

VOLUME 55 | ISSUE 1

@the charlatan

Carleton's independent student newspaper since 1945

LEGACY



Editor's Note

This year, the Charlantan is ringing in 80 years of telling stories by and for Carleton University students.

Eighty years in, we are still learning, experimenting and committed to telling stories that matter. Our mandate to ask hard questions and serve our campus with care have survived the pandemic and a shift to digital storytelling.

That said, the Charlantan has changed so much since I started writing here as a first-year student: a new community and culture section to uplift underrepresented voices, reporting that has spurred institutional change and hundreds of writers who have shared stories for the first time.

This issue and its legacy theme hope to both celebrate the best and wackiest moments of Carleton's history while identifying shortfalls and areas that demand change.

Thank you for supporting independent student media just by picking up this issue - and for being part of Carleton's continuing history.

Here's to another eight decades!

Elissa Mendes

Editor-in-Chief

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Flipping back the pages to the Charlatan's wildest headlines through the decades



Nine of the Charlatan's wackiest headlines published over the last 80 years. [Photo by Maia Tustonic]

MICHAEL MCBEAN, MAIA TUSTONIC
& ELISSA MENDES

As Carleton University's independent student-led publication, *the Charlatan* has covered thousands of news stories over 80 years of publishing.

While the news section has published local, national and international issues of historical significance, it has also reported on many stories featuring baffling, silly and downright random events.

As a look back on this paper's legacy of coverage over 80 years, *the Charlatan* flipped open its dusty archives to spotlight one wacky headline from each decade the paper has been publishing.

From the 1940s to now, here are the nine wildest headlines that have topped *the Charlatan*'s pages.

1940s: We Almost Lost Drewery, Bashes Noggin on Plane

This story made the front-page of the paper on Oct. 25, 1949, when this university's newspaper was still named *the Carleton*.

Chronicled is the story of fourth-year journalism student Johnny Drewery, who smacked his head on the wing strut of an airplane while jumping out of it for a 40-cent bet made with a university staff member.

Drewery was in free-fall for several hundred feet, the article reports, before his parachute opened and he completed the 2,000-foot descent safely.

When later asked about his condition, Drewery reportedly said that he only had a "throbbing headache," which he said was "the customary state of a journalism student."

1950s: Winter Queen Kidnapped: Sir George College Students Accused of Capturing Cute Carleton Co-Ed, Patsy Bates

This article from the Feb. 20, 1959 paper reports the kidnapping of Patsy Bates, who was the Carleton Winter Weekend Queen and a reporter for *the Carleton*.

Bates was reportedly taken by four students from Sir George Williams College, a Montreal school that merged to create Concordia University in 1974.

Authorities found a note from the students that said Bates was being taken to be "wined and dined in Montreal" for the McGill University Winter Weekend. The note also promised to return her the day after to ensure she could attend a sports match between the Georgians and the Ravens.

The kidnapping was a form of retaliation, investigators determined, for Sir George's

recent basketball loss to Carleton. Besides being the Carleton queen, Bates was also targeted because of her position as a reporter in a time of plagiarism disputes between the Carleton and Sir George's student newspaper, investigators said.

1960s: Exchange Students Find Carleton Men 'Immature'

There was tough criticism for Carleton from three Canadian exchange students in this article published on Oct. 11, 1963.

Carleton men took the brunt of it, being described as "immature and unappealing intellectually," by the two women participating in the exchange program.

On the other hand, Carleton women were "90 per cent good looking," though it was a culture shock to see them wearing shorts in class, according to the man on exchange.

Overall, the three exchange students' first impression was that Carleton folks were poorly dressed, the report says, and that the school lacked broad educational offerings and interest in student government.

The tunnels, the quad and the campus's location next to the canal received praise, the article reports.

1970s: Rotting mouse found in beer

"Pretty raunchy" was how a first-year Carleton student described the taste of the beer she was sipping, which contained the decayed remains of a mouse at the bottom of the bottle, in this Nov. 10, 1972 article.

The mouse was likely killed by a mouse trap and stuffed inside the beer bottle, according to Carleton's biology department, which investigated the issue. Though the bottle was washed, the skeleton of the mouse remained in the bottle and was embalmed by the beer, the article reports.

The student would likely receive lots of beer as compensation, the report says.

1980s: The Sultans of Snooze

Published on June 25, 1981, this article pulled back the curtain on one of Carleton's sleepest experiments — literally. Deep in the chilly basement of the Loeb building, human test subjects had electrodes taped to their heads and were tucked into an echo-free room to have their sleep patterns studied.

"It's like a meat cooler," a test subject said.

Nights in the bottom of the Loeb building weren't exactly restful as people would be woken up three times over the course of the night so researchers could document their sleep patterns.

1990s: CUSA lures voters to polls with free European vacation

One lucky student who voted in the Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA) election would win a week-long vacation to Europe, this Jan. 23, 1997 story reports.

The initiative was presented to combat low voter turnout, the association's chief electoral officer said.

The winning student, randomly selected from the list of voters, would embark on a one-week tour of four Western European countries, with stops in London, Amsterdam and France, the article reports.

The vacation, paid for by a partnership with a travel agency, was worth \$1,290 at the time — which is the equivalent of around \$2,340 today.

2000s: Bread project goes awry

A plastic bag containing a mysterious substance was found outside the Mackenzie building prompting Ottawa police's explosives unit to descend on campus, according to an Oct. 14, 2004 article.

The unknown substance turned out to be nothing more than sugar and flour, ingredients an engineering student had left behind overnight. The bag was part of a class project challenging students to design the best solar-powered oven.

Officials grew more confident the powder wasn't dangerous after a squirrel began eating it early in the investigation with no side effects. Still, a professor who discovered the bag and two security guards were quarantined as tests were done on the substance.

An aerospace engineering student eventually came forward later in the day and fessed up to mistakenly leaving the bag on campus.

2010s: Fight against potential U-Pass increase ramps up

And just like that, we're into the Charlatan's digital age.

On Halloween in 2011, a horde of student protesters donned zombie costumes to fight back against a proposed OC Transpo U-Pass fare hike, with bloody tombstones in hand to bemoan "the death of affordable transit."

Students "can't even get onto buses because they are overcrowded," CUSA vice-president (student issues) Chantle Beeso said at the time.

