to Save Me

*Glue* looks into the relationship changes of parents and children as they enter adulthood

34

## CHEATSHEET



46

- 39 The Magic of Mistakes
- 40 Scrabble Athletes
- 42 Long-Distance Love
- 44 Making the Draft

## BREAKDOWN

- 46 Comic-ing with Zing!

# Contributors

## Stephanie Hulse: Writer



Stephanie Hulse joined the second year of the journalism program late, giving her very little time to come up with a pitch. Luckily, Hulse already had a story in her back pocket. Her piece about catcalling comes from personal experience, having been harassed on the street three times prior to her pitch. Her timing couldn't have been better as catcalling had just started to catch media attention. Her goal is that female readers will become empowered by her story.

## Matt Kemball: Illustrator



Matt Kemball is a graphic design student at Algonquin College who designed our final page story about comic books, one of our most visually creative stories. Kemball is one of the founders of Alchemic Archetypes, a comic studio launched in October of last year that deals in independent publishing. Kemball enjoyed collaborating with the magazine's editors and always tried to do whatever he could to help.

## Jaclyn McRae: Photographer



Second-year journalism student Jaclyn McRae contributed not one but two stories to this issue of *Glue*: Confessions of a male stripper and Dingy and Dangerous. It also features her fantastic photography elements. With a degree in fine arts, McRae has a great eye for a good shot. But she also tries to have her subjects pose as realistically as they would in their everyday lives.

"They are the subjects, they are the story," she says.

## Correction:

In the Winter 2015 issue, *Glue* magazine published an article about purported hangover cures. In it we included unsubstantiated information that promotes negative stereotypes about Aboriginal people. We unequivocally apologize for our error.







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*Glue* is dedicated to reflecting the experiences of Ottawa's college and university students, on their campuses and in their city. Our magazine about student life is unforgettable. *Glue* is published twice a year by students in the journalism and advertising programs at Algonquin College. School of Media & Design  
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# A Letter from the Editor



Another stranger's arm wraps around her waist and a few minutes later, a hand grazes her chest "by accident." It's just another work shift in the nightclub industry. Jaclyn McRae didn't have a lot of work experience and her student debts were piling up, so when she landed a job as a server in a nightclub, she thought she was lucky. But here, "server" seemed to mean something different.

"I couldn't believe how bad it was. All of these strangers thought it was completely normal and acceptable to touch my body or say disgusting things to me," she says. McRae quit after three months. Her article on the nightclub industry culture reveals some of the shady behaviour that goes on behind the scenes – and isn't the only brave story *Glue* has for you this issue. Another story, written by Stephanie Hulse, concerns itself with the very real topic of street harassment and the life-changing effects it can have on its victims. Another piece in this special section, by Dylan Conway-Hartwick, researches innovations created to keep women safe and their successes and failures.

The editors chose to explore these topics in the hope of inspiring bravery, liberation and self-love to all women and men affected by ignorance and hate. The year 2014 saw several cases of sexual harassment force their way into the spotlight. Some disturbing revelations about Jian Ghomeshi and Bill Cosby opened eyes to the reality that even celebrities are capable of ignoring consent laws. A national dialogue about rape culture emerged from the University of Ottawa with the very public case of Anne-Marie Roy and the sexual assault charges against two of their GeeGees men's hockey team members. Even the movie release of *Fifty Shades of Grey* sparked debate suggesting that if Christian Grey wasn't a sexy billionaire, the story could be well-suited to a *Criminal Minds* episode. However, looking back at last year can be a hopeful reminder that victims everywhere are feeling brave enough to take power back into their own hands and speak out against such disgusting violations. But we aren't always serious at *Glue*. For Ottawa's music lovers, Dan Taccone's feature gives readers a glimpse into the local hip-hop scene. Video games aren't just for boys as Chris Whan proves with his story on girl gamers. And if your curiosity extends to more spooky endeavors, we sent Christine Roy to Ottawa's haunted hostel for a night of terror. Our magazine, celebrating student life and its culture, will surely bring you enjoyment. Whether you are reading *Glue* for the serious and significant content or for the fun (and sometimes crazy) topics, we know you will adore it as much as we do.

Myriah Saulnier



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Kayleigh Gagne with Wylie



Sophie Matte with Loki



Rachel Munro with Finney and Lily



Emma Hyde with Teemo



# Cute Cuddly Creatures

By Emma Hyde

## Students use their pets as furry therapists and comforting councillors

For Andrea Boles, moving out and leaving her parents behind was difficult, so she decided to start a new family.

After she found a pet-friendly apartment, it was only a matter of days before she met her dog and little life partner, a miniature Australian shepherd named Freckles.

Despite being a student who lives alone – at least, without other people – she never feels alone. Whether it's doing homework, watching TV, making dinner, exercising or any other odd job, she's always got Freckles. "She keeps me happier and healthier," says Boles. "It's almost like having a child."

College and university are where students begin their adult lives, and that includes starting a family. For some, that means taking their relationships more seriously and starting to look for a potential life partner. But for others, it's settling in with a new four-legged furry friend.

"College can be stressful, and moving away can be lonely," says Richard McCendie, a psychologist and professor at CÉGEP Heritage College in Gatineau. "Taking care of a pet

forces you to structure and organize your day."

One thing all pet owners agree upon is that the biggest downside is the maintenance.

Having to stay home instead of joining in on parties or going on trips in order to make sure they're fed, clean, and exercised can often be a hassle.

**My dog keeps me happier and healthier. It's almost like having a child**

And with having pets, also comes losing pets. When Carleton law student Rachel Munro lost her cat, Tiger, it was a tragedy for her. After finding out he had been hit by a car, she began screaming and hyperventilating as she ran back

to her house. "I thought I would need grief counselling," says Munro.

But she didn't. She adopted her cat, Finney, shortly after and now often prefers to stay home rather than to go out with friends. Her favourite afternoons are spent watching Netflix and eating chocolate with her cat. Of course, the chocolate is just for her. "I never thought I would want another (cat)," says Munro. "But now I have Finney and he's making all my dreams come true."

Stéphanie Hurtubise, a communications student at the University of Ottawa got her leopard gecko, Lizzie, when she was just 10 years old. She took care of her lizard for 11 years before Lizzie passed away.

To her, losing Lizzie was just like losing a family member. "Losing Lizzie was just as bad as when I lost my grandmother or grandfather, or when I learned my dad was dying," says Hurtubise. "She helped me fight off my depression. She essentially taught me to enjoy life, and she taught me the true, pure value of love that a relationship with a human being can't actually teach you."

# THE THINGS MONEY CAN'T BUY

**Many students are getting lost in the decision to either follow their dream or fill their wallets. A big paycheque doesn't always lead to increased satisfaction**

**By Jennifer Siviero**

Stephanie Blanco wasn't always studying to be an aesthetician; she used to be a criminology major at the University of Ottawa before she dropped out to pursue her true goals.

Why the dramatic change in studies? Blanco felt the pressure from her family and friends to go to university to study criminology and, as most people straight out of high school do, she obliged.

It wasn't until two years into her program that Blanco realized that she wasn't studying criminology for herself, she was doing it for her parents. She was told that working in law was a respectable, high-paying career choice and that she would be foolish to choose otherwise.

This is often the case with students discouraged to study what they love in favor of something employable because the job prospects are considered unrealistic.

Yet, is it worth it for students to take an unappealing post-secondary degree on the sole basis that they will land a job and a secure income? Not really.

Studying something you love, regardless of job prospects afterwards, will make you happier. You are more likely to feel fulfilled, satisfied and engaged in your career.

Blanco agrees. After dropping out of university, she finally followed her true passion, aesthetics, and enrolled at Gina's Private Beauty School in downtown Ottawa.

"Regardless of the money, I wasn't going to be happy," says Blanco.

In a study done in 2013 by University College London, business psychology professor Dr. Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic found that there is no correlation between salary earnings and happiness.

The study found that money is not the motivator in a happy workforce, engagement is, proving that money can't buy happiness.

"Doing what I do now won't pay as well, but aesthetics is just more my personality," says Blanco.

A separate study composed by Kenneth W. Thomas, a professor from Purdue University, shows that for employees to be engaged in their work they need to be committed to something that fulfills a sense of purpose.

"I love it," says Blanco about her new field. "I truly don't think I would have felt as content with my life if I had stuck to university."

Employees who are engaged in their work are

more likely to be fully involved in workplace culture.

Thus, employees that proactively show initiative are enthusiastic about their work, and feel a sense of responsibility for their personal and career development.

When employees are engaged and passionate about their work, they are happier.

Blanco's favourite part of the job is the closeness she has with the clients she treats.

"I love getting to talk to people as part of the job. You become close, you become friends," says Blanco.

Multiple studies have shown that finding purpose and meaning in daily work is one of the most important factors to overall job pleasure and satisfaction.

Jessica Ranger, an alumni of the travel and tourism program at Algonquin College, spent one year at Disney as part of their cultural representative program and says it was one of the best jobs she has ever had.

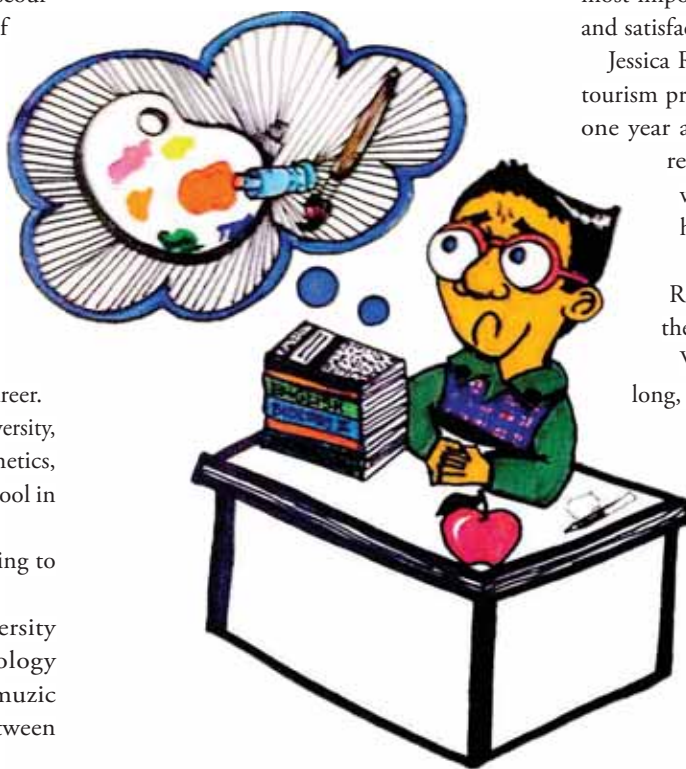
"Disney changed my life," said Ranger. "I was happiest and healthier there. I made life-long friends."

