

DO WE EVEN CARE ABOUT ELIZABETH MAY?

Another political leader visits Brandon University. Will Harper himself be next?

KATIE DRIEDGER, SENIOR REPORTER

ELIZABETH MAY SAT on a chair in the hallway of the Health Studies Building on Wednesday, October 9th, almost unrecognizable as a Member of Parliament and indistinguishable as a leader of a national electoral party, as she asked Michael Juce, a Brandon University student and President of the Politics Society, to help her connect to the Wi-Fi.

Ms. May came into the Ceremony Room chatting with Economics Professor Dr. Joe Dolecki while seats still sat empty throughout the circular room. She took a seat in an empty front row chair and set down her laptop bag. It would have been easy for an observer to mistake Ms. May for a professor or a member of the community.

When Ms. May did move to the podium, her confidence, experience, and timely sense of humor captivated the audience. She spoke on the topic of "Living

on this Planet as Though We Intended to Stay: Sustainability in the 21st Century", guiding spectators through the ins and

tant for current and future generations. Ms. May spoke of the environmental and ecological consequences of our



Elizabeth May speaking at BU. Photo credit Katie Driedger.

summarized in a quote by Herman Daly: "The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment." In her words, this means that "We're not going to have any economy if we wipe out the host entity, the environment."

There were plenty of seats and lots of standing room available for the sixty-or seventy-some people who came to listen to Ms. May, certainly different from the throngs that gathered to see Justin Trudeau.

Having a political party leader in Brandon might seem like an everyday occasion for some, after Mr. Trudeau made his unprecedented third visit to the city in 2013 on Thursday, October 10th. It is safe to say that Ms. May's first visit to Brandon University was not even close to resembling the spectacle surrounding Trudeau's first two visits to campus. It was almost an afterthought that Green Party of Canada Leader Elizabeth May was planning to speak — continued on page 5

outs of why maintaining Earth is important for current and future generations. Ms. May spoke of the environmentally-based decisions, which she

BRANDON-SOURIS BY-ELECTION SLATE SET

All the candidates are finally chosen: now the fight begins

KATIE DRIEDGER, SENIOR REPORTER

THE ELECTION MAY not yet be called, but the four-party slate is set for the Brandon-Souris by-election.

The Liberals elected media executive Rolf Dinsdale as their candidate, in what may be their biggest push for leadership in Brandon-Souris ever. Dinsdale defeated Killarney-Turtle Mountain Mayor Rick Pauls at the Liberal nomination meeting on Wednesday, October 9th. Pauls had previously announced his intention to run as an independent.

Liberal Party of Canada Leader Justin Trudeau was in Brandon on Thursday, October 10th to meet with Dinsdale. This was Trudeau's third visit to Brandon this year, following speaking engagements at Brandon University on January 31st and September 24th.

The Green Party elected David Neufeld, a greenhouse owner, as their respective candidate at their nomination meeting on Wednesday, October 9th.

Neufeld bested Lynwood Walker, a help desk receptionist at Assiniboine



Photo credit, Adam Russell/Flickr.

Community College. Former Green Party nomination candidate Layne Tepleski, an inspector with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, was forced to step aside from the nomination. Green Party of Canada Leader Elizabeth May was in

attendance for the nomination meeting, as part of a day-long visit in Brandon. MP May visited Brandon University to give a talk on "Living on this Planet as Though We Intended to Stay: Sustainability in the 21st Century", which was followed by a question and answer session. MP May spoke at a fundraiser luncheon at Lady of the Lake, in addition to giving a talk on "Saving Democracy from Politics" at a town hall meeting at Park Community Centre.

Cory Szczepanski, the President of the Brandon Labour Council, was elected as the NDP candidate.

Arthur-Virden MLA Larry Maguire was appointed as the Conservative Party candidate.

No other candidates have been announced. §

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Correction from Oct. 1st: Merv Tweed was not the Minister of Agriculture, but the Chairperson of Agriculture and Agri-food.

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The Quill

ANDREAS SOUVALIOTIS VISITS BU

Alum shares stories of life in Greece and eco-entrepreneurship

ROLAND LIWANAG

ANDREAS SOUVALIOTIS, Brandon University alumnus, visited his alma mater last Monday, October 7th. He talked about his early life as a "misfit" child who grew up with an unusual gift in math but with certain orientations which were unacceptable in his country of Greece at the time. At the age of five, he was on Greek TV, accurately calculating the specific day of the week on which a certain date would fall 40 or 50 years in the future.

He also spoke about his many serendipitous experiences in his new life in Canada, as well as his roller-coaster ride to becoming one of our country's very successful eco-entrepreneurs. In attendance were students and faculty of Brandon University as well as high school students from around Brandon. A free copy of his memoir was given to all present. §

ACC RES STUDENTS CHOOSE FEES

Would you like to opt out of some fees?