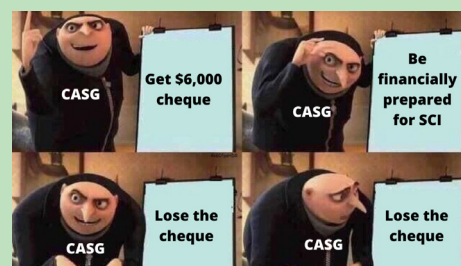
Fourteen years later, it doesn't feel like cheap and reliable bus service has come back from the dead.

2020s: CASG finds \$6,000 misplaced cheque, amends budget

The council for the Carleton Academic Student Government (CASG) majorly increased its 2019-2020 budget after discovering a misplaced cheque, this Jan. 21, 2020 article reports.

The CASG president discovered the \$6,248 cheque in the organization's mailroom, the report says, which allowed the council to roll back budget cuts made due to the missing surplus.

In April 2020, *the Charlatan's* news editors published a series of memes referencing some of the top stories covered that academic year, including the following image.



This meme was published in a round-up of the top stories of 2019-2020. [Graphic by Jillian Piper and Safiyah Marhnouj]

The \$6,000 cheque would have provided a safety net for CASG following the province's Student Choice Initiative, which allowed students to opt-out of fees collected for campus groups, according to *the Charlatan's* coverage.

'Keep the fire burning': How holograms and AI are helping strengthen this First Nation's language and culture

MARISSA MEILLEUR

Teresa Samson, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun's heritage manager, remembers hearing "a huge gasp," during her presentation at a February land claims coalition in Ottawa as she showed a hologram of Elder Jimmy Johnny, who had recently died.

Samson said Johnny was a strong promoter of the Northern Tutchone language and was very interested in the new technology brought to his community of Mayo, Yukon.

Before he passed, he recorded several 3D videos to pass on his teachings.

"We still have a piece of him," Samson said.

"I think it shows honour to those that were working before us."

The hologram technology she used is part of a larger project the First Nation is developing with Carleton University researchers.

The project, called Kwän Dék'án' Do – which means "to keep the fire burning" – represents a desire to protect and strengthen the Northern Tutchone language and cultural traditions.

Kwän Dék'án' Do includes two parts, according to Troy Anderson, a Carleton business professor working on the project.

The first part uses holographic and virtual reality technologies to share culturally significant objects, various art tutorials, oral history told by elders and interactive environments like the community cemetery.

The second deploys artificial intelligence to create a digital, interactive language system for the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun dialect of Northern Tutchone.

Carleton students and faculty are currently working on digitizing the language from printed materials and audio cassettes to train the tool.

Samson said it will be similar to a gaming system with avatars that can track its users'



First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun curriculum developer, Esther Winter (left), assists Elder Walter Peter (right), as he uses the Kwän Dék'án' Do virtual reality machine for the first time at a community launch on Sept. 30, 2025 in Mayo, Yukon. [Photo by Andrew Serack]

personal language journeys.

"Although it's modernized, it helps to keep one foot rooted in tradition," Samson said.

The group hopes the machine will appeal to children in particular, who Samson said have been "blown away" by the technology so far.

Melody Hutton, a young elder and heritage and culture officer for the First Nation, said there are fewer than a dozen fluent speakers of the dialect left.

"Language is our life," she said. "I hope and pray this project is going to save our dialect of Northern Tutchone."

"(Elder) Walter (Peter) is always saying, 'Without language, you have nothing. You have no identity,'" Samson added. "That is how you know who you are as a people, and in order to know your land, you need to know your language."

While this information will be accessible from a large unit with a screen that is currently in the First Nation's government building, the information will also be available to all Na-Cho Nyäk Dun citizens from their own devices in a 2D format.

"It's making cultural assets that normally might not be available to everyone in the

community available to them," Anderson said.

Samson said the community has been facing a drug epidemic, leaving a young generation without parents to teach them aspects of their culture.

"Even if they don't have that at home, at least they will have a piece of how it works... because they will be learning it from elders and land guardians and people that actually know the traditional practices."

The most important part of the project — and of Carleton's 40-year relationship with Na-Cho Nyäk Dun — is community leadership and ownership, Anderson said.

"What we're doing is we're making this possible from a technological perspective, but all of the decision making about content... all of those things are decided by the First Nation, not us."

Although Kwän Dék'án' Do has a three-year term as a Carleton project, Hutton said it will leave a lasting legacy.

She added the impact could go beyond Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, with other First Nations already inquiring about the project.

"It's going to be there 'til the end of time, and we're just going to keep on adding and adding."

More than a decade on, Carleton research group is writing disability history



Members of CUDRG, Hollis Peirce (left), Adrian Chan and Dominique Marshall (right) speak in the human performance laboratory at the ARISE Building [Photo by Jaidyn Gonsalves].

KATHAN KAPOOR

When Carleton University professors Adrian Chan and Roy Hanes sat down to discuss the launch of an accessibility initiative nearly 15 years ago, they hoped their varying expertise would highlight and support the disability community.

Their ideas gave rise to the 2013 founding of Carleton University's Disability Research Group, and today, the group of professors and graduate students across fields is showcasing disability history through virtual exhibits.

Chan said the CUDRG is designed to share knowledge about accessibility throughout history.

"The group's mission is to reveal contributions made towards a more accessible and inclusive society. Through these exhibits we wish to disseminate that knowledge and educate whether it is through people visiting the site or more formal educational settings."

The CUDRG's website has three main areas of focus.

They include 'users,' which delves into lived experience surrounding disability; 'access,' which looks at the availability of services and programs; and 'innovation,' which studies the development of accessible and sustainable technologies.

After Chan, a computer engineering

professor, and Hanes, a now retired social work professor, created the CUDRG, they recruited Carleton history professor Dominique Marshall to gain expertise on researching disability from a historical lens.

Marshall said joining CUDRG felt like a perfect fit.

"Students brought cases of disability for me to supervise and it was a natural process because social policies look at accessibility," Marshall said.

The CUDRG has now published six exhibits on their website, which act as publicly available virtual museums.

One exhibit shows the history of the talking ATM, which makes banking more accessible for blind people.

It highlights Ottawa's Royal Bank of Canada as the first bank in Canada to implement these ATMs, following a human rights complaint from local blind activists.

Chan said their research often emphasizes the importance of involving the disability community when designing systems like the talking ATM, which was tested by people who are blind.

"It was through that testing that they realized the screen should be blanked out, because you don't want people looking at your banking," he said.

"That wouldn't be necessarily apparent if you weren't doing it with actual users."

Chan added that involving researchers

from different fields separates Carleton's research groups from others.

"I am positive there are others looking at technology and disability in history, but we often do that in our solid disciplines," he said.

"That limits the impact when there is shared wisdom in just one crowd."

