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Inter Pares invite les étudiants et les membres du personnel à soumettre des articles et de lettres à l'éditeur provenant d'étudiants et du personnel. Ces soumissions devraient être adressées aux départements appropriés, dont les adresses figurent ci-dessous. Les lettres et articles devraient être envoyés à l'adresse centrale du journal (uottawa.inter.pares@gmail.com). Si vous désirez soumettre votre article pour la prochaine parution, celui-ci devrait être reçu avant le 15 septembre 2010. Toute soumission est sujette à une révision pour assurer la conformité avec la politique contre la discrimination et le harcèlement d'Inter Pares.

Inter Pares recrute présentement pour l'année 2010-2011. Il existe des opportunités dans les départements suivants : Édition (Français), Mise-en-page et Graphisme ainsi que dans le département d'actualités / nouvelles. À l'exception du poste en Édition (Français), les postes sont disponibles tant aux candidats francophones qu'anglophones. Pour plus d'information, contactez nous à l'adresse **uottawa.inter.pares@gmail.com**.

Inter Pares welcomes student and faculty article submission as well as letters to the editor. Article submissions should be addressed to the appropriate department. The department email addresses are listed below. Letters to the editor should be addressed to the paper's central email address: uottawa.inter.pares@gmail.com. If you wish to have your article submission or letter to the editor considered for published in the next issue it must reach us by September 15th, 2010. All article submissions and letters to the editor are subject to review and modification to ensure that they comply with Inter Pares' anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policy.

Inter Pares is recruiting for the 2010-2011 production season. There are openings in the following departments: French Copy Editing, Layout & Design & News. With the exception of the French Copy Editing the positions are open to both French and English applicants. For more information regarding any of these positions or to submit an application email us at **uottawa.inter.pares@gmail.com**.

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Un message du Doyen

Bienvenue, ou bon retour, à la Section de common law de l'Université d'Ottawa. Cet été, les couloirs du pavillon Fauteux étaient si calmes qu'on aurait pu entendre une mouche voler, il est donc stimulant et inspirant de renouer avec la belle énergie qu'insuffle la présence de nos étudiantes et étudiants. J'en profite pour faire le point sur un certain nombre d'éléments intéressants.

L'an dernier, à la requête de notre population étudiante, nous avons décidé de remplacer la désignation de notre diplôme, LL.B. pour celle de JD. Ainsi, tous les étudiants inscrits à la common law pour l'année universitaire 2010-2011, y compris ceux du Programme national et les étudiants des programmes conjoints, recevront un diplôme de JD lors de la collation des grades, à moins qu'ils ne préfèrent un LL.B. Nous vous communiquerons d'autres détails au sujet de cette option au courant de l'automne.

À la fin de l'année, également, le Programme expérimental de droit canadien (PDC) a été approuvé par le Sénat à titre de programme permanent. La vingtaine d'étudiantes et étudiants du PDC étudient en même temps la common law en français et le droit civil et obtiennent les deux diplômes à la fin du programme. De son côté, le Programme national accepte environ 80 diplômés de droit civil qui étudient en vue d'obtenir un diplôme de JD exclusivement en common law, en anglais ou en français.

Dans un autre ordre d'idées, l'Université s'est engagée à finaliser ses plans de restructuration d'ici le mois de septembre. Le statut de l'agrandissement proposé pour le pavillon Fauteux devrait être réglé à ce moment-là. Entre-temps, nous continuons d'améliorer l'édifice actuel. Les étudiants seront ravis d'apprendre que le courant électrique a été étendu de façon à ajouter 70 nouveaux postes de travail aux 4e et 5e étages de la bibliothèque de droit. Seize nouveaux postes de travail à la bibliothèque ont été réservés de façon permanente aux étudiants en droit, et des postes supplémentaires seront désignés à cet effet pendant la période d'examen. Il y a également de nouveaux ordinateurs accessibles au public.

Nous tenons à souhaiter tout le succès possible à trois membres de notre équipe qui ont décidé de suivre une nouvelle direction. Karen Jensen quitte ses fonctions de doyenne adjointe pour retourner à la pratique privée. L'ancien doyen adjoint, Stéphane Émard-Chabot, a quitté la faculté pour assumer les fonctions de chef de cabinet, auprès du recteur de l'Université, M. Allan Rock. La professeure Katsivela reprendra le flambeau à titre de directrice du PDC. La chef des Affaires scolaires, Chantale Foré, a décidé d'occuper des fonctions analogues, à la Faculté de génie, cette fois-ci. La Section de common law se réjouit que l'Université continue de bénéficier des excellents services de Stéphane et de Chantale et nous aurons sans doute à faire appel, de temps à autre, à leur mémoire institutionnelle.

Cette année, le nombre de membres du corps professoral en congé temporaire, qu'il s'agisse de congé sabbatique ou de responsabilité réduite, est particulièrement important. Nous accueillons cette année aussi un grand nombre de nouveaux professeurs exceptionnels : tout d'abord, les professeurs à temps plein Jennifer Bond, Marel Katsivela, et David Wiseman. Quant aux professeurs Suzanne Bouclin et Vasu Vasudev, ils se joindront à la cohorte des professeurs à temps plein à compter de janvier 2011. La professeure Carissima Mathen, de l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick, est notre invitée pour l'année au complet et assumera une pleine charge d'enseignement. La professeure Elizabeth Sanderson, du ministère de la Justice, est notre « fonctionnaire en résidence » et assume également une pleine charge d'enseignement. Les professeurs Paul Daly, Michelle Melia-Gordon, et Anne Uteck occupent cette année les fonctions de professeurs remplaçants.

Vous pouvez en savoir davantage au sujet de nos nouveaux professeurs en consultant **le site Web de la Section de common law**, en plus de découvrir une foule de nouvelles sur la population étudiante comme sur la faculté. Si, selon vous, des nouvelles mériteraient d'être affichées sur notre site Web, veuillez envoyer un courriel à amanda.turnbull@uottawa.ca.



Bruce Feldthusen

Message from the Dean

Welcome, or welcome back, to Common Law at uOttawa. One could hear a pin drop in the halls of Fauteux this summer, the sheer energy of our returning students is both overwhelming and inspiring. Let me bring you up to date on a few things that should be of interest.

Last year, at the initiative of our students, the name of our degree was changed from LL.B. to JD. All students who are registered in Common Law for the 2010-11 academic year including National Program and first time joint degree students will receive a JD degree upon graduation, unless they opt to receive an LL.B. instead. Information about this option will be forthcoming this fall.

