



BEST. MUSIC.
EVER.
(OF THE YEAR SO FAR)
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THE MEDIUM

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UTMSU's silent AGM

Several changes made without significant discussion and largely by proxy

STEFANIE MAROTTA
NEWS EDITOR

Numerous amendments were made to UTMSU's constitution and bylaws with little discussion or explanation at the Annual General Meeting last Monday.

Out of 90 attendees, most of whom were union volunteers, 700 proxy votes were counted; 88% of votes cast represented students who were not in attendance, and who may not have been aware of the implications of their vote. In the weeks before the AGM, hundreds of students signed off their votes.

"A guy asked me to sign a sheet. He just asked me to give him my vote so he could vote on issues about UTMSU," said Richard Duong, a fourth-year life sciences student. "He didn't mention anything about any of the issues that he would be voting on. I didn't give him my vote because I didn't know what he'd use it for. I don't know



JUNAID IMRAN/THE MEDIUM

Many students in attendance wielded 11 votes – the maximum permitted.

anything about UTMSU's issues, so I didn't want him to use my vote."

UTMSU is required to present their financial statements and discuss the proposed changes to bylaws. An AGM is meant to provide a forum for accountability and transparency, although UTMSU has yet to publicize two months'

worth of meeting minutes on their website.

VP Internal Negan Alim presented the audited financial statement of the previous year. In his opening remarks, president Gilbert Cassar said that UTMSU had increased club funding and salaries to enhance student services.

There was no mention of the \$120,000 of student money that was taken from the contingency fund to subsidize the summer U-Pass or the union's plan to replace the funds. The contingency fund is an emergency reserve.

AGM continued on page 2

Parking deck expansion planned for 2015

LORI-LEE EMSHEY
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Erindale College Council is considering a motion to extend the upper parking deck in lot 8 by 300 spaces at a cost of around \$6.5 million. The project, to be completed by fall 2015, would be financed by having parking fees increase by 3% each year.

The operating plan for the parking expansion reasoned that UTM is a commuter campus, and that with increasing enrolment each year, UTM will be short on parking spaces by 2015.

This year there are 2,378 parking spots on campus. Last month, UTM Parking Services reported, "Currently, everything is available, except for premium unreserved and carpool."

"Premium unreserved" is a first-come, first-served permit that allows permit holders to park in lots 4, 5, 8, and 9. It is the second-

cheapest pass and allows drivers to park in most of the available lots.

The UTM Resources Planning Committee wants to use parking permits and Pay and Display revenues to cover the cost of the lot 8 expansion. To continue turning a profit they would have to raise permit prices by an extra 3% each year until 2015.

Professor Lee Bailey, the chair of the Resources Planning Committee, explained that every year parking fees would have to increase to keep up with inflation anyway, which is approximately 2%. By raising parking fees by 3%, the fees will track and outpace inflation.

Bailey said that parking fees at York, U of T Scarborough, and McMaster increase by at least 3% every year. The exception is the St. George campus, whose parking fees increase by only 2.5% per year.

Parking continued on page 3



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

The new level of the parking deck would be completed by 2015.

U of T seeks \$2 billion

SANA HAQ

The University of Toronto recently made history by launching the largest Canadian university fundraising initiative, BOUNDLESS, a \$2-billion campaign. U of T president David Naylor announced the endeavour at Convocation Hall on Sunday evening.

The campaign has already secured nearly half of its goal at \$966 million, with large sums coming from philanthropists. The funds will be used to prepare global citizens and to meet global challenges.

"Canada must have universities that can achieve two related goals: conduct the advanced research that will help solve the grand challenges humanity now faces, and offer the best and brightest students an exceptional education to help them build a better world," said Naylor.

The Honourable David R. Peterson, U of T's chancellor, said that this campaign is an extraordinary breakthrough for the university. He hopes that students will be better prepared for leadership in "an increasingly borderless world."



Montreal Massacre

The Women's Centre holds a memorial for the victims of the 1989 Polytechnique Massacre.
Medium News, page 3

UTMSU's AGM

Taking a look at what constitutes a meeting.
Medium Opinion, page 4

Hipster tunes

The Medium picks all the best albums of the year.
Medium A&E, page 6

Kwanzaa and you

All you wanted to know about the Pan-African celebration.
Medium Features, page 8

Can't keep it up

Men's Tri-Campus volleyball loses final game of season.
Medium Sports, page 11

Finance and amendments pass undiscussed

AGM continued from Cover

The bylaws regarding election procedures and the addition of a new division to the Board of Directors were externalized for further scrutiny.

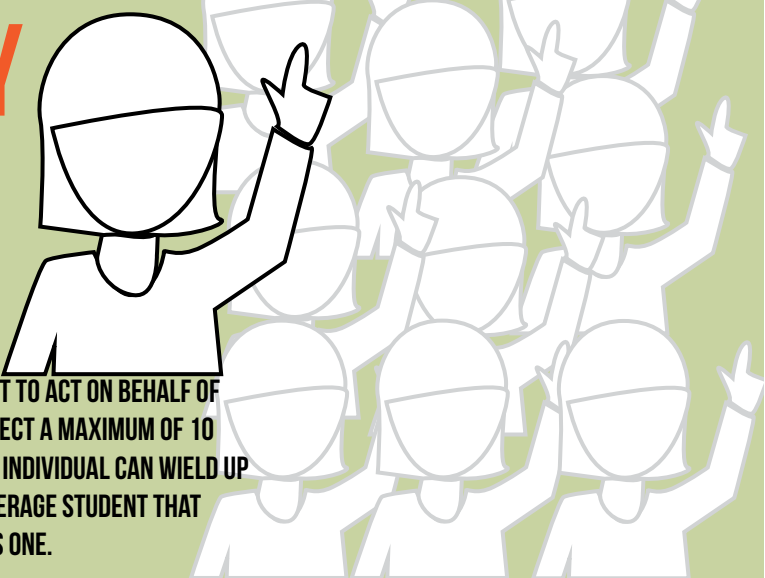
The membership of the Elections and Referenda Committee, charged with the responsibility of overseeing elections and enforcing conduct procedures, was changed to include one more executive and one less director on the board, leaving more than half of the decision-making power of the committee with incumbent UTMSU executives. Each year, a current executive (i.e., a VP) chooses to run for the position of president. Due to the change in membership, more than half of the ERC will now be comprised of that candidate's colleagues.

