

# VCSA THE INSIDER

*Making outsiders, Insiders | February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

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# WE'RE BACK!

(AND BETTER THAN EVER)

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# Editor's Note

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**Printing by Hebdo-Litho**

Well, well, well... Look at you reading the school newspaper -- in print!

There sure is no better feeling than picking up the thin pages of a newspaper and relaxing with some interesting articles and creative writing that will draw you into poetry and short stories while smudging your fingers with ink instead of tiring out your eyes with emanating light.

There is something to be said about tradition. About the familiarity of watching your grandparents sitting in the living room, going through the morning paper. About how you watched your father sitting the same way, reading the pages of the same publication throughout your childhood. About connecting with family over dinner conversations beginning with "in an article from this morning, I read that..." - and connecting with the world around us through such a concrete medium. Newspapers bridge generation gaps. Especially in my family.

Let me just say, it's great to be back, with our first issue hot off the press, and just waiting at the news stands for you to dive into a world of Insider reporting, opinions, and creativity.

It's good to have you with us!

Keep reading - there's so much more where this came from...

Katherine Willcocks,  
Editor-in-Chief

P.S. to John and George Willcocks: Thank you for the ink that runs through my veins.



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## Upcoming Events

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Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, UB - Career Workshop: D-241  
(Contact Student Services)

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, UB - Freestyle Rap Battle: Jake's Mall

Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> - March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Water Week

Goodness! It has been some time since the Insider has been in print!

Well, it's back and I believe it is better than ever.

We hope you will all enjoy the content written and shared by students for students throughout the pages of this issue. By covering events, social issues, pop-culture, sports, as well as voicing our own opinions on certain topics, our team of writers and editors have penned quality work for a student body of quality.

All at Vanier are welcomed to join The Insider, and to read our articles in print or online at [www.vinsider.ca](http://www.vinsider.ca)

To a fantastic semester,

Lazaros Kalipolidis,  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

## Vanier Stands in Solidarity with Victims: Quebec City Shootings

Mohammed Choudhury



“Tout le monde déteste les racistes!” chanted the crowd at Parc metro.

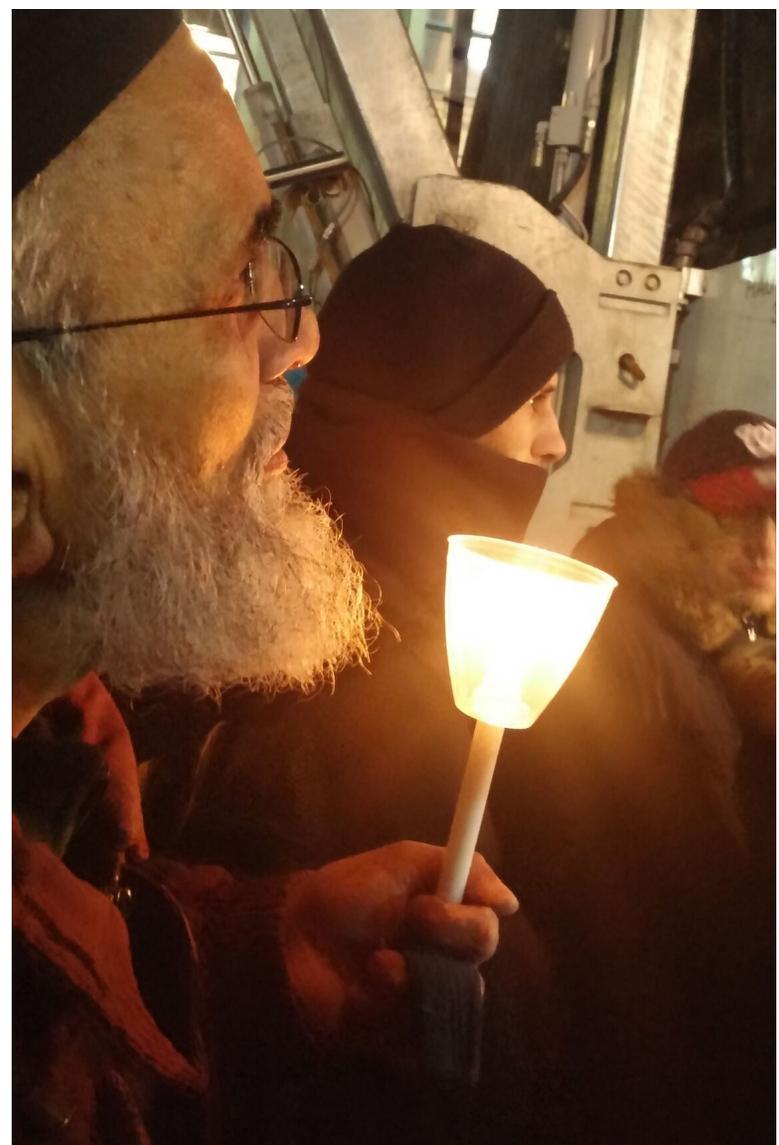
Around 8pm Sunday night, January 29th 2017, a gunman open fired inside the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City during their prayer time and killed six people while injuring eight others. Two arrests were made later but one of them was released as a witness and the other is now being charged. The shooter, Alexandre Bissonnette, turned himself in to the police. Any reasons or motives remain unknown for the time being.

To show respect to the victims, students and staff at Vanier College held a vigil outside the front steps of the school at noon on Monday to show that they stand together and that they won't be shaken by such acts. History teacher Eric Lamoureux, English teacher Alan Wong and the vice president of the Vanier Muslim Club inspired students to remain strong given that the attack happened so close to home. All those who were present were asked

to lower their heads in a minute of silence for the deceased and the injured.

Later that day, many Muslims as well as non-Muslims gathered outside of Parc metro at a candlelight vigil, in freezing conditions to show their own love and support. Muslims being the visible minority that night. Speakers from the crowd went up to the podium to share their message, their prayer, their hopes and their dreams to all those present and voiced what they would like to bring attention to. By 7pm the vigil ended and the crowd dispersed.

