

THE RUFF TIMES

Shadows Behind

TEN YEARS AGO

"In you go."

The police officer gave the man a hard push. The man, wrists secured under metal cuffs behind his hunched back, stumbled forward. The chains rattled, a large X worn over the foul-smelling t-shirt and grease-coated apron of Boss's Slaughter House. The man took one last look behind him.

The sweet little girl. His daughter, Florence. Rosy cheeks, pale skin, pouting lips, her mother's dark chestnut hair. Tiny arms and legs shivering under the pink patchwork quilt she held tightly around her skinny figure. Her amber eyes fixed on the criminal, her own father, who slaughtered three women in the pig slaughterhouse he owned just outside the city.

He and she would never be reunited. How could the police make her suffer like this? How could they tell her that her daddy's mean and killed three very nice ladies? She was not even five.

Something cold dug into his back: the muzzle of a gun.

"Move it!"

The little girl shuddered at the officer's harsh tone. Franklin Stokes turned his head away from her and walked calmly through the metal doorway, disappearing into the blackness.

Her daddy was scared. Her daddy's eyes had fear in them. Florence looked up to the sky, to the never-ending black atmosphere. Clouds floated across the full moon. To her, the big, fat metal cube almost six times her height was a terrible place to be daddy's new home. The police officer that shoved him inside had told her it was called a "jail."

Florence looked back at the jail's entrance. Two police cars were parked on either side, their front headlights shining bright cones of light onto the metal wall. This new home for daddy probably didn't even have a TV or hot soup or teddy bears to sleep with. The place looked dark and spooky. The doorway her daddy entered was black. Black as her room at night without a nightlight.

Mommy wouldn't be there to cuddle with him. Florence didn't know where she was.

No wonder her daddy was scared.

The police officer was busy talking to someone. Florence turned her back to them and the jail, to face a tall tree standing behind her.

"Colden, bring Florence inside. Make sure she has everything she needs, though Officer Mehr will help with that."

The boy in a white shirt, black sweatpants and red slippers nodded, staring up at the officer. "Yes, Officer Hoffman. Anything else?"

The officer sighed: "All I can say is make sure she's comforted. So be nice, she's probably all... After what just ..."

Colden stopped him. "I know."

The officer nodded and lifted his walkie-talkie to his lips. Colden turned around and ran between and past the parked police cars.

He looked around. All he could see were rows of trees and a pink square lying on the ground.

"Florence?"

To be continued...

By Roslin Chen

From the Editor

Mack Cobolan

Welcome to this month's issue of *The Ruff Times*. As usual, I am the editor of the newspaper you are currently reading.

I've found you never really notice how far you've come until you make that next big leap in your life. I never really realized how much I valued school until I finished eighth grade and made my way here. Now I realize just how much I have yet to do as I make plans to apply to post-secondary school. It's a bit of a daunting task for me.

I have way too many interests, which is probably the main problem. I like too many things and part of me doesn't want to choose just one of those things. If I've learned anything, however, it's that whatever you choose to major in when you arrive isn't necessarily going to be the sole thing you leave college or university with.

I've already visited several universities on their Fall Campus Days, and the one constant between everyone who has spoken at these places is that they started in one place and ended up in a completely new or decidedly altered place that they never expected to be in when they first arrived. If anything is surprising me about this whole decision-making process, it's just how fluid and flexible it all can be. You can do a major, a major with a minor, a double major, and they don't have to be intrinsically related at all!

I guess everything will be okay. I still don't know what I'm going to go into, but to all the Grade 12s who are making their decisions, as well as younger students who are already stressing out about it, ease yourself. It's common to get stressed out about this sort of thing — it's a big decision, after all! — but I don't think it's worth pulling your hair out over. Just sit back and let things settle around in your head and then come back to it.

In the meantime, enjoy this edition of *The Ruff Times*. Happy reading.