Marshall said CUDRG's research is important for continuing representation within the field.

Research became more diverse when university education opened up to lower-income people, Marshall said, adding the same should happen as universities become more accessible to people with disabilities.

"People with disabilities who are willing to say they are a part of the community and advocate for their rights are linked to history."

Hollis Peirce, a CUDRG research associate who has congenital muscular dystrophy, said he was most impacted by the most recent exhibit, *Oral Histories of Disability Rights Activists*, for which he interviewed several activists.

"I love the idea of 'nothing about us without us,' because I hate being told something about me but not involving me in conversations," he said. "Being able to speak with disability advocates and learning about their struggles was relatable, and I am so appreciative of their efforts."

The CUDRG has also created physical exhibits, which include Braille printed cards. They have been displayed at the MacOdrum Library, and a few have been sent to Toronto Metropolitan University.

Marshall said she often reflects on the impact their work has had on the disability community.

"(CUDRG) is a place where questions about disability, ability, debility and accessibility have been able to develop.

"It has been an incubator for ideas, meetings, research in the best spirit of disability studies through collaboration with the community in an ethical way for the promotion of the rights of people with disability."

Mike's Place used to be Carleton's heartbeat. Now, its legacy lingers in low chatters

SYD ROBBESCHEUTEN & ABYSSINIA ABEBE

It's hidden in a quiet corner of Carleton University's student epicenter, but Mike's Place isn't exactly the university's best kept secret.

Tucked at the back of the second floor of Nideyinàn, the small grad student pub carries a legacy that stretches back to 1972. Once packed to the brim with laughter, live music and weekly trivia nights, Mike's Place is now a lingering shadow of what once was.

Faded signage and rows of empty tables fill the pub, and these days, it serves mostly as a pit stop between classes where a handful of students and faculty gather in small clusters around the bar or perched at the black high-top tables. Its charm lies in the stillness of its low chatter and occasional shuffle of chairs.

But Mike's Place hasn't always been this way.

For years, it was a hub for students looking to attend some of "the most happening events" of the week.

"You had to go two hours ahead of time to get a seat and claim a spot," Eric Hitsman, a music performance coordinator at the university, told the Charlatan.

Hitsman, who has attended the pub's once weekly trivia nights since 2009 and started hosting them since 2015, said Mike's Place was "jam-packed all the time — and when it happens every week, the word catches on."

Where did all that magic go?

Mike's Place in the 1990s: 'A nurturing place'

Mike's Place was also known for live music, cleverly named "Open Mike" nights.

Carleton alumni Rob Currie used to play at the Open Mike events up until he graduated from his masters in International Affairs in 1993.

For Currie, Mike's Place marked his start playing live east coast Canadian folk music.

"There was a Carleton grad student culture," Currie said.

"Mike's played a big role in that — it had a unifying kind of effect."

Currie said the togetherness brought on Mike's Place was mostly because of how busy the pub used



Mike's Place has been a student hub for Carleton University's graduate and undergraduate students since 1972. Now, its alumni are reflecting on its legacy, highlighting the "unifying effect" it has had on them. [Graphic by Alisha Velji]

to be, brimming with people throughout the week.

Those nights in 1992 were especially busy, Currie describes Thursday through Saturday as packed, but says there was a constant buzz at Mike's Place throughout the week.

"It kinda had the feel of an old-fashioned coffee house," Currie said,

"It was a really nice, friendly, laid back atmosphere, just a good place to go to have a beer after class, or to have a night out, or as a place you might start your night out."

Currie said the pub also offered a space for students to interact with professors and graduate students in an informal setting.

"It was a nurturing place. It really created ties, friendships that I still have today ... I am still friends with people from my program."

But Mike's Place is not open on the weekends anymore. The pub is now open from 11:30am until 7 p.m. on Mondays through Wednesdays, and until 9 p.m. or 10 p.m., Thursday and Friday nights.

To Currie, the idea that Mike's Place is not as busy or as well-known as it was in the '90s is troubling.

"It was one of the fulcrums of the community for us. You know you can go back further in time, like back to the '50s, any Canadian university, there'd be these bars and coffee shops that were the hangouts and they were just vital social institutions.

"So, the idea that it's fading makes me sad."

Currie said his era of Mike's Place was incredibly important to the Carleton graduate students at the time, and to him now, because of how inclusive it was.

"At a school that size, you have lots of different graduate programs and students who are kinda far-flung and don't necessarily have a lot in common, but Mike's was a place where we could all come together."

Mike's was a place of mingling for all levels of the Carleton community, from undergraduates to professors, Currie said.

'Back to its former greatness'

The gradual decline in attendance over the years coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a major financial toll on the student pub.

Stephanie Duffy, the pub's hospitality and operations manager, said initiatives aiming at bringing costs down while still providing quality food haven't helped the pub's financial burdens.

"We're just bringing some of the prices down on the menu to help students," Duffy said, adding that expenses have increased over the years.

But providing food and services at a reasonable price made it difficult for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and Mike's Place to afford labour costs and food prices.

According to GSA's 2023 financial statement report, Mike's Place spent \$228,586 for operation expenses in 2023, a 34.4 per cent increase over the \$170,114 spent in 2021.

The GSA proposed and successfully passed a referendum in March 2024. The referendum proposed a \$7 increase to graduate students' tuition, which would go directly to supporting Mike's Place.

"The referendum passing means that Mike's Place gets to stay," Hitsman said.

"It doesn't necessarily mean that all its problems are solved, but it would help to bring it back to its former greatness."

Hitsman, who once served as president of the GSA, said Mike's Place was never meant to be for-profit.

"It's never been a profit producing company. It's supported by student services, just like everything else at Carleton," he said. "We always had the idea that we were gonna give the food as cheap as possible because students don't necessarily have a lot of money."

A lingering legacy

After the referendum successfully passed, Mike's Place is undergoing somewhat of a rebirth, looking to regain its spark through events like trivia nights.

Tal Friedman, a cognitive science master's student who works at Mike's Place, said he sees a bright future for the pub.

"Now that we're open five days a week, we're really, really ramping up."

Part of the attempt at revitalization is a renewed focus on trivia and live music.

To Friedman, part of the allure of Mike's is its coziness.

"It's like somebody just cut out an English pub and just stuck it right in the middle of Carleton," Friedman said.

While cozy, Mike's Place is quiet, far from its lively heyday in the 1990s. Pop music now echoes through the room from large speakers across the bar. TVs display various professional sports to the few sitting in for a meal. It is immaculately clean but tends to be starkly empty.