On Tuesday the government of Quebec asked all public institutions including Vanier college to lower their flag to the half way point to represent the feelings of the Quebec government as well as the feelings of the people.



# CAMPUS

## In Her Name: Writing Contest

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Katherine Willcocks

From the suffragettes to womanists, progress has certainly been made in terms of women's rights. Society now tells us we are equal to men – of course, there is still work to be done. This same society also allows for, and makes money from, misogynistic advertising objectifying women. It pays men, on average, more than women for similar employment. We may have come a long way; we still haven't arrived at equality.

Recognizing the challenges of being deemed the 'weaker sex', many organizations are supporting International Women's Day (March 8th). Vanier College is one of them – only here, it is celebrated as International Women's Week – hosting a week-long symposium featuring lectures and presentations by women who have overcome difficulties, faced professional obstacles perhaps, and who have established a reputation for themselves in their field.

In preparation for this special week, The Learning Centre, in collaboration with Women's Studies, has launched a writing contest, In Her Name.

If there is an influential woman in your life, whether you know her or not, and a creative gene in your blood, why not combine the two? Write 250 words maximum of creative writing of any form (poem, prose, song, etc.) and submit it online here. Who knows – you may win one of the monetary

prizes (ranging from \$25 to \$150)! Just make sure you have your piece in by Friday, February 24th, 2017 – late submissions will not be accepted.

For more information, contact Kim Muncey in The Learning Centre (B205).

## Study Spaces: Alternatives Until the Library Opens

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Mohammed Choudhury

The library (for those of us who've seen it before) used to provide not only books but a large number of space for students to be able to work and study in peace. Due to the renovations taking place at the moment, the school has opened up many rooms available to us students. However, it seems that some still don't know where to go on campus for a positive learning space.

Don't fret, here's a list of the underused rooms available to students:

B-512 Chemistry Resource Room  
D-100 Vanier Library  
D-140 Vanier Library  
N-131 VCSA Study Space  
B-222 Learning Centre Study Space  
C-403 Languages and Cultures Resource Room  
C-409 CLEO – French Re-

source Room

\* Laptops available for use in B-205E.

P.S.: There's a quiet study area at the top floor of the G complex right next to the staff rooms



## Looking for Something to Do at Vanier?

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Aline Yip

Looking to do something around school? Join a club!

It has been more than a month that the majority of us have been running from back-to-back classes, and studying for tests in-between, all while trying to stay at a healthy level of student sanity. Being a brand new student at Vanier and walking

through the unfamiliar campus full of new faces is overwhelming enough. Sounds like you? Want to de-stress and meet some cool people to talk to? Well, look no further! Many student-run clubs have flourished at Vanier, and they suit all the interests and needs of our diverse student body! Take a look at some of

the clubs that might be your new go-to hang out place.

Are you into creating things, and would like to experiment with your artistic side? Do you enjoy taking photos and would like to expand your skill? Then the Photography Club might be for you! Even if you are a begin-

ner, you can learn how to take photos in everyday settings, use the photo studios during club activities and even use your special someone as practice! There are also exhibitions that the club organizes. For example, in February 2016, they had an exhibition for Black History Month. If you would like to learn more, join the Photography Club and get snapping!

Photos aren't your thing? No worries— Do you know about Vanier's Esports? Vanier Esports Students Association plays multiplayer online games such as League of Legends, Dota 2, and Overwatch, just to name a few. They also play competitively against other teams in the area. If you have a passion for online gaming and have a competitive streak, then team up with other Vanier players, and become part of a wonderful experience!

Want to just hang-out and relax instead? Then come join the Anime Club, and the UMBRELLA club! Both located in the D Metro area. The Anime club are for anime enthusiasts who enjoy reading manga, and of course, watching anime! If you have a break and want to hang around, the anime club is the perfect place to come and talk to others about the latest episode of One Piece, or to open up a manga! (Also, I think there's free snacks for new members. You'll have to come

and see for yourself.)

Sharing the same room, is the U.M.B.R.E.L.L.A club! This diverse club is open to everyone, regardless of orientation, sex, gender, etc. It is a safe space for people who identify as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer), but you can also stop by if you want to meet new people or, if you are curious about LGBTQ in general. The club also spreads awareness about different orientations and identities, so that everyone can feel comfortable coming to Vanier.

Did you know that Vanier just recently opened a Vanier Dental Club? Yes, that's right, you've read correctly— a Dental Club! The Dental Club is about the general employment of the field in dentistry. There is also a practical dental admissions test that is required to go into the workforce. They test you on your perceptual ability, dental specializations, and much more. Volunteering opportunities are also available for students who are

looking into growing their experiences as a dentist.

There are also religious representatives that are currently active on campus. One of them is the Vanier Christian Fellowship. The Christian club invites all students to their open Bible Studies, prayers, meetings and what Christianity is all about. They are welcome to inform others about their faith and encourage a strong community. This club is open to all religious and non-religious students.

The Muslim Club provides an open door to everyone as well. Their main goal is to provide information about Islam in a realistic manner, as opposed to what you may see in the media. They also have a prayer room for those who need privacy to pray in room B502. They organize charities to help countries in need such as Palestine, and Syria.

Do you want to be more active and are inter-

ested in trying something new? How about the Vanier Yoga Community club? The yoga club promotes the health benefits of this new recreational sport and is open to both beginners and experts. They will be having yoga sessions in the G Building twice a week. If you want to try a new sport, in a relaxing atmosphere, then try out the Vanier Yoga club!

Want to learn how to eat healthier at the same time? New to Vanier, the Vegan Club invites all students to learn more about environmental awareness through veganism. They talk about what being Vegan is and about the effects it can have, based on what we eat. There will also be information about certain misconceptions associated to veganism, as well as information about animal activism. The activities consist of watching environmental documentaries, listening to guest speakers and volunteering initiatives (I.e.: a pot-luck).

