
The Bolt is Hiring!

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B.

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Magpie Theatre Presents:

The Pick Me Ups: "An unconventional & trendy theatre experience."

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The Bolt.

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January 6th, 2013

2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
THE Bolt!

THE HUNT IS ON!



Life 'N. Stuff. Writer

Dear Life 'N Stuff,
I am a 25 year old man in University. When I was 22, I met a girl through a friend of a friend. Again, she pursued me, we had a good 3 year relationship, then she cheated on and dumped me 2 weeks ago. I was hooked on that deep connection and the happiness that comes with sharing life with someone I was so compatible with. It's something I very much want again, but I don't know how to do it. I'm in school right now, which should seem like a great place to meet women, but so many of them are so much younger than I am, and I'm afraid they won't want committment because of it. Most women my age are already in serious relationships, and I don't know where the one who aren't are hiding. I want a partner, but I don't know how to find that partner in what feels like a rapidly shrinking pool of already sparse possibilities. I've been in relationships more often than not most of my adult life. Never been the pursuer. Don't know how to date. Help? -- New Persuer

Dear New Persuer,
First of all I would like to extend my deepest sypathies toward the loss you feel. I know that

often the ending of a long term relationship involves its own mourning process. For this reason I think its important to take some time for yourself before jumping right into a relationship. Also, feel free to check out Concordia's counseling services during this difficult time, I assure you the pay off is more than worththe time commitment, even for a busy student. Take the oppourtunity to make new friends, try new things, and rebuild yourself. The loss of a loved one is devastating, and your next relationship is likely to be unhealthy if your carry around your baggage from the last. Its a new semester, so there is nothing wrong with just focusing on school for a while. Everyone's hearts are different but the rule of thumb is to wait one third the duration of the last relationship before entering into a new one. That means your reccommended single life will be one year, but since you're quite eager (and not getting any younger) I would reccommend you take four to six months just worrying about you. That being said, you can set yourself up for success while you are rebuilding yourself.

This may come as a shock to you, but being a university student is a great way to meet new people. Do not dismiss women who are younger than yourself so easily. When you were 22 you entered into a serious relationship, so isn't it possible that many

other 22 yearolds want the same thing? Or for that matter, people in their early twenties in general? Also many young women seek out slightly older men because often women mature at a younger age then men. Any campus is full of single women in their early twenties, many of whom are in search of long term compatability. Furthermore, there are many single women your age and older who have either come out of unsuccessful long term relationships, like yourself, or have set aside dating at a young age to focus on their career, and are looking now. The real trick to dating women (older or younger) is meeting them.

Meeting new people, usually means trying new things. Joining a club or taking up a new hobby will not only help in the rebuilding stage after a breakup, but will allow you to meet and become friends with possible future partners. Do not be afraid to jump out of your comfort zone! Your twenties are supposed to be the greatest time of your life, so do not waste it on a comfortable routine. If you the sound of taking on another extra curricular while in school frightens you, then strike up a conversation with a stranger at a coffee shop you frequent or chat up a girl at your local grocery store. Develop new friendships with men and women alike because you never know who will introduce you to

your next love interest. These new friendships will get you up and out of the house on those darker postbreakup saturday nights where all you can think of is your ex and lay in bed. Furthermore, the relationships you develop with women will allow you to see how compatiabile you two would be in a romantic partnership, while still protecting your heart.

Once you have reached a point in your life where you genuinely feel ready to take one your friendships to the next level, be straight with her. Tell her that you like her more than a friend and that you would like to persue a romantic relationship with her. Communication is key for every relationship, so its important that you both fully understand the expectations of the other during the transition. I've always found that dating a friend is a great expierence because you've already gotten to know each other, so awkward silences, or uncomfortable topics don't play as much of a role. I do, however, reccommend taking the physical aspects of the relationship slowly or she may get the wrong idea about your true intentions.

Although breakups are hard, stay positive. Your ex just freed you up to meet the love of your life, and have new amazing expiencies with her. Good luck in your love endeavours! -- Life 'N Stuff

LET IT SNOW.