While the program was only one year long, Ranger says she wouldn't change her choice to take travel and tourism. She enjoyed it and that's all that mattered to her.

If there is one thing that studies cannot tell you, it's how you're going to feel spending all day at a job that is unappealing.

Spend those post-secondary years in school doing something that you love.

You'll be better for it.



# AN INTROVERT OPENS UP

Breaking through and breaking down the stereotypes of introversion and shyness

By Elizabeth Mabie

I am a proud to be shy and an introvert. But it was only recently that I realized there was a difference between the two.

Introverts are people who focus on their inner feelings and value privacy and alone time. While shy people are also reserved, they don't necessarily desire to be alone.

In a world where people excel at communicating through different forms of social media rather than verbal communication, introverts are becoming more valuable.

"It's not that I truly dislike people, I just can't always enjoy social settings unless they have been balanced with me getting some quiet time," says Cassandra Gagnon, a second-year psychology student at Carleton University. "An upside to my personality would be my creativity once I am alone. I have many artistic hobbies, which flourish when I have time to myself. I am most productive at home. I do the majority of my schoolwork in my bedroom and find libraries too crowded to concentrate."

"To me, being a shy extrovert is really just being shy, but instead of being quiet and in the corner, you put on an act," says Kait Dunbar, a DJ at JKB Entertainment in Ottawa.

Dunbar was involved in dancing, acting, and singing growing up, so it helped her learn how to hide her shyness. She attends a young adults group with others from her church where she contributes frequently during discussions.

"I would go places and be the life of the party,

get lots of laughs, but a lot of the time I was freaking out on the inside," says Dunbar. "I don't know how to react to people in conversations, so I felt like if I kept control of the topics or kept the conversation moving everything would be fine."

Susan Cain, author of the bestseller *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*, explains in her book that introverts

**There is no intellectual difference between introverts and extroverts**

are undervalued in society because of an ideal born 100 years ago that favoured extroverted

characters, especially in the workforce.

"But nowadays we tend to think that becoming more extroverted not only makes us more successful, but also makes us better people," Cain writes in *Quiet*. But she writes there is no intellectual difference between introverts and extroverts, only general perception. "The extroverts are more likely to focus on what's happening around them. It's as if extroverts are seeing 'what is' while their introverted peers are asking 'what if.'"

Shy people and introverts are different in many ways, but are equally amazing and valuable to the modern world. We are identified by our actions, which lead to assumptions and stereotypes that don't necessarily apply.





# Arranged Marriage

## A new take on an old tradition

By Resha Damania



# We knew we were meant for each other but we had to be sure - so he flew 22 hours across the globe to meet me

It was a warm July day in Pune, India, and an important day in my life – I had to look perfect. The doorbell rang. A familiar face walked through the front door. A face I had seen so often on Skype but never the in flesh – my husband-to-be.

When people hear the words “arranged marriage,” they think of it as something impractical and unfair to the couple involved. But what if the couple was given a choice in the arrangement? What if they were given a chance to fall in love with someone their parents chose for them? Would you call it unfair then? I know I wouldn’t.

I was offered something the majority of young Indians are given: a choice.

After spending quality time with the two families, my future husband and I went on our first official date.

We talked about many things; like when we first got in touch. We found out that my grandmother was friends with his grandfather. We discovered we had similar circles as well. Since all the people we knew had only good things to say, our parents encouraged us to get to know each other and see where things went from there.

Since he lived in Canada and I lived in India, our initial meetings were on Facebook and Skype. When we talked for the first time we hit it off instantly. We talked every day until we decided it was time to meet. We knew we were meant for each other but we had to be sure. So he flew 22 hours across the globe to meet me.

Three years have passed. I am an Algonquin College journalism graduate, happily married and living in Ottawa. I often think of how lucky I am to have a wonderful husband and parents who understand and support my decisions. Some may call it an arranged marriage but to my husband and I, it was love that brought us together—not a third party.

The arranged marriage phenomenon has seen

massive changes. Decades ago, couples had no say in a matter as crucial as their own marriage. Many couples only meet for the first time on the day of their wedding.

Sharda Tailor, 71, from India, has been living in Ottawa for the last 10 years. At 21, she met her husband only once before they married.

“Back in the day, people from India would marry anyone their parents deemed fit,” says Tailor. “We grew up with the common belief that parents know what’s best for us so we would willingly let them make such a big decision for us.”

**At first there was no love, but you do fall in love with the person you’re married to**

If given a choice, Tailor would not change a thing about her arranged marriage. She loved the fact that her parents chose her husband for her and even though society has progressed now, she still respects the old traditions and values she was brought up with.

“At first, there was no love,” she says. “But, eventually, you do fall in love with the person you are married to.”

For her, it happened after two months of being married.

Times are different now. People who have been following the practice of arranged marriages

for generations are now more relaxed towards the subject. Couples are now given a choice in the matter. Couples now have a voice.

Mehul Patel, 30, has been living in Ottawa for six years. He voiced his opinion when he told his family that he needed more time to think before giving his future wife, Jalpa Patel, 26, a commitment. Jalpa’s parents contacted Mehul’s parents after reading a matrimonial ad about him in an Indian newspaper. They arranged a meeting and the two discussed everything they needed to know about each other. They found a connection. But marriage is a big deal and just a connection is not enough to make a union. Mehul wanted to date her before deciding to tie the knot.

“I found in Jalpa everything I was looking for in a girl,” says Mehul. “I courted her for several weeks before I married her.”

Jalpa lived in India all her life and moved to Ottawa to live with her husband, Mehul.

Most people now have the freedom of choosing their own life partner. Couples were previously discouraged from doing so due to cultural obligations or tradition. If they are unable to find a partner before a certain age, their parents step in, and after obtaining their child’s consent, set out on a hunt to find a suitable match for them. Once they find someone they think could be perfect for their child, they leave it up to the pair to get to know each other and allow them to take it from there.

Things on the arranged marriage front are not as severe as they used to be. There are no set rules for what is acceptable and what is not. The boundaries vary depending on the family and how progressive they are. In the end, it doesn’t matter what the limitations are or how far one can go to bend the rules.

What matters most is that the couples’ feelings are heard and respected so they may have the final say.





Paul and Patrick Longchamps sitting at the Timothy's in College Square. They may be all smiles but things haven't always been this pleasant for the Longchamps brothers.

# Brothers

**Love or hate them, siblings are our rivals and teammates, mentors and proteges**

**By Patrick Longchamps**

I heard a strange knock followed by a rasping sound coming from the kitchen. I walked in and saw my brother rolling around on the floor. I hammered on my mother's bedroom door and screamed, "Call 911, Paul's having a seizure."

I hurried back to stop him from hurting himself. He was shaking with foam and blood coming from his mouth. This was the first time in years I had done anything kind for my brother, and in helping to save him, I realized how much he meant to me. He shaped me into the person I am.

I'm not alone in the thought that brothers have a large impact on each other. It doesn't matter if they are older, younger, have a poor relationship or a good one, these people are important to each other. Chris Lilly, a retired social worker, agrees.

"There is a special relationship with a brother, a sharing of genetics, environment, early socialization, values and interests," says Lilly.

My brother used to make me do his chores, but he also taught me what to do when I could not handle school. Older brothers often take on the responsibility of a role model.

For Reilly Walker, a chemical engineering student at the University of Ottawa and his younger

brother Evan, this was important.

"Evan keeps us all on our toes," says Walker. "He's the sibling that I feel compelled to help raise even though he resents any feedback from me. He and I are very competitive, but I'd like to think it's because of a strong admiration of each other that we'd never admit."

However, learning from mistakes made by an older sibling is often the only way the younger generation can see what they can and can't do.

Failing in school and not being able to hold down a job are some of the lessons I've learned from my brother. Ryan Wieczorek, an international relations and business law student at Carleton University has had very similar experiences.

"My brother and I are both very different people," he says. "He has had so many self-inflicted problems in his life and I have never really been supportive. What motivates me is seeing how

much of a mess his life is and not wanting that."

The experiences with my brother are important to me because they taught me who I am and who I am not. I've always wondered if he had any theories on why we didn't get along.

So I asked him.

"We have a lot of the same characteristics," he says. "This has made it hard to get along in the past."

"I have always tried to protect you, and was never sure you saw that."





**Eva and Tina Bouzinelos are not only sisters but twins. They've found their relationship has improved since moving to Ottawa for school.**

# Sisters

What's surprising is that even when the bond is broken, it's still there

**Close or far, brothers and sisters have a huge hand in shaping each other's lives**

By Paige Vonk

**M**y sister, Ally, was seven and I was eight when we broke my mom's ceramic angel that she had just received as a birthday gift from her best friend. We couldn't agree on what TV show to watch, and began to push and hit each other. I shoved her into a table and the angel fell to the ground.

Ally and I fought a lot growing up. Being completely opposite in all aspects caused tension between us. However, at the end of the day we always wound up hanging out together. By the

time high school was finished we began to get along. I realized I was lucky to have a sister, and that our differences are a way to learn from each other.

Friends come and go, but family is forever and can really shape who you are. Sisters can have complex relationships, but they are relationships worth having.

Ivana Vijackic, 21, and her 10-year-old sister share a special bond. Vijackic, a student at the University of Ottawa, takes on a nurturing role towards her sister.

"I come from a culture where family is first above all," says Vijackic. "I have to love her and I do love her."

Joelle Groleau, a life coach in Ottawa, said that the bond between sisters is something that fluctuates over time depending on what stage of life each is in.

"What's surprising is that even when the bond is broken, it's still there," says Groleau.

Tina Bouzinelos, a student at the University of Ottawa, and her sister Eva, an Algonquin student, can testify to that. Being twins meant they spent all of their time together growing up, which caused them to fight a lot. They didn't start to form a sound relationship until they went away to school and lived together on their own. Now the twins look forward to sharing their milestones together.

"After the first year, we were both here and basically needed each other," said Tina. "You have your friends, but your sisters get you."

No matter what age gap, sisters share a bond. It may be difficult to understand if you don't have a sibling, but sisters are family; whatever happens, you'll always love and care for them.



# Hallway to Hell

**A night inside Ottawa's famously haunted jail**  
**By Christine Roy**

I wake up and my heart is pounding, echoes from a loud noise resound down the hallway to my cell. What bravery I had earlier in the evening has left me.

I'm spending a night at the Old Ottawa Jail, a historic - and apparently very haunted - hostel.

Its doors opened over 150 years ago last October, my favourite time of the year, I treated myself to my first ghost adventure. Happy Halloween to me!