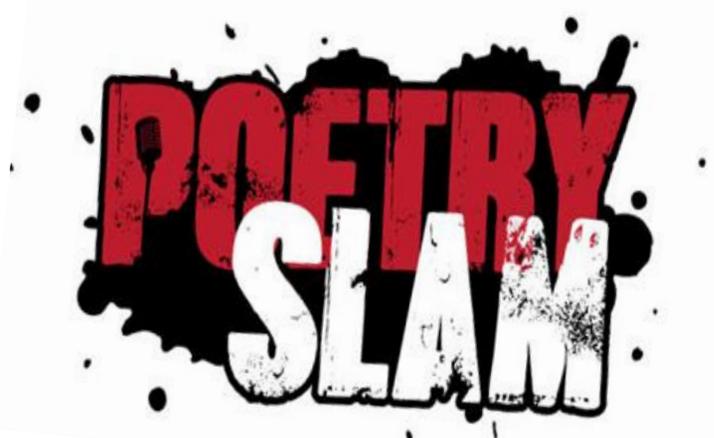
At the VCSA Insider, we aim to make outsiders insiders. We hope that this article helps you, as students of the Vanier community, to feel more comfortable around campus.



So you're into slam,  
Spoken Word,  
That's what I heard,  
  
There's a contest,  
There are prizes,  
Beyond first, second,  
and third...

You could be,  
Intercollegiately,  
Inarguably,  
  
Speak Up Vanier: April 27th, 2017  
Email [studentlife@vanier.college](mailto:studentlife@vanier.college) to sign up!

Free -  
- to speak up.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## It was a Breath of Fresh Air Ride

BeNjamyn Upshaw-Ruffner



When people think of Nintendo racing games, there's no doubt that Mario Kart comes to mind, and maybe even F-Zero for older fans. But there's another game that often gets forgotten, buried underneath the discussion. That game is Kirby Air Ride, and it's quite different from anything else. This game came out on the Nintendo GameCube way back in 2003, and was designed by none other than Masahiro Sakurai himself, the man behind the Super Smash Bros. series as well as Kid Icarus: Uprising, and original creator of the Kirby character.

This game may have fallen by the wayside at the time of its release, but to those who've played it, Kirby Air Ride really is something special. In this game, there are three main modes:

**Air Ride** – the standard racing on various courses, each with varied features and hid-

den shortcuts. The game's different vehicles can be selected for use as they become unlocked.

**Top Ride** – Races from a top-down perspective with access to quirky items exclusive to this mode. Two vehicles are available here, and there are seven tracks unique to this mode on which to race, each designed around a specific elemental theme: Water, Sand, Fire, Sky, etc.

**City Trial** – this is the most massive mode, providing a ton of replay value through its random diversity. Up to four players are dropped into a sizable city, and then have an allotted time to explore, to collect upgrades, items, and to find new rideable machines, in preparation of a random event at the end. These events can range from drag races, to destruction derbies, to even competing on tracks from the Air Ride mode, and many more. On top of all that, the time players spend in the city is

no simple stroll in the park, so to speak; players can interfere with each other in the city, damaging the vehicles of their opponents and snatching up items before they can reach them are several strategies that can be employed here. Certain events within the city itself may transpire at random as well, including boss characters showing up, items having altered properties for a short time, and even a massive alien spacecraft coming into contact!

So, how does one play Kirby Air Ride? The truth is, it may very well be the most simple, intuitive, and accessible racing game ever conceived. All of Kirby's actions are mapped to the "A" button, and the player steers with the control stick. Acceleration is automatic, with the "A" button functioning as the break, coupled with a boost meter that charges while holding said button. A short boost is created upon releasing the button, and courses

are designed with many turns of varying degrees with this mechanic in mind. Players must time boosts to get around the turns in an optimal way. Additionally, there are enemies scattered throughout the tracks, and pressing "A" while in close proximity will cause Kirby to inhale them, allowing for the integration of Kirby's signature copy abilities into the race. Attacking with a copy ability is done with "A" as well.

One aspect of Kirby Air Ride that often won't get enough praise from critics is how it handles achievements and the way it rewards the player with new unlockable content. This game is packed to the brim with things to unlock. Each mode has its own 12x10 grid of achievements, things to do, and stuff to unlock. What makes this achievement grid so appealing is that the player can be rewarded for doing just about anything, and each time a block on the grid is checked off, the adjacent

blocks light up slightly, and the player can then see what needs to be done to unlock whatever may be concealed behind the block. There is an enormous amount of content to collect across each of the three modes; they may take the form of cosmetic things, like different colored Kirby to play as, or they may be more substantial, like secret characters or new soundtracks. The con-

ditions of unlocking content vary wildly as well, from expected things such as finishing a certain course within a specific time, or accumulating a certain number of victories, to more precise endeavours, like attacking a specific enemy with a certain power up, or knocking out one vehicle with another. This system can keep players coming back and is

an incentive for them to try new things for a really long time. It proved so good in fact, that Sakurai would later implement it into the Super Smash Bros. games.

Kirby Air Ride is a really fun racing/party game with a plethora of content to enjoy, and it really stands the test of time. If you're a fan of the little pink

puffball, love Mario Kart, or just curious about this often-forgotten GameCube classic, Kirby Air Ride really is worth it. The game may not appeal to everyone due to its lack of intense difficulty, but for those who want something to play on the good old purple lunchbox, Kirby Air Ride provides hours of fun, especially with friends.

# Nintendo Switch: Post-Hype Recap

BeNjamyn Upshaw-Ruffner



Last Month, Nintendo's latest console was given a lengthy livestream which delved deep into the hardware, and software of this console-handheld hybrid; but what exactly should the average gamer take away from this? Here is the lowdown on everything Nintendo has revealed to us.

