

ROUNDUP

School for Scoundrels

An unscientific assessment of OCAD's most wanted BY JASON McBRIDE

When a student claimed responsibility for November's faux bomb scare at the ROM, we couldn't help but wonder if Toronto's artsiest institute offers a class in courting controversy. Here, a ranking of headline-grabbing hijinks, from the inspired to the inane.

ASININE



1985: Going Green

In an aggressive act of graffiti art, a third-year student spray-paints a police cruiser green. Cops nab him near the scene of the crime; he is later fined \$300 in repainting fees.

1996: Puke Prank

Jubal Brown barfs red Jell-O on Raoul Dufy's painting *Harbour at Le Havre*, on display at the AGO. He does the same with blue Jell-O at New York's MoMA before security gets wise to his less than subtle criticism.



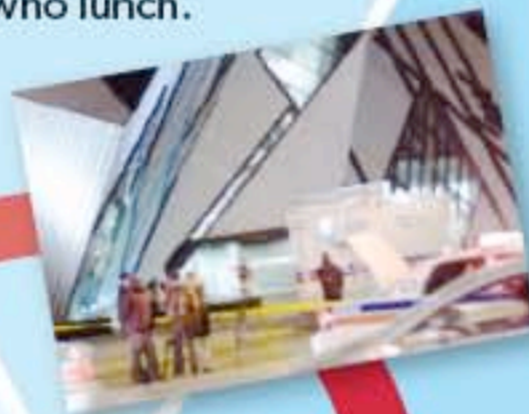
2007: ROM Scare

Thorarinn Jonsson plants a bomb-like sculpture outside the museum, then posts a YouTube video called "The Fake Bombing at the ROM." The bomb squad goes in anyway, while the disruption of a glitzy CANFAR bash causes further explosions among ladies who lunch.



2001: Cat Fight

In a grossly misguided attempt to highlight the hypocrisies of a meat-eating society, Jesse Power videotapes the skinning, disembowelment and decapitation of a cat. He is later convicted of cruelty to animals and gets 90 days' jail time. A 2004 documentary on the case, *Casistry: The Art of Killing a Cat*, premieres at the Toronto film fest, causing PETA types to picket en masse.



2006: Quench Your Curiosity

Performed at OCAD's Professional Gallery, Jess Dobkin's piece, *The Lactation Station Breast Milk Bar*, aims to eradicate the taboos surrounding lactation. Viewers are invited to taste pasteurized human breast milk donated by new moms.



ARTISTIC

ABOMINABLE

PHOTOGRAPHS: FLORIDA BY KEVIN VAN PAASSEN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL; BUSH BY KRISTOFFER TRIPPLAAR-POOL/GETTY IMAGES; GOVANI FROM NATIONAL POST; DOBKIN BY DAVID HAWKE; CAR BY JOHN MAHLER/TORONTO STAR; ROM BY DAVID TOPPING; PROTEST BY DAVE THOMAS/SUN MEDIA CORP.

TIMELINE

Guru Gaga

How Toronto fell head over heels for an American urbanist named Florida BY MIKE MINER

Ever since world-renowned city swami Richard Florida touched down in Toronto to head up U of T's new Martin Prosperity Institute, our civic ego has been soaring. But while Florida euphoria* continues to run rampant, we have to ask: Is this guy really worth the hype?



2004: The tease

The object of our desire nearly takes a job in Toronto but opts to stay in the U.S. to comfort a deeply concerned (and largely wire-tapped) creative class.

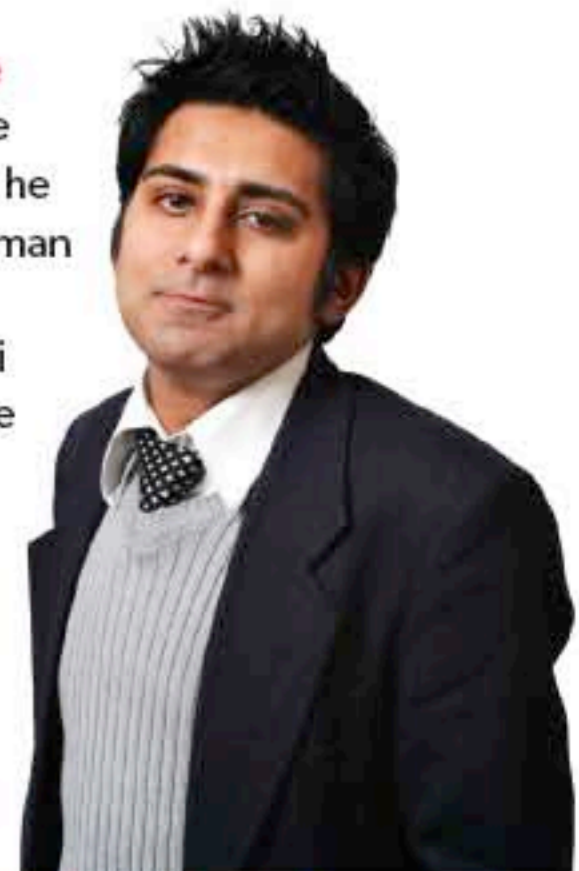


October 2006: You had us at inflection point

Still in Washington, our future flame speaks with *The Globe and Mail*, calling Toronto an "inflection point" with the potential to become a first-tier mega-region. Pillow talk never sounded so cerebral.