Thursday, Oct. 9, **3:17 p.m.**: It's no wonder this place is an attraction. It's definitely looking like a jail even if they have modernized it. My cell is tiny. It's nine feet by three feet and it's known as a drum cell, a room that was used for sleeping. There's also a lot of echo factor involved with them. Time to go exploring!

**6:27 p.m.**: Christine, the girl at the front desk, was telling me that a guy came down that morning. "He told me that he heard a loud noise in the middle of the night and then his nose started bleeding." It's common for people to get nosebleeds here, according to the Haunted Walk tour. For instance, two boys who were jumping on a concrete slab, thought to be the grave of Patrick Whelan, both developed nose bleeds. Let's go see if I can capture some evidence.

**7:33 p.m.**: I just returned from death row. I explored some of the dark cells. The floors are so creaky in this building; you can't get around without being heard. The dark doesn't bother me but the history is so thick you can almost feel it on your skin.

**11:13 p.m.**: I was lying in bed when I heard something slam in the hallway. It sounded like a toilet seat.

**11:31 p.m.**: Just heard the toilet seat again but when I checked, both toilet seats were still up. On my way back to bed, I heard the same noise, only it was right next to me. It scared me to death, but was a false alarm. I had shut the window across from my cell and hadn't locked it. It must be the wind slamming the windows shut.

Time unknown: it's after midnight. A really loud noise woke me up. I didn't see anything in the sleeping area. I'm pretty scared now.

**Four days later...**

Tuesday, Oct. 14, **7:49 p.m.**: I went over the audio files. There are some noises on there I can't explain. I was alone, so no one messed with my equipment. I have some strange footage on my cellphone: an orb of light shooting

across the wall inside the solitary confinement cell on death row. I can't explain it. I tried recreating the orb on my cellphone. No luck.

What an amazing experience.

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# Girl Gamers - not just Princess Peach

**Women in the online gaming community are battling more than just other players. They are fighting stereotypes and discrimination**

By Chris Whan

Recently in the video game world there has been a surge in female voices. Women have always played video games, but they were silent, afraid to tell the world who they truly are.

Historically speaking, the video game community has been a primarily male-led one. But with women like Anita Sarkeesian, who has created videos and vlogs decrying the tropes used on women in video games, and the recent death threats delivered to game developers Zoe Quinn and Brianna Wu, women have come to the forefront of social propriety in a culture that has gone unchecked for too long.

As a man who spends most of his free time perusing the worlds of Skyrim, Hyrule and Lord of the Rings, I have seen some of these acts first hand, though not just to women. Online communities are teeming with people who claim they've had sex with my mother. But the threat of rape has never been used on me. That seems to be delivered only to women and it has been used very liberally.

Brianna Wu works for Giant Spacekat, a game development company who've just released a game called *Revolution 60*, a sci-fi game focused on four women. The response to her video game was met with derision and hatred. Words like "rape" and



"bitch" are used throughout the criticisms.

All is not terrible when it comes to women in games, though. It is a rough world, but some women have beaten down the barriers to make a place of their own.

"I've strived to be one of the guys all my life," says Samantha Carroll, a former University of Ottawa student and avid gamer. "I only surround myself with genuine people."

Syeda Houston, a student at Algonquin College, has had mostly positive experiences but admits she has been met with more cruelty than kindness online, however not for the reason many people think. "I have felt unwelcome playing online because of my view of playing for enjoyment instead of playing to win," says Houston. "A lot of the time I choose to just play on my own."

Houston is also careful about the way she portrays herself online. "Most people probably wouldn't know I'm a girl," she says. "I normally don't use a mic and my profiles for any online games are not girly. I don't need to throw it in anyone's face that I'm a female gamer."

To think a woman can't divulge who she truly is because she believes it would be throwing it in someone's face says everything about the current state of gaming culture.

Most girls are taught from a young age that video games are for boys and it's wrong for them to enjoy them.

In a post requesting to speak to female gamers in the Algonquin College competitive gaming club, nothing rude was said. However, some of the members were taken aback and confused as to why such a question was asked. Replies read, "You might have difficulties with that," and "I think I saw a girl there... once." One of the admins explained that women don't play the games they host in the group.

It's unfortunate that women aren't taken as seriously in this world as they should be, but it's good to see they finally have a voice. Some may attempt to squash this voice but it seems like they come back and in greater numbers. I truly can't wait to see what the video game community has in store.

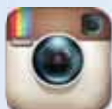




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# Taking back the streets

**While it may seem like a harmless compliment to some, street harassment can lead to anxiety and a reduced sense of safety**

**By Stephanie Hulse**

I was walking home from Algonquin College when it happened. I surveyed my outfit: Birkenstocks, blue shorts, a black V-neck shirt and sunglasses.

I decided it must have been the shorts that provoked the boys to yell “I’D FUCK YOU” from the SUV window.

I’d been objectified, again. A few days later, I realized I had started to unconsciously wear baggy clothes to hide my body.

Stop Street Harassment, an Ottawa-based NGO, defines sexual harassment as “any action or comment between strangers in public places that is disrespectful, unwelcome, threatening and/or harassing and is motivated by gender or sexual orientation or gender expression.”

I caught up with my close friend Alexa DeJourdan, a University of Ottawa communications graduate and lifelong Ottawa resident, to hear her take on street harassment in the capital.

“As someone who is coming from Mackenzie King Station, I’m forced to go through the Rideau Centre to get to the ByWard Market,” she says. “But I will avoid the corner (of Rideau Street). I will walk around the mall if I have to,

to avoid feeling uncomfortable, because men stare at you.”

In May 2013, Hollaback! Ottawa and WISE, which stands for Women’s Initiatives for Safer Environments, conducted a survey to collect the unavoidable truth about street harassment in Ottawa.

Out of 350 participants, 97 per cent of respondents had experienced street harassment in the past year. The results even indicated that 38 per cent of respondents were “fearful of going out” by themselves, 32 per cent changed their route or final destination like Dejourdan, and 21 per cent left afraid to return to the place they’d been harassed.

Lindsay Crouse, a first-year library and information technology student at Algonquin College, has been experiencing street harassment since the age of 12. “I think people think it’s about being attracted to someone, but it’s not about sexual attraction,” says Crouse. “It’s about dominating and making [the person] feel uncomfortable... that’s what they get off on.”

For many, the line between street harassment and a compliment is blurred.

“Street harassment is unwanted and can happen between strangers,” says MANifest Change

director Matt Shaff, a program with the Ottawa Coalition To End Violence Against Women. “Someone is trying to take your power away. Typically, a compliment takes place inside a friendship and you can question it, but the difference is street harassment is degrading.”

The solution lies in engaging everyone in the conversation. By talking about how to recognize and respond to street harassment both as a bystander and as a survivor, we can make this unwanted behaviour history.

Hollaback!, an online campaign with worldwide chapters, has been encouraging survivors to share their stories since 2010.

“Responding is different for each person,” says Julie Lalonde, the director of Hollaback! Ottawa. “If you leave the situation silently that’s okay. But speak out about it; that’s how you take back power.”

By speaking out the survivor regains power while empowering other survivors to do the same, and end street harassment. Meanwhile, MANifest Change, holds workshops for people aged 13 to 18 discussing all kinds of violence, including street harassment and will next set its sights on holding workshops on campuses across Ottawa.

# Dingy and Dangerous

By Jaclyn McRae

## Nightclub workers shed light on the dark side of a lively scene

When I came home from university with no job, no money and effectively homeless, like many students in Ottawa, I needed high-income very quickly, but I wasn't really qualified to do anything. I had worked as a waitress several times, but never in a nightclub. I knew the money would be better than anything I had ever earned before.

The underside of the nightclub industry that's often accepted and ignored is the amount of sexual harassment and violence towards the women who work in it. When the tight, skimpy uniform goes on, the humanity is stripped off.

In a dark, dingy club, being felt up was my regular night. Cleaning up puke and owing the bar money I was stifled by drunk customers was only part of it. It was the ass-slapping, the hands up my shorts and constant attempts to touch my breasts by telling me "what a nice necklace" I had, that infuriated me.

I thought the sexual harassment was bad, until it escalated further.

One night I had a group of men, regulars, and one was trying to force me to kiss his friend.

It started out light hearted, but as I moved back, he grabbed my arm to pull me in and put his hand on my neck to push me forward.

As I started to panic and pull away, his grip

tightened. He was well over six feet tall and holding so tight I couldn't move away.

I was lucky. A bouncer was nearby and intervened. But at that moment I realized fighting off a man of his size was impossible; and aggravating a drunk one is a bad idea.

**The nightclub industry is a lucrative business for young women; the money of the sex trade minus the work or label**

The nightclub industry is a lucrative business for young women; the money of the sex trade minus the work or label. But what's an exciting night out for club-goers is a long stretch of work for staff, many of whom are women financing their way through an education.

Ottawa post-secondary students Lejla and Kelsey, who requested their last names remain anonymous, are all too familiar with the stark reality of the industry.

Kelsey describes an incident with a prominent regular that became an eye-opener. "He follows me to the office, closes the door, locks the door, starts kissing me," she says. "I didn't feel comfortable saying no. I felt almost like I owed him something, right?"

Kelsey's guilt stems from the fact he would

regularly tip her hundreds of dollars a night and she would flirt with him, as her job dictated.

"So I'm sort of nicely pushing him away like, 'oh no stop, I don't really want to,'" she says. "He started unbuttoning my shorts, pushed me against the wall; the bouncer started banging on the door. He kept going, he didn't stop and I was pushing him away. He was asking me to come home with him. Finally, the bouncer got the key and came in. I was almost ashamed. I felt like I had put myself in that situation."

The fear of ridicule and secondary victimization stops many women from reporting these incidents, as it did with Kelsey.

"One time I had this really disrespectful man," says Lejla. "I went to go ask if he would like to buy a shot and he proceeded to put his hand up my skirt."

"There's a level of strong disrespect, especially for women," she explains. "You basically have to sell yourself to make tips."

It doesn't help that the hourly minimum wage for serving alcohol in Ontario is \$9.55, compared to the general minimum wage of \$11.25, putting that much more pressure on servers to tolerate inappropriate behaviour in order to make tips.

These incidents are an all-too-common occupational hazard.

Phillip Young, former head of security in





Ottawa nightclubs, explains how, most often, security's hands are tied.

"Being a security guard, we're licensed," he says, outlining the possibility of a customer pressing charges. "We're supposed to know the limits."

Grace "DJ Panda" Yip, who's been a long-time presence in the Ottawa nightlife scene, has observed it all.

"It's the bar mentality," says Panda. "People think that they can just come into a bar and no

rules apply. There's a sense of entitlement with paying X amount of dollars to go in, 'because I've paid this now I can do whatever I want and you have to do whatever I say,' which is not true."

