

Editors: Ron Ghersin and Fred Azeredo

# The Lisgarwrite

Lisgar's only and best student run newspaper

## Nightmare on Elgin Street

FRED AZEREDO

It's been nearly a year since the tractors came, completely closing one of downtown Ottawa's main arteries for sixteen blocks. For those whose daily lives are affected by the closure, it seems like a whole lot longer.

Of course, it had been looming on the horizon for quite some time. According to one Elgin Street business owner interviewed by the Lisgarwrite, there had been an understanding for nearly a decade that eventual maintenance was inevitable. The street's water mains and sewers are quite old and are beginning to become obsolete. Since there would have to be large-scale renovation anyway, the city reasoned, they might as well get other things done.

A plan was drawn up with the nominal participation of residents and business owners (through 'information and feedback sessions' and an online survey), envisioning the addition of trees, placing of electrical cabling underground, and widening of pedestrian areas. Unfortunately, these further features necessitated expanding the... *Cont. p.3*



## In Defense of Free Press

ABIGAIL POTTER

According to the World Press Freedom Index, Turkmenistan is the most censored country in the world. With a score of 85.44, it's worse than North Korea. Press censorship in Turkmenistan is an essential part of what is one of the most oppressive regimes in the world, one where religious and political dissidence are brutally punished and where President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov is referred to as "Father Protector." The government has arrested, tortured, killed, journalists for telling the truth, taken down the satellite dishes that are the last way citizens can access world news, and only allowed private TV channels if they promote "a positive image of Turkmenistan." This violation of human rights in Turkmenistan probably doesn't elicit much empathy from people here,

where it appears that the press is free, but we don't actually have to look far from home to see the same trends. You can think of the United States, where bias is corrupting the integrity of the media, and where a deranged man is calling journalists "fake news," but you can look at Canada too. Sure, we're still in the top twenty on the Press Freedom Index, but we're eighteenth, which isn't great. While we have laws that protect journalists, the "shield law," which guarantees the confidentiality of a journalist's sources being an example, a VICE reporter is still fighting a court order to hand over communications with his source to the RCMP, and a journalist for The Independent is facing criminal and civil charges for their coverage of protests against a hydroelectric project in Labrador. We're good, but we're... *Cont. p.3*

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**Joker: Film Review**

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CAMERON CHRISTIE

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Many were rightly skeptical once an origin story regarding the so-called ‘Clown Prince of Crime’ was announced, as one of the more interesting aspects to the Joker is that he has no concrete past. However, Todd Phillips’s new movie wisely accepts the ambiguity of the title character. And with grounded cinematography, a haunting score, a solid script and of course a phenomenal performance by Joaquin Phoenix, JOKER is unlike any comic book movie to date, and one that has been, and will be, discussed for quite some time.

The story revolves around Arthur Fleck, an aspiring comedian who has been mostly stepped over by society. He suffers from a condition called pseudobulbar affect, or PBA, which is characterized by sudden episodes of uncontrollable laughing or crying. Joaquin Phoenix stated that perfecting the laugh was the most difficult aspect to the character of Joker, and this is evident. His laugh sounds like it physically pains him, and there are moments where he even appears to be gasping for air. He lives with his sick mother in a small apartment in Gotham City and is often beaten up in the streets -- in one scene in particular he is jumped whilst working as a sign spinner. This is where the controversy kicks in.

The film does make the audience sympathize with Arthur; however, it never asks you to forgive him, rather to understand him -- to see a simple man’s perspective. The story deals with several modern-day messages such as gun violence and mental



health. Todd Phillips and co-screenwriter Scott Silvers had several things to say about how we can make a person snap even today, how we can walk over people with, at times, severe mental health issues. One of the many things Arthur writes in his journal is, “the worst part about having a mental illness is that people expect you to behave as if you don’t.” He feels disregarded by society, and that the only solution is to “put on a happy face.”

There isn’t one scene in the entire movie without actor Joaquin Phoenix, which is good considering just how excellent his performance is. He perfectly embodies the role, losing around 52 pounds and giving one of his best performances of his entire career.

Robert de Niro as well gives a good performance as Murray Franklin, a talk show host based in Gotham. But it wasn’t just the performances that made this film so great. The cinematography by Lawrence Sher and the score by Hildur Guðnadóttir help make the

film feel grounded. Gotham City has never felt so real. In the film, it is due to an apparent garbage strike happening across the city. As previously mentioned, Phillips recognizes the ambiguity of the Joker’s past, and uses it to its advantage. This is exemplified through a twist that occurs in the film. And while it could have been handled much better, it regardless opens doors for discussions as to what in the film was real and how much of the story was in the Joker’s head.

JOKER left me speechless. It’s unsettling, dark, but real. I have never seen a comic book film quite like this, and I wish more comic book movies would follow in its footsteps. It is accessible to both comic book fans and general movie audiences alike. I highly recommend this film. It’s not a masterpiece, but it’s an important movie for people to see. 🦋

Rating:

**9/10**

Nightmare on Elgin Street *Continued from p.1*

FRED AZEREDO

Unfortunately, these further features necessitated expanding the timeframe for the closure, making it the entirety of 2019 with sporadic work throughout 2020. Business owners were duly notified, but many expressed their dissatisfaction with the city’s handling of the matter.

