

Who's your daddy, Justin Trudeau?

JUSTIN TRUDEAU, SON OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER Pierre Elliot Trudeau, has had his name in ink a lot recently. Whether it's reporters who, for one reason or another, want to know what his late father would think of the state of nationalism in the country today, or the *Globe and Mail* running a gushing piece recently profiling his appeal, Justin is hard to miss these days. It seems that half the country is asking when he's going to finally run for the Liberal leadership. The other half is asking why he should.

Young Trudeau has become an increasingly prominent figure in recent years, likely due more to genetics than anything else. People don't seem to like Trudeau because of his stance on issues of national importance, or because of his experience in the realm of politics, seeing as there's nothing of substance to be found in either. And while Trudeau has never actually declared his intentions to run for any position, that hasn't stopped fawning media types and scores of policy wonks from pushing his name into the spotlight every time the subject comes up.

Supporters of Trudeau Jr will tell you that he's an extremely smart man; that he's a well-read intellectual. This might be true, but that doesn't make him the best pick for the Liberal leadership. Political experience and a good dose of realistic expectations are necessary for anyone who wants to be an effective leader. Trudeau's wide-eyed idealism and reputation being outside the day-to-day drudgery of Ottawa might be what makes him such a political rock star, but these are also the qualities that would keep him from being the breakout leader everyone wishes him to be.

The real reason some people were pushing for the young Trudeau to run for the Liberal leadership race is simple: nostalgia. When faced with an array of ho-hum candidates jostling for the top spot in the party, many were understandably unimpressed. People want politics to be sexy. They want the excitement and the interest that people showed in the government back into the 1960s. In a word, they want Trudeamania.

The one sticking point, however, is that Justin is not Pierre, and, well, it ain't the '60s, man. Canada isn't the same country that it was back then, and it doesn't need another Pierre. Even if it did, it is unlikely that the nation would find it in Justin. For better or for worse, he isn't his father.

This is not to say that he wouldn't make a good politician. He very well might. The point is that all the country really knows about Justin Trudeau is that he's a pretty smart guy with nice hair and a famous father. None of these qualities are a good reason for someone to jump into the leadership race for a federal party without cutting their teeth in Ottawa first.

For a nation that fought hard for responsible government in its early days, Canada seems to have a love affair with its royal children; Justin and Alexandre Trudeau, Ben Mulroney and, to a lesser extent, Catherine Clark. All of them have become seeming obsessions of the Canadian media at some point—and probably none of them would have been given a second glance if they had been born to anyone that wasn't a prime minister. Perhaps genetics and a famous last name is enough to rule over the set of *Canadian Idol*, but unfortunately, it takes a little bit more if one is looking for the leader of the Liberal party.

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

Sing us a song, Ed

IN THIRD PLACE AFTER LAST WEEKEND'S BALLOT, "Steady Eddie" Stelmach is positioned to be the compromise candidate in a race between two polarized front-runners in Jim Dinning and Ted Morton. Forget policy promotion and personal integrity, though—what Stelmach needs to show is personality and charisma.

Clearly, what propelled Morton and Dinning into the lead was their respective campaign jingles: the country-western "Ted Morton is the Man," and the adult-contemporary "A song for Jim." Therefore, Ed, I propose you call up Edmonton rapper Cadence Weapon and get yourself a hip-hop track, stat. I'm picturing a slow, flowing R&B ballad, simply titled "Steady."

MATT FREHNER
Editor-in-Chief

LETTERS

Engineers rage on over tuition debate

I'm so sick of hearing people complain about the cost of tuition. Are you all forgetting that you at one point weighed the pros and cons of pursuing a postsecondary education and yet still decided to volunteer [to] submit yourself to the debt? Are you telling me when you found out that tuition cost near or over \$5000 for a school year you based your decision to attend only in hopes that the tuition would lessen in cost during the span of your degree program? I feel sorry for your lack of logic.

As for you, Mr Noel Palmer (re: "Don't burden students with tuition load," 21 November): your parents' [tuition cost] half of what we pay now *fifteen years later*? Fuck! That shocks me! Guess what, so does a bottle of Coke, and a beer, and every other thing that money can buy. It's called inflation, take an economics class and maybe you'd know that. Along with inflation there is much to consider, such as the fact our facilities have greatly improved over the last 15 years [and] the cost of running a school is greater.

A lot of people seem to be under the impression that Alberta's flourishing economy owes them more back. Well guess what, you aren't Alberta, you live in it. It's Alberta's oil money and not yours, so you can shove your complaints up your ass—at least be happy we are so lucky to have no PST and stop bitching about a reasonably priced education.