CARISSA TAYLOR, SENIOR REPORTER

ACCORDING TO A POST on BU's Facebook page for residence students, Assiniboine Community College (ACC) students living in residence can now use the Healthy Living Centre (HLC) for the same rate as BU students – only they get to choose whether or not to be members.

Since January 2013, students have

been charged a mandatory membership fee for the HLC. This year, that fee is \$35.60 per term to a maximum of \$71.20 per year. ACC students in residence can choose whether they want to be members of the HLC for one term or both terms.

Many students at Brandon University complained about the mandatory member-

ship fee once it was charged. The rationale from Brandon University's administration was that the only way to keep the fee low was to not allow students to opt out. §

U OF M FACULTY VOTE IN FAVOUR OF STRIKE

Strike brewing at the U of M. Begin hoarding canned goods

CARISSA TAYLOR, SENIOR REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA Faculty Association (UMFA) have voted to strike with 68% of the 820 members of UMFA voting in favour of strike. UMFA represents over 1200 members. The vote took place between October 7th to 9th.

According to a response on UMFA's

website, the most important issue for them is their academic freedom. They would like the inclusion of language in their Collective Agreement to protect them from criticizing the University. They have also expressed concern over the control the University wants to have, arguing that faculty councils should instead have the final say on certain matters.

The University of Manitoba has proposed and 8.9% salary increase over four years, but UMFA would like to see a two year contract with 5.8% salary increases over those two years. UMFA said their greater problem financially is that the current proposal would see lump sum increases only go to some members. §

CITIZENS ON PATROL PROGRAM

COPPs helping Cops, making our streets safer

ROLAND LIWANAG

ON OCTOBER 6TH, the Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP) of Brandon held a training session for COPP volunteers at the Brandon City Police Headquarters on Victoria Avenue. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Ralph Warman, a military retiree and the current chairperson of the volunteer group. Upon conclusion, volunteers were given the opportunity to patrol the city for an hour as on-the-job training.

COPP is a multi-award-winning volunteer project that assists the Brandon Police Department as its eyes and ears. They made their mark during the massive flooding of years past, and were highly commended by the local police department and the city government. Its members also include BU students. §



Mr. Ralph Warman speaking to students Photo credit Roland Liwanag.

YOUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Universities support freedom of expression, except sometimes not

CARISSA TAYLOR, SENIOR REPORTER

WITH THE RECENT PROPOSAL OF a new Bill, the Charter of Quebec Values, freedom of speech has been a hot-button issue for many Canadians. Universities are not immune from this discussion.

In many ways, universities provide an interesting microcosm of society. Opinions are often much stronger on campus among young educated people who have not yet had to temper their views. Universities are interesting in that they toe the line between being self-regulating universities and public institutions; though universities in Manitoba are primarily government-funded, they still make most of their governance decisions internally. Universities have a responsibility to ensure a safe learning environment for their students, but to what degree can or should they censor information?

The proposed Charter of Quebec Values seeks to limit the display of religious symbols and/or clothing that public employees are able to display. The proposed Charter has been controversial among both citizens and politicians of left and right-wing political parties since its proposal. It seeks to create a homogenized society which seems to be in opposition with the rest of Canada's pride in being a mosaic of people. Many religions

have strict rules about religious attire. In theory, if this Charter was adopted, it could limit career choices of those who remain true to their religion. When speaking with Radio-Canada, NDP MP Francois Pilon said that, "If a person wants to keep their headscarf, well there are other careers that she can pursue, it's up to her to decide". Some public institutions such as hospitals and universities can choose to opt-out of the proposed Charter's requirements, though this will almost certainly cause issues for them.

Saint Mary's University was under fire this September after a video surfaced of student leaders chanting. Some called the chant sexist. Others called it a rape chant. You decide: "SMU boys we like them YOUNG! Y is for your sister. O is for oh so tight. U is for underage. N is for no consent. G is for grab that ass". The administration of Saint Mary's University responded to the media by pleading ignorance. They did not know the chant had been happening for years, apparently, even though other students and alumni said otherwise. The University of British Columbia also found itself in hot water after the same chant happened on the other side of the country.

Recently, the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (JCCF), a right-leaning organization that purports to "defend

the constitutional freedoms of Canadians through litigation and education", released their annual Campus Freedom Index. In this index, JCCF rates both universities and their students' unions on both policies and practices in dealing with issues surrounding freedom of speech. In this index, the Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU) received a failing grade in their practices surrounding freedom of speech.

The sole cause of this failing grade was BUSU's denial of club status for the pro-life group, Brandon University Students for Life (BUSL). This year, BUSL was given club status following a threat to sue from the JCCF. JCCF has also recently threatened to sue the University of Manitoba Students' Union following their discussion about whether to de-fund their pro-life group after a graphic pro-life display was on campus.