She elaborates with the issue of alcohol being frequently used as an excuse.

"People always say, 'I was drunk, it doesn't matter,'" she says. "If 'I was drunk' is not a defence with police in a domestic violence case, then it's not an acceptable excuse for poor behaviour."

The mindset towards female staff that has become the social norm for clubbing is a skewed one.

These elements are the perfect storm creating a culture of sexually inappropriate and violent behaviour towards working, young women.

"Just because I'm working in this industry where I'm supposed to sell you drinks does not give you permission to touch me in any way," says Lejla.

# Date Rape Prevention Inventions

**Glue looks at the innovations we have used throughout the ages to protect ourselves, from chemicals to armor plating**

By Dylan Conway-Hartwick



**1400 - 1700**  
**The old-fashioned way: chastity belt**

**W**omen must take their safety into their own hands. At least that has been the message over the years. Mankind is always coming up with innovative ways to keep women safe from sexual assault, attack and date-rape.

The fact that these inventions even exist, although perpetrators must be put to blame, is truly an issue.

Here are some of the craziest and most ridiculous prevention methods created throughout history, from the outlandish olden day ideas to the newer world of female assault prevention.

Although popular during the Renaissance, the now-not-so-popular chastity belt is defined by the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary* as “a belt device designed to prevent sexual intercourse on the part of the woman wearing it.”

But the belts were not ideal for uninterrupted long-term wear, because those that were made with metal risked damaging the skin.

“I feel like it should be a women’s choice to have sex, it shouldn’t just be that you can’t,” says Jillian Perry, a fourth-year psychology student at Carleton University. “I think the older prevention methods tend to take away from women’s rights.”



**1970s**  
**The rape whistle: then and now**

The ila Dusk Personal Alarm is somewhat of a modern-day revolution of the '70s rape whistle.

It involves a keychain-like device that sends off a female scream at an ear-shattering pitch once its chain has been pulled. The catch: the pin must be pulled for it to work, which may be hard during an attack. You also may never know if the alarm batteries are operational unless you test the device regularly.

The device plays off of the classic rape whistle by emitting a shrill sound, but has the benefit of being able to continue without the potential victim’s help.

# Mankind is always coming up with innovative ways to keep women safe from sexual assault, attack and date-rape



## 1980s

### Please don't mace me, bro!

This blast from the past holds the power to leave any attacker temporarily blinded with hot peppers. But while it was used as a personal defense tool back in the '80s, pepper spray is classified as a prohibited weapon in Canada and is illegal to carry.

As it turns out, it may not even be a safe defense tool when in danger.

"It may not help you when you need it," says Andrew Roach, acting staff sergeant for Ottawa Police Service. "Everything has a shelf life, so it could give you a false sense of security, and some people have such a high tolerance to the spray that it has zero effect."



## 2014

### Polish your way to prevention

This stylish new accessory made headlines in the summer of 2014, and not just for its cute shades. Undercover Colors Nail Polish, developed by four students at North Carolina State University, changes colour to warn the wearer when date rape drugs are detected. The media and critics jumped on the fact that the polish literally puts the responsibility of prevention in the hands of possible-victims rather than focusing on stopping offenders.

"A lot can happen when alcohol is involved, you can never take too much precaution," says Kelsey Burton, a communications student at University of Ottawa. She got the polish during a manicure at a nail salon in Texas.



## 2015

### Safety tucked in your pocket

The newest innovation in female safety is definitely for the tech-savvy, with technology like the R.I.S.E: React, Intervene, Support & Educate app for phones. The app is meant to help prevent assault on campuses by allowing students to interact with others, point out any situations that concern them or find tips or intervention techniques if they find themselves in a bad position. It gives a more communal sense to assault prevention.

"It creates more awareness, from women staying safe to community involvement," says Erin Leigh, executive director for the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women.



A silhouette of a male figure, likely a stripper, is shown against a warm, orange-brown background. The figure is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its head tilted back and arms raised, suggesting a performance or dance move. The lighting is dramatic, with the figure's outline clearly defined against the lighter background.

# CONFESSIONS OF A MALE STRIPPER

By Jaclyn McRae

An in-depth look into the highs  
and lows of a male stripper turned  
prostitute

The movie *Magic Mike* brought widespread Hollywood acclaim to male stripping.

However, it didn't depict the entire truth of male strip clubs. Stripping, in fact, goes hand-in-hand with prostitution.

Dante\*, who identifies as bisexual with a preference for women, stripped and "turned tricks" at the largest male-only strip club in Toronto, Remington's - Men of Steel, for four years.

At the time, Dante was an undergraduate student at the University of Ottawa. He grew up in the city, had loving parents and pursued an education.

But by his second year of university, he had run into difficult financial circumstances and didn't know what to do.

"I was 19 or 20. I knew somebody who was doing it and I needed money," he says. "I did it for two years, then I stopped, then I did it for another two years."

Dante would fly to Toronto on Friday and work an evening shift, stay Saturday and work all night, and take the bus home to Ottawa on Sunday.

He rented a room at a bathhouse, a type of hotel where men go to have sex, for a stripper's discount of \$12 a night.

No one in Ottawa knew about the double-life he was leading in Toronto, not even his family, and they didn't question his regular travel or excessive spending.

For full sex, Dante was charging \$300 for the first hour and \$250 for every additional hour. Many of the club's patrons were wealthy, married businessmen also leading double lives.

"Only a few of them weren't turning tricks," he says of the male strippers. "But the club is a way to get clients. Per weekend, I'd average out about \$1,500 to \$1,600. The best I ever did was \$4,000," says Dante.

However, leading two lives, many male strippers and sex trade workers would turn to drugs.

"Clients would try to pay you with drugs other strippers would say, 'Hey man, let's go do some drugs.' Cocaine, MDMA; it was everywhere," he explains.

Dante was able to stay away from this thanks to his supporting network of family and friends back in Ottawa. But similar to the female sex trade, the male one is a slippery slope.

The money is lucrative, drugs are rampant and when you become isolated from normal

society, things can get out of control, which eventually became the case for Dante.

"It became a downward spiral," he says, "I didn't have anything else going on in my life, I was having some troubles with my girlfriend and family and it was becoming too big a part of my life."

The double life he was leading began to unravel. "At one point, it was the beginning of my shift. It was on a Friday, I had just gotten to Toronto and I was just on my way up to start walking the floor, and I just lost my shit," he says. "I started bawling my eyes out. I was just like 'I can't do it anymore.'"

"I went downstairs, got changed, went to go see the DJ and the manager, and I told them I just couldn't hack it anymore and then I walked out."

After leaving the sex trade, Dante had to readjust and rebuild his normal life with far less money. Inevitably, once again, financial instability rolled around. "I spent two years getting my brain right and getting my shit together and then went back with a plan," says Dante.

While working in the strip club and making a lot of money, Dante had bought a very expensive car. He soon realized after leaving the industry that he wasn't able to make the payments.

"When I stopped dancing, I had to park it for a while because I couldn't afford it," he explains.


One day after he had gotten the car back on the road and was pulling into a gas station, he was hit by another driver. Luckily, there were no injuries, but the car was totalled.

"At that point, I had to buy a new car and I still owed money on that car," he says. "At that time I was riding high; I was mentally good, and when they told me that (the car was totalled) I was like, 'alright, I'm ready to go back and make this happen.'"

He worked one weekend to make the \$2,000 down payment and bought a \$60,000 truck.

At that point, Dante was making \$4,000 to \$7,000 a month. He soon started saving money, investing it and started a business.

"I quit right before my birthday two years later. It was like a closure thing, it wasn't like running away this time," he says. "I had set everything up for work and I was moving on to the next chapter in my life."

Dante still faces the consequences of his former life. The long-term girlfriends who knew the truth have cited his past as the reason for ending the relationships; but his life is now far from what it once was. 





# CONFESSIONS OF A SUGAR BABY

By Arielle Follett

**Cash-strapped students are nothing new but sugar dating is. A growing number of Ottawa women are selling companionship for a price, turning the tables on sexual exploitation**

**T**he day starts with a steamy shower together.

The pair sit down to drink a glass of wine with a movie and then she gives him a massage.

They're all alone, enjoying each other's company.

When the time is up, the transaction follows and the phone rings as another man calls.

"How much is your rent this month?" reads the text.

She texts him back the four-figure number and in minutes an e-transfer shows up for the exact amount.

"I will give you \$300 if you agree to have lunch then a shopping date," another message reads. "I want to buy you a dress."

Sounds like prostitution, but it's much more than that.

Welcome to the world of a sugar baby.

Job requirements include dedicated companionship, great acting skills, sexual

prowess and a small chunk of your morality.

For those who don't know, a sugar baby is a young person, typically a student, who begins a relationship with someone much older and financially well-off, the sugar parent, who helps their baby with any monetary needs they may have.

The aptly named Las Vegas-based website, SeekingArrangement.com, is there to help potential sugar babies and parents find each other.

## FULL DISCLOSURE

In early 2013, the website got a sudden burst of attention in Ottawa when it was discovered that the University of Ottawa had the fastest growing number of students in Canada registering, a number based on sugar babies using their school email addresses to register which gets students a free premium membership for the site.

According to data collected by the website, there are nearly 6,000 sugar babies and just under 1,500 sugar daddies living in Ottawa.

There are over 200,000 sugar babies in the country, coupling up with over 40,000 sugar daddies.

Using a fake profile, *Glue* magazine went undercover on SeekingArrangement.com and found out that student sugar babies are still alive and well in the nation's capital – and they're willing to do just about anything for \$100.

"People think that a sugar daddy is just one relationship where he spoils you but it's not. You're giving to get, so it's almost like prostitution," says Grace\*, a 24-year-old sugar baby.

Grace has been on SeekingArrangement.com since 2011. She works in construction during the day, is a massage attendant by night and a sugar baby in between. She is also married with a two-year-old daughter.

"My husband doesn't know what I do," she says. "If he found out about this, he would probably try to take my daughter away from me and shame me. With the sugar daddies that I am in an arrangement with, there's no sex, there's no oral and it's because of how persuasive and manipulative I can be. I can have good arrangements without compromising my marriage. Of course, there is some stuff like a really good handjob, but that's where the massage attendant comes in. You know how to seduce them and get them going without going all the way."

"They're not my husband, they're not my boyfriends, they're my clients," she continues. "They're nothing to me, they're money and the majority of them know that."

Ben\*, a sugar daddy, agrees that both parties understand what it is that they're doing, going so far as to say that it is a turn-off when they pretend to be too interested.

"I know my age and know I am not young like her so no need to go on and on about how sexy I am when I am not," he says.