July 7, 2007: Ink service

The official Florida fanzine (a.k.a. the *Globe*) reports he will soon teach at the Rotman School of Management. Town cryer Shinan Govani drops R. Flo's name for the first time, later dubbing him the Justin Timberlake of urban theorists.



* Intense feelings of validation stemming from the good doctor's faintest praise.

CAMERA

Their Art Will Go On

Toronto music talents perform songs by an unlikely icon at the launch of Carl Wilson's latest book, a probe into the popularity of la diva Dion

What's your favourite Céline Dion song?

"It's All Coming Back to Me' is, like, the craziest song ever" — *Owen Pallett (a.k.a. Final Fantasy)*

"I like 'I Drove All Night,' but Cyndi Lauper's version is better" — *Jian Ghomeshi*



01 Artist and playwright Darren O'Donnell 02 Painter Margaux Williamson 03 Musician Owen Pallett 04 Céline impersonator Laura Landauer 05 CBC stud Jian Ghomeshi 06 Poet Kyle Buckley 07 Blocks Recording Club co-founder Steve Kado 08 Author Carl Wilson 09 Fashion designer Jeremy Laing 10 Musician Gentleman Reg 11 MC Misha Glouberman 12 Lit chick Sheila Heti



October 27, 2007: Global domination

Not satisfied with stories about Richard Florida, the *Globe* introduces its new columnist: Doctorr Richaaaaard Flor-i-da! His monthly column brings star power to the paper's revamped weekend edition.



November 2007: Boy in the 'hood

Florida discovers Kensington Market. "You have a combination of old buildings and almost shacks," he enthuses. Sales of patchouli triple overnight. Later, his Toronto lust is tested with a visit to our very own concrete jungle—Yonge-Dundas Square. And guess what—he likes it! He calls the Eaton Centre "really beautiful." What's next? An ode to Jane and Finch?

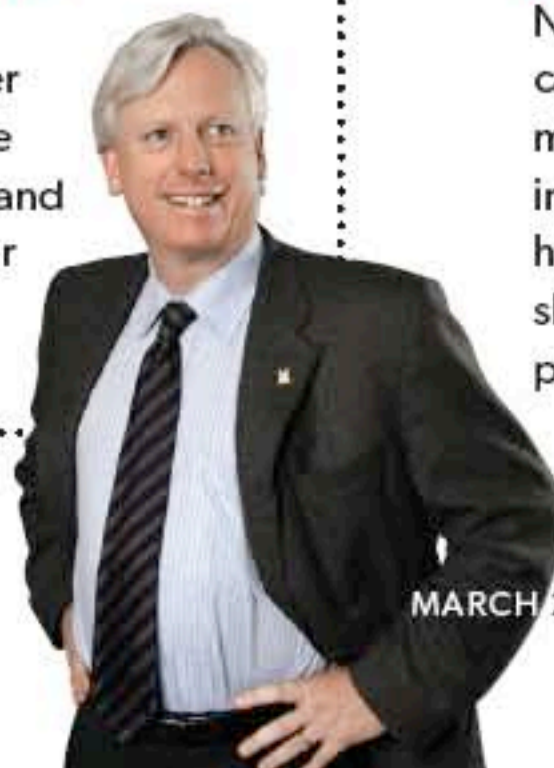
August 21, 2007: Welcome wagon

U of T fêtes its new acquisition at a swanky soirée. Belinda Stronach and Andy Barrie are among the 125 luminaries mixing with the messiah of metropolises. Premier McGuinty even puts his re-election bid on hold to give the keynote address.



October 30, 2007: Miller time

Even the mayor gets Florida fever at a Creative City dinner at Grano: "It's daunting to be invited to a dinner as mayor and have the guest speaker be far more interesting than you," he says of his new pal.



January 2008: One of us (only better)

New year, new crush? Not likely. Florida calls us "one of the most tolerant, open-minded, accepting and inclusive cities in the world," shortly before announcing his intention to obtain Canadian citizenship. Torontonians turn black and blue pinching each other.