Also at the end of last year, the experimental Programme de droit canadien (PDC) was approved by Senate as a permanent program. PDC students, approximately 20, study simultaneously in the French common law program and Droit civil and receive both degrees upon completion of the program. In contrast, the National Program accepts approximately 80 civil law graduates who study to obtain the JD degree exclusively in Common Law, English or French.

The University has promised to finalize its campus building plans in September. The status of the proposed extension to Fauteux Hall should finally be settled then. Meanwhile, we are continuing to invest in the existing building. Students will be pleased to know that electrical power has been extended to an additional 70 work stations on the 4th and 5th floors of the law library. Sixteen new library workstations have been permanently reserved for law students, and more will be so designated during the exam periods. There are new public access computers.

We wish best of luck to three members of our team who are moving on in new directions. Karen Jensen has resigned her position as Assistant Dean to take a position in private practice. Former Assistant Dean Stéphane Emard-Chabot has left the faculty to take a new position working closely with University President Rock as Chief of Staff. Professor Katsivela will assume his current duties as Director of the PDC. Manager of Academic Affairs Chantale Foré has transferred to a similar position in Engineering. Common law is fortunate that the University was to retain the services of Stéphane and Chantale. We will need to rely on their corporate memory from time to time.

This year we have an unusually large number of faculty members on temporary leave such as sabbatical leave or reduced responsibility. Equally, we have a large number of outstanding new professors in Fauteux. Please welcome to the full time faculty Professors Jennifer Bond, Marel Katsivela, and David Wiseman. Professors Suzanne Bouclin and Vasu Vasudev will join the full time faculty in January. Professor Carissima Mathen of the University of New Brunswick is visiting for the entire year and teaching a full load. Professor Elizabeth Sanderson is our "Public Servant in Residence" visiting from the Department of Justice and also teaching a full load. Professors Paul Daly, Michelle Melia-Gordon, and Anne Uteck have joined us as replacement professors this year.

You can read more about our new faculty members on the **Common Law website**, plus all sorts of current news about students and faculty. If you have news that you think should be posted on our website please send an email to amanda.turnbull@uottawa.ca.



Photo by Roy Tennant © 2010 - freelargephotos.com

By Mike Kocheff

At 1:41 PM on June 23 Ottawa experienced a 5.0 magnitude earthquake. According to the Ottawa Citizen the quake produced the strongest ground shaking in Ottawa's recorded history.

Despite the wishes of Torontonians, some of whom still claim that the epicentre of the quake was the Eaton Centre, the quake was traced to Echo Lake, which is about 60 kilometres north of Ottawa. It was felt in southern and eastern Ontario, western Quebec as well as a number of bordering states.

The CBC and the Ottawa Citizen reported severe damage in the towns near the epicentre. In Gracefield, Quebec the Mayor Real Rochon said several local landmarks were in need of serious repair. In Val-des-Bois a bridge collapsed while another sustained extensive structural damage.

Damage within Ottawa was rather limited, however the earthquake did result in the closure of several government buildings and downtown offices until appropriate safety checks were completed.

Stephen Harper, ever calm and collected, remarked that he had not even felt the quake.

As with all natural disasters, or natural near-disasters, questions about preparedness and fears about Ottawa's susceptibility to future quakes abounded.

At a conference a month after the quake scientists were quick to downplay the seriousness of the quake. John Adams, of the Geological Survey of Canada, said that ground shaking would have been ten times as strong to produce significant damage to buildings.

Yet parts of Ottawa are uniquely susceptible to earthquakes because of the presence of Leda clay. Leda clay, a type of soft soil, increases the impact of seismic waves; John Adams and his team obtained proof of this. Using 13 seismic monitoring stations positioned around the city they found that parts of the city built on Leda clay shook nearly twice as strong as those parts built upon bedrock. The clay increases the side-to-side motion and it also increases the length of shaking as the seismic waves reverberate within the clay. About 65% of Ottawa is built on Leda clay.

As for preparedness the Canadian Government recommends that you drop, cover and hold. If you are indoors drop under a piece of heavy furniture, cover your torso with your hands and legs and hold onto the object you are under to remain covered. Despite what you may have heard, doorways are not safe because the door may slam shut and cause injuries.

If you are outdoors, stay outdoors and go to an open area far from nearby buildings.

If you are in a vehicle, slowly pull over to a safe place where you are not blocking the road. Once pulled over, stop the car and stay inside; if you are under an overpass or anything that can collapse, however, it is safer if you proceed to the other side.

For more tips visit: <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/knw/ris/eq-eng.aspx>.

To discuss your quake experience or to see how others experienced it through pictures and youtube clips please visit our Facebook page, entitled *Inter Pares University of Ottawa's Common Law Newspaper*.

How much sodium do you consume on a daily basis?

By Prubjoth Sidhu

According to CBC news, Canadians are consuming a higher amount of sodium than they require. Statistics Canada warns that this is putting a strain on the well-being of Canadians and on the Canadian healthcare system. Following the Report on Sodium Intake issued in April 2007 a working group on Sodium Reduction was formed. On September 14, 2009, before the results of the working group were even published, the Canadian Medical Association Journal called for urgent action to implement and develop a sodium reduction plan for Canada. This reduction plan noted that since the 1970s Finland has reduced their sodium intake by 40% and since then mortality from stroke and coronary artery disease has fallen by 70%. This clearly demonstrates that reducing our sodium intake has a direct and beneficial impact upon our health.

In a more detailed report to the Sodium Working Group the Canadian Medical Association Journal recommended voluntary reductions by the food industry as a first step. For example, the United Kingdom uses red, amber and green warnings on food packages which alert consumers on the salt levels in a product. Canada is expected to model a system similar to that of the United Kingdom. The Sodium Working Group released its sodium reduction strategy on July 29, 2010. The report notes that "thousands of lives would be saved if Canadians cut their sodium intake by half."

This goal may seem unreasonable but drastic reductions are needed if Canada is to overcome its addiction to salt.

According to a report released in July 2009 by the World Action on Salt, processed and fast food products sold in Canada have a much higher amount of sodium. For example, Kellogg's Bran Flakes purchased in Canada contain 603 mg more sodium, per 100 grams, than the Bran Flakes sold in the United States. Burger King onion rings have 522 mg more sodium than those in the UK. Finally, popcorn chicken from Canadian KFC outlets have 348 mg of more sodium than the KFC popcorn chicken served in Malaysia. (World Action on Salt and Health)

High sodium intake can significantly increase blood pressure, which in turn heightens the risk of heart disease and stroke. The Heart and Stroke Foundation has suggested that Canadian adults consume no more than 2,300 milligrams of sodium per day. Yet, most adults have more than 3,000 milligrams per day on average.