A comic of Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson hangs in the pub, watching over the room. Pearson, a Carleton University alumnus, was affectionately known as "Mike," a nickname he earned while serving in the Second World War.

His legacy lives on at the pub, where a comic and a portrait on the wall pays tribute to his life and achievements, celebrating his accomplishments as Canada's 14th Prime Minister and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

"It's a shame because most people don't even know Mike's Place exists anymore," Hitsman said.



Graphic of one of the many signs scattered through Mike's Place's cozy walls. [Graphic by Alisha Velji].

How Canada's oldest student-led theatre company forges legacies

ALEXA MACKIE

Lindsey Keene didn't land the first Sock 'n' Buskin role she auditioned for.

At the time, Keene was a second-year public affairs and policy management student at Carleton University, and had done local theatre throughout her high school years and even over Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She had come a long way from her first ever role as Babette the feather duster in a community production of *Beauty and the Beast* when she was 15-years-old.

But she was "devastated" when Sock 'n' Buskin didn't cast her in their April 2022 production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

"No shade," she joked in an interview three years later.

The following season, the same company that rejected Keene cast her in the titular role of its December 2022 rendition of *Dracula*.



Lindsey Keene as Count Dracula in Sock 'n' Buskin's performance of *Dracula* at Carleton University's Kailash Mital Theatre in Ottawa, Ont. on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. [Photo by Lauren McLaughlin/Sock 'n' Buskin]

The Charlatan called her stage presence commanding and confident as she embodied the vampire's evil, sinister nature.

Aside from getting to become someone else for a couple performances, part of what Keene loves about theatre



Sock 'n' Buskin is Canada's oldest student-led theatre company, with a history of turning out notable alumni. [Graphic by Alisha Velji]

is the community-building aspect — which rings especially true for Sock 'n' Buskin.

"It's so special, the bonds that you create, the inside jokes and the references you start to understand," she said, recalling late-night campus runs to Ollie's Pub and Oasis with Sock 'n' Buskin crews.

"It's unlike anything else I've ever done."

Founded in 1943, Sock 'n' Buskin is Canada's oldest student-led theatre company and has seen many notable alumni spread their wings under its marquee.

For alumni and current members, Sock 'n' Buskin breeds a love for theatre and community, in addition to professional experience.

"It's just incredibly special in bringing people together," Keene said. "Theatre is really magical like that."

But Keene owes more than a love for acting to the art of theatre. Through a mutual friend's local production of a

self-written play, Keene met her now-fiancée, Dawson Fleming, who is also a community theatre actor.

The two recently played an engaged couple in Ottawa Little Theatre's June production of *37 Postcards* (they got engaged in real life three months later). *The Charlatan* wrote that Keene and Fleming's "dynamic chemistry" propelled their scenes and left audiences in stitches.



While Lindsey Keene stunned audiences with her unexpected rage as Gillian More, Dawson Fleming's physical performance as her fiancé, Avery, was a joy to witness in *'37 Postcards'* running until June 28.

[Photo by Maria Vartanova]

Part of mixing their personal relationship with theatre is learning to work together.

"We know that we can work together at home and we can work together in a relationship, but in a working capacity, we take it very seriously," Fleming said.

"Those are different skills and those are different things that we have to approach."

In their Sock 'n' Buskin days, Keene and Fleming also worked together on shows like 2023's *Elephant's Graveyard*, where Keene played Ballet Girl and Fleming played Railroad Engineer, and 2024's *Murder on the Orient Express*, where Keene directed and Fleming played Colonel Arbuthnot and Samuel Ratchett.

Keene didn't take it easy on Fleming while directing him — "I have higher standards" — but said she learned more about how they can better understand one another.



Engaged couple Dawson Fleming (left) and Lindsey Keene (right) met through local theatre and learned about their relationship while working together in Sock 'n' Buskin. [Photo by Alexa MacKie].

"That's a really interesting experience that not a lot of couples get."

"It makes us work better," Fleming added. "As a team in those environments, but then at home as well, we know we can trust each other."

Outside of building understanding and community in Ottawa's theatre scene, Sock 'n' Buskin has turned out some other notable alumni, like *Driving Miss Daisy* Oscar-nominated actor Dan Aykroyd.

Canada-based artist Zach Council's resume includes starring in Sock 'n' Buskin's *RUR*, *What the Butler Saw* and *Bat Boy* (a role he later took to the



Winnipeg Fringe and reprised at the Gladstone Theatre).

"When you're a young actor, you need roles that allow you to stand out and be professional," Council said, citing *Bat Boy* as one of his notable early career roles. "That gave me the circumstances."

Sock 'n' Buskin also gave Council the opportunity to flex his skills as a director — tackling their 2010 production of *Peter Pan*, a production he recalls had more than 60 people involved in the cast and crew.

"*Peter Pan* is a beast, like a technical marvel with a million fight scenes, flying and special effects, it's a monster of a show to do.

"It was a wonderful way to dive into the world of directing."

Now, with years of Sock 'n' Buskin in his back pocket, Council is an actor, director, fight and intimacy director. He has taught stage combat and intimacy coordination at the University of Toronto, Toronto Metropolitan University and York University.

Council said Sock 'n' Buskin "catapulted" his fight directing capabilities. The theatre company's space and resources, he added, provide an opportunity for young artists to work with mentors and proper theatre equipment.

"Sock 'n' Buskin having access to that is really rare," Council said. "It's a really brilliant stepping stone from the amateur world into the professional world."

In the company's 83rd year, seeing young artists come and go through Sock 'n' Buskin is part of the "rewarding" experience for co-artistic directors Max Schneider, a fourth-year film studies

and communications studies student, and Zane Labonté-Hagar, a fourth-year software engineering student.

"I'm the one seeing the applications come in, and it's nice to get to know people over the years," Schneider said. "We know that we're able to reach people with different goals and they're still getting something from it no matter what."

"Some people come because they enjoy theatre, but they just really like the community," Labonté-Hagar said.

This year, Schneider and Labonté-Hagar introduced the inaugural role of the archives and alumni coordinator. Their job is to go through decades of Sock 'n' Buskin media coverage and create digital archives to preserve records of the theatre company's history.

"It's been really nice knowing that we're rebuilding and reclaiming our history and having something to show for it," Labonté-Hagar said, "just knowing that the stuff we're doing right now isn't going to be lost in time."

When it comes to recognizing how they fit into Sock 'n' Buskin's eight-decade legacy, it's too soon to tell for Schneider: "I'm too into it right now to consider what that will look like for people kind of coming in the future."