The first question on everybody's mind is going to be launch date, and cost. Mark your calendars, Nintendo came right out of the gate saying that the console will launch worldwide on March 3rd and retail for \$299.99, which means us lucky Canadians will have to pay the pretty penny of

\$400 for the machine. This may be competitive with other consoles, but it still seems a bit on the expensive side.

Other features of the console were also discussed during this presentation. Firstly, Nintendo has stated that their new console will have paid online services. While it is that way for PS4 and XboxOne, this announcement is sure to anger many gamers. Nintendo didn't really discuss exactly how online would work beyond that during the presentation, so we'll ultimately have to wait and see how well it performs.

One thing that won't anger gamers however, is that the Switch will not be

region locked, so players will be able to import new games from other countries and play them on their system without a problem. Furthermore, Nintendo listed the battery life of the console to be between 2.5 to 6.5 hours. This is a wide range, so it's probably safe to assume it will be on the shorter end of that spectrum when playing intensive games such as The Legend of Zelda: Breath of The Wild. This battery lifespan is somewhat comparable to a 3DS system, but it would certainly be nice if the time a charge lasts was longer.

Fortunately, the console charges using USB Type-C, meaning we won't have to rely on Nintendo's own

proprietary chargers anymore. The system will also support local wireless multiplayer, like Nintendo's previous handhelds have. Being able to connect with up to 7 other Switch consoles on the go is certainly a welcome feature for a portable console.

The Switch will come in two variants. There will be one with grey joycon controllers, or an alternate option with one red joycon and one blue joycon. Those of us with OCD will want to avoid the second option. These packages are otherwise exactly alike. Inside, you will get:

- The Switch Console, which is the tablet-like device
- The Switch Dock, which allows you to play on your TV
- The two aforementioned Joycon controllers, more on those later
- Wrist Straps for the Joycons
- The Joycon Grip, connecting the Joycons into a more standard controller configuration
- An HDMI Cable, and an AC Adapter for the console

At this point in the article, you're likely ask-

ing: “Where’s the pack-in game!?” Well, unfortunately, this console will not be launching with a Pack-In title; instead, the games will be sold separately. This may not seem optimal for some consumers, considering how expensive the console already is. So, what can gamers expect to play on the Switch at launch?

Well, another point of contention for the Switch is the launch window seems to be a little sparse. At launch, we’re only getting a couple of first-party titles for the platform: *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of The Wild*, and *1 2 Switch*. The latter of which seems as though it would be a perfect pack in game, seeing as how it’s essentially another minigame compilation, this time around making use of the new Joycon controllers. What are these new Joycon controllers anyway? Well, they do indeed have many bells and whistles.

These controllers might seem a little on the small side, but they pack a lot of technology under the hood, and for anyone wondering why they are so expensive to purchase separately, at \$100 for two more of them, this tech is why.

The control stick on the right joycon will possess an NFC reader for compatibility with Amiibo, confirming that Nintendo still has plans to support their toys-to-life market.

Below the directional buttons on the left Joycon, is a share button, which can be used to capture in-game



screenshots, and eventually video as well after an update.

Each joycon is also outfitted with accelerometers and an IR motion sensor on the Right Joycon, which can detect different hand gestures, as well as determine the distance at which your hand lay.

The presentation also spent a fair amount of time discussing the new “HD Rumble feature”, which apparently is capable of letting you feel the weight of varying amounts of ice cubes in a glass. We may think of them as updated, miniature Wii Remotes, in a certain kind of way. The game *1 2 Switch* utilizes all of these new features, but it remains to be seen if they will be used effectively in full-fledged games in the future, or if these features will just be shoehorned into future titles. Nintendo has over-used motion control in the past, so hopeful-

ly they can figure out intelligent and innovative ways of integrating these technologies into new games, without having them feel intrusive, because all of these bells and whistles seem to be a large factor in the system’s overall cost.

Finally, one noteworthy detail about these new Joycons is that they each have the capacity to function as a unique controller, separate from the other. So, on the plus side, at least you can play with a friend without having to necessarily buy another controller. Although, for gaming purists, there will also be a Switch Pro Controller available for \$90. Again, somewhat expensive for a controller.

All in all, this presentation was good, not amazing, just good. Their messaging was clear, though there were a lot of unanswered questions, as well as concerns. The real pressing concern for consumers

is the price; let’s suppose you wish to purchase the console, an extra pro controller, and *Breath of The Wild* on launch day... That will run approximately \$655.50, taxes included, out of your wallet, and into Nintendo’s pocket.

This is obviously a lot of cash, so the rational recommendation would probably be to wait for a price drop and/or a bundle. Only really buy it on launch day if you want to play the new *Zelda* game on the Switch. There’s a lot of interesting technology behind the Switch, the software has promise, and the idea of taking console gaming on the go is quite fascinating, but only time will tell if Nintendo makes the execution of this new hardware successful.

Read Full Article:  
[www.vinsider.ca](http://www.vinsider.ca)



**FREE STYLE**  
**RAP BATTLE**

**Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> during UB – Jake’s Mall**  
**Sign Up in C-203 by Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>**

# Whose Body IS This?

ToplessJohn



I love my body.

I've lived in it for a long time.

It freaked me out when I found out I don't own it. Seriously. Looking at what's going on in our world, this is what I've come to realize: my body isn't mine. This physical me, it's not ME. When I'm out cold, head in the stars, dead to the world, unconscious --flatlined--... it belongs to the man. It belongs to the law. It belongs to you if you're the one who finds it first. I live in it. I singularly take care of it. There's no mortgage on it, and I didn't buy it at a store, but... the government, and our society, tell me it belongs to them, not me. How so? How can this most fundamental of personal objects belong to anyone other than its only occupant? What do international human rights charters and decrees have to say about -that-?