Rachel Whipple
Entertainment

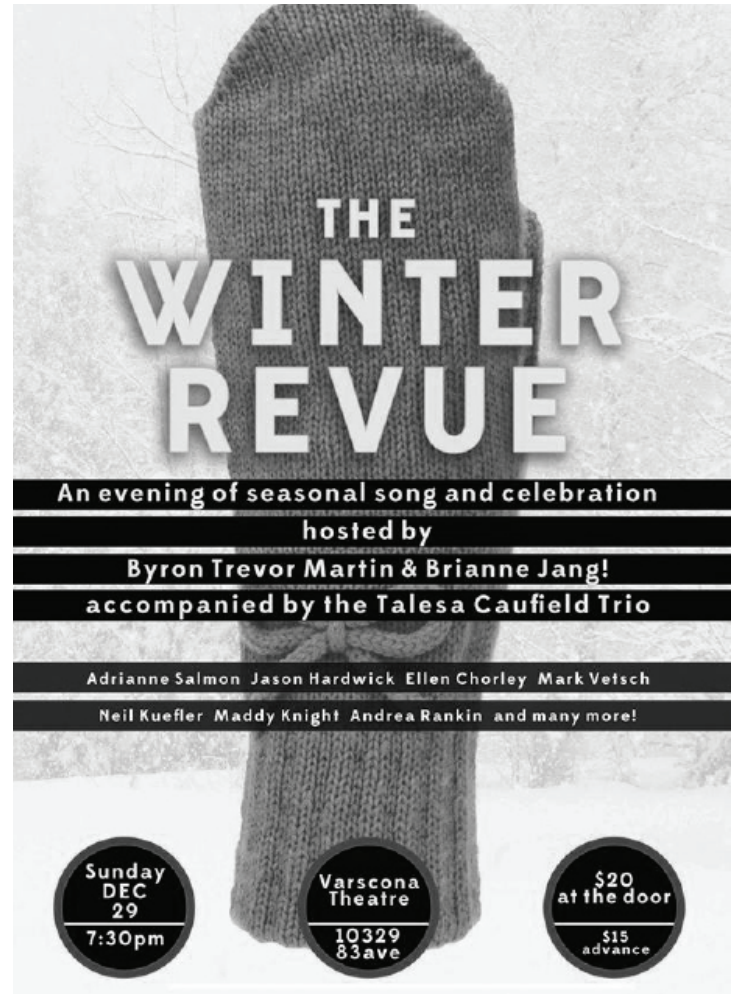
This is my itty bitsy review of Grindstone Theatre's Winter Revue. This night was an assortment of cabaret style songs, monologues, and music. The show featured local talent from a wide variety of theater companies. The stage was set Christmas special style—equipped with fire place, Christmas tree, and a big comfy chair for Santa to sit in. The live band featured the Calesa Caufield on the piano, Andreas Wegner on the upright bass, and Nick Davies on the drums.

Grindstone Theatre's very own artistic director, Byron Martin, kicked off the show with his jazzy rendition of "Let it Snow". David Johnston, a performer in "The 11 O'Clock Number", wrote a comically tragic song about failed New Year's resolutions called "Resolved". This song was performed by Brianne Jang while she drank from a flask. She sang beautifully and her wacky expressions kept the audience laughing. I rarely cry for songs, but Andrea Rankin's performance of "River" by Joni Mitchell actually brought a few tears to my eye. A trio

of the bombshells (Maddy Knight, Bonnie Ings, and Erica Ullyot) closed the first act with a beautiful and soulful take on "Winter Wonderland."

Besides being the most adorable couple in the world, Mark Vetsch and Katie Hudson also harmonize beautifully together. Mark played his ukulele to their three songs, while Katie helped encourage some audience interaction by holding up a lyric sign for us to sing along too. Their songs were fun, upbeat, and very easy to join in with. I was especially pleased to hear them perform one of my all time favorite songs, "Little Talks" by Of Monsters and Men. These two brightened up the show and brought everyone that classic Christmas cheer.

Lisa Gilroy was a cheery ball of comic relief packed in a pink polka dot onesie. She played the hosts, Byron and Brianne's, little sister who could interrupt them and annoy them too no end. The little sister who wants to be part of the fun was a cute, classic gag that I thoroughly enjoyed. She busted out a little intro, audition song that was a rendition of "Feliz Navidad" that went, "I wanna wish you a Happy Lisa, I wanna wish you a Happy Lisa..." Lisa's last song was also well praised as she sang "I Want



a Hippopotamus for Christmas." Byron Martin took the stage again to close the show with "A Marshmallow World." He was accompanied by five stunning

marshmallow back up dancers/singers. It was a cute and creative way to close the show. All the performers did a fantastic job and brought some Christmas magic to the Varscona stage.

