

the student newspaper of thornhill secondary school

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EYE OF THE TIGER < **Ghosts and goblins beware!**



On October 31st, 2013, high school students from all over York region showed their Halloween spirit by dressing up in fabulous costumes that ranged from cute and creative to downright scary. A wide variety of events were held to celebrate Halloween and all the amusement that comes with it.

Ms. Kaczmarek hosted an exciting pumpkin carving activity, where students were able to express their creativity and apply it through their knife skills. A lot of amazing jack-o-lanterns were able to showcase the students' artistic talent. Students voted for whichever pumpkin they thought was the scariest, funniest, and most creative one out of the group, which added some more fun to Halloween. Congratulations to the winning pumpkins!

How could you forget about chocolate and candy with Halloween?! Don't worry, because BOSS organized a fun way for the students to celebrate Halloween during lunch. Fun, Halloween-themed music was played throughout the cafeteria, and those who dressed up were able to participate in the annual best costume contest. For every lunch, students got to cheer for their friends for whoever they thought had the best costume. Whether it was scary, funny, or original, it seemed like everyone's costumes were appreciated.

If you didn't feel the Halloween spirit this year, it's highly recommended that you wear a costume next Halloween. You don't have to put in that much effort: find a mask, a wig, a headband or some animal ears, there are so many different choices. Or if you want to go all out, then that's even better! We can all save ourselves from embarrassment since it's Halloween! Watching scary movies, hanging out with friends, trick or treating! There's so much to do on the night of Halloween, and we hope every single one of you enjoyed your Halloween! If you were not able to have fun on Halloween this year, we hope that it will be amazing next year!



news

EYEOFTHETIGER

The world's first lab grown burger is eaten in London



FOOD FOR THOUGHT The latest innovation brings two amazing things together: meat and science. The fate of this product is still to be determined; expect artificial meat in a future near you!

A historic innovation has been made; scientists have made artificial meat using stem cells.

BY BEN LEVY NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

burger, cooked and eaten at a news the burger. conference in London.

lands, led by Professor Mark Post, breadcrumbs, was served with a was possible. used stem cells - basic cells that can bun, lettuce, and a few tomato a cow's shoulder in order to create the burger.

them within a nutrient solution tein cake." After tasting the burger, Dr. Post said that "[Mr. Brin] basiwhich were later combined to make with just muscle tissue cells, it con- us]."

Approximately 20,000 strands were used to create the five-ounce burger meant that it didn't taste as burger, as well as the extra muscle his summer, a milestone in burger, served to food scientist close to a conventional burger as tissue cells required for testing fact that the rise of the world's technological innovation was Hanni Rützler and Chicago-based Dr. Post's team would have liked. meant that the project cost a total of population will continue to put a achieved. On Monday, August food writer Josh Schonwald at the Dr. Post acknowledged that the lack \$325,000. 5th 2013, two taste testers had a sam- news conference. Dr. Post was also of fat was a problem, mentioning pling of the world's first lab-grown one of the lucky few to get a taste of that "[his team is] working on that."

tained no fat.

Rützler and Schonwald both up until the day of the taste test, was gas emissions. reported that "the bite feels like a revealed to be one of Google's co-

inside various petri dishes. This Dr. Post revealed that he was "very cally shares the same concerns allowed the cells to multiply into happy" with the burger. Nonethe-numerous strands of muscle tissue, less, since the burger was cultured production and animal welfare [as that the cultured beef produced]

The absence of fat from the to painstakingly craft the lab-grown emissions.

found that the creation of the meat, will be important to have a conven-Post added that the burger is a dubbed the "Frankenburger", used tional alternative to meat in the The meat, which contained good start and that the project was 45% less energy than the average near future. Researchers in the Nether- some natural colorings, salt, and done mostly to prove that the feat global representative figure for farming cattle. In addition, it was noted the fact that while there is still The funder of the two-year also found that the cultured beef much research to be done in the turn into tissue-specific cells - from slices to the taste testers. project, who remained anonymous produced 96% fewer greenhouse field, a pound of the meat could be

The process involved harvest- conventional hamburger" but that founders, Sergey Brin. When asked the Food Policy Research Network duction of lab-grown burgers was ing the cells, and then nurturing "the meat tastes like an animal pro- why Mr. Brin subsidized the project, at Oxford University, stressed the scaled up.

that the cultured beef produced The time and materials needed 96% fewer greenhouse gas

strain on our global food supply -An independent lab study meat in particular - which is why it

Dr. Post and his team also sold for about \$30 on store shelves Professor Tara Garnet, head of in about 10-20 years time if the pro-

Russia hijacks Greenpeace ship on piracy allegations

quick action against a ship

Russian coast guards take immediately, and successfully con- the concern of environmental im- polluters. A 2009 English study peace has protested against a num-

victed another eight on September pact, to preserve the already dete- states that areas in the Russian Bar- ber of rising environmental conriorating fragile ecosystem. The ents, White, Laptev and Kara seas cerns, beginning with protesting the waters has been found ... flowing ing coal and nuclear usage. What perhaps makes this situa- into the Arctic seas." Dumping also Coast Guard held Green- fence punishable with 15 years in tion more threatening is not the fact occurs where petroleum, or petro- centred towards preserving the arcleum articles, is transported via tic climate and arctic animals that ing, but that Russia is one of the rivers into the various arctic seas. inhabit it through peaceful, non-For the past 30 years, Green- violent protests.

who was thought to invade Russia's oil rig.

BY SARAH RAVOTH

n September 18, the Russian tors to find signs of piracy, an ofand twenty-two of Greenpeace's was committed in international members were jailed with a waters. sentence of two months. Earlier in the incident was released.

ever, take a different view. After violent protest act. towing the Greenpeace ship into Murmansk port, the court convicted peace's seemingly aggressive ac-

Putin said earlier in the week that, reminded that there is no safe way double or triple the maximum toler- island in Alaska. Their conquests "it is evident, of course, that they to drill in the arctic without impact- ated amount. According to the re- have stretched from banning seal are not pirates." However, the Mur- ing the entire ecosystem and all the port, "Severe pollution of surface clubbing and saving whales to haltmansk court is pushing investiga-

peace activists at gunpoint, Russia, though the alleged crime

The Russian Foreign Minister the day, two activists attempted to was quoted saying Greenpeace's scale and board Russia's actions were "provocative" and the Gazprom-controlled oil platform stunt in attempting to board the rig located in the Barents Sea, having was a risk to the lives of workers protested near the rig for about a aboard. Greenpeace denies this, week. "This was a peaceful protest saying that there was no aim to against reckless industrial activity in threaten or injure anyone. Arguathe Arctic," Greenpeace Arctic bly, their ship "Arctic Sunrise" did Campaign Co-coordinator Christy not violate the 500-metre zone Ferguson defended after news of around the rig, as satellite images can support, however small din-Russian court authorities, how- ghies did breach the zone in a non-

The entire reason for Green-

Russian President Vladimir 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska have clusters of pollutants that are U.S.'s nuclear testing on a small animals in it.

that gas and oil drilling is continuworld's most notorious petroleum

At the moment, their aims are



twenty-two Greenpeace members tions in the arctic is contributed to GREENPEACE SHIP AND CREW SEIZED Russia backs actions claiming that Greenpeace was invading their privacy.

NASA's Voyager 1 enters interstellar space



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND NASA's Voyager 1 has made it where no manmade object has gone before; Voyager 1 has exited our solar system and entered the vast depths of interstellar space.

the unknown vastness of heliopause, it is considered to be in through some older data, they ob- around. space and is now the first human-created object to enter has entered interstellar space? Nor- early as November 2012. After the Voyager team itself, knows why this tion of music, followed spoken what is known as interstellar mally, we would just use Voyager's plasma wave team extrapolated resonates within us so strongly, greetings from "Earthlings" in 55 plasma instrument to measure the back, they estimated that Voyager 1 screaming 'Important!' Maybe it's languages beginning with Akspace.

BY WENDY LI NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

constantly. And now, it's in a place is a lot denser than stellar plasma, has left our solar system, but it hapthat no other man-made object has would case the interstellar plasma pened like a year ago. Why does it Although the Voyager might only carved onto the surface of the Rebeen to. Voyager 1 has reached in- to vibrate. These vibrations could matter? terstellar space.

depths of our own seas. If you want 9, 2013, we saw that solar energy not that while Voyager wasn't tors burn out. the specifics, there are many layers had gone through interstellar named Pioneer, it was a pioneer of of space. The one that Earth is co- plasma, and Voyager had directly the greatest kind: paving the way for Golden Record. It is meant to council that chose the contents of cooned in is called our 'solar bubble', or the heliosphere. The next

interstellar space.

Voyager's plasma instrument broke plasma around August 2012. down in 1980, right after its last t's been in service for 35 years. nally figure it out? With a little help wondering why this matters at all, Invaluable streams of first-hand from our sun. A solar flare plowing why people are making such a big be picked up by Voyager's plasma picked it up.

Voyager 1 floats further into Voyager has gone through the When the Voyager team had looked other piece of space junk floating variety of sounds made by "surf, served that Voyager had directly

After this long and vaguely

But Voyager actually didn't glorious stream of rich information, tory, as well as 115 images of past layer is the heliopause, and once reach interstellar space on April 9. long after it itself has become an- and present dwellings, and a wide Thornhill.

How do we know that Voyager picked up plasma vibrations as told, not one of us, not even the have 10 more years of life left, that cord in symbolic languages. It matters not just because hu- doesn't mean that great things But what is interstellar space, wave instrument (which is separate mankind has left its mark on yet aren't going to happen in these last would only be played if there were you might ask? As the name sug- from the plasma instrument), so we another frontier of this universe. It ten years. Besides, there is somegests, interstellar space is the space would be able to directly observe matters not just because Voyager thing very special on board the Voy- in interstellar space. between the stars, a place that is plasma vibrations when Voyager has exceeded even our greatest ager 1 that will fulfill its purpose even more unfamiliar to us than the reached interstellar space. On April expectations for it. And it matters once the Voyager's energy genera- capsule of sorts into space says a lot

generations of spacecraft with its "chronicle all of humankind's his- the Golden Record.

wind and thunder, birds, whales, So why does it matter? Truth be and other animals".

It also has a 90-minute selecdensity of the plasma in space, but had first encountered interstellar because of the natural human incli-kadian, which was spoken in Sumer nation to be curious, to explore, to around six thousand years ago to learn about, touch, see, scent, taste, Wu, a current Chinese dialect. planetary flyby. So how did we fi- boring explanation, you might be mark everything we come across as Along with the Record, there are ours. If so, our curiosity has been two printed messages from former well rewarded. There are so many U.S. President Carter and former information come from it almost through interstellar plasma, which fuss about this. I mean, this thing phenomena out in interstellar U.S. Secretary General Waldheim. space, just waiting to be discovered. Instructions for its playing are

> "But this monumental message advanced space-faring civilizations

Just by launching this time about life on this planet," says Carl This object is known as the Sagan, one of the members of the

Think about that for a minute,

Thornhill ESP and Allstate Canada team against distracted driving

Always be safe while driving; make sure you are aware of your surroundings in order to protect yourself and other drivers.

ave you ever seen someone texting while driving? How about eating while driving? Have your parents done it? Have your friends done it? Have you done it? On October 1st, 2013, members of Empowered Student Partnership (ESP) teamed up with Allstate Canada to bring awareness to students about distracted driving in their Action Against Distraction campaign.

ESP representatives stood from 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. on the major intersection of Yonge & Clark, tracking distracted drivers and tallying the distractions they drivers had been distracted while saw. They tracked people who were driving.



ARE YOU DISTRACTED WHILE DRIVING Yes, there are many distractions out there on the road, but keep in mind that your safety comes first.

talking on their phone (Bluetooth and otherwise), texting, eating/ drinking, talking to passengers, doing their makeup, and searching in their car for items, just to name a few

They found that the majority of

Canada, 90% of Canadians admit to being distracted while driving. Eight out of ten collisions are caused by distracted drivers and

driving while texting makes you 23

In fact, according to Allstate drinking (77%), adjusting music (63%), looking at passengers (51%), playing music loudly (45%), and reaching for an item in the back seat (39%).

In doing this, ESP and Allstate trian? times more likely to crash. Allstate hope to promote safe driving, and tions in Canada as being: eating or the dangers of simple distractions. Drive Canada on Facebook!

Does knowing the majority of drivers drive distracted make it more likely that you would drive safely? Would this change your behaviour as a driver and a pedes-

Join in the conversation with named the top five driving distrac- make new and old drivers realize #justdrive on twitter and like Just

Fukushima kills water, by dumping 1000 tons of radioactive water



FUKUSHIMA KILLS WATER Fukushima's power plant is leaking radioactive water into the environment, which will lead to a significant environmental impact with foreseeable consequences

After being hit by a tsunami, Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant has been considerably damaged, posing a risk to environment and mankind.