As a busy professional, Ben does not have time to nurture a girlfriend. He finds the perks of that

kind of relationship in the form of a sugar baby.

"The upside is having girlfriend-type sex with a beautiful lady you see on your terms when you want to. Because it's girlfriend sex she is way more open to kissing and the stuff a girlfriend would do that a prostitute wouldn't."

Many of the women, like prostitutes, have to cater to a variety of fetishes.

"This town is just crawling with freaks because it's all government," Grace says. "I have one client who loves the fact that I look so young. I wear no make-up, I put on pig-tails – he's a pervert. I keep him off the street by saying I'm his little girl. I try to satisfy his urges so



that when he gets out on the street he's not tempted."

At age 18 Scarlett\* moved out on her own for the first time and it was quite the change for the University of Ottawa student. It was especially overwhelming on her bank account. Scarlett had trouble finding a part-time job to cover her expenses. Just as she was starting to get desperate, she found out about SeekingArrangement.com.

"It didn't eat up my time and my hours were my own," she says. "I can manage school and this without panicking about everything."

Inexperienced in this realm, Scarlett

didn't know what to expect.

"I thought it would be more of an escort thing and I thought they would require sex," she says. "When they expected it right away, I'd tell them it's not happening immediately and they'd disappear. Others were more willing to pay and then let it play out."

All daddies handle finances a little differently. Some will simply pay for dinner and stuff a little money in their baby's purse. Others will ask their baby to bring their bills along and pay those. There are even some daddies who will invite their baby to a hotel room, pay them to have sex and leave. Money varies greatly between each pairing as they talk and figure out what works best for them.

Scarlett does mostly pay-per-date where she makes about \$200 to \$300 per date.

"It's essentially an act you are putting on to get paid," she says. "Sometimes they're alright to talk to. The pay is pretty nice considering I don't have to work too hard and I basically get to pick my own boss."

After four months of being a sugar baby, Scarlett is still learning a lot. Due to her young age, sugar daddies try to trick her, but she has begun to catch on. She requires her daddies to get tested and she also requires payment by the second date.

"The first date is free just to make sure we have chemistry," she says. "I have other men waiting and I don't have time to waste but they like to play. They want to pretend that you're genuinely interested in them."

Scarlett has some trouble as well with balancing her morals with the work that she does.

"I won't screw around with guys with wives and especially if they have kids because I just feel awful," she says. "One guy, he paid me and I found out about the wife after. I kept the money even though we never ended up doing anything and I told him that was money to keep my mouth shut. He wasn't too happy with me." The biggest issue Scarlett has found is approaching the topic of payment.

"If you talk payment right away, they'll start thinking of it as a business deal and it'll spoil the fun," she says. "I don't mind but I'm not looking for that illusion."

Every corner a user turns on the website brings up a message stating that escorts are absolutely not welcome on the site, although most sugar babies and daddies *Glue* spoke with admit that is what is happening.

"I don't know if I'd call it escorting always because I've been paid for just dates, not sex, but I'm new to this so it's hard to say," Scarlett says.

"There's nothing wrong with getting paid for your time I think. It's like classier prostitution but at the same time it's not."

Another sugar baby, 24-year-old Olivia\* who now has a boyfriend/girlfriend dating relationship with her sugar daddy, argues that these relationship with her sugar daddy, argues that these relationships are not a form of prostitution.

"It really isn't anything near prostitution. I don't have to sleep with anyone. Sometimes, all they want is a pretty girl to show off to their friends," she says. "People get lonely. Some-

times, all they need is a sympathetic ear... If that ear just so happens to be attached to a pretty girl, they're willing to trade for my time."

While Grace makes enough money from her day job, she doesn't plan to quit being a sugar baby anytime soon. She makes an estimated extra \$8,000 a month from her adult work. Growing up struggling to make ends meet has made Grace extra conscious of her funds.

"It's just nice to have that extra income," she says. "You don't have to worry when you go to the grocery store and you're looking and you're trying to budget – it's not fun to live like that. It's a constant stress. To go to a grocery store and buy what you want to buy not just what

ter being able to go to school without having to take a loan out, without having to struggle, without having to buy ramen noodles... that would be amazing to me."

Grace has had many men try to negotiate prices after the relationship has been ongoing or for as cheap as he has had other girls.

"Those are the type of people you would just report because they're not here for what it is. They want a street-hooker. Even though you both know what's going on, you can come to a common ground and you can become friends. There's still

money involved but you just don't bring it up as you would. There's lots of guys on there who just wanna fuck you a couple times and maybe pay you, maybe not."

"It's like 'You really think that little of me, huh?' And then I get in my own head and think, 'Well I know what this is, he knows what this is. Maybe he should think that little of me.'" **9**

**I can have good arrangements without compromising my marriage, with stuff like a really good handjob**

you need, it's a relief."

"The smarter girls will still budget. Like me, I still buy my clothes at Value Village. My daughter gets clothes from Oshkosh B'gosh and that's fine because that's for her," she says. "To me, it's okay if I go to hell as long as my daughter is safe and well when I'm gone. It's nice to see that she's dressed well even when I'm dressed like a hobo. The idea of my daugh-



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# Ottawa State of Mind



*Glue follows two artists  
through the growth of the  
capital's hip-hop scene*

By Dan Taccone

Idris Lawal is hungry.

Head bowed, lips moving, as if in silent prayer, his hands gesturing to music in his head, Lawal paces around the recording room awaiting his chance to step up to the microphone. The relative newcomer on the Ottawa hip-hop scene is still completely at ease on set.

Well, almost at ease.

"I shouldn't have had that coffee," he says with a laugh about the pre-performance Tim Hortons run. The caffeine was making him jittery as he tried to focus. He skipped the breakfast sandwich though.

"You don't eat before you rap, so you're actually rapping hungry," Lawal says, explaining one of his techniques. "When I perform, I do that. It sounds rawer and pushes it out more."

With that, the studio engineer motions that he's ready and Lawal takes a breath and steps to the mic.

Ottawa is a small city compared to Toronto, with smaller venues, crowds, and a smaller local hip-hop scene. But it's growing, and Lawal isn't the only one hungry. While Ottawa doesn't have the same musical image Toronto does, Ottawa's hip-hop community has been steadily developing over the last few years, and its artists, bringing multicultural influences, have produced numerous contributions to the genre.

Local hip-hop artist Fly on the Waltz (AKA Fabian Laurent) is one of them. He has been performing for 12 years, and has spent nine of them in Ottawa as an active member in the music scene.

"The scene has definitely grown in a few major ways compared to when I started performing," he explains. "There's a lot more promoters and groups throwing shows and events of all kinds, not only hip-hop."

He also credits the initiative of local artists and their willingness to throw their own show as a factor of the capital's increased hip-hop presence. "There's also been a shift towards smaller venues for smaller shows," he says. The combination of that and the willingness of independent artists to throw shows has encouraged the number of local shows.

Tynan "Tragic" Phelan of local hip-hop duo Philly Moves is happy with the progress Ottawa has made since they started four years ago. "There was no mid-level shows for hip-hop in Ottawa back then," he says. "There were none of these shows where four or five local kids (perform) and 100 people show up. That shit didn't happen. If Raekwon or Yelawolf came through there was a show, there were 25 cats who all wanted to open for it. It was hard."

"You can fill a room with a local show, whereas before you couldn't," adds Jonny Desilva, his

partner. "You'd have to be opening for someone to play in front of a crowd."

Part of this growth can be attributed to the different influences between genres.

"Although the hip-hop scene is still relatively small, there is more cross pollination going on between musicians," says Matias Muñoz, editor-in-chief of Ottawa Showbox, a website dedicated to the Ottawa music community. "We're seeing

## Ottawa's hip-hop community has been steadily developing over the last few years, and its artists, bringing multicultural influences, have produced numerous meaningful contributions to the genre

talented hip-hop artists breaking down barriers and joining forces with a lot of indie rock, electronic, and even folk acts. Having a smaller market allows for artists to meet each other and overcome a lot of the barriers of anonymity and competition that larger markets like Toronto have."

In the Ottawa music world, gaining recognition and support is much easier than in Toronto, where artists can easily get lost in the crowd of eager musicians.

However, Ottawa's size isn't the only defining factor. "I definitely think Ottawa's multiculturalism has a profound effect on the city's sound," says Fly on the Waltz. "You can hear not only the cultural influences, but the variety in musical instruments as well."

Lawal explains that Canada was influenced by hip-hop culture, as opposed to developing it at the ground-level as was the case in the U.S. Canadian hip-hop became the result of this meshing and the existing musical cultures in Canada. Phelan believes that Canadian hip-hop blends a mix of genres, old school sound, and more conscious content.

Idris "RI session" Lawal balances his craft with chasing degrees in both business marketing and entrepreneurship at the University of Ottawa. He just released his latest mixtape *Boxing with God* in October 2014, the product of a one-week project turned five-month process, something characteristic of the challenges faced by student artists.

"I started recording it in February, and I had school, and work, and I was the president of the frat," Lawal says. He has since given up the position. "I had no time, man. No fucking time. I had already paid the guy up front, so I just told him that I'd come in whenever I could."

Despite the favourable response, it wasn't an

ideal situation for Lawal, but one does not take his craft from Africa to the Middle-East and Canada without being adaptable.

His interest in hip-hop began when he was 15, and living in Qatar, after growing up in Nigeria until he was 11. After Qatar, he moved to South Africa when he was 16. Where other interests have fallen off with the frequent moves, hip-hop stayed constant since a friend showed Lawal a

scribbled verse of his.

"I looked at it, and said, 'man, this is sick.'" That day sparked a love for hip-hop that Lawal would bring with him as he began to experiment with spoken word poetry.

"It's definitely for the love of music, for sure," Lawal explained. "A lot of people stop doing things when they move around. But music is something that I've done everywhere."

With two mixtapes released, and an EP on the way, Lawal has used the city to his advantage.

Lawal's lyrics reflect his poetic background and his painstaking writing process. Even in *Maple Syrup*, Lawal's self-admitted most party-friendly track on *Boxing with God*, there is a decidedly more sombre feel to the shout-out to partying in the Great White North.

*"When halos lose that day glow  
And come dusk, you see sinners rise out of angels  
White dime on the table, white lines on her navel  
Nightlife in the maple."*

He spent three days on the verse, meticulously going over it until it was perfect. Lawal admits that he does overthink at times, but credits his friends for keeping him grounded. Manny Morakinyo describes a friendship-turned-collaborative relationship between the two that has left him impressed with Lawal's work.

"He's lived in a lot of different places, and he reflects that in tangible ways in his work," says Morakinyo. It's impressive to listen to. The first time I heard one of his songs I called him a soul rapper because of his thoughtfulness in creating songs."