Pop Culture: My Top 3 Albums for the Holidays

Husam Elzien

Merry Christmas



Artist: Mariah Carey
Released: Nov. 1st, 1994
Producers: Mariah Carey, Walter Afanasieff, and Loris Holland
Peak Position on Billboard Top 200 Albums: 3

This album was released in between Carey's critically acclaimed albums, *Music Box* (1993) and *Daydream* (1995). The album sees Carey singing holiday classics such as "Joy to the World", and "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" and original compositions such as "Miss You Most (At Christmas Time)" and the iconic Billboard Hot 100 top twenty hit, "All I Want For Christmas Is You." Carey would release a follow up album in 2010 titled "Merry Christmas II You."

Spice



Released: 4 November, 1996 (United Kingdom) and 10 December, 1996 (Canada)
Producers: Absolute, Andy Bradfield, Matt Rowe, and Richard Stannard
Peak Position on the Billboard Top 200 Albums: 1

This album continued the second wave of the British Invasion, and this time, instead of four lads from Liverpool showing up, five ladies from London did. Yes, Scary, Baby, Ginger, Posh and Sporty Spice came to North America to tell everyone what they want, what they really, really want. World Domination! This album came with classics such as "Say You'll Be There," "Mama," and the iconic staple of the 1990s, "Wannabe." But my pick off of this album for this holiday season is the ballad "2 Become 1." Released as a Christmas single in the UK, it quickly became a number one hit, and although it was released in the US in July 1997, its elegant orchestral arrangement underlined with a hint of romance, wonderful vocals, and a warm and cozy atmosphere makes it a perfect addition to anyone's holiday playlist.

24k Magic



Artist: Bruno Mars
Released: 18 November, 2016
Producers: Jeff Bhasker, Emile Haynie, Shampoo Press & Curl, The Stereotypes

This album comes four years after Mars' Grammy Award winning 2012 album, *Unorthodox Jukebox*, and sees him working with new producers, and taking the album in a new musical direction. The album contains the standout songs, "Chunky," "Finesse," "Too Good to Say Goodbye," and "Versace on the Floor." But, my pick off the album is the title track, "24k Magic." For me, this song contains the right amount Prince nightclub funk and Michael Jackson commercial appeal to make it great in any party playlist.

Sources:
[Wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/24k_Magic)
[Billboard.com](https://www.billboard.com/album/bruno-mars/24k-magic/)



McMaster University

Roslin Chen



About

- Founded in 1887
- A medical-doctoral, research dedicated university
- Four campuses:
 - Main campus: Westdale neighbourhood of Hamilton
 - Burlington
 - Niagara
 - Kitchener-Waterloo
- Average entering grade: 86.7%
- Over 62 research centers and institutes
- Six faculties: The DeGroote School of Business, Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, Science, Social Sciences
- Students
 - Over 30,000
 - over 32% of the population enter with an average above 90%
 - International students from 78 different countries
- Nearby Attractions
 - Cootes Paradise
 - the Bruce Trail
 - the Waterfront Trail
 - the Royal Botanical Gardens
 - the Niagara Escarpment
 - UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve

What McMaster's Main Campus has to offer:

- McMaster Museum of Art, with five exhibition galleries
- Athletic Facilities, including nine gymnasiums, and one of the largest fitness centers of all universities in Canada
- 12 on-campus residences
- Conference services that arrange custom-tailored events, providing housing, meals, parking, recreation and much more
- The McMaster Nuclear Reactor, which is the first university-based research reactor founded in the British Commonwealth, and is one of the world's largest suppliers of the medical isotope iodine-125, used for treating prostate cancer

Tours

Meet McMaster's students and staff, and explore the campus to see if this is the university for you!

Virtual Tours – online tours of the campus

-In-Person

Campus and Residence Tours – 90 minutes tour of the academic areas, student service areas, a library, and one residence building.

Annual Events

-May@Mac Open House – Saturday, May 13th, 2017 – open house including sample lectures and lab demonstrations!

-Campus and Residence Tours during the March Break

DID YOU KNOW?

McMaster University is one of only four Canadian universities consistently listed in the top 100 universities in the world.