THE PICK ME UPS.



Rachel Whipple
Entertainment

The Pick Me Ups, by Magpie Theatre, was an enticing and heartwarming play full of humor, emotional battles, and heart-warming friendship. This play followed the lives of four young women: Gabe (Kristen J. Welker), Kim (Leah Beaudry), Alice (April Ashley Killins), and Elle (Kayla Nickel). These four best friends invited us into their conversations of about their dirty laundry, their late night encounters, their loves, their hidden fears, and their secret desires. These characters all were very well developed and felt real. They each had struggles that any woman could relate to, whether it be troubles with men, difficult exams, unsatisfying jobs, or fights with your best friends. The strong bond between them was the underlying theme of the show.

The fifth character in the play that acted as a connection to the audience, a narrator, and a communicator between the four friends was the cafe barista, Roselyn, played by Kristyn Emmerzael. She was a very likeable character with a quick wit and charismatic charm. Though she wasn't one of the four focus characters, she was also well developed and went through personal changes and struggles. Roselyn was subtly sarcastic as she constantly poked fun at Gabe for her excessive partying and drinking.

She is a writer and would ask the audience about their lives during set/costume changes. This made for more interesting transitions. Roselyn struggles to get her book published and in the end she finds success. She was a key to developing the girls' back story. The four already know all of each other's history, but Roselyn doesn't. The audience got a chance to hear about the girls' past when they would tell their old stories to Roselyn. The addition of Roselyn as a character, rather than just a faceless barista, gave the four a stronger connection to the cafe and made an extra link between them.

The set was absolutely fantastic. The Pick Me Ups was set in a local coffee shop where the girls always meet. This play was performed in a secretive, basement bar called The Bower. Its central Jasper Ave location made it easily accessible, while its small secluded nature made for a comfy, and intimate experience. April Ashley Killins, said after the show that "She was thrilled she got to do an installation piece at The Bower. It's not often that theater and Edmonton nightlife collide." The audience inhabited the bar's many antique style couches while munching on free cookies (served by the actress playing the barista) and sipping on coffee or wine or beer! It was such a lovely experience to share with friends. The actors interacted with the audience here and there, and they really made them feel as if they were listening in on the private conversation of strangers at the next table.

The script showed the spunk and crude humor of its fabulously funny director Nathania Bernabe. There was plenty of coarse language and dirty jokes throughout the play. One of my favorite lines from the play was when Gabe was talking about a cute old couple and she said, "I'm jaded at f\$@k, but they reminded me I have an organ called a heart..." Not to mention, the brilliant scene where the girls acted out this old couple for Roselyn to demonstrate how cute they are. They used a chair as a walker and they put on their best old people voices. It was a hilarious and entertaining way to demonstrate the concept of ever-lasting love. Though Gabe was the obvious class clown, who got most of the comical lines, Nathania made sure that all the characters got a few laughs and were allowed to be sarcastically funny too. One thing that could have been improved about Gabe was that the script had her drunk or hung over too many times. Being the fun drunk was part of her gag, but it felt as though there was an excess of "Gabe hung over" scenes.

Katrina Beatty, the director, grew up with a supportive group of friends just like the girls in this play. She was able to bring her personal experience and an honesty to the show. She also did a great job of moving the actors through time and developing methods for the audience to follow the girls through a year of their ups and downs. A big part that helped these transitions were the costumes. The girls all had their own unique style and the party girls (Gabe and