As law students in particular we tend to focus less time and attention on what we are consuming eating. We got lost in study mode and forgot to keep track of what we are putting into our body. Pizza, sandwiches, hamburgers, hotdogs, potato chips, pretzels, and other processed foods contain extraordinarily high levels of sodium. Yet for many of us they are standard fare. Make time for healthy eating and follow these easy steps: eat more fresh fruits and vegetables, purchase canned foods without added salts, eat unsalted chips and pretzels and season cooked meals with herbs and spices instead.

Ottawa's South Asian Festival

By Prubjoth Sidhu

On Saturday July 17, Confederation Park came alive with South Asian music, dance, food, henna, laughter, yoga, traditional jewellery and much more. The annual South Asian Festival featured a full day of live performances, delicious cuisine, health and well being seminars and kid activities.

Many community partners were on-site including: The RCMP, Ottawa Police, Hydro Ottawa, Ecology Ottawa, and others. One of the organizations that participated in the community information part of the festival, were the South Asian Bar Association, Ottawa Chapter (SABA).

The South Asian Bar Association of Ottawa is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to addressing the needs, concerns and interests of lawyers of South Asian heritage and lawyers with clients from the South Asian community in Canada and abroad.

SABA is a relatively new but it is looking to expand and deepen ties within the South Asian legal community. The South Asian community in Ottawa is smaller, with many South Asian lawyers working the public sector. Therefore, the SABA Ottawa chapter will have a unique perspective on issues that affect the South Asian community in Canada.

SABA is a chapter of the much larger North American South Asian Bar Association. In Ottawa, SABA is the newest chapter in Canada. Canadian chapters are also in Vancouver (for all of BC) and Toronto.

SABA makes a strong effort to get law students involved in the Ottawa legal community and has some upcoming events and opportunities that are open to all law students. Some plans for the near future include: mentorship programme for law students and newer lawyers and a referral list for local practitioners, continued advocacy on behalf of the community, outreach and working with other community organizations.

"SABA Ottawa is open to all lawyers and law students who identify themselves as being of South Asian heritage. All those from the South Asian Diaspora are welcome. We also welcome lawyers and law students of any background" states Louisa Garib, President of SABA, Ottawa Chapter. To contact or get involved please email sabaottawa@gmail.com.

Students from The South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA), at the University of Ottawa, also promote and participate in events SABA organizes. Last year, SALSA participated in the club fair at our law school. Many of our student clubs will be participating in the club fair, it is which you simply cannot miss out on! By getting involved in a club you are sure to meet students who share your unique interests and can help you make your professional and academic goals realities.

Some of these students clubs are affiliated with organizations in the Ottawa community. To check out a list of student clubs please visit student activities under current students in the main Faculty of Law website: <http://www.commonlaw.uottawa.ca/en/student-services/full-page-content-student-services/student-activities.html>.



Photo by Amna Hakim

Is it worth the cost? uOttawa's New Universal Bus Pass

By Mike Kocheff

The Student Federation and the Graduate Students' Association of the University of Ottawa are introducing a Universal Transit-Pass (U-Pass) for full-time students. Distribution of the U-Pass will begin at 9 AM on August 23rd in the Couch lounge of the University Centre and in the Roger-Guindon Student Lounge.

The U-Pass will be effective from September 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011. Meaning that, the pass does not apply to the months from May to August 2011.

The U-Pass will cost \$145.00 per semester (Fall and Winter), which is about half the amount of a normal semester pass and will permit full access to the OC Transpo's network. It is a mandatory fee for all full-time students, with some limited exceptions. Students, however, will be able to claim a federal tax credit for public transportation in the value of \$145 for both the 2010 and 2011 tax season.

A quick survey of other Canadian universities suggests that University of Ottawa students are getting a fairly good deal but perhaps our representatives could have bargained a little harder. At Wilfrid Laurier University the bus pass costs \$40 per semester. At UBC the bus pass can be purchased on a monthly basis and costs \$23.75 a month, which translates to about \$95 per semester. McMaster students pay \$91.35 per semester. However, at the University of Toronto, York and Ryerson the equivalent of the U-Pass costs \$240 per semester.

Ted Horton, Vice President of University Affairs for the Student Federation, had this to say about the pricing of the U-Pass: The price of the U-Pass in cities like Hamilton and Kitchener is lower because the passes were implemented much earlier and when students played a strong role in the initial growth of the public transit systems – the funds from their U-Passes permitted a stable source of revenue to grow the transit systems. The Ottawa U-Pass, comparatively, is being implemented in a much different environment and much later in the game – we have a stable and sizable transit provider that already has a majority of postsecondary students as riders. We are able to offer a discount to the majority of students who are transit users, but since that majority is already on the busses, there is little incentive for OC Transpo to drastically slash the price.

For more details on the U-Pass visit: <http://sfuo.ca/en/services/u-pass.php>.

To discuss this issue with your classmates visit our Facebook page, Inter Pares University of Ottawa's Common Law Newspaper.

WELCOME ABROAD!

By Monica Lee

On behalf of the students at the University of Ottawa’s Canadian Lawyers Abroad (CLA), we would like to welcome the incoming class of 2013-14!

For those who are not familiar with CLA, Canadian Lawyers Abroad is a charitable organization dedicated to providing a forum for educational institutions across Canada and abroad in order to advance the rule of law, and to protect the integrity of legal process through neutral observation. The CLA chapter at the University of Ottawa is one of the many student chapters that exist to engage law students in support of the organization’s broader goals. The student chapters work closely with Monique Moreau, CLA’s director of student programs.

This year’s CLA executive includes: myself, Monica Lee (President), Tess Acton (Vice-President), Julie Mohanna (Treasurer) and Ana Rico (Events Coordinator). We are still looking to have at least one more position on our executive, so please make sure to attend our first meeting if interested. As well, we will be looking for volunteers to help out with the various upcoming events during the year.

We trust to see many of you at our exciting events this year! A few things to look forward to will include: the first annual meeting in September; CLA social events; the roundtable discussion in October, concerning international summer legal internships available through CLA; CLA fundraisers; and a conference next semester with other existing CLA chapters from neighbouring campuses. Also, please be aware that this year’s student program theme will be the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It should be a very exciting year, so we sincerely hope to see many enthusiastic law students at these events!

Any questions concerning our student chapter or ways to become more involved, please contact us at cla.ace.uottawa@gmail.com.

Update on the African-Canadian Women’s Human Rights Project

By Monica Lee

Amongst one of the many projects pursued by the lawyers of Canadian Lawyers Abroad (CLA), the African-Canadian Women’s Human Rights Project (ACWHRP) is steadily gaining recognition. Recent media coverage for this project includes a recent article published in the Globe and Mail, as well as a press release from Fasken Martineau.