BY SYED SHAHZAIB NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

ukushima has polluted, or should I say killed, the water tons of radioactive water.

elled ground, and in addition its are fish in the Pacific Ocean safe to capacity was miscalculated by the eat? Environmental studies predict plants in Japan but only one has it was unthinkable to fill tanks up to TEPCO continue its operation or workers. However this is not the that due to the level of radiation in caused the most the damage when full and place them of unlevelled not? And does nuclear power have a first time Fukushima has leaked fish, about 800 people will suffer it comes to leaking of nucleated grounds." Concerns rise from the future in Japan?

radioactive water. The nuclear from cancer. Half of them will be water, which is TEPCO. power plants in Fukushima have fatal. 500 will be in Japan, 75 will be experienced leaks since being crip- due to Japanese fish exports to Ono said that it got leaked because however looking at the past accipled by reoccurring natural disas- other countries and 225 will be from the tank was placed on unlevelled dents that have happened it doesn't ter's which are earthquakes and fishing in the Pacific Ocean other ground, was facing towards the sea, sound like these were mistakes but tsunamis. The largest leak that oc- than Japan. Later these figures were it was about 98% full, and the plant more like systematic problems. curred was in August releasing 300 updated by Georgia Straight who was facing storage problems so the tonnes of nucleated water. Looking said, "that the actual cancer toll workers decided to pump some caused by human errors and are at the geography of Japan shows would be a 100 times higher or in more water in to that tank. He said regrettable," said by TEPCO. Howhow it is connected to the Pacific number 80,000 cancers." In order to that he "apologises for our misman- ever, even though these are acci-Ocean, and concerns about the prove these figures correct they agement that we could have pre- dents, they have caused a lot of spread of radioactivity rise.

The tank was placed on unlev- now starting to raise the question, were correct.

were again calculated by Professor vented the overflow however it was damaged not just at a national level Not only does it affect the water Ochiai who taught at University of a major mistake." Engineers and but also internationally. If this conby dumping more than 1000 in the Pacific Ocean but also the British Columbia and University of experts of industrial tanks said that tinues, this will cause huge damage marine life. Environmentalists are Tokyo, identifying that these figures

public as well and say that TEPCO TEPCO spokesmen Masayuki should take safety measurements,

So overall, "these leaks are "the latest problem is emblematic not just to the human race but also and is shocked that how things are to the environment. So now I ask There are so many power run in TEPCO". They also said "that you as a concerned human, should

Existence of Area 51 finally acknowledged by CIA

The fabled Area 51 has been the source of much mystery and several theories.

BY FLORENTA PIRVUT

onspiracy theory enthusiasts had reason to rejoice this July when, after years of speculation, the CIA released a document that confirmed and publicly acknowledged the existence of Area 51. Located in the Mojave Desert, around 100 miles outside of Las Vegas, Nevada, the location of Area 51 has been easy to find on the internet for a while. The area itself is restricted to the public, meaning there's no way to simply walk or drive into it. The area's purpose also wasn't quite clear, since before these planes. Since the testing of UFOs.

RESTRICTED AREA

NO TRESPASSING

BEYOND THIS

POINT

PHOTOGRAPHY IS

PROHIBITED

these surveillance planes was The reason for the public dishighly classified, they were re- missing the possibility that the found in the recently released quired to be flown above 60,000 planes were just planes was be- documents was that the U-2 and feet, which led to an unexpected cause of the U-2s ability to fly at other reconnaissance plane flights side effect: an enormous increase in such high altitudes which was conreports and general interest of sidered impossible by the general the UFO sightings reported during

WARNING

public at the time.

Another slightly surprising fact accounted for more than half of all

the 1950's and 1960's. The details in the document are quite unsatisfying, and now that Area 51 officially exists as a simple aerial testing ground, it's quite doubtful that the media's obsession with portraying the area as a facility used for extraterrestrial research, or a hot spot for UFO activity will continue.

The only point that conspiracy theorists can still make for Area 51 being more than meets the eye is the fact that all the secrecy surrounding the area, as well as the government's refusal to confirm the existence of the area until this summer, seems extremely suspicious. Nonetheless, there is an explanation even for that.

At the time of the U-2 plane testing, the secrecy was necessary and most likely motivated by the government's intense desire to keep a high level of security around

this summer, the government vehemently denied the existence of Area 51

However, the documents recently released detailed the entire history and reason for the area's creation. Disappointingly enough, these reports made no mention of aliens or UFOs of any kind, and instead revealed a much more mundane truth; Area 51 was simply started as a government testing site for the government's U-2 spy planes during the Cold War.

The location of Area 51 was discovered in the early 1950's when government officials and Lockheed Martin employees flew over Nevada and decided that the Mojave Desert would make a good testing area for planes.

During this time, the U.S. was developing the U-2 spy planes for surveillance missions around the globe, specifically to survey the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba, and according to the report, Area 51 was



their defense operations, since Area 51 was established during the Cold War, which was quite literally a war fought by making the opponent think they had a military disadvantage. The extended silence on the purpose and existence of Area 51, as well as all the paranoia and suspicion the Roswell UFO incident caused, just led the public to coming up with many conspiracy theories (mostly revolving around aliens) to explain what exactly was going on in the small testing area in the Mojave Desert. These theories have little substance to them, especially considering what we know now. However, while the government reports invalidate any potential connection that Area 51 has with aliens, the fact of whether aliens are real or not isn't touched upon at all in these documents, so if you're an avid alien enthusiast, don't worry- the countless reports and proof of extraterrestrial activity in other locations all over America

used as an aerial testing ground for AREA 51 The desert location of a host of mysterious theories, the airfield has been used for testing technologies. still stand strong!

events

EYEOFTHETIGER

Red Cross YAC food drive



This October, Red Cross YAC, working with Thornhill United Church, hosted the annual Thanksgiving food drive. Raising over a hundred cans, we helped support families in our local community. Special thanks to the period one classes of Mr. D'Angela, Ms. Borges and Ms. Barnes. Great job TSS!

Gold certified eco-school two years in a row

BY TINA ZHONG

work and leadership, energy and walrus. conservation, waste minimiza-

age schools to promote environ- school. We also sent numerous mental practices and responsi- students to eco workshops he Environment Club is bilities to reduce our ecological where they learned various proud to announce that footprint. Last year Thornhill things about helping the envi-TSS, for the second year in participated in Earth Hour and ronment and applying what they a row, has been awarded Gold Earth Week where students do- learned to the school. We en-Certification by the Ontario Eco- nated to WWF, signed a petition couraged leadership through Schools Assessors. There are six to Save the Arctic and raised providing students with volunareas to the certification process money towards the adoption of teer opportunities both in the including achievements in: team- a polar bear, caribou, snow owl school and in the community.

tion, school ground greening, were also seen supporting the moting environmental sustaincurriculum and environmental board's monthly eco themes ability within our school and stewardship. Eco-schools and the including: Recycling, Litterless make sure to stay tuned for fuenvironment is one of YRDSB's Lunch, Waste Reduction and ture events and initiatives by our main priority and they encour- Energy Conservation within the Eco-Team!

Congratulations to students and Throughout the year we staff on a wonderful year in pro-



Junior awards ceremony

On October 24th, TSS held a junior awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of TSS in the past school year. Congratulations to everyone for their outstanding success and achievements for the 2012-2013 year!

Throwback Thursday

TSS carnival



The traditional TSS carnival took place on September 26th. From dunk tanks to bouncy-slides to snow cones, the carnival featured a variety of attractions. Showing outstanding school spirit, TSS students made this event a success!

TSS' Halloween

On Halloween, TSS students came to school dressed up in a variety of costumes such as sumo wrestlers and witches. A pumpkin carving competition was ran and the best pumpkins were chosen. During lunch periods, BOSS held costume contests and donut-eating contests.





BOSS held a homecoming dance, entitled "Throwback Thursday", on October 3rd. The dance featured a retro theme, and costumes such as hippies, were seen. Thanks to BOSS, Prefects, and most importantly the students who came and danced their retro hearts out, for making this night unforgettable!

comment

EYE OF THE TIGER Today Quebec, tomorrow the world

No, this isn't 50 years ago; this is the 21st century.

BY SHANE SUKERMAN

h, Quebec. The land of separatists and poutine, mixed with a side of French pride. Home of the most historically successful hockey team in the NHL, and the reason the phrase "Just my gears, do they?

The provincial government of Quebec, headed by Pauline Marois of the PQ, has proposed a charter to ban the wearing of religious symbols by government workers. This includes the wearing of hijabs, kippahs, and large crucifixes by anyone who gets a salary from the government of Quebec.

Let that just sink in.

plaining my personal stance on symbols is a religious necessity. religion - it's not the greatest thing Furthermore, it is the minority rethat's ever happened to humanity. It's probably closer to being one of most, as Christians may still wear a tions granted to Catholicism I the worse things actually, having smaller, not visible crucifix, but would have to agree. It has changed started more wars and spilled more blood than anything else in history. That said, I think that as long as you has a history of intolerance, and come to your own decisions, you this charter is just the next chapter. should be a part of whatever religion you want. There's nothing proposed charter is that teachers but once a specific religion is taken wrong with having faith, just don't and daycare workers who are in under the wing of said government push it on others.

good - that you should live a good their pupils, but this is obviously more step to becoming a police life, an honest life, and if you do, untrue as, according to the PQ, state - but hey, Quebec wouldn't you will be rewarded. As a way of Quebec remains devoutly Catholic want that, would they?

chaos and providing them with a argument for the charter is that moral compass, it works quite well. outward wearing of such symbols Due to this high degree of success divides the people into groups, and in controlling people, however, it has been corrupted and used as a ment workforce. Without these justification for disgusting and barbaric things. While we were squabbling over our religious differences, we lost a thousand years of progress, and we continue to be separated by religion to this day. Canwatch me" was coined. They just ada was founded by the Protestant blonde hair and blue eyes, the don't seem to want to stop grinding English and the Catholic French, world will be all the nicer. \But and this resulted in a very clear division of our society.

the province of that just can't get over anything, let alone itself. The proposed charter is, by its very definition, unconstitutional. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms explicitly gives every individual the freedom to practice their religion, and this ban is a form of discrimination I'm going to start off by ex- against those to whom wearing ligions that are being affronted the unfortunately hijabs and kippahs aren't made to be discreet. Quebec

One argument supporting the positions of authority are enforcing at the expense of the religions of its The basic premise behind it is their religion and its practices onto citizens, it becomes fascist. Just one

preventing people from causing (I'll come to this later). The best segregates people in the governsymbols being worn, government workers see less difference in each other, and therefore create a more unified body. I think it was Nazi Germany who followed that same train of thought - if everyone has here's the best part – they refuse to remove the crucifix hanging in the Which brings us to Quebec, parliament building in Quebec. Claiming it as a tradition, the government has stated that the crucifix in parliament is a part of Quebec's history that they are proud of, and as such it should not be removed which is outrageous.

> This is what makes this charter a fascist ploy. Justin Trudeau, leader of the federal Liberals, said that the PQ are trying to play "divisive identity politics" with this charter, and based on the excepfrom a 'religion separates us' mentality to a 'my religion is ok but your religion is bad' one. A government that starts passing bills that separate church and state is one thing,



NO HIJABS! Just one of the religious symbols banned by the new charter.

Chemical weapons: the dotted line

The truth behind the Syrian chemical weapons conflict amid continuous political grandstanding.

BY DANNY ROMM DEPUTY OPINION EDITOR

n 2011 the Syrian army fired upon civilian protestors, and the world turned away. In 2012 the Syrian army dropped cluster bombs on towns, killing many innocent civilians, and the world turned away. In March 2013, the Syrian army dropped fuel-air bombs on a civilian town, and the world turned away. In July 2013 the death toll in Syria reached over 100 000 people, and the world turned away. In August 2013 it was suspected that Syria had chemical weapons in its possession, and the world went insane. So why are chemical weapons the dotted line? For over a year the Syrian army devastated civilian towns and mutilated children, to the knowledge of the world, and military intervention wasn't even discussed. Then, based on the suspicion of chemical weapons, the U.S. and U.N. began issuing ultimatums and threatening Syria. Of course chemical weapons are a terrible way to die compared with other conventional arms, and we can't even begin to imagine the horrors chemical weapons inflict, but that doesn't change the fact that conventional arms are being used to target civilians as well, and the world seems to be okay with that. Interestingly enough, the Syrian chemical conflict in 2013

ended in a diplomatic and surprising fashion. When it was discovered that Syria potentially had chemical weapons, the U.S. began very seriously to talk of war (and the oil pipeline, but that's beside the point). Then, in one publicized moment, the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry offhandedly, almost jokingly said that Syria could avoid conflict by turning in its entire chemical weapons program.

Russia agreed, took it seriously, and then everyone was waiting on Assad's (the Syrian

ruler) choice- turn in the chemical weapons or face American intervention. The choice was simple, and he agreed to the terms. At this point, there was no other option but for all parties to agree to the resolution and disband Syria's chemical weapons program. And so it was that one of the most prolific diplomatic events in recent history took place, and a conflict brewing simmered down in the span of a week.

It's interesting how it was really Russia and America who had/have the power within Syria.

It's eerily reminiscent of the Cold War, and really only serves to back up claims that the Cold War never really ended. Russia funded and supplied Assad's army and rule, while America funded and supplied the rebels, who by the way are no angels, creating the very familiar structure of a proxy war.

For those unaware, a proxy war is when a war is fought indirectly- by proxy, usually within the bounds of another country. In the Cold War, many such proxy wars happened, and they continue today, with examples like Afghanistan probably gaining the most recognition. Essentially both sides of a civil conflict are supplied with arms by the two superpowers, Russia and America, creating a long-lasting conflict where each side looks to gain an advantage.

The American media has painted the Syrian rebels as "freedom-fighters", "liberators", and proponents of democracy, but the true actions of the rebels show otherwise. A rebel movement populated with tyranny, torture, executions and brutal military tactics against both soldiers and civilians certainly isn't the picture the media is portraying. The truth is, atrocities are being committed on both sides, and neither should



be romanticized, as both Western and Russian media is depicting.

All this media confusion has left many wondering why exactly the media begs to cover the truth, and instead show one-sided coverage of a devastating civil conflict. It helps if you understand that besides supplying arms to opposing sides of the conflict, America and Russia, just as in the Cold War, view the world as a theatre, and proxy wars as stages. Svria is the current stage, and America and Russia are pulling the strings of the two puppets- the rebels and Assad, respectively.

