

## On the street

We asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

**The Canadian penny has been officially phased out. What do you do with your pennies?**



**Nicole Mahoney, 23, social services,** "I'm a server so I've got change coming out of my pockets. I try to get rid of them."



**Evan Vance, 19, police foundations,** "I don't use them, I throw them on the ground. They're useless."



**Dan McDonald, 52, culinary arts,** "I own a business so we give them out as change or just roll them. I don't save pennies or anything like that."



**Taylor Mattice, 19, college prep program,** "I use them for absolutely nothing. I take them home and wait for some charity even that takes pennies."



**Jasmyn McCauley, 24, community and justice services worker,** "I give them all to my kids, I was going to put them in their bank account, now I don't know."



**Kate Copeman, 21, welding,** "They sit in a jar at home."

## Editorial

### Public facelift won't eliminate lack of transparency in Harper government

There's a new prime minister in town, or so you might think if you follow @pmharper on Twitter. Stephen Harper took his Twitter followers to work with him last Monday, tweeting images and videos under the hashtag #dayinthelife as Parliament resumed sitting.

There's little question that Canada's 22<sup>nd</sup> prime minister is undergoing a public relations facelift, and his increased activity on Twitter is telling. It's the lifting of the veil into the life of a prime minister who has been known as a guarded individual, especially with his private life.

The public got an inside glimpse as Harper had breakfast at his home at 24 Sussex Drive and travelled to Parliament Hill, following him through a working lunch and to meetings at his office at Langevin Block.

It's a measured move by a government that has proven to be more opaque than transparent over its seven-year tenure.

Certain things we know now: the prime minister spends much of his time in meetings, but perhaps even more on his own. He prefers a soft drink with his lunch, but takes a diet variety. He eats breakfast with his cat Stanley, gets a warm welcome home from his wife Laureen and chinchilla Charlie and his RCMP-chauffeured vehicle has little to no leg room.

The inside look is a move in the right direction, but #adayinthelife won't erase the blatant lack of transparency the Harper government has shown.

Canada's Auditor General Michael Ferguson slammed the Harper government in his April 2012 report that revealed that the government's F-35 fighter jet program would cost over \$25 billion over a 20-year lifespan. The program, a bid to replace the Canada's aging CF-18 Hornets, was announced as a \$9 billion expenditure over 20 years. Accounting firm KPMG's audit later pegged the costs at \$45.8 billion over a longer lifecycle of 42 years.

Ferguson's report indicated that the Department of National Defence continued to promote the \$9 billion price tag despite internal estimates that the costs were closer to \$25 billion. The government backed down on the purchase in December 2012 and is seeking new alternatives for the CF-18's replacement.

The prime minister is again under fire this week for spending over \$1 million to fly two armoured vehicles to India during his prime ministerial visit in November. The SUV and Cadillac limousine, both bearing Ontario license plates, rang up a total of \$1,061,448, including costs to ferry personnel and 48.5 hours of flight time in a Canadian Forces C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft.

Officials from the Prime Minister's Office and RCMP, who handle the prime minister's security detail, are characteristically tight-lipped, but the *Globe and Mail* reported that the Indian government confirmed that bulletproof Mercedes vehicles were available for Harper's use. Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard is reported to have used an Indian vehicle while touring the region in January.

Complaints over transparency are par for the course for the Harper government. For the third year in a row, the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression gave the federal government a failing grade on its report card on free expression in Canada, claiming that access to information is "marred by secrecy and delays." The May 2012 report adds that the government frequently stonewalls journalists and blocks scientists from promoting their findings in the media.

All of this is little comfort to Canadians, but at least we know all about Charlie the chinchilla.

Justin Tang

### Super Bowl becomes huge moneymaker

When was the last time you made \$3.75 million in 30 seconds?

Sunday's Super Bowl, featuring the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens, was one for the ages as advertising slots went for an average of \$3.75 million for 30 seconds of airtime. The overall estimated incomes from the commercials are \$263 million, with 70 ads over the course of the game.

The Super Bowl is more than just a football game. It's a moneymaker for all kinds of businesses, from bars, to merchandise, to hotels and gambling. Everyone can take advantage of such a huge event.

Why Canada doesn't thrive on a football league like the NFL is a question to be raised. With income from this year's 100<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup in Toronto being \$100 million for the local economy, you might think those are good numbers.

On the contrary, this year's Super Bowl was to bring in an estimated \$336 million for the city of New Orleans, which hosted the event.