This project’s main objective is to advance the human rights of African women and girls through various legal research and education initiatives. The ACWHRP is facilitated through a partnership involving Canadian human rights experts working alongside academics and non-for-profit human organizations from Ghana, Kenya and Malawi.

The ACWHRP is a unique undertaking, where CLA lawyers compare the human rights experiences of Canadian women with those of African women. A number of law students have assisted the CLA lawyers in organizing and reviewing hundreds of cases with respect to this subject.

The ACWHRP has a specific focus on women’s experiences with marital rape. Presently, marital rape is legally permissible in Kenya, Malawi and Ghana. Conversely, marital rape has been criminalized in Canada since 1983. It is the goal of the CLA lawyers that this research will challenge the legal impunity of marital rape in partnering African countries. Ultimately, this project aims to further the criminalization of marital rape in Africa.

The CLA lawyers believe that this blend of African and Canadian research will be particularly useful to better address feminist legal issues, such as Aboriginal women’s property rights on reserves, the reconciliation of women’s rights and religious rights, and the feminization of HIV/AIDS amongst Aboriginal women.

This past February, CLA lawyers met with the African representatives in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss goals and strategies in regards to the criminalization of marital rape. A documentary entitled “3 to be Free” had its first installment in March. The research for the film will ultimately be published in a book. “3 to be Free” was designed to document the work of ACWHRP. A legal education initiative has been scheduled to follow. **More information about the achievements of this project can be found at www.cla-ace.ca.**



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EXPERIENCES ABROAD – JUSTIN MOHAMMED

By Tess Acton

Are you interested in pursuing an internship abroad, but not sure where to start and what it would be like? Many students from the Faculty of Law have participated in exciting adventures around the world and, over the course of the school year, some of them will be interviewed in order to provide you with information and advice.

Justin Mohammed is entering his second year in the joint J.D.-M.A. program with the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. He participated in the Faculty for Israeli Palestinian Peace (FFIPP) program, which takes students from Canada, the U.S.A. and Europe. The program places students at various organizations in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. He interned at the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD) in Jerusalem. The following is what he had to say about his experience.

What were your some of your responsibilities?

My main responsibility was drafting ICAHD's submission to the International Criminal Court (ICC) regarding the recent declaration that the Palestinian Authority is subject to the Rome Statute of the ICC. The Office of the Prosecutor is attempting to determine whether or not Palestine can constitute a 'State', and is thus seeking legal submissions on this matter. I was also responsible for writing a short report on the recent destruction of an 'illegal' Bedouin village in the Negev Desert, near Be'er Sheva, and conducted field research (interviews, taking photos, and reporting) about a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem that was occupied by Israeli settlers last week.

What is a typical day or week at the ICAHD?

Work normally starts late, around 10 AM. The office usually picks up around 10:30, with interns from many different countries coming in to work on their various projects. Around noon, a tour group might come to ICAHD to do an alternative tour of Jerusalem's Old City, or view some of the sites where the security barrier is causing problems for Palestinians. On a normal day, work finishes around 4 or 5 PM, but it depends on what is happening. If there is an eviction, home demolition, etc., ICAHD may dispatch interns to monitor and report. Since I have been working with ICAHD, we have dispatched interns to East Jerusalem and the Jordan River Valley, and another intern will be going to the Bedouin village later this week.

Finally, what are the most important things you will take from the experience and would you recommend it to interested students?

My internship was amazing. I had the chance to do some real legal research and writing on an issue that is really important to me. The fact that I was among other interns (both from FFIPP, as well as interns that volunteer for ICAHD) also served to improve my experience by having an immediate network of interested and engaged students with whom I could talk about my experience. A 'human view' of the situation is the most important thing I could take from my experience - reading about it is a start, but it can not substitute for 'on the ground' experience.

To apply for a position with the FFIPP, please visit their website at www.ffipp.org. If you have any questions regarding Justin's internship, he can be contacted at justin.mohammed@gmail.com. Students may be able to receive credit for international internships programs. Applications should be submitted to the Student Services Office.

BY NOW, YOU'VE BEEN WARNED:

First year will **ASSAULT** your **MIND, BODY** and **SPIRIT** in such a way that, on your best days, you will have only one or two minor panic attacks.



Welcome 1Ls! 1L IN RETROSPECT BY LINDSAY DOUCET

While this is a slight overstatement, it's part of the hype that marks our entrance into law school culture—and make no mistake, it is a culture, a whole community of sleep-deprived, stressed out, ambitious, and exceedingly smart people navigating an unfamiliar landscape, marked by some unique pedagogical tools. Here are two features unique to the law school experience that are sure to delight and impress even the most discriminate overachiever: the readings and the 'Socratic Method'.

The amount of money I spent on first-year law textbooks is equal to what I spend on three months' rent. The textbooks themselves are massive tomes, filled with inscrutable cases, printed in the tiniest possible font, with Latin terms and 14th-century jargon sprinkled throughout their pages. Tackling the sixty page reading assignment you have for the following day will seem as arduous as reading *War and Peace* in one evening. Further, the notes that follow the cases are just as important as the cases themselves, and they need to be read through a magnifying glass. The sheer weight of my books forced me into purchasing one of those big bags with wheels by the second week of school. Every time I left home for class, it was as though I were heading to the airport on an extended vacation. Taxi and bus drivers would ask where I was headed, and when I'd reply "class", they'd simply scratch their heads, or offer me a sympathetic look.

But getting through the readings is not enough. You will be expected to summarize cases and answer questions about the readings if you are called upon. This is known as the 'Socratic Method.' Perhaps not so much Socratic as Draconian, this learning method is supposed to help us think on the spot, practice public speaking, make sure we are prepared for class, etc. What it actually does is turn most of us into paranoid, stammering, sycophantic morons who cannot, for the life of us, understand how we were admitted to law school. First-year is not complete without experiencing

the horror that THIS might be the day you get called upon in class. And this is especially terrifying when you did not quite finish your readings the night before. Nonetheless, in the next eight months, the day will come when you blurt out the best possible answer (since there are no right answers anymore) and you will get the most incredible boost of confidence. As a friend of mine pointed out, “the high that you feel when you finally say the right thing is so phenomenal, it almost makes the lows bearable. And, in law school, you can feel both in the same day.” Indeed, I remember the first time I felt that high. It was in Torts class and I successfully defined ‘capacity.’ It truly was a stunning achievement. You, too, can look forward to all sorts of words being stripped of their ordinary meaning and replaced by obscure, sometimes downright contradictory, legal definitions, a.k.a. ‘judicial treatment.’ In times of confusion, do yourself a favour and heed the Dean’s advice—use your common sense!

