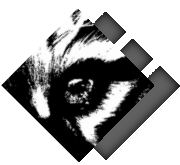




WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE UPCOMING  
BASEBALL SEASON?

Sports feature on pages 14-15

# EYE OF THE TIGER



## Trip to China: a memoir

On March 8, 2013, YRDSB students and teacher chaperones from Thornhill Secondary School and G.W. Williams in Aurora departed for a 10-day adventure (organized by EF Tours) through China that included visits to Beijing, Xi'an, and Shanghai. Here is the memoir of a student, by Maya Filipp.



AT THE AIRPORT, READY FOR CHINA A group photo at Toronto's Lester B. Pearson Airport prior to departing to a destination on the other side of the world: China.

A group of teenagers sit anxiously waiting for the call to board a plane. For many, it was the first time anyone had to brave a tedious and exhausting thirteen hour non-stop flight. However, as I sat amongst my peers, my anxiety ran beyond that of the flight. It was the destination I was most worried about. China is not an easy country to describe, let alone have the guts to visit. However, when the school had announced that they were going to China, somehow I knew I had to go. China is not a westerner's idea of an ideal vacation and most parents would blanch at the idea of sending their child to a notoriously communist country with a long, violent history and an almost famous dislike of foreigners. So why exactly am I writing this if that was the case? It is because China has changed me.

China is home to more than 1.3 billion people. Pollution runs rampant in Beijing due to the mountains surrounding it. Xi'an has aw-

ful dust storms that blow in from the Gobi desert in Mongolia. Shanghai has dead pigs floating in its river. All three have unsafe drinking water from the tap and everyone has to avoid washed vegetables because of this. If you are repulsed by any of this, I suggest you do not go to China. China is not a country that covers up these things well. You will experience disturbing realities and culture shock like you've never experienced before. So why am I still insisting that you go to China? It is because China is very real.

Beijing is where the adventure began. The feeling of grief you get for a lost child on the street or a burned man begging. The initial strangeness of locals staring at you and asking to take pictures with you, and then deciding you're a celebrity and strike a pose. The realization that Mao Zedong really existed and that his picture is really hanging on the Forbidden City wall. You deal with the annoyance of bargainers constantly pestering

you to buy their things for absurd prices and then realizing that their trinkets are actually pretty awesome and about twenty times cheaper than it would have cost you in Canada. Interacting and befriending the adorable yet painfully shy Chinese students by joining them in a game of basketball (and mysteriously leaving a Mars bar in one of the student's bags). I remember feeling the wind blowing as I braved the climb up the Great Wall of China, admiring the view and wearing a cap with a red star on it.

In Xi'an, the adventure heightened. The amazing Terracotta soldiers of Emperor Qin Shi Huang standing at ready while you admire the cherry blossoms blossoming outside and getting a book signed by a farmer who discovered the soldiers. Feeling the ache in your hands from bouncing off of cobblestones with beautiful Chinese music wafting through your ears. Enjoying the warm breeze as you bike along the Emperor's personal wall

and then nearly falling off your bike in horror from the loud crackle of firecrackers that symbolize a wedding celebration. Feeling close to tears as you wave the local tour guide you bonded with goodbye, wondering if you'll ever see him again.

In Shanghai, the adventure drew to a close. Enjoying the very European yet modern feel of Shanghai as you admire the fashionable young Chinese, the seemingly lost British foreigners, and the fast food joints that remind you of home.

The feeling you get watching Shanghai light up like a million dollars while you freeze your fingers off on a boat cruise, warily watching the murky water for any serene looking dead pigs. The epic shopping trip that lasted three hours while you furiously pounded pavement, looking for the best price and best items and somehow ending up holding the most adorable baby you have ever seen.

China is not for the weak hearted or the close minded. It is for the people who are burning with curiosity and those who are willing to brave flaws that are readily apparent. If you are someone who is not afraid of embracing reality and being willing to accept it, you will take away an experience so incredible, a feeling of such worthiness, bonds with other people that you would have never expected to feel so strongly for, that your life will change forever. I know mine will never be the same again.

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**Blackberry turnaround**  
The falling company Blackberry comes back with a stunning new line of smartphones, starting with the Blackberry Z-10.  
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**Not just universities**  
There are more post-secondary opportunities than just universities. Take a look at your college options as well.  
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**Ever-changing NBA**  
An analysis on what's going around the National Basketball Association.  
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**What would you do?**  
Put yourself in the shoes of some movie characters.  
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THE SCHOOL AND STUDNETS IN CHINA Ms. Lingeman and Mrs. Smullen take a quick photo with some students.



What actually happened in the first two weeks of February and the motive behind the murders.


By Michelle Beyn

# Chris Dorner:

## From SEAL to cop to murderer

The manhunt for 33 year old Ex Cop, Christopher Dorner, finally ended on February twelfth, 2013 after thousands of members from the Los Angeles Police Department searched three U.S. states and the northern region of Mexico. His body was discovered in a burning cabin in San Bernardino, Southern California, and on February fourteenth, two days later, an autopsy confirmed that his death was due to a self-inflicted gunshot to the head.

This mayhem started in 2007, when he was terminated from his position in the LAPD for giving false information about another police officer involving in an assault.



When he was discharged from the United States Navy on February 1st, 2013, his behaviour took a turn for the worse, as two days later, he killed two people in Irvine, California. One of the people killed was Monica Quan, the daughter of a LAPD officer, who was involved in Dorner's loss of his job as a police officer almost six years ago. Less than a week later, on February seventh, he attempted to shoot and kill a police officer on duty, but only left the officer with minor injuries. On the same day, Dorner shot and killed another police officer, with another being sent to the hospital, and then fled the area. By then, a massive search was started by the

LAPD in the mountain areas of Southern California, Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico for the suspect, Dorner, lasting five days. The police posted a one million dollar reward for anyone who would help them bring the alleged suspect to custody, and he was considered to be one of the most dangerous men in the United States at that time because of his military training and accessibility to weapons such as a Model 700 rifle the size of a human leg. Although he wasn't detained yet, police had charged the suspect for 3 counts of murder and three counts of attempted murder of police officials.

On February twelfth, Dorner tied up and held captive of a couple who spotted and recognized him in the San Bernardino Mountains, but the female victim was able to escape and call 9/11 before he had harmed her or her partner. When the police arrived at the suspect's location, a "shootout" had started, causing a fire in the cabin he was in because police were using smoke devices to lure him out. In the gun

fight, a deputy warden was shot, being the fourth person and second police official to be killed by Dorner. When the shootings stopped and police entered the cabin, they discovered the remains of a body covered in ashes from the flames, which turned out to be Christopher Dorner who was confirmed by the autopsy to have died from a gunshot wound to the head.

The actions made by Dorner from the third of February to February twelfth have had people asking: why? Before the shootings, he was known as a police officer and Navy SEAL, and a man who completely supported stricter gun regulations in America, so his crimes were unexpected and to some, unbelievable.

When word got out about him being suspected of murder and attempted murder, he posted a "manifesto" on Facebook talking about the racial discrimination that he faced from the LAPD, being a black male, and made several threats to members of the LAPD. It

also stated that he would not stop the attacks unless the LAPD recognize his innocence from the case in 2007 when he was fired for telling a lie about a co-worker.

Psychologists have studied his case in detail, and many believe, although not verified, that he had developed mental issues over the past many years which caused him to react in the way he did. Joseph Navarro, former FBI agent wrote, "...The manifesto first and foremost attests to this individual's grandiosity and overvaluation of self while he devalues others...This is pathological narcissism". Because mental evaluations have not been done on Dorner for more than a decade, it is not known for certain what his mental state was during that month. There will never be a definite answer for why he committed the crimes that he did, but professionals are continuing to look into the unique case of Christopher Dorner to try to find the answers that will help both the victims' families and the rest of society to cope with the tragedy.



# Bill 115: repealed and replaced



A tentative peace for the Ontario government and the OSSTF in the aftermath of Bill 115.

**BY STAFF**  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

This past February, the Ontario government repealed Bill 115 after imposing two-year contracts on public elementary and secondary school teachers. Everyone can recall that September 2012 was the start of a turbulent school year punctuated by teacher strikes, protests by students and parents, and a general outcry across Ontario.

The imposed contracts have frozen wages for most teachers, reduced the number of sick days, and limited the amount of sick days that can be banked for money upon retirement. These contracts were in place by January, and thus expire in August 2014.

Currently, Education Minister Liz Sandals and the OSSTF have reached a contract agreement in principle. This means that while a deal has been struck between negotiators and Premier Kathleen Wynne's government, agreement from the entire union is still required.

Few details on the agreement itself are available, but the statement made by Sandals Sunday March 31 seemed hopeful. Details on the agreement should be released once discussed by union members.

Before this agreement, the OSSTF agreed to resume extracurricular supervision in late February. The choice to participate remains up to individual teachers as supervision is outside their regular duties; however, many Thornhill clubs are slowly but surely returning to normal.

Bill 115 and its subsequent effects on extracurriculars are gradually fading away.

While major events are still in the works, Thornhill is getting back to business.

## Subway freeloaders and TTC transit officers

Are the fare evaders being fair for the TTC?

**BY CRYSTAL CHEN**  
DEPUTY FINANCE DIRECTOR

Riders of the TTC subway have come up with more and more creative ways to dodge paying their fare. Just last month, token prices were raised by 5 cents in an attempt to increase revenue for the struggling transit system. The rest of the problem is left up to the transit enforcement unit.

"There's double-ups [at automatic entrances], there's [abuse of] transfers, there's counterfeit tokens and metropasses, there's turnstile jumpers," officer Uncao said, "It boggles the mind." During just one shift where Mr. Uncao and fellow officer Mr. Perivolaris were joined by a reporter and a photographer, fare evaders were spotted in a steady stream within minutes. The minimum fine for evading payment is \$65 and it can increase up to hundreds of dollars. This money goes to the city of Toronto rather than the

transit system or its officers. Even so, there were girls who packed together to pass through the turnstile all at once, exchange students who arrived in September of last year yet claimed to not understand the system, and a well-dressed man who had an emotional breakdown when he was stopped from trying to smuggle in a lit cigarette without paying his fare.

The TTC released a report in 2010 that estimated its losses at 2 percent of all revenue from passengers who take the subway; this

equated to about \$400,000 missing every week. However, this is an understated measure according to workers, who believe the number is much higher. Collector booth staff, train operators and patrols say the loss is actually anywhere from 5 to 30 percent – that's one to six million dollars every week that has gone astray – and that the problem is out of control.

Another issue that caused serious controversy for the TTC was the dismissal of eight transit enforcement officers, many facing criminal

charges, for creating fraudulent tickets to strengthen their alibi when they had been in fact carrying out personal tasks instead of working. An internal audit was conducted when it was suspected that officers were slacking off, some fellow employees calling them the "rainbow squad" for only ever arriving after the turmoil. As a result, all transit enforcement officers lost their special constable designation in 2011.

Now, officers are restricted and delayed by lack of authority, for example, when they need to call and wait for actual police officers to arrive to the scene of a crime unless the transit officer saw the crime being committed. And while the Toronto Police Services Board has assigned about 133% more officers to transit duty to roughly 80 officers, police presence is still scarce. The job has become generally less efficient, but the TTC will have to convince why the transit enforcement officers can do a better job than the police before they will receive their special designation again.

The role of transit enforcement officers is to keep things calm and restore order in the face of accidents and other situations. Officers deal with fare evasion when they do not have to respond to thefts, problems caused by homeless people, and public nudity and indecency. Although they must deal with violent threats and suicides on occasion, they are also the first to be able to intervene in the attempts of said suicides and medical emergencies. Despite all this, their job is relatively safe and manageable.

Toronto's transit system is sometimes criticized as outdated and loaded with issues when compared with the transportation systems of other major cities. While it is true that improvements can be made, it is also important to see the enormous scale of the problem and the various sides of the issue.



**MANY SIDES** The TTC and its customers feel different about issues like prices or enforcement and conflicts arise in terms of efficiency and other problems.

# New Blackberry 10 devices announced

After six years of development, Blackberry finally unveils flagship Z10 and Q10 smartphones.

BY PATRICK SHEN  
DEPUTY ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, BlackBerry - formerly known as Research In Motion - unveiled two new smartphones running on the new, hotly-anticipated BlackBerry 10 operating system. Subsequently, the all-touchscreen Z10 launched on February 5<sup>th</sup> in Canada, while the keyboard-toting Q10 is expected to launch sometime in April. The Z10 is currently available for \$149.99 on a three-year contract from Rogers, Telus, and Bell. Pricing for the Q10 has not yet been revealed, but is expected to be within the same price range.

The Z10 running BlackBerry 10 has improved upon previous generation BlackBerry 7 devices in many ways. It features a 1280 x 768 resolution 4.2" touchscreen, 2 GB of RAM, and a 1.5 Ghz dual-core processor. "Peek" and "flow" abilities provide much higher levels of multitasking, and web browsing has been tweaked to become much more streamlined. As well, BlackBerry's proprietary instant messaging service BBM now allows video chats.

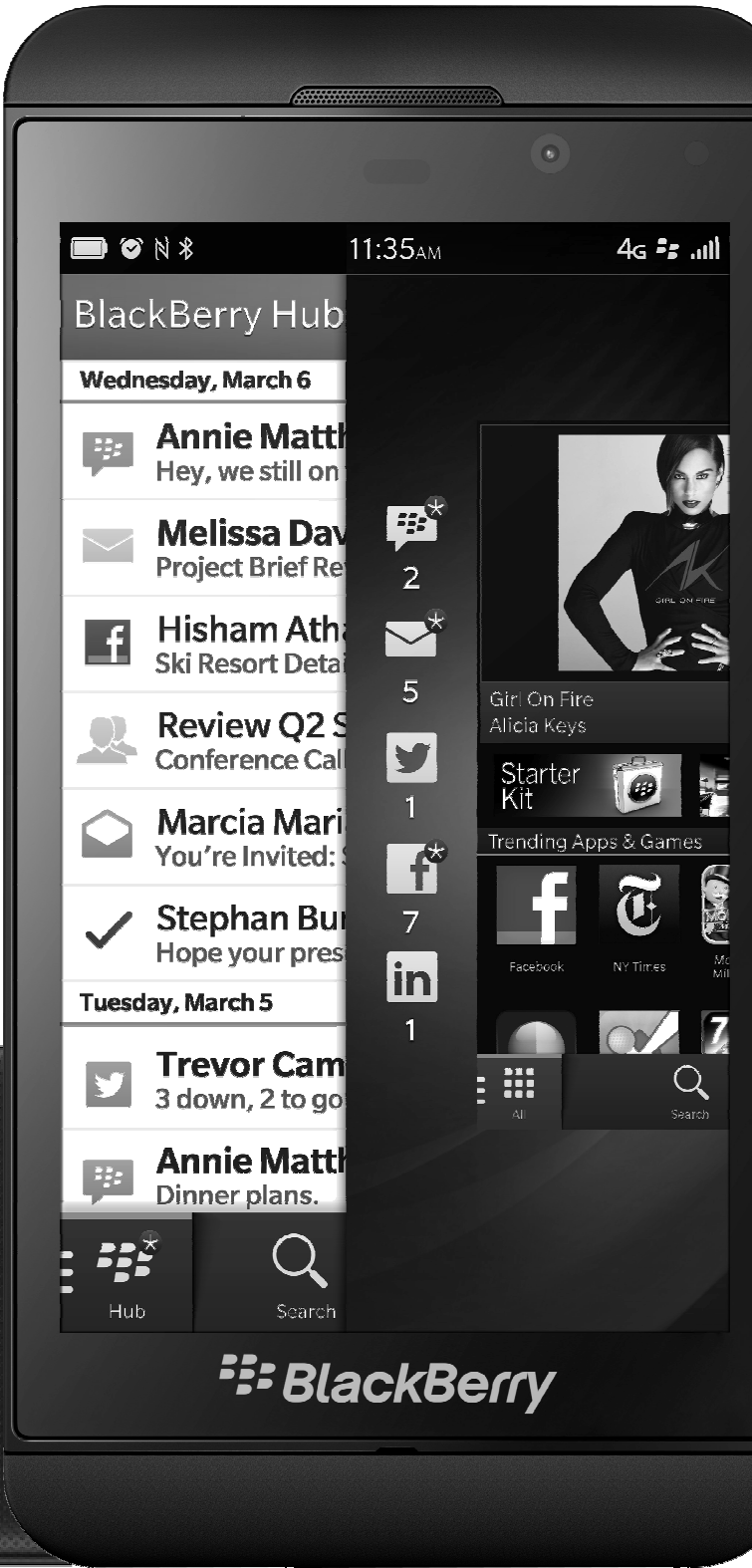
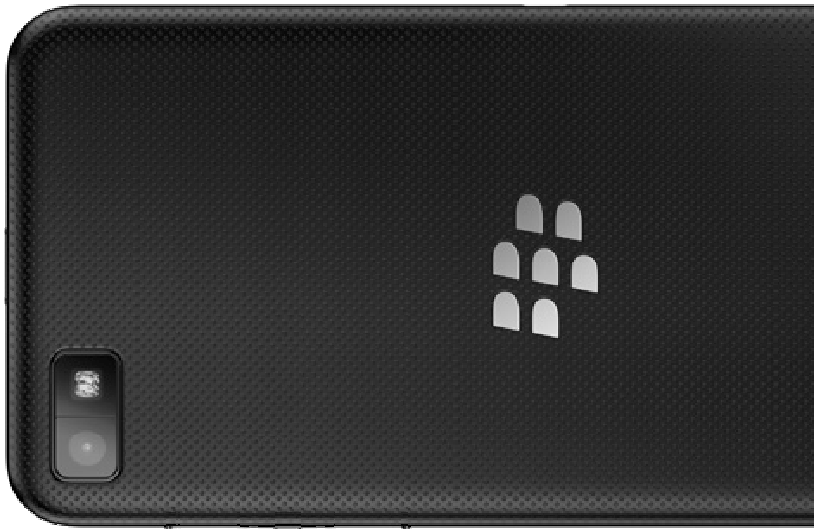
Similarly, the Q10 features the same 1.5 Ghz dual-core processor, 2 GB of RAM, a 768 x 768 resolution 3.1" touchscreen, and a backlit physical keyboard. In addition, the Q10 features a 2100mAh battery, the largest battery to ever be found

in a BlackBerry. Both the Q10 and the Z10 include 8 megapixel auto-focus cameras, a welcome upgrade after the widespread upset with the 5 megapixel fixed-focus camera found in the previous generation Bold 9900 flagship.