Looking through

history, and in some skanky places in our world today, we see that human bodies have often been bought and sold as goods. Slavery in our western history shows that clearly. The Egyptian pyramids were most likely built by slaves. Oarsmen on long-boats centuries ago: human chattel. Cotton pickers in the Deep South, an unscrupulously obvious example!. We even had slaves in Quebec; Marcel Trudel wrote about it in 1961, "Canada's Forgotten Slaves: Two Centuries of Bondage".

But ;today!... in ;North America!... in north northern North America!... your body ;--isn't-- yours?! How can that be?!!

Are we not living in enlightened times? Let me see if I can clear that up for you...

Do you have the liberty to choose to let your life end as you wish? That's a pretty hot topic these days, isn't it. But, it goes further than just MAID (medically

assisted dying, ([www.dyingwithdignity.ca](http://www.dyingwithdignity.ca)).

What about if you're a perfectly healthy person and you have a heart attack? Who decides what happens to you? If you've heard of DNR directives, you probably think that you're in control, right? You think the DNR protects you from involuntary resuscitation, right?... wrong!

What if you tattooed "|DNR|LET-ME-DIE|DNR|" on your chest? You'd think the ambulance workers would take that as a crystal-clear message, right? Wrong!! They're calling it ambiguous, unfounded, illegitimate, unsupported - and current legal opinion is on their side.

Through recent experiences and research, I've learned that emergency medical personnel (EMTs) --aren't-- obligated to respect your Do-Not-Resuscitate directive (DNR)... and the question of, "who owns this body?," leapt with

passion and vigor into my mind! EMTs, and according to Good Samaritan law, any citizen, including you, --must-- try to save you to the best of their ability... and it's punishable by law if they don't.

How does that make you feel? How does it make you feel...  
 - that the mass of living cells that you share with no one else,  
 - that the system of organic tissue that supports your head and your thoughts,  
 - that that breathing, sweaty, warm lump that you consider to be you... is owned by the papadawg?

How do you like knowing that your body is n'tch yours?

DNRs are another modern fairy tale. Another form of illusory device. Like the civil laws governing texting-at-the-wheel, and

respect-pedestrian-crosswalks, DNRs are treated as suggestions by the world around us.

Have you ever tried filing a complaint against someone who almost ran you over? or who was reading their phone while driving? I have. The Desk Sergeants summarily tell me that those laws cannot be enforced unless a police officer witnesses, and chooses to cite, the transgressions -

they're not criminal acts, so no private citizen can get any action started on the people who do that. They're part of civil law. And with our police force working to-rule, forget seeing civil law enacted on our streets.

Administrative laws are pure horsewater. We have too many phony-baloney laws. They don't protect us. They just make it look like everything is under control and tidy.

I don't own my body. You don't own yours.

And unless we get hit by cars, drivers only have to watch out for the cops, not the people the laws were created to protect. Look both ways before you cross the street! And, if you're going to have a heart attack, maybe you should have it someplace tucked away and quiet so no unwitting do-gooder notices... unless of course

you really want to continue living half brain-dead from oxygen starvation.

OWN YOUR BODY!

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Insider, Montreal, Canada, 20170209

# Trump's Presidency & the Women's March

Mohammed Choudhury



It was the 20th of January, Trump's inauguration did not come with a cheer because many people have been very distraught as to how their "democracy" could have failed them. Their pain is sometimes projected outwardly towards the people celebrating with MAGA hats as well as through vandalism in various parts of the USA and even more surprising to me, in Montreal.

On the 21st, many protests ensued in many countries and this time in solidarity with the Women's March in Washing-

ton. There was even one in Montreal in which I decided to participate in. From what I was there to see, thankfully, the protest was a peaceful one given the size of the crowd (with a visual estimate of people numbering the thousands) filling up most of the block. Although there was no march (it was a gathering) things went smoothly even if it was difficult to hear.

Both women and men of all ages gathered at l'Esplanade right outside of Place des Arts metro. Even small children helped raise those signs and share the message. Many adults wore hats with references to

Trump's statements about sexual harassment. A number of groups were present, including members of the LGBT community, religious groups, and even the CSN.

One of the organisations that went up to the microphone was The Raging Grannies, well known for their humorous songs. Their version of the song "Il y a Longtemps que Je T'aime," in which they replaced "t'aime" with "lutte" in a back and forth manner with the crowd was well-received.

I'm unsure about the accurateness of the title of

this Montreal event. The "Manif des Femmes" represented multiple other communities. Thus, the entire objective of the protest became a bit fuzzy, and in the end it just seemed more like a blanket statement of shared feelings towards Trump.

Now the whole world will just have to accept that Trump is the president of the United States and stop focusing on anti trump rhetoric and focus more on the issues for which they are advocating.

# Career Chaos: You're Asking the Wrong Question

Katherine Willcocks



So I'm at that age. I think we're all kind of at that age in one way or another.

That phase of your in life during which you're constantly asking yourself what to do with your life: What career do you want? Are the sacrifices worth it?

Well that phase... I don't think it's contained within a certain age – it should last a lifetime.

Will we ever truly know our vocation? Perhaps. Maybe some will, probably most will not. Not right away at least. Not while they're still in school anyway. But we're focusing on the wrong question here.

Suppose we stop asking "what am I going to do with my life?" and start wondering "what am I going to do with my life today? Tomorrow?", while reflecting on "what did I do with my life yesterday?" (Sure, these time markers can be metaphorical, stretched into a few weeks, maybe months, but you get the idea). Nothing in life is permanent – not even life itself. (Alright, fine, some things in life are permanent, but again, you get the point). Why should

we feel pressured into a single-file, straight-line career path? What if we curved, zig-zagged, or danced in circles for a while? Forever?

As soon as we begin to learn in the traditional sense, we are told that success is the result of a long and winding road, along a 'less-beaten' path. Then they ask us what we want to be when we grow up (it's a good thing nobody holds us to our answers, or there'd be far too many astronauts and ballerinas, and not enough fitness instructors, receptionists, notaries, garbage collectors, you name it). Most children won't follow through with the career they talk about when they're five. Many won't even pursue the one about which they dream when they're 18. Situations change. Ideas change. Time changes. These change people, and that changes everything.