As terrifying as it is, the Socratic Method does have its advantages. We are all resilient students, and a good grilling by a professor will ensure that you get back to the books and know the cases through and through. Don’t believe us? When you all get to the duty to rescue in Torts, stop Mario in the halls and ask him anything, anything at all, about *Horsley v McLaren*.



“YOU’RE SMART, BELIEVE IT. LEARNING THE LAW IS LIKE A FOREIGN LANGUAGE, AND THERE WILL BE BUMPS ALONG THE ROAD, BUT EVENTUALLY IT WILL ALL COME TOGETHER.”

Along with law school readings and the Socratic method, there is no shortage of hype over exams, grades, and many other things you’ll soon discover. Before I started first-year, a second-year student advised me to not give in to this hype. They said that it proved to be the downfall of many students. He told me: “First year isn’t as bad as they say. You can have a social life. Just relax and do your readings and you’ll be fine”. Great advice, but, in retrospect, I am happy to say that I did give in—wholeheartedly and without reserve. Some of us could not help it, some of us embraced it, and others rejected the idea that they were stressed out, overworked and confused. Perhaps those few upon who many of us looked with awe and admiration are simply made of tougher stuff, heartier constitutions, and unparalleled mental fortitude. Perhaps they are just really good at appearing outwardly composed. Either way, it does not matter. This journey is not about everyone else, it is about you. Thomas Gallagher, a student going into 2L, gives a good account of why you need to “stick to your guns”:

“You are all bright and motivated individuals, otherwise you would not have arrived at this juncture in your schooling. Maintain your confidence. Yes, that one individual will spout off about their 16 hour study sessions in the library, but will fail to mention they spent 40% of their time on Facebook and another 20% texting their peers about lunch plans. Do your best to drown out the constant murmur of job prospects, everyone seemingly receiving a B+/A- and finally, those who are purported to have started their summaries in October (what could possibly be in them?). You’re smart, believe it. Learning the law is like a foreign language, and there will be bumps along the road, but eventually it will all come together.”

Along with sticking to your guns, using your common sense and believing in yourself, you will need to get comfortable with the fact that there will always be someone who seems to have it easier. And remember, for those of you, like us, who succumb to the hype and allow yourselves to be swept up by the stress of it all, the accompanying feelings of helplessness, confusion and inadequacy will nourish something incredibly valuable: the need, which you may be feeling for the first time in your academic lives, to reach out and ask for help, to cooperate, to rely and depend on others—whether it be for summaries, a study partner, or just the comfort in knowing someone else is as lost as you are.

The hype is not inherent in the law school curriculum, or the material we learn in our first year, it is constructed and reconstructed and passed down to each generation of first year law students because it is what gets us through. It is an initiation of sorts into the law school community, and is what binds us together as friends and colleagues. Rachel Gold, another student entering 2L, said of first year that it was “a whirlwind experience” but that she “wouldn’t have done it any other way.”

Neither would I, Rachel.



Photo by freedigitalphotos.net



WHAT TO DO IN OTTAWA: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

By Millie Sparling

Are you new to Ottawa? Or, are you simply looking for some fun things to do around town? First year is an important time to get out there and try new things as you adjust to your new surroundings and academic subject matter. Luckily, the city has plenty of attractions: cultural events, museums, restaurants and entertainment venues to distract you for a little while.

Read on for a small slice of the good life in the nation's capital.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Being in the nation's capital gives you prime access to a variety of theatre and spectacle—why not take an enriching study break? The National Arts Centre, literally a skip and a jump from campus, has theatre to suit anyone's taste.

Of note this fall is *Romeo and Juliet* from October 19-November 6th. Coming in February is Camus' *Les Justes*, a drama set in early socialist Russia with a modern-day echo.

There's also the highly-anticipated *Mais que lit Stephen Harper?*, a biting commentary on the arts in Canada written by the famous Yann Martel, and Agokwe, the award-winning portrait of marginalized youth in a small community.

Be sure to check out **LiveRush**, the N.A.C.'s student ticket program. Arrive the day of the performance (usually a few hours prior), and receive tickets for \$10-\$11. Be sure to call in advance to ensure availability.

OPERA

For opera fans there's **Opera Lyra**, a company which has been supplying the N.A.C. with both famous and under-the-radar productions since the early 1980s. Check out *Puccini's Turandot*, playing in September or *Humperdink's Hansel and Gretel* playing in October. LiveRush is not always available for Opera Lyra but quality seating can normally be purchased the day-of for under \$20. See the N. A. C. box office or Opera Lyra's at 2 Daly Ave. for details.

If live performance is not for you, just down Rideau St. from the N.A.C. is the **Bytowne Cinema**, your go-to place for independent and international cinema which never fails to surprise and please. Early September will feature *Lebanon*, a searing glimpse into the first Lebanon war from Samuel Maoz (the film is in Hebrew, Arabic and French with English subtitles).

After you have seen a show, head up to Parliament Hill for the nightly sound and light show "Mosaika", which is a series of projections onto the facade of Parliament, set to music. The show starts at 9:30 p. m. and runs until September 12th.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS

For photography and pop culture fans, the National Gallery of Canada will be exhibiting *Pop Life: Art in the Material World* until September 19th. The exhibition, which was organized in conjunction with the Tate Modern Gallery in London, explores how the mass media and marketing affect the artistic imagination. Do not forget the gallery's permanent collection, which boasts of classic Rembrandt and Klimt, sculpture and one of the world's leading indigenous art collections. The Gallery is conveniently located just behind Parliament.

If you are up for a short trip across the river, the Museum of Civilization in Hull never fails to excite. Check out *The Horse*, an exhibition on the biology and mythology of humanity's relationship with the creatures, or *Canada Hall*, an enormous dome that walks visitors through a social history of Canada. If all else fails, *Sharks* and *Hubble* are running at the IMAX Theatre located inside the museum until mid-September.

MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE

Zaphod Beeblebrox, which is named after the guy in *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, is a cozy alternative club which features: themed nights, a whatever-goes music lineup (think the Raveonettes followed by Jay-Z followed by rock-infused electronica) and eclectic concert lineups (NEeMA, Soul Bomb and Serena Ryder to name a few recent guests). Check out the unconventional pan-Canadian band Arctic, which infuses haunting melodies with rock and jazz and is "never the same from one show to the next" on September 22nd with France's Bruxelles.

Half night-club and half concert venue, the relatively-new club **Ritual** features one of the biggest dance floors in town. Be prepared to pay a handsome cover charge when there is an event, but it's worth every penny.