About

- Founded in 1996 in Hamilton, Ontario
- Named after Joseph Brant, Chief of the Mohawks, who played a significant role in the former British colony.
- During 1996, when the decision upon the name was being discussed, it was noted that Mohawk Trail School, not far from the college, was being transformed into a museum in celebration of the Canadian Centennial. The name "Mohawk" was thought to be perfect for both Hamilton and Brantford, and reflected the nature of a large region of Brant County, including the Six Nations and New Credit reservations – First Nations reservations.
- In the mid-1970s, Mohawk became a leading college in engineering, applied arts and business, and health technology, with over 18,000 students and 600 staff.

Campus Services

- ONE Card
 - Your Mohawk Student ID card
 - Includes your residence meal plans and general dollars
 - Benefits: savings, convenience, flexibility and security, access to many services on campus
 - Food purchases, printing and photocopying
 - Also a transit card and learning exchange card
 - You will never be charged a transaction fee when paying with this card at dining and vending locations on campus!
- Food Services
 - Fennell Food Court
 - Mohawk Market
 - Mo's Restaurant
 - Paramount Fine Foods
- Conference Services
 - Offers ideal locations, facilities, catering and affordable accommodations for any occasion

DID YOU KNOW?

Mohawk College has been the **#1 college** for student satisfaction in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area for **five years in a row**.

Employment

-Student and Graduate Employment

Helping students to find a job! There are one-on-one appointments, access to job postings, tips for creating a resume and cover letter, creating an e-portfolio, and preparing for an interview.

-On-Campus Employment

With jobs on campus:

- Fall semester: 15 hours per week positions are available.
- All positions are paid \$11.40/hour, with 4% vacation pay.
- Full-time post-secondary program for the Fall 2016 semester and international students are eligible to apply for jobs on campus.

Academics

- Cooperative Education
 - Over 25 co-op programs for students
 - Accessible Learning
 - Providing persons with disabilities access to educational programs, services, and facilities.
 - Services to help the student assess their learning disabilities, offer guidance on financial issues, and counseling for transition to the workplace
- Academic Tools
 - MOCOmotion: students can access their account information, register for classes, find grades, read college news and more
 - My Academic Progress (MAP): online tool to help students track their progress through a Program of Studies
 - Alternative Testing: provides testing services to students with disabilities who require testing accommodations, students who are unable to write tests or exams during normally scheduled class times, and for students who have missed a test or exam due to illness or another reason.

Sources: mohawkcollege.ca and collegeinstitutes.ca

By Roslin Chen

Maryam's Unadulterated Advice

Maryam Mojahid

Disclaimer: This is advice from a 16-year-old girl who has yet to experience all that life has to offer.

As high school students, we try to leave things to the last minute. We think that it's a challenge when teachers say, "you can't finish that assignment in a night." Some people complete whole essays the morning of the due date. I'm saying this like it's a good thing, but procrastination is one of the leading problems students face today. When teachers assign a project that's due in two weeks, it's pretty much a death sentence. Nobody uses those two weeks wisely. I can promise you that most students will be rushing to finish it the night before.

We allow things to reach this point for reasons like homework from other classes, distractions or just because we don't think we can balance schoolwork with our personal lives. Teachers think that we can create schedules easily, but that's not how life works. Things happen. Like what if your favorite YouTuber posts a new video, or Netflix just got the coolest looking show ever? Maybe you got too deep into scrolling some social media site and it's too late to turn back.

These kinds of things can be categorized as "distractions." Google defines it as "something that prevents someone from giving full attention to something else."

So, it is something that disallows one from doing work. But what if we use the distraction as a motivation? Instead of starting off with going online to do things that you know will divert your attention, you shouldn't be allowed one episode of your favourite show until you complete two hours of homework. I know most students have no self-control (me!), but since there is a prize, there should also be a punishment. Something that would really hurt a teenager today, like turning off your phone or laptop for the rest of your evening. Modern torture achieved.

Yes, I know procrastination is a real thing and that it's really hard to deal with. Even now, I still leave a lot of work until the last minute, which doesn't mean I don't regret it. But every time I sink under the pressure of too much work to do in one night, I realize that I have to make a change in my time management. So now I try to complete work as soon as I get it, which doesn't mean I never procrastinate, because I definitely do, but at least I try.