In all of these three examples, the exercise or restriction of freedom of speech has been highly controversial. All three of these examples also illustrate the effects that freedom of speech can have within a university context; staff within universities may have to change the way they dress in Quebec, inappropriate chants and can be triggering, and the pro-life movement uses freedom of speech to target a woman's legal right to have an abortion. Uni-

versities have an obligation to ensure that it provides a safe learning environment for students, but the limits of this are unclear. Universities should be a place of open communication, where students are free to discuss radical ideas.

That being said, universities, and by extension, student unions, have no obligation to fund groups. They should have the ability to choose to spend their money as they like, though that does not prevent groups from enacting their freedom of speech. Confusing the two is problematic.

The distinction between public universities and the government was made clearer in a ruling from Alberta's Court of Queen's Bench in 2012. The court case surrounded two students who had created a group on a social media network criticizing a professor. The judge in the case, Justice Jo'Anne Strekaf, stated in her ruling that "I cannot accept that expression in the form of criticism of one's professor must be restricted in order to accomplish the objective of maintaining an appropriate learning environment".

This ruling would seem to set a precedent stating that universities cannot restrict freedom of speech in favour of paternal protection of students. So there you have it. Say whatever you want to at Brandon University. §

ASTRONAUT CHRIS HADFIELD LANDS JOB AT U OF WATERLOO

Our guitar-strumming eye in the sky heads to ground level to teach

H. G. WATSON, THE CORD (WLU)

WATERLOO (CUP) — Famed Canadian astronaut Commander Chris Hadfield gets to add a new line to his already exten-

sive resume this fall: professor.

The University of Waterloo (U of W) confirmed today that Hadfield has joined the faculty as an adjunct professor of aviation, cross-appointed to the faculties of

environment, science and applied health sciences, through August 2016.

"This is an amazing opportunity for students to have access to his career experience and knowledge," said Ian McKenzie, director of aviation programs at U of W. "He has tremendous enthusiasm for engaging students in learning."

Commander Hadfield has become an international celebrity after tweets and videos taken during his 5 month long stint on the International Space Station (ISS) went viral. Since returning to Earth he has embarked on several educational tours and has a book, *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*, coming out this fall.

The deal to bring U of W alumni Hadfield to the aviation department took shape after Hadfield announced his retirement from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) earlier this year. McKenzie explained that Hadfield's long standing relationship with the university and the surrounding community were driving forces in bringing him to the school.

"He was actually here in 1982 as a NSERC post-graduate in mechanical engineering," McKenzie said.

Hadfield was also married in Waterloo and his first son was born here in 1983. Over the years he has given several

lectures on campus, including a downlink from the ISS in February of this year. Because of his current schedule, U of W officials expect that Hadfield will only have limited time on campus until the fall 2014 semester. Once here, his role will be a mix of research, advising and teaching within the university's Bachelor of Environmental Studies and Bachelor of Science programs in aviation. Aviation students at the university also take practical flight lessons at the Waterloo Wellington Flight Centre as part of their degree requirements.

"[He] has flown over 70 aircrafts," said McKenzie. "With Chris's practical experience with flight and as a pilot this will be a great asset for our students."

Prior to joining the CSA, Hadfield was a Royal Canadian Air Force pilot and test piloted several experimental aircraft in both Canada and the US. §

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BUSU BY-ELECTION REFERENDUM

Decisions on your health and dental coverage

KATIE DRIEDGER, SENIOR REPORTER

DO YOU CARE about your health and dental plan coverage, or that other students are foregoing health insurance because it's too expensive? Whatever your preference, you'll have the chance to make your voice heard this November.

Brandon University students will be asked two referendum questions about the Greenshield Health and Dental Plan in the upcoming Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU) by-election when polls open on November 4th and 5th.

The question on the first ballot reads "Are you in favour of BUSU lowering the amount of credit hours needed to automatically be enrolled into the health and dental plan from 9 credit hours per term down to a minimum of 6 credit hours per term?"

The question on the second ballot reads "Are you in favour of increasing the cost of the health and dental plan by 3% yearly in order to accommodate inflation rates?"

All full-time students are currently enrolled automatically in the health and dental plan at \$250 per year, whereas students registered for less than 18 credit hours during the regular sessions (fall and winter) are not automatically enrolled in the health and dental plan. They may, however, choose to opt-in to the health and dental plan, but at a higher rate of \$375 per year.

Part-time students accounted for slightly less than 61% of the student population in 2012-13. Of the nearly 2000 part-time students, only 10 decided to opt into the health and dental plan.