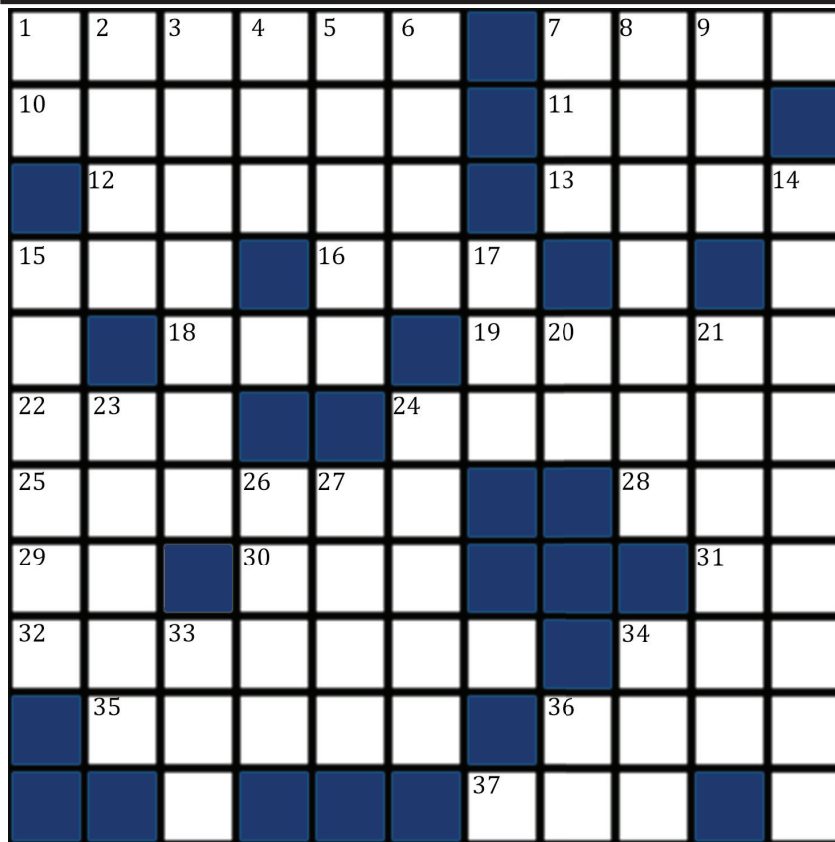
Kim) always showed up in something interesting and sexy after a night out on the town. For the Fourth of July, Gabe wore a pair of American flag booty shorts. The ladies also sported some fantastic green wear for St. Patrick's Day.

Another great transition method was the music. In between each day or scene, a song would play to set the mood. The song choices were fantastic. The tech ran smoothly thanks to Katie Gallin. Since the space didn't allow for many lighting changes, most of the tech involved sound and projection. When Alice moves to Toronto the girls communicate to her via Skype. To show her end of the conversation, they used a projection screen where the audience could see Alice. This was great because they could not only hear her voice, but also see her facial expressions. The idea was great, but I think it would have been executed a bit better if the other three girls sat closer to the screen and they dimmed the light. This would have made the connection between the friends more clear and it would have been easier for the audience to view the screen.

Seeing The Pick Me Ups was a fantastic experience. The set, the bold characters, and the comical dialogue made it an unforgettable show. This play demonstrated what true friendship really means; the bond between these four friends made an excellent framework for this spectacular play.

FUN & GAMES

The Bolt.
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Across

1. Leader of the Nazi Party.
7. Spaceship builders.

10. "Ain't that ____."
11. Guido's high note
12. Kind of eclipse
13. Baker's dozen.

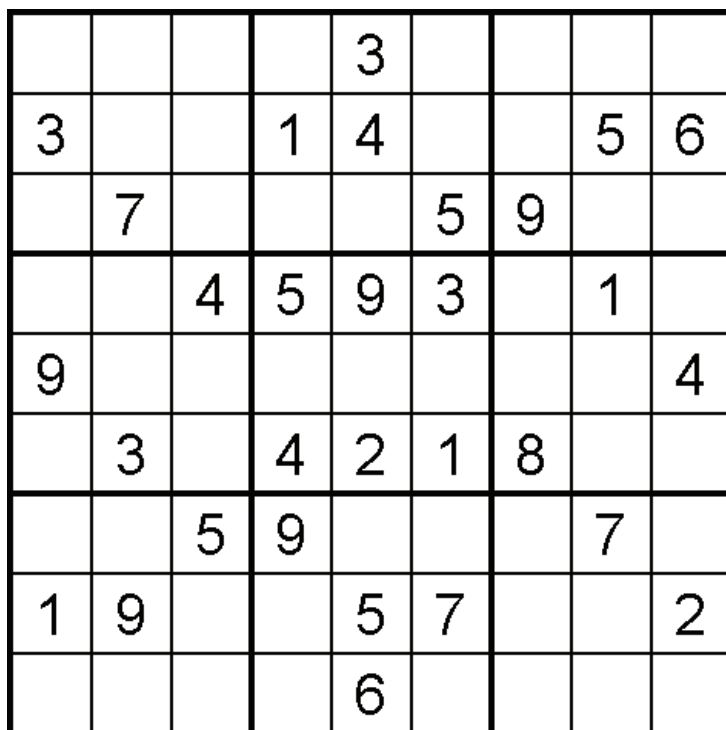
15. Writing implement.
16. Roman numeral for 3.
18. Vector differential operator.
19. Venomous snake.
22. Neckwear.
24. Overwhelming fear.
25. Show up.
28. Marceline the vampire queen's instrument.
29. Symbol for Titanium.
30. N, S, E or W.
31. Need this on a warm day.
32. from high to low.
34. Request for some patients.
35. Guatemala greetings.
36. There's no wrong way to eat one.
37. Spectate.