For many Lisgarites, the construction has been primarily perceptible as a minor nuisance, forcing them to divert a few blocks to get to school. The ones interviewed for this piece did not express gross dissatisfaction.

For those more directly affected, the situation is far more serious. Utilities such as water are now regularly shut off early in the day. High noise levels during work hours, coupled with the obvious decrease in foot and auto traffic, further discourage prospective customers and disrupt the daily lives of residents.

Due to these and other pressures, several businesses have been forced to close up shop (Pure

Gelato, a well-regarded ice cream shop, is a prominent example). For franchises such as Starbucks, it’s a write-off. For local businesses, the owners’ very livelihoods are threatened. The city’s response, filtered through official jargon, seems to be ‘tough’. Okay, maybe more like ‘that’s too bad, but the outcome will be worth it’.

And right there lies the great looming question that the city has done its best to avoid: is all this trouble worth it for the eventual results? Do the ends justify the means?

There’s been far too little dialogue on that subject between the city and its citizens, with the higher-ups giving the impression that they would’ve pressed on with the extended reforms regardless of how much negative feedback they received. That in itself should be worrying. Even more troubling? The gulf between the city’s talk and its actions.

Jim Watson, our stalwart mayor, has made a point of supporting small local businesses and going to the populace for feedback on city planning decisions. Yet the decision to extend the renovations has hung out sections of both groups to dry.

The only beneficiaries of the whole enterprise seem to be the big corporations whose Elgin branches can afford to hibernate through this long metaphorical winter and the contractors carrying out the construction itself (for a cool \$36 million). An attempt was made to reach the project’s Planning Commission for comment, but the process to do so proved so Kafkaesque that the endeavor was finally abandoned.

You will surely forgive a momentary break from objectivity to say that all this is not the way it should be, not in a city that claims to reward individual achievement, as opposed to conglomerate expansion.



*“Due to these and other pressures, several businesses have been forced to close up shop”*

Letters

Want to share your opinion on an article in this edition? Letters can be submitted to @the.lisgarwrite on Instagram.

**The al-Sisi Regime: A Crisis Hidden in Plain Sight**

ASER ABDELGAWAD

A couple of weeks ago, I was minding my own business when my dad suddenly asks me to check my Instagram for the username @artisraaa. Being the middle-aged Egyptian man that he is, my dad has absolutely no idea how to use social media, so it was up to me to figure out what he was so interested in. As I looked into it, for some bizarre reason, her posts were spammed with the hashtag #SaveHazem. I later found out that @artisraaa is the daughter of Egyptian internet activist Wael Ghonim. For context, Ghonim used to be one of the most powerful men in Egyptian politics, yet, today, he lives in California with his family, escaping from what he claims is inevitable death in Egypt.

Arguably the force behind the pivotal 2011 Revolution, Ghonim was revered amongst high-standing Egyptian politicians in the modern-day al-Sisi regime, but his affiliation with the United States lost him that status. Safe in his U.S. home, he has recently gone rogue on social media, mercilessly attacking President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. He exposed private conversations between him and the President, outlined the President's failings over his five-year tenure, and has single-handedly created visible unrest in the streets of Cairo. And since Ghonim is a well-respected figure with undeniable influence on the Egyptian public, the al-Sisi government had to put an end to his criticism - which I might add is highly

entertaining due to its fair share of blasphemous name-calling.

As a result, in early September, news surfaced that Wael's brother, Hazem Ghonim was detained by government authorities. Just like every other political prisoner case in Egypt, the government claims that Hazem was promoting



*President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi*

extremist ideologies and spreading political rumors to destabilize the country. According to Wael Ghonim, Hazem had no involvement in politics at all. In reality, Hazem's detention was a strategic move by the Egyptian government to suppress Wael's public activism. The Ghonim brothers are one of many cases where citizens are stripped of their right to free speech by an increasingly totalitarian al-Sisi regime.

In al-Sisi's Egypt, it is not surprising at all to hear that an acquaintance of yours has been captured incommunicado by government authorities, most likely to be tortured in some discrete prison or other military institution. Human Rights Watch estimates that there are at least 60,000 political prisoners in Egypt whose whereabouts are unknown to their families. At this point, the accusations have become

routine. An al-Sisi critic is convicted with at least one of two 'crimes': you are either conspiring with a terrorist organization or you are propagating false rumors, often via social media, to escalate political unrest; sometimes they will even directly accuse you of plotting to overthrow the government.

Recent illegitimate arrests include that of Cairo University professor Hassan Nafaa, who made an anti-Sisi Twitter post; Hazem Hosny, another professor, is currently detained because of his Facebook posts supporting an anti-Sisi activist; Mahienour El-Massry, an acclaimed human rights lawyer, was detained as well, and the list goes on. Not only so, but in the wake of minor protests on September 20 in Tahrir Square, local human rights groups allege that approximately 2000 protesters have been detained as political prisoners.