In elementary school, if you asked me about my career aspirations, I would've told you I wanted to be a writer. Or a teacher. Or a lawyer. But mostly, I wanted to be a writer. I said teacher and lawyer as add-ons, just to show people that I understood that writing was hard. To show adults that I knew that writing wasn't a reasonable career choice, that I was a smart kid with a Plan B, who knew she'd one

day need a job that would allow her to make a living. Most people don't see writing as that sort of job. Most people are right, in a sense – but I kept writing anyway, as a hobby, and an aspiration.

I still aspire to make at least a small fraction of a living off of writing some day, but I don't see that the same way as I did before. I no longer wish to be a best-selling novel writer (at least not quite so much as I used to). My situation changed. My ideas are changing. I grew up, and I'm still growing up. This changed me, and that changes ... well, a lot. I see life differently, as I see my craft in another light. Perhaps more practical, somewhat more philosophical, writing is a tool to communicate – and there is a beauty to the freedom of mastering communication.

...then again, maybe I should be a teacher. Or a lawyer.

Not everyone will hold on to their childhood hobbies, but there is much to learn from them. If elaborate lego structures were your thing, consider the cognitive aspects involved in that – architecture, design, construction, etc.. I'm not saying you should chase after all your five-year-old dreams, but I do think you

should consider your past self in your present (and future) decision making.

Let's go back to our questions from the beginning: what am I going to do with my life today? Tomorrow? What did I do with my life yesterday?

Building on those, now let us change them. Consider the following:

What am I doing with my life (yesterday, today, tomorrow) that would make five-year-old me proud? What am I doing that would make my younger self cry?

Is the you from the '90's (or '80's, or '70's, or whatever decade during which you turned five) crying because you stopped painting because you thought you weren't good enough? Are they in tears because you're spending on mindless entertainment instead of saving for all those travels and adventures for which they wished? Grab a tissue (or a plane ticket), and know that the little girl or little boy that was once you is holding you accountable for their future – and your present – happiness.



## Pride of a Passable Poet

June Rossaert

I stand on the edge  
a cliff grazing the night sky  
scratching the surface

mile upon inked mile  
alphabetical genius  
of truer grandeur

ant before giants  
my filthy big eyes wander  
past cloud-ridden heads

fingernails stretched out  
silent shouts for half a dime  
sweet graffiti prose

standing on the edge  
of alphabetical greats  
my cloud-ridden head

writer in a daze  
a cockroach contribution  
to a gold ink stream

Is it truly worth  
this endless predictable  
hassle I drown in?



## The Fourteenth

Mikhaël L'Heureux

I started at 8, and finished at 6  
Done with my classes, and feeling like  
shits.

The job has been tough;  
The few breaks I get are never enough.

Drip,  
Drip.

Get a hobby, they say  
Make use of your day.  
I did just that,  
And now feel like crap.

Thump.  
Thump.

I failed Calculus two,  
And it really bites the poo.  
It's Valentines, right?  
Then where's the daylight?

But then -

The sun sprang straight into action -  
She showed up right here to see my  
reaction.

A big mac trio planted in her hand,  
Repetitious day transformed into some-  
thing quite grand.

## Heaven is Blue

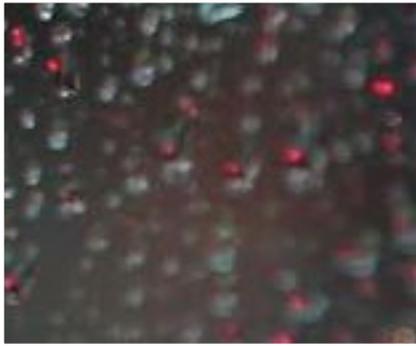
Katherine Willcocks



The river hugged each rock with the desperation of a mother who's just lost a child. Endless waves bellowed onto the rocky grounds of the riverbed with the frustration of the father of the young victim. One second. One teeny-tiny moment of time was all it took; she was gone. Her body had fallen prey to the choppy, grey waters next to their picnic spot because each thought the other was watching. It wasn't anyone's fault. It was both their faults. It was an accident. It was only because of the undertow. Or maybe there was more to it; there was too much confusion to really figure it all out anyway. Not there, not then. It would all be sorted out later, though no amount of reasoning, no explanation would suffice to console the aching hearts of the two parents whose tears flowed as swiftly down their pale cheeks as the current ran through the murky depths of the deadly hollow. The waterfall harks a sorrowful melody, never ending, never letting anyone forget how abruptly some things may end. The cascades remind witnesses that time will forever continue, even when life doesn't. Moments after the drowning, tiny droplets create an innumerable amount of circles, appearing and disappearing on the surface of the calmer water down below like teardrops descending from above; she must've already found her place in heaven.

# On the Bus

BeNjamyn Upshaw-Ruffner



Not a day goes by where I don't feel anxious. I look down thinking, as I ask: what's wrong with me?

My thoughts are in a disarray as I mount this run-down public transportation vehicle. The driver wastes no time, which causes my reference frame to become non-inertial. However, I don't struggle to maintain my balance, at least, not right now.

Fortunately, there are two empty adjacent seats. Some days, I encounter friends on these mobile waiting rooms, but not today. It's for the best. I wouldn't want to irritate them with my unorganized messes, which I so semantically call my thoughts. I often speak in metaphor, much to the dismay of anyone who stumbles into a conversation with me. Maybe I need to bring things down to earth once in awhile. The voice in my head chatters on.

I look out the window, soaked as it may be with the melted dreams of fallen snow, and very briefly make eye contact with a cat. For but an instant, It seemed so intent on glaring through a window of its own. Was that a cat? How did I notice it if I am moving ever so swiftly aboard this aging vessel of conveyance? That cat must feel so sheltered. The

outside world is a cold one, and the walls surrounding me aren't very resilient from external stimuli these days.