Down

1. Edna Krabappel's judgement.
2. "Cast Away" setting.
3. Thor's domain.
4. PC-to-PC linkup.
5. Virus carrier, sometimes.

6. Soprano Grist.
7. Formerly known as...
8. Solve for x .
9. Droop.
14. Field guardian.
15. Type of chip.
17. Crystalline H_2O .
20. Alternatively.
21. First hit for the Police.
23. Mid-March merrymakers.
24. Hatcher and Garr.
26. False god.
27. 23% Interest.
33. Surely bartender.
34. What's brown and rhymes with snoop?
36. Aloha ____.

Tell us whats on your mind and if it makes us smile, cry, laugh, or just makes us blow air out of our nose, we'll post it in the next issue.
Tweet **#DearBolt** to **@theboltnews**.



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HANGOVER
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YEAR
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CHEERS
BEGINNING
END
BUBBLY

PARTY
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FIREWORKS
RESOLUTIONS

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CONCORDIA SPORTS UPDATE.



**Bailey
Gardecki**
Sports Writer

I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas break but alas it is time to re-join the student body for another semester here at Concordia.

We have a busy semester ahead of us for sports starting with the men's and ladies volleyball teams which are scheduled to play in Grande Prairie against the wolves on Friday the 10th and Saturday the 11th. Good

Luck everyone! As well the hockey team is to play Grant MacEwan at Bill Hunter arena on the 10th. Please come out and show your support!

Now on a separate note I wanted to talk about the 2014 Olympics in Sochi Russia which are rapidly approaching. I am always pretty interested in the advancement of the Olympic games and this year 2014 is making history as the first year that the female ski jump will be included in the Olympics.

This event comes as a result of a protest that took place in 2011 as several female athletes (ski jumpers) sued the Olympic committee for discrimination.

Jessica Jerome of the United States was one such jumper which participated in this political action. Show was also one of the first to qualify for this Olympic venture, and as such she will be among the more difficult challenges the Canadian candidates will face one of the more promising candidates is Atsuko Tanaka a 21 year old, Calgary born ski jumper who will be participating as part of the Canadian Ladies ski jumping team in Russia in a few short weeks.

Another interesting aspect is the tension developing between the international community and Russia as it prepares for the games. Recently bombings in

the country have increased as a result of the preparation and this has the international candidates sweating, however the political body of Russia maintains that the games will take place as scheduled, and safely.

Suicide bombings may be a daunting threat however, these games are not specific to Sochi Russian Olympics, and often these gatherings of countries make themselves targets for the radicals who wish to shut down the games. On a less morbid note this year's games promise to be the most entertaining yet, and as the winter Olympics are my favourite games, you won't be seeing me around campus around reading week this year.

1ST SEMESTER FINISH WITH A SPLIT.

Robbie Valpreda

Women's Basketball Coach

The Concordia Thunder Women's Basketball team began their final weekend of first semester play on Thursday when they travelled to Lloydminster to take on the Lakeland College Rustlers. The Rustlers have been playing good basketball coming off two impressive wins last weekend so the 'Lady Thunder' knew they would have their hands full with Lakeland. Right from the tip off, the Rustlers went out to a 8-0 lead in the first minute and a half. With their pressure

and tenacious defense, they intimidated the Thunder in the early going but once the women from Concordia relaxed and became used to the pressure, they bounced back and were only down 24-18 at half. "The first quarter was a bit messy," said Coach Valpreda, "but we hung in there and played well." The second half was again an up and down battle with the girls only trailing 39-31 after 3 quarters. However, in the end the Rustlers pulled away with a 61-44 victory. "Lakeland hit some tough shots. We had them down to the last few seconds on the shot clock then the daggers came when

it went right in at the horn." concluded Valpreda. The Player of the Game was Railene Hooper with 15 pts and 8 rebounds.