Evidently, freedom of speech is a hoax, a mask that the Egyptian government puts on to appease the international community. Internally, however, people are upset. The problem is that they cannot publicly express their concerns with the government without risking their livelihood. And although the government claims that freedom of the press is upheld, even the media cannot cross al-Sisi. In a democracy, it is expected that the will of the people is partially expressed through the media, but this is simply not possible in Egypt. In fact, al-Sisi and the military regime are in complete control of the entirety of

the media, yet the international world does not know or does not care.

For example, all questions posed to the president at televised press conferences must be approved by his office first. In plain words, al-Sisi answers his own questions, ones that are secretly crafted by his office to enhance his image in front of the public. That is exactly why you will never see al-Sisi struggling to answer a tough question. On the other hand, in a brief stint of international exposure on CBS's 60 Minutes, he was unable to fraud his way into looking good on the global stage. CBS admitted that the Egyptian government demanded to view and modify the questions before the interview, but they stood by their commitment to media transparency and refused.

As a result, al-Sisi sat through an extremely uncomfortable interview where his corrupt system was uncovered in front of the rest of the world.

As for the media today, if you were to cruise through Egyptian channels, I can guarantee that you would not find any political programs speaking out against al-Sisi, or truthfully for that matter. All political broadcasters have agreements with the government binding them to either speak positively or remain impartial about political affairs. Of course, the occasional al-Sisi condemnation is dropped here and there to make everything seem normal, all the while media personalities critical of the regime are forced to change their views or simply silenced. The recurrent theme here, whether it be the media, the general public,

or even high-profile public servants, no one can challenge al-Sisi. And from the looks of it, this solid state of fear is not going to change anytime soon.

Overall, the extent of power this man holds in defiance of democracy is ridiculous. He won the last election with 97% of the popular vote, because he had only one opponent; the others were 'justly' imprisoned for the crimes they have surely committed. He opted to change a long-standing Egyptian law, increasing his term from four to six years. He believes he must have a presidential palace in virtually every Egyptian city. Worst of all, he stripped one hundred million people of their fundamental liberties just so he can stay in power. This democracy looks more like a dictatorship every day, but nobody says a word. 🐦

## Students Air Thoughts on LRT Implementation

DAVID XU

The Ottawa transit system underwent a major system change on October 5th, replacing downtown bus routes with the new Light Rail Transit system. Buses now stop at Tunney's Pasture, Blair, and Hurdman stations, from which commuters ride the Confederation line into downtown. The change hopes to create a greener and cleaner city, with fewer buses clogging up downtown streets. However, the LRT has been delayed multiple times since the system change, resulting in mixed feelings about the reliability and

quality of the new transit system. Some issues that delayed the train could have been attributed to inexperienced commuters, broken doors, and phones dropped on tracks; however, computer failure, and a train fleet spread so thin had train-goers feeling that OC-Transpo's management left much to be desired.

Lisgar CI is uniquely affected by the transit changes due to its downtown location, as well as its gifted and strings programs that draw students from across the city. Many students rely on the school board-provided Presto pass

to get to and from school everyday, and the inconsistency of the LRT has caused more than a few students to arrive late to class in the morning since the implementation of the new system. The Lisgarwrite interviewed Lisgarites hailing from around the city to get a sense of how the LRT has affected them personally, having them share their own experiences. Students from the west end said that the LRT hasn't improved their commute time much, if at all. Zeph Van Iterson, from Britannia, gave his thoughts, comparing his commute before and after

before and after the change: “The LRT is a lot more enjoyable than being on a bus, because it’s just a lot sleeker, newer, and also quite a bit faster. However, it doesn’t really take much time off my commute”. Both Zeph and Sai Kovvuru, a resident of Kanata, expressed their desire for the LRT to be extended further west, servicing Moody or Lincoln Fields.

Greenboro and South Keys denizens also shared their experiences. “My commute’s been anywhere from 30 minutes to 2-and-a-half hours”, said Jamie Tait, a Lisgarite who occasionally relies on the O-Train to attend morning orchestra rehearsal. Nick Coballe from South Keys lamented the loss of his bus-napping time. When asked what he would change about the LRT to make it better, he said he “would delete it. I would make the bus routes come back so that I could sleep for a lot longer.”

Finally, we talked to south side students about any issues that they may have had. The responses were mixed: “Weren’t the delays because someone tried to hold open the doors?” wondered Barrhaven resident Lena Wang. “I feel like they should fix that—they should make the doors better.” Meanwhile, Torrey Liu of Findlay Creek had a unique peeve among those interviewed, saying “I would change the mold smell [if I could]. It smells like... a baby’s diaper.”