Coming this Fall: **Anti-Flag** on September 26th, Scratch Bastid on September 17th and Fat Joe on November 25th. For bluegrass and folk fans, be sure to visit **Irene's Pub at 885 Bank St.** for an endless stream of live music and a great pub atmosphere. We also recommend the **O-Town Hoedown**, an annual country music festival which takes place all over Ottawa which will be making stops here and at other local establishments at the end of September.

JUST FOR FUN

Looking to enjoy the great outdoors? Why not go hiking or cycling in **Gatineau Park**? The Park is approximately 15 minutes from downtown and is accessible by bus. Get ready for spectacular fall colours and a little peace and tranquility in your bustling law school life. The National Capital Commission's annual **Fall Rhapsody**, which features a series of tours and educational events, is on from October 2nd-17th.

Not sure what to do, but want to check out something new? Get a load of **Spins and Needles** craft and DJ night. The group's slogan says it all—"Mixing Beats. Making Stuff". Quite literally, these are themed craft nights hosted by a local designer and DJ at the Ottawa Legion. Check out Spins and Needles retroactive cousin, **Disco Bingo**, for kitschy prizes, creative number-calling and bright, fluorescent wigs. Information on times and locations is available at www.spinsandneedles.com.

DINING OUT

What better way to celebrate the beginning of a new school year than some dining out with friends? Ottawa has food from every corner of the globe, all within walking distance of the University of Ottawa.

A great place to start is a hands-down favourite. Nestled deep in the **Byward market**, **Chez Lucien** is a cosy urban cross between a casual bistro and a pub with exposed brick walls, art displays which change from month to month and photographs of famous authors throughout. But the star of the show is the food of the gourmet French variety (escargot and croque monsieur) alongside inexpensive entrees such as fantastic burgers (\$9-\$11) which arrive on a heaping platter of salad and the best fries around. The restaurant turns into a crowded bar on Friday and Saturday nights, so arrive early.

Just up the street is **Ahora**, a small and easy-to-miss treasure with a casual and family-centred atmosphere. While it serves authentic Mexican food, it is more fast-food than a fine-dining experience—perfect for a quick bite while out on the town. Food orders are taken at the counter: think heaping plates of nachos and other platters for \$7-\$8, plenty of vegetarian options and a deluxe salsa bar. What more could a student want?

If you are in the mood for something more upscale, nothing beats **Sweetgrass Aboriginal Bistro at 108 Murray St.** This small-but-elegant eatery features a seasonal menu—featuring mostly local ingredients—which follows the hunting and gathering traditions of aboriginal peoples from both North and South America. It is also a celebratory experience of aboriginal culture, as stunning art covers the walls. Be sure to check their website for when specific meals are served, and reservations are recommended.

Crossing the ocean to Southern Asia with food can easily be done at **Ceylonta, located on Somerset St. just off Bank**. It serves Sri Lankan and South-Indian dishes, meaning that the spices are fast roasted before being added to the food, providing a unique flavour experience. Highly recommended are the fish cutlets and any dosai you can get your hands on. Vegetarian options abound, and the meat dishes are halal; another bonus is the all-you-can-eat group menu, where groups of 10 or more eat for \$20/person.

Heading east, you will find **Genji**, an authentic Japanese restaurant **just off Elgin near City Hall**. Featuring melt-in-your-mouth fresh ingredients, the small establishment has some of the highest quality sashimi in town. While it is slightly pricier than all-you-can-eat sushi restaurants, the fresh ingredients and the food quality is worth a little extra.

Last, but not least, is **The Works**. This gourmet hamburger restaurant is an experience unto itself, and probably the only restaurant whose menu requires an accompanying guide. You select your bun, your patty (veggie/turkey/beef—or elk!), your side and your creatively-named combination of toppings (be adventurous and try the San Francisco Treat—Kraft Dinner on a burger, anyone?). Original to Ottawa with multiple locations region-wide, prepare yourself for a truly unique experience. **The Works** is located at **580 Bank St. in the Glebe** or in **Westboro at 236 Richmond Rd.**

These attractions, restaurants and venues are just some of the great distractions Ottawa has to offer. Be sure to add your own treasures to the list as your time at law school goes on. Happy exploring, newcomers!





Photo by infonev.com

By Andrew Conway

It would be easy to declare Lindsay Lohan as the Worst Celebrity of the Month for this issue. After all, who better to take the crown than a Hollywood starlet more famous for her after-hours antics than her on-screen acting ability? Who better than a celebrity who violated the terms of her probation by a) skipping out on her alcohol education meetings; and by b) failing to attend a hearing because she was ‘stranded’ at the Cannes Film Festival? Indeed, who better than an A-List pretender who appeared before the judge at her sentencing with a message that began with the letter ‘F’ and ended with the letter ‘U’ polished onto the nail of her middle finger? There should be no doubt that Ms. Lohan, sentenced to 90 days in prison but released after just 14, deserves the title of Worst Celebrity of the Month.

Or should there be doubt? Should we be celebrating the demise of a young woman who has been so badly mismanaged that her own mother has been known to party with her into the small hours of the morning, while her father has struck up a questionable romance with a tabloid journalist? Should we be so quick to condemn a person who is struggling with addiction problems, when so many other people have demons of their own? Should we be snickering at Ms. Lohan’s suffering behind bars when almost 4 percent of the US adult population (750 people per 100,000) is either in prison or on conditional release?

WORST CELEBRITY OF THE MONTH

Perhaps we can look further afield for the Worst Celebrity of the Month. Perhaps we can find a person who, although not necessarily a ‘celebrity’, has stood idly by while millions of people have suffered as a result of his inaction. Perhaps there is a person who, as CEO of one of the most powerful corporations in the world, has a duty to exercise the “care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.” Perhaps Mr. Tony Hayward, (ex-) CEO of British Petroleum, and the face behind one of the most shameful events in human history, is more deserving of this award. Mr. Hayward, it should be remembered, told journalists upon his appointment, that he would focus ‘laser-like’ on safety and reliability. Mr. Hayward, it should be noted, in the middle of a crisis that saw 4.9 million barrels of oil leaked into the Gulf of Mexico over 87 days, remarked that he ‘just wanted his life back.’ Mr. Hayward, it should be observed, in his desperate attempt to stop the earth from bleeding, resorted to filling up the hole in the ground with golf balls and rubber tires, a maneuver which his people labeled ‘the junk shot.’ They might as well have called it ‘the shot-in-the-dark shot’.