Additional touted features include improved predictive-text typing, and "Timeshift" which allows users to move parts of the picture backwards and forwards in time, even after the picture has been taken. Initial reviews of the Z10 were positive. Thorstein Heins, current CEO of BlackBerry, stated that first-day sales in Canada of the Z10 were 50% better than any new BlackBerry launch. The Z10 is not BlackBerry's first foray into the world of all-touchscreen smartphones. The Curve 9380 announced in 2011 was BlackBerry's first successful all-touch phone, while the "Storm", announced in 2008, was BlackBerry's very first touchscreen device. The Storm

employed an outdated resistive touchscreen, and was discontinued only a year later after being met with mixed reviews.

Around the same time the Storm was launched, the company's value on the NASDAQ started dropping from over \$140 per share to record breaking single-digit lows during the summer of 2012. Since then, investor optimism has helped to give a slight boost to share values. BlackBerry - and its investors - are hoping that the BlackBerry 10 can help the company recover from its five-year downward spiral. The Z10 has been released in the United States, which remains BlackBerry's largest source of revenue. The release, which occurred late in March, is expected to significantly add to shipment quantities and revenues. The release date for the Q10, on the other hand, has been set for late April. Rogers, Bell, and Telus have started taking pre-orders.



# Too-thin models can now go on a career diet

A first for a country, Israel made the move to ban models at an 'unhealthy weight,' in order to promote better perceptions of body image.

BY DANNY ROMM  
DEPUTY OPINION EDITOR

The Body Mass Index or BMI is a scale used to determine the ratio of body fat to height and weight. The World Health Organization says that a BMI under 18.5 is a sign of malnourishment, excessive dieting, and anorexia. Israel became the first government to pass laws imposing restrictions on mod-

els. They banned models with a BMI under 18.5, which they deemed as an unhealthy weight.

Additionally, they decided that if an image was digitally altered in order to make a model appear thinner, it must be noted when the image is used. There are both positive and negative sides to doing this, and it means a great deal for the future.

"Beautiful is not underweight; beautiful should not be anorexic," says one of the lawmakers for this bill. The concern with too-thin models is that it reflects beauty as something defined by weight, and it teaches people, especially impressionable youth, that in order to be

beautiful, you must be incredibly thin. The fashion industry is notorious for the use of ultra-thin models, which experts say promotes extremely unhealthy body image.

Israel making a move to ban these models is one step to fixing the public's perception of body image. The use of these models makes people think that it's good to be extremely thin, and this is seen with movements such as 'thinspiration' and 'pro-ana.'

These are movements which try to encourage anorexia and unhealthy body weights, and the youth, especially females, are being told to become dangerously underweight. There is a massive spike in

anorexia and other eating disorders, and the media is often attributed to the cause- they're the ones who have the most influence on enforcing those values. Perhaps with this bill, youth's definition of beauty will change, and the trend of being underweight will begin to dissipate.

However, there are concerns that healthy models with a BMI under 18.5 will be left without a career. BMI is well-known to be a rather arbitrary way of measuring body fat. Many individuals can have a BMI under 18.5 and still eat frequently and enough.

It can be a very inconsistent and inaccurate way of determining how healthy someone is. Models

can be left without a career unfairly; they can be perfectly healthy but be considered detrimental to the public due to numbers on a sheet.

The question arises whether or not this bill is worth it. Is it worth it to put blameless models out of a job in order to potentially promote healthy body image? There are no statistics that show that a move like this will work at all in helping body image, and that's why a revolutionary law like this is so intriguing.

Will this career diet for models help improve the body image of the public, or will it just be another failed valiant attempt?

The eyes of the world are watching.



A TURN FOR THE THINNER Israel has become the first country to ban 'unhealthy weight' models. 'Thinspiration' and 'pro-ana' encourage anorexia as the appropriate body image for all.



# Meteor Madness

How a crash landing has launched a small region to astronomical fame.

By: Mary Lee



**THE LANDING SITE** Surveyors take a look at the massive hole in the ice that the meteor had created.

Shattered windows, screaming children, and streaks in the sky. It's no Armageddon, and certainly not a Mayan apocalypse. Rather, it's a 10,000 ton meteor piercing the atmosphere at nearly 53,000 km/h and exploding above Chelyabinsk Oblast, Russia, just after dawn.

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the 3,500,000 denizens of Chelyabinsk had a rude awakening. There was flash of light bright enough to cast dark shadows in the centre of town. Many of the citizens were alarmed and rushed to their windows, only to see a giant fireball hurtling towards the horizon.

Moments later, Chelyabinsk was rocked by a sonic boom as the meteor exploded, sending out enough energy to match nearly 20 atomic bombs.

The destructive force of the impact was not without consequence. Over a thousand citizens were injured, mainly due to the force of the shockwaves that shattered windows and buildings alike. Though the majority of injuries were superficial wounds from broken glass, more than 200 children were injured and a handful of citizens were treated for serious injuries.

It was fortunate that there were no fatalities recorded, considering that scientists estimated the meteor to have been nearly 17 metres wide. No large fragments landed in densely populated areas; the biggest part of the meteorite that didn't disintegrate in the atmosphere most likely landed in a lake near the city of Chebarkul, as a 7 meter hole was found on the frozen surface.

In order to attend to those who were affected by the blast, the Russian government employed more than 20,000 people. It was imperative that the Russian citizens were sheltered, as temperatures in Chelyabinsk were at a high of -5°C and were set to drop as the day went on. At the end of the day, more than 3,000 buildings – schools, hospitals and residences alike – were damaged and repair costs totalled to over \$33 million dollars CAD.

The whole event – from atmospheric entrance to explosion – took place in a little more than half

a second, but it's incredibly unlikely that something like this will happen again in our lifetime. NASA stated that the probability of a spatial object of this magnitude falling to Earth again is once every hundred years. As a result, the citizens of Chelyabinsk have been taking full advantage of all the media attention that the meteor has given them. Many have taken to collecting fragments of the meteorite and selling them online, with prices ranging from \$30 to \$17,000.

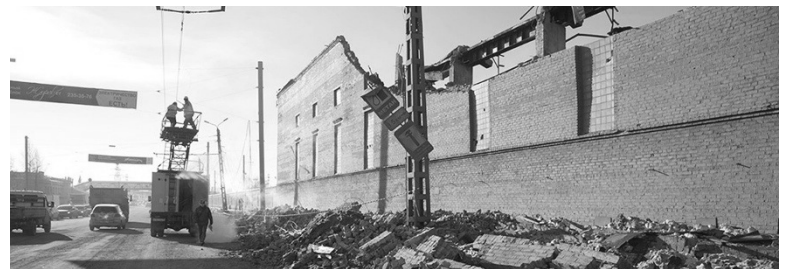
Even the town's government has been getting in on the act, as they have suggested erecting a monument in order to commemorate the event. There has even been talk of opening up a 'Meteor Disneyland' or 'Cosmic Water Park'. Despite the ludicrous nature of these suggestions, tourists have already started to arrange trips to Chelyabinsk to visit the now-famous town.

The excitement of the town may sound ludicrous to some, but as stated before, the chances of an astronomical event like this happening again is very slim.

The last time a meteorite hit Russia was in 1908, when a 37-metre meteor cut through the sky and crashed near the Podkamennaya Tunguska River. Named after the area where it landed, the Tunguska Incident left a notable imprint when it exploded – the meteor leveled nearly 800 million square miles of forest.

Meteors, though, are not something to be feared. Despite the damage they can cause when they make impact with the Earth, they are actually fairly common occurrences. Scientists estimate that smaller meteorite strikes can happen 5-10 times per year, though few make it to the atmosphere.

Additionally, meteorites can also provide researchers with an abundance of information about the world around us. Meteors are either formed by dust, minerals and ice that fuse together in space, or are fragmented off of asteroids in orbit. As unlikely as it is that we will have another crash landing like this anytime soon, the Chelyabinsk Meteor has sparked international interest and has left an out of this impact on the world.



**SERIOUS DAMAGE** A building nicked by the meteor creates a mess.

## Yoga for Teens

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# To rape or not to rape: why is that a question?

Even with a clear conviction, the small town fails to provide the proper consequences.

BY JORDI KLEIN  
OPINION EDITOR

Steubenville, Ohio: where ‘no’ means ‘no’, but ‘unconscious’ may mean ‘yes’, and where sex offenses don’t really mean anything- so long as you can throw a football.

Let there be no confusion: on the night of August 11, 2012, Trent Mays and Ma’lik Richmond, operating under the moniker of ‘The Rape Crew’, raped a drunken teenage girl. The girl, identified only by the name ‘Jane Doe’, was dragged to various parties over the course of night and subsequently was violated in multiple instances. The ordeal was captured through photographs and videos and shared on various social networks. By the time Doe woke up the next morning, naked and in an unfamiliar house, much of the town’s youth already knew what had happened to her.

Yet, the media coverage of the trial and subsequent sentencing was shockingly sympathetic towards Mays and Richmond. How heartbreaking, to see the accused rapists openly weep as their sentence was read; how tragic that the “alleged rape” of a “drunk” teenage girl- who was wearing very short pants, mind you!- will forever tarnish their otherwise stellar reputations as talented athletes and capable students. How shameful that their promising lives will forever be blemished by the label of “sex offender”, and how unspeakably

awful that their athletic careers will inevitably be put on hold while they serve their year-long sentence - a sentence which a 56-year-old housekeeper may serve for stealing a bag of frozen meatballs- in an adolescent facility. But, apparently unlike CNN, FOX, ABC, and countless other media outlets, I have no sympathy for Trent Mays and Ma’lik Richmond. And neither should you.

While they’re still minors, whatever right to sympathy they had was taken away the moment they decided to sexually assault that girl. It doesn’t matter how short her shorts were, it doesn’t matter how much alcohol she drank that night, and it doesn’t matter if the boys were high school football stars or brilliant geneticists or the reanimated corpse of Steve Jobs himself: what happened that night occurred without her explicit consent, and that’s sexual assault. It’s not enough to know that ‘no’ means ‘no’, but also that being drunk or even unconscious is not a substitute for ‘yes’, however much they insist she may have wanted it. These boys, however beloved and talented they may be, sexually assaulted this girl and they have to suffer the consequences, no matter how sorry they are, or sad they look in the courtroom. Because the photos and videos from that night don’t show the two treasured athletes of Steubenville, Ohio- they show two misogynists, holding an unconscious girl between them like two hunters carrying a dead buck; they show two rapists, laughing and joking with the rest of their ‘Rape Crew’ as they detailed what they planned to do to Ms. Jane Doe. There is very little question as to what happened the night of August

11: so why is there so much support for the rapists, and so little support for the victim?

Steubenville, Ohio is apparently a society that values money over morality and athletics over academics. The boys- star high school football players in a small Midwestern town where football is everything- are protected because they are powerful there. They have value. So to the town of Steubenville, Ohio, Jane Doe is less than worthless by contrast: she’s actively antagonistic. And so while those involved in the case recognize that Mays and Richmond did assault her, they also insist that the boys did nothing wrong. They make excuses. They blame the victim. “They’re teenagers,” people say. “She was drunk! She was indecent! What were the boys to do?” The obvious answer, of course, is to treat her with dignity and respect as a human being and maybe not rape her. But that was apparently too much to ask of Mays and Richmond, wasn’t it? So instead the vicious cycle of rape culture continues, perpetuating the notion that it is the victim’s responsibility to avoid being raped rather than the rapist’s responsibility to be a decent person. When CNN’s Poppy Harlow spoke emotionally about how the boys’ visceral reaction to their sentencing was “difficult to watch”, when news networks showed footage of the boys breaking down in sobs as they were sentenced, when reporters used phrases like “allegedly drunk” to drum up distrust for the victim- they are all showing the world that rape is okay, so long as you and your secrets are worth keeping. Because what’s a few counts of sexual assault when you’re a star

high school football player, right?

Right now, people are talking about how awful it is that these boys will have to bear the label of ‘sex offender’ for the rest of their lives, but nobody talks about the emotional and physical trauma that Doe still faces- which she likely will for the rest of her life. People mourn for the boys, but send death threats to Doe. There’s incontrovertible video evidence showing young men not only violently assaulting a girl, but taking pleasure in it, and yet the girl is the one to bear the blame. The idea that two boys’ “bright futures” are more important than a girl’s right to safety and security (ie: free from the threat of sexual assault) is disgusting, but that’s what the town of Steubenville, Ohio showed Ameri-

ca, and what the media broadcasted to the world.

One in three women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetimes - one in four before they turn 18. One in six will be raped. There are approximately 150 girls in grade 12 at Thornhill Secondary; statistically, 38 of us have already been subjected to some degree of sexual assault, and 25 of us will eventually experience a similar fate to Ms Jane Doe or worse. The backlash regarding the Steubenville trials is exactly why many assault survivors don’t seek help, and the cycle must be broken if we as young adults are able to find safety and security in our world.

The people of Steubenville, Ohio need to get their priorities straightened out, and fast.



AN UNEXPECTED DECISION The court case draws a surprising ending.

# CISPA 2.0 – back with more

In the face of more internet privacy bills, it is time to revisit the already revisited issue.

BY DANNY ROMM  
DEPUTY OPINION EDITOR

About nine months ago I wrote an article about CISPA, entitled “SOPA 2.0 - CISPA.” That article remarked on how appalling it was that these tyrannical bills were being pushed through United States congress, when clearly the people were opposed. “We the people,” the preamble to the United States Constitution; the document intended to secure the rights of the nation. “We the people,” the summative statement for the constitution, after all what is the government if it is not representative of its people?

When I wrote that article, months ago, I hoped that it would be the last article I would ever have to write on this issue. I hoped, but I knew it wouldn’t be the case. In that article, written in the midst of the entire controversy surrounding the legion of these bills- SOPA, PIPA, ACTA, C11, and the rest of the ever-growing list of acronyms- I said that CISPA will obliterate the internet as we know it if it is enacted. I also said that action was imperative, but “it doesn’t end here.” A few weeks

later, President Barack Obama declared that if the bill reached him, he would veto it. Of course, how convenient that before election season Obama would be declared a hero. The people cheered for Obama: ‘Oh look! Our president *cares* about us; he *cares* about our freedoms, our civil liberties.’ And yes, he did veto the bill.