It’s not all negative. The interviewees expressed generally rather neutral feelings about the change. Students had some good things to say about the new system: “Sometimes it’s actually faster than it used to be,” said Jamie. The whole issue is summarized rather succinctly by Sai: “If it’s functional it’s great, if not—not great.” 🦄

## Bug Bites, Big Laugh, Mama Shu at the Cinqhole

SIMON ZHU

*In 1978, punk group Crass declared that ‘punk is dead!’ and at first glance that may be true, but if you look close enough you’ll find a thriving scene. In Ottawa, gigs (and not just punk gigs!) happen all the time throughout the city, sometimes in the most unexpected places. In this feature, Simon Zhu, Lisgar’s resident punk, reviews shows and gives you a glimpse into the lively local scene.*



*Big Laugh on October 10th at the Cinqhole*

Local slimers, Bug Bites, and Milwaukee rockers, Big Laugh, shook the very foundations of DIY venue Cinqhole on October 10th, with DJ Mama Shu spinning tunes throughout the show. Tucked away in a parking lot off Fairmont Avenue, Cinqhole is a true hole-in-the-wall establishment, serving as *the go-to alternative arts space in the Hintonburg area.*

A staple of the local scene, Bug Bites, kicked off the gig. Last month, they released their first tape, a gothic, raw explosion of angst dripping with spacey reverb, “Let Me Lead You Nowhere.” Recently, they’ve been experimenting with a new, more experimental sound: Anna and Felix swapped instruments, with Anna on guitar and Felix on bass, producing a sound reminiscent of Sonic Youth’s 1985 album *Bad Moon Rising*. They gave their classic tunes, like “Fake Ally,” a refreshing spin with their new sound. Aside from some (many) technical difficulties, Bug Bites pulled it together and truly rocked the house, delivering a healthy helping of bass and dissonance that liquified my brain; their flamboyant energy and goth-punk aesthetic made the performance all the more compelling. Though this was not their most cohesive performance, it was still a demonstration of their maturing sound.

Then, after a brief intermission soundtracked by Mama Shu, Big Laugh took the stage. Hailing from Milwaukee, Big Laugh is a four-piece ensemble that embodies the classic hardcore sound: fast riffs, brutal breakdowns, raw vocals, and a grimy, heavy tone. Immediately, they delivered a fatal dose of punk and we showgoers clearly felt it, banging our heads to the beat; then, only after a couple songs, the crowd exploded into a mosh pit. The frontman slammed as hard as the crowd did, stomping and screaming, nearly disconnecting his microphone multiple times. After the show, my neck was sore for a couple of days, but the cathartic and mind-melting experience made it all worth the mild discomfort. 🦋

Rating: 4 out of 5 yeehaws



Both *Big Laugh* and *Bug Bites* have their music available to stream or purchase on *Bandcamp*.

# Ask Anna

Presented by Anna Kirkland

## Question:

Hi. I need help. I've been in a weird state of mind lately. So many things are out of place. Happiness feels so temporary. The situation with the person I like is, well, complicated. Long story short I finally asked them out and they like me too \*internal screaming\* but they said it isn't a good time right now, so I gotta wait. School is just overwhelming. I'm struggling to find the motivation to do anything, like, what's the point anyways? I can't think of a solid reason. For the last little while, life has just been weird. I don't know what to do anymore.

## Answer:

Shoot, I'm really sorry to hear that. But before I give you my advice, and don't worry, we will get there eventually, let me just alert everyone of some facts. I am in no way a professional. So please, if anyone feels like their mental health is taking a turn for the worse, please see a guidance counselor, professional, or check out other resources (such as the Champlain Healthline website for the Ottawa region) who meet the official qualifications. Don't get me wrong, I am 100% committed to giving you the best advice I can, but in the end, that is all I can give you; a professional can provide things I can't.

Now for the advice... I can't imagine how cheated you must feel. To have something, someone, that you care about so much, within your reach, only to be unable to be with them must feel like a cruel trick of fate. And for that, I am sorry. That being said, they probably have a good reason why it can't happen right now: familial issues, school stress, personal problems, etc. But, I don't doubt that they like you; you shouldn't feel bad because you are clearly not the reason they're holding back, but a healthy relationship takes a lot of work. That's where an issue arises: there's the possibility that they won't be ready for a long time. So, the best plan of action I can think of is for you to talk to them, and then decide where to go from there. Talking to them, and piecing together a clearer timeline of when they might be ready, should help you to decide which path to go down. As I see it, you have two options: you can wait for them, or tell them that you like them a lot, but can't wait that long for them. If you like them enough to wait for them, then great! Go for it! If, in the end, they decide they're ready, and you're there waiting, then perfect, problem solved. But you have to remember that even after the time you've spent waiting, they still might not be ready, and nothing feels worse than holding out hope for a long time, and building up expectations, only to have them be destroyed in the end. If you feel like you can't wait then that's perfectly fine too, you shouldn't be so fixated on one tentative possibility, that you miss other opportunities, romantic or otherwise. Now, it will be painful and tricky to get over the person you like, but in the end, it will save you a large amount of your time that would be spent waiting, with the risk of no reward. Besides, if they truly care about you, they should understand this, and really, they can't expect you to wait.

