

## On the street

Samantha Quinn asked people at Loyalist College the following question:

### How do you feel about entering the workforce?



**Kayla Short, first-year registered practical nursing,** "I feel very confident because I am enjoying what I'm doing. Going to clinical twice a week at Trent Valley Lodge helps me prepare."



**Janet Ogilvie, first-year registered practical nursing,** "I feel confident and excited to enter the working world. This program teaches us everything we need to know so we can leave here doing it to the best of our abilities."



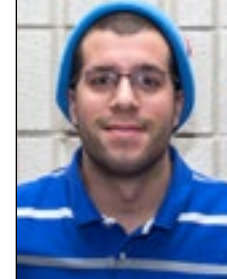
**Kristen Runions, second-year developmental service worker,** "Being almost finished my program, it is very nerve-racking...you never know what it's going to be like or what to expect until you're out there."



**Kelly Forbes, second-year developmental service worker,** "I am very excited for the opportunities that are waiting for me out there. This program sets you up with everything you will need."



**Chantal Cormier, second-year protection services,** "I'm scared to be graduated; I don't feel ready. I am only 19. I can't prepare myself for what's out there for us in the real world."



**Craig Eamon, second-year protection services,** "Having a placement for one month every semester has really helped with the hands-on experience, especially if you go into the same sort of field once you graduate."

## Editorial

# Rise in minimum wage still not enough

For the first time in four years minimum wage has increased by a paltry three quarters. This brings the lowest permitted wage an employer can pay an employee by law in Ontario to \$11 an hour effective June 1st. Premier Wynne, who made the announcement last Thursday, promises annual increases tied to the rate of inflation, but is \$11 enough?

It's not enough when over one million people in the GTA visited food banks last year, and 250,000 of those people had someone in their household bringing home a paycheque.

It's not enough when landlords in Ontario can lawfully increase rent by 0.8% this year and the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the province is near \$900, and over \$1,000 in Toronto.

It's not enough when the line up of people currently on the waiting list for subsidized housing in Toronto now starts at the foot of Yonge Street and stretches 225 km north to Parry Sound.

It's not enough when over 40 per cent of Canadians in their 20s still live with their parents.

It's not enough when university tuition is rising to record levels in Canada, expecting to reach over \$7,000 by 2016-17, with students in Ontario paying the most.

According to the Canadian Union of Public Employees, a full-time, full-year employee in Ontario makes 21 per cent below the poverty line. Unfreezing the minimum wage should be about pulling these people up over the poverty line, not a ploy to garner more votes in the upcoming by-elections.

Anti-poverty activists and organizations in support of living wages who called for an immediate jump to \$14 an hour were told it's too much for businesses.

Critics say raising the wage any higher will lead to reduced hours for shift workers and layoffs.

Canada is a wealthy country, so if you are one of the lucky ones who have

secured a full-time job you should be able to pay rent, put food on the table and put money in the bank.

With the cost of living going up every year, it's appalling that the minimum wage rate has been frozen since 2010 and when finally increased isn't enough to make a substantial change in people's lives.

The minimum wage should reflect the real cost of living in the province, and be increased each year according to that. The challenges of those affected by poverty, low-income earners and students should be addressed more seriously.

The fact is people cannot live on \$11 an hour.

Follow our 'Living On Minimum Wage' series found on page 3 and continuing every Thursday.

Solana Cain

# Photographers deserve respect

Send us your pictures and your stories; we want to steal them from you. But what the media industry is really saying is: We are short of staff, we are swamped and we will accept anything. We are desperate.

Recently, a Canadian newspaper asked readers to submit photos of the ice storm that hit Toronto last December, with the hope of publishing a special book to showcase the winter weather devastation and try to tell the full story.

Not only are the people submitting their photos without being compensated (except for a free copy of the book if their photo is selected), but they will probably give away all rights to their photos.

This whole idea hurts the media industry because it reinforces the notion that these days, everybody can wear the photographer or the journalist's hat.

The newspaper industry is at a turning point, with more and more staff being let go, and sadly, being replaced with smart phone photo takers, Twitter feeds, and Sunday morning bloggers.

This should alert us that if we want to keep the same standard of journalism, we need to keep employing and paying those who are trained in the journalism field.

One might say that news should not all be about revolution, war, typhoons and issues happening a thousand kilometres away, it should be about community, local events and ordinary people stories, so that's why we ask for the public's help. Well, I think we all agree on that.

There is nothing wrong with asking people for their comments or having them write about something they want to share or an issue they want answers about.

At the end of the day, journalism should be about storytelling, raising issues, enlightening people and reporting facts, all in an effort to get a better understanding of what surrounds us.

But to ask the public to submit photographs or stories for free, and to later have them published in the form of book for others to profit, that is totally misleading and sending the wrong message.

The fear is that we won't need journalists or reporters for a well-written story or a great photograph. We will agree with anything, as long as it's out on time and we can get it at no cost.