With football being a stereotypically American game, the CFL lacks what the NFL has and that's a fan base. People have this preconceived notion that hockey is Canada's game and football is America's. If you go to a southern state in America, all you see during the winter is football and basketball, not hockey. If you come north of the border, all you see first thing in the morning on *Sportcentre* is hockey.

It's all about viewers. If people watch the game and take part in the festivities, there will be money to be made. In Canada's case, we just don't have the drive to watch football like we do for hockey. In the first two weeks of the CFL this year, not a single team had a sellout crowd, said Sun Media.

It's tough to compare the two leagues. The CFL only has four games a week and the NFL has 16 sometimes. With the league being way bigger, the market for the game is way better.

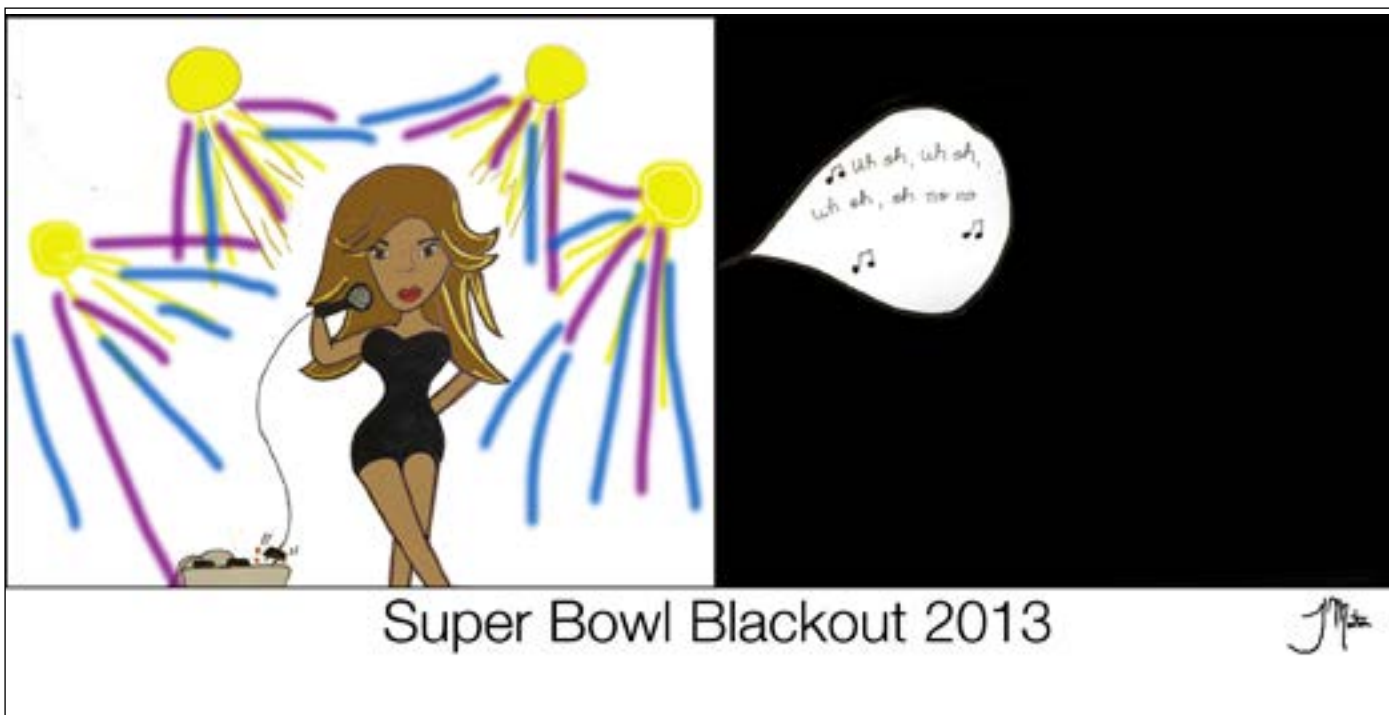
We've seen the collapse of the Ottawa Renegades in 2006 because of financial instability from lack of support and they are trying to rebuild for the 2013 season.

If Canada could get more cities on board, it might pan out to make a push for football in this country. However, with our population compared to America's, we don't have the fan base to have more teams.

If people in Ontario really want to watch football, they have two teams in southern Ontario and one in Montreal.

If Canada had more major cities like America, we might have a chance at making a go of the game of football in our country, but until people start to appreciate the game and the population goes up, it just doesn't seem likely.