Now for school. Oh yes, I can guarantee you that at least every Lisgar student has felt, or will feel soon, this sort of resigned hatred of school. But the sorry fact is, no matter how much we dislike school, it is important. I'm sure you're sick of hearing this, but how you do in high school does actually affect your future, so even though finding motivation seems impossible sometimes, there is a good reason to try. However, the rest of high school will be easier if you can find that perfect balance of schoolwork, and relaxation. Start your assignments early, and work on them a little bit each day instead of leaving it to the last minute. Give yourself breaks between tasks to avoid overstimulation. Don't feel the need to do every single question that your math teacher assigns. Now, I realise that this is easier in principle than it is in practice. I acknowledge that the longer you spend in high school, the more you start to question what the point of it is, and the more you struggle to find motivation. It happens to everyone. I promise you that you're not alone in you feelings regarding school, so just try to be one of the least-stressed, and most-rested out of your friends. Trust me, you live longer when you get more than 4 hours of sleep each night.

Sincerely,



## Hong Kong Police: Above the Law?

BRENTAN LAM

Protests have been roaring through the city of Hong Kong for five months. Once a city which boasted of a commitment to basic freedoms and rights of people, it has found itself plunging into a void of political chaos. Scenes unfold every weekend where protesters clash with the police in the city's streets, back alleys and subway stations, causing grievous bodily harm to protesters, armed only with paddleboards and umbrellas for defense.

The protests were sparked by the introduction of the Extradition Bill that provided the legal basis for criminals to be extradited to the Mainland for trial. Fearing that it will be used by the Beijing authorities to apprehend political dissidents, more than a million people have come out to the streets to pressure the government to withdraw the bill-- 2 million of Hong Kong's 7 million denizens walked on the streets on June 16th.

Yet the government still turned a deaf ear to the demands of the protests, sparking a series of protests at a scale not seen in decades. The Chief Executive finally conceded in September and announced the official withdrawal of the bill. Protests failed to simmer down. Rather, they started to reach their boiling point. And the

police is behind it all.

The turning point came on the fateful evening of July 21st, when a pro-establishment mob indiscriminately pummelled passengers in the metro station of Yuen Long. This vicious terrorist attack would leave 45 people wounded. The white-shirted mob had been seen lingering around



*Altercation in New Territories of Hong Kong.*

the area earlier that evening, declaring that they would 'take care of' and 'teach' those who participated in the pro-democracy protests. Around 11:00 that night, thugs armed with metal posts, bollards, and bamboo sticks started attacking everyone in the station. The ordeal lasted more than an hour, leaving passengers weeping on the ground in agony and a pregnant woman injured. The police were late to arrive and were seen closing down a nearby police station.

Upon arriving, they cordoned off the place where the attackers congregated after the attack. Despite

seeing large groups of people wearing face masks and holding metal poles, obviously planning to use them as weapons, the police released them a few hours later claiming that they could not be sure who participated in the attack.

Their inaction in regard to the criminals were seen as an insult and a provocation to the society at large. It should be emphasized that this is only one of many instances of increased politicization when it comes to dealing with pro-government activists who have broken the law: as of October 7th, only 28 of these have been arrested, none of which have been criminally charged, compared to more than a hundred protesters under the age of 18 who have been arrested and charged.

It is not hard to understand why protesters chase down every police officer they see, and hurl petrol bombs and bricks. The government and the pro-establishment camp responded to every protest by condemning the unlawful and violent acts and praised the police's 'heroism'. Not once did they address why and how protests have become increasingly violent and frequent. On top of that, the police force is not afraid to employ derogatory




language. Protesters are routinely called cockroaches, comparable to the dehumanizing language used by Hutus to denounce the Tutsi in the Rwandan Genocide.

The great mistake that autocracies and their supporters make is that they believe they can survive by means of sheer force used to snuff out protests. The Hong Kong police clearly subscribe to this view, and have carried out their campaign of repres-

sion with unparalleled brutality. Multiple claims of torture in police stations have emerged. Both male and female protesters have allegedly been subjected to sexual violence from police officers. Female protesters have been known to be strip-searched in the presence of male police officers. Male protesters have been molested. Numerous protesters have reportedly suffered from brain hemorrhages after being beaten up by

gangs of officers.

The list of cases increases with each day that goes by, but it has not deterred the people from going out to fight for their rights. And as long as the police and the government continue to condone and enable police brutality, the call for revolution will continue to echo through the streets of Hong Kong. 

## The Ottawa Senators: a Recap, an Autopsy, and an Appeal

GABRIEL ARRIGO

It is a bit strange to think that over two seasons ago the now bottom-feeding Ottawa Senators played Game 7 of the Eastern Conference final on May 25th 2017, a tight contest that went to double overtime and saw the squad defeated at the hands of eventual Stanley Cup champions, the Pittsburgh Penguins. The team finished the following season second-to-last in the NHL. The free-fall that the team has experienced since that fateful game has been painful for Sens fans and somewhat entertaining for non-fans like me.