Possessing an easy sense of humour, Lawal





**Tynan Phelan, a veteran of the Ottawa hip-hop scene, has noticed the genre's rapidly growing presence in the city.**

gestured with a small grin to the bong beside the table when asked how he stayed creative.

"I think I can stay creative because I'm a student of the game," he added seriously. "I'm always listening and incorporating what I hear into my work. I try to make music other people can relate to. As long as you do it for the music, the creativity will come."

For now, Lawal has chosen to chase degrees that he can apply to his career in music, while continuing to grow as an artist.

Tynan "Tragic" Phelan and Jonny "Rockwell" Desilva have known each other since their high-school days at St. Mark's High School in Manotick. They've come a long way since then, making their mark on the Ottawa hip-hop scene before moving on to Toronto. There was only so far they could go at the time in Ottawa's scene.

Once they finished high school, Phelan moved out to Calgary and Desilva went to school in Kingston. When Phelan returned to Ontario, they met up to record their first serious track, gradually growing and taking on the moniker Philly Moves.

After years of work, from releasing their first single in 2010 to a 2013 tour season that saw around 200 shows, they achieved popularity in

the Ottawa music scene. They rode that popularity to break into the larger and more lucrative Toronto scene.

"We made the record then we played one big tour kick-off show, which was essentially our first show," Desilva recalls. "It was a really cool show and it gave us some wheels for the tour. It gave us some confidence."

The two released their latest album, *Olga*, in August 2014, and it rose to number two on numerous college hip-hop charts. Their newest music video from the album *Queen* has been picked up by MuchMusic and MuchVibe. The album, although taking a year to finish, was started at a Muskoka cottage over the course of a couple days.

"I had just broken up with my girlfriend at the time, and this was me and Jonny's 'let's go up to the cabin, make some songs, make you feel better' kind of thing," says Phelan.

The result was five out of the ten songs on the album, and a much more mature and updated sound. "What was important for us with this album, we just wanted to come out a little more mature, a little more grown up, a little sexier," says Phelan.

That being said, Philly Moves have no plans

of changing who they are.

"It's still definitely our goal to make people smile when they listen to our music," says Phelan. "I think that's always kind of been our mandate, like make people smile and make people think, but I think now it's just the execution that's changing."

While Philly Moves are doing well for independent artists, they still face all the challenges that it comes with.

The two used to have dreams of supporting themselves solely through their music. But, reality soon caused Phelan to get a job as a stone mason and Desilva to keep working as a graphic designer. That didn't deter them though.

"I could do music for twenty years and still work my day job and have a really rewarding career in both," says Phelan. "There's nothing wrong with that. It's not all about radio play, and winning a Grammy, and being the next Elton John. That's not the be-all and end-all of music. There's different paths and there's lots of different things you can do."

The two have thought of making a future move to the U.S., but have reservations about doing it until they have the proper fan-base down south. In the meantime, Philly Moves plans on performing and continuing to increase their presence in Toronto and evolve their sound because, as Phelan notes, the worst thing a hungry artist can do is to get into a rut. One of their most interesting and unique skill sets is the ability to perform acoustic versions of their songs. The skill came in handy during a competition when they had to perform acoustically after their soundboard blew before their turn on stage.

"The music business is hard too," he says. "It's not a glamorous thing. I'm 29 years old, sleeping on couches still and stuff. Especially when we were recording. When me and my girlfriend broke up, I kind of lost my apartment as well. It's tough. Working full-time, never having any money, always broke, never getting enough sleep. A lot of the writing process comes from that, that darker period."

"You recognize that, the darkness, then you write songs that are the opposite of that to make yourself feel better."

Back in the studio, Lawal removes his headphones, releases a breath and he enters the sound room. His voice blares over the speakers, playing over Diplo's *Everyday*. He smiles as the room bobs in time to the music. He killed it.

He's heading back to his downtown apartment for lunch.

He is hungry, after all. **1**



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# Expecting Mom To Save Me



In adulthood and throughout our lives, we expect our moms to always have our back, to understand and support us, and to save us when we need saving. But mothers are only human and sometimes they can't be there for us like we want them to. Find out how to ease tension that may have built up over the years  
By **Myriah Saulnier**

Paisley Laurenzio Illustration





**Glue reporter Myriah Saulnier, seen here with her mother Patti Saulnier, says that after working through issues in their relationship the pair have never been closer.**

**S**ix years ago, I had one of the biggest breakdowns of my life. I was in my kitchen crying hysterically, tears running down my face as I screamed at my mom, begging her not to leave for a work appointment. I wanted her to stay so we could share how we had been feeling and so that we could work on getting back to being as close as we were before everything changed. My Nanny, her mom, had died a year prior. She'd helped raise me and was my best friend in the whole world. But now that she was gone, my heart felt empty and crushed. Instead of being able to go to the only mom I had left, I was forced to fend for myself. My mom was reluctant, but she went to her appointment anyways, choosing to ignore our shared depression instead of face it.

I needed her and she hadn't been there. Instead she chose to deal with her depression in the only way she thought possible – on her own. Meanwhile, I went through the darkest period

of my life trying to deal with all these emotions on my own too. I made several dangerous and stupid decisions during this time. Some of these included binge-drinking every weekend, skipping classes to hang out with bad influences, struggling with an eating disorder, and possibly worst of

forgiveness for my mom than I did during those years. I can relate to her as another adult, and from that I now understand she is also human and can't always be the perfect mother I want her to be. "Perfect" is an impossible expectation.

Parents are human too. Although it took me almost 20 years to realize it, they are just as human and flawed as the rest of us. We often hear about parents having high expectations of their children, but not enough about children

holding unrealistic expectations of their parents.

During this transitional period into adulthood, we require our parents' support but also need them to give us space to grow on our own. We need to lower our high expectations of them and learn to accept, compromise and love them fully, like they have always done for us.

Allison Adamovits, a therapist from Carleton Place Positive Change Centre, says this is a normal process of human development.

According to her, this is a huge transitional

**Don't fight it, embrace it, know that it's normal, it is workable and it will pass**

all, staying in a manipulative relationship with an abusive person.

I have never needed my mom more than I did during those two years. I felt alone, helpless and scared. Yet, I could not go to her with my troubles because her own troubles were all that she saw.

Everyone deals with loss differently and it was unfair of me to have expected her to come save me when she also needed saving.

Now that I am older, I have more respect and



period in the life of the child and the parent and tension will naturally be greater.

“Don’t fight it, embrace it,” she says. “Know that it’s normal, it is workable and it will pass.”

In recent years, the high expectations I held of my mom were actually getting in the way of having a normal and healthy relationship with her. As I become an adult, I crave her support more than ever. But I am let down by her need to sometimes put other things before me, such as her business which takes up at least 10 hours a day. Our relationship has changed ever since that dark period in our lives. We are better now

about my appearance,” she says.

Her mother is regularly commenting about how Pereira should use creams to get rid of acne or dry skin, or about how her makeup application isn’t done properly. She says her mother points out her insecurities and makes her feel worse about them, even though that may not be her intention. This creates tension within their relationship and leaves Pereira feeling like she can’t go to her mom for life advice.

First-year liberal arts student at CÉGEP Heritage College, Mark Chiasson, is in a similar situation. He also wishes he was closer with his

she feels the way she does and finding a mutual understanding would help us move forward.”

Chiasson has tried to speak openly with his mom about the uneasiness that exists in their relationship, but has felt there has been no improvement. He says it’s difficult to get over the tension because he doesn’t want to open any wounds.

Adamovits explains that the most crucial strategy to preventing tension from arising is to keep the lines of communication open, even though it can be hard to initially start the much-needed conversation.



individually, but we continued to be distant with each other for years because we weren’t sure how to fix the hole that existed. This has been our tension and we are constantly working around it, trying, sometimes hopelessly, to find a compromise. Algonquin first-year journalism student Amanda Pereira, 20, says the one outstanding human flaw her mother has that creates tension in their relationship is her vanity. She wishes her mom would care more about what’s on the inside than what is on the outside.

“I’ve accepted the fact that occasionally she is going to show her flaws, but it causes a lot of problems between us when she is judgmental

mom but feels his coming out four years ago has since changed things between them.

“My mother has had a harder time accepting that I am coming out,” he says. “I wish we could come to some middle ground of acceptance and move forward.”

The 22-year-old wishes his mother would be more open-minded. The root of their conflict comes from having such opposite opinions about sexuality and everything in-between.

“We don’t realize just how much they sacrifice for us, so putting ourselves in their shoes might help us to lower our expectations,” he says. “Sitting down and getting to the root of why

“In all our interpersonal relationships we are constantly assessing our own limitations and short-comings (real or perceived) and deciding which expectations of others and expectations of ourselves we will strive for or reject,” she says. “Whether you are the child or the parent, each side must respect the struggle of the other.”

Mothers especially face the struggle of trying to live up to the expectations of not only their children, but from society in general. Being labelled as a woman who chooses to focus on her career or her own needs, rather than spend time with her family, seems to still garner disapproval. This is a tremendous amount of pressure to put

on any one person, yet moms everywhere are trying to reach the supermom status.

Rebecca Addison-Falsetto, a mother of three young adults, says one of the main struggles she had raising her kids was remembering the person she was had to be “tweaked,” because she was now setting an example for others. She had to take into consideration everything she said and did.

She was never close with her own mother, so keeping communication open and fighting for a tight bond with all of her kids has always been important to her.

“Remind your kids that you have flaws and that you’re always learning, growing and changing too,” she says. “It’s amazing how just talking can bring both mother and child to the same level of understanding.”

Adamovits says the significant thing for everyone to remember is that parents don’t need to be perfect. However, they should teach their kids “how to learn; how to admit when you have made a mistake; how to pick yourself up, learn and move forward; how to be open to other views and options without abandoning or dishonouring our

values; how to strive to live up to our values no matter what the temptation or pressure and the skills and strategies that support us to do these things.”

It took me 20 years to realize my mom was human, but I finally did. We have healed from our tremendous loss and realized we were both

to becoming the person I aspire to be.

I can finally say I feel comfortable with my body, my mind is in a good place and I don’t give anyone the chance to manipulate me. I am in a relationship with a partner who treats me like gold and I am really happy about how my life has turned itself around.

Best of all, my mom and I have never been closer. We are back to having our girls’ nights, sharing our love for delicious food and going to exciting events together. Not only that, but we just came back from a mother-daughter

trip to Italy and Ireland (what adventures!).

Don’t let tension build up with one of the most important people in your life. If expectations aren’t being met, take the time to evaluate the situation and come to a healthy compromise.