The widely used term for this is political grandstanding, and it's essentially a high school macho competition to see who can flex more, both sides shouting "hold me back!" to the U.N. It's important to realize that amidst the repeated conflict in the Middle East, we're seeing the exact same play with different puppets.

WEAPONS OF MURDER United Nations soldiers are investigating chemical stockpiles held by the Syrian Army.

Generation Y is not apathetic

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, comcitizens mitted can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

BY GRACE TO OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

igh school is the time of amaway on assignments until the midnight candle is burned out, many risen, which has motivated many students dream of making a differ- students to study harder for scholence in the world and leaving a arships as they work towards lasting imprint of them behind.

individuals that contemporary stu- caused them to place "changing the dent activism is slowly dwindling. world" further down on their to-do Student activism is where youths list. With the amount of money that strive to work towards a goal and students are forking over for postmake significant social, environmental, political, or economic con- to get every penny's worth. tributions to the community. These student groups often consist of student attaining well-paying jobs young, hard-working individuals that relate to their area of study who hope their actions will help to after graduating is frightfully cominfluence greater events and petitive. It is inevitable that today's change.

more apathetic about the issues governmental buildings. that engulf society than those of previous generations?

quirements of school participation and the potentially glowing resumé one will be able to write once such feats have been accomplished. Student activism is seldom believed to be fueled by the pure desire to make a lasting and good change in society.

A quick glance at the rising tuition rates of postsecondary education shows that this is not always the case. The price tag that comes with attending university or college bition and accomplishment. is significantly higher compared to While diligently working a few decades ago. Society's expectations of education have also graduation. The financial insecurity It has been noted by many of many modern students has secondary learning, it is only wise

sensible student would prefer to difficult to devote time and energy But have the students gradu- invest more time in hitting the to student-led movements when ally become lazy about taking ac- books to study for upcoming exams other responsibilities demand our eration most definitely do not take tive roles in the community? Are than in leading public demonstra- full attention and are deemed to be a passive stance on current issues; the students of Generation Y much tions on the lawns of important of a greater priority.

Largely, the motivation of stu-student, one will find that times can school as they opt out of golden years before us have led. dent activism stems from the re- be considerably overwhelming. opportunities in exchange for so-



STAND UP! Despite what society thinks, students are trying to make a difference and let their voices be heard.

Moreover, the prospects of the Today, many are fraught with the cializing. It can also be argued that hectic schedules that are to be ex-

perhaps society is indeed growing pected when struggling to balance more cynical, thereby producing school, volunteer activities, paid youths that possess a sense of apa- individuals, as we actively support work, and healthy social lives. It is thy regarding the issues present in society.

However, students of this genour methods to promote change It can be argued that students are just not as aggressively intrusive If one were to take a stroll in are actually becoming lazier con- as compared to the riots and prothe shoes of a modern high school cerning matters outside of the tests that the students so many

We live in the digital age, where information and messages can be spread powerfully between our causes while sparking the inspirations of others around the

globe

Online petitions are able to get messages around, recruiting more young participants for causes, than the usual traditional methods. The tools we have at our disposal today allow students to take on change on a much grander scale than ever before.

Money can't buy happiness - unless happiness is getting a degree

The rapidly increasing cost those times when you were a kid, in some cases up to 22000 dollars. would include all hospital and doc- ing years, 2.1 million jobs are supof attending universities in Canada has caused various implications, worrying both students and the wallets of parents.

BY PEGGY KORAT IBUTOR

you got asked all these queslike to be when you grow up and secondary education is currently who you want to be like. If you're a on the rise, causing various impligirl, you most likely held your head cations to appear. up high and replied with princess.

tions all along. The real question courses, there are always addiwasn't what you liked to be or who you would've wanted to be like think about. when you grew up, it was if you piggy bank for university.

The cost of attending university in Canada has been one of the ver since you were a little kid, main concerns of graduating stutions about what you would indicate that the cost for post-

tional costs that students need to

had started saving up in your little would have to pay when entering university includes meals and range is known to be from around lodging, the rent for an on or off campus residency which would also take in the size and quality of dents and their parents. Reports the location into consideration, much just to have a chance to more than 44000 cases of unpaid budget should be around 11000 dollars but it's usually much less. The tuition costs today range the wallets of parents need to be than their first option or some- mated that by the time students If you're a boy, you might've said a depending on the university and worried about are the costs of recowboy. Flash forward a few years the type of degree a student would quired textbooks. The average cost they had wanted to take. Others graduate, they're going to owe and the girls start to trade in their want. The average cost, regardless is around 1000 dollars but it all either end up going to college or 37000 dollars. The issue of the tiaras for lab coats and the boys of the degree and the courses being depends on what program you're decide to not even get a post- price of university being so high realize that their cowboy hats in taken, could be around 6000 dol- in and whether or not you want secondary degree. Student loans has caused various protests that exchange for a pair of protractors lars for one academic year. This new or old books. Health insur- are always available but that often include tens of thousands of parand a construction hat might be a being said, there are always ance is another thing that needs to leads to crippling student debts ticipants. Although the number of good deal. Then you start thinking courses and universities that re- be taken care of. This would cost which is a huge issue for students full-time Canadian undergradu-

been answering the wrong ques- quired just to take part in certain jority of universities tend to charge students extra for gym access, stu-400 dollars to 800 dollars.

those who can't afford to pay so February, it was announced that and much more. The maximum someday perhaps become a doctor student loans has resulted in a total or an architect? In some cases stu- of 231 million dollars that needs to dents have no choice but to try and be written off by the federal gov-Another concern that students and attend another university other ernment. Statistics Canada estitimes even change the courses that who have private and public debts about what you had been asked all quire students to pay much less, or around 400 to 800 dollars and and parents. There are also scenar- ates has increased by almost 44 ios where parents are forced to percent since 2000, this trend isn't postpone retirement and take out a likely to continue as the cost of a loan themselves just to have the university degree keeps getting ability to support their children. steeper and steeper. Not only are Although scholarships are available, they don't always provide but perhaps the government as enough financial aid and not everyone is qualified to receive them. The long term consequences that could result from this issue is what's most concerning. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) recently stated that in order to keep pace with jobs the government realizes that the in this global economy, a university cost for attending university is far degree is needed. On top of this, according to the federal govern- diminish, or we all end up becomment an estimated 75 percent of ing princesses and cowboys since new jobs in the following decade at this rate, a tiara or a cowboy hat are secondary education. The report far more affordable than a postalso mentions that in the upcom- secondary education.

and that's when it hits you - you've Aside from the money that's re- tor visits. On top of all this, the ma- posed to be created for university graduates who are much more likely to have a stable employment dent groups, or sometimes for get- and earn a higher income comting dental or prescription drug pared to everyone else. The costs The living costs that students protection. Although different uni- that an undergraduate must pay versities have different rates, the have increased by 5% since last year and even though some provinces are taking this into account, So what does all this mean for not much is being done about it. In students and parents in trouble, well. If the future generations of this country can't afford to possibly get the best education, then wouldn't Canada suffer as well? So the real question is what's going to happen now? There are clearly two possible options; either too high and it needs to drastically going to require post- that probably costs \$2.99 plus tax is



GRADUATING IN DEBT As higher educating costs increase, it becomes harder and harder to afford a degree.

What is normal? The cost of your future

In the 21st century, weird is set of norms. There, we are enthe new normal.

BY HAILEY APPEL

appear in the mind of every teenager. But what does it mean to trasts with theirs? be normal? We constantly say, "I'm weird", or highlight other quirks and flaws that we possess, even though we know that everyone has quirks and flaws. Yet still normal, and if that's the case, does we find it important to state our lack of normality.

But who decides what is normal and what isn't? We all have very different preferences, and therefore we all define what is normal very differently. But is there and traits, and there are some peostill a preconceived idea of what normal is? And are we as people causing there to be norms and These are the people that will apjudgement that previously, didn't exist?

own norms, and when many norms become alike, we end up with one large compilation of culas a society, have been constantly constructing new norms for the past 100 years.

For example, the Internet has played a big role in many new and different norms that we have ac-YouTube give us a totally different set of norms that goes against what society has set for us. There, being types of people that are using and lifestyles.

couraged to use products to make us more alike, and considering each person is an individual that possesses qualities that are original to him or her, how is it that am normal - I am not normal - I they could be considered normal am weird. Phrases that often to someone whose product use, thoughts and/or personality con-

The difficulty lies in that we can't say that everyone is different. Because if everyone is different, then does being different become being normal become different? The answer is yes and no. Being different is normal, because everyone is different. But "different" is a broad term. Everyone isn't alike, but we share common qualities ple with whom we will have more things in common than others. pear more "normal" to us. But, as people will appear more normal to The truth is, people set their us, people will also appear more different as well. And it is there that we begin to see the issues.

Judgement is something often tural norms. But, on top of that, we found among teenagers, and there is no way to stop people from having an opinion. (But, what we as teenagers lack -in most cases- is the ability to fully understand everyone's actions and choices.) We will always find that something is quired. Places like Tumblr and different from our norms, because we will always be different from someone else's.

Overall, when it comes to different is celebrated and the people, there really is no normal. We are all very different, and it is We're in no place to judge others

these social media sites are more what makes us different that sets open to various types of people us apart from being ordinary. Furthermore, the world of for their norms; even if their noradvertising targets a whole other mal is less "normal" than our own.



EVERYONE IS UNIQUE Teens should learn to celebrate their differences.



THE UNIVERSITY PATHWAY IS APPEALING But is the right choice for you? The cost of university is staggering

With millions suffering from crippling student debt, it's time to make some difficult choices.

BY JARED FORMAN

world renowned actor. He graduated from his local high school and like many of his peers, chose to go off to university to receive a bacheorder to pay for his education, he debtor crippling credit that will had taken out student loans that make acquiring loans in the future added up to approximately \$70 000 after graduating. Despite a bloomunable to continue to defer his student loans payments due to the overwhelming burden of his debt and he had to abandon his hopes of being an actor to return home to Ohio in order to continue paying off his debt.

Unfortunately, Aaron's story is not a rare case; it is a reality facing aforementioned job market is the thousands of current and former reason why. As companies conuniversity students.

As of 2013, student loan debt accounts for an astonishing 15 billion dollars in Canada and upwards of 1 trillion dollars in the United States and these numbers are only rising. On average, a uni- have an oligopoly over the market other post-secondary education versity graduate in Canada will complete school with \$26 000 of debt, and students seeking postgraduate studies can rack up debts tor of student loans; the governexceeding \$200 000. Meanwhile, amidst the soaring tuition fees which average \$26 000 for understaggering 15%, and many youth with university degrees are being forced to settle for jobs in retail and food.

As students take on staggering amounts of debt in order to enter a job market that now essentially asks for a bachelor's degree as a prerequisite, many are unable to pay off their loans and face wage garnishment and frozen assets.

As a result of this, many are aron Calafato was an ordi- unable to pay back their loans or in nary teenager from Ohio other words, default. In fact, ac-Education, approximately 15% of Now although defaulting on loans and filing for bankruptcy helps gets difficult and make large acquisitions such as a house or car nearly bankruptcy can be even more cataone's situation even more distressing

> So why are universities able to insanely high tuition fees? The hiring requirements, more students are choosing to attend university. With this increasing and constant demand for university education, universities essentially and are free to charge whatever they please.

Meanwhile, the primary crediment, is profiting from the rising tuition fees through interest.

graduate programs is a job market. why many graduating students are off their loans leading to devastat-Youth unemployment sits at a so overwhelmed by debt is the ing consequences. Ultimately, I complete disregard for credit wor- hope that all those graduating this thiness. Currently, all students year will make an informed decirequiring loans are issued them sion about their futures and will regardless of what they may be become a success, not a statistic.

Students take on staggering amounts of debt in order to enter a job market that now essentially asks for a bachelor's degree as a prerequisite.

fall 2013

majoring in. This is an issue since a who aspired to become a cording to the U.S. Department of student majoring in engineering will most likely get a job upon students default on their loans. graduation and have a salary that will allow them to pay off their student loans comfortably whereas lor's degree in communications. In rid of the debt, it also gives the a fine arts major may have difficulty finding a job upon graduating and the pay is on average, not as high as an engineer. Although we need fine arts and humanities maing acting career, Calafato was impossible. However, not filing for jors in society, they simply pose more of a credit risk than an engiclysmic as interest rates from neer or accountant. This is why it creditors will skyrocket making may be a better idea to subsidize programs for fine arts or humanities majors so they wouldn't be saddled with debt that they are continue to gouge us with their unable to pay off and are able to start their careers with little or no debt.

> As thousands of students tinue to demand more with their head off to university this year, they need to consider the cost and the amount of debt that they will be incurring and ultimately need to decide whether it is worth it. Many students neglect to consider options such as apprenticeships and college and the current state of the job market for their desired career path.

Blind decision making is what gets many students into a predica-However, the main reason ment where they are unable to pay

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PATHS PAST HIGH SCHOOL Graduating students may want to consider college or an apprenticeship, which may be a better option than university. University is not mandatory for everyone!

What exactly is the worth of a BA and how costly is it to go to university without an incentive?