In the time since then, the Sens have not only lost a considerable number of games (113 regulation and OT losses out of 164 games), but also notable pieces of that 2017 team. Marc Methot via the expansion draft and Kyle Turris in a deal that brought over

Matt Duchene from Colorado were the first to go. Then they traded Derick Brassard and Dion Phaneuf at the trade deadline. In June, after finishing second last in the NHL, they traded Mike Hoffman, and for good measure, they traded the best player on the team and Captain, Erik Karlsson in September. To add to that, at this past deadline, the Sens traded Matt Duchene, Mark Stone, and Ryan Dzingel, leaving rookie Brady Tkachuk as the Sens' only 20+ goal scorer.

I wouldn't say things can't get worse— because, as we can see from the past two seasons, they very much could— it's just unlikely. With that cautious optimism in mind, here are some reasons Sens fans should watch the Ottawa Senators this season.

Firstly, there are absolutely no expectations surrounding this team. Karlsson is gone;

Duchene is gone; Stone is gone; the Sens finished second-to-last and last over the past two years. There is no pressure on this team to win games. They will be the underdog in every single game they play. The Sens are going to get underestimated a lot this year, making each victory all the sweeter.

Secondly, this is a team that is full of new faces. Last year's mass exodus should be over (barring a Bobby Ryan renaissance) and a lot of additions have come back the other way. Starting at the top, there is a new head coach, D.J. Smith, as well as fellow arrivals from Toronto, Connor Brown, Nikita Zaitsev, Tyler Ennis, and Ron Hainsey. Joining them is Artem Anisimov, acquired in exchange for long-time Senator Zach Smith, as well as the cast who arrived after the trade deadline last year and the



Ottawa Senators Defenseman Thomas Chabot

the recently acquired Vladislav Namestikov.

But aside from the new mainstays, the Sens' roster will likely be in a constant state of change as they will look to give opportunities to their AHL players. Playing for a team with slim chances of making the playoffs can be demoralizing for players, but when call-ups from the farm-team get a chance to play for the big club, they are eager to play

and act as an injection of energy into the line-up. Expect the Senators to be a high-energy team that might not get the results, but will be a frustrating team to play against.

If for no other reason, you should watch the Sens because the Sens have a history of somehow managing a miracle run to the playoffs. Be it the 2013 run without Karlsson, the "Hamburgler" run in 2015, or even the 2017 run to the

Conference Final, the Sens have a knack for pulling playoff appearances out of thin air.

On December 31st, 2018 the St. Louis Blues were dead last in the NHL; on June 12th 2019, that same team hoisted the Stanley Cup. Indeed, weird things can happen over the course of an 82-game season. And if the past three seasons are any indication, weird stuff tends to happen around the Ottawa Senators. 🐦

## In Defense of Free Press

*Continued from p.1*

ABIGAIL POTTER

We're good, but we're not perfect. We have to remember that Canada is not impervious to the kinds of things that go on in other countries. What is happening in the U.S could happen here.

And it's not just political division that is changing press freedom in North America, it's also technology. The rise of social media has made impartial news unsustainable as more and more people descend into echo chambers where they only want to hear the news that supports their ideology. News companies have to write sponsored articles, cut staff, and decrease investigative stories that cost too much to produce and barely ever go viral. People on Twitter complain about

the media being biased, but they all contribute to the problem. And that's not even mentioning the fake news epidemic, and the low level of news literacy and critical thinking we see in our society today. If we want to keep our press free, if we want to maintain the independence of the gatekeepers to our democracy, we need to invest seriously in changing our media culture.

And that starts here -- in high school. Student newspapers in high school and university lay the foundations for passionate investigative journalism in the future. Not every story will be a hard-hitting exposé of corruption within the institutions of our society, sure, but it teaches young adults how to write,

and how to share their opinions. It encourages the emerging generation to be politically engaged, to contend with the issues facing them and to forge their own identity. It would be so easy for this, and the next, generation to let serious journalism slip away, to let it be caught up in politics, swept up by one-hundred-and-forty character limits and tossed aside, but who knows what then would happen to our society. Who knows if it would go the way of the U.S, or Russia, or China, or even Turkmenistan. We would love to say that this could never be, not here, but let's be honest. Stranger things have happened. 🐦

## Pink Floyd's *The Wall*: The Perfect Rock Opera

GAVIN BROWN

If you have ever talked to me, you would know that I make it no secret that my favorite band is Pink Floyd. Their psychedelic sounds, combined with deep and thoughtful social commentary, make listening to their music an experience that cannot be replicated by any other group. However, to me, their most unique trait is their form of album production. Floyd wrote songs specifically to be part of an album. Their pieces would merge together to create the effect of a multi-song album only consisting of one or two songs; this brilliant stylistic approach is best seen in their most ambitious project: *The Wall*.