But Keene (who plans to continue acting in Ottawa's local scene for as long as possible) said she and Fleming are a part of Sock 'n' Buskin's story as much as the company is a part of theirs.

"I will be very grateful that something I got to be at the helm of will be there forever," Keene said. "There are so many years, and at the end of the day, we're just a couple years of it."



The colourful stories and legacies of Carleton's tunnel art



Carleton University's tunnels are lit up mostly by vibrant designs upon their walls for clubs, societies, advocacy groups and residence floors. [Photo by Sophia Laporte]

SOPHIA LAPORTE

It's hard to imagine what a walk through Carleton University's humid and dimly lit tunnels would be like without the vibrant, handpainted murals brightening its walls.

The tunnel art stretches underneath popular buildings like Nideyinàn and the Canal Building, all the way to residence buildings like Grenville, Stormont and Dundas.

There are about 100 club and campus-focused murals, and an additional 68 murals that have been added in the residence precinct since Housing and Residence Life Services launched an in-house painting initiative in 2023, according to a statement from the university.

For the club and residence-living artists creating the murals, the art marks the legacies they hope to

leave behind.

Last November, the Carleton Applied and Theoretical Linguistics Society became another society to add its own vibrant contribution: a mural featuring a polyglot cow on a soft pink background.

The image features a small bird known as a wug perched on the society's cow mascot. The wug is a popular symbol for linguistics-based societies across the world, as a made-up word created by psycholinguist Jean Berko Gleason to test if children can correctly create the plural of words they don't know.

"They'd draw a picture of these random things and then [researchers would ask], what's the plural of wug?" said linguistics society president Georgia Anderson, a second-year linguistics student.

"That just kind of became a symbol."

The CATL mural increased interest in the society, according to Anderson.

“When I tell people about the club, they’re like, ‘Oh my gosh, you’re that mural in the tunnels, and I’m like, “Yes, we are!”” Anderson said.

“I feel so famous ... and we’re really proud of it.”

Anderson was a club member when the mural was painted by graduated society executives, but says she is still “so happy” to see it every time she passes through the tunnels.

“Even if I wasn’t a part of the actual painting of it, I feel like this is part of my legacy at the school, and I’m very, very proud of that,” Anderson said. “I feel like a lot of the mural represents, again, that aspect of community.”

Hillary Inglis, a third-year humanities and political science student lived on the second floor of Grenville residence during the 2023-2024 academic year and helped paint a mural with her floor members to commemorate their time together.

The Minecraft themed mural came to life through pixel art of the video game’s iconic grass block logo, with different shades of browns and greens.

Though Inglis said she wishes she had more time to paint the mural, she thought it was a cool experience.

“I also [would] like to come back in a couple of years and still be able to see that [and] have that memory,” Inglis said.

“Having that experience brought our floor together and gave us something to do and helped strengthen that relationship and meet new people. I ended up talking to a lot of people on my floor that I previously hadn’t really talked to by doing it.”

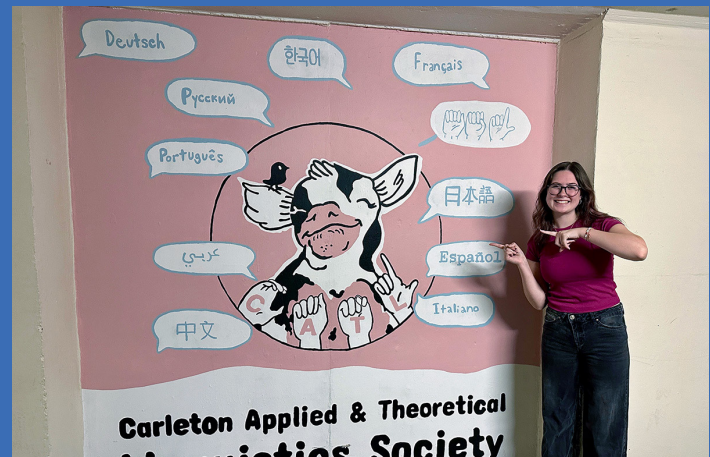
Beyond societies and residence memories, some murals bring attention to advocacy and support groups on campus like the Carleton Disability Awareness Centre.

Carys-Anne Starling was a student who used the centre when they helped paint the centre’s mural in April 2025. Now, having become the space’s administrative coordinator, they feel the mural is important for raising awareness.

“People can see it and get the information they may be looking for that they didn’t know was out there just by being on campus,” Starling said.

Starling says they encourage anyone in an advocacy group at Carleton who is interested in making a mural to do it.

“[Everybody] in the community had some part to do with that mural, but it definitely is really cool seeing art I helped make and knowing the importance it has,” Starling said. “I had fun, but it’s rooted in something much more important than having fun.”



President Georgia Anderson of the Carleton Applied & Theoretical Linguistics Society (CATL) points to the society’s mural, which centres a cow well-versed in many languages with a tiny fictional bird known as a “wug” on its ear. The cow came from the acronym CATL sounding like “cattle” when said aloud. [Photo by Sophia Laporte]



Hillary Inglis stands in front of the mural she helped paint with many other students from the second floor of Grenville residence during her time living on campus in 2023-2024. [Photo provided by Hillary Inglis]



Carys-Anne Starling with the mural they helped make for the Carleton Disability Awareness Centre back in April. [Photo by Sophia Laporte]

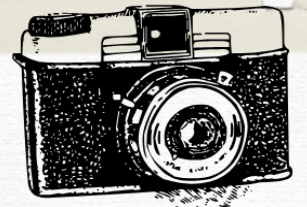


By Simon McKeown

Two women sit atop a construction digger, flaunting a sign for Carleton's new campus.

The university expanded its grounds in 1957 to support a post-secondary boom.

[Supplied Capital Press/Carleton University]



A photo-op in front of the then under-construction Tory Building. It was the first to be built on Carleton University's Rideau Campus in 1957 after moving from the Glebe. The building was named after the school's first president, Henry Tory.

[Supplied Capital Press/Carleton University]



Carleton's campus was once home to an outdoor amphitheatre.

[Supplied Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich/CarletonHistorica on Instagram]

Students gather in the quad in 1967 to enjoy the sun and to catch up with friends.