Fast forward to February 2013. Obama had secured the election, he moved on to his second term in office, another 4 years of ‘change.’ Behold, the United States got change. Now, CISPA has been reintroduced into congress, to nobody’s great surprise. But this time, the government has ensured the civil liberties of its citizens are protected, by including a “Government Access Loophole.” This could potentially allow the government to have the same liberties as a corporation, giving way for them to have access to private information.

CISPA, despite some revisions, has also managed to maintain its integrity by letting companies access and distribute user sensitive data. It really looks like the government is ensuring the best interests of its people, doesn’t it?

At this point, you may be thinking that this wouldn’t affect you. We ARE in Canada after all, and CISPA is from the United States. Consider that the United

States contains an incredibly large amount of the companies in the world, and these bills largely affect companies. The bill mentioned above, for example, allows companies to track clients- that is, individuals like you and me, take our private information, and give it to the United States government. That should terrify you: giving our personal information to a foreign country to abuse. But perhaps some people still don’t care. ‘It doesn’t affect me,’ they say. ‘I’m Canadian.’ Well if you’re asking for something more direct, don’t worry; the U.S. has it all.

Not yet acronym’d, the “Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act” (s.778) is another bill introduced in the same timeframe as CISPA 2.0. This bill, however, would give Obama a “kill switch” to the internet- something that would effectively allow him (or whoever the current president would be at the time) to shut down the internet. Sounds ridiculous, doesn’t it? How would a country be able to shut down something it doesn’t own? However, it’s not so far-fetched when you realize that the majority of infrastructure for the internet is in the United States.

To quote the bill: “The President— may order the disconnection of any Federal government or United States critical infrastructure information systems or net-

works in the interest of national security.” In the interests of national security. These days, anything that opposes civil liberties is justified under the guise of ‘national security’. Just mention national security and the people become complacent, willing to forego all of their rights and freedoms to- to what? To protect their right and freedoms? Or is it to protect against internet terrorism? A senator actually said “We cannot afford to wait for a cyber-9/11.” What can possibly terrorize the world more (in terms of the internet) than giving the leader of a nation the power to shut it down?

Now THIS should terrify you. What can more directly influence Canada than shutting down one of its fundamental services? Once again, the United States has it all, there’s another bill that’s more direct.

ACTA is back from the grave to haunt us once more. The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement was introduced last year, more prominently in Europe, with a name that gives away little. From the title of this bill it seems incredible that people would care at all, much less that it concerns the internet. But, it does. ACTA contains numerous intellectual property provisions that very much affect the web, and it does give people something to be livid about. Now the United States is

working “to ensure that ACTA can come into force as soon as possible,” and even prompts Canada “to meet its obligations [with ACTA].” Canada plans to do so. Soon after the United States released that statement, Canada decided that ACTA is a brilliant idea. If nothing else, that must terrify you.

Back then, many months ago I wrote that “Now is the time for action, but it doesn’t end here.” It didn’t end then, and it won’t end now. I heralded then that the purpose of pushing so many bills that people are clearly against is to flood activists and concerned citizens until they tire of opposing them.

Perhaps these bills will get shot down within weeks of publishing this article, but regardless, we can always expect more.

In the face of endless bills, the required course of action is to be vigilant. It is easy to tire of these bills. It is easy to expect them to fade away, and it is easy to give up and pretend like it doesn’t matter. It does. It very much does. Every time another bill is introduced, the government expects the people to grow a bit wearier, until finally one slips through. So don’t grow weary, don’t give up, and keep fighting.

Maybe this will be the last time I will ever have to write about this issue, and I hope it is - but I doubt it.



# Why are teenagers so unhealthy?

"You need to eat your breakfast," "That's enough soda," are just a few phrases commonly said to teenagers these days.

BY SALLY KIM  
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Do you consider yourself over-weight, obese, or unhealthy? According to the Canadian Health Measures Survey, close to one third of 5 to 17 year-olds were classified as over-weight or obese in 2009 to 2011. This suggests that one third of 5-17 years-olds have bad eating habits and lack in physical activity.

Good nutrition is essential for everyone, but it's especially important for growing teenagers. During adolescence, the nutrition needed for the body increases for growth and changes in the body composition associated with puberty. National- and population-based surveys show that adolescents often fail to meet nutrient requirements needed. Because many teens make many unhealthy eating choices, many adolescents consume more fats and sugars than proteins, grains, and vitamins, and may even develop nutritional deficiencies from a lack of vitamins like vitamin A, folic acid, fiber, iron, calcium, and zinc, which are crucial to healthy development. Also, many teens have a misconception that healthy food always tastes bad and avoid it in order to have a much enjoyable meal. However, this is not true!

Teenagers also fail to have



**JUNK THE JUNK FOOD!** The nation's count of overweight and obese is on the rise.

enough physical activity on a day-to-day basis. During adolescence, teenagers need at least 60 minutes of exercise every day in order to keep their bodies and minds fit and healthy. Being active everyday can help improve the heart, devel-

op strong muscles, bones and body posture, as well as increase self-confidence. It can also help to reduce stress and improve sleep, which is very important for teenagers. However, not enough exercise can lead to overweight and

obesity, high blood pressure, anxiety, depression and diabetes. Most teens are busy with school-work, extra-curricular activities, and jobs- it's easy to forget the importance of exercising. It is time to realize that walking and using

stairs is simply not enough exercise to have a positive effect on our body in the long term.

So, how can we eat healthy and stay fit on a day-to-day basis? First of all, teens often skip meals because of irregular schedules. It is important that we have breakfast and lunch that are often missed due to school. Even a quick breakfast, such as a bowl of cereal with fruits, can make a difference. Things like cereal and oatmeal, which are low in calories and high in protein, can make great morning meals for everyone. If time is an issue, pack a granola bar and orange juice to have while going to school. 9 out of every 10 teenagers eat junk food every day; compared to home-cooked food, junk food is higher in fat, salt, sugar and low in fibre and nutrients. We should avoid buying fast food outside and instead have healthy meals at home or pack food from home to eat elsewhere. Try packing food such as a sandwich on whole wheat bread, veggie pizza, tacos, salad with grilled shrimp, or baked potatoes. A healthy meal does not necessary mean a bad meal!

How do we stay fit? The answer is simple: don't be lazy! Take the stairs instead of the elevator, walk home rather than making your parents pick you up from school, take a jog, run or even a walk during the day, or play sports! Overall, it is not an issue of knowing how to eat healthy, and how to stay fit; the real issue is committing to a healthy lifestyle. So let's all eat healthy and exercise every day!

# The stigma against colleges

Why students should re-analyze their post-secondary options.

BY GRACE TO  
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Let's answer the age-old question: after high school, what are you planning to do?

These days, students are given a myriad of post-secondary choices; we can continue studying at a college or university, search for a job or an internship, or even opt for an apprenticeship and study the trades. Unfortunately, with so many options, it is only natural for us to feel a bit uneasy about choosing the right path that is right for us.

For many, the goal is to absorb at least four more years of higher-education skills and knowledge before going out into the world, magically obtain a career that you are deeply passionate about, and get rich from it. And, of course, only a *university education* has the ability to guide you to that highly sought after spot.

Does that sound about right?

That is probably what most Canadians believe to be true, since an increasing number of students are aiming, or thinking, to continue their education by studying in a university.

But what happened to the colleges and the trades' education? Despite the favourable chances of employment after graduation, cheaper tuitions, and practical curriculums, college and trades schools have a pretty poor reputation amongst the student body nationwide.

Maybe students should learn

to re-evaluate what they want from their post-secondary education and what they make out of their lives before completely favouring universities and shunning colleges.

First of all, universities can be pricey. Generally, university students not only have to pay for the expensive education, they also need to pay for either residence or transportation to commute to their schools on a regular basis. The cost of living during those four years in university is significantly higher compared to the cost of going to a college or trades school; on average, university students pay around 30% more for their tuitions than college students.

Granted, it is also true that people who have graduated from a university will be more likely to get a higher paying job than those who graduated from a college. However, colleges are more likely to get students out of school and into the workforce sooner.

According to Statistics Canada 2010, students who have graduated from a college or trades school are more likely to become employed in the six months following graduation those students who have graduated with a bachelor's degree from a university.

There are also misconceptions that a university's quality of education is much better than colleges. This is not necessarily true since each individual has a different way of learning; some do well just listening to a professor's lecture while others need more participation and stimuli to understand the concepts fully.

However, it just might depend on what kind of learner you are. Each individual learns differ-

ently so it is important for one to determine what kind of learning strategy would be best for them. For example, individuals who think that they will be able to learn better through more hands-on experiences and classroom interactions might choose colleges over universities.

Universities rarely give you the opportunity of a one-on-one learning environment, or even a one-on-twenty learning environment, which we have been used to since kindergarten. Many find it difficult to adjust the new university learning environment in the first year, and as a result, it harms their ability to learn.

On the other hand, colleges and trades schools give students a

greater opportunity to learn together, allowing students to have more help from the instructors. In a typical college classroom setting, there may be one instructor and thirty students. However, in university lectures, there'll be much less instructor-student interactions because the numbers of students may be around a hundred.

In colleges and trades schools, there is also a lot more hands-on training, which is useful preparation for the real world. In fact, some university graduates tend to enroll into college or sign up for an internship, just to get those necessary skills before being able to enter the workforce.

However, colleges and trades schools are still being looked

down upon by Canadian students. Perhaps it is caused by the belief that graduated students will never get those fancy white-collar jobs and can only settle for the labours of a blue-collar worker... or maybe it is just the belief that the expensive option must be better!

In the end, the decision may rest on what exactly your career goal is. Going to university may be the obvious choice if you are planning to be a brain surgeon or the future Prime Minister of Canada, but it is with the utmost importance that one must choose wisely.

After all, this decision will answer the age-old question: what are you going to make of yourself after high school?



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# The linguistics of leadership

The Liberals seem to have decided on their new leader – but he's not winning without a fight.

BY SHANE SUKERMAN  
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

As we all know, the last federal election didn't turn out so great for the Liberals. As one of the two biggest parties in Canada, it was like a stake through the heart to place third behind the breakthrough New Democratic Party, who replaced the Liberals as official opposition of the Harper government. There are a few reasons why this happened, but the most obvious is that the Liberals didn't have a strong leader in Michael Ignatieff. Since his departure as head of the Liberals, a very important race has begun – one that could greatly influence this country over the next decade. Many strong players have thrown their hat into the leadership ring, including Vancouver MP Joyce Murray, former Willowdale MP Martha Hall Findlay, and Canada's first astronaut Marc Garneau. However, the most interesting candidate, and by far the favourite to win, is Justin Trudeau.

Son of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Justin entered the race in October 2012, and since then has dominated the interests of both the media and the public. His father is widely recognized as one of Canada's great Prime Ministers, if not the greatest. His amazing wit and charisma won the hearts of Canada, and it looks as though his son inherited the ability to do the same. After having put Trudeau on a pedestal, the other candidates seemed small in comparison; imagine being in the Liberal leadership race against a figure as daunting as Justin Trudeau. As the media rushes to find out what he eats for breakfast, the accomplishments of other candidates in the race are belittled. It's a shame really. Marc Garneau is more than capable of being a strong, level-headed leader for the Liberals. If Trudeau wasn't running, he'd be my choice. But the fact is, Trudeau is running. All this

commotion over Trudeau has put a lot of stress on the other candidates. Some defensive behaviour is to be expected. But what's also to be expected is for those who are acting defensive to know when to draw the line.

Recently, Trudeau garnered some insults from former MP Martha Hall Findlay. During a debate in mid-February, she claimed that Trudeau, being of a privileged background, was out of touch with the middle class. Trudeau responded to her by saying that his privileged background wasn't an issue, and that what really mattered was his commitment to public service. She was booed by some in the debate audience, and criticized on social media for such aggressive questioning. She later issued an apology on her website.

By this point, nobody should have to say that personal attacks are not needed in politics. We don't need members of the same political party calling one another names. The Liberals can't afford that. What the liberals do need is a strong leader, now more than ever. Petty attacks like the one from Findlay are the reason the Liberals have fallen into third place. But some good may have come from this. In responding to such a personal question the way he did, Justin Trudeau proved to Canada that he is more than capable of handling himself – which is far more than I can say for Martha Hall Findlay.

As the race progresses, we get closer to seeing the long-awaited outcome. Currently, Trudeau is the frontrunner, and for obvious reason. He's a political celebrity, and his policy involves a pledge to respect Western Canada, a part of the country not even his father could appease. The way he has handled himself in the debates, particularly in his response to Findlay, show that he would be more than capable of representing his party in the House of Commons.

With Trudeau as their leader, the Liberal party will regain lost public support and maybe, somewhere down the line, we might just see another Trudeau in the Prime Minister's office.



ON YOUR MARKS... The leadership race is in full swing!

# Modern warfare



FOREIGN AID France's military is powerful and capable, but is conflict the right choice?

A look at France's decision to enter Mali.

BY RYAN KHURANA  
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Operation Serval, a movement by France and numerous allied nations to retake northern Mali from Islamist groups commenced with great concern. The belief was that the geography of Mali was complex and unsuitable for a successful invasion, and as with Vietnam and Afghanistan it would lead to the failure of the operation. French President Francois Hollande, the second President to be elected from the Socialist Party, strongly supported the operation. His goal is to maintain relations, especially considering the storied history between the two nations.

Mali was a former colony of France known as French Sudan. After France realized that colonial policies were no longer beneficial to them after losing Vietnam and Algiers, they began to release their remaining colonies into the French Community, granting them full autonomy albeit with very close relations and governance. Although the French Community ceased to function and was formally abolished on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1995, France continued to maintain close trade relations with Mali and had a vested interest in its security.

Considering the events of the Arab Spring, the rebellion in Mali was far from unexpected. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, conflict began in Northern Mali when rebel Tuareg groups, a minority ethnicity in Mali, allied with Islamist groups and attempted to capture the region. The government of Mali lost territory quickly to the rebels and by April 2012, the Northern Region of Mali was completely taken by rebel groups. Following its own internal conflicts, the Government of Mali withdrew from the region. The Islamist groups in the region

began to impose Sharia laws conflicting with Tuareg group goals, leading to internal conflict.

Protests occurred against the imposition of Sharia law, which were violently suppressed by a faction of Al-Qaeda. The Tuareg rebels disassociated themselves with the Islamists and attempted to take sole control of the region. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the Battle of Gao ensued between the two groups, ending with the Islamist control of the region and the disbanding of the Tuareg republic. The new goal for the rebels was to attack the Islamist control and reinstate its own system. The Government began to see that this fighting would not resolve itself and asked for foreign intervention. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the UN approved the intervention and France was set to enter.

Considering the instability that was sweeping the region, it was imperative for foreign aid to intervene and resolve the conflicts. France made the right decision to enter and allowed for speedier resolution of otherwise exacerbated conflicts. The world today seems to decry military intervention, but forgets that sometimes a militant solution is not only the fastest but the best overall solution.

France quickly began to suppress enemy belligerents, with Canada's air force sending in C-17's to strike enemy territory. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, Islamist groups took control of an Algerian Gas Field holding hostage many foreign nationals. The Algerian Special Forces responded, resulting in 67 deaths and which included 39 out of the over 800 hostages.

By February 8<sup>th</sup> the Government of Mali had reclaimed all of its lost territory and a period of ongoing guerrilla warfare has begun to oust the Islamist threat in Mali. Car bombing and suicide attacks have been constantly occurring over the last month. The occupation, while hasty, is resulting in progress. Elections have

been scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup> to implement democracy once again.

France has shown themselves again to be a formidable military power, despite the common belief that they are quick to surrender. Their large land and air forces, as well as their expertly trained foreign legion, have led to quick conquests of captured territories. Since the conflict began, there have been 3 French casualties while there have been an estimated 300 on the Islamist side. The initial thought to be Frances' Afghanistan in which they would enter a conflict with no exit strategy has somewhat held true, as is the risk with any extreme foreign intervention the country may become dependent. France has scheduled the election and has provided the majority of the resources necessary to combat the rebels. The belief is that by focusing on providing Mali with the necessities and letting their troops handle the conflict would allow them to curtail the fears of excessive foreign intervention. Let us hope this holds true.

This conflict reflects a great deal about the current state of affairs in the world, where conflicts need to be resolved by foreign powers. Countries have become dependent on foreign intervention. Either a process of internationalization and closer relations is occurring, or we are setting ourselves up for another era of colonialism and cold war-era allies and enemies. The world has become divided between the large nations that intervene in situations and the small nations that need the intervention; it has become impossible for smaller nations to resolve their own conflicts.