BY MIKAYLA WRONKO

o the average high school student, university is the obvious answer to any postsecondary question. The perceived notion of a university education is that the recipient gets their pick of dream salary . This is an exaggeration of the truth. With approximanagement, social and behaviour need to ask themselves, "Why am I applying?" its exclusivity once upon a time ago. Canada had 18 universities and classical colleges in the late 1800s, with few, select people re-92 institutions we have today, almost anyone can obtain a university degree. The trend changed at fluxes of veterans were brought to chologist. university campuses in efforts of a considered rare, and the high so too has the value of a degree.

up to par as the current rate. The University graduates will on averratio for university to non-1975. Our grandparents were dropping out of high school for job opportunities that did not require true but nevertheless misleading. them to have a high school di- Roughly 60% of graduating stu- right? That is not exactly the case ploma, whereas today, some positions would not even consider an applicant unless they have an MBA.

over Canadian universities has millions of both Canadian and inthe work force while making their ternational students applying for admissions, and this huge demand has created an industry for higher mately 52.4% of Canadian univer- education. Just like any other insity students enrolled business, dustry, universities are privatized businesses that seek funds to sussciences, and humanity programs, tain and grow themselves. From many post-graduates students end the textbooks to the professors to secondary spectrum, college edu-students the opportunity to shine Starbucks counter. up in a field unrelated to their the research, money is a part of the original bachelor's degree. In the backbone of these institutions. To year 2006, about one out of every apply to Ontario universities five people who had a university through the Ontario Universities' degree in the workforce was over- Application Centre, OUAC, stuqualified at some point, meaning dents are required to pay an applithey were working jobs that re- cation service fee of \$210. This does quired at most high school educa- not take into consideration the tion. Going to university for the institutional fees some universities sake of going to university has its charge or that each transcript rerepercussions and more students quests costs \$12 (with some exceptions). On top of this, university tui-The prestige that is associated tion is inflating year by year, with with going to university stems from about a 5% hike from 2011 to 2012. An undergrad in psychology at Queens has an approximate cost of \$6,700 in fees and tuition for the 2012-13 year. This excludes resiceiving higher education. With the dence, meal plans, textbooks and other associated costs. This is overtly expensive if you are working at the Gap, a bargain if you are the end of World War II when in- actually going to become a psy-Paul Davidson, the president federally funded rehabilitation of the Association of Universities program. Newer institutions and and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), universities began to establish voiced his confidence in the fiscal themselves throughout the 1940s, foundation a university degree 50s, 60s and 70s. Even then, in the provides. "While it is true that tui-1950s, having a BA or a BSc was tion has increased in recent years,

a college grad." This is probably amount owed averaging to \$24,600. for a degree they did not end up time are worth it?

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

university graduate makes \$1 million more than a college graduate, dents accumulated debt, with the anymore. A heavy-duty mechanic sity? No. The two post-secondary with on-the-job apprenticeship Not all university graduates are so training can obtain a starting salary The historical halo that hovers lucky to pay their tuition whole. around \$75,000 at a large machin-Some graduates have student debt ery firm like Finning. In comparison to the BA who is underemusing following them throughout ployed as a barista, making a salary while you are deciding what you their life and accumulating into a of about \$25,000, which education can to be when you grow up. The nightmare. Before you commit to is truly more desirable? College such fees and costs, would it not education also typically offers comake sense to be sure the cost and op programs that allow students to gain experience while their learn-On the other side of the post- ing. Apprenticeship training gives tistic and on the right side of the

school graduation rate, let alone The income premium of a univer- cation has usually been in the in their craft before they apply for attendance rate, was not nearly as sity degree is large and growing. shadows of university's light. To be jobs. The idea that most wortha tradesman was not as desirable as while jobs in Canada require a uniage earn 1.3 million more during the management position you versity degree is starting to dim, university enrollment was 1:7 in their careers than a high school could obtain in having gone to uni- when Canada is trying to import graduate and \$1 million more than versity and, like Davidson said, a technical workers from other countries to supplement our shortage in skilled trades.

Is college better than univeroptions are great in their own right and better acquainted to different learning styles. However, university education should be a means to an end, not something you engage in destination should be decided before you start the post-secondary journey. That really is the only way to stay on the right side of the sta-

Thornhill Secondary School is pleased to announce a 9-day March Break 2014 excursion to England, Ireland and Wales. This trip is open to all students from grades 9-12. This excursion includes guided tours of Dublin, Killarney, North Wales, Stratford, Oxford and London. Your visits will include Shakespeare's Birthplace, the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, Piccadilly Circus, Blarney Castle, Book of Kells and much more! In collaboration with EF Tours.



ing tours led by licensed local ides (3 with extension) • 3 sightseeing irs led by your tour director • 1 walking

ntrances: Bog Museum • Blarney Castle ook of Kells/Trinity College Library St.Patrick's Cathedral • Welsh Castle • peare's Birthplace • Anne Hatha ge • With extension: Louvre •



narch break

EYE OF THE TIGER from the editors

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Edward Snowden: war hero or traitor?

>> HERO

onesty used to be given a shoving lies in our face, we used to for exposing American secrets to be a little appreciative of the fact.

Earlier this year, former Nato the American public what exactly the NSA did (which includes entity spying on its own citizens. citizen's social networks, spying on are Americans then the enemy? American citizens, and spying on foreign countries and embassies). information, unlike the NSA, to the And don't get me wrong; there was people should be considering heoutrage, people were angry. Most people got quite upset with the liberty (he fully expected to be in-NSA and the American government.

But not everyone. Some justiown propaganda: they're protecting everyone from terrorism... and He followed his principles and beprivacy. However, most agree that liefs, and didn't allow himself to be treating your own citizens as terrorists without proof or conviction be a violation of the Constitution isn't just rude-it's a violation of the and human rights, and in my American Constitution.

Danny Romm

What about Edward Snowden? hero's welcome in society. The, has been called many things, When someone would stop among which is hero and traitor; 'the enemy.'

Who is this enemy everyone is tional Security Administration em- so afraid of? Terrorists? I think ployee Edward Snowden revealed they're doing a pretty good job if they're the reason for a government but is not limited to monitoring Which then presents the thought:

Regardless, providing truthful roic. The man risked his life and carcerated, or worse already) to share the imperative truth with the world, showing America the true fied the NSA's actions, citing their face of its government, and other nations the true face of America. shut up about what he believes to books, that's called a hero.



David Bryckine

the last few months because he reveal classified documents to jourdecided that leaking classified nalists so that their contents would documents to the press could be made known to the world. He somehow be helpful to the Ameri- has put government secrets in the can people. Working as a N.S.A hands of his country's enemies and contractor he came across highly sensitive and classified files detail- he did was for the American peoing unauthorized surveillance of ple. the communications of American citizens (which he should not have intention of hiding who I am behad access to). He then took se- cause I know I have done nothing lected sections of these classified documents and gave them to reporters in Hong Kong who then jeopardizing his government's abilproceeded to publish the informa- ity to protect its citizens is of imtion inside the documents. The public flew into a rage that the gov- nage Act for Snowden is the only ernment dare listen in on their conversations or read their emails in the name of national security.

trayed his country. It is as simple as his charges like a true American.

raised as a hero, Edward that. He signed an agreement, Snowden's face has been promising to protect his country's plastered across the news for secrets but instead he goes on to yet he continues to claim that what

Quoted as saying "I have no wrong." It is clear that Edward Snowden does not believe that portance. Trial under the Espioway that he will be adequately punished for betraying his country, but the barrier between justice for his Whether or not what the N.S.A crimes is the fact that he is now did was wrong or not is inconse- hiding in Russia to avoid prosecuquential, what must be taken into tion. If he truly believed he did consideration is that Snowden be- nothing wrong, then he would face

How the world dodged a bullet Putin, in rainbows and why we should fear the next

The government shutdown on their ideals. areas, but why?

BY GUY ROMM DEPUTY LAYOUT EDITOR

hat happens when you combine a botched political system and two concided to shutdown, closing a variety of government services, from more than 800,000 people, and, most importantly, shutting down the PandaCam.

Republicans in Congress failed to as investments that rely on the re- least, do more trade with other make a compromise on the budget serve currency would lose their nations. for the United States for the next interest, and thus their value. The fiscal quarter. Republicans, out- United States would quickly lose its in Canada are affected by political raged with the thought of entire economy while other econo- situations around the world. And Obamacare making its way into the mies around the world struggle to every other country is just the course of action to dismantle Obamacare would be to shut down cided throwing America into disar- we are unable to protect ourselves. the government. have thought putting the entire country at risk would be an accept- this literally eleven hours before tems around the world (the more able way to leverage the removal of the impending debt default. Obamacare, but they sure weren't using their heads. Along with the as removal of Obamacare, the Repub- things. First, the United States gov- time soon, but better start the proclican "comprise" included a Republican-sponsored tax cut and the people that are supposed to elected officials decide to abuse cuts to taxes and regulations over represent your country put per- their power. environmental standards. Of course, Democrats could not agree to such a "compromise" that went completely against their party's ideology. The second part to complete this ridiculous tale describes the looming debt limit, a limit placed by the government on the amount of debt the government can accumulate. Republicans used the debt limit, which was set to be reached on October 17th, as a bargaining chip to force Democrats to cave in

from a triple 'A' credit rating to a this in the future. much much lower one. The govflicting opinions? On October 1st, ernment would run out of money is dangerous to the world. The Chisystems, and businesses associated

sonal motives over the safety of the This put the entire global nation, there is something wrong. caused unrest from many economy at risk. If the debt limit Clearly, a two party system does was reached, the U.S. government not work for America, especially would default, which would stop when the Democrats and Republithe government from borrowing cans are becoming growingly disany more money. This would, in tinct in their ideologies. We can turn, degrade the U.S. government expect more battles over issues like

Secondly, the American dollar the United States government de- to spend, causing the disruption of nese government has responded to social safety net plans, defense the crisis explaining how the world has to "de-Americanize", and l immigration to NASA, furloughing with the government. Since the completely agree. We rely too American dollar is the world's re- much upon the United States when serve currency, a government de- its financial situation is dire. We fault would quickly deflate the dol- rely too much on one nation and The cause: Democrats and lar, causing a world-wide recession must become more localized, or, at

The hard truth is that even we

Russia's anti-LGBT laws, and how the IOC is doing absolutely nothing.

BY DANIEL GRENIER

he International Olympic Committee is giving Russia a little too much leeway in the Olympics, the human rights department. Russia pressed China to drop its law rehas argued nonsensically that its quiring foreign journalists to get new anti-gay law is in keeping with the Olympic Charter's protections interviewing Chinese citizens. against discrimination, and the Now, the IOC should be telling IOC simply has accepted it. The Russia to revoke its anti-gay law in law, approved by the Russian par- order to conform with the Olympic liament in "propaganda" 'nontraditional" sexual relation- tee has so far shown no such incliships. This means virtually any nation, sponsors of the Olympics expression of homosexual love, or and television networks that plan approval of or information about to cover the event ought to push. homosexuality. Russians face fines, Otherwise, come February, they and foreigners, deportation. But may find themselves in an embarthis is not discrimination, Russian rassing mess. The Russians already

66 The point is that tolerating homosexuality as long as it is closeted is not a policy of fairness.

Ahead of the 2008 Beijing IOC government permission before June, prohibits Charter and remain the host of in support of the Winter Games. As the commit-Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Ko- have used their new law to deport zak claimed in a letter to the IOC, Dutch filmmakers for trying to because the law applies equally to make a documentary about gay gay and straight people. The rights in Russia. If openly gay New IOC said this incredible explana- Zealand speed skater Blake tion amounts to "strong written Skjellerup talks about a boyfriend reassurances from the Russian gov- in an interview with NBC, will that ernment that everyone will be wel- crew be deported as well? To avoid come at the Games in Sochi regard- the risk, will broadcasters evade the whole subject of homosexuality? That would make them complicit in Russia's discriminatory policies. in Russia since 1993 - even if being Unless the IOC acts, sponsors such as Coca-Cola, McDonald's, and eted is not a policy of fairness. In have said they will enforce the law their desire to get on with prepara- on the games' participants and tions for the games, IOC officials spectators. Perhaps they will put up may think it best to downplay their with female Russian athletes ernments often host the Olympics letics Championships in Moscow. erable power. IOC pressure haps they will not. In any case, it's bring nation-free zone for the Olympic

budget, decided that the best make do with a fallen superpower.

In the end, Republicans deray was less important than push- Again, I say, the cure for our di-Now, I don't know who would ing their ideas onto United States lemma is, at least partially, the relegislature. Luckily, they decided moval of two-party political sys-

This entire scenario taught us,

same. Globalization of the economy has put us in a position where parties the better), and the decentralization of the world economy. citizens of the world, a few It's not like these could happen any ernment is NOT trustworthy. When ess now before the next time



WHERE'D THE PANDAS GO? The PandaCam one of the services affected.

less of their sexual orientation."

That's not the issue, though. Being gay hasn't been illegal openly gay is increasingly dangerous. The point is that tolerating Visa will be tied to an officially antihomosexuality as long as it is clos- gay Olympics. Russian authorities ability to influence the politics of smooching on the podium, as they host countries. But given that gov- did at the recent IAAF World Athin order to improve their reputa- Or with rainbows painted on Swedtions, the committee wields consid- ish competitors' fingernails. Peron South Korea's military dictator- not enough to carve out a discrimiship helped about democratic elections before village. The law should be revoked the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul. altogether.

sports

Toronto Maple Leafs season preview

How will the Buds do this year?

BY DAKSH DATTA PORTS CONTRIBUTOR

is finally underway and this ising for the Leafs in a long time.