P.S. This article was written the day of its due date, which says a lot about how this "no procrastination thing" is going for me.

Poetry Corner

Athena Liu

The Beautiful Moment

*The most beautiful moment in life doesn't have to be perfect.
As long as you enjoy your life, you will find beauty in everything.
The good and the bad, you will not hate.
In fact, you will learn to appreciate.*

*So when someone tells you to hang on and you're almost there,
Say that one cannot see beauty in something until they have
experienced a tragedy.
Accept and cherish what you've been through, especially if you
have failed,
Because that shows you how much you have grown to be
successful.*

*The most beautiful moment can occur anytime, even when you
don't expect it.
Cherish all the moments you spend with your friends.
Every moment, no matter how simple, matters.
The best things in life come free – remember that.*

*When you are going through something tough, think about what
you could discover.
Will your feelings trigger a deeper dimension of your heart?
What can you gain? What can you lose?
Look for beauty of the most ordinary moments, you might be
surprised at what you find.*

*The most beautiful moment in life can happen anytime.
Pay attention every step you take.
Time is limited so make the most of your time.
And may you discover the most beautiful moment in your life.*

Maryam Mojahid Find Me

*Hidden under the bridge,
Far beyond the trees,
Is a palace of golden stone,
Buried in sick beauty.
Vines of green cover its walls,
Faceless windows appear in the halls,
Rooms in dozens remain so clean,
With haunted paintings hung in between.
Behind the palace, a garden grows,
Where flowers appear in bounteous rows.
Lilies, daisies, and violets can be found,
Only beautiful plants cover the ground.
Albeit with all this awesome charm, hides a place of lies,
Believing in this pretty falsehood would be unwise.
For living here longer than necessary,
Will force you to stay in its sanctuary.
A beauty hidden in a deceitful distraction,
When here, be careful of your every action.*

How Donald Trump Won and What It Means for Canada

Caroline Head and Carlin Saunders

On 8 November, Americans voted on whether Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton would replace President Barack Obama when his term ends in January. Before the election day, Clinton was expected to win, but Trump shockingly defeated her despite having zero previous political experience. The Republicans have also won a majority in Congress, which means as President, Trump should not have trouble changing laws. Trump's victory has led to protests across the US by people who are opposed to the divisive views he expressed during his campaign and allegations from 2005 that he sexually assaulted women. We'll take a look at the reasons behind Donald Trump's surprise win, and how it might affect us north of the border.



How He Won

The US has an unusual and somewhat complicated system for choosing the president, which is called the Electoral College. Every state in the US is worth a certain number of points. Whichever candidate gets the most votes in each state gets all of that state's points, and whoever gets more than 270 points in total wins the election. There are certain states that always end up voting the same way (for example, California will always vote Democrat and Texas will always vote Republican), and so the candidates usually focus on undecided states. However, like most things, Donald Trump did not do "the usual". He also campaigned in solidly pro-Democrat states like Michigan and Pennsylvania, and managed to convince enough people to vote for him that he ended up winning these states and getting their points instead of Clinton.

Hillary Clinton did win the popular vote; over a million more Americans voted for her than for Trump; however, because of the Electoral College system of giving points, the votes of the losing side in each state essentially don't matter. For example, Trump won in Florida by less than 1% of the votes. Even though millions of people there voted for Clinton, all 29 of Florida's points went to Trump because he (barely) won a majority. Clinton's supporters were spread out over enough states that even though she had a majority of actual votes, she didn't win majorities in enough individual states to win. There's a similar issue with the system in Canada, for example in the 1993 election the Conservatives got over two million votes but only won two seats in Parliament.