I get distracted too easily. I was supposed to think of something on today's ride. Not that, the other thing. I'm pretty bored so far. Why would I want to keep thinking? I can't stop.

With my head perched high in the clouds, my thoughts ambush me, surround and envelop me, gnaw at me until I think there can't possibly be anymore. To my static amazement, there are. There were. Whatever sounds better on paper I suppose. I can't escape my thoughts. Unlike the things which I love, the things which annoy me don't seem to end. That's why I'm going to write them down... eventually.

So, here's the part of the ride during which I go over my past actions, and lament approximately half of them, on a good day. Maybe I'll get another chance to say it some other time. I wonder what they meant by that. What might this person think? I should have done the other thing instead. I only have access to the cards I've been dealt, but sometimes I just want to fold. I never liked gambling anyway.

I shift my gaze to the emotionally parched surroundings. The humans that I share this somewhat battered communal road trolley with are but mere extras in my regard. However, each of their faces seems so rigid and is telling a story of their own: one as complex as my very own. So, all of us are just extras then. I should think that as sentient beings capable of existential thought, we are

each uniquely alone, but if every one of us is alone, under bombardment of our own thoughts, then there is common ground over which to tread. That is an amusing thought.

Occasionally, there are thoughts which are quite the opposite of amusing. My insides feel vigorously active when these thoughts occur; my throat turns to stone, and breathing becomes difficult. A thousand needles are thrust into my skull. There are bugs crawling all over my skin. The voice in my head does not relent in its screaming and shouting. I feel completely in the dark. It's no cause for alarm, because I can contain it! Or, I could try falling asleep.

There is a ringing in my ear. Did somebody say my name? I hear eccentric laughter immediately in back of my head. I am suddenly stricken by worry, immersed in new thoughts which strive to uncover why complete strangers would want to laugh at me. But I convince myself otherwise. They probably aren't after all. My mind races through every possible scenario, both moment to moment, and of hypotheticals later on in the day. The journey continues aboard this product of engineering. As it gallops along, people come and go.

Just as I think my racing thoughts have reached the final lap, I see it: myself. The reflection in this window seems to look down at me, or perhaps I am looking up to it. An idea struck down, suddenly filling me with conviction, and I write my name on the foggy window by pressing my fingers down in long strokes against the condensation: I-

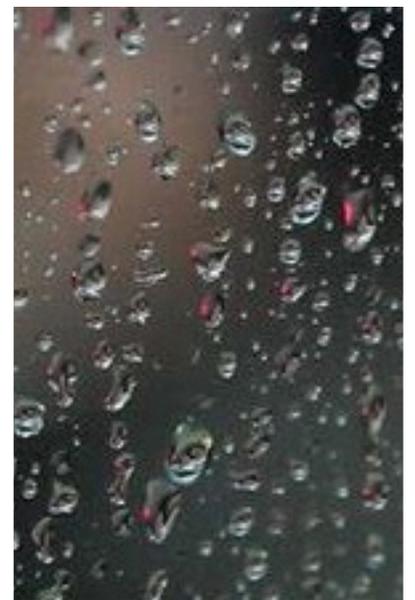
s-a-a-c. I then try smiling for sake of blatant curiosity. My smile is an indiscreet discretion.

My conscious mind rips me from this moment, as the transfer of my person was complete. A shipment of assorted aspirations has arrived. As I depart from the massive human delivery machine, I notice that the seats behind me were empty.

I pause for a moment to collect my thoughts, which, as always, have fallen to the ground, back to earth again. I am tired. What was this thing that I rode in here called? I don't recall, but I'm not going to worry about labelling it. It doesn't matter what I call it, what matters is that it works for me and takes me to where I need to go.

Snow falls slowly, the snowflakes nuzzling against my face as the wind carries them down to the earth below.

Not a day goes by where I don't at least try to think ahead. I look forward to the future, and look up instead.



# Break Free

Alaina Roberts

I want to escape  
Something calls me  
Out of these blank walls  
I want to break free

Fiddling my hands  
and feet  
The teacher's voice  
bores me  
What's he talking  
about?  
Oh, yeah, history

Look, a window!  
Let's ram through it  
Fly like a bird  
I'm sure there's  
nothing to it

We can soar across the sky  
Full of opportunities  
To London, Tokyo,  
anywhere you please!

Oh, crap, the teacher's  
calling my name

What's the question again? This is so lame



# That's How You Make Me Feel

Anonymous Anora

Blue eyes.  
Nothing but clear skies.  
That's how you make me feel.

Sometimes we compete  
And it makes me complete.  
That's how you make me feel.

When you look up,  
My heart can't help but stop.  
That's how you make me feel.

You rap, pitter patter.  
You may give me a heart attack.  
That's how you make me feel.



The first time.  
I feel like I'm in my  
prime.  
That's how you make  
me feel.

I'm happy with you.  
I can do nothing but  
smile.  
That's how you make  
me feel.

One day  
I will finally say  
That's how you make  
me feel.

Do you see life through a lens?

Submit your photography to the Insider!

MIO Katherine Willcocks

# Tropical Ice Age

June Rossaert

I look for you in a crowd of lips  
they all taste the same, really  
yours would have, too

I bend over your flame  
you twist me into something new  
I am your friend- - -

I am your friend.

a thousand, thousand  
houses all lined up  
and I sleep in the cold

it's easy to melt and sear  
metal cutthroat for a- - -

but it hurts to write softly  
I am ice cold

you are a ghost of a volcano  
rupture, burn, break, crack  
why are you so quiet, mountain?

I look for you in a crowd of lips

they all taste the  
same, really

yours would have,  
too  
yours might have,  
too

# HOROSCOPES



**Pisces** (Feb.22-Mar.21): Dare to dream - you deserve success! Keep your feet on the ground however; remember procrastination will never replace a good work ethic. Consider reaching out to your peers this month; someone around you has valuable experiences to share.