Evan Campbell



## Opinion

### Ethnic histories should be part of curriculum

By Alicia Wynter

Lately it feels like there's a lack of black history and other ethnic histories being taught in the Canadian high school system.

I wonder if Canadian-born people of different ethnicities know who they really are. Are we learning enough about our ethnic and cultural history and what our ancestors endured, suffered and the hardships they rose up from?

There are extra courses you can choose to take in high school, but when I decided I wanted to take world history, I didn't take the course wanting to learn about the battles Canada fought in the First World War and Second World War. I literally wanted to learn about the history of different ethnicities and what they went through. I didn't want to hear about the famous world histories.

I wanted to learn about my black history, my Chinese friends' history and my Portuguese friends' history. What about them? What impact did they have on the world and on Canada? How did the world impact them? How did Canada impact them? Society tells us who to be. Society tells us just be yourself but how can we be ourselves if we don't know our own history?

Black History Month almost feels like it's fading away to the background. Not only because I've been living in Belleville, where

**Why have this month of recognition, if African-Americans, African-Canadians, Africans and Caribbean people's history, new or old, are not being recognized the way they should, and the way they need to be?**

there is a per capita lack of ethnic diversity, but it also feels like this back home, in Kitchener-Waterloo.

Why have this month of recognition, if African-Americans, African-Canadians, Africans and Caribbean people's history, new or old, are not being recognized the way they should, and the way they need to be?

When I was a child, I remember going to storytime for Black History Month. I heard about Jamaican folk stories of Anansi the Spider by Miss Lou. These stories were Jamaican fables and lessons. My mother still has the book and read it to us during the Blackout of 2003 because there wasn't any-

thing else to do without electricity, telling these the stories of Anansi was part of our culture, it was part of who we are.

There were plays, folksinging and performances by young and old talented people, of all races there to celebrate and embrace the many different cultures and ethnicities within the black race. I remember hearing the soothing beats of the African drums bringing my heart back to my motherland where my ancestors were stolen from their country and family.

I wonder sometimes, are there other ethnic groups that have a whole entire month to recognize their history? If there are, why haven't we heard about them, and why are we not celebrating them as well? Isn't Canada a diverse country?

I know that there are college and university classes you can take. There's the library and the Internet. I just feel that if Canada is going to be a diverse and culturally accepting country, then we need to make more effort in teaching and learning about our neighbours who we live, work, play and go to school with every day.

Maybe there are lots of communities still celebrating Black History Month more than I see - maybe I've just become too busy. Maybe we've all become too busy - too busy to recognize our culture, our history. Maybe we've all become too busy to learn and remember who we are.

### Guns more than just destructive force

*Guns can be seen as a mechanical representation of human craftsmanship*

By Vivek McCague

Guns have been around since the 12<sup>th</sup> century, originating in China.

Many people see guns as a destructive force, however, I personally do not. Before grocery stores existed and animals were domesticated, people would pick up a beautiful rifle and hunt to feed their families.

The rifles they used were made by a local gunsmith and gunsmithing is an art. I think of guns not as murderous weapons, but as sculptures, each with its own elaborate design.

I myself enjoy guns because of the

way they look. Many of them are physically attractive. Many famous engravers and painters have used guns as their canvas and many sculptors have used ammunition and guns to make sculptures of many things we see everyday in our daily lives.

One example is the Vo Vappen rifle, which is the most expensive rifle currently produced in the world, costing around \$820,000 and more. These rifles are not only fine works of art but are also status symbols.

Vo Vappen only makes a limited number of each gun and the only way to purchase one is to contact them directly.

I have started a small collection with a musket from the era of the War of 1812, which has some elaborate engravings on the butt stock. It would be any gun col-

lector's - especially my own - dream to have a custom-made rifle from Vo Vappen.

Many people do not realize the difficulty of creating a gun. When all the parts come together, they need to be sized correctly down to a thousandth of a millimetre. If any of the parts are off and the gun is shot, it could very well explode and even cause fatal injury to the shooter.

I find all guns to be a form of art, a mechanical representation of human craftsmanship, skill and creativity. Guns used as artwork should not be functional because it is illegal to display functional guns on walls.

I would like to have a gun collection where I can see the fine art and human advances in craftsmanship and mechanics as well as pieces of history.

## The Pioneer

The Pioneer is currently produced by photojournalism students for Loyalist College and the surrounding area. In the spirit of the pioneers who settled our community and who were rooted in tradition, these pioneers always had an eye on the future. Our students strive to serve the public interest, seek the truth and uphold the highest standards of our profession.

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