BUSU Part-Time/Mature Commissioner Krystal Kayne believes that all university students should have equal access to offered services. Kayne stated, "Right now, there are [part-time] students who are in desperate need of an affordable health plan and this plan is not affordable to them. Students have asked for help and we have listened, but now we need everyone's help to get this passed."

Part-time students that have opted in to the health and dental plan receive the exact same coverage received by full-time students, but at a price increase of 150%. It is used to offset the costs of the students that opt into the plan and use it to a greater extent. It is also considered to be "a cost recovery for all parties involved in the administering of the Health and Dental Plan," stated BUSU Vice-President Internal Matthew May.

Lowering the minimum required course credit hours for full-time status under the health and dental plan does not only affect part-time students, as detailed by May. "If students only register for

classes one semester at a time, they run the risk of not being recognized as "Full-Time Students" and won't be enrolled into the plan, because the system sees these students as being enrolled in less than 18 credit hours for the regular session. These students are then forced to opt into the plan," said May.

Theoretically, then, if a student was registered for fifteen course credit hours in the fall semester and did not register for winter courses until October, they would be considered part-time students because they missed this year's cut-off date of September 20th.

Lowering the minimum credit hours for automatic enrolment in the health and dental plan would also enable BUSU to "negotiate a much more comprehensive plan for all students enrolled into the plan, full time or part time, through our strength in numbers," stated May. "The reason we are able to keep our plan at such a low cost compared to other health insurance plans on the market is due to the bulk-buy concept of everyone purchasing into the plan as a collective in order to keep costs as low as possible."

The second referendum question proposed in the referendum would raise the health and dental plan by a basic interest rate of 3% annually, which means that the plan would increase from \$250 in 2013-14 to \$257.50 in 2014-15, and to \$265.23 in 2015-16.

The interest rate is correlated with inflation rates for the health and dental plan, which has previously resulted to cuts to the coverage offered for students. "This year, BUSU was forced to cut the vision care benefit from \$150 every 24 months to \$125 every 24 months," said May. "In the year previous, paramedical coverage was reduced from \$50 a visit to a maximum of \$200, down to \$30 a visit to a maximum of \$180"

"Paying for health and dental coverage and then losing benefits each year is not beneficial to the student or their wallets," stated Kayne. "For [...] cheaper than a hamburger, students are able to maintain their current plan. Next year, we can see how else we can make the plan even better for students while maintaining its' accessibility and affordability."

The renegotiations for the health and dental plan would be done through the health plan administrator company, Morneau Shepell, who then negotiates with plan provider Greenshield to find reasonable changes to the plan coverage and then present various options to the BUSU council, who then make the final decision annually.

Students can show their support or dissent for the changes to the health and dental plan by voting for the referendum questions when polls open. §

MEIRA COOK CHARMS BU

Meira Cook descends upon BU with fire and blood

HOLLY KALYNIUK

IMMIGRATING TO A foreign country is filled with struggle, and the story South African native Méira Cook is no different. From her Canadian experience, however, Cook began to write.

On October 8th, South African-born poet and novelist Méira Cook charmed students and faculty at Brandon University. Reading excerpts from her acclaimed novel *The House on Sugarbush Road* (2012), and portions of her poetry collection *A Walker in the City* (2011) later in the afternoon, she shared tales of her time spent

her literary voice and find her passion within the "flat, white blankness" of Canadian landscape, which she compared to a white blank page.

Unable to continue as a journalist and shocked by the cold and culture of the country, Cook said, "[I] tried to read myself into being Canadian." Forced to forge a new identity for herself, Cook began writing poetry, something she still can't understand to this day. First publishing a collection of poetry, a genre she accredited as being her "first passionate attachment," she would later write in many genres, including journalism and literary criticism. All of her



Meira Cook. Photo credit U of M.

in Canada and abroad, as well as insights into her inspiration behind writing.

Although Cook, now in her late forties, immigrated to Canada in her mid-twenties, she still considers herself to be an immigrant. Growing up in South Africa, she lived in an artsy urban area where she worked as a journalist and arts reviewer. In spite of the political turmoil plaguing the country at the time, Cook passionately described the cultured atmosphere as providing a "thriving, tough, wonderful life" for its inhabitants. This environment powerfully influenced Cook, who later incorporated several aspects of it into her literature. However, it wasn't until she left her comfort zone and immigrated to Canada that she was able to write fiction.

Cook was initially overpowered by her new environment. "I was very shy, very shocked," soft-spoken Cook said. Unable to understand Canadian English for the first two years, she would practice her Canadian accent every night at 6:00 by listening to Peter Mansbridge. Only once she'd left the country was she able to find

work had a Canadian focus, except *The House on Sugarbush Road*, a novel she couldn't have even contemplated starting or completing in her native country.