On Saturday, the Rustlers came for a visit to the "Thunder Dome" where the Thunder knew - with it being the last game of the semester - that they had to come out and play hard. Again right off the bat, the Rustlers jumped out to a 13-1 lead. But the Thunder battled through the adversity and with great leadership from their veteran core, the Thunder finished the 1st quarter down just 17-16. Then momentum again swung to the Rustlers' side with the halftime score being

43-33 Lakeland. "At halftime, we told the girls that everything they were doing was excellent; everyone was contributing on the floor. To win the game we had to win the little battles, the loose balls and boxing out." The second half was a battle with seven lead changes and 5 ties, but in the end, the Lady Thunder came away with a gritty 82-76 win. "We are so proud as coaches of these girls tonight. They battled and battled and battled and played as a cohesive unit from top to bottom," concluded a very proud Coach Valpreda. Player of the Game for the win was Karolina Wieczorek with 24 pts, 7 rebounds and 3 steals.

UPDATE ON MASS SURVEILLANCE.



**Ramiro Medina
Polo**
Politics

During the holidays, the current state of affairs in the global issue of mass surveillance and privacy continues as the whistleblower, Edward Snowden releases an “alternative” Christmas message, and the NSA’s hacking unit (Tailored Access Operations) is reported to have intercepted computers to install spyware. But new parties of support and opposition to Snowden’s actions arise, as the actions from the main playing parties continue.

As the NSA’s surveillance continues to spread its domain, Snowden’s Christmas statement clarifies that with certainty this must stop, for now the technology used for surveillances is beyond the theoretical speculations of the enlightened George Orwell in “1984.” “The types of collection in the book -- microphones and video cameras, TVs that watch us -- are nothing compared to what we have available today,” Snowden stated and continued to address that as a society we are entering an era in which future generations will have no conception of what privacy is. But, he concluded with a positive suggestion stating that “together we can find a better balance, end mass surveillance, and remind the government that if it really wants to know how we feel, asking is always cheaper than spying.”

Snowden’s statement and efforts have been recognized by the

inventor of the internet, Tim Berners-Lee, who has stated that Snowden “did the world a favor.” A common ground of agreement has been found within the ideals of Berners-Lee, Snowden, and UN human rights chief Navi Pillay that “very important that governments now want to discuss the matters of mass surveillance and right to privacy in a serious way.” Therefore, the social support for Snowden’s cause is still present as he continues to leak information to the public.

As this was going on, reports were released stating that the US will try to sort out a deal with Snowden. Dame Commander of the Order of the Bath, Dame Manningham Buller is opposed the publication of files leaked by the former CIA agent because newspapers could not know what damage it had done to counter-terrorism operations. “My concern is the damage which I don’t think anybody outside of the intelligence community can really detect or judge.” Another statement against Snowden’s actions comes from former air force general and NSA and CIA chief Michael Hayden called Snowden a traitor and accused him of treason. And in the same logic as Dame Manningham Buller, he states that Snowden has made the mission of national security “inherently weaker.” Therefore, it is clear that even though Snowden’s intentions are concerned with humanitarian issues, his actions have caused concern with national issues for government agencies. Again, Dame Manningham Buller suggests that the damage caused

by Snowden’s leaks can only truly be understood by people within the intelligence community.