**Aries** (Mar.22-Apr.21): Save up. Impulsive purchases are not the way to go. Little amounts become large sums before you know it; budget, and shop smart -- your wallet will thank you later.



**Taurus** (Apr.22-May21): Don't forget to breathe. Acquaintances may be getting on your nerves, Taurus: don't snap back -- remember actions are safer than reactions.



**Gemini** (May22-Jun.21): Get creative Gemini! Inspiration is everywhere; open your eyes to the world around you, and turn your observations into something awesome.



**Cancer** (Jun.22-Jul.23): You're likely feeling disconnected from others during this dreary, snowy phase. Have coffee with an old friend to catch up, or send a message to an acquaintance to get to know them better.



**Leo** (Jul.24-Aug.23): Temptation is high, but you mustn't give in. No, you aren't a loser. Yes, you can do it. No, you don't need to spend on take out. Yes, you should take a walk - being outdoors will help clear your mind.



**Virgo** (Aug.24-Sept.22): Speak your mind Virgo! You may feel you aren't being heard lately -- be honest (but tactful) in important conversations, and open and outgoing in group contexts.



**Libra** (Sept.23-Oct.22): Consider revising your organisation, Libra. It can be challenging to balance a social life with a professional one, but prioritizing is key to staying sane. There are only 24 hours in a day - make them count!



**Scorpio** (Oct.23-Nov.21): It's your time to shine Scorpio! Perhaps you've been passed over for a promotion, or been overshadowed in another aspect of life -- don't fret, push yourself and you will acquire recognition.



**Sagittarius** (Nov.22-Dec.21): Take life one day at a time Sagittarius. You may be feeling particularly overwhelmed recently, but don't worry - you'll make it through one baby step at a time!



**Capricorn** (Dec.22-Jan.21): Take it slow. Life is not short: it's the longest experience of your life. Don't rush into anything this month; think things through. Appreciate the little joys of life.

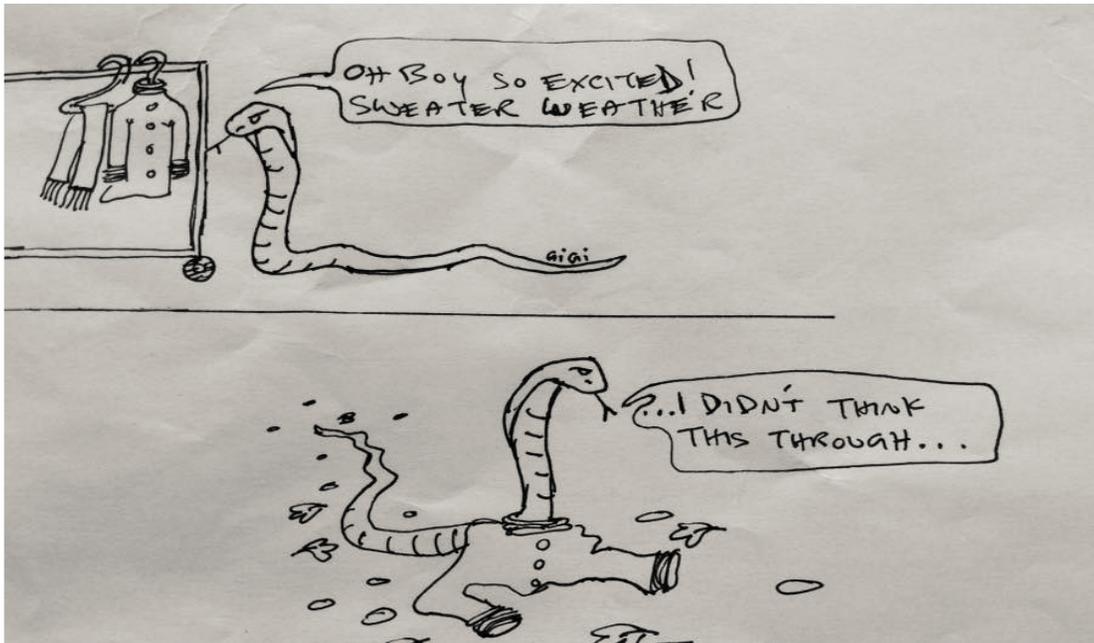


**Aquarius** (Jan.22-Feb.21): It may be a good time to tackle a project that has been put on the back burner. Motivation will get you started; make it a habit and you'll stick with it.



**DO YOU OFTEN NOTICE MISTAKES AND CORRECT THEM?  
DO YOU LOVE GRAMMAR AND WANT TO ENFORCE IT.  
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEIR WRITING?  
PASS BY OUR OFFICE (D-168) AND FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN JOIN US.**

### Sweater Weather



Jitika Shah

1. Mary's father has 5 daughters – Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono. What is the fifth daughter's name?
2. Poor people have it. Rich people need it. If you eat it you die. What is it?
3. How can a pants pocket be empty and still have something in it?
4. What is the longest word in the dictionary?

Answers:

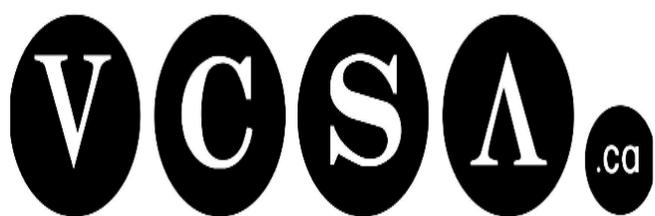
1. If you answered 'Nunu', you are wrong. It's 'Mary'!
2. Nothing.
3. It can have a hole in it.
4. 'Smiles', because it has a mile between each 's'.



### Finders Keepers



- |              |              |                |
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| 1. College   | 4. NBuilding | 7. Renovations |
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