I don't understand where you people get off complaining about the tuition when you knew what it would cost when you came here. If you don't like it just drop out. Our tuition is comparable with other universities across Canada, and having first-hand experience at two other Universities in Canada I would like to say at the U of A you get more bang for your buck.

Also, if you want to bitch about engineers getting high-paying summer jobs then you're a tool. Being an engineer I resent that, as I planted trees in BC for four miserable years simply to avoid debt. If you are too lazy to do something similar for yourself to avoid owing "The Man" your life then I really don't think you have the right to complain.

DEVIN SAWATZKY
Engineering III

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADERSHIP RACE?

MAN, IT IS WAY TOO FUCKING COLD TO CARE



CONAL PIERSE

paramount importance to those who choose an area of study that is not financially rewarding. Why then is it these people who are constantly whining about their bank account?

Compared to international students, most of us pay pennies for an education and have an excellent student loan program available. I don't have millionaire parents or many scholarships but have decided that getting a degree makes economic sense and [have] chosen to stretch out my time here in order to work and maintain zero debt.

There are many high-paying jobs requiring no postsecondary education at all. If someone considers their student loan so unreasonably high that they feel quantifying it on the SUB wall is necessary, then they should consider a career working in Fort McMurray for \$22/hour at Tim Horton's. Conversely, if they just want the knowledge without paying for it then I will be happy to provide directions to a library.

BRYAN ORR
Petroleum Engineering IV

Postsecondary is a choice

Of course a postsecondary education is an investment in society; however, students who use these lines of reasoning refuse to be adequately accountable for the personal benefit they extract from their degree.

I commend any individual for the enormous effort that comes with raising a child, working a job and performing in class. However, kids and mortgages do not fall out of the sky. Albertans should not be responsible to cover for the choices that make managing a postsecondary career more difficult. How can you complain about being up shit creek when you threw away the paddle?

Mr Palmer, I'm shocked and embarrassed that the business fac-

ulty has failed to teach you about the basic principle of inflation and the resulting reduction in purchasing power over time. I have no interest in walking you through the calculation, but can assure you that the real value of the dollar has been nearly halved in the past 20 years (Bank of Canada inflation calculator). Also consider the added cost of increasing the quality and reputation of this institution over that same time.

Your analogy to "basic" health care was backward and ill-considered. Where basic health care is provided to all members of society, so is basic education (get your grade twelve?). PSE is clearly beyond the "basic" levels afforded to every individual in this province.

Finally, when you decided to enrol in Business, it wasn't for the "future of the country" or to "increase government tax revenues" as you claimed. It was to benefit you personally, as every (well, most) other students here benefit personally. The argument to export the remaining 25 per cent of the cost of your degree to the government based on societal benefit is an obscene hypocrisy—as if society owes you a debt of gratitude for attending school. Society already pays the bill, you can handle the tip.

Between the juvenile arguments of students who shirk personal responsibility and ridiculous SU stunts (see the Funeral for Affordable Education), the student body is being grossly misrepresented. Tip for your Finance final Noel: guess on all the questions.

JASON BANACK
Business IV

Hipster article not cool

I guess you can call me a hipster-hater (re: "Hit me baby, one more time—and maybe again,"

21 November).

After reading Amanda Ash's ostentatious manifesto, I was filled with a certain gratitude that complimented the usual inarticulate rage I feel toward the ridiculously uniformed cool-kids-club often referred to as "the hipsters." You see, Miss Ash successfully created a piece of self-absorbed drivel that actually embodies everything I hate about the trend, and all the pseudo-intellectual wankers who have latched on to it. So, when someone asks me, "Kyle, why you be hatin' on hipsters all the time?," all I need do is show them this piece of journalistic diarrhea, and all will be made clear.

Her tirade on the legitimacy of mainstream pop music, while not entirely without merit, smacks of the enormous arrogance typical of the crowd. Rather than focusing on the logical part of her argument—where she points out some of the common worth that Top-40 tracks hold—she instead uses her "status" as a hipster to justify her taste. Even if we ignore the cyclic nature of the argument, the entire article can still be deconstructed into: "No matter what I do, it must be worthwhile because it's me doing it, and I am awesome."

While the crux of the article certainly had me interested, its pretentious, narcissistic execution made me sick to my stomach. Surely, for someone so well versed in "English literature and philosophical argumentation" Miss Ash must know the definition of the word "hubris." While the distilled thesis of the piece captured my interest, and its ease of reading kept me on until the end, the whole thing just collapses into the same petty irony epitomized by her "tastefully arranged blacks and high tops."

KYLE FRANCIS
Entertainment Editor
The Gauntlet