While Lindsay Lohan struggles to piece her life and career back together, Tony Hayward has walked away from the carnage with a payout worth over £1m. When we weigh up the options (and quickly discount Mel Gibson for being nothing more than a raving lunatic), the choice becomes clear. Congratulations, Mr. Tony Hayward, you are the Worst Celebrity of the Month.



Photo by John Moore/Getty Images



LESSONS FROM
THE WORLD CUP:
PURE RATIONALITY
IS KILLING HOCKEY

Photo by Getty Images

By Mike Corbett

For most the 2010 FIFA World Cup now seems like a distant memory, largely because a new hockey season is around the corner. Yet I can not help but feel nostalgic. The World Cup has left me wondering just how dysfunctional our national sport has become. While soccer maintains the traditions of the past and their inherent faults, hockey embraces rational thinking to its own detriment.

Everything in hockey has grown increasingly rational and quantifiable, to the point where the richness of the sport is suffering. The game is analyzed to death and yearly summits seek to improve the rules. Yet many of hockey's greatest moments are chaotic, hinging on actions that have been marginally insane. Players see a situation unfold before them and they respond in unpredictable ways, not straightforward ones. When the game is surrounded by rational, linear thinking, these spontaneous moments are threatened.

Hockey Night in Canada is a prime example of this trend. It is an entirely predictable format that treats hockey as an enterprise, as opposed to a game. There is nothing new here: same old Ron Mclean shouting out to Scott Oake for another lame hockey interview. Cue the cameras back to studio for a statistical breakdown. Now to an insider look from Glen Healy live at centre ice. Now back to studio e-desk for all the latest blogger news.

Something died along the way.

Anyone who caught the World Cup this year was exposed to a truly world class broadcasting. Game time is free from commercial breaks and the clock ticks without interruption until its either halftime or fulltime. The English gentlemen covering the games are an absolute joy. You will not hear "he

shoots, he scores", instead the players are "Jedi Knights tearing down the pitch in a match of helter skelter proportions." Goals are "cracking displays of bravado."

But what about all of soccer's botched calls? In a classic World Cup matchup this year between England and Germany, a critical English goal was disallowed by the referee. Instant replay confirmed that Frank Lampard's 38th-minute shot had crossed the German goal-line after crashing off Manuel Neuer's crossbar, yet the referee's initial judgment stood.

Hockey fans are quick to suggest these errors should be avoided. In hockey the slew of cameras catch every play from every possible angle. Stop the game, check the slow motion replay, no error is tolerated. Video replay on TV is regarded as hockey's ultimate judge of right and wrong. However, while the replay tells the truth, this does not mean it should be strictly followed. It is a game after all, and part of that game is outsmarting the referee and giving everything you have got to help your team win.

Once the sports enterprise and intrusive rule making are stripped away, the true 'game' is able to shine. Human error is accepted as a realistic depiction of every day life. The agony of defeat, and all of the frustration that goes along with it, are embraced as part of the game. True villains emerge and heroes are forged. While the villains cheat their way to win, it is only those who overcome everything when the odds are stacked against them that get to claim title as champions. For the latter, victory is that much sweeter.

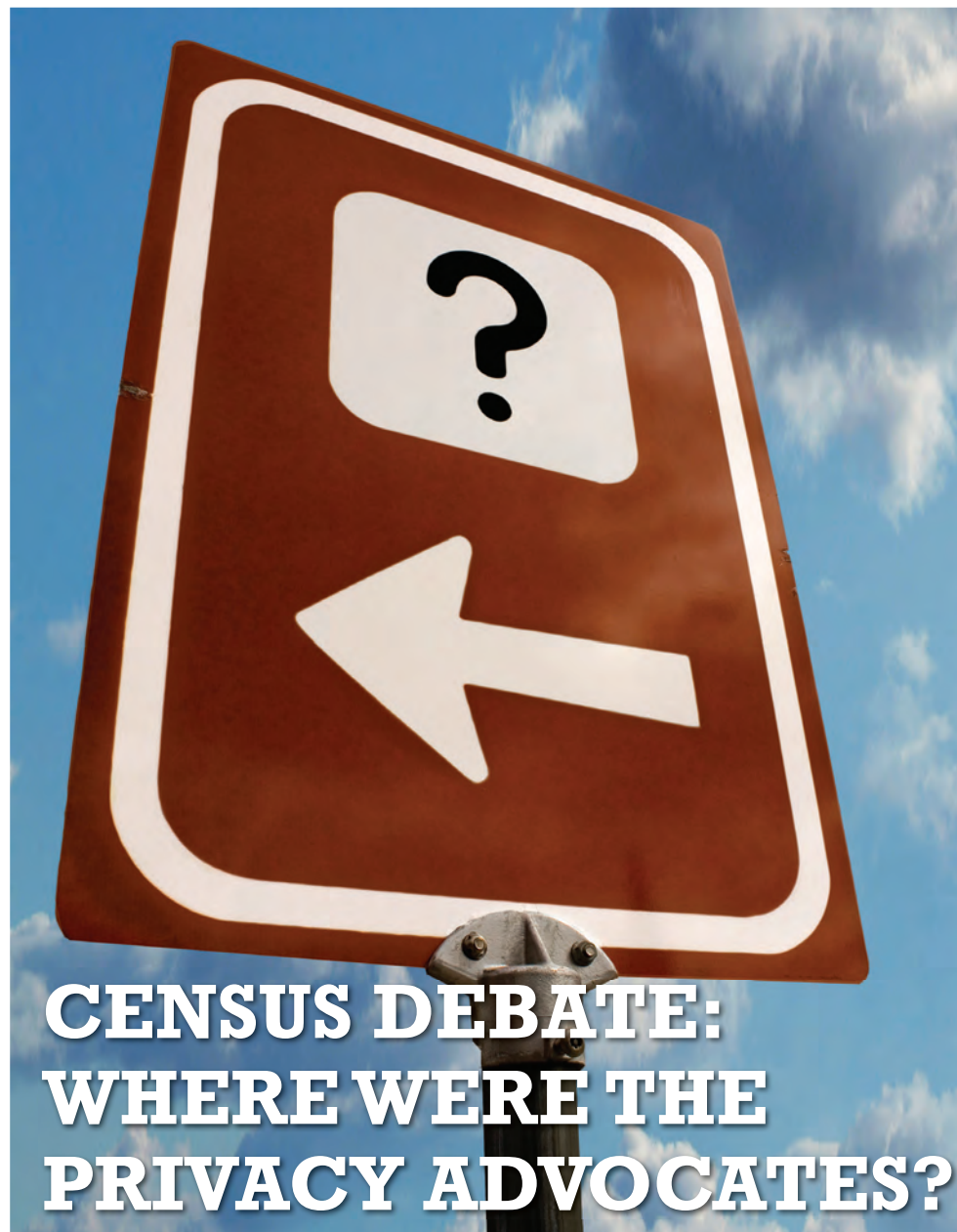


Photo by Gregory Szarkiewicz

By Donald Dawson

"I want to underline that any voluntary survey is intrinsically biased," said former chief statistician, Ivan Fellegi, in late July at a House of Commons Industry Committee hearing into the demise of the mandatory long-form census.