Chronicling the life of a black domestic worker living in South Africa in 1994 in the aftermath of the country's first democratic election, *The House on Sugarbush Road* subject matter was referred to as a taboo of sorts. She had always pondered the perception of domestic workers, given the custom was practiced by everyone she knew when she was younger, but the "difficult, emotional" topic was one from which people shied away. Inspiration for the novel was based on an "angry, drudgy" voice Cook "heard" one day, and we're all more than glad she listened.

Cook's literature is available for purchase at Campus Books, including both books from which she read. §

DO WE EVEN CARE ABOUT ELIZABETH MAY?

Continued from front page

at the university.

Ms. May is not the child of a former prime minister, or the spouse of a celebrity news television show host; Dr. Dolecki did not compare her to the Beatles when he introduced her to the assembled group of attentive listeners, choosing instead to tell the story of how their friendship came about. Her visit went practically unnoticed, receiving no press coverage, save a single photograph in the Brandon Sun. Although this was her second of three appearances in Brandon that day, there was no big fuss about her visit to campus.

This isn't the first time that Ms. May's media coverage has been lacking. One of Ms. May's priorities when she was first elected a member of parliament in 2011 was to revive the All-Party Women's Caucus. The caucus held a press conference to explain their position against MP Stephen Woodworth's motion to revisit the scientific definition of when life begins. Ms. May reiterated her frustration, stating "I suppose if any of us had stood up and said that we wanted to get rid of a women's right to legal abortion, we would have gotten a lot of coverage. I guess it is just predictable that women across all party lines are going to want protect the right to a safe and legal abortion."

However, and perhaps surprisingly, Ms. May says that she does not believe gender is a factor in her political career, with the exceptions of social media and

media coverage. "Media coverage will be ridiculous and talk about what I am wearing at a leader's debate, as opposed to what I said at the leader's debate," said Ms. May. "I don't find a lot of sexism day-to-day and I'm not looking for it, which helps."

The event on-campus began at 2:40 pm, which is not exactly prime time for individuals with work, school, or family priorities. May did attend two other events that day, however: a fundraising luncheon and an evening town hall, with the luncheon drawing 40 people and the town hall meeting drawing between 60 and 70 people respectively.

Maybe people didn't care so much about MP May because she is the leader and sole member of the Green Party in the Canadian Parliament. The Green Party carries only 1 out of 308 seats in parliament, equivalent to 0.32% of its total membership.

Or perhaps the electoral system could be at fault. The Green Party of Canada captured 3.91% of the popular vote in the 2011 federal election. If Canada practiced a proportional representation electoral system, it would have resulted in 12 seats for the Green Party in parliament. MP May has stated that a change to the electoral system is necessary, suggesting that Canada should hold a referendum to let Canadians decide on whether they would like to change the electoral system

from single-member plurality (first-past-the-post).

The platform and environmental policies of the Green Party are not harmful to their success, as many other politicians and political parties have adapted the Greens' science-based environmental approaches.

Ms. May knows that the Green Party is not going to dominate politics. She does know that her role is to influence other political parties and people around Canada. "The chances of us forming a majority government are extremely small, but our role in politics in Canada is to get the system to work right for everybody," said Ms. May. "Add a few Greens to the mix, someone said to me once, [and it's] like cooking with saffron, you'll find that it affects everything."

Ms. May fielded varying questions from the audience, including questions on her peers' perception and gratitude towards the Green Party's environmental concerns, her views on the alleged chemical trails being sprayed over cities and rural areas, and electoral systems that could replace the first-past-the-post



Elizabeth May speaking at BU. Photo credit Katie Driedger.

electoral system.

Ms. May also received a glowing commendation from Political Science Professor Dr. Meir Serfaty, who called Ms. May a "breath of fresh air", compared her to an academic, and praised her personality, style, and moderation, as well as her belief in participatory democracy. Serfaty also asked Ms. May about the grassroots and educational endeavours of the Green Party.

Ms. May also took questions on jobs and youth unemployment, housing and childcare, her own personal experience as a women in Canadian politics, the transportation of natural resources across Canada, and taxation under a Green Party majority government.

Two of the four leaders of national political parties represented in Canadian Parliament have visited Brandon University in 2013. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, visited campus on March 19th, 2010 to announce the federal government's support for the building of the Healthy Living Centre. New Democratic Party (NDP) Leader Thomas Mulcair has yet to visit Brandon University.

This event was sponsored by the Department of Economics, the Department of Political Science, and the Political Science Club. It was open to students, staff, faculty, as well as members of the general public. §

A LITTLE SMALL A BUSINESS DRAGON BY: DAKOTA BICKLMEIER



COMMENT ON
THESE STORIES
AND MORE AT
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REVIEW: COFFEE CULTURE: NOT JUST A CAFÉ

All the caffeine fix you need...