Only time will tell what the effect of this occupation of Mali will have on the rest of Africa and France, but one thing is for certain; these are catastrophic times, and they will bear grave consequences.



# Why are Canadians paying more, but waiting longer?

Can our long hospital wait times be resolved by introducing a parallel private health care system? Not really.

BY ALANA CHANGOOR  
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

We've all been to the ER at least once in our lives. Impatient, flustered, and discomfited by the ailments and conditions that brought us there, we wait, amongst many others, for what seems an eternity. Four hours before a nurse attends to you, another two hours before a doctor's assistant sees you, and yet another two hours before you get to see an actual doctor...

As it stands, Canada has the worst hospital wait times of any developed country. According to an international survey, the Canadian Institute for Health Information reports that patients wait more than four hours for treatment in an emergency room. This is more than 20% in all of the countries surveyed but Canada. Our average wait time is 19% higher than the average of our 11 international comparators.

So how is it that our home and native land, which is often praised for its superior health care system, can be faulty in such a fundamental way? And more importantly, is privatization the key to change?

That question is still being pondered and the studies are still being analyzed; however, there is some directionality of evidence being gathered. What seems to be a major problem is actually a combination of factors.

Poorly organized services/inefficiencies, shortages of health care workers, lack of teamwork between doctors, cuts to hospital services (between 1988 and 2002, there were a total of 64 000 hospital beds cut), the need for more long term-care and home care seem to be the main problems. In fact, a recent study suggests that out of 140 patients in a given emergency room, 126 of them would be better served with rehabilitation, enhanced home based service, long term care in a hospital.

However, it would be naïve to suggest that these problems call for an easy fix. Many people look towards introducing a parallel private health care system for those who are willing to pay for it. This is supposed to take the pressure out of the public health care system, reducing wait times. Does it really though?

In reality, "for profit" clinics do not take the pressure off of the public care system. According to Dr. Brian Postl, a National Wait Time advisor and CEO of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority; "Canadians could potentially have same day access to primary health care, one or two weeks access for

appointments with medical specialists, almost no waiting times for tests and surgeries". He, along with many of his colleagues claims that this can be achieved without privatization. A "for profit" system, he argues, would overburden our system more than help it.

For one, the potential for higher salaries in a competitive private healthcare system, would take our doctors, and nurses out of the public care system. There is also the issue of "cream skinning": choosing to treat only those patients who could be considered "easy to treat", leaving those who need care to wait it out in the public health care system.

And besides being a great deal more expensive, "for profit" care is less safe! According to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, if all Canadian hospitals were converted to "for profit" facilities, there would be an additional 2200 deaths every year in Canada. This is supposedly characteristic of a system that would more likely prioritize profits over a high quality, and safe patient experience.

And finally, introducing such facilities into our health care system would be a great injustice to society. Health care should be based on need, not one's wallet. Our current Canadian health care system is praised because of its reinforcement of values such as equity and fairness.

Incentives that have already been put into effect and have shown positive results are actually public solutions! According to Kathleen Morris, director of Systems Analysis and Emergency Issues at the Canadian Institute for Health Information; not only is change for the better possible, but already being put into effect. Funding public solutions, as opposed to isolated pilot projects, and putting patients before profits have been shown to improve administrative and clinical practices. Common waiting lists that would group patients waiting for the same surgeries together, and standardizing surgical equipment/procedures/screening would also shorten ER wait times. Expanding team work among health care professionals, and modernizing electrical information systems would also help; however one of the biggest solutions takes us out of a hospital. Improving community care, by putting resources into long term care (i.e. to care for our aging boomer population), home care, family health care, and urgent care centers would significantly improve the patient experience.

Collectively from all the evidence, research, and studies that have been initiated, one thing is clear. Our approach to better health care doesn't lie in changing the universality of it. The key to keeping more Canadians healthy and happy is in recognizing that our strength is only as strong as our weakest link.

That is, implementing policies such as privatization which put profits before people only victimizes those who need support the most. Supporting everyone, and staying true to our societal values of egalitarian justice is what defines both Canadians, and our health care system.



**CURING CANADA'S CARE SITUATION** Our current system has some major flaws.

*Our approach to better health care doesn't lie in changing the universality of it. The key to keeping more Canadians healthy and happy is in recognizing that our strength is only as strong as our weakest link.*

# EYE OF THE TIGER

## from the editors

The Eye of the Tiger is an award-winning school newspaper that reaches 2000 students, parents and members of the community each issue. To advertise with us, please contact [eyeofthetigerfinance@gmail.com](mailto:eyeofthetigerfinance@gmail.com) or [eyeofthetigerchiefs@gmail.com](mailto:eyeofthetigerchiefs@gmail.com)

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# Should Canada adopt standardized testing? Barbie, Ken, and I: under the knife

## YES

» Jessica Wu

We complain about mark inflation way too much for our own good. We point fingers behind closed doors at the friend who shelled out 1K for a 99 in private school math, and we scoff at notoriously “easy” teachers, courses, schools, even curriculums. Money pays to get into a good school, and students have found a way to cheat the system. It’s not glamorous, nor sensational. It’s the bleak truth. The overwhelming reliance on marks has turned high school into a ruthless competition, where marks sometimes serve to be the sole assessment for entry into a competitive program.

Quite evidently, the education system needs reform. For this, we can look no further than our Southern counterparts for a simple solution. The States boasts the world’s most prestigious schools and cut-throat programs, in which acceptance is highly determinate on SAT scores. I can’t wholly credit their success to standardized testing, but one can only wonder about the correlation between the two quasi-allied variables.

To students and the BC teachers’ union alike, standardized testing is the bane of teaching profession. However, their justifications lie on shaky foundations of faulty reasoning and logical fallacies. The thinking behind standardized testing is straightforward and reasonable, and most importantly, equitable. We are vying for the same spots with the same qualifications, so we

*The thinking behind standardized testing is straightforward and reasonable, and most importantly, equitable.*

need to be assessed with a measure of impartiality. We need standards.

SAT culture is big in the States, and rightfully so. The results show, and at a minimal price tag for taxpayers. I’m not saying we should put as much emphasis on standardized testing as the States does, because anything understandably gets out of hand when the stakes are pushed too high.

However, we do need to introduce it in little balanced steps. It is not a radical remodel, or an idea too brash, but it might as well be the messiah of the modern education system.

## NO

» Jun Park

To the relief of Canadian students, it’s only our neighbours to the south that use standardized testing as an admissions criteria to post-secondary education. There are good reasons why this always has been and should remain the case in Canada.

The first problem with admissions tests is that they deteriorate the quality of education students receive. Across the U.S., there are numerous reports of teachers “teaching-to-the-test” by deliberately skimming or skipping entire sections of the curriculum and only focusing on the material that

is prominent in the SATs. Because SAT scores are the main forms of teacher evaluation in the States, educators can resort to rote measures that might improve test scores, but leave students frustrated with gaps in their learning. This is a sentiment shared by all students when we ask, “Why do I need to know this?” or “Why don’t I remember anything I’ve learnt?”. In this way, standardized testing furthers the disconnect between students and their learning.

Next is the cost. Take for example, the SAT, SAT II, and AP tests that many students take in their latter years of secondary school. The cost per test is \$47, \$32, and \$86 respectively, with Canadian and international students paying even greater amounts. As well, students often end up re-taking or selecting multiple subjects of each

test. Factor in study guides, prep classes, and tutors, and these costs easily add up to thousands of dollars.

This may be manageable for some families, but for others, this could mean risking their retirement funds or the mortgage on their homes. In other words, the choice between education and financial security leaves students with socioeconomic disadvantages further marginalized - the tests certainly aren’t “standardized” for everyone.

Standardized tests just aren’t reflective of a student’s aptitude for higher education. Twelve years of learning compressed into three narrow subjects, one scantron sheet, and questions designed for the “average” range of what students should be able to do; standardized testing has no place in Canada.

Plastic surgery for purely cosmetic reasons shouldn’t even be a thing.

Ask any person on the street about their flaws, and, invariably, something about their body will pop up. “I don’t like this” or “I would change that” or “what I would do to be—” are all statements that we’ve heard and probably even said before. However, what happens when these statements become precursors to drastic changes through plastic surgery. Let me give you an example: Valeria Lukyanova. The twenty-something singer and model became an internet sensation after photos and videos of her Barbie-esque look and proportions surfaced. Her counterpart, Justin Jedlica, the Ken to her Barbie, has spent more than \$100 000 on over a hundred surgeries to get the body of his dreams. These two individuals are extremes, yes, but they also raise startling questions about the harsh standards of beauty.

Who do you aspire to be? Chances are, the words ‘good-looking’ or ‘attractive’ are invariably mentioned. Being beautiful is such a huge deal in our culture; it is no wonder that plastic surgery is becoming an increasingly popular choice around the world. Not even taking into account that beauty will eventually fade, a growing number of citizens are turning to temporary solutions to the ‘problem’ they perceive. It is no longer just breast

augmentations or silicone implants for a chiseled physique that surgeons perform, but ‘lunch-hour surgeries’ and nose jobs that are a rising trend. The scary part is that these surgeries are becoming norms in society, and in some countries, even standard for most citizens.

South Korea has made itself millions on medical tourism, where thousands enter and leave with altered faces and bodies. In Iran, rhinoplasties, or nose jobs, are so prevalent that they have become a sign of status in the upper class. In Canada, growing numbers of men and women, ranging from young adults to middle-aged parents, are choosing to go under the knife to look ‘better’. What does it say about our society if we need to cut a little here, add a blob of plastic there, and ultimately sew everything back up in order to resemble what is expected?

It is a fact that plastic surgery is an extremely important medical procedure when it comes to dealing with extreme damage caused by trauma. Patients who require facial reconstruction or the removal of a dangerous growth require plastic surgery as a part of their treatment. What plastic surgery is not and should not be a cure for is the pervasive need to be attractive.

It is your choice, of course, to choose how you wish to view and manipulate your body. However, the point is that plastic surgery should never be an option when it comes to simply being beautiful.

Is spending thousands of dollars on multiple surgeries and getting enough silicone implanted into a body to potentially kill someone a worthy trade to resemble the ‘perfect beauty’ for a short period of time?

We think not.

*What plastic surgery is not and should not be a cure for is the pervasive need to be attractive.*

# Why we need a shift in the way we talk to our students

Phrases like “You’re so smart!” may actually be detrimental to learning.

Years ago, teachers, parents and other authority figures were reluctant to praise Canada’s children. They believed that constantly fawning over the nation’s children would make them arrogant and narcissistic. But things quickly changed: the self-esteem movement rolled in, and with it unsubstantiated praise of Canada’s students. Educators believed that for a child to succeed, he or she needed flattery or encouragement to succeed.

However, can there be too much of a good thing?

Now, while encouragement and praise is definitely something that every child needs, studies have shown that oversaturating a child with flattery can actually backfire and cause them to do poorly. In a landmark study by Claudia Mueller and Carol Dweck, researchers found that students behaved very differently depending on what kind of praise they received from their

authority figures. Students who were told that they were smart or clever ended up deliberately avoiding challenges and new work, instead choosing easy tasks in which their success was all but assured. By contrast, kids who were praised for their hard work or dedication actually preferred challenging tasks. When it came time to study for tests, the most in the group of “clever” students didn’t study, instead believing their innate intelligence would be enough to do well on the test. The group of “hardworking” students instead saw the test as a challenge that could be overcome and spent a lot of time reviewing and preparing for the test. Which group do you think did better?

But that’s not all. Studies have also shown that children constantly praised for their intelligence are more likely to give up quickly on challenges, be more competitive with other kids, and to blame themselves for mistakes. When you praise kids for their intelligence, they learn to view their failures as evidence of stupidity, not of a problem that needs to be reworked. In

fact, studies have shown that the more students fail, the more likely they are to attribute their difficulties to a lack of intelligence.

On the other hand, students praised for their hard work are less competitive, a better judge of their own abilities, and are able to recover quickly after disappointment or failure.

In other words, telling kids that they are smart can actually make the students less likely to view themselves as intelligent; on the

whole, they are less academically secure, think less of themselves, and are less tenacious than their “hard-working” counterparts.

By praising kids for being intelligent, we’re teaching them that their performance- both inside and outside of school- is a definitive test of intelligence. While they might enjoy the praise initially, when they encounter difficult challenges in the real world, the praise backfires. However, while it appears as though telling kids that they’re

smart is counterproductive, it’s certainly better than no praise at all. The right kind of praise is key.

Teachers and parents alike need to stop saying things like, “Wow, you’re so smart!”, and instead favour praise like, “Wow, you must have worked really hard on that!” Praising kids for effort rather than their “natural abilities” may help them develop a better mindset for learning, and could be the key to raising successful, well-adjusted adults.



**WORDS OF POSITIVITY** What students may really need when learning are a couple words of encouragement.





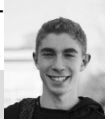
# A more exciting era of baseball



**OUT WITH THE STEROIDS, IN WITH THE BASEBALL ACTIONS** Exciting offseason moves, rising new stars and a cleaner game overall gives baseball that old exciting feel to fans this year.

The ‘Steroid Era’ is over, it is now another decade of true baseball.

**BY JOSH PETERS**  
SPORTS COLUMNIST



About a decade ago, Major League Baseball was saturated with players that could knock the ball out of the park at any moment. As an audience, many people thought this was the epitome of baseball excitement. At any point Sammy Sosa could rip one out of Wrigley Field. Mark McGuire could hit the ball so far out of Busch Stadium that the people walking on the street would go home with souvenirs. And at the top of them all, there was Barry Bonds chasing the home run crown which he eventually was able to call his own. However this was a time where you were only as good as the pills you were taking, and after major investigations into performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) the game has slowly moved away from this era. All three of these home run powerhouses were left a small frac-

tion of the Hall of Fame vote this year, a year where no player’s name made the move to Cooperstown. It’s taken a long time for the game to change from the home run derby it was 10 years ago, but it has definitely changed for the better.

Home runs are exciting. There is nothing quite like seeing your hometown superstar step up to the plate, and with one crack of the bat, earn a free ticket around the bases. But there is a fallacy that the Steroid Era of baseball made the sport hugely entertaining and saved the sport economically. In reality the Steroid Era had lower attendance rates on average than the Testing Era that followed. People love home runs, but they love close games more and it just so happens that the amount of close games has risen substantially since the Steroid Era. In 2011 there were 1192 close games during the course of the season. These are games decided by 1 or 2 runs. In 1998 there were only 1124 close games. Home runs cause blowouts, which empty the stands. It is more likely that a fan will stay an entire game if it’s tied

and any run could be the winning run, than if his or her team is losing by a substantial amount of runs. Here are a couple more stats to prove that this is not just speculation. In 1999, the time of the home run race, there were 5528 home runs during the season, 193 shutouts and 729 games decided by 5 or more runs. In 2012 there were only 4552 home runs, but 310 shutouts and 611 games decided by 5 or more runs. This clears any doubt that the game has indeed flipped to the pitchers’ advantage. But one stat stands out: per game attendance was 28 888 in 1999 and was 30 806 last year. It is a really simple formula actually: lose 1000 home runs, and you pick up 2000 fans per game.

A major criticism that the end of the Steroid Era has brought upon is that offense stinks nowadays as a result. However, it is easy to make a case that it has not been as much offense stinking, but rather pitching getting better. Pitchers have always felt that rules and occurrences have been made to make their lives harder: the DH, smaller

strike zones, smaller ballparks and most of all steroids. However the past couple of years have seen a leap in technology that favours the pitchers. Seeing pitching and hitting tendencies are easier than ever. Also, the reason for the lack of offense is the sudden rise in the amount of pitchers with unbelievable stuff. It used to be the odd pitcher here or there could get you with movement late in the pitch. Now you cannot be considered a decent pitcher without it. So before you say hitters have gotten worse, try hitting one of Roy Halladay’s late breaking sinkers at 90 MPH.

The end of the Steroid Era is not just the end of the era of steroids. The entire game has changed as a result. There are new rules in the standings and on the field that are also a large reason why the current era of baseball is more intriguing. Teams get better so much faster than ever before with the addition of new wild card rules. Almost 25% of teams with losing records in the past ten years turn around to make the playoffs the next season. General Managers are

more active than ever because they know that getting even the slightest advantage can make them from a losing team to a playoff team. A fine example is our own Toronto Blue Jays who may have just promoted themselves to playoff glory with the offseason they had. But the thing is, we don’t know, and that’s the beauty of it. Baseball is more unpredictable than it has ever been in this new era. Knowing that your team has a shot every year is more exciting than watching some guy with arms bigger than his head swing a bat.