What about sources, facts, truth, rigorous analysis and experts' opinions? Not only does it hurt the news media industry and trained professionals who are trying to make a living in that industry, but it also desensitizes us to lower quality news and lowers our requirements of trusted news sources.

People are slowly becoming accustomed to lower-quality photos and lower-quality writing.

Would we accept a dentist changing the timing belt on a car, just because he is a sports car lover?

So why would we ask anybody to submit photos so we can publish them and not have the decency to pay for them? A great photo is a great photo regardless of who took it, with which purpose or with what type of camera.

But if it is a storytelling photo, a publishable photo, its creator should be paid to save the integrity of our standards.

Guillaume Nolet



## Opinion

# Story of Ukraine a complicated one

By Mitchell Ward

Drama grabs attention, and can quickly pull you into the confusion of complicated situations, before you can get the whole picture.

The current images out of Kyiv, the capital of the Ukraine, are certainly attention grabbing. Independence Square resembles a snowy battlefield from the dark ages, with armoured men rushing at each other with shields and clubs, as black smoke blocks out the sky, and stones and fireworks arc through the air.

In their position as a minority ruling party, the ministers of the Party of Regions were building a plan to enact an association deal with the European Union. Most Ukrainians were in favour of this. However, leaders of the EU stated that the government would need to solve human rights and political issues in the country before they would ratify the association agreement.

The deal fell through, and the official opposition is holding the ruling party accountable for not working hard enough to meet the EU requirements, and is calling for the resignation of the government and new elections.

The political bickering in parliament, the

failure of the EU deal, and years of alleged corruption and political imprisonment has translated into protests and marches in the streets of Kyiv and other major cities. Armoured police officers soon met the crowds with water cannons, tear gas, and rubber bullets.

Most of the protesters are deeply patriotic, have an allegiance to a specific political party, and see the government response to their actions as deeply offensive. They are resisting, and have dug in. In Independence Square, people have built barricades with sandbags full of ice and snow, and teams break up paving stones and construct Molotov cocktails to hurl at the police lines. This is what makes up the majority of images that flood online news galleries.

Among the opposition parties is one named Svoboda, or Freedom party. Of all the parties in parliament, they are the farthest to the right. They claim that they have no association with fascism or other undesirable politics. But their platform is contradictory. They appear obsessed with building a country for ethnic Ukrainians. Everyone wants a home, but building one that is exclusive to immigrants, foreign languages and products is unrealistic

and backwards.

More worrying though, is that hiding among their ranks are supporters who associate with fascist ideologies. The party doesn't acknowledge this, but they are obviously attractive to hardcore, likely fascist, nationalists.

In photos posted online, there are many clues to the existence of fascists fighting among the other protesters. In one photo, a man was attempting to hang a white nationalist flag in an occupied government building, unhindered. In others, several men had spray-painted neo-Nazi codes onto makeshift shields.

These people make up a mere fraction of the rest of the protesters, but they feel safe enough to display their allegiance in public.

Fascism should have died along with the dictators of the past decades, but unfortunately it is a very hard ideology to destroy. It breeds in conflict, and can be hidden by clever politik speak, and accepted by people who feel a firm handed solution is needed for uncertainty.

If the people and the politicians of Ukraine wish to move their country forward, these dangerous individuals should never be given a chance to get a foot in the door.

# TV show Bachelor a swirl of shallow values

By Julia Karpiuk

Week by week, audiences get comfortable witnessing bachelor Juan Pablo fail to give out a rose to girls who just weren't right for him. The hit reality show, *The Bachelor*, is probably the most direct version of broadcasting the quest for love.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the show, it revolves around one man - the bachelor - who is on a quest for a soul mate. This journey is embarked on through a 12-week elimination process and accompanied by 27 girls handpicked exclusively by the producers of the show.

This season features Pablo, the handsome former soccer player and father. These women are determined to win Pablo's heart but really, what North America is watching is a manifestation of

shallow values. Most women on the show rarely get a chance to experience real alone time with him until the later rounds of the show. In the meantime they just focus on the obvious features that Pablo has to offer.

Perhaps the more concerning indication is that these women don't care for traditional courtship. The Bachelor is a testament to a generation of women who are so willing to get hitched they are blindsided to the flaws of the situation. They are willing to watch the man they hope to marry engage with several other females in hopes that they shine through enough to win the grand prize of marriage. Is this a group of hopeless romantics or just women lacking self-respect. On the other hand, has anyone ever considered the pressure on *The Bachelor*?

"I hope Juan Pablo wouldn't be interested in someone who is trying to steal the show," was a comment made by a contestant in a recent episode. Being the centre of so much attention and the potential of developing a real connection with someone who could be a keeper just doesn't seem realistic.

The network has put Pablo on a pedestal and is hoping for the best. A recipe for disaster? Very likely. Out of all 17 seasons of bachelor productions, only two couples got married and are still together.

Watching the show, I genuinely believe that at the core, these women are there to find love. And by broadcasting this search, the hopeless optimism of these individuals is being abused for our entertainment value.

# The Pioneer

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