

THE CADRE

cadre /'kɑdrē/ 1. A nucleus or core group of trained personnel. 2. A framework, outline, or scheme.



Paper Dreams



art by Sofia Cervantes Romero

*This is the garden of wannabe scholars
where footballs set sail
and dogs loosen their collars
as signs of devotion to this club and that
get scribbled on napkins 'til afternoon class.
This is the oasis your pen cannot reach
where snakes are charmed but too low to teach
a place where the leaves will show you the way
doomed to be free as soon as they fray.
A day to slip before the dew
to make breaking news by breaking the rules.*

Boomer Gallant could not have forecasted nicer weather at a time when poets who linger on the scent of pumpkin usually roam the streets. But they were not welcomed here, not yet anyway, because the hot asphalt still played tricks on boys in cargo shorts and girls in sundresses as they gathered around to be a part of something bigger than themselves. The first day of school. And time to make a choice at the annual Club Fair.

Sandwiched between thirty other clubs, we stood with a foldaway table, science-fair-type backdrop, and pad of sticky notes. OK—"Dana, please run up to the office and grab some cooler stuff." Like the intuitive soul she is, Dana returned with a grand mix of memorabilia, dressing our table with Cadre issues from 1969 onward, including one which covered a campus-wide ban we suffered after publishing a cartoon of the prophet Muhammed. Our flair for walking the tightrope came across easily.

Feeling like a kid again, working my lemonade stand, it was so cool to have people stop and look interested, many simply asking, "What is The Cadre?" I had a whole spiel ready. "We are UPEI's student newspaper, and we want to bring some honest fun back into journalism... blah blah blah." At one point in my spiel, I mentioned freedom of speech and I can remember one guy cutting me off right there to ask if we were some sort of far-right, extremist group. Send in the clowns.

THE FAREWELL ISSUE

UPEI STUDENT NEWS

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Adopting a bit of ingenuity, we put our sticky notes to work by giving students a not-so-simple prompt, "What's your story?" They would then stick an answer to our storyboard. All the while, we handed out fifty flyers and had about half as many people sign up to volunteer. One particularly keen young fellow stopped and chatted for a few minutes; he dressed smartly in a slim-fit suit, wore his hair slicked back, and had this spark in his eye so fervent it forced you to choose between envy and faith. Come time for our first team meeting, he was the only volunteer to show up. This cat cares.

Once the team was assembled, it was time to cover a few standards of journalism and, more importantly, how we could break them to everyone's advantage. I did up this mini-manifesto on Hunter S. Thompson and called it *A Gateway to Gonzo*, encouraging my team to step outside of whatever box they constructed around what a journalist should be. Time to tell a story from your own two eyes and stray from the veneer of objectivity to which most journalists cling. We allowed ourselves to be human in all our ignorance. To learn from mistakes instead of being too afraid to make them in the first place.

Next, we needed a vision centered around a goal, and that goal was to bring back physical papers. In 2007, budgets were cut and the print was deemed superfluous. The Cadre had been exclusively online ever since. But I am old-fashioned and saw our online home in a prolonged state of drought, too stale and overpopulated for us to carve out a niche and grow. But water was on the horizon. A good old organic revival.

Print is mint.

The reception of our printed papers was resoundingly awesome. We would make the rounds every week with a hundred new copies, stamped and folded by hand and made extra special by all you smiling faces who posed with one.



These papers, cheap and colourless as they once were, proved just how much joy can come out of giving something uniquely yours to the world. Looking at real people in real-time reading the paper and thinking, "I did that." I do not know if there is a limit to the potential of this feeling.

Thirteen issues later, I can say with pride, "mission complete," heartened by how much is accomplished when we put our heads together with a little determination, creativity, and faith. I hope you remember us by doing something just as crazy.

*Write like you're clinging to the edge of a cliff,
white knuckles, on your last breath, and you've
got just one last thing to say, like you're a bird
flying over us, and you can see everything, and
please, for God's sake, tell us something that
will save us from ourselves.*

- Alan Watts



Thank you...