Fellegi appeared before the committee along with the man who had replaced him, Munir Sheikh. Sheikh resigned as the country's chief statistician just a week earlier to register his displeasure with the direction the federal cabinet was taking the census, and his unwillingness to go along with it.

While the census debate was certainly not the summer's sexiest news story, it may have illuminated Canada's political divide. Where were the privacy advocates? Could it be that those who would normally argue in favour of more privacy found they simply could not hold their nose and support a move championed by a government they oppose? For that matter, does privacy belong to the left or the right, or is it an issue that transcends politics?

As this article goes to print, the government does not seem to have needed the services of privacy lobbyists to help carry out most of its changes to the census. This is just as well since the changes themselves are regrettable. Voluntary surveys are less reliable than mandatory surveys because, where there is choice to participate, those who do take part are unlikely to accurately represent a population.

At their worst, voluntary surveys descend into farce, like when otherwise respectable news outlets run web polls asking whether or not Lady Gaga is a good role model. Not only do such surveys limit themselves to those who take the time to visit the web sites they are posted on, but participant self-selection means that only the viewers/readers who actually want to take a stand on Lady Gaga are likely to do so. These are people with an axe to grind. They love her or hate her. The views of the millions or billions who just do not care are not captured.

A long-form voluntary census would at least reach a representative sample of the population, but of that sample, a far less representative piece would take the time to fill it out. The result, as experts testified before the Committee and in the media this summer, is a survey skewed for or against certain groups.

But back to the politics: over July and August, as the census debate skidded away from them, the Conservatives sought traction with their base by portraying the long-form census as an unnecessary incursion on the privacy of truck-driving, Canadian Tire-shopping hockey parents by the evil pocket-protector set in Ottawa. Their efforts were to no avail. Conservative political supporters seemed literally and figuratively on vacation when it came to the census, and the privacy lobbyists, who are normally expected to hop on any bandwagon moving towards an anonymous utopia, were nowhere to be seen.

That Sheikh would feel his position as chief statistician had become untenable when a federal minister suggested he was on-board with the idea of scrapping penalties for not filling out the long-form census was hardly surprising. Neither was the fact that the 40-member National Statistics Council, an advisory board for Statistics Canada, would express concern with the government's plans.

What was surprising was the almost complete absence from the deliberations of those who would normally argue that more privacy is always better.

One might have thought that those who make careers out of lobbying for the collection of less private information by governments and corporations would be all over a decision that would eliminate the stick the federal government uses to force us to answer the sometimes rather invasive questions found on the long-form census. The 2006 long census asked, for example, all kinds of things about ethnic and cultural background, income, education, disabilities, home ownership and who people were shacking up with. It also asked for names. Industry Minister Tony Clement claimed that in moving to a voluntary survey, the government was only seeking to strike a "reasonable balance" between the collection of accurate information and respect for privacy rights. One could be forgiven for thinking this would be music to the ears of the privacy industry.

Perhaps it is because many privacy lobbyists sit on the opposite side of the political spectrum from Clement et al. that they did not want to be seen as supporting what appeared to be a position from the right, even one claiming to promote privacy.

Perhaps political intransigence got between privacy advocates and support for an issue that would crystallize into greater privacy rights for Canadians.

One hopes it was what Fellegi referred to as the intrinsic bias of voluntary surveys rather than intrinsic political bias that made privacy promoters blinder themselves over the summer to the proposed census changes.



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First Years at Berkley Line-Up for Genetic Testing

By Dara Jospe

Students are entering universities across North America. They have written their SATs, LSATs and MCATs, but for some there is one more test to be taken. Freshmen at Berkeley University are taking a genetic test. The test is voluntary and the results anonymous, but nevertheless the test has stirred much controversy.

From mailed-in saliva samples, students’ DNA will be tested for 3 genes that affect how the body metabolizes alcohol, folic acid and lactose. This is in order to stimulate dialogue about genetics and personalized medicine. Berkeley’s Dean of Biology maintains: “In the decade ahead, the new genetics is going to penetrate everyday medical practice... We wanted to give students a sense of what’s coming, through genes that can provide them with useful information”.

This is no doubt an exciting and groundbreaking initiative; there has never been mass genetic testing by a university. What if the University of Ottawa was offering a similar opportunity to have your genes tested, would you do it? It should be kept in mind that none of the genes tested indicate any serious health risks and thus, do not carry the same weight as those genes that may permit the discovery, for example, of whether one is at a high risk of developing cancer. Finding out that you are lactose intolerant is not life altering; trust me, I know—though I found out the old fashion way.

Even so, critics are apprehensive. Students will attend a series of lectures and discussions on the topic, however one-on-one genetic counselling will not be offered. Consequently, critics are concerned with how students will understand and respond to the test results.

Other opponents are skeptical about how private the tests really are. Once your genome is sequenced, it is possible to determine any and all diseases. The potential for discrimination is therefore great. If, for example, you discover that you have a devastating genetic disorder like Huntington’s disease, there is a risk that insurance companies will not give you coverage. Likewise, you might be denied employment, fired or face discrimination in your tasks and responsibilities. Even your own family may treat you differently by dissuading you from marrying, having children, and so on. Fortunately, American Students at Berkeley are protected under The Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act (2008); Canadians are not so lucky. Our Government has yet to pass any comparable legislation.

There are, however, some protections in Canada. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982) states in Article 15(1) that:

Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

The Charter, however, applies only to the Government and state actors. It does not pertain to disputes between individuals. So non-government employers would be free to make their decisions based on genetic information.

Article 3 of the Canadian Human Rights Act (1985) protects individuals against discrimination based on disability and therefore, could be used to safeguard individuals whose genetic information reveals the risk of disease.

But are these protections sufficient? NDP MP, Judy Waslycia-Leis, does not believe they are. She recently introduced a Private Member’s Bill to end genetic discrimination. The bill would amend the Canadian Human Rights Act in order to protect Canadians from discrimination on the basis of their genetic characteristics. This Bill, however, like most Private Member bills, has yet to be passed.

Now that you are aware of the ethical dilemmas and legal protections, the question remains: would you enrol in a genetic test?



Photo by Liohn Sherer

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