SHELBY STEELE

I STARTED WORKING at Coffee Culture not so long ago, and I think it's a pretty nice place to be. With its super-comfy décor (including a fireplace!), it's a great place to meet up with friends, relax with a hot beverage, grab some lunch or supper, indulge in delicious treats, or even to study for class.

The coffee selection is wide but standard, with a few specialties like freddocinos (blended iced drinks with espresso, flavor shots and ice cream base). Coffee Culture stocks a house blend, a dark blend, fair trade organic, and decaf – and if you like your gourmet drinks, you can get lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, espresso, and Americanos. Also available are hot chocolate, specialty teas, or a cold drink – like a fruit chiller or an iced coffee. Various sandwiches, wraps, breakfast sandwiches, salads, and soups are available to sate that mid-study snack craving.

Do you have a sweet tooth? You're totally covered! Coffee Culture keeps their baking showcase full of cheesecakes, muffins, pastries, cookies, and brownies. You can even get ice cream!

It's hard to run a business anywhere,

and Brandon is no more of a cakewalk than anywhere else. The owners, Lori and Pat Versavel, have taken on a difficult, but certainly rewarding, journey. I sat down with Lori to ask her some questions.

The Quill: Where are you from and what made you decide to take on such a great challenge?

Lori Versavel: I'm originally from Winnipeg and moved here in 1989. I was retired for 6 years but I love people and food. Actually two friends and myself wanted to go for coffee at a nice place, and sit on the patio. My friend, who is from Ontario, said if she was in Ontario then she would go to Coffee Culture. That is how I heard about it. I think I was ready to do something else, and when I looked at the concept I just knew it was really special.

TQ: Why did you pick Brandon to open a business?

LV: Because it's my home. I've lived here longer than anywhere else I have lived.

TQ: You have attracted a wide range of guests. What would you say makes your café so special?

LV: The décor, and the music – and what really makes it special is the customer ser-

vice. I think [we] have really exceptional customer service and exceptional staff.

TQ: I heard on the grapevine that the café recently won an award. What exactly was that for?

LV: We won an award for the highest average cheque (in Coffee Culture stores), in all of Canada, per customer. This means that the customers come in and not only get coffee; they get something to go with it. They get a sandwich, or a salad or soup to go with it. It's a café award, but it's really a staff award, because they have driven that award. What is extraordinary is that the award is for the period of June to August and we have only been open since July 12th.

TQ: Will gift cards be available for purchase in the near future?

LV: Absolutely, really soon!

TQ: What can customers expect in the future? Are there any new promotions?

LV: We have some menu changes coming, with some new sandwiches, in November. We've got some other new promotions coming in the new year that I have to keep a secret. We also have Christmas specials coming as well.

Coffee Culture is located on the corner of 1st Street and Victoria. If you haven't checked it out yet, I suggest you do so. You might just become a regular customer! §

Have you got a favourite spot in town – a high-end restaurant, a greasy spoon, a quaint coffee shop? Let us know at eic@thequill.ca, and we'll send someone to take a latte for the team and check it out!

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ADDRESSING EQUALITY WITHOUT MINIMIZING IMPORTANCE

Motive is Irrelevant

ALEX MURRAY, ASSISTANT EDITOR IN CHIEF

IF YOU WERE at the Take Back the Night event a few weeks ago, you likely heard or saw a man named Bill Baker. He was protesting a perceived lack of focus on violence against men.

Since Take Back the Night is specifically geared towards awareness of violence against women, it was not a great venue or audience for his message. According to those in attendance, he was

“in the interest of fairness, should we not focus on violence done to any person, regardless of gender?...”

disrespectful and soured the experience for many people there.

Before the event, Mr. Baker petitioned the Women's Collective to let him give a small speech at Take Back the Night.

Unfortunately, the speakers had already been booked for the event and there was no more room. The Women's Collective informed Mr. Baker that he would not be able to give a speech, and he decided to protest this by going anyway.

However, Mr. Baker's message may not be entirely incorrect: in the interest of fairness, should we not focus on violence done to any person, regardless of gender? This is especially important in considering violence towards people who do not self-identify within the gender binary. Acceptance of all victims of violence and abuse should be the standard towards which we push.

Violence against women is terrible! This is not something to be doubted or ignored – and neither is violence against men. Does this mean there should be a separate Take Back the Night for men? Probably not: it would be redundant, for one, and the issues surrounding violence against men do not entirely

overlap the issues surrounding violence against women. Men's rights groups are not only pushing for men to take responsibility for their past and present violence against others, but they are also fighting

the stigma of coming forward as a victim.

Perhaps next year Bill will put in his request to speak at Take Back the Night a little earlier. Given the purpose of the event, it is doubtful he will succeed. However, a more diplomatic – and arguably more effective – route would be to invite one of the people from the Men's Resource Centre in Winnipeg to give a talk. Gender issues should be a conversation that we can all participate in, in an appropriate setting, with respect for everyone's experiences and place on the spectrum.