To fully understand the depth and genius of *The Wall*, one must first know the story that inspired the album. In 1977, Pink Floyd was playing a concert for a massive venue in Montreal. Due to poor setup and noisy fans, the sound quality was terrible. This disappointment in the audience manifested itself in heckling of the band, which only made the sound worse. Eventually, the lead singer, Roger Waters, became so frustrated with the antics of the crowd that when he saw a fan rushing towards the stage, he spat on him, an event that became the band's lowest moment. As Waters was being driven to his hotel that night, he wished that he could build a wall between himself and the audience so he wouldn't be forced to deal with them, and so the idea for *The Wall* was born.

From virtually the beginning, *The Wall* was produced as a "rock opera", which can best be described as a rock album with a plot. In *The Wall*'s case, the plot follows a washed up former rockstar who goes by the stage name of "Pink". Pink acts as a stand in

for Rogers, as *The Wall* is a pseudo-biographical telling of his life, and many of the events that occur in Pink's life also occurred in Rogers'. Pink's life was filled with numerous traumatic moments, including emotional abuse from his mother, physical abuse from his teacher, and drug abuse that he used initially to cope with his problems. However, when the drugs stop working, and Pink's music career starts failing, he instead decides to 'build a wall' as his coping mechanism. The first half of the album follows Pink building his metaphorical wall, while in the second half, Pink realizes his mistake in building the wall, and tries to escape the confines of this prison he has created for himself.

So what about the musical element of *The Wall*? After all, to many, it is a musical album first, and a story second. Well, in my personal opinion, the music of the album is the most enjoyable part! The album perfectly meshes so many sounds, voices, and instruments to create an experience unlike any other album. Some songs, like "Another Brick in the Wall, Pt 2" and "Young Lust" create a hyped-up, angry feeling in the listener, while songs like "Comfortably Numb" and "Hey You" are far more mellow, allowing the listener to relax and appreciate the musical talent on display. These two styles, as well as many others that are included in the album, blend together to create a beautiful composition that elicits an unparalleled emotional response from the listener.

For me, the greatest moment of *The Wall* is "The Trial", the loudest, most insane, and weirdest song of the album, which also serves as the climax of Pink's



PINK  
FLOYD  
THE  
WALL

story. The song has a powerful orchestral sound, which is complemented by the nu-

merous wacky voices that Roger Waters and David Gilmour use in order to create a piece that has an incredible range of emotion and character. In many ways, "The Trial" is unlike typical Pink Floyd in every way, and yet, at the same time, it feels distinctly Floyd-esque.

The album does have its low points, however. *The Wall* suffers from having a high amount of filler content that exists only to push the story along. Songs like "Vera", "Bring the Boys Back Home", and "Empty Spaces" serve only as story propulsion and musically, lack memorability. Additionally, *The Wall* is a very long album, clocking in at about 1h20, and, considering the compositional style of the album favors listening to in one sitting, it can be very difficult to find the time to give it a full listen.

With both the positives and negatives of *The Wall* weighed, I feel required to recommend it to anyone who hasn't listened to it yet. It is one of the most memorable rock albums ever made, and deserves every accolade that it has ever received. It is not only an album, and not only is it a story, but it is an experience that is impossible to replicate. Finally, if you enjoy the studio album, I would highly recommend Roger Waters' live performance of it in 2014. This performance includes two songs that were dropped from the original album, and one original song, written by Waters in the mid-2000s. For this reason, I consider it perhaps superior to the original version. 🐦

## Political Correctness at Lisgar

ABIGAIL POTTER

The afternoon before the Climate Strike, one of my teachers asked us to indicate whether we would be skipping the next day for the march. All of us raised our hands, all except one. That one never got a chance to explain why he wasn't participating, he was hit so fast with "boos" and being told that he was wrong, that he was a loser. I left that class having heard only one side of a very complex issue.

In another class, a discussion about sweatshops was plagued with "I don't agree with this, but" and "I'm just playing Devil's Advocate," and every argument to the effect of sweatshops are a necessary evil were summarily pushed aside without any actual consideration.

These and other episodes have made me worry that Lisgar has lost the ability to understand nuance. Not nuance of "character" or "theme" within English class discussions or between cases when one should or should not use the subjunctive in French, but nuance in socio-political conversations. I think we've forgotten that expressing a different opinion to the mainstream doesn't mean that someone is disagreeing in principle, just that they're acknowledging that these issues are complicated.

Lisgar is not impartial, it's a building full of young people,

one that is inclined to the left. There's nothing wrong with that; in fact, it's a good thing, but we have to recognize that any discussion we have here is going to be filtered through the lens of a liberal world view. As a liberal, urban school, in a democratic country, we're influenced by certain norms of our political faction -- the focus of this piece being that of political correctness. Now, before someone starts screaming that I'm a racist, I don't mean political correctness in what you call people or, the opposite of political correctness, in saying something bigoted and calling it the truth; I simply mean the political correctness that prevents someone from bringing up a different point of view than rabid leftists, that prevents them from saying more than what's allowed by the neat and tidy one-liners that liberal debaters like to use. Obviously, hate speech should be condemned and ignorance should be enlightened, but supporters of the political left have become so scared to be blacklisted as a bigot that they stick to those straight values that seem to make a lot of sense, at least until you think about what the issue actually involves.