This is the very beginning of this new time in baseball. The MLB is only now beginning to turn the corner on the darker years of its existence. The 2000s were dominated by trials and testing and scandals that still happen today. But through looking at the facts and the nature of the game, we can clearly see a change, and an exciting one at that.

Baseball fans will love their sport no matter what, but as the Steroid Era comes to a close, there’s just a little bit more to love.

# ACL tears in the NBA: the devastating knee injury

A look at the impact of the devastating knee injury in the NBA.

**BY VICTOR LI**  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

An ACL tear. Three words which should bring tears to any NBA fan’s eyes. As more and more dynamic, exciting guards succumb to this dreaded knee injury, fans have to wonder if this sickening trend will continue. Derrick Rose, Ricky Rubio, Iman Shumpert, and now Rajon Rondo, Lou Williams, even Leandro Barbosa. All these athletic guards have torn their ACLs. Of this list, two (Rubio, Shumpert) have returned, while the rest have yet to make their comebacks.

Today’s NBA point guards not only set up teammates, they also slash to the basket themselves. More and more point guards are making attacking the rim a part of their repertoire. As they spin, juke, sidestep and weave their way

around defenders, their knees take a toll. Knee injuries have always been a part of NBA life, but is this the reason for this recent rash of knee injuries?

The anterior cruciate ligament, better known as the ACL, is one of four major ligaments of the knee, used to control movement.

A tear, whether partial or complete, limits and prevents free movement. Some players can play through partial tears, although they simply risk doing more damage, while complete tears can even prevent simple movements like walking. Interestingly enough, players can still play without ACLs (DeJuan Blair, anyone?).

However, for the vast majority of people, ACL tears mean sitting out 8-12 months.

The recovery from an ACL tear can be extremely difficult. During the recovery period, the athlete has to relearn how to perform motions they once did with ease. There’s also a psychological element, as athletes have to overcome their

fear of re-tearing their ACL and regain their trust in their injured knee. Once they feel comfortable putting their trust in their knees again, they can start getting back into game shape and then finally return to playing.

Let’s take a look at some famous ACL tears now, shall we? Recently, NFL MVP Adrian Peterson came back from a gruesome ACL tear, and proceeded to nearly break the NFL rushing record. Peterson is the ultimate success story; proof that an ACL tear doesn’t mean the end of an athlete’s career and that they can rise up and overcome this devastating injury. However, his successful return seems to have put pressure on other stars coming back from ACL injuries. Take former NBA MVP Derrick Rose for instance. Rose tore his ACL in last season’s NBA playoffs and hasn’t returned since. Although the Chicago Bulls are certainly being cautious with their franchise cornerstone, his lengthy delay to the game seems to frus-

trate fans, teammates and seemingly everyone involved. While doctors have cleared him to return, Rose maintains that he lacks the confidence to return and dominate the way that he once did.

To be fair to Rose, the demands upon his return would be immense. With many considering a Rose-led Bulls team to be a contender in the East, anything short of seriously challenging for a championship would be considered disappointing for Rose’s return. As unfair as it is, there is so much pressure on Rose, based on how he played before his injury.

Here’s another thing, though. Many considered Rose’s superior

athleticism to be one of his top traits. What if he doesn’t reach his pre-tear levels ever again upon his return? What if he becomes a jump-shooting point guard, rather than a dynamic one who explodes to the hoop for rim-rattling dunks? Would he be as popular or exciting? Would this be better or worse for the Bulls?

And what about the others who have suffered ACL tears? How should players avoid these injuries while still being athletic and dynamic and helping their teams win? There isn’t an easy answer to this, but a balance must be found in order to preserve the health of the athletes who entertain us, night in and night out.



**WHEN WILL HE RETURN?** The aftermath of the devastating ACL tear..

# The evolution of the NBA

As the 2012-2013 NBA season comes to an end, here are some of the positive and negative trends we've seen this year. Analysis by Peter Sotirakos.



## Trends on the rise

### »» Young guards



Every season, a few players around the league emerge from good to great: this season it was James Harden and Kyrie Irving's turn. Neither has ever been questioned in terms of talent (both were selected in the top five of their respective drafts) but this season, each has played their way into the conversation as one of the best at their positions. Harden, after a surprising trade to the Houston Rockets, has shown that his game did not rely on his former OKC teammates Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, but was actually held back by the lack of opportunity, while Irving has made the usually unbearable Cavs surprisingly watchable with his All-Star play.

### »» LeBron's popularity



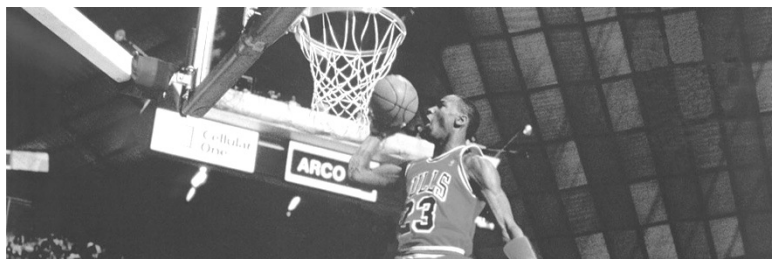
Whether it's tackling a fan after they made a \$75K half court hook shot, playing catch with another fan courtside during a game, or just hanging out with the President, LeBron James has stepped up his public image this season, not to mention keeping up his on-court game. After winning a championship last season and leading a USA team to Olympic gold in London, LeBron's popularity has spiked to pre-"Decision" levels, as long as you don't ask anyone from Cleveland.

## Trends on the decline

### »» Former champs

The 2008 NBA champion Boston Celtics and a Dallas Mavericks team just two years removed from a decisive Championship win over the Miami Heat have been two of the more disappointing teams this past season. Both are similar in that they are led by Hall of Fame bound veterans (Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett in Boston and Dirk Nowitzki in Dallas), are supported by large, faithful fan bases, have more than committed front offices, and have suffered from losing key players in the off-season. It appears that as the careers of Pierce, Garnett and Nowitzki come to a gradual end, so will the immediate success of their respective teams.

### »» MJ's career in basketball



It turns out, not everything that Michael Jordan touches turns to gold; maybe his baseball career was a bit of foreshadowing. This is certainly true in the case of the Charlotte Bobcats, a team which MJ purchased majority ownership of in 2010, who are slumping in yet another dismal season. Ever since infamously drafting Kwame Brown in the 2001 NBA Draft, one of the biggest draft busts in sports history, as then-President of Basketball Operations for the Washington Wizards, Michael Jordan's career as an executive in the NBA almost mirrors that of Brown's NBA playing career: bad. Oh well, he'll always have the 90's.

### »» Exciting trade deadlines

One of the talking points of the recent NBA lockout was how to make smaller-market teams more competitive, and the response to this issue was a more punitive luxury tax that would make it harsher on teams that spend over the cap so big market teams would be more reluctant to sign valuable role players. The first indication of how this harsher tax (which takes effect beginning this offseason) will impact the league could be seen this past trade deadline when the biggest move was the Bucks acquiring J.J. Redick from the Magic, while big names like Josh Smith, Brandon Jennings, and Al Jefferson were not moved. Even though the massive contract of Rudy Gay was moved in a deal prior to the deadline, it will appear as an outlier to the trend of a lack of major activity, with teams not wanting to take on contracts that are signed off of their terms.

## Free fall

### »» The Lakers



Regardless of how the 2013 NBA season ends for the Los Angeles Lakers, it has to be considered a massive step in the wrong direction, and if anything the decline of a once thriving empire. Coming into this season, the Lakers looked like the best team on paper after completing a massive trade to acquire Dwight Howard, signing future Hall of Famer Steve Nash, and restocking their bench with solid role players like Jodie Meeks, Earl Clark and Antawn Jamison. But after numerous injuries, the significant regression in the play of Pau Gasol, and an awful start out of the gate, the Lakers had found themselves on the outside looking in on the playoff picture for most of the season, a sight rarely seen for the more popular half of the two L.A. teams. All of this paired with the passing of 2010 Hall of Fame inductee and long-time Lakers owner Dr. Jerry Buss, this season looks like a sign for the beginning of the end for the Kobe-led Lakers' dynasty.

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*Did your parents, grandparents, or relatives go to Thornhill? Have them connect with us too! They may be eligible to join our Half Century Club - this is for alumni who attended Thornhill 50+ years ago.*



# The greatest legend? Just one year from now – in Sochi 2014

The almighty LeBron James showing signs of becoming a greater legend.

BY VICTOR LI  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Right before the All-Star Break, LeBron James pulled off one of the greatest run of games in NBA history, scoring 30+ points and shooting at least 60% from the field in six consecutive games. The run immediately distanced himself from his competition yet again, showing why today's league still belongs to LeBron and the Miami Heat. The discussion went from whether or not Kevin Durant would take the MVP trophy from LeBron this year to how good LeBron is compared to the greatest players to ever play the sport of basketball.

Around the same time, the league and the people who cover it were celebrating the 50th birthday of the man whom most consider to be the greatest who ever played: Michael Jeffrey Jordan. It was the perfect storm. While LeBron was dominating the league, MJ turned 50. The dreaded five-oh: a milestone in your life, where you step back and reflect. Your best years and glory days are behind you. You have to come face to face with your own mortality, and meanwhile, the others in a younger generation are making names for themselves. For a competitor the calibre of Michael Jordan, this must be the ultimate torture. To have himself compared with people he's never played against, and then for people to say that maybe, just maybe they're better than you? Mike would liken this to having salt thrown in his wounds. While he's confronting his own mortality, people are saying he might not be the best and he's physically incapable of proving them wrong. We all know MJ's competitiveness very well, and his Hall of Fame acceptance speech only reinforced this. He was a competitor who made an entire career off perceived slights and insults. Mike must be wishing he was in his prime again, so he could put on his #23 jersey and show the younger generation just what he was capable of in his prime. Whether it's LeBron, Kobe, Durant, anyone, Mike would never rest until he proved he was the undisputed greatest. But is he? That's right, I said it. When all is said and done, Michael Jordan might not be the greatest ever. He has a good claim, but maybe someone else could be better.

Throughout his entire career, whether it was deserved or not, LeBron has been compared to MJ. The fact that he chose to wear #23 for the Cavaliers was not ignored, nor was the signature chalk toss that he emulated from Michael. Up until last season's finals, the LeBron vs. MJ debate had barely been one. MJ had gone six of six in NBA finals series, while LeBron was oh for two. Jordan seemed to always hit those crunch time shots, while LeBron would pass the ball rather than shoot it. Jordan was the assass-

sin with the killer instinct, while LeBron was psychologically frail. It was a foregone conclusion; the obvious choice was Michael.

Then, something happened last season. LeBron James won his championship. And he won it in a convincing fashion. With all the pressure in the sporting world on his shoulders, LeBron lifted his team to the title. Despite being down in three separate series, he would always come back to help his team win. The old argument that he couldn't get it done, that he never showed up in big games or fourth quarters had vanished. LeBron had exorcised his demons and was on top of the NBA world. And now the debate can really begin.

Oh, Jordan is great. Don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to take away anything from MJ here. He played in a tough, tough era against tough, tough defences, against many of the greatest players ever, and he found ways to win. Many Hall of Fame players retired without championships because of his dominance: Charles Barkley, Patrick Ewing, Reggie Miller, Stockton and Malone, and so on. He established the greatest dynasty since Russell's Celtics in an era where there was so much talent in the NBA. But I think that LeBron has the chance to be greater. Emphasis on the chance, because LeBron's career is still far from over. Watching LeBron, especially during his recent tear, gives you the feeling that he's almost holding back and that if he wanted to, he could be even more dominant. Every year, he finds a way to improve, such as his recent FG% dominance. If he continues his hot shooting on jump shots, then he's added another wrinkle in his game, and guarding him will become that much more difficult.

As for the Kobe fans who will inevitably blast me for leaving their idol out of the discussion, I have this to say: Kobe is great, the second best shooting guard of all time. However, here's why I don't think Kobe will be the greatest ever. It's simple. Remember that old Gatorade commercial, the famous "Be Like Mike" one? Kobe seems to live and breathe that slogan. He's dedicated his entire career to trying to catch MJ's greatness, and he's trying to do so by being like Mike. But the problem is, you're never going to beat MJ by being like MJ. He's too good to beat him by emulating him. And my opinion is that Kobe is too far in his career to reinvent himself to catch Jordan. Even if by some miracle the Lakers debacle is resolved this season and Kobe retires with six or more rings, the fact remains that he was arguably second fiddle to Shaq for the first three, and then practically drove him out of town even though they had the chance to establish a dynasty to rival Jordan's or even Bill Russell's. He never won again until he got help from Pau Gasol; in fact he's actually even missed the playoffs. He can get his, but sometimes that's not best for the team. His chemistry with his teammates

and his attitude have ruined many a locker room and team. This year's Lakers should be so much better, but Kobe's poor attempts to motivate Dwight Howard are actually ruining team chemistry. Kobe is a great player, but not the best ever. There, I said it.

Which brings me back to LeBron. He has a completely different skill set from MJ and Kobe. Never has there been a forward who could run the floor like a Magic Johnson and dominate in the paint and shoot jump shots at a FG% that rivals the top centers in the league that thrive off layups and dunks. He can guard the other team's best player, whether they are a point guard or a power forward. His skill set is so diverse and there are so many ways that you can build a successful team off of him because of his unselfishness and ability to mould his game to suit his teammates. Also he's never been a distraction in the locker room. And this is the base of my argument that LeBron could be better than Jordan and will certainly be better than Kobe if he continues improving at the rate he does. He might not be as good as Jordan is individually, but he elevates his team and helps others be successful. As dominant as Jordan was, if he was defended by a great defender, he could be hindered.

There were two ways to beat Jordan. You could let him have his and shut down everyone else. This was the way that people beat him before Pippen became a top-50 player. Jordan was a capable passer at the shooting guard position, but he couldn't run the floor the way LeBron can. The other way was to hamper him as best you can with defensive guards like Isiah Thomas or Gary Payton and let his teammates have a less difficult time. Once again, Pippen nulled this strategy. See, part of Jordan's dominance was because he played alongside a top-50 player in Scottie Pippen. If Jordan didn't have Pippen, and wasn't coached by Phil Jackson, would he have been as good? Or would he have been more like Dominique, athletic, dominant, but not necessarily as successful in winning championships? Maybe, and maybe he wouldn't have won as many. Who can say?

It's still too early to tell, but I feel that LeBron might truly have a chance to go down in history as the greatest player to play because of the way he plays the game, and the diversity that he can supply to a team. You could switch LeBron with anyone in the league, and the Heat would collapse. No one else in the league, and maybe in all of basketball history could lead this Heat team in points, assists, rebounds, steals and FG%. No one else can allow the Heat to win a championship without a proper center or point guard. If LeBron keeps up the pace and improvement and wins more championships, he has a chance to be able to retire as the greatest ever.

For now, that title still belongs to Jordan.

*Hockey is finally back. With the new season comes renewed hope, excitement, and inevitably many issues. One topic of discussion is whether or not NHL players will be permitted to play in the upcoming Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Regardless of what happens, we still choose to speculate.*



BY DANIEL BECKER  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

I have decided to look at potential candidates for the forward position for Canada's men's national team for the upcoming Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. When it comes to Canadian forwards the talent pool is wide and deep. You have a pure aggressor in Milan Lucic, a pure goal scorer and danger in Claude Giroux, and you have an all around player in Sidney Crosby (when healthy). So picking this team has to be handled very thoughtfully because of the wide ice surface that will be apparent in the 2014 Olympic tournament. Having wide ice in Russia will mean that the Milan Lucic's of Canada with their hard hitting, tough guy style will be ultimately ineffective. This is why Steve Yzerman must look at pure speed and goal scorers like Claude Giroux.