...Sam and David with the Dalhousie Gazette/Mackerel, for your guidance and friendship. John Alex and the SIS, for our reciprocal growth and awesome event-hosting abilities. Mike and the Fox and Crow for hosting us and being regular beneficiaries of our paper route. Melissa, Leena, Adam, Shelby, and everyone at the SU for supporting us and not corrupting the media. Our podcast boys, Reece, Owen, and Nolan for adding an original layer to The Cadre and keeping it real all the way. Wendy and Pauline, for printing and archiving our papers at the library. Fairouz, Promise, and Sofia for making our papers pop with your breathtaking art. All the clubs, students, and faculty members we interviewed, and all who lent a hand, bounced ideas, and helped us realize our wildest dreams. Dana, for your beautifully candid poems and the grace with which you wore them on your sleeve every day. Rayyan, for your realism and wit that brought my little-too-lofty ideas back to earth. Devon, for your willingness to try now and understand later, to dive head first into the great unknown with the most cheerfulness. Eric, for being my right-hand man when I needed you most and teaching me the power of a firm handshake and a kind heart. Last but certainly not least, every single one of you who read our paper. It was a pleasure.

Signing off.

JAKE MACCALLUM
EDITOR IN CHIEF



THE CADRE

since 1969

So Long

BY DANA CHATTERJEE

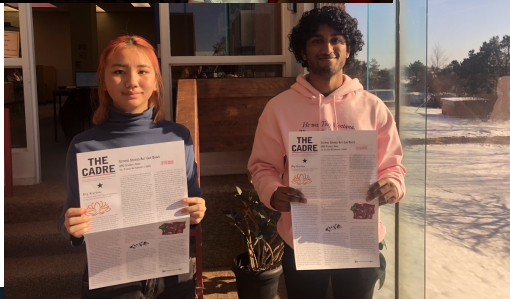
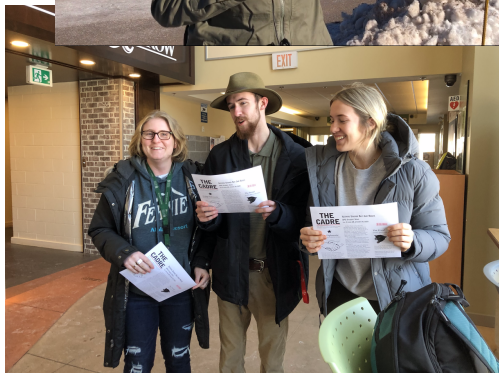


I have seen the paper go from being nearly non-existent to people being excited to read it. I have been working for The Cadre ever since I joined this university. This year was unexpected, to say the least, but it was no doubt the year for The Cadre. It seems just like yesterday when we were planning out our vision in the office; the vision board is still up there. Getting out physical copies was our biggest milestone and I remember the excitement around the room as we finally held it in our hands. There are several great memories with the team. For me, the best one was seeing students pick up the paper, curious to actually read it. We hoped they wouldn't make paper planes out of them, so you can imagine our relief when we got the exact opposite reaction. People have even come up to me disappointed when we delayed releases.

Since we are going down memory lane, I have to mention the Valentine's Day mixer. It was the first event we organized as a team and turned into a huge success. The importance I felt while we sat around planning the event was immense. Being the only girl on the team, everyone looked to me to determine how we can get girls interested in the mixer and what they would like. Now I don't remember the answer I gave, but the only thing going through my mind at that time was, "I have no idea how this entire thing works, I have hardly been on one date so far."

The Cadre will always have my heart because it let me pursue my passion for writing in the best possible way. As a little girl, I had dreamed of having my poetry published somewhere, and I never imagined that would actually come true. I need to give Jake credit for this because I don't know if I would have led a poetry column in a university paper if he didn't encourage and trust me to go for it. I will miss the group paper distributing sessions and our weekly meetings.

The Cadre: *a nucleus or core group of trained personnel*. The only thing we were trained for was to express ourselves and student voices, and we hope we did that justice.



WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE CADRE MOMENT?

WRITE IT HERE, SEND A PIC TO OUR IG, AND WE'LL SHARE IT!