[Supplied Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich/Carleton Historica on Instagram]



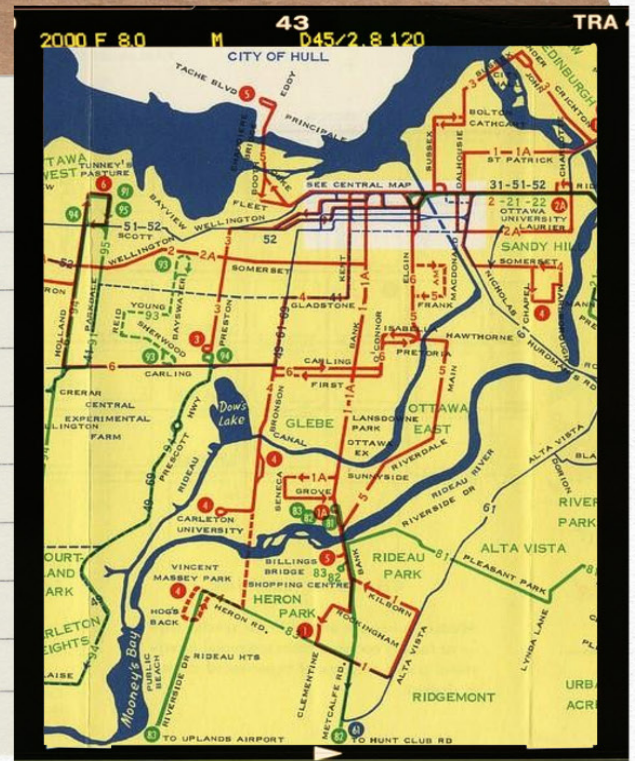
Canoeing to class? Not a problem! In the early 1960s, Carleton finished constructing its three main buildings — Tory Building, Paterson Hall, and MacOdrum Library. Carleton's 2,000 students got to class however they could.

[Supplied Capital Press/Carleton University]



In the 1960s, OC Transpo used to run under the Ottawa Transportation Commission. Only route 4 ran to campus along Bronson Avenue. Now, students use routes 6, 7, 10, 48, 111 and the train to get all over the city.

[Photo from the Canadian Public Transit Discussion Board]



Editorial: Carleton's global strategy is starting to deliver

THE CHARLATAN

When a university's strategic integrated plan claims it wants to "serve the world," there is always the risk the phrase turns hollow – a branding exercise, not a belief. But at Carleton University, there's real infrastructure behind the rhetoric. The university's international strategy isn't just a glossy line in a brochure, but a layered, deliberate plan that's starting to reshape how the campus connects with the world beyond Ottawa.

Let's start with the numbers. According to Carleton International, 10 per cent of undergraduate students and 15.7 per cent of graduate students are international, representing roughly 5,600 students from more than 150 countries. That scale doesn't happen by chance. It reflects years of institutional work to expand networks, create efficient processes and position the university as more than just a local player with a global tagline.

Carleton's 2020 International Strategic Plan lays out five key pillars: enhancing international research and funding; improving the international student experience; strengthening international teaching; increasing student mobility; and cultivating "internationalization at home." Each of those points connects directly to the university's larger Strategic Integrated Plan, which calls on Carleton to "Serve Ottawa, Serve the World."

The outgoing exchange program is another example of Carleton's success. Carleton students can study abroad at roughly 110 partner institutions in over 30 countries, paying the same tuition and earning credits toward their degrees. That structure matters more than it might seem – it removes two of the biggest barriers that typically stifle study abroad participation: the financial shock of paying foreign tuition and the nightmare of credit transfers. In theory, it means studying abroad is about willingness, not wealth.



Carleton University's international strategy is a layered, deliberate plan that's starting to reshape how the campus connects with the world beyond Ottawa. [Photo by Greg Rosenke/Unsplash]

But "in theory" is the key phrase. The university's framework may be strong, but not all students can access its benefits equally. The remaining costs – travel, housing, visa fees and daily living expenses – still make studying abroad a privilege, not a baseline opportunity. For many students, especially those from marginalized or low-income backgrounds, mobility programs are still financially out of reach.

That's where Carleton's focus on internationalization at home becomes critical. Instead of treating global learning as something that only happens on another continent, the university has started embedding cross-cultural content into on-campus curricula and encouraging virtual exchanges with partner institutions abroad. This approach reimagines what it means to be globally educated in an age full of digital connection. When done well, it ensures that a student who never leaves Ottawa can still engage deeply with diverse ideas, peers and worldviews.

There's still work to be done.

Carleton's internationalization agenda will only be as strong as its follow-through. Expanding scholarships and bursaries specifically tied to mobility programs would be a strong first step toward equity, and making program fees and funding opportunities more transparent would help students plan realistically rather than aspirationally.

The university has already laid down a good foundation. A coherent plan, measurable priorities and a genuine effort to make "global engagement" more than a buzzword. But now comes the harder part – turning structural ambition into a lived reality. If Carleton can pair its international vision with tangible accessibility, it can invite the world in, meaningfully and equitably.

For now, the pieces are on the board. The question is whether Carleton will play the game to win, or let a promising strategy fade into the background noise of institutional optimism. The answer will decide whether "Serve the World" remains a slogan or becomes a standard.

Opinion: Carleton's investments in companies violating human rights clash with its own ethical guidelines



Carleton University is a publicly-funded institution, not a private corporation – and it should act accordingly, Daniel Arnold writes. [Photo by Kathan Kapoor]

DANIEL ARNOLD

Post-secondary education in Ontario is in a monetary crisis, and universities are scrambling to stay afloat.

Financial pressure is coming from every direction: federal immigration policies, tuition caps and the lowest post-secondary funding from any provincial government in the country.

In February, Carleton University's senate reported the school's financial position has become "even tighter" since last spring's projections as the number of international undergraduate students dropped by 55 per cent in a single year.

Facing these financial challenges, institutions like Carleton are turning to alternative funding avenues, including building an "institutional portfolio" and investing in private companies, such as TripAdvisor or Thomson Reuters.

In March, the university updated its investment policies, establishing a set of ethical guidelines for where endowment money can ethically be invested.

These investments, however, are not as innocuous as they appear. For over a

decade, students have raised concerns over Carleton investing endowment funds into corporations involved in widespread human rights abuses.

Last June, The Charlatan obtained documents which showed that, despite widespread backlash, the university was pouring millions into companies flagged by the United Nations for their participation in Israel's occupation of Palestine.

One of the key ethical guidelines laid out in Carleton's Responsible Investing Policy is adherence to the UN's own Principles for Responsible Investing, which focuses on three overarching considerations: the environment, social issues and governance.

By investing millions into corporations the UN has condemned for human rights violations, Carleton University is contradicting its own stated policies.

It is hypocritical and deeply unethical for a diverse, publicly funded educational institution to invest millions into companies complicit in the genocide of the Palestinian people and the illegal occupation of land in what is now recognized by Canada as the State of Palestine.