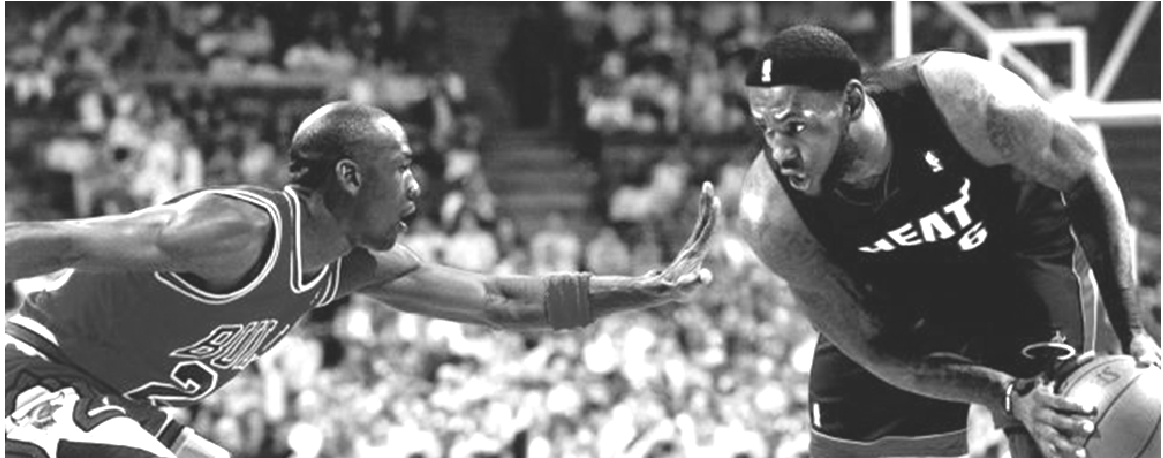
With the unlikely returns of players like Brendan Morrow, Jarome Iginla, Dany Heatley, Joe Thornton, Patrick Marleau, Mike Richards and Patrice Bergeron, Team Canada will be looking for some new bodies to fill the lineup that should carry the team to gold again. With seven spots up for grabs, many Canadian players will get their first chance at the Olympics, which will set some of them up for future Canadian appearances at the Olympics or World Championships for the next few years. Here are my potential Team Canada forwards to appear in Russia 2014:

Nash (NYR) - Crosby (PIT) - Giroux (PHI)  
Spezza (OTT) - Toews (CHI) - Stamkos (TBL)  
Hall (EDM) - Nugent-Hopkins (EDM) - Eberle (EDM)  
E. Staal (CAR) - Getzlaf (ANA) - Perry (ANA)  
Extra: Tavares (NYI)

I know it is a lot to take in, but looking at stats leading up to the two year mark for the next Olympics these players seem deserving of a chance. Looking at the top line you have the typical power for-

ward/goal scoring Rick Nash on the wing with Crosby, an all around player, and Claude Giroux, a sneaky speed demon with dangling and scoring capabilities. Watch this line lead Canada to Olympic gold. The second line would surprise most with Spezza there, but believe it or not I think he is a good fit for that particular line. It is Spezza's pass first mentality that will help set up the one timing phenom Steven Stamkos. With Jonathan Toews at center what can go wrong? He is a two way prototypical center with the kind of leadership you can't find anywhere else in the world or in hockey history. He is the hardest working player in the league. If it wasn't for Crosby I would put Toews on the top line centering Nash and Giroux. Now onto the third line, my favourite line with Taylor Hall, RNH and Jordan Eberle. We haven't seen a line like this since Thornton was centering Heatley and Marleau in 2010. The 2010 line put up 14 points with 7 goals and 7 assists. This line has pure talent and a Canadian hero in Eberle. Watch this line be on the ice in overtime situations and when Team Canada is losing, with only one minute left. This line will pull through when you need it the most. Now onto the fourth and final line, we see the endless potential of Getzlaf and Perry and with the addition of Staal. This line will dominate in the offensive zone. They will be in the offensive end most of every game and will be a force to be reckoned with, as all of them are 6 feet 3 inches tall or taller. Having John Tavares as an extra shows the depth of Canadian hockey players. I chose him as the 13th forward because he can fill any role and with his previous experience representing Canada he is sure to help Team Canada own the podium once again. Here are some guys who just missed the cut:

James Neal (PIT)  
Patrick Sharp (CHI)  
Joffrey Lupul (TOR)  
Scott Hartnell (PHI)  
Tyler Seguin (BOS)



ALL-STAR FACEOFF The legendary Michael Jordan up against the rising star, LeBron James. What a matchup!

# 2013 MLB season predictions

by: Daniel Grenier



Oh man, am I excited for the forthcoming season in Major League Baseball. I don't know why, but whenever spring training rolls around I just get that feeling that summer's on the way and it's time to watch some baseball. Here is how I think the 2013 MLB season is going to play out.

## American League



### AL EAST

**Toronto Blue Jays (94-68)**  
The Blue Jays now boast an offense that's potent, fast and has the ability to score runs in bunches. Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion will have plenty of run-producing opportunities with Jose Reyes and Melky Cabrera hitting in front of them. The additions of R.A. Dickey, Mark Buehrle and Josh Johnson to the starting rotation give the Jays a formidable trio to pair with returnees Brandon Morrow and Ricky Romero.

**New York Yankees (90-72)**  
This is still a scary Yankees lineup despite the loss of Nick Swisher and Russell Martin. If Derek Jeter returns to full health and Brett Gardner can regain his 2011 form, the offense should be productive. CC Sabathia, Hiroki Kuroda, Andy Pettitte, Phil Hughes and Ivan Nova make for a strong rotation. David Phelps can provide spot starts when needed as well. Mariano Rivera will look to end his storied career on a high note, and the rest of the Yankees' bullpen is solid. But it's simply not enough to overtake a retooled Blue Jays roster.

**Tampa Bay Rays (86-76)**  
After five straight winning seasons, the Rays can no longer be counted out. Despite the loss of both James Shields and Wade Davis, the Rays' pitching staff will be strong once again. Cy Young Award-winning David Price leads a rotation that includes Jeremy Hellickson, Matt Moore, Jeff Niemann, Alex Cobb and Chris Archer. Closer Fernando Rodney will look to duplicate his magical 2012 season, supported by a solid supporting cast in the bullpen. The biggest question remains to be the offense. Wil Myers will likely start the season in Triple-A, and Evan Longoria will need to stay healthy throughout the year. First base (James Loney) and catcher (Jose Molina) remain black holes offensively.

**Baltimore Orioles (85-77)**  
After their first post-season appearance in 15 years, the Orioles did little to upgrade their roster this offseason. Much of the O's success last year came in one-run games (29-9) and extra-inning affairs (16-2). The likelihood of that happening again is slim.

**Boston Red Sox (75-87)**  
The Red Sox made several changes after their worst regular-season record since 1965. Still, question marks abound. Can David Ortiz remain healthy after missing nearly the entire second half last year? Can Jonny Gomes be an everyday left fielder? Will Mike Napoli be healthy and productive for the entire season? Can newcomer Shane Victorino help spark the offense near the top of the order? New manager John Farrell will also be asked to turn around a pitching staff that finished with the third-worst ERA in the American League last season. Improvements will be made, but not nearly enough to compete in the AL East.

### AL Central

**Detroit Tigers (90-72)**  
The Tigers will be looking for their third consecutive AL Central title in 2013, and they'll have no problem reaching that goal. The offense returns intact, strengthened by the addition of right fielder Torii Hunter and the return of designated hitter Victor Martinez. Anchored by Prince Fielder and Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera, it will be the best offense in the division. A rotation featuring Justin Verlander, Max Scherzer, Doug Fister and Anibal Sanchez is among the best in the American League. This is a team built to win now. The Tigers are primed to make another World Series run.

**Kansas City Royals (85-77)**  
The Royals have had one winning season in the 21st century. They'll add to that total in 2013. The addition of James Shields and Ervin Santana vastly improves the starting rotation. Jeremy Guthrie seems to have found his comfort level in Kansas City as well. The bullpen is one of the team's great strengths. Anthony Castrovine of MLB.com recently ranked it as the 10th-best bullpen in baseball. If youngsters Mike Moustakas and Eric Hosmer can live up to their potential, the offense has a chance to be solid. The Royals will put together a winning season, but they will still fall short of the postseason.

**Cleveland Indians (81-81)**  
The Cleveland Indians should see improvement over last year's 68-94 finish, but a complete turnaround is definitely a reach. Brett Myers and Trevor Bauer help to upgrade a rotation that was woeful in 2012. Nick Swisher, Mark Reynolds and Drew Stubbs could provide help offensively as well. But the Tribe still has far too many questions concerning its pitching to truly be considered a contender.

**Chicago White Sox (77-85)**  
Much like the Baltimore Orioles, the White Sox did little this off-season to upgrade their roster. Jeff Keppinger was signed to replace the departed Kevin Youkilis, but no other major pieces were acquired. John Danks is making his return from surgery to arthroscopically repair a capsular tear in his left shoulder. The bullpen is steady but not spectacular. It ranked eighth in the American League with a 3.75 ERA last year. Offensively, Adam Dunn and Alex Rios need to continue their resurgence, with both putting up far better numbers last season than in 2011. Paul Konerko will again be expected to carry a full load again at age 37. The White Sox remain a team with question marks at catcher and second base, and they don't have much depth.

**Minnesota Twins (68-94)**  
The Twins may have made some strides in an attempt to upgrade their starting rotation, but they paid a heavy price. Gone are Denard Span and Ben Revere, two solid outfield contributors last year. In their place are the unproven Darin Mastroianni and Chris Parmelee. The rotation now features Scott Diamond, Vance Worley, Kevin Correia, Liam Hendriks, Cole DeVries and Brian Duensing. Mike Pelfrey could help at some point after returning from Tommy John surgery. The rotation was the worst in the American League last season. While the additions may help, they won't help enough to get the Twins out of the AL Central cellar.

### AL West

**Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim (95-67)**  
It's likely that Angels owner Arte Moreno is still feeling the sting of a disappointing 2012 finish. He assuaged that sting by acquiring one of the best sluggers in baseball. Adding Josh Hamilton to a lineup that already boasts Mike Trout, Albert Pujols and Mark Trumbo gives the Angels more than a fighting chance in 2013. General manager Jerry Dipoto also added Ryan Madson and Sean Burnett to fortify the bullpen. The biggest question mark concerns the rotation. Can the Angels win with Tommy Hanson, Joe Blanton and Jason Vargas supporting Jered Weaver and C.J. Wilson? My guess is yes.

**Oakland Athletics (91-71)**  
The A's will be good once again in 2013, proving that last year's magical season was no fluke. Chris Young, John Jaso and Jed Lowrie have been added to give a boost to the offense, and Japanese shortstop Hiroyuki Nakajima will try his luck on American soil for the first time. The pitching staff remains largely intact, and it ranked second in the American League with a 3.48 staff ERA last season. But it simply won't be enough to match the firepower of the Angels.

**Texas Rangers (83-79)**  
The back end of the Rangers' rotation is still up in the air entering spring training. Matt Harrison, Yu Darvish, Derek Holland and Alexi Ogando are locks. Martin Perez will get a long look this spring, and Colby Lewis and Neftali Feliz won't be available for at least the first two months of the season. The bullpen took a hit with the loss of Mike Adams and Koji Uehara. The losses of Josh Hamilton, Mike Napoli and Michael Young will be a lot to make up for on offense as well. Mike Olt and Jurickson Profar could be pleasant surprises offensively in 2013, but the Rangers simply lost too much to keep up with both the A's and Angels in 2013.

**Seattle Mariners (78-84)**  
The Seattle Mariners came to an agreement with ace Felix Hernandez, a contract of seven years and \$175 million. It makes Hernandez the richest pitcher in MLB history. But the Mariners will be in trouble next season regardless. Kendrys Morales, Michael Morse, Jason Bay and Raul Ibanez were all brought in to help a sagging offense. They will help, but not nearly enough. The Mariners' rotation beyond Hernandez has question marks. Hisashi Iwakuma will move into the No. 2 slot following the departure of Jason Vargas. Blake Beavan has shown flashes, but inconsistent would best describe his 2012 season. Erasmo Ramirez and Hector Noesi round out the rotation. Young pitching prospects Danny Hultzen, Taijuan Walker and James Paxton are likely still at least a year away.

**Houston Astros (51-111)**  
The Astros start life anew in the American League West. It figures to be a rough beginning. They will sport a payroll of roughly \$25 million, the lowest in baseball in years. New manager Bo Porter is being given an offense that will struggle to score and a pitching staff that will struggle to prevent runs. In a division that's gotten much more competitive, that doesn't bode well at all.



# National League

## NL EAST

### Washington Nationals (99-63)

The Washington Nationals return a team vastly similar to last year's NL East-winning squad. The only significant changes are Denard Span in center field and Dan Haren replacing Edwin Jackson in the rotation. Newly acquired Rafael Soriano makes the Nats' bullpen a potent weapon in the late innings as well. The Atlanta Braves will attempt to give the Nationals a run for their money. However, they'll fall well short.

### Atlanta Braves (92-70)

The addition of the Upton brothers—B.J. and Justin—will give Braves fans plenty to cheer about in 2013. Their offense will certainly benefit as well. A terrific bullpen and solid rotation also will bolster the Braves' chances. It just won't be enough to finish ahead of the powerful Nationals, although it's likely enough to earn the Braves another postseason berth.

### Philadelphia Phillies (86-76)

The Phillies return with a starting trio—Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee and Cole Hamels—that is still considered among the best in baseball. The bullpen was fortified with the addition of Mike Adams as well. Chase Utley and Ryan Howard will be heavily counted on to remain healthy and continue to power the Phillies' offense. However, catcher Carlos Ruiz has been suspended for the first 25 games and left field remains a major question mark.

### New York Mets (64-98)

The trade that sent R.A. Dickey to the Toronto Blue Jays may have been a smart move for the future, but it did nothing for the present. The Mets' rotation was considerably weakened by it. The outfield can best be described as anemic, with Kirk Nieuwenhuis, Mike Baxter, Lucas Duda, Jordany Valdespin, and Collin Cowgill all vying to contribute in some way. Travis d'Arnaud, Matt Harvey and Zack Wheeler could all impact the big club in some way in 2013, but not nearly enough to save the season.

### Miami Marlins (58-104)

The good news for Marlins fans is that Giancarlo Stanton will still be fun to watch. The rest of the team could be an unmitigated disaster. First-year manager Mike Redmond will trot out an assortment of washed-up veterans (Juan Pierre, Placido Polanco) along with completely unproven youngsters (Rob Brantly, Adeiny Hechavarria). Redmond will turn prematurely gray by the time his first season is complete.

## NL Central

### Cincinnati Reds (92-70)

The Reds return with a team that will finally have a legitimate lead-off hitter. Shin-Soo Choo should help at the top of the order. Todd Frazier will have an everyday job at third base as well. Ryan Ludwick will be asked to provide protection for Joey Votto in the middle of the order. The rotation will sport a different look, with south-paw flame-thrower Aroldis Chapman joining righties Johnny Cueto, Mat Latos, Bronson Arroyo and Homer Bailey. Mike Leake will likely move to the bullpen. Whether the 2013 rotation can be as durable as last year's version remains to be seen.

### St. Louis Cardinals (86-76)

The starting rotation took a serious hit with the news that Chris Carpenter likely won't pitch in 2013. Joe Kelly and Shelby Miller will be asked to pick up the slack. Joe Strauss of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch tweeted last month that the Cards don't have much interest in bringing back Kyle Lohse. Offensively, the Cardinals will be hoping that Rafael Furcal's health can hold out for another year and that Matt Carpenter and Allen Craig can provide sparks as well. Without Carpenter, it's not a rotation that can keep up with the Reds in the NL Central.

### Milwaukee Brewers (78-84)

Beyond Yovani Gallardo in the starting rotation, the Brewers will feature only one other starter (Marco Estrada) who threw more than 130 innings last season. The Brewers have the offense, but it may be way too much to expect an inexperienced rotation to deliver the Brewers a postseason berth.

### Pittsburgh Pirates (78-84)

I don't like the Pirates' chances of ending their 20-year streak of losing seasons, let alone compete for a division title. A.J. Burnett and Wandy Rodriguez should be solid at the top of the rotation. James McDonald was horrible in the second half last season (3-5, 7.52 ERA in 12 starts) and Jeff Karstens has had trouble staying healthy for the past two seasons. The bullpen has undergone transition as well. Jason Grilli will replace Joel Hanrahan as closer and Mark Melancon will compete for the setup role; yes, the same Melancon who posted a 6.20 ERA in 41 games last season for the Boston Red Sox.

### Chicago Cubs (68-94)

The Cubs will continue to take baby steps in their improvement. A seven-win jump likely won't offer much hope to long-suffering Cubs fans, however.