However, a whole other aspect to the information acquired by the NSA was brought up by the US Intelligence Official, William Binney, who claimed that “What [the NSA is] doing is making themselves dysfunctional by taking all this data.” It knows so much, he said, that it can’t understand what it has. Therefore, even for its purposes, the NSA is unable to operate as it is supposed to, and consequentially, it appears to be that the means of mass surveillance are not necessarily reaching the end of national security. And in this particular aspect, the suggestions from William Binney’s statement and Dame Manningham Buller’s statement reach a conflicting ground, for what damage to national security could’ve been done if the system in which it is “being” achieved is flawed. However, William Binney and his colleague, Ed Loomis were known to work on a project called ThinThreat, supposed to keep the incoming information as manageable and efficient, thus being far easier to narrow down and track down a suspected individual. In addition, Binney’s and Loomis’ intentions were that “[their] approach was to focus on the known terrorist community, which predominately existed overseas. However, [they] were also interested in any communications they had with anyone in America.” Thus, even though the concept of surveillance is still present, their idea of how it is done is far different from

the mass surveillance currently done. Therefore, Binney’s and Loomis’ ideas present a regulated moderate surveillance that only takes in relevant information to the NSA rather than the currently widespread use of spyware on anyone.

But recent reports still suggest that the methods for mass surveillance by the NSA now include the instalment of spyware on shipments of computers to be sold to the public. The German magazine Der Spiegel reveal details on how the Tailored Access Operations of the NSA steals data and inserts invisible “back door” spying devices into computer systems. NSA officials responded by saying: “Tailored Access Operations is a unique national asset that is on the front lines of enabling NSA to defend the nation and its allies. [TAO’s] work is centred on computer network exploitation in support of foreign intelligence collection.” However, the actions in themselves remain shocking to the public.

But as the issue of mass surveillance and privacy continue, new debates arise, and pressure on the active parties continues as Snowden releases information and the national security agencies of the world continue to spy. Ultimately, there is key demand for regulation coming from Snowden, Binney, and Loomis, for surveillance at a certain extent is viewed as unnecessary, but at the same time the urgency to consolidate national security continues as people like Dame Manningham Buller and Michael Hayden speak out.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS.



**Theodora
Macleod**
Education

Contrary to what has been represented in my articles thus far, there are more careers in the world than those in education and apparently this section is about careers. Now that we have that clarification out of the way I can continue by saying I have spent my life fascinated by careers. That is quite possibly because education is the one career that focuses on training young people to follow other career paths and, as I have demonstrated, education was kind of a 'thing' in my house growing up.

It's typical to ask children what they want to be when they grow up and therefore the answers are usually typical: firefighter, police officer, doctor, forensic analyst, civil engineer. My first answer to the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?", when asked in kindergarten, was "Alive." After the teacher and my mother individually explained that the question isn't as literal as it seems, I settled on the most logical answer: a ballerina who owned a small dog-sitting business on the side, and wrote mystery novels. Perfectly reasonable. At five years old I was already immersed in ballet and was learning to handwrite so really I was halfway there.

I'm not sure if it was like this for children who didn't spend most of their lives in schools, but the question seemed to come up strangely often. Every Tom, Dick and Harry wanted to know what I wanted to be when I grew up and 'alive' was not what they were looking for. It started to become a bit of an obsession for me. What did I want to be? Surely I had to figure it out quickly, lest I spend the rest of my life drinking juice boxes and coloring on the whiteboard. Artist. Artist was attainable, abstract enough that I could change my mind and no one would notice, and I already had a good collection of berets. And then came the day that someone told me to get used to living in a refrigerator box because being an Artist wasn't going to give me any financial independence. I was seven and living in southern Alberta; my back up idea was a cowgirl but I was terrified of farm animals.

The question continued, "What do you want to be when you grow up?": A veterinarian, an actress (because then I would never have to choose one career; I could play them all), the first woman to make it big in the NHL (I didn't play hockey and I was afraid of ice, but that didn't seem like a problem), a lawyer, someone who doesn't expect an elementary school aged child to have an answer to such a loaded question. I was twelve when the answers got really interesting. Someone made the mistake of

showing me *October Sky* and for the subsequent four months it became my life's goal to build rocket ships, never mind that I have never been and will never be good at math, am incredibly bored by chemistry, and the idea of extra-terrestrial life makes me want to hide under the bed. No, those things didn't matter because Jake Gyllenhaal was an adorable rocket scientist so I should be too! Looking back, I distinctly recall my father trying to talk me down from my lavish plans in such a way that he wouldn't crush my spirit and leave me bitter and jaded. It didn't work but, fortunately, I lost interest when I discovered the world of Obstetrics. To recap, I'm useless at math, bored by science, and easily freaked out. So why wouldn't I be able to get into the acclaimed Dalhousie and become the world's best OBGYN? When I lost interest in that, I wanted to be an art therapist, a detective for the special victims unit (I watched a lot of *Law and Order* in high school), a fashion designer, the owner of a cupcake shop with tiffany blue walls and pink counters in Seattle...and alive.