Throughout good times and bad, there should be no other person who has your best interest in mind than your parent. I know my mom has always put me first when she could, and I know that she has been and will always be my anchor, my number one fan and my flawed but ultimately irreplaceable superhero. **9**

## Putting ourselves in their shoes might help us to lower our expectations

pushing away the closest person we had left.

Since we have opened our wounds and shared our feelings, expectations and disappointments with each other, we have made a mutual promise to try harder and never again let our relationship fall apart.

This new understanding between us has brought me the support I have always needed. Although I taught myself how to be stronger and more confident after overcoming the struggles I faced six years ago, having a healthy relationship with my mom has helped me move that much closer



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# The magic of mistakes

Four lessons learned from the failures of three local Ottawa entrepreneurs

By Connor Lynch and Myriah Saulnier

For three young Ottawa entrepreneurs who have been friends since university, the road to getting their businesses up and running has been a rocky one.

Two independent companies were created

out of the friendship Ned Nadima, Cyril Moukarzel and Mathieu Jobin shared: Denilson, a secure mobile payment solution for retail enterprises, and eCelery, which is an online food delivery system for multieth-

nic homemade cuisine by local chefs. Both companies have had a few false starts restarts.

But here's some great news: because they learned the hard way, you can now learn the easy way.

## 1 If at first you don't succeed...

This is far from their first project. Before Denilson, Nadima, the company's CEO, had launched another start-up on his own. So had Moukarzel, the CEO of eCelery. Both men's projects fell apart, but they learned a thing or two from their experiences.

"When you fail, you learn something you didn't know before," says Nadima. "As you go, you continue to gain knowledge and experience, so it's always worth it to try." Most importantly: failing prepared them for their next project.

## 2 Be realistic about what you can accomplish

Nadima still dares to dream. This skill is part of what makes him a visionary. But sometimes his reach can exceed his grasp. His original vision of Denilson was medical software that would facilitate information exchange both between doctors and patients, but also between other doctors. In other words, a supplementary

system to OHIP. "At one point he wanted me to design throat sensors to count calories," says Jobin. Nadima says that started out as a joke, until they realized the software to make that happen was actually available. Nevertheless, they toned down the idea into something that could realistically be done – eCelery.

## 3 Realize strengths and use them

Nadima, Moukarzel and Mathieu Jobin, the CTO of eCelery, formed what Nadima called "the golden triangle: the perfect founding team."

Although the three of them now work separately on the two different companies, they still help each other out and remain friends. It has taken all of their collective expertise and skills to bring the companies

to where they are now. They rely on each other and recognize each other's strengths. Nadima's gift is pushing a company forward. Moukarzel's strengths are in management and coordination. Jobin is skilled in design work. (Nadima calls him "the master engineer.") The three complement each other. Ideally, every start-up should have this kind of chemistry.

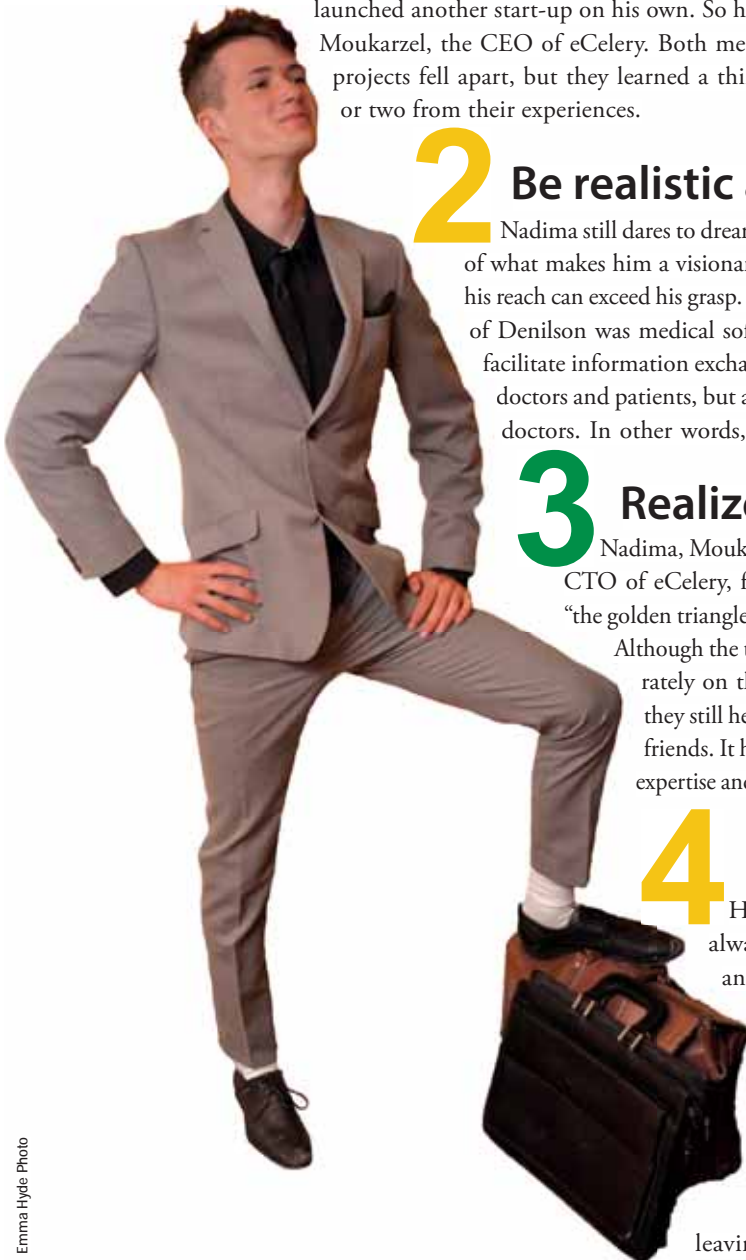
## 4 Realize problems and fix them

However, chemistry doesn't always translate into sunshine and rainbows. Part of why the dream team decided to go their separate ways was because they had different views on strategy.

Unfortunately they couldn't agree, so Nadima walked away from eCelery, leaving what he positively calls

"the dynamic duo" and focused on his own strengths with Denilson. Nadima knew that walking away was the solution the project needed. This is why today, all three men still have a good relationship. Which is great news, because there is plenty of optimism in the local business community.

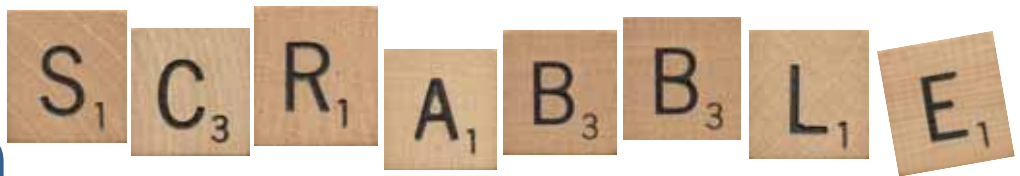
"Online companies such as Shopify are giving us new hope," says Nadima. "The new generation of entrepreneurs are really finding out what success means."



Emma Hyde Photo



# Scoring with



## Move over, mathletes! *Glue* gives you five ways that Scrabble is a sport

By Alicia Gosselin

The rules are tough. It's a game for the sharp. The players are dedicated and diverse. A 10-year-old girl could be on par with a 55-year-old man. And in Ottawa we have a world championship winner right in our backyard.

Although it's a pretty bizarre niche, members

of the Ottawa Scrabble Club are tearing up the rankings internationally.

Matthew Tunncliffe, a graduate of the technical writing program at Algonquin, is a top-rated player in Canada and a revered member of the club.

"Scrabble's overlooked as a sport," says Tun-

ncliffe during the club's weekly meet-up at the Gloucester Public Library. Just like 40 million other competitors across North America, he practices the activity with a level of expertise and competes internationally. Does that not make it a sport?

Elite players at Ottawa's local clubs argue that it does. Here are five reasons why.

### It's competitive and organized

There are provincial, national and international tournaments for Scrabblers of all skill levels. Each club has a set time each week to play and record their rankings.

"It's an individual sport rather than a team

sport," says Adam Logan, an Ottawa native and Scrabble Club member who travels the world to compete. His specialty is memorizing word combinations mathematically. "Everybody has strengths," he says.

### It's carried out under an agreed set of rules

"You can't compete unless you have an official Scrabble board," says Ross Brown, the director of the Ottawa Club. "We're all members of The North American Scrabble Players Association. It standardizes the game."

The official board is grooved to keep the letters

in place. The letters chips must be smooth instead of engraved to prevent players from feeling their way to "good" letters. There's no talking during game time and players have to lift the letter bag over their head while they choose to ensure no peeking.





## It aims to improve skills

According to the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, a sport is an activity that aims to improve a skill.

"I'm a pretty good player and I know every week I'm getting better," says Emilie Henkleman,

a self-described social player who has been a part of the Club since 1997. "I like playing against the higher-rated players to give myself a challenge."



## Yes, there are bets

Many of the words used in official Scrabble are uncommon. For Gavin Thompson, 47, playing the weirdest words are his specialty.

"If I can play one of the dream words on my list during a game, the other players have

to buy me dinner," he says, pulling out a long list of uncanny words. Some of them included "petcock," "superbitch," "bedrape" and "vagate" – all officially recognized as words in the Scrabble dictionary.



## Yes, there are referees

Even the slightest infraction can cost a player the game. For example, talking about anything but Scrabble during the game would warrant

a referee to affect the score. "Some players are really specific," says Thompson. "It really is a mind sport."

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**Four years together and still going strong:** Victoria Bourdon and Gabriel Stone have survived the long distance barrier and feel closer than ever before.

# Long-distance love

**When you find the one you feel you can't live without, staying together when you are far apart is an obstacle many couples must overcome. *Glue* gives you eight tips on how to survive and embrace the long-distance blues when boo is far away**

**By Breanna Adams**

**T**here are over seven billion people on the planet and one of them just so happens to have your heart. This can be a beautiful thing but can become overwhelming when you are far away from

the person you love. Personally, I know how trying it can be on a relationship when it becomes long-distance. I also know that you can forget any Negative Nelly that tells you it can't work out. There are many as-

pects to making it work and even though it can be hard, it is something that can make you both very happy. Here are eight tips to help you both feel all of the benefits that a relationship has to offer.

Breanna Adams photo

1

**CHIT-CHAT**

Even if your day was nothing special and not worth telling, talk anyway. “Pick a time when you get on the phone or skype, talk about your life, about anything,” says Marian Meade, a singles and couples coach located in Ottawa. “It keeps your relationship from falling behind.”



3

**PLAN YOUR VISITS**

Take the time to plan how often you want to see each other, whether it's every second week, once a month, whatever works for you both. Figure out ways to make that happen and budget for it. “Sometimes seeing each other wouldn't work out and we'd have to go twice as long as we had planned because he had too much work to do,” says Victoria Bourdon, a dental assistant. “We'd just make it extra special the next time.”