With the Game 7 collapse Leafs can go.

quite a splash this year by signing summer, has been brought in to contract, Phil Kessel. provide grit and, of course, to rack up points.

in goals scored, and Clarkson will Arthur, and Mikhail Grabovski. add depth to an already high- Captain Dion Phaneuf's contract powered offense that includes the ends this season, and either resignlikes of Nazem Kadri, Joffrey Lupul, ing or trading him will be someand resident all-star Phil Kessel. thing Nonis must look into. After an altercation in the prewhile acquisition.

headlines is goalie Jonathan year's team, though there is hope in Bernier, who will challenge fan acclaimed rookie teen Morgan favourite James Reimer for the starter goalie position. Bernier arbe the future #1 for the Leafs, and to be the X-factor, and in all probso far has not disappointed.

goaltending are behind, as both goalies have the potential to become the starter. The final major addition is centre Dave Bolland, who is best known for scoring the ockey is back! After five long Cup-winning goal for the Chicago months, the regular season Blackhawks last season. He has already proven to be a keeper with season seems to be the most prom- his playmaking and surprisingly strong offensive abilities.

Other minor acquisitions inmemory fresh in the minds of the clude the return of Paul Ranger, team and fans alike, it's time to who was a top 4 defenseman before look ahead and see how far the he chose to leave hockey for a few years, and Mason Raymond, a third So what's changed since the line winger with impressive speed, offseason? The Leafs have made who may prove to be a steal for GM Dave Nonis. Key returning players the market's most coveted free with a new contract include Nazem agent. David Clarkson, arguably the Kadri, Cody Franson, Tyler Bozak Leafs biggest addition over the and, with a monstrous \$64 million

However, the Leafs have also lost some players, including Matt The Leafs finished 6th last year Frattin, Ben Scrivens, Clarke Mac-

So that's this year's team. A season, he was suspended for 10 highly effective and explosive ofgames, which raised the question fense will build on last year's goalof whether or not he was a worth- scoring achievements. However, a much-criticised defense may prove The other newcomer making to be the only real weakness in this Rielly.

Nonetheless, the Reimerrived with much fanfare, touted to Bernier goaltending tandem seems ability will backstop the Leafs to underdog, will not go down without appearance. They seemed to have a fight, and that sort of competition learned from their mistakes as their will make this tandem one of the offseason additions attempt to imleague's best. The days of weak prove upon every weakness was easily the best we've seen in years, place or wild card entry seems to be time will tell...



RENEWED CONFIDENCE With an 8-year, 64-million contract, elite sniper Phil Kessel is here to stay.

However, Reimer, ever the their second straight postseason demonstrated in the playoffs, and even with a tougher Atlantic the most likely result, but will they whether it was experience division to contend in, the team's suffer another collapse? Or will (Bolland), leadership (Clarkson), or chances of making the playoffs are they learn from their mistakes and goaltending (Bernier). This team is higher than ever before. A third move past the first round? Only

Season outlook: Toronto Raptors

It's a new season, and a fresh start! Can the Raptors pull this season together into the post-season? Probably not.

BY PETER SOTIRAKOS

most significant improvements tors are not the team that will be- made to this team didn't come in the form of a signing or a press release, it came in the form of hard -work and personal responsibility that earned him MVP honours, to the team from the Raptors' key players. Rudy Gay, a 9-year NBA vet-Raptors faithful alike, Toronto eran, played his first 8 seasons in to better deal with the physical toll seemed to be staring down the the league with a vision problem, and only this offseason did he finally decide to have corrective eve curb his biggest criticism of his low shooting percentage. Gay, a late muscle for his full season in the Twere long time GM and President Dot, priming him for an all-star ber one overall draft pick Andrea and one of the longest current ten-Bargnani, and in were last year's ured Raptors, Demar DeRozan also

ple pinstripes. National Team in Croatia at Euro-Basket 2013, as well as adding bulk of an 82 game NBA season. The improved core of the Raptors for the best overall team that Toronto has had in the post-Bosh era, look to the future. same: the Raptors are going to do

Novack, the hard hitting, soon-to- his range beyond the 3-point arc. the years to come, and there is a freshman year as he is expected to be fan favourite Tyler Hansbor- Last off season's big acquisition good reason for it. Three out of the do. ough, and a more than capable Kyle Lowry had a disappointing team's top four paid players, Kyle back-up PG in DJ Augustine. In his opening campaign with Toronto Lowry, Amir Johnson and Rudy of offseason movement - espefirst moves as GM, it was clear that after an early season injury left him Gay, could all plausibly be gone by cially in the Atlantic Division - has Ujiri looked to address the Rap- out of shape and inconsistent for next season. Lowry's contract extors' bench depth, a must have the rest of the season. But this year pires at the end of this season and again. Atop of the Eastern Conferwhen it comes to a playoff team. Lowry comes back fully healthy has yet to be renewed, there is a ence are the defending two time But the changes didn't stop there, going into training camp, and in team option on Johnson meaning champion Miami Heat, a more t's a new era in Raptor-land, but with the announcement of Toronto much better physical shape than that they could decline to bring mature Indiana Pacers squad, a for now it doesn't seem like it. attaining the 2016 NBA All-Star he was in a year ago. And then him back next season if they so Chicago team revitalized by the game, as well as the Toronto's own there's Jonas Valanciunas, who choose, and Gay has a player opbuilt to challenge for a playoff spot Drake joining the Raptors as a might be the most promising tion allowing him to opt out of his Rose, the New York Knicks looking in the perennially weak bottom Global Ambassador. So while this player that Raptors fans have seen contract at season's end. Including to give Carmelo Anthony his first half of the Eastern Conference. offseason had changes a plenty, the since Vince Carter donned the pur- a new person atop MLSE, a new ring and the Brooklyn Nets who Valanciunas is GM who likely wants to implement coming off of a busy summer bas- his own personnel, and a head ketball-wise, including a dominant coach in Dwane Casey with a con- teams who have playoff spots all NBA Summer League performance tract that also expires when this but locked up, there are four teams season ends, all this means is that time spent with the Lithuanian if all goes wrong this season, or last three spots. Including the Rapeven if they get off to a slow start, tors, among these teams are the the Raptors could be blown up in favor of a new era. this hypothetical new era in Topaired with the increased depth ronto is warranted by the strength surgery which should definitely added in the offseason makes up of the upcoming NBA Draft full of prospects seen as franchise player the Raps will have their work cut worthy, a type of talent the Raptors season acquisition from the Mem- and while playoffs are definitely don't currently have. Among the offs, if all goes well, that is to say no last spring, changes were bound to phis Grizzlies, also added 20 lbs. of the focus, you can't help but to notable prospects is Canada's own key players get badly injured and Andrew Wiggins who not only is a the team plays to their potential, For management, coaches and homegrown talent but has also they should be able to secure one calibre year. Toronto mainstay, players alike, the message is the publicly stated that he would like of the last two playoff spots in the to play for the Raptors. Wiggins East. But if the Raptors falter durthe best with what they have and will be with the Kansa Jayhawks ing the season, don't be alarmed, Executive of the Year, Masai Ujiri, worked on his game this offseason, make a serious push for the play- this year and is consensus number they'll have one eye on the court to replace Colangelo as GM, one of bettering what has been by far his offs. Yet for folks around the team one pick of the 2014 Draft if he and one eye out on the future.

the league's best shooters in Steve greatest weakness by expanding there is an even bigger buzz about comes out of college following his

Looking back to the NBA, a lot the Raptors in playoff contention long-awaited return of Derrick just recently added Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett. Aside from those with a good chance of landing the Cavs. whose addition of Andrew Bynum and top pick Anthony Ben-The reason for looking in to nett, the Wizards, who are seen as a team poised to rise in the East after years toiling in the cellar, and the rebuilt Detroit Pistons. So while out for them to get into the play-

Make no mistake, this team was However the 2013-14 Toronto Rapcome the successful, dynastic basketball franchise that Canadian basketball fans so greatly deserve.

At the conclusion of last season, yet another disappointing campaign for the top brass and barrel at a similar fate for the next season, as Toronto had zero picks in the draft and no legitimate shot at any of the big name free agents. But with the hire of Tim Leiweke as CEO and President of MLSE late be made; and so they were. Out Bryan Colangelo and former num-

3-2 **NFL season predictions**

NFC North **GREEN BAY PACKERS (Z)**

This Green Bay team is MINNESOTA VIKINGS much like last year's division winplayers. The big loss on offense for them is the retirement of Donald Driver, the veteran wideout known him and provide an exciting seafor his spectacular hands and the ability to play the outside and the ball up and will definitely miss his leadthe Packers picked up back Eddie running back and also some key along with Xavier Rhodes and Corback up players at positions where their two veteran backs Cedric Benson and Ryan Grant forcing the lost Greg Jennings to the division shipped off to Seattle. This Vikings rival Vikings, and Tom Crabtree, a promising young tight end who will now be donning the red and bronze Bucs uniform. With all that being said the Packers have a good they continue to rebuild with good shot at repeating as division talent. champs unless the Bears can pull NFC East off some upsets against them. **CHICAGO BEARS (X)**

Marc Trestman over the offseason NFC East teams this year without the Bears have received somewhat of a facelift to hopefully compen- They ended up losing more veteran sate for the loss of long time defensive captain Brian Urlacher. Cutler received a new toy as well, Martellus Bennett, the former Cowboy best with their first round pick they and Giant tight end, is an exciting still had a decent draft due to late new addition as since the loss of Greg Olson 3 years ago the Bears seems every year that the Boys are have not had a solid tight end. On favorites to win the NFC East, and it to the "Bounty Gate" controversy, the defensive side, the Bears picked up James Anderson and drafted Romo is one of the best gunslingers Khaseem Greene out of Rutgers playing today much to the chagrin and Jon Bostic, the former Florida Gator. The offensive line that was suspect the past few seasons also however, the year when America's received Kyle Long by way of the team wins a playoff game. There, I draft. Long looks to be a rock as a tackle and a franchise lineman like Joe Thomas. All that said, the Bears have some work cut out for them fence you are on with the name this season, but look out because they may be a team that sneaks into RG3 and the Redskins offence has back to their 2009 Super Bowl form. the playoffs and can do some dam- the potential to light opponents up. After a quick start, the Saints will age with that turnover centric defense.

DETROIT LIONS

arrested or fined, one can only assume the Detroit players to be Stallworth. Additionally they didn't paign that may prove to be a surthe league. The largest addition to handily. With all that being said the team this year is Reggie Bush, their defense can be a little suspect and explosive young back that previously played for the Saints and a definite factor. Look for the Skins Fins. However they made little to potentially sneak into a position has had during his tenure there. splash in the draft and yet again picked up a defensive lineman to East crown as there will almost hopefully allow the Lions to have definitely only be one representasome depth when Suh inevitably tive in the playoffs. gets suspended. The Lions did PHILIDELPHIA EAGLES however lose quite a few veterans and young talent by way of free Kelly as head coach it is suspected agency and the hated salary cap. Notable losses include Titus Young Sr., the 3rd year receiver, Cliff Avril a Michael Vicks legs as a catalyst for solid defensive end, and his mirror long drawn out drives. The Eagles Kyle Vanden Bosch who lined up at secondary has seemed like a rethe other Defensive end position. volving door in the years of late as They also released Jhavid Best, the once again veterans like Nnamdi last four seasons. supposed rushing future of the Asomugha and Rodgers-Cromartie CAROLINA PANTHERS Lions. This season for the lions may are the notable losses with the ac-

ing around that .500 mark.

ners; however it did lose some key break 2000 rushing yards for the tackle Lane Johnson who was and prove that he is a winner at the second consecutive season the Vikings will look to rally around son. While the Vikings' offence is one dimensional and is primarily a post. On the defensive side of the smash mouth rushing style attack, they released Charles Christian Ponder will look to ma-Woodson to free some cap space ture as a quarterback and a leader and may be able to take a bit of the ership, and uncanny ability to pick burden off of Peterson. The Vikings quarterbacks off. Through the draft traded up to get 3 late first round draft picks and acquired Sharrif Lacy who will be a lock as starting Floyd, a solid defensive lineman darelle Patterson, a cornerback and they lost some depth. Other key receiver respectively who will most losses they suffered were the loss of likely be future starters on the most likely finish sub .500 and Chip team. The Vikes sacrificed a lot to could be in the hot seat come seaget those picks however and saw sons end. young Lacy to step up. They also Percy Harvin and Antoine Winfield NEW YORK GIANTS team does not look promising and will most likely be at the bottom of the barrel in the NFC North but do have quite a promising future if

DALLAS COWBOYS (Y)

The Boys look probably With the acquisition of the most promising out of all the doing a whole lot in the offseason. experience than they gained in the summer months. Even after drafting a 2nd round offensive lineman at rebuilding process. round steals at skill positions. It has to be the same this year. Tony of many Dallas fans hoping for a playoff win. This year could the one iinxed it.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

No matter what side of the debate, there is no denying that Over the summer the Skins picked up a couple more veteran receivers When they aren't being hands to throw to, those being the NFC. Devery Henderson and Donte players, and their draft addressed at times and RG3's health could be to challenge Dallas for the NFC

dle of the pack with a record hover- the depth chart. The Eagles draft (especially when you consider his guys like Colin Kaepernick had was obviously affected greatly by record-breaking rookie season), the the new coach as their first round former number one overall pick falling in the Bay Area, the econ-With AP attempting to pick was used on a raw talent left needs to show more consistency omy plummeted, and people were clearly the most athletic tackle in NFL level. Expect more of the same the draft. With the later round draft from the Carolina offence, as they to their senses and realized it was picks the Eagles selected Matt are yet to find a real presence on Barkley the at times inconsistent the other side of the field opposite quarterback out of USC, which left to WR Steve Smith, and mainstays most fans scratching their heads. TE Greg Olsen and RB DeAngelo This team still has it - although USC runs a very west coast style attack a la the 2012 Eagles and not a Chip Kelly big play pass heavy attack, so perhaps the Eagles organization doesn't have much faith in Kelly to last. The Eagles definitely have the biggest chance at a surprise season and really there's no way to tell how good their offense will be, that being said they will