In April, Carleton University declined to abide by calls from student organizations

such as the Carleton 4 Palestine (C4P) coalition to divest from companies involved in activities in Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.

Members of the C4P coalition argue this lack of transparency from Carleton is an example of how the university is beginning to act more like a corporate entity rather than an educational institution.

Carleton University is a publicly-funded institution, not a private corporation – and it should act accordingly.

Whether their money is being directly or indirectly funnelled towards these companies, students and donors deserve to know.

There is, however, hope for change. Past divestment campaigns at Carleton University have proven successful in pushing the school toward more ethical investment practices.

In the 1980s, public campaigns demanding divestment from South Africa's apartheid regime came to a head. After years of student and activist pressure, Carleton finally divested from South Africa in 1987, following efforts by the Carleton Anti-Apartheid Action Group and the Carleton University Students' Association.

More recently, in 2022, Carleton divested from fossil fuel companies contributing to the destruction of our environment and the escalating climate crisis after a campaign by Climate Action Carleton.

Carleton subsequently updated its responsible investment policies to prohibit all fossil fuel investments.

If we wish to make Carleton the accepting and intellectually enriching environment it deserves to be, we must continue to hold the university accountable – demanding transparency and ethical investments.

Universities must start acting like the diverse and democratic institutions they are, rather than as corporations which put profit over people.

How Carleton brought sports like football back from the dead — with women leaders behind it all

ZOE PIERCE

Celebrating at the Panda Game, watching varsity men's and women's hockey or rugby on the weekend and participating in adaptive sports like wheelchair basketball: This year's graduating class of Carleton University students have known nothing else.

But 20 years ago, Carleton's recreation and sports landscape was wildly different from today's reality — for students and athletes alike.

There was no football program, men's hockey had been disbanded for 33 years, and rugby or adaptive sport athletes had no team to join under the Ravens banner.

Things began to change in 2005, when Jennifer Brenning stepped in as Carleton's associate vice-president for the Department of Recreation and Athletics.

Brenning is one of several women who have shaped Carleton's athletics programs behind the scenes, leaving a lasting impact on the department and continuing to drive its growth today.

Brenning, who retired in 2024, was recruited to Carleton with her 11 years of experience working at the Canadian Interuniversity Athletics Union (now known as U Sports) and eight years as the assistant director of athletics at the University of Ottawa.

Crossing town to Carleton, Brenning arrived at a school in the midst of a rebuild. The Raven's Nest had just opened that February, and plans for a new ice hockey facility were already underway for the fall.

Then-Recreation and Athletics director Drew Love wanted Brenning to help him restructure the athletics department and breathe life into the brand-new facilities with fresh programming.

"We were really in a building phase and trying to grow the athletics department,



Jennifer Brenning (left) and Yolana Junco (right) have played key roles in shaping the direction of Carleton Athletics. [Photo supplied by the Carleton Ravens]

which was quite exciting," Brenning said.

By 2006, the Carleton Ravens women's hockey team upgraded from a competitive club to earn varsity status, and in July 2007, Brenning became the Director of Recreation and Athletics.

And in the fall of that year, Brenning helped revive the men's hockey team, elevating them to varsity status and relaunching the program with its first league game in the OUA.

Men's hockey had originally started at Carleton in 1961 but was suspended in 1974.

Football at Carleton was victim to a similar fate.

The program started after the Second World War in 1945 but was disbanded in 1998 after years of sustained financial losses.

"There was no thought of a football program when I was coming over to Carleton," Brenning said.

But at a football alumni event in 2008, Brenning had a conversation with Kevin McKerron, the chapter president of the "Old Crows": a group of former Ravens football players who support the team

through mentorship, fundraising and preserving the program's history.

"He asked me, 'Would [you] be interested in bringing the football program back?'" Brenning recalled.

"I wasn't sure, so they said they had some financial backers — alumni who had been very successful in business — who wanted to help fund the program."

That's when Brenning brought the idea to Carleton's advancement office and to Roseanne O'Reilly Runte, the university's president from 2008 to 2017.

By 2013, football was back at Carleton.



The Carleton Ravens return to OUA football as they take on the Western Mustangs at TD Waterhouse Stadium in London Ontario, Monday, September 2, 2013. [Photo provided by Geoff Robins/Carleton Ravens]

“When we had our first home game that year, we had sold out, and it was an incredible feeling, even though we were 0-8 that first season,” Brenning said.

“How the community came out to support the program was amazing.”

Two years later, in 2015, the historic Panda Game between longtime rivals, the uOttawa Gee-Gees and Ravens, returned for the first time since 1998.

From the work of the Old Crows to Carleton’s athletics department and president, many people were involved in bringing back the football team — including Brenning’s successor, current associate vice-president of Recreation and Athletics Yolana Junco.

Junco came to Carleton as an international student, where she earned her MBA.

She worked in various areas across the university, mainly in finance and accounting, before starting with the athletics department in 2008 as the Director of Finance and Operations.

At the time, the department was facing a deficit, and Brenning realized she needed someone with financial expertise.

With Junco on her side, Brenning continued a successful 19 years at Carleton.



Jennifer Brenning (holding flowers) and Yolana Junco (right of Brenning) at the 2024 Capital Hoops game between the Carleton Ravens basketball team and uOttawa Gee-Gees [Photo supplied by Carleton Ravens]

Brenning implemented a varsity women’s rugby team in 2012 and helped organize five men’s and one women’s U Sports basketball championships, as well as two men’s national soccer tournaments.

She celebrated the success of the basketball programs — 12 men’s and three women’s national championships

— the soccer program’s many U Sports national championship appearances, and two national titles for the curling program during her time at Carleton.

“I really feel it’s important for all women and young men, and for all inclusivity, to have the opportunity to participate and be a part of something,” Brenning said.

“It was important for me that we offer equal opportunity for men and women at the varsity level.”

Part of her focus on providing opportunity and fostering excellence led to the hiring of Stacey Colarossi, who came to Carleton in 2022 to coach the women’s hockey program. Brenning’s vision, Colarossi recalled, was to transform the women’s program into a top contender after years of struggling.

“She wanted to change that,” Colarossi said. “She thought, ‘I could transition this program into something that the university could be proud of.’”

In Colarossi’s debut season as head coach, the team posted an 8-14-3 record, earning 19 points — the program’s strongest performance in over a decade. Last season, the hockey program officially moved to the OUA.