Regardless of gender, if you need help, please do not hesitate to reach

out. The BU Women's Collective can be reached at womenscollective@busu.ca, and the Men's Resource Centre in Winnipeg can be reached at 1-855-MRC-MRCS or by email at mrc@mens-resource-centre.ca. §

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTRE MATERIAL DRIVE

Tuesday, October 15th to Saturday, November 16th.

Brandon Youth for Life is accepting donations such as formula, diapers, baby and maternity clothing (new or gently-used), and any other baby items used within the first year of life. Donated items can be dropped off at the following locations:



Sobeys West-End (3409 Victoria Ave.)
Weekday: 7:00am - 11:00pm
Saturday 7:00am - 11:00pm
Sunday 9:00am - 6:00pm

Super Thrifty Pharmacy (1100 Richmond Ave.)
Weekday: 9:00am - 6:00pm Closed November 11th
Saturday: 9:00pm - 5:00pm

St. Augustine's Parish (327-4th Street)
8:30am - 12:00pm 12:30pm - 4:00pm

Bethel Christian Assembly (440 Richmond Ave.)
Weekday 8:00am - 4:00pm

NOTE: The last day for collection at Bethel Christian Assembly will be Friday, November 15th.



On November 16th, BYL will be having a Family Activity Day for people of all ages, held at St. Augustine's Parish Square. The event will be from 2:00pm - 4:00pm, and will include children's activities, snacks, and all items that have been donated for the Baby Needs Drive will be on display. Any last minute items can be dropped off that afternoon. Everyone is welcome to attend!
For more information, please contact brandonyouth4life@live.ca



brandon
Youth Life

AN UGLY MESS

Wherein no one comes out smelling like roses.

ALEX MURRAY, ASSISTANT EDITOR IN CHIEF

LAST WEEK, THE Campus Freedom Index was published and circulated, in which the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (JCCF), gave the Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU) an F.

Why, you ask? Good question. The report claims to rate students' freedom of speech relating to their student union's practices. Along with several other student unions, BUSU received the second-worst rating. This rating also affected the JCCF's rating of University Practices, claiming that the administration did nothing to stop BUSU's perceived restrictions on freedom of speech: BU's University Practices rating was a D.

The question now becomes what ex-

actly BUSU and the BU administration did, or did not do, in order to receive these low ratings. It appears that these ratings were largely caused by the issues surrounding the Brandon University Students for Life group.

In the past four years, this group has applied for club status several times. Until this year, they had been rejected by BUSU on various grounds, the justification for those grounds being more than enough for several articles, most of which The Quill has already covered. Mostly, BUSU was concerned that Students for Life would offend people on campus with particularly graphic pictures or demonstrations. So far, nothing of the sort has occurred.

Students for Life eventually brought a lawyer in to help argue their case, the

controversy reached the ears of the JCCF, who drafted a letter to BUSU arguing for their club status, and BUSU granted the pro-life group club status this year.

It is worth noting that the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms seems to be a fairly right-wing organization, mostly focused on freedom of expression and speech in various entities across Canada, frequently falling on the conservative side of the issues they defend. In regards to the Campus Freedom Index, most of the time a university receives a failing grade when dealing with these thorny issues, and it does not seem difficult to achieve an F. In some cases, the system used seems flawed and almost binary. There does not seem to be any redemption possible once a failing grade has been awarded.

There are three different university groups involved in the reasons for BU's low grades, and none of them escape looking like the bad guy, depending on whose side you stand. BUSU comes off as being in the wrong for denying Students for Life club status for several years. Students for Life ends up looking somewhat tarnished for taking the information to the JCCF. The JCCF simply appears extremely heavy-handed in its grading system, which may not even consider all issues equally.

Perhaps now that the Students for Life have received club status, we may be able to put this ugliness behind us. Merited or not, heavy-handed or not, just or not – the whole issue is messy no matter which way you look at it. §

FAMILY WEEK Forging Strong Families

ROLAND LIWANAG

THE CITY OF BRANDON celebrated National Family Week with a family event held last Sunday, October 6th, at Ecole New Era School on Louise Avenue.

A number of sponsors who supported the event surprised families with giveaways like backpacks and booster seats.

The final part of the program was a treat from Karlheinz, the BubbleMan, who made very creative soap bubbles that were a delight to the kids in attendance. National Family Week was started twenty years ago by Family Service Canada to foster strong families in order to build strong communities. §

FILM REVIEW: GRAVITY Space... the film frontier.

RICHARD WONG

WE'VE ALL BEEN there – dragged off to see a movie you've never heard of, after reading an online description and still thinking that it sounds terrible.