The list of lost players this offseason has more stars than an Academy Awards after party, with too many notable names to even have them out of the playoffs and begin listing. Surely they must have Coach Ron Rivera's job hanging by replaced them in free agency and a thread. the draft right... right? Unfortu- TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS nately not, instead they picked up busts and backups from around the for the Bucs and 2nd year head league, and their draft was more coach Greg Schiano. The real issue worthless than a pair of Jags season tickets. It's crazy to think that just a couple years ago the same team was hoisting the Lombardi Trophy. The G-Men won't be doing much Darrelle Revis, is full of young playthis year, look for them to attempt a ers and former 1st round picks still

NFC South

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (Y)

Coach Sean Payton is back after sitting out a season due and so it seems are the Saints. With weapons like TE Jimmy Graham, RB Darren Sproles and WR Marques Colston back for another season in the Bayou, QB Drew Brees won't be slowing down any time soon. Add to that a revitalized ing rookie QB Mike Glennon a Saints defense with something to prove after a disappointing season last year, the group led by new Defensive Coordinator Rob Ryan looks to have New Orleans getting dominate the inconsistent NFC

ATLANTA FALCONS

Williams are collecting the rest of the touches. The biggest improvements on the Panthers' roster are in their front seven; with rookie DT Star Lotulelei looking like he might be the second consecutive Carolina rookie to win DROY after LB Luke Kuechly did just that last year. While the Panthers look to have a solid defensive front, their secondary looks like a patch-up job, with mostly undrafted rookies and other inexperienced players filing in at CB and safety. Cam and the Panthers will show promise, but ultimately we will see more inconsistent play out of Carolina that will

This is a very testing year with this team is the relationship, or rather lack thereof, between QB Josh Freeman and Schiano. A detrying to make a name for themselves, including DT Gerald McCoy. With the release of Freepainfully slow start, Tampa doesn't figure to put up a fight for the Wildcard this year. But they still have some very solid pieces to build around, with RB Doug Martin coming off of a stellar rookie campaign, and veteran wide receivers Mike Williams and Vincent Jackson givfighting chance to impress. If not what looks to be a relatively deep draft at OB.

NFC West SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (Y)

I can't really make any South and find their way into the witty quips about the Seattle Seato hopefully give RG3 some sure playoffs as one of the top seeds in hawks. There's nothing special or Look for the Rams to continue to controversial about them; but si- struggle in the near impossible multaneously, they are just a domi-This has to be a go for nant football team right now. Abso- ARIZONA CARDINALS practicing hard for the 2013 cam- lose too many non-replaceable broke year for Matty Ice and coach lutely everything has been clicking Mike Smith. With the addition of for them this season - Russell Wil- me, forgot that this team went to prise to them as well as the rest of and filled those lost players quite RB Steven Jackson and the return son is further confirming my choice the Super Bowl in 2009. Then of TE Tony Gonzalez, to go along of him being the best quarterback with All-Pro wide outs Roddy White of the 2012 draft class. Marshawn Lynch is still a dominant running back - Skittles and all. Receivers like Percy Harvin, Sidney Rice and Golden Tate have all proven to be more than impressive targets. But the one thing that the Seahawks are sort of renowned for - their excellent secondary: Kam Chancellor, Brandon Browner, Richard Sherman and Earl Thomas have been eliminating deep threats for everyone this year. A lot of people had the Seahawks coming in at a close second behind the 49ers; but we see a much better team. A team around like the rest of his teamthe playoffs for the first time in the that could very easily represent the mates and wallow in the fact that NFC in the Super Bowl this year. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (X) be a solid one, or it may be a flop, quisition of Bradley Fletcher and thing to prove. Coming off of a sprung into the 2013-14 season a get a decent draft pick and bolster

them out to a 1-2 start. The sky was burning 49er jerseys left and right. But then everyone suddenly came only the first three games of the season, and now the 49ers sit comfortably in 2nd place in the division. they've lost the best at defensive end in Aldon Smith, the reputable 49ers defense has still pulled their weight, grinding out performances that the offense could capitalize on, which lead to them winning games. The 49ers remain a good team this year - but in the stiff competition that is the NFC, they might have some trouble repeating as Conference Champions - with teams like the Packers, Saints and those pesky Seahawks looking to dethrone them. (Side note - anyone think Donte Whitner changing his last name to Hitner is a bad idea? He's about a letter away from a certain someone...)

ST. LOUIS RAMS

The Rams have been stuck in mid pack obscurity for the longest time - I dare say that they're the Toronto Maple Leafs of football at this point. It seems like the rebuilding process started back in 2008, when Sam Bradford was drafted $\mathbf{1}^{st}$ overall, and the Rams fense led by the newly acquired had the idea that they'd secured their franchise quarterback. And don't get me wrong, Bradford has been a fairly decent quarterback for them over the years; but nothing better than fairly decent. To add to man during the season and the the offensive dismay, Steven Jackson, their star running back since the retirement of Marshall Faulk, left them this year for the Atlanta Falcons. To make it the triple crown of offensive turmoil, the Rams have unquestionably the worst receiver core in the NFL at this moment. Their star 1st rounder of this year. Tayon Austin, has been dropping balls left, right, and centhe Buccaneers can use their draft tre (which I'm totally blaming for pick to select a new quarterback in my struggles in fantasy this year). And when their next-in-lines include names like Brian Quick, Chris Givens and Austin Pettis, people are too busy going "Who?" instead of wondering if their viable to be that high up in the depth chart.

With the addition of Chip that the Eagles will adopt his high energy no huddle offence using the safe bet is that they finish mid- Cary Williams to replace them in relatively disappointing season little slow - sloppy play from key something... anything.

and Julio Jones, QB Matt Ryan is at the helm of the best offense Atlanta Osi Umeyiora is the big add on the defensive side of the ball, but early injuries to key players like LB Sean Weatherspoon, DE Kory Biermann and CB Asante Samuel will have the Falcons defense in the bottom half of the league. The Dirty Birds will be on the outside looking in on the playoff picture for most of the season after a painfully slow start, and despite their inevitable late season comeback, Atlanta will miss

Cam Newton has some-

NFC West for years to c

A lot of people, including again, they did have the legendary Kurt Warner at the helm, and believe me; Carson Palmer is nowhere close to being on the same echelon as Kurt. The Cardinals are such a boring team to watch sometimes, and for good reason - they have absolutely no star power. And not only does no star power mean boring games, it also means losing games. I sometimes wonder how Larry Fitzgerald feels about playing for such a subpar team. A guy with his talent should be somewhere like Denver or Kansas City or Chicago. But for now, he'll have to sit they are going absolutely nowhere this year - except the basement of The 2013 NFC Champions the NFC West. Hopefully they can

The 2013 NFL Season has kicked off, and the storylines we've come to expect from the everunpredictable NFL have certainly lived up to the hype. Here's how Daniel Grenier, Peter Sotirakos and Gabe Wahl see the season panning out.

Legend: Z = Clinched Conference, Y = Clinched Division X = Clinched Wild Card

AFC North

CINCINNATI BENGALS (Y) The Bungles no more, the team only getting stronger each year, the AFC North may have a new king of the proverbial jungle. The key addition this offseason was James Harrison formerly of the Steelers; he will be a strong leader for a fairly young defense. The Benneeded to do, or mainly what it didn't. There aren't many holes in draft. Value is always a good strategy for the later first round picks. CLEVELAND BROWNS They managed to get a very solid Tight End in Tyler Eifert who slipped a little more than he would've liked down to the 21st pick. Their second round pick, Giovani Bernard is a shifty back to compliment Green-Ellis, he was a slight reach where they got him but The whole NFL (with some excepregardless he's a solid pickup for a team that really has no glaring needs. This Bengals squad should be excited this season as they look strong enough to potential finish 11 the organization as a whole is a hot -5 and secure that AFC North title. **BALTIMORE RAVENS**

As the Super Bowl chamsure on them to just contend for a repeat considering that they might as well have lost their entire de-Ed Reed left for the Texans. The all of one and a half games. After ravens also saw Anguan Boldin leave for the 9er's via the salary cap, and Dannell Ellerbe pack his bags for again, the Fins. Baltimore's draft was solid but nothing special they did however get a steal in their an ILB from KState if he is able to Ravens team can even hold a candle to the one just last year and with the emergence of better more electric offences the new defense NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (Y) may find itself being lit up. The sneak into a wildcard spot at 9-7, tiebreak.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

returning without some key playof rid of Mendenhall due to some force Big Ben to scramble even gest stage in the world. more than usual. The Steelers were poten-

back in his prime this converted keep him upright a little longer as linebacker is far from peak athletic well. While they did lose Jake Long look to make some noise in the post ton can buckle down and actually with a record of 10-6 last year and form as he prepares for the later and Reggie Bush they should be part of his career and he shows no fine since they look to be shaping signs that he's ready to switch his scrambling style for a more pocket the Draft they primarily picked overlooked. Sure, outside of RB has in the first seven weeks of the passer attack. This year is a real coin flip for the Steel Curtain, they have the coaches of a super bowl contending team but maybe their slipped into the second round. The gals draft was accomplished what it mindset and personnel aren't up to Fins have quite a ways to go to bepar. This year the Steelers are looking like a 6-10 or 7-9 team with no this Cinci team so they mainly real threat of playoff contention finish or potentially better on their picked up the best value in the unless something clicks or someone steps up big for them.

I absolutely love the Cleveland Browns. These guys are make almost 0 moves over the offlike the Chicago Cubs of the NFL. The Lovable Losers. How can anyone hate a team that's put it's fans through so much, despite them being there week in and week out. tions in Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati) are rooting for this ultimate underdog to make something of one. However Kiko Alonso a 2nd out of this season. It's a shame that mess.

After trading the 3rd overall pick from last year for a bag of make and attempt to improve their pions of 2013, there is a lot of pres- chips and a back rub, the Browns turned to journeyman back-up Brian Hoyer to clean up this mess. And by God, Hoyer the Destroyer fense when Ray Lewis retired and was unleashed on the masses... for NEW YORK JETS giving them a share of the division lead for a week, Hoyer went down for the season, and the Browns were right back where they'd started - playing with a sickly defense and an offense captained by a second round pick, Arthur Brown 30 year old rookie. I'm sorry to say, Cleveland; break out the paper stay healthy. I don't think this new bags again - this season isn't going to be any different.

AFC East

Brady's boys will murder Ravens are looking at a chance to the rest of the north this year like in years past with a very solid offsea-BUT we see them missing via the son. Key additions for the Pats include Danny Amendola, LeGarrette Blount, and Michael Jenkins to A/perennial powerhouse replace the loss of Danny Woodhead, Wes Welker, and Brandon very, very disappointing one. ers, will the Pittsburgh Steelers Lloyd. In the draft the Pats traded remain atop AFC? This offseason down into the second round to pick INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (Y) saw the Steelers run game disap- Jamie Collins an outside linepear almost like magic when they backer/pass rush extraordinaire Steelers offensive line lost Matt like they could be sentenced to an-Starks and Willie Colon which will other disappointment on the big-**MIAMI DOLPHINS** technique OLB who is potentially Mike Wallace will give Tannehill of All-Pro DE Dwight Freeney. The 44 points a game? the top pass rusher alongside Dion more down the field targets then Colts will continue to build on their Jordan. Let's talk Big Ben for a sec- last year and picking up Lance success in the new Luck-Pagano just as impressive as the 2007 Patri- soon enough.

into a pass first offence anyways. In based off value over need as they grabbed Jamar Taylor a cornerback out of Boise State who somehow come a threat to the Patriots but they can definitely secure an 8-8 way to becoming a blueprint for quick rebuilds.

BUFFALO BILLS

fans wonder if the GM is planning to completely blow the franchise up and ship 'em up to Canada. After getting rid of Fitzey and bringing in Kolb they went and drafted E.J. Manuel, just to be sure they have 2 subpar quarterbacks instead round draft pick is already showing he may be a stud at linebacker if he team and for that they will most likely be lucky to squeak out a couple of close wins over even worse AFC opponents.

the announcement of his recontime for Geno Smith to fill his albeit small shoes. Smith is inherently a more athletic quarterback as well as a very good deep passer which could result in a better more explosive offence from a historically defense oriented Rex Ryan squad. Adding Chris Ivory and Kellen Winslow on offence should help take the pressure off Smith to perform right off the bat. However the aforementioned defense may cease to exist now that Revis island is sipping Mai Thais on the golden Florida beaches and LaRon Landry is now a Colt. Sexy Rexy may be looking for a new position after this season is over as it looks to be a AFC South

the former Alabama Heisman win-Luck with young talented players in New logo, new attitude? addition to veteran WR Reggie

ond shall we. A mediocre quarter- Louis and Tyson Clabo should help era by adding their first AFC South ots - sans perfect record. The one -season.