The problem with these nice sayings is that they close the door to real discussion, they shut the window on conversations that truly solve problems. All issues,

no matter how simple the underlying values might be, are complicated.

And cutting off these opportunities for thought isn't just closing our minds, it's actually dangerous for the propagation of progressive values in the future. Throughout the Trump Election, the Republican candidate harped on and on about how he wasn't politically correct, how he was saying it "like it is." One of the main reasons he won was that he was able to tap into the resentment members of the right have for the left, a resentment that focuses its anger on the obvious manifestation of "oppressive" liberalism: political correctness. Allowing for a range of views, allowing them to actually be heard gives us a chance to engage in real negotiation and education with those who oppose us, getting rid of opinions that don't hold up instead of letting them fester into something much darker.

My wish is that nobody would ever be afraid to share a dissenting opinion. Even if you don't believe what you're saying, even if you do, bring that nuance to the table. Make it complicated. Make it uncomfortable. Because only when we stop being comfortable will a real conversation begin. 🙏

# HOROSCOPES

KYRA ODELL & ISABELLE HAWKINS



## Aries (March 20-April 20)

To avoid the negative vibes approaching, take a piece of clear scotch tape and carry it everywhere with you for the next month. If you lose the scotch tape, **DO NOT** make contact with anyone except for the raccoons living in your best friend's shed. They will help you. Lucky Dates: Oct. 29, Nov. 13, Nov. 16



## Taurus (April 21-May 20)

If you see a fun-looking elevator button, **PRESS IT!** Invest in the most expensive shoes you can find and show them to a Gemini. Lucky Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 1, Nov. 29



## Gemini (May 21-Jun 20)

Stop Taurus from making a horrible mistake by soaking their new shoes in tomato juice. A band kid will make an attempt on your life. Be **WARY**. Lucky Dates: Oct. 28, Oct. 31, Nov. 4



## Cancer (June 21– July 22)

If you are handed an entire rotisserie chicken when trick or treating this Halloween it is **IMPERATIVE** that you eat it all before midnight or a sudden allergy to foods beginning with the letter p may sprout up. Spend the most possible amount of time being nice to your closest Leo friend. Lucky Dates: Nov. 2, Nov. 14, Nov. 20



## Leo (July 23-August 22)

Cancer has a massive crush on you! Avoid them at all costs to maintain your friendship. Perform a vibe check at least daily throughout Mercury retrograde to avoid getting circus music stuck in your head. Lucky Dates: Oct. 29, Nov. 9, Nov. 12



## Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your best friend is chasing someone unattainable. Please, both physically and symbolically, trip them. An argument with an authority figure will make you cry in the school bathroom; try to do so quietly, some of us are trying to eat in here. Lucky Dates: Nov. 5, Nov. 16, Nov. 18



## Libra (September 23-October 22)

However tempting it may be, do **NOT** eat salsa on the third Tuesday of November or an unforeseen squirrel attack will hospitalize you. Avoid letting fear control you; make an extremely rash and poorly thought-out decision! Lucky Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 15, Nov. 19



## Scorpio (October 23-November 22)

For the first week of November, it is essential that you tuck your pants into your socks to avoid going first for your next oral presentation. Having an annoying social media presence until Mercury goes into retrograde (November 1st) will give you warts. Lucky Dates: Nov. 3, Nov. 11, Nov. 17



## Sagittarius (November 23-December 22)

The individual sitting to your left in your third period class is out to get you; do not leave your valuables unattended around them! Make pasta to complete your homework with maximal efficiency. Lucky Dates: Oct. 31, Oct. 31, Nov. 21

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**Capricorn (December 23-January 20)**

Any proposed project involving both a washing machine and broccoli will result in disaster. Convince your third best friend to shave their eyebrows or you will be the victim of Aries' next subtweet. Lucky Dates: Nov. 2, Nov. 18, Nov. 24



**Aquarius (January 21-February 18)**

Somebody with unusual earrings will bring you bad news. AVOID creating or listening to a "sad vibes" playlist in this time of struggle. The rodents in your basement are keeping a secret; earn their trust so they tell you! Lucky Dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 17, Nov. 28



**Pisces (February 19-March 19)**

Do not follow trends like "showering" for all of November. Your least funny friend will attempt to make a joke; laugh along or they will beat you up. Mismatched socks will reveal the meaning of life to you. Lucky Dates: Nov. 1, Nov. 13, Nov. 26

## Question of the Month

Would you support a Universal Basic Income?  
Answers can be submitted to @the.lisgarwrite on Instagram. Some responses may be published in the next edition.

### Message from the Editors

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Lisgarwrite, along with the last remainder of autumn. As your new editors-in-chief, we're excited to share a great year with all of you! As always, keep an eye out for future calls for submissions, contests, and writing opportunities. We'd love to hear from all of you, so get in contact with us if you have any ideas or questions. - Ron Ghersin and Fred Azeredo

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