To this writer, that film was *Gravity*. Having been conditioned to only enjoy space films if they include lightsabers and daddy issues, the idea of watching some astronauts float for their survival around a satellite did not sound appealing. However, the movie is much more than what the trailers would have you believe.

Gravity is a masterpiece of cinematography and easily the most visually stunning movie to see in theatres since James Cameron's *Av-*

atar in 2009. Almost every shot is so well-thought-out and meticulously planned that it could have been an official movie poster for the film. The film uses reflection to perfection, often framing entire scenes around the use of it. Movie goers are in for a number of incredibly stunning long pan shots, aerial views of the Earth, and some really fantastic first person sequences. Somehow the audience is made to feel the vastness of space while simultaneously feeling claustrophobic. *Gravity* is also one of the few films that is worth every extra penny spent on the 3D experience.

The plot isn't particularly intricate. Basically: space (yes, space itself) is an asshole, and it never stops being an asshole no matter how much stuff it messes up. But the plot works well enough for the setting, and while the film is somewhat

short for a modern-day big-budget project, clocking in at just 91 minutes, it is a suspenseful thrill ride throughout.

George Clooney and Sandra Bullock star as the film's two main characters and both perform very well, especially Bullock. Director Alfonso Cuarón is no stranger to big budget movies (*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*) or out-of-this-world visuals (*Pan's Labyrinth*) and he is sure to see plenty of nominations for this film when awards season rolls around.

Gravity could be one of the most visually compelling experiences to sweep through theatres for quite some time. While it doesn't contain the most sophisticated plot, it uses it to the fullest creating a suspenseful and fun experience at the theatre which is easy to recommend. §



Family week at New Era Photo credit, Roland Liwanag

FINANCIAL CLASS

At Westman Immigrant Services

ROLAND LIWANAG

WESTMAN IMMIGRANT Services held the second part of a series of financial seminars last Saturday, October 5th, at the Westman Immigrant Services building on Pacific Avenue. The main speakers were Tyler Lane and Garrett Rea, both full-time students of Brandon University.

They spoke mainly about mortgages,

a fairly new concept to most of the immigrants in attendance. They were also assisted by Carolyn Munro, a mortgage expert from Dominion Lending Centres, who functioned as a resource person and consultant. The next seminar in the financial series will focus on credit and will be held on October 26th. §

CHECK OUT
THEQUILL.CA!

HOMECOMING SET FOR OCTOBER

Alumni... ASSEMBLE!

HOLLY KALYNIUK

FROM OCTOBER 18th to 20th, Brandon University will be booming with Homecoming 2013 festivities, with alumni from across the country attending.

"Since graduating in 1963, I have rarely missed a Homecoming," said Gerald Butler, organizer of the event.

Although Butler's class of 1963 is celebrating their 50th anniversary, filling this year's celebration with special significance for him, Homecoming is a highly-anticipated event for many BU graduates now scattered across the country. "We have RSVPs coming in from coast to coast," said BU Alumni Relations Officer Carla Eisler, including at least two alumni from the class of 1943, who are celebrating 70 years since graduating from Brandon College."

In addition to tours, class reunions,

and the unveiling this year of a Sports Wall of Fame in BU's Healthy Living Centre, there is a Farewell Brunch, including a chance for graduates to speak at an open mic, which Butler calls "an alumni favorite."

"It's not about seeing the buildings. It's about seeing the people," Butler said, who has also served on the Alumni Board and the BU Foundation. "Getting together is always a challenge, especially nowadays."

Featuring both on and off campus activities, the three-day event is open to all BU alumni, with special recognition for the classes of 1943, '53, '63, '73, '83, and 1988.

Information on events, accommodations and registration can be obtained at <http://www.brandonu.ca/homecoming/>. §

QUILL CLASSIFIEDS

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ASK MISS Q

Q:

Dear Miss Q,

I have a fear of public washrooms. What is an appropriate alternative? How can I fix this?

Sincerely,
Bathroom Shy

A:

Dear Bathroom Shy,

Firstly, it is important for you to know that phobias are real mental health problems, and there is no shame in suffering from one. If your phobia is not very severe, I would suggest confronting the anxiety surrounding public washrooms in as safe a manner as possible. Perhaps bringing hand sanitizer along will help, or baby wipes to clean the seat before you sit. Identifying the root of the anxiety is important, and that won't happen if you avoid the situation.

Also, a tip: most people choose the end stalls. You might be more comfortable in a middle one ... just a thought.

My best,
Miss Q

Do you have a question for Miss Q? Email it to us at missq@thequill.ca.

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Vinyl, CDs, posters, and more! 13th Annual Fall Record & Music Sale!
Sunday, October 20th, 1428 Louise Ave., 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.
Coffee and lunch available; bring a non-perishable food item.

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