TENNESSEE TITANS (X)

Tennessee shouldn't be Chris Johnson they aren't full of season, then the Broncos might as household names, but they are a well moonwalk out of Super Bowl dark horse in what might be a weak XLVII with the Lombardi Trophy. AFC wild card race. Amidst all the KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (X) buzz around young quarterbacks like RGIII, Andrew Luck, Colin Kaepernick, Cam Newton and Russell Wilson, lost is 3rd year QB Jake Locker who has shown some promise early on in his career. The underrated Tennessee defense will After watching the Bills have something to prove, and their clicking for this team; Alex Smith is young but talented secondary inseason it makes me and many bills cluding corners Jason McCourty and Alterraun Verner will challenge quarterbacks all season long. The Titans will overcome an early season injury to Locker and bounce back by making the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

HOUSTON TEXANS

The Houston Texans need to show that they can get past the Divisional round in the Playoffs for can keep his off the field problems the first time in 2 years and prove revitalized the offense to a tee. in check. The Bills really didn't that they are still among the elite in the AFC. While coach Gary Kubiak has shown that he can coach a come out of the AFC on top; a championship caliber team, but thought that no one would've even after years of stagnation near the top, Houston management could be trigger-happy if the Texans don't The Sanchize is over with meet up to their expectations. QB Matt Schaub's job is also at risk, as structive shoulder surgery and it's he is yet to prove himself as an elite quarterback.

> Houston has certainly provided the weapons for Schaub to succeed, with RB Arian Foster and WR Andre Johnson each among the best at their respective positions. Add in a top-10 defense from last reigning Defensive Player of the Year and might just repeat, and the Texans have a team talented enough to get back to where they belong. With the slow start to their season and the rapid regression of a healthy nine wins this season, themselves on the sideline afterweek 17, putting an end to their two year playoff streak.

AFC West **DENVER BRONCOS (Z)**

Andrew Luck has come yes, I am a Broncos fan. So yes, Unfortunately for Oakland Raiders pretty darn close to making Colts some bias might seep through the fans, this year, they are the odd who is definitely their best pick this fans forget the name Peyton Man- cracks. But I mean, come on. This bad blood between the two parties year even though they really were- ning, and there's good reason for it. offense has been nothing short of age at best so far, and in a division after the suspension incident. n't in need of another pass rusher. The 2nd year QB has been every unstoppable. Peyton Manning and where the other teams have a com-Along with the new Cardinal, the The NFC is really looking like the inch of the franchise player that his armada of receivers score bined 17-4 record, average isn't Steelers saw Mike Wallace leave for better division this year and even if Indianapolis envisioned when touchdowns whenever they want south beach to join the up and the Pats do beat the Broncos to picking him number one overall to. Hell, even Knowshon Moreno, coming Dolphins. Additionally, the make it to the super bowl it looks last year. An early season trade for who has been an absolute nobody long; the pieces are in place. Terfor the past three years, is punching ner RB Trent Richardson plays in to in touchdowns. Sure, the defense chael Vick, without the dogs and the Colts strategy of surrounding had been very weak at times; Von what not (you know, Mr. Mexico). Miller getting into suspension trouble, the Swiss cheese that is the tially the winners of the first round The Williams sisters sure hope so. Wayne. DE Robert Mathis leads a secondary... but who really cares he's having a turnaround this year. with the draft of Jarvis Jones the 3-4 Additions like Dustin Keller and young Colts' D after the departure about that when you're putting up

title since Manning left, and will thing it truly boils down to is if Peystring together a few playoff wins. He's struggled in the postseason as of late; but if he can perform like he

> Somebody spiked the Chiefs' Gatorade cooler with something - because the 2-14 minnows of the 2012 season have come firing out of the gate, and are now the last remaining undefeated team this season. Absolutely everything is playing like a true veteran, Jamaal Charles is in MVP talks everywhere, and that defense is damn near unstoppable. Justin Houston and Tamba Hali have led an absolute sack parade against opposing offensive lines, and the secondary, captained by All-Pro Eric Berry has been shutting down the best of quarterbacks. A lot of the credit however, has to be handed to new head coach Andy Reid, who has Don't let that wildcard spot fool you - this team could very well considered three or four months ago

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

There's one thing I miss most in life, and that's Governor Schwarzenegger saying "Go Chargers Go". The Chargers faithful however, must be glad that the Governator is out of office, because they seem to be doing a lot better since. The Chargers this year have so far looked impressive in a tough AFC West division; Philip Rivers has year, led by DE J.J. Watt, who is the finally woken the hell up and started playing to his expectations, the normally mid-card receivers have proven their worth, and the defense has stepped up when necessary. If the Chargers can rack up Matt Schaub the Texans will find they could definitely be considered to be the team to pounce on the sixth wild card spot in an otherwise weak wildcard race. **OAKLAND RAIDERS**

Not every team can be Now let's get this straight; successful in a division at once. team out. Oakland has been going to cut it. But Oakland Raiders fans should not be too upset for too relle Pryor looks like the next Mi-A young receiving core looks good so far. Darren McFadden looks like Some draft picks spent on the offensive and defensive lines and the This Broncos team looks Raiders will be back in business

So there you have it. You have our winners, losers, our locks and our shocks for the upcoming season. If you're interested, we concluded that Super Bowl 48 would indeed go to the Denver Broncos, who would topple the Seattle Seahawks in the big game. Regardless, here's to hoping that the remainder of the season can live up to the hype.

fall 2013

The hot seat: Johnny on the spot



And why Mr. Football may be in the hot seat.

BY: GABRIEL WAHL SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

eisman and undrafted are two words that don't belong in the same conversation let alone the same sentence, but for Johnny Manziel this could be a reality. Manziel shocked the college football world when he took home the Heisman trophy at the end of the 2012 season as a 2^{nd} year freshman after being redshirted during his first season with Texas A&M due to Ryan Tannehill being there. With an arm that rivals any elite college quarterback and legs that can only be compared to the ones on RG3, Johnny Football is a dual threat like no other. Whether he is extending the play, scrambling, or going deep, Manziel is consistently making the highlight reels. But his off the field problems are turning heads equally as much.

Following his redshirted season Manziel found himself with multiple run-ins with the law accumulating 3 misdemeanors in the span of a summer: disorderly conduct, failure to identify, and possession of false identification. Regardless of the legal issues he got into he was still named starter going into his Heisman season. After winning the Heisman Manziel ran into trouble yet again, this time with the NCAA. Good ol' Johnny Football was investigated for reportedly selling autographs. Regardless of your stance on the commercialization of college football, blatantly disregarding one of the pivotal regulations the NCAA has in place deserves solid punishment. Punishment for Manziel, however, was only a suspension for half a game; the NCAA found it sufficient to force Manziel to watch half of a game on the sideline, a game that the Aggies took easily with a fantastic performance by Johnny Football. With Manziel getting away with whatever he pleases and only small slaps on the wrist as punishment, coaches turning a blind eye to what he does off the field,

he certainly isn't going to change his ways. Whether Manziel should be held fully responsible for his continued poor behavior or not, he could see his draft stock plummet if he doesn't quickly change.

The largest question surrounding Johnny Manziel is whether or not he's worth the potential headache. As of now, the answer for most teams is a simple, justified "no"; why should they invest in a player with a first round pick that will only end up having countless suspensions, fines, and potentially jail time as the NFL has much more defined punishment for crime. If the draft was tomorrow, it would be very surprising if he was picked up by a team in the first round. However, Manziel isn't draft eligible until after the 2014 season and if he manages to keep his nose clean by that time, then maybe teams would reconsider, and he could possibly become the first overall pick that his play indicates he should be. Inversely, if he continues to have run-ins with the law, he will be lucky to be in the NFL at all.

Johnny Football's story might be the catalyst needed to start requiring coaches and programs to be responsible for their players. Considering that these young men aren't being paid to put themselves at risk of serious injury, why aren't they being looked after while at school? If monetary security isn't what the NCAA and its organizations wants to provide, then maybe it should be protecting their players from the media. Why should an unpaid teenager be forced participating in into not only press conferences, but also media coverage events while expecting to maintain good grades? Perhaps if the NCAA didn't force press conferences, and managed to keep student athletes in the class, thus out of trouble, then they wouldn't have to deal with reprimanding students that are receiving monetary or material compensation from benefactors, and in turn not receive as much flak for not paying their athletes.



JOHNNY MANZIEL MAY HAVE THE SPORTING ABILITY But off the field, he finds himself in a lot of hot water The question is: Is his sporting ability worth his attitude?

entertainment **EYEOFTHETIGER**

The mysterious Lorde works in many ways



YOU CAN CALL HER QUEEN BEE The young 16-year old New Zealand native has achieved quite the success with her first single, "Royals"., but will she be more than just a one-hit wonder?

New Zealand teenage-starin-the-making Lorde's debut album Pure Heroine gains success.

BY PATRICK SHEN

that she's only sixteen years old. o.m.g. it's so catchy." He pro- she has right now, because she's information." And sure enough, You may also know that her single ceeded to break out into the song's still relatively new and only just this ideology is reflected in the

Well, you may know her as Ella Royals? It was playing through the are profound, her beats fresh, and incarnation of Lorde (hint: look out In fact, she's becoming so big numerous examples of artists in the past few years that have crashed ever again.

Yelich-O'Connor. You may know speakers at Pavilion yesterday and hard to tell just how much potential something that gives them all the Royals is now number one on graceful melodic chorus, singing emerging. Time will tell whether down-to-earth lyrics of Royals, a iTunes's Top-Ten in both Canada every line perfectly from memory she'll be the next superstar pop song about dispelling illusions of fame, money, and grandeur. Even so, she may not necessarne day in June, I was on her melodies entrancing. And for him at open-mic night). At least ily be aiming for superstardom at Lorde is just another teenager like all. When interviewed by Billboard us, more than anything else. She Despite her success, some Magazine about her reaction to her attends school, hangs out with people wonder if she's just another newfound fame, she replied, "In a friends, and goes to parties. Reone-hit wonder. There have been perfect world, I would never do any gardless of where she'll end up - in interviews, and probably there fame or outside fame - her music's would be one photo out there of good and realistic, and you should People respond to something our mysterious Lorde.

To be fair to her though, it's which intrigues them instead of Perhaps at the end of the day,

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

scroll past an audio clip of much of it, because I had never tour, which she humbly declined. heard of this "Lorde" before. I decided to listen to it anyways, and enigmatic star?

Tumblr when I happened to she's gaining a huge international that's how I remember everything. presence too; Katy Perry offered "Royals" by Lorde. I didn't think her a supporting act on her world

that even mainstream radio is be-I'm glad I did because man, is she ginning to play her songs. One of onto the radio scene with a hit me, and that would be it. I just feel check her out. Who knows - maybe good. But who exactly is this new my friends said to me the other day, song, only to be never heard from like mystery is more interesting. you, too, will come to appreciate "Hey Patrick, you know that song



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not flying so high

Why many viewers are feeling down – and déjà vu?

BY SHELLEY RAFAILOV ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

ing. It has the pun and everything. Oh, no, I was talking about the title. To be honest, I don't think that many of you would have seen a review of Planes coming in a high school newspaper. famous, but then crashed and quit Breaking bad? Probably. Sherlock? Inevitable. But just because a with the protagonist, fully made movie is designated toward a over and sure of themselves (of younger audience doesn't mean a course, Disney) racing their teachgood chunk of you didn't see it. ers. Not to mention that in both Let's admit it and move on. You movies, the "masters" teach their haven't got all day.

been living under a rock, Planes McQueen it was drifting, for Dusty follows a little crop duster appropriately named Dusty Crophopper, who has big dreams of racing, but there; I don't even want to go into there's one problem: his fear of the cliché character design. Both heights. After getting some tutelage Doc and Skipper are dark blue, or from an old pro, Dusty tries out for navy, and have a silver moustache. the big "Wings Across the World" race. When he makes it in, he finds new friends in the other racers, as are green and have a black mouswell as some competition from the tache. expected winner.

outline to the letter. It's a com- Planes and Cars 2 have the plot pletely typical underdog story: Disney's specialty. For some reason, children love the depressing begin- only difference and refreshingly nings, rough middle, and happily ever after. It may seem stupid and cheesy to us, but it shuts them up nadian competitor. So all you for a few hours. It's extremely predictable, and that's one of the obvious reasons that this movie didn't French skills for the first time in rank so high on my list.

thing that I found interesting about ing. this movie, is the remarkable similarity to Cars, the previous successful franchise of the same world that grossed over \$1 billion. The only difference is that one film is about derdog story: Disney's spean underdog racer who learns to cialty.

fly, while the other is about a superstar racer who had to get knocked down a few pegs. But that's where the uniqueness ends.

It's like Disney ran out of ideas. We can begin with discussou had to have seen this com- ing the "old tutor" character in the movie. In Cars this was Doc Hudson, an antique racing car, and in planes it was Skipper, an old army plane. They both have the same background story; they used to be (in a nutshell). Both movies end pupils one trick that ends up saving For those of you who have them in the end. For Lightning Crophopper it was "tailwinds".

> The similarities don't end The antagonist in Cars, Chick Hicks, and in Planes, Ripslinger,

Getting weird yet? I thought This movie follows the Disney so. Another thing to add is that completely wrapped around a "round the world" race. Really, the good thing on Planes's take on the race is that there is (finally!) a Ca-French teachers had better be happy now because we used our real life to understand what this The other reason, and the one French-Canadian plane was say-

It's a completely typical un-







WHAT DISNEY DOES BEST Disney's touch on the typical story is fading.

Tired of the same old same old? Immerse yourself in a virtual reality with cutthroat Tycoon gameplay.

BY JOEY KLEIN ENT CONTRIBUTOR

n a time where sandboxes and first person shooters rule the market, it's refreshing to see a game that tries to be something different. Automation is a game coming from Camshaft Software, a game developer based in Australia. It is currently in development, but it is aimed to be released in late 2014 with beta access earlier.

Automation advertises itself as a car company tycoon game, but in its current state it's more like en- ing your engine, you can begin to each other to design the best car gine design software than anything test it. Testing mode will run the else. The plot involves you as the owner of a new, emerging car company during the post-war era of ments, along with suggestions for it for anyone who wants to try 1946. Your goal is to design and tuning the engine to make it run something different.

market new cars - from scratch. better or last longer. This includes designing elements

such as the engine, chassis, sus- rently in development, but is still pension, and even looks. You start pretty robust even in beta stages. off by selecting an engine block type (Inline 4, V8 etc), choosing the the various sections of the body to materials used to build the engine (such as iron and aluminium), and then modifying the way it is tuned to make it powerful and efficient with a long lifespan.