5

**TAKE TIME FOR YOU**

When you're alone again take some time to be sad if that's what you need, but after that get out there and be adventurous. Come back and tell your loved one all about it and get them to do the same. “I let myself have time to be upset and cry if I need to. You should never bottle it up,” says Decoeur.



7

**STAY INTERESTED**

Ask about each other's days, what's on their mind and how they're feeling. Don't let yourself become detached from their lives and let them know what's going on in yours. “Love is not just a feeling, and that's a good thing because feelings come and go like waves in the ocean,” says Meade.

2

**FORGET JEALOUSY!**

Jealousy is like the plague in relationships and it is crucial that you don't let it touch yours. Let each other have fun and experience things. Don't hound your partner to text you wherever they go, because that will be an unwanted nuisance. If you look for the bad, the bad is all you'll find.

4

**KEEP THINGS FRESH**

It can become monotonous when all you do is talk on the phone every night. Don't be afraid to be “risky” in your conversations. When you do see each other go somewhere new and exciting, be that a secluded beach or even a hike. Make memories so you can both look back on them fondly and remember that your relationship is worth it. “It's great when I do get to see him, but as soon as he leaves it comes rushing back so I have to get back into the habit of not being with him,” says Gabby Decoeur, a first-year photography student at Algonquin College.

6

**DON'T BE A DEBBY-DOWNER**

Don't constantly focus on how much you miss one another and don't let your conversations fall onto the subject too often. Knowing that you miss each other shows love but it also is a constant reminder that you're not together. Focus on sending cute texts to show affection or talk about what you'll do next time you visit. “We try to keep things light and cute when we text,” says Bourdon. “When we feel our conversation is leading the wrong way we say I love you and then get off the phone.”

8

**DON'T STOP DATING**

Skype was made for a reason, use it! Have dates and see each other whenever you both want. Make yourselves meals and talk to each other while eating as if you're at a restaurant. Don't lose the spark that you both have, distance doesn't have to separate everything.

# Making the draft

**When money is on the line, it's important to make the proper preparations to get the perfect fantasy team**

By Devin Orsini



Competition is something we all strive for. Over the years, man has found new and interesting ways to show his fellow man that he's better than him. Fantasy football has gained a lot of steam in recent years and continues to have a massive following with the number of participants growing. Television shows, radio channels and whole careers are based on fantasy football.

"I think the competition factor compels people to play. It's fun competing against good friends with the fact that you can discuss a common issue," says David Reid, a University

of Ottawa graduate.

People have been growing attached to their favourite teams and players for as long as professional sports have existed. Obsessing over people that they've never met, who affect them emotionally when they watch how those players perform on the gridiron, ball field or ice rink.

"Fantasy football makes people who participate fans of players, more so than fans of whole teams," says Ryan Eisenschmid, Algonquin College graduate. "You become more conscious of how they're doing on an individual scale and how they're doing in their personal lives."

## Check the waiver wire

Nothing is a sure thing. Players that lead the league in points or yards last season may be complete duds this season. Rookies are a dime a dozen and backup players don't usually get a second look, but the NFL is fickle and a player that was an all-star last week, may be sitting on the bench this week and the other way around.

Be sure to keep an eye on backup quarterbacks, rookie wide receivers and players coming off their sophomore slump, because you never know who might light it up.

Devin Orsini Photos



When reading up on a player, you're not only learning how many points that player is going to get you, but helps you get to know the player, their habits and patterns. Without knowing it, you grow an attachment to that player



## Draft smart

Draft day is the most important part of your fantasy season. Your team will change over the course of the season, but most of the players you draft will be the ones you're be stuck with. There's no strict guideline in which order you should draft which position and it depends on which pick you pulled and the size of your league.

Whatever game plan you concocted the night before, might be completely useless the second the timer starts. Draft the best possible player that is available to you. For the first round, try and pick up a solid running back. In doubt, follow the trend of that round. If you see people before you picking up wide receivers, draft one before they're all gone.

Picking a defense and kicker should be last on your list and try to pick up a top-five tight end.

## Keep up with player news

A football team is a finely tuned and oiled machine. Every player works as a part and when every part is healthy and active, it makes for great results. But when one of those parts breaks and gets replaced the machine sometimes doesn't perform the way it used to.

Every NFL season is chalked full of injuries and player news that can affect your fantasy team. Players sometimes get replaced from ill performances or suspensions. When reading up on a player, you're not only learning how many points that player is going to get you, but helps you get to know the player, their habits and patterns. Without knowing it, you grow an attachment to that player.

"Fantasy does bring the fans closer to the players," says Michael Nesrallah, a University of Ottawa student. "Fans get involved; they almost have to if they want to do well in their league."

## Set your line up

You have a bench for a reason, and it's not only for players who have bi-weeks.

Your bench is almost as important as your starting line up and can sometimes determine how you end up fairing throughout the season.

Make sure to set your line up at the beginning of each week after checking player news, the waiver wire and possible trade opportunities and requests.

The smallest thing can determine who you should and shouldn't play. Player's past performance with the team they're up against, the person's diet the week preceding or their practice report.

That's why getting to know your players inside and out will help you make the best decision. **9**

# Comic-ing with Zing

Glue explores why some Ottawa students are crazy about comic books

By Brian Craddock



# 1

## They're an Escape

Rob Spittall, owner of The Comic Book Shoppe's Bank Street branch, feels that comics offer an escape for readers from the stressors of day-to-day life.

"I had one of those childhoods you see on TV with an abusive household," says Spittall. His discovery of comics helped provide him with getaway from his traumatic childhood.

Kirk Morrison, a radio broadcasting student at Algonquin College and lifelong Spiderman fan, agrees.

"It's better than real life. Who doesn't want to believe in people who can do these amazing things? Even if you know it's not possible, it's still really cool to read about them."

# 2

## They're Easy to Take in

Comics can do things that "if you tried to describe in a written novel, wouldn't have nearly the same impact," explains Morrison.

"If you're reading a novelization of *Captain America*, let's say, you're like 'Oh, his shield got broken.' But actually seeing Cap's shield just lying there in pieces hits you harder than reading the words alone." Spittall also feels the shorter lengths and visuals make comics way easier to get back into after a break.

# 3

## The Characters are Compelling

Nathan Coffin, another radio-broadcasting student, finds the characterizations extremely interesting.

"These characters act so much like actual people that I can't help but feel sympathetic," he says. "To look at just the characters, they're just... timeless."

Coffin, who has a segment on CKDJ's geek-focussed *Wifighters* show, says that once he started reading comics, the storytelling really stuck with him. As a storyteller himself, he says the reason he's stuck with comics is "it's entertaining."

Ultimately everyone who reads comics has a different reason to enjoy them.

Maybe you should try finding your own? **g**







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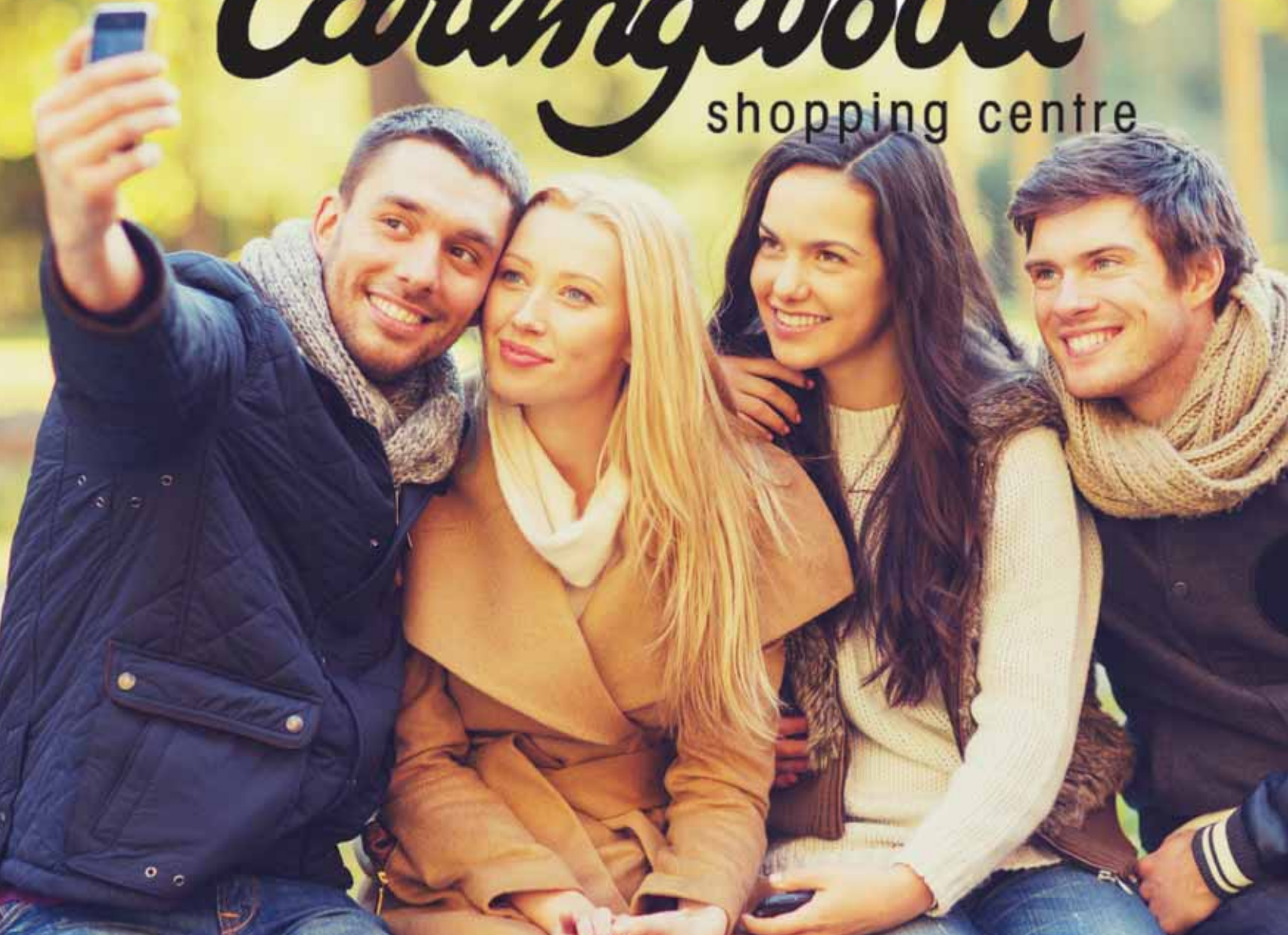
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