So why did so many Americans vote for such an eccentric character? Many of them considered him the lesser of two evils when compared to what they saw as a corrupt, secretive, lying career politician. Both candidates in this election were extremely unpopular, and for many Americans the question wasn't who they liked more but who they disliked less. Only around 50% of eligible voters bothered voting at all. Many people were fed up with the current system and wanted somebody who could bring change, which is why Bernie Sanders was so popular in the Democratic primary election. Unfortunately for Hillary Clinton, having 30 years of political experience meant people thought of her as the embodiment of the establishment that they were fed up with. Trump promised to "drain the swamp" and change things in Washington, and many people – even if they did not agree with his views – thought there was at least a chance he would bring change. Trump also managed to appeal to people in formerly industrial areas who saw their factory jobs being outsourced to China and other countries, and believed in Trump's promise to bring those industries back to the US and in his own words "make America great again". As well, politically, the US is a very divided country. Although people support progressive values in many parts of the US, in other areas there are many conservative people who are opposed to immigration, gay marriage, etc., and feel like the current government is not respecting their values that Trump would as President.

How Donald Trump Won and What It Means for Canada

(Continued from page six)

Trump did not actually call us "Snow Mexicans" or promise to build a wall around our border too, but some of the plans he made during his campaign could still have an impact on Canada:

- Trump has promised to make Canada and Mexico renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and leave it completely if it isn't changed the way he wants. Trade between the US and Canada is worth over \$50 billion every month, and if this trade is reduced by the US leaving NAFTA it could seriously hurt the Canadian economy.
- Last year, the countries of the world signed an agreement in Paris to protect the environment and fight climate change. Donald Trump does not believe in climate change, and promised to leave the Paris agreement, take away pollution restrictions, and increase drilling for oil and coal mining. If the US continues (or increases) their pollution, it could have a serious impact on the entire world, not just Canada. On the bright side, Trump will probably approve the Canada-US Keystone oil pipeline, which means more money for us.
- Trump has complained that the US supports too much of the NATO alliance; all NATO countries are supposed to spend 2% of their GDP on their military but most do not (although the US spends 16%). During the campaign Trump said that he would not defend countries that didn't pay their fair share. If Canada doesn't want to risk losing their alliance with the US, we'll have to double our military spending to reach the NATO requirement.
- Many Americans said they would move to Canada if Trump won the election. During the election night, after it became clear Trump would win, the Canadian immigration services website received so many views that it crashed. People angry with the results vow they'll move to Canada practically every election, so we'll have to wait until January to see if this time is different and if we actually do get a flood of American refugees.

Only a week after winning, Trump seems to have toned down some of the more extreme suggestions he made during the campaign. He's said that he will keep parts of Obama's healthcare plan after all and that his infamous wall might end up just being a fence (although he still wants to deport millions of people). Only time will tell how much he'll actually do, and we'll have to wait and see what President Trump's America really looks like.

Sources: www.thestar.com and www.globalnews.ca

Sports Highlights



Ryan Benevento (Blue) shooting for Sir Winston Churchill S.S.

Bulldogs Put Up a Fight

By Sam Harley

The final game for the Senior Boys Basketball team -- for both Sir Winston Churchill and St. Francis was a close game with many players from both teams showing off their all-star ability.

There were many honourable mentions for a few players on the Sir Winston team: Harrison Enns with 15 points, Asim Serri with 14, Ryan Benevento with 9, Diego Ruiz with 7, Mo Awad with 3, and Matt Johnson with 1.

The Bulldogs showed a strong start, as they held the lead through the first quarter and stayed strong after half with a score of 27-26 for the Bulldogs. It was after this half in the fourth quarter that the boys lost some ground and St. Francis began to build up their points.

The boys put all their effort in to this final match and it paid off, as they put up a fight against the St. Francis team; unfortunately, though, they did not take home the winning trophy. This, however, is in no indicative of how the boys performed! Ryan Benevento was named the second all-star of the tournament with a combined average of 15.3 points per game, three steals and two assists, contributing immensely to the hard work left on the court from the Sir Winston Bulldogs.

The final score of the game was 59-49, only 10 points separated the boys from the victory they worked for, and trained for. The coach of the team Greg Loucks was very proud of his boys for putting up the fight they did. Well done, gentlemen!