Automation is excellently designed. It's extremely simplistic yet also very in-depth. While tuning the engine, phrases like camprofile, compression-ratio, and ignition-timing may make your head spin, but Automation provides quick 3D animations that put everything into layman's terms.

Once you have finished buildengine, and then give you a table of data with all sorts of measure-

The game's body-styler is cur-You can intuitively click and drag mould them, and then apply fixtures such as headlights, grilles, spoilers, and vents.

Unsurprisingly, Automation also includes a competitive multiplayer mode. It takes a leaf from the game's "Scenario Mode", where you have to build an engine with requirements and limitations while attempting to maximize power and efficiency. It is very challenging, but can be quite fun and intense. The multiplayer mode allows you to play the game with your friends, and compete with and lead the best car company.

Automation can be pre ordered for \$25. I highly recommend

She "can't stop" causing controversy

What has Hannah Montana been up to lately and why is everyone so riled up?

BY ALEXANDERA STONE MENT CONTRIBUTOR

emember when everyone thought that the song and video for "Can't be tamed" was the most controversial thing themed outfit, and started singing engagement after allegedly saying that Miley could pull off? We all her hit single, "We Can't Stop.' knew Miley Cyrus as the country /

Is she just trying to make an artistic statement and evolve her career, or is it all just too much? Let's start shy around him. It has been rewith the most talked about and controversial performance of this Paula Patton, said she was okav year's VMAs. Miley Cyrus's VMA with the controversial VMA perperformance is something that no one will ever forget. She walked Miley's

pop T.V star Hannah Montana, but a little confused, but we all knew couple had started dating around now Miley is about to be known for that this was the side of Miley we late 2009 and their on again, off something completely different. were going to have to get used to again romance is currently way off, Now Miley Cyrus is known to be a seeing. But when she tore off her but the looks of it.

performer who is full of surprises. teddy bear outfit and Robin Thicke joined Miley on stage to sing ported that Robin Thicke's wife, formance. On the other hand, exfiancé Liam that he needed a break from At this point, viewers were just Miley's recent erratic behavior. The

Miley Cyrus's new song, how Liam destroyed her emotion-"Wrecking Ball" has also been tak- ally, when she was only trying to "Blurred Lines," Miley was all but ing a lot of heat lately. People love him and wanted him to love praise the lyrics and sentimentality her. Well, I have told you about of the song, but are confused with Miley's new image, her performthe music video. The music video ance at the VMA's, her difficult for the new hit single features Miley relationship, and her new sitting on a wrecking ball, and crying while singing. At a recent con- to ask, what do you think of Miley's out on stage wearing a teddy bear Hemsworth, had called off their cert, Miley took the stage to per- new image? A few weeks ago on form "Wrecking Ball" for her fans Saturday Night Life (SNL) she said and in the middle of the song, she that Hannah Montana was murstarted tearing up. After much con- dered. Is Miley just building a new fusion, Miley explained what she image or is has she taken things was trying to express in her video; way too far? I think the answer to according to her, the meaning of that question will be revealed the video is supposed to be about sooner than you'd think.

"Wrecking Ball" video. Now I want



MILEY CYRUS— She's become quite the subject of interest after her actions left everybody shocked by her actions at VMA on August 25, 2013. The question is why is she doing this?

Wait for You: a review A perfect novel with just her first year of college away from each other... right?

another perfect cliché.

BY EMILIYA ISMAYLIOVA ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

this was one of the best indie books I have ever read. Ever. And I read lots of indie books, mainly because they tend to venture into or at least be able to deal with it contemporary Young Adult fiction without it affecting his life as much you don't see often in literature.

The story follows Avery, the female protagonist, as she attends forgiveness. They are perfect for

home. She has troubles in her past she just wants to get away from. She wants to be able to be a regular 19-year-old girl, sans emotional drama. Then she meets Cameron have to start off by saying that Hamilton (insert swoon here), who is the obligatory perfect-malespecimen. He just wants to be able to forgive himself for his own past, as it does.

She needs normality. He needs

"J. Lynn creates a wonderful cast of characters that swoon, and cry. Cam stole my he

This is, of course, only the beginning. These two characters are hilarious together. They squabble and bicker and tease each other, all own shells. Their romance had a bit of a The Notebook vibe.

And because I absolutely have to: I'm officially in love. This is a boy out for my own heart. Seriously. Cam is the kind of selfassured that most people wish they could be. There's never a trace of doubt in him that he's perfect. No ounce of random hesitation. It's so refreshing and it doesn't even come off as jerk-ish. A little cocky, but in style and give up reading for good. the most amazing, charming way. The characters in this book reacted He just knows he's awesome and naturally, and the plot was strong that's what makes him even more awesome. But he's also sweet and the drama. endearing and oh-my-god he bakes He's the type of insane that can like myself. Need proof?

Wait for You. Everything about indie and otherwise, have nonthem relates to the people in my relatable characters. These books age group and that alone brings me closer to the book.

while trying to break out of their is immediately likeable. She isn't nist. They also all have school with stupid and she doesn't do stupid things. She doesn't complain excessively, or make horrible, dramatic choices, and she reacts like a real person should react. Often we see in books characters that overreact to small things in order to create plot twists.

It gets to a point where readers want to throw their novels out the window Silver Linings Playbook enough stand on its own, without

And the story is just so beauticookies. He bakes cookies in a way ful, too. Through Avery, the story that would make Betty Crocker comes to life and I feel everything throw up her spatula and retire. that I should in a good book - happiness, sadness, remorse, anger, only appeal to other insane people, shock, excitement, giddiness. And the fact that J. Lynn stays true to the but if done right, the awkwardness He has a tortoise. Named characters she's created is the best can be just as sweet. No, I don't think that's strange. I even read a book that made me in other words, it was perfect. smile this goofy for so long, even fact, as soon as I finished reading it, I picked it up again and reread it. This is one of those cheesy rowhile ago, and so when I saw that mances some of us love (like me) pity. Without that emotional conand others hate (I don't understand those people).

always have the stereotypical jock, the parties with underage drinking, Furthermore, the protagonist and the hot new girl as the protagono homework, a perfect romance that just fits, and some kind of wacky drama between the protagonist and the best friend I don't even want to get into.

So I was very surprised, to say the least, that I could relate so well to these characters. Sure there are some stereotypes (Cam, the male protagonist, has washboard abs... not that I'm complaining!), but that's expected in any romance book. The surprising part was how deliciously awkward it all was. Let's face it; romance isn't a perfect walk in the park. A first kiss isn't magical and smooth and perfect, it's full of nerves and doubts and toe-curling warmth, followed by goofy giggling and dancing when no one is looking.

Readers like the perfectness,



Raphael. Yes, it is a reference from part.

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. think it's absolutely insane in a good wav.

And in terms of writing style, I loved J. Lynn's tone in this book. I have read her other series, Lux, a she had written this book I wasn't that excited to pick it up. Lux is an

amazing series, but to me I felt like the author wasn't able to write a romance that connected with the reader. Boooy was I wrong. She's written the sweetest, steamiest, truest romance I've read in a long time

The characters are amazing! They aren't too dramatic, they act their age, and they have some very creative ways of stringing their words together: "I would be clapping like a seal right now if I weren't so hung over, just so you know.

However, with cheesy romances, and Young Adult books in general, it's hard to find a book that fits two of my top criteria.

the audience. In theory, if an author is writing a novel that is meant to fit into the Young Adult category,

they would first try to find out what the young adults in question are into: how they act, how they talk and interact, where they shop, what's cool and uncool, and all the rest of the glory that comes with Inside, I am doing happy jumping being in that particular age group. jacks for you with glittery pom However, I am constantly surprised that is kind of like a deep chickpoms." - Jennifer L. Armentrout, by how many Young Adult books, flick, this is the book for you!

The world of these characters It's been a long time since I wasn't colored inside the lines. So,

The second criteria I have is after I've put the book down. In that the story must have a pulse. I want to be able to feel what the characters are feeling, whether it be anger, happiness, fright, or even nection, the book often feels like words on a page. That is when it becomes a fast read - short, sweet, not memorable: a book for those who want to read something for the sake of reading. Because these Firstly, it must be relatable to characters had connected to me so closely, I obsessed over it for a month. I think I'm still obsessing over it.

> Overall, this book deserves 5 stars. The romance is sweet, the characters are sassy, and the plot is intriguing and keeps the reader's interest with a nice pace and great follow-through. If you are looking for a romantic comedy-type book

fall 2013

Billboard 200 Top Albums 2013

PRISM

Artist: Katy Perry Release Month: October Genre: Pop

Perry's latest album focused on themes of self-empowerment, maturity, and relationships. It sold 286,000 copies in its first week, and has been her best opening week to date.



Nothing Was the Same

Artist: Drake Release Month: September Genre: Hip Hop



Drake's latest album included a smattering of successful singles, including "Started from the Bottom" and "Hold On, We're Going Home". It sold 658,000 copies within its first week of release, and as of the end of October has sold nearly a million copies.

Hail to the King

Artist: Avenged Sevenfold Release Month: August – – Genre: Hard Rock



Recorded in the vein blues rock and classic metal mirroring Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin, this was Avenged Sevenfold's second album to top the Billboard chart, as well as their first to reach number one in the UK.

Blurred Lines

Artist: Robin Thicke Release Month: July Genre: Dance-pop

Although some view the album's titular single as highly controversial, it has no doubt been one of the most popular songs of this year. The album has sold over 500,000 copies in the United States, and is certified Gold.



2013 is almost gone, but at least this year has seen the release of some great music. We've compiled a timeline of chart toppers from the past ten months, according to the Billboard 200's rankings. A lot of artists and albums have been left out because Billboard ranks solely by sales but don't worry; there's still a large variety of genres on our timeline!

By: Patrick Shen









LONG.LIVE.A\$AP

Artist: ASAP Rocky **Release Month: January** Genre: Hip Hop

Rocky's debut studio album features many collaborations, with artists like Kendrick Lamar, 2 Chainz, Drake, and Florence Welch. It had first week sales of 139,000 copies in the United States.

The 20/20 Experience (Part 1)

Artist: Justin Timberlake **Release Month: March** Genre: Neo Soul

Timberlake's third studio album debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200, and sold an impressive 986,000 copies within the first week. It was also the best-selling debut week of his solo career.

Save Rock and Roll

Artist: Fall Out Boy **Release Month: April Genre: Alternative Rock**

After a hiatus in 2009 and several reformation attempts, the album was recorded in secrecy in California with a reinvented emphasis on pop music. Its lead single has achieved platinum certification in the US.

Modern Vampires of the City

Artist: Vampire Weekend **Release Month: May** Genre: Indie Rock

The band's second consecutive number-one album was broadly experimental, and featured unconventional musical embellishments like pitch shifting. Nevertheless, it was released to critical acclaim, and had first-week sales of 134,000 copies.

Yeezus

Artist: Kanye West **Release Month: June** Genre: Hip Hop

Claiming to have been inspired by architecture and art, West employed a wide variety of underground musical genres in Yeezus, and sampled obscure songs. It has topped the charts of 30 other countries, including the United Kingdom and Australia.



fun & games

SUDOKU

How to play Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 through 9. Numbers cannot be repeated; use the existing numbers to help you.

	8	4		5			2	3							9	7			6		1		9	
1				7		5		6								3		4			5			
4	6		9					1	5	8	6					6	8			9				
7				4	1			2	3	5					6			2	1	4				
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14. Way around a city	7. Liberal group	20							21					22		
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16. Blockade	9. Lake: suburb of Portland,	23	-			24	-	25			26		27			
17. Global warming?	Oregon 10. Org. in a 1955 merger															
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24. Durato firs. 26. Person, informally	19. As much as one cares to see												20			
28. Buys dinner for one's honey?	25. Body work															
34. Annual exhibitions	27. Small cave	39					40						41			
37. Biblical pronoun	28. Ditch															
38. Waikiki locale	29. Sticker	42	_	_	_	_	43	_				44				
39. Eyes with ideas	30. Console	42					45									
40. Kind of pigeon	31. Poi base															
41. Easy pace	32. "Is this the party to I am	45	+	+	-	46		-		+	47		<u> </u>			
42. Reason for a makeup game	speaking?": Lily Tomlin															
43. It may lead to a suit	33. On the														-	
44. Energy sources	34. Oater staple				48					49				50	51	52
45. Revered tire manufacturer?	35. Culture medium															
48. Layer	36. Pelvic bones	53	54	55		56	-	57	58		59		60			
49. Actor Wallach	40. Pickled															
50. Is for many?	44. Sign of spring 46. Be unbalanced															
53. Space-saving abbr. 56. Scrapes together, with "out"	40. Be unbalanced 47. Favorite son, maybe	61			62					63						
59. Bombard with sound	50. Burning															
61. Rainbow for the record books?	51. Not allow Time to run out	64		_				65					66			
64. Effect preceder	52. Finish with	04						65					00			
65. They aren't with you	53. Outline clearly															
66. Crème-filled snack	54. Serving aid	67						68					69			
67. Overstimulated	55. Masterstroke															
68. Editor's cancellation	57. Reasons for certain repeats															
69. Secured with a needle	58. Spot for Santa															
	60. Andy's partner															
Down	62. Purpose															
1. Essence of roses	63. Society page word															
Vermont granite city																



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