Stacey Colarossi coaches her women’s hockey squad in the 2025 home opener on Oct. 10, 2025 [Photo by Murray Oliver]

“Our athletes are in a fully high-performance program now, with more resources. And I’m continually fighting to get more resources for our women athletes to compete at their best level,” Colarossi said.

That support includes strength and conditioning, nutrition coaching and a focus on the unique challenges for female athletes, Colarossi added.

Now a year and a half in, the Junco era is taking off in Carleton athletics,

where she plans to continue highlighting women’s sports and inclusivity.

“With the whole movement of women’s sport, we are the foundation of it,” Junco said.



Carleton Ravens women’s soccer team celebrates a win on Sept. 19, 2025. [Photo by Denielle Gaudet]

Just three months after starting the role, Junco took on the referendum for the Student Fitness Centre — a massive undertaking she describes as “huge and a lot of work.”

The project is now moving into its execution phase, with plans for a two-storey facility featuring expanded amenities, including a permanent women’s-only area, upgraded cardio and weight-training equipment and multipurpose activity rooms. The renovation will nearly triple the size of the fitness centre from 11,000 to 32,000 square feet across two floors.

Inclusivity and adaptive sports are a cornerstone of Junco’s vision.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Carleton introduced wheelchair basketball at both junior and adult levels as part of its adaptive sports program. The department has also added boccia, adaptive strength and flexibility training, para personal training and para swim.

“Wheelchair basketball is our flagship program,” Junco said.

“We’re becoming the place to go when it comes to talking about wheelchair basketball.”

“For me to convince myself to take the role, [I realized] there are going to be other girls that are going to look at you and think, ‘I can be that person, I can be that person and be a leader and make changes.’”

Porter Hall: The home of Carleton's secret rock and roll past

YANJANO BANDA &
JUSTIN ESCOTO

Walk down the halls of Carleton University's Nideyinàn building and you'll eventually find Porter Hall -- a gigantic, unremarkable lecture hall where rows of half-asleep students attend their 8:30 a.m. classes. Nowadays, it's hard to imagine anything but the sounds of laptop typing or the booming voice of professors across the space.

But rewind more than 30 years, and its walls would tremble with reverb and distortion. A young Chris Cornell stood onstage with his band Soundgarden, about to play a set that would eventually turn the world of grunge on its head. Before "Black Hole Sun," before the platinum records, and before headlining Lollapalooza, there was Porter Hall - Carleton's own slice of rock and roll history.

From the late 1970s until the early 2000s, Porter Hall was considered one of Ottawa's premier concert venues. The room was packed with crowds of 500 to 700 eager fans and hosted some of rock's greatest names: Tool, Iggy Pop and the Ramones all took the stage, leaving a wild campus legacy in their wake.

Michael Houston is a volunteer at CKCU 93.1 FM — Carleton's campus radio station. He's also a former backstage crew member at Porter Hall.

"I have very, very distinct memories of my first time walking into Porter Hall," said Houston. "Being a part of the crew, it was like 'Oh my God, we were backstage. Backstage for The Spoons. This is incredible!'"

These concerts were often run by the Carleton University Students' Association, and the space was used as an exam hall during the day and a standing-room-only rock venue in the evening.

Houston said Porter Hall was the spot back in its heyday, and the atmosphere was unlike anywhere else on campus.

"[Porter Hall] was always packed [...] I always loved tech, I've always loved being

backstage, and here I am, just within two years of volunteering. I'm backstage."

"It's not the Olympic Stadium in Montreal, but [I was like] 'this is Porter Hall. I got a VIP Pass, I'm helping set up this stage for this band for this crew.' It was cool, it was very cool."

Carleton School of Journalism alumnus and Polaris music prize judge Ryan Bresee said he attended concerts at Porter Hall as a teenager, describing it as a surreal experience.

"I came to shows in the early '90s at Porter Hall, and that was like going to a whole other world," Bresee said. "You're a high school student and you're going to a university campus to see a punk rock show..."

He says the space felt different.

"The vibe of it for me was that this is really cool," said Bresee. "I don't remember anything super particular or outstanding about the room itself. It was just what was happening and where I was. It was that feeling of 'man, this is a whole other world.'"

Despite Bresee's happy memories at the concert venue, he also witnessed its decline firsthand. He said by the time he started his undergraduate degree at Carleton, events at Porter Hall slowly faded away.



Back in the 1980s, musicians Brian Maule, Colleen Clark, Derek Campfield and Jeb Bond of Screaming Bamboo rocked the walls of Porter Hall. [Photo supplied by Jeb Bond]

"Once I started as a student here in the late 1990s, there weren't as many shows happening at [Porter Hall]. It felt like it was just used by the university for student stuff and no longer for concerts."

According to the Carleton University Archives, Porter Hall was officially decommissioned as a concert venue in 2006. Following a \$17-million renovation to Nideyinàn, Porter Hall was cut by 40 per cent to create more space for classrooms.

"It was disappointing, right? When you're a music fan and you have these positive experiences going to a venue for a show, it's always a real bummer when that place closes."

The closure of Porter Hall as a music venue marked the end of an era for Carleton's campus culture. Today, it's days of live shows exist only in memory. What was once one of Ottawa's liveliest spaces is now just another lecture hall. For those who were there, though, its rock-and-roll past will never fade.

Want to hear more? Catch Yanjano and Justin's deep dive the Charlatan Live, wherever you get your podcasts!



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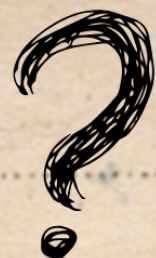
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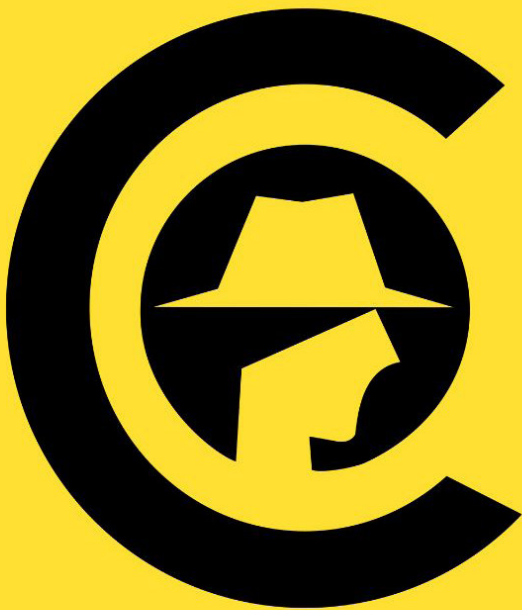
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