## NL WEST

### Los Angeles Dodgers (92-70)

The Dodgers and Giants will fight it out in a way reminiscent of the 1950s and early 1960s when the teams were regularly perched atop the National League standings. After spending somewhere in the neighbourhood of a half-billion dollars since last July, the Dodgers will see the postseason, and much to the chagrin of Giants fans, it'll be as NL West division champion.

### San Francisco Giants (90-72)

The above prediction doesn't suggest regression by the Giants. It simply suggests stiffer competition. The Los Angeles Dodgers will be breathing down their necks all season, and will pass them in late September. The Giants return a team largely intact. Considering the results last season, that's hardly a bad thing.

### Arizona Diamondbacks (82-80)

The NL West will likely see three teams finish as also-rans. The Diamondbacks made a bevy of moves this off-season, but I'm not convinced they made them better at all. Cliff Pennington and the unproven Didi Gregorius are the options at shortstop. Pennington's bat is impotent and Gregorius has yet to show he can hit at the major-league level. The loss of Chris Young and Justin Upton from the offense will hurt as well. Newcomer Cody Ross will pick up some of the slack. If Brandon McCarthy can avoid the shoulder issues that have plagued him in recent years, he'll provide stability to the rotation. Heath Bell was added to serve as a setup man for closer J.J. Putz. If the 2012 version of Bell appears, the Diamondbacks' bullpen will have issues.

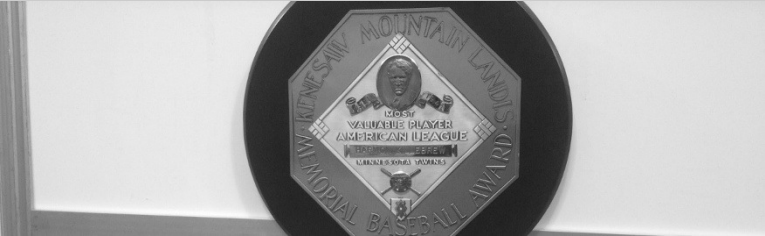
### San Diego Padres (72-90)

With new ownership in place, the Padres set out to make improvements on a team that was 10 games above .500 in its final 100 games last season. Wait a minute. They made no upgrades whatsoever, unless you consider signing aging veteran pitchers Freddy Garcia and Jason Marquis such a move. Padres starters posted a 4.44 ERA in 2012, fourth worst in the National League. Now that the fences have been brought in at Petco Park, don't expect their ERA to take a precipitous jump.

### Colorado Rockies (63-99)

Much like the Padres, Rockies' management sat on their hands this offseason. Reliever Wilton Lopez represented the biggest acquisition of the winter. The Rockies return a pitching staff that was by far the worst in baseball last season. They're hoping that Jorge De La Rosa, Juan Nicasio and Jhoulys Chacin can return to full health, but considering their track records, that's a lot to ask. Todd Helton underwent hip surgery in August and knee surgery in November. He'll be asked to return to form at age 39. Oh yeah, and his DUI arrest won't be a distraction, either. Hey, Rockies fans—at least Jeff Francis is back.

# Award Winners



## American League Cy Young Award:

Felix Hernandez (P, Seattle Mariners)

## American League Rookie of the Year:

Jurickson Profar (SS, Texas Rangers)

## American League Comeback Player of the Year:

Victor Martinez (C, Detroit Tigers)

## American League Batting Champion:

Robinson Cano (2B, New York Yankees)

## American League Manager of the Year:

Ned Yost (Kansas City Royals)

National League MVP: Joey Votto (1B, Cincinnati Reds)

## National League Cy Young Award: Clayton Kershaw

(P, Los Angeles Dodgers)

## National League Rookie of the Year: Adam Eaton

(OF, Arizona Diamondbacks)

## National League Comeback Player of the Year: Troy

Tulowitzki (SS, Colorado Rockies)

National League Batting Champion: Ryan Braun (OF, Milwaukee Brewers)

National League Manager of the Year: Don Mattingly (Los Angeles Dodgers)

With all that said, here are my predictions for the 2013 World Series: the L.A. Angels will defeat the Blue Jays in the ALCS (sorry guys, a World Series is a little bit much in my opinion). The Nationals will beat out the Dodgers in a heated NLCS. A World Series slugfest will occur between sophomore leads Mike Trout and Bryce Harper, but the Nationals will prevail in a game seven brawl, giving the NL their fourth straight World Series title.







## And the Oscar goes to...



**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!** Despite the questionable choice of host, the glitz and glam of the Oscars never fails to impress. Congratulations to all the winners!

With the Oscars taking place fairly recently, did you miss all the drama?

**BY LAUREN MALYK**  
ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

// Good evening everyone, welcome to the Oscars and the quest to make Tommy Lee Jones laugh, begins now!" said a charming Seth McFarlane as he started off the show. McFarlane had never hosted the Oscar's before and is known for being the creator of family sitcoms like Family Guy and American Dad. The general theme of the night was to celebrate musical melodies within films, while the Oscars also commemorated over 50 years of James Bond. McFarlane looked to be a mediocre host at first, in comparison to the many outstanding hosts the Oscar's have had. However after starting out the show on such a memorable note, he jumped into some offensive jokes that referenced Mel Gibson's

voicemails as well as Chris Brown and his better half, Rihanna.

The confusing but fun part of the show was when James T. Kirk dropped down from the ceiling on a screen, from the future, to stop McFarlane from being the worst host ever. His claim to the title of 'worst host ever' was due to a series of skits (which the captain of the enterprise showed him) like the "we saw your boobs" song, his reenactment of the movie 'Flight' with sock puppets, and McFarlane offending, then later running away, with Sally Field. Swiftly, McFarlane tried to change the future by doing a bunch of musical numbers like singing "Just the Way You Look Tonight" while Charlize Theron and Channing Tatum danced behind him. McFarlane was also dancing and singing with Daniel Radcliffe and Joseph Gordon-Levit. Finally, for being the host with the most repetitious performance of a version of "Be Our Guest" especially tailored to the Oscars. The highlight of the

night was witnessing the winners. Best Actor went to Daniel Day-Lewis and the award of Best Actress went to Jennifer Lawrence. Best Supporting Actor went to Christoph Waltz and Anne Hathaway won Best Supporting Actress. Best Original Screen-Play went to the brilliant Quentin Tarantino, while Best Foreign Language film was awarded to the critically acclaimed Amour. Then the two last awards were for Best Director, which went to Ang Lee on his work for Life Of Pi and lastly, Best Picture went to Argo. Some of the exceptional movies that were nominated for Best Picture and many other awards for the year (or that kept showing up in most categories) include: Django Unchained, Life of Pi, Zero Dark Thirty, Argo, Les Miserables, Skyfall, and Silver Linings Playbook. A tie took place for only one category that night, between Skyfall and Zero Dark Thirty as they both won for Best Sound Editing.

As for the performances,

Shirley Bassy presented a song for the Bond memorial, and performed the "Goldfinger" theme song. Her voice was strong, clear and deep and she looked as magnificent as ever in a gold ball gown. Another Bond singer came out singing the hit "Skyfall" and it was none other than Adele. The British singer looked lovely and contrasted the gold colours Shirley wore earlier with a smoky, shimmering grey dress. One fairly shocking piece of news that occurred during the night was the official Oscar museum being opened in the near future. Also, the cast of Les Miserables came out to sing a medley of all of the songs from the Oscar nominated movie. The song seemed at first like too many tunes over lapping but quickly changed into a medley with interesting dynamics and depth. There was also a performance by Catherine Zeta Jones from Chicago where she sung "All that Jazz" and there was a number from the award-winning

Dreamgirls star Jennifer Hudson, as she sung "Stay".

Overall, to comment on Seth McFarlane as a host of such a prestigious award ceremony, he was mediocre. The audience expected more shocking content from this racy, energetic and young comedian. As for the award winners, no one was shocked that Argo won best picture due to its thriller like plot, striking visuals and amazing actors. As for the other big winners of the night like Django Unchained, Life of Pi, Zero Dark Thirty, Argo, Les Miserables and Silver Linings Playbook, audiences around the world had expected them to win and congratulated them for their amazing success - these were the movies to watch this year.

The James Bond tribute definitely "made" the night with its fantastic presenters and performances, stealing the show from all of the other stars. With this year's Oscars ending on a low note, what will next year have in store

# The fourth wall Would you do it?

A study on one of the most interesting techniques used in various entertainment media.

BY DANNY ROMM  
DEPUTY OPINION EDITOR

One of the most startling tools available to various media forms today is actually carried down from 19<sup>th</sup> century theatre. Incredibly powerful, the breaking of the 'fourth wall' is used everywhere- from film to T.V. to books to even video games. When done correctly, it can be utilized for humour, to create metafiction, and to create a wonderful sense of interaction between the audience and the media itself. In most theatre, there are three walls that made up the set- the back, the left side, and the right side. In order for the audience to get a glimpse of the story, the fourth wall, facing the audience, isn't present. Replacing the fourth wall is the imaginary boundary between audience and theatre. Two centuries ago, the idea of breaking the fourth wall and speaking, or referencing the viewers or the show itself directly became popularized, and that tradition still carries on today.

Starring James Spader and William Shatner, *Boston Legal* is a legal dramatic comedy which is particularly notorious for crossing this imaginary boundary. Used sparingly in the first three seasons, *Boston Legal* became, according to critic Ken Tucker: "giddily self-referential". In one episode Denny Crane (William Shatner) remarks that the legal case he is taking on is "no fun," and Alan Shore (James Spader) replies: "consider it your Emmy episode."

In another episode, Carl Sack (John Larroquette) is appearing in front of a court and proclaims that "The only show on TV with starring roles over 50 is Bo- well, I can't say the rest...it'll break that wall." The Bo- obviously refers to *Boston Legal* (which does star roles over 50). Not only does he break the fourth wall, he refers to himself breaking the fourth wall. Self-self-referential. This line is one the most exceptional uses of this technique in television.

*Boston Legal* is great with breaking the fourth wall for comedy, but later in the series they use it to criticise their own network provider. When news that the show was being dropped came out, creator David E. Kelly incorporated criticism of the network into the show regularly, casually and subtly (but with humour) accusing them of being apathetic, and not interested in the best interests of the show, but only of their business.

*The Truman Show* is a primary example of metafiction in film (contrary to the title, it is a movie).



**TO ADDRESS ONESELF** Shows such as *Boston Legal* are known for referring to their own existence.

Metafiction is closely related to breaking the fourth wall; it is a type of fiction, which knowingly addresses itself as a work of fiction. Metafiction is when a work of fiction breaks down the fourth wall and publically acknowledges itself.

The *Truman Show* is a movie about a television series starring Truman Burbank. The show has been running Truman's whole life, with hidden cameras following him since birth. He lives in a simulated reality, where everyone is an actor, but himself. Truman is completely unaware that he lives in a constructed reality created by Christof, the show's creator within the movie. Your confusion reveals the nature of metafiction- it is often a fiction within a fiction.

Metafiction in *The Truman Show*'s main objective is to make the reader question their own sense of reality. Are you yourself in *The Truman Show*? Is everyone you know a paid actor, entertaining your sense of reality? It truly makes you question your idea of what is real, and that's why metafiction is so powerful.

The idea of the fourth wall itself is referenced in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, a novel which features a dystopian society centered on senseless media. The citizens in this dystopia are made stupid by the drivel of media, made into people who talk, but talk about nothing. Most people have an 'entertainment/media center,' an entire room where most of the walls are television screens. The main character's wife in encompassed in their media center, which has three walls filled with screens. His wife, throughout the book, is dead set on getting a 'fourth wall,' another screen for their media center.

The fourth wall in *Fahrenheit 451* becomes symbolic of shutting out the real world, of being so utterly immersed in media that you become part of it. The fourth wall is reality, and her desire to obtain a fourth wall is parallel with her desire to shut out the real world. Ray Bradbury's inclusion of the fourth wall becomes ever more potent as media gains more ground in our modern world. We've all had that feeling after spending a day watching T.V. or being on the computer where the whole day passed by with us doing absolutely nothing. We are constantly becoming so totally engulfed by media, it turns into reality.

The breaking of the fourth wall really is a brilliant tool; it can be humorous, thought-provoking, powerful, and can completely link media to reality. For example, if a writer for the entertainment section of a newspaper commented in an article their awareness of the article, and directly referred to themselves, the reader could understand that an article isn't just an article- it is a touch of reality.



**YOU ARE THE PROTAGONIST** Given the circumstances, what choice would you make?

Sometimes, life does imitate art...

BY RACHEL LEVITT  
ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

Movies are notorious for their un-realistic scenarios. People often scoff at them; however neglect to take into consideration their own reaction in the given situation. Here are some of the most out there movie decisions of all time. What would you do?

**Would you spend one night cheating on your partner for one million dollars?**

In the film, *Indecent Proposal*, a millionaire offers a married couple one million dollars in exchange for one night with the wife of the pair. Upon first instinct the answer is a flat out no, however the couple begin to think otherwise when the man tells them to keep in mind, "the night would come and go, but the money would last a lifetime."

**Pros**

It is only one night and therefore you are only having sex with this individual once. Your partner trusts that there will be no further feelings or communication after the fact. Besides, you and your other half will be swimming in cash and able to live comfortably in a lavish mansion complete with a pool, Jacuzzi and personal masseuse.

**Cons**

It is very likely your partner would begin to wonder if you enjoyed sleeping with someone else. It is also very possible that you did. Your partner would always worry that you were comparing them to the third party or even worse, preferred the person you had slept with that one night. From there, a risk of suspicion is very high. Your partner begins wondering if you are seeing the other person behind their back, because you connected on a level beyond intercourse that night. Suddenly your relationship is in tatters with the one million dollars divided in half.

**So would you do it?**

Ultimately, the issue is not the act of sex so much as the emotions tied to it. The fear that a night of romance and intimacy could possibly involve greater physical or emotional pleasure, is gut wrenching for the partner. Realistically speaking, if you did have a

significant connection with this other person you probably would not tell your partner. Trust or no trust, emotions are beyond the control of any of us. Would you basically sell trust, loyalty, integrity and love for one million dollars? That probably sounded worse than it is, but really, that is exactly what it is.

**Would you fall in love with someone sixty years older than you?**

In the classic film, *Harold and Maude*, nineteen year old Harold falls in love with a seventy nine year old, Maude.

**Pros**

Given that you are a legal age, this cannot be considered paedophilia. Age is just a number and if you click with someone, you click. We will all be wrinkly one day, so may as well look past physical appearance and accept it. Or perhaps you find wrinkles as attractive as some people find swim suit models, but hey, no one's judging...

**Cons**

Society shuns deviant behaviour, meaning you as a couple would have trouble fitting in. Also, take into consideration that they are much older than you and therefore have less time left on this earth. The precious time you spend in this inevitably short relationship, will be heart wrenching, and for most, too hard to bear.

**So would you do it?**

If looks, age, society and a short term relationship are okay with you; then what's the problem? "It is just wrong or gross" or any other synonym of those words is not an answer.

**Would you ask out someone who is out of your league and who you hardly know?**

In the eighties flick *Say Anything*, a geeky boy randomly calls up the most popular girl in school, his long-term crush, someone he hardly knows; and asks her to go out with him.

**Pros**

Everyone says that they are out of your league, but if you learn one thing from movies, let it be: leagues do not matter. The protagonist always gets the unattainable, and that's how life works right? You have been incredibly, heart thumpingly, madly infatuated with the same person for ages; you have hardly talked to them, but have gotten to know them from

afar. Asking them out is just what you want to do.

**Cons**

In life, out of your league often means what it says. How many inter-group couples exist at our school? About as many as there is food left by lunch c. Taking risks and putting yourself out there is just too much of an effort. In life, the only time anyone really wants to be called up by a random person and asked on a date, is when the person is the object of their lust. If you do not fall under the category of god or goddess, then you will most likely be stuck in the "psycho stalker" zone (an admittedly undesirable place).

**So would you do it?**

Would you disregard the basic "getting to know you" steps and skip directly to going on a date? To some it may seem extreme, but to others the gutsiness is extremely attractive and flattering. Whether or not letting leagues dictate you is your decision, keep in mind that not a lot of people are going to induce that giddy, teenage crush feeling in you.

**Would you erase someone from your memory?**

In *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* the two protagonists undergo a surgery to erase one another from their memories.

**Pros**

You do not have to even think about that person who has caused you so much pain, or even remember what that pain is. It is completely wiped out of your memory and you are free to live in ignorant bliss.