When I graduated high school I was determined to be James Duthie and cover the NHL on TSN. That one stuck for a long time. And despite the limited number of female NHL broadcasters and my childhood record of choosing ballet over hockey when it came time to decide my extracurricular, it

had to happen. I was obsessed with the idea, spent hours writing articles about the latest on-ice scandal, studied the draft, and listened to every word my father said while watching Sports Centre. I was an information sponge. Until I woke up one morning and was sick of explaining myself. The thing about male-dominated industries is if you're not male you have to spend most of your time justifying yourself. So when I'd tell people my plan, I'd also spend ten minutes listening to how unlikely it was. I didn't give up; instead, I just let myself move on.

Perhaps the most amusing part of my not-so-abnormal journey through career options is that the entire time I was waffling between rocket science and art, carefully planning my future, one thing remained constant. I was writing. It started as pathetic, cringe-worthy poetry and evolved into full length novels, articles, scripts, and carefully worded tweets. I was spending hours trying to find the perfect career path for my math-inept, constantly changing mind and it stood in front of me. But who doesn't want to be a writer these days? I, I want something more, I want to be a midwife. So what if I'm getting an Arts degree and am slightly squeamish. Baby catching is all I want to do, I'll never change my mind.

Status: Maybe I'll become a teacher...

A LOOK BACK AT 2013.



Nick Chevalier
Editor in Chief

Two thousand and thirteen; what a year. Having perused my Facebook on New Year's Day I found quite a few people that were happy to have the year done and over with, while I looked back with a pretty good sense of achievement. But this article isn't about me, I mean it could be, but it's not; it's about the top stories of the last year and looking at them makes me think that maybe it is good to have the year done and over with.

The Death of Nelson Mandela:

Arguably one of the greatest people on Earth Mandela's death was shocking to the entire world. To say the man had hardships in his life would be putting it politely. The man spent the good majority of his life on trial or in prison fighting for human rights and the effect of his fight have been

felt the world over. After his release from prison in 1990 he brought his fight to the political stage and ended the white minority rule of his country. Going on to win the Nobel Peace prize and become South Africa's first democratically elected President it's just goes to show what perseverance and staying true to your beliefs can accomplish. Mandela continued to work with his various charities after leaving office in 1999. He died at his home in Johannesburg on 5 December 2013; gone but most definitely not forgotten.

Other notable deaths of 2013: Paul Walker, Frederick Sanger, Tom Clancy, David Frost, and James Gandolfini

The Alberta Floods:

Why is that the biggest stories of the year are almost all stories of tragedy and sadness? Next up is one that hits closer to home with the southern part of our province taking one major bath. Large parts of Calgary and surrounding area were underwater and the province went into emergency

mode. A lot of the damage still hasn't been repaired and Mike Holmes, the guy from TV, was even brought in to help with the house inspections and to aid the government in making new policies for housing in the flood plains of Alberta. You know things are serious when Mike Holmes is called in.

Along with housing damages some of Calgary's bigger attractions and centres got hit by the flood waters. The Saddledome and the Calgary Zoo more notably among the bigger places hit. The southern part of the province is still recovering but given that old Alberta spirit I know we'll make it through.

New Pope:

I'm ending the article of what seems like sadness on a happy note. On May 2, Pope Benedict XVI pulled an unprecedented move (one that no one really thought possible) and retired. The world was shocked and the Catholic Church had to elect a new Pope. In comes Pope Francis, a man who is changing the church as we

know it.

Now I know that we're a Lutheran institute, but everyone has to admire what Pope Francis is doing for his faith. Concentrating on helping people around the world and following the word of Christ, instead of judging the world for their sins (which is really someone else's job, if you get my meaning). Pope Francis has given the Catholics of the world something to actually be proud of and is actually bringing people back to the faith with his actions and words. If you have no idea what this guy is up to check him out on the web, there are some really interesting stories out there.

So there are some of the bigger stories of 2013, there are many more. I, on behalf of myself and the staff of The Bolt, would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy new year with many big stories to come!

The Bolt. is looking for a new Story Editor!

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