**Cons**

Both the good and bad memories are what shape us into the people we are today. You cannot learn from yours or the mistakes of others if you cannot remember.

**So would you do it?**

You cannot possibly know what you are missing if you cannot remember it. Whether you can be content living a lie is up to you.

If Shakespeare wrote screenplays instead of stage plays he probably would have said, 'All the world's a film.' It is true that we are all characters in a bigger story, weaving in and out of people's lives, sometimes blending into the background and sometimes being the star. For each choice we make, every path has one thousand different outcomes.



# Grave of the Fireflies

A review of one of the saddest movies of all time.

BY ISAAC TAM  
ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

*Grave of the Fireflies* is an animated tragedy directed by Isao Takahata, and produced by Studio Ghibli, the animation studio that brought us other animated Japanese classics such as *Castle in the Sky* and *Spirited Away*. The movie is based on a semi-autobiographical novel by Asiyuki Nosaka. Heart-wrenching and emotionally painful, this movie is, to put it simply, one of the most important and humanistic movies ever made, animated or not.

The film begins after the Japanese surrender to the Americans in World War II. With the war over, many are left devastated and homeless as Japan begins to rebuild itself. Orphans are left on the streets to die of starvation. The story follows that of Seita, a 14-year-old boy, who dies in the opening scene of the movie at a subway station. That night, the janitors of the subway station rummage through his belongings, seeing that he is dead, and find a candy tin filled with ashes and bones. Not knowing what to do with it, they throw it outside the station into a grassy field. Almost immediately, the field becomes illuminated by thousands of fireflies, rising up from the grass, and in the centre emerges the spirit of a girl, no older than 2 and a well-dressed Seita. The spirit of the two take a train out to the country, happily enjoying each other's company while looking back on the city as American planes drop firebombs on the city of Kobe, a flashback to the start of the war.

This touching scene introduces us to the relationship between Seita and Setsuko, his sister, the little girl, and the inevitable ending to the story. From this one scene alone, we are already given a glimpse as to the joy this movie can offer, as well as the despair and heartbreak that will soon follow. The only question left is what events or tragedies have led to this sad ending.

The movie then resumes at the chronological beginning of the storyline, the start of the war as American planes drop firebombs onto the city of Kobe. Seita, Setsu-



**NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART** Takahata's *Grave of The Fireflies* will leave you in tears.

ko and their mother flee from the fires that have erupted in their neighbourhood, towards the bomb shelter for protection. The children and their mother are separated along the way but are reunited again at the local elementary school. However, the mother has suffered injuries from the fire and dies soon after. So soon, Seita is thrust into the harsh realities of the war, having to provide and protect his sister while his father is away fighting in the navy, as well as hiding the death of their mother from Setsuko.

Without giving away too much of the plot afterwards, the two siblings are sent to live with their cruel, nationalistic aunt, who would rather have them living on the streets than consume the food that she has worked for, thus commencing the downfall of the children.

What I really enjoyed about this movie is how little things happen, but with each thing that *does* happen, it is powerful, raw and unfortunately true. This movie helps to make one realize the horrors of war, and the means by which many victims of the war needed to survive, as well as the evils that drove people to insanity and death.

As the title of the movie suggests, fireflies are a very important symbol to the meaning and understanding of the movie. One of the scenes in the movie involves

the two siblings capturing fireflies and releasing them into the confines of a shelter in which they lived in. Gently and beautifully, the fireflies flew and illuminated the dark, a magical moment for the siblings as well as the viewer. However, the next morning, Setsuko digs a grave and begins burying the fireflies that had died overnight, due to their confinement within the shelter. Painfully, Setsuko begins to cry and says to Seita, "Why do fireflies die so young?"

The realization and significance of this statement comes crashing down like a wave. Like the fireflies, Setsuko and Seita's lives are ended prematurely, and tragically. But in those few months of their lives, they shone the brightest and most endearingly as they struggled to stay together and survive a world of selfishness, greed and anger. We also see that it was the confinement of the fireflies that led to their demise, reflecting the confines that were placed on the children from the very beginning: being good citizens, serving the country, living without a mother or father and surviving with only their companionship and love.

The pacing of the film was extremely well done at being able to submerge us into the world of Setsuko and Seita, and then bringing us back to reflect on what just happened. There are these pauses

in the film that the Japanese call "pillow shots" that help cushion the viewer after an intensely emotional and important scene. For example, you might have a few transition shots of them playing with each other or cooking dinner. These pauses are extremely important for the film as it allows the viewer to process the full impact or significance of the previous scene as well as immersing us into the environment that the siblings lived in. Sometimes it is not what happens from the previous scene that makes us cry, but the reflection and timing of the story that reduces us to tears.

The animation of the film was also very noteworthy. Though it lacks the detail and overall quality of animation that Disney or Pixar would set later on, the style still endears today as being gritty and powerful. Watching the film, you will observe that the characters do a lot of crying, but it seems that many Western animated films are too afraid to show realistic crying, by not showing the pain felt by the characters. Not with *Grave of the Fireflies*. The attention to the faces of the characters when crying makes it feel genuine and real, yet raw and strongly emotional.

*Grave of the Fireflies* not only pays close attention to the animation but also to the character development. Seita is given this huge task of taking care of his sister and having to do whatever he needs to

help the two of them survive. He resorts to stealing food and supplies from others and you see the moral struggle that arises, even if it is for benefit his sister and himself. Ultimately, it is his decisions that lead to the unfortunate downfall of the children. However, it is Setsuko that was the most wonderfully animated and depicted. Being a 2-year-old girl, she is vulnerable and cannot do anything that her older brother can, having to depend on him for survival. The relationship that builds between the viewer and Setsuko grows as the movie goes on, but as her innocence is taken away from events occurring in the movie, you die a little inside. With extreme honesty, she expresses her feelings and with unmarked courage, she perseveres alongside her brother, who she believes can get them out of their situation. It is only too unfair and tragic that she meets her end, her light extinguished like a firefly.

Certainly, the last scene of the movie was one of the saddest I have ever seen. Heart-wrenching and tragic, yet beautiful, it will reduce all but the stone-hearted to tears. This five minute sequence is done in the simplest and most pure way, to reflect the innocence of the children and to bring a close to one of the saddest movies of all time. After wiping away those tears, I would recommend you rewind to the beginning for another tear-inducing moment. Like I said to my sister who was watching with me: "This story's so beautiful."

Be warned, this is a movie not to be watched for the faint of heart or if you are having a bad day already. I cried so much after watching this movie. Watch this during the evening so that it doesn't ruin your day. I thought *Forrest Gump* was sad, but that is nothing compared to *Grave of the Fireflies*. Unlike most sad movies, there is almost no glimpse of hope that is felt in the end of the film. It is pure sadness. However, I can honestly say that it brought me closer to my siblings and has made me a better person in that way. No longer will you hate your brother and sister, as this film demonstrates the fragility and temporariness of human life. Roger Ebert puts it so eloquently as, "an emotional experience so powerful that it forces a rethinking of animation."

# The dangers of overhype

What happens when a game doesn't meet the expectations of the players?

BY JOEY KLEIN  
ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

Overhype. It's something that plagues all medias, fandoms, and interests including literature, and film. It's when something new is coming out: a book, a movie, a game, an album. Something new or highly anticipated. It is announced and the fans of said book, movie? They go nuts over it, causing unreachable expectations for the creator.

But there is nothing wrong with getting excited or having high expectations; as long as something both addresses flaws with the previous incarnation and improves on those flaws, and delivers everything that was promised by the creator everything should be fine.

One example of overhyping is *Duke Nukem: Forever*. For those unfamiliar, let me fill you in: *Duke Nukem: Forever* was announced in 1997 and released in 2011. That's 15 years in development. The game kept getting delayed and eventually faded out of memory and in 2009; the studio working on the game was shut down.

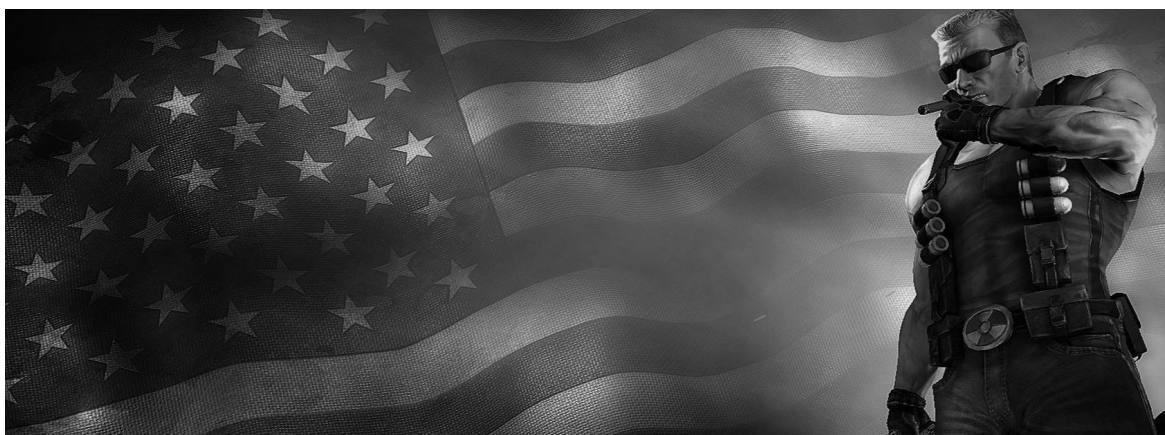
A year later, it was announced that Gearbox Software, famous for the *Borderlands* franchise, picked up the project that would be released a year later. Eventually, it was released. The game received terrible reviews, sold poorly, and is regarded as one of the biggest video game flops in the last decade. The funny thing is that as I was watching the trailers and browsing anticipation threads online, many comments stated how the game was to be "the best game ever," or the "game of the decade". The *Duke Nukem* fran-

chise was never known for its ground-breaking innovations, or storyline; it was only a comical first-person shooter with a protagonist who spewed cheesy one-liners. I've talked to fans who've told me that everything that should be in a Duke game was there. Yes the game had some

optimization flaws, but overall, if it hadn't been so overhyped, maybe it wouldn't be considered such a tragedy.

Even though the game came out 2 years ago, we can still learn from it. It's a classic example of the dangers of overhyping. Some new project was announced, eve-

ryone set it on a pedestal even before it was released and were disappointed when it failed to meet their standards. From now on whenever I go see a new movie, listen to a new album or play a new game, I'll go into it with low expectations. That way if it's decent, I'll be surprised.



**TOO MUCH PRESSURE** Pressure on *Duke Nukem: Forever* only lead to disappointment.

# #NOLIMIT for TSS Alumni

Shayne Smith isn't your ordinary young adult. This Thornhill graduate was diagnosed with meningococcal septicemia at four months old, leaving him with less than a 2% chance of surviving. Beating the odds, Smith came in on February 27 and 28 to speak to Thornhill students, inspiring and encouraging them to pursue their dreams. Smith has overcome drug abuse and the aftermath of his illness to become one of the youngest players in history to join the Canadian Junior National Wheelchair Basketball Team, become a Paralympic athlete, and meet the Queen. Students tweeted about his impactful message following the assemblies.



## Ask Vlad

The Eye of the Tiger is back again, with another edition of our famous advice column. Vlad Boshoe here to answer any of your questions. This issue, it's all about the snappy one-liners that can change your life. If you have any questions that you would like answered, check out our Facebook page or send us a message at [eyeofthetigerchiefs@gmail.com](mailto:eyeofthetigerchiefs@gmail.com).

**BY VLAD BOSHOER**  
COLUMNIST



**Q: Why should I care what people think? Sincerely, does-anyone**

**A:** Because if you don't, nobody will like you. Period. Although trying to balance societal standards with your own is like throwing your diaries at chimpanzees and hoping they understand your pain.

**Q: Is it even possible to fall in love? Really? Thanks, skeptical-towards-affection**

**A:** You clearly haven't met me in person.

**Q: As a grade 12 student, how do I choose where to go next? Thanks, too-many-choices**

**A:** It depends on how much you care about the level of "huh, so I guess he/she is not such a bore after all" your future employers will be musing as they boringly skim your resume.

**Q: Why does 9gag even exist??? Sincerely, not-amused**

**A:** Did you know they started that whole #cutforbieber trend? And the rumor that Skrillex died? What a putrid cesspool it is.

**Q: I can't stop procrastinating help! Love, what-am-I-doing**

**A:** I am currently answering this question at 1:08 am of March 18th. This article was due March 13th. Join the club.

**Q: How to woo a female of this species? Thanks, not-a-master-of-wooing**

**A:** If you rub your forewings together, you produce a loud, raspy sound that instantly attracts any females nearby. Once they are close, you change the sound to a softer one so the female feels at ease and is ready to mate. You're a cicada, right?

**Q: How do I start my own cult? Sincerely, ambitious-soon-to-be-cult-leader**

**A:** You have to start by going back to the 8th grade. Then it's just painfully easy.

**Q: To delete Facebook, yes or no? Thanks, not-a-fan-of-FB**

**A:** And spare yourself the absolute pleasure of finding out what university that one guy you don't know got accepted to, or how that one annoying loud girl got her second abortion? You know you want it.

**Q: Who's the most beautiful girl in the school? Sincerely, truly-curious**

**A:** Ms. Swan. Duh.

## Congratulations, Model UN!

Congratulations to Thornhill's Model UN team for winning the "Best Small Delegation" Award at their very first conference! Everyone worked hard to prepare for the discussion of global issues in the role of their country delegation. Members experienced the atmosphere of international negotiations and collaborated to resolve problems at UTMUN. David Bryckine, Crystal Chen, and Chris Lee won Best Position Paper awards in each of their committees. Thank you to everyone on the team for their efforts and involvement!



**ROLE MODELS** These talented students role-play as diplomats for a country to deliberate solutions to global issues.



CROSSWORD

**Across**

1. Cherrie's centers  
5. Grocery sacks  
9. Competed in the Indy 500  
14. Reverberate  
15. Skin cream ingredient  
16. Pleasant scent  
17. Fly high  
18. Lion sound  
19. Honeydew or cantaloupe  
20. Pungent garden plant  
22. Brief letter  
23. Marsh stalk  
24. Idolizes  
26. Fish-egg appetizer  
29. Behavioral pattern  
31. Assist, as a criminal  
32. Desert haven  
33. Courtroom prosecutors: Abbr.  
36. Tempting fate  
40. Snakelike fish  
41. Coat with a hood  
42. One of the Great Lakes  
43. Residences  
44. "Arabian Nights" ruler  
46. Scrape roughly  
49. Sunrise direction  
50. Extended family  
51. Hollywood headliner  
56. Repairs  
58. Tied, as a score  
59. Assistant  
60. American national bird  
61. Deposited in the mailbox  
62. Envelope back  
63. Clay-pigeon sport  
64. Picnic pests  
65. Shade trees

**Down**

1. Money in Mexico  
2. Computer-screen image  
3. Spicy Asian cuisine  
4. College club for women  
5. Hair cutter  
6. Audibly  
7. Hockey score  
8. Belgrade resident  
9. Lamb's dad  
10. "Am too!" reply  
11. Use crayons  
12. Overdo it on stage  
13. Copenhagen natives  
21. Teachers' org.  
24. Just \_\_\_ (slightly)  
25. Dinner plate  
26. Part of Superman's costume  
27. Competent  
28. Cutlet meat  
29. Birds of prey  
30. Pakistan's continent  
32. Storybook master  
33. Garden soil  
34. Operatic song  
35. Observed  
37. Digital music player  
38. Birth-certificate entry  
39. Wasn't worried about danger  
43. Take care of  
44. Virtuous people  
45. Take advantage of  
46. Mountaintops  
47. Not very promising  
48. Mountain group  
49. Important happening  
51. Butte relative  
52. Baking appliance  
53. Cash drawer  
54. Man in Eden  
55. Sales agents, for short  
57. Full collection

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.

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

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

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

ADVERTISEMENTS

Eye of the Tiger is always looking for new staff members! If you are interested in writing, taking pictures, helping fundraise, or even make the actual layout of our next issue, contact [eyeofthetigerchiefs@gmail.com](mailto:eyeofthetigerchiefs@gmail.com) or listen to the announcements for details of our next writers' meeting!

Join us and make your voice heard!

Eye of the Tiger is an award-winning school newspaper that reaches 2000 students, parents and members of the community each issue. To advertise with us, please contact:

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