According to Cassar, the amendment will add greater expertise to the committee since executives have previous experience with campus elections. It also provides more flexibility for directors that want to campaign.

A fifth division was added to the Board of Directors to provide representation for students in the new

WHAT'S A PROXY VOTE?

A PROXY DESIGNATES A STUDENT TO ACT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER. A STUDENT CAN COLLECT A MAXIMUM OF 10 PROXIES THIS MEANS THAT ONE INDIVIDUAL CAN WIELD UP TO 11 VOTES, WHEREAS THE AVERAGE STUDENT THAT ATTENDS THE AGM ONLY WIELDS ONE.



Mississauga Academy of Medicine. The students are members of the St. George campus and do not pay membership fees to UTMSU. The two groups intend to hold a referendum to gain membership in the union for MAM students.

By preeminently creating a fifth division for MAM students, said

Cassar, UTMSU is “preparing for the future”.

Every motion passed unanimously, with one exception: a bylaw referring to the campus newspaper passed, opposed only by a former board director.

They changed the bylaw that required UTMSU to advertise with a campus newspaper—*The Medium*.

The wording was changed to “campus publications”. The change will allow the union to advertise with other sources and use social media to promote their events, explained Cassar.

The union already uses Twitter and Facebook to advertise and promote their organization.

“There is the possibility that this

takes away the need to advertise in the student newspaper,” said Thomas Kristan, a fourth-year student. “I don’t think that the student union would purposely try and do that. I think that they would keep using the student newspaper. I’m just wondering why it couldn’t be along the lines of the ‘student newspaper and additional publications.’”

Nearing the end of the meeting, executives made announcements to promote upcoming events, such as the Drop Fees rally, the drop credit initiative, and the UTM Talent Show. Attendees took advantage of the microphone, which had gone relatively unused during discussion periods about finances and bylaws, to express their approval of the work done this year by UTMSU. Corey Scott, VP Internal of the U of T Students’ Union, praised UTMSU for contributing petitions with 2,200 signatures for the Drop Fees campaign, the most out of all three campuses.

“It’s really through solidarity and not just internal within the campus,” Cassar said. “It’s across the university that really brings success at every level.”

Samsung launches projects with UTM

ADAM ERB
STAFF WRITER

UTM and Samsung will partner on upcoming media projects that bring something new and exciting in social media.

UTM and Samsung embarked on two different projects: “Design Jam” and “Sharing Possibilities for Apps in Research and Knowledge” (SPARK). The aim of these projects is to give students the opportunity to be part of shaping the future of social media and also to create a paradigm shift in the way we think about accessible technology. Samsung provided smart TVs, smartphones, and tablets to the students for each project.

Design Jam set out to redefine and reimagine what it would be like to take a family game night and put it in an electronic media format. Four groups of UTM students brainstormed what that

would look like and produced a video daily journal of their day, a multiplayer karaoke game, and a family scavenger hunt called “Augmented Reality”.

“We are excited to work with Samsung Canada on these projects that will benefit our students, our graduates, and, ultimately, our society,” said professor Anthony Wensley, the director of UTM’s Institute of Communication, Culture, and Information Technology. “Through our partnership, we are focussing on the skills our digital design students will need when they enter the workforce and the innovative applications that will best meet the needs of our wired and networked community.”

SPARK, set to begin in 2012, will challenge UTM students to design new concepts for applications that revolve around education, business innovation, and social responsibility.

SEC hosts pub night for AIDS awareness



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

Raffle prizes were offered to raise money for the cause.

SHERI VEIBL
STAFF WRITER

The UTM Sexual Education and Peer Counselling Centre, the UTM Students’ Union, and the UTM English and Drama Students Society jointly hosted the World Tour Pub on Thursday night to raise funds for AIDS charities.

UTM SEC is a student-run organization that provides students with information on healthy sexuality. Every year they hold a fundraising event in honour of World AIDS Day. This year, the World Tour Pub featured a live DJ, various performances, casino games, raffles, prizes, and a buffet

with cuisine from around the world.

“It’s one of the most meaningful pub nights, because all the proceeds go to charities that conduct AIDS research.”
—Ziadanne Lewis

“It’s one of the most meaningful pub nights, because all the proceeds go to charities that conduct AIDS research,” said Ziadanne Lewis, the head coordinator of UTM SEC.

“There will be no studying

tonight—you can find me at the Blink Duck Pub, supporting this great cause and making new friends!” said UTM student Mark Levy.

“The music was really good, the staff was friendly, and the food selection exposed me to new and exciting dishes,” said Melissa Barrientos, a first-year life sciences student. The food offered at the buffet table included pasta, lasagne, naan, and other dishes from different cultures.

Last year, UTM SEC held a masquerade, and the year before, a gala. The bar for this particular pub night was set high; this year the budget was approximately \$1,500.

WRITE FOR NEWS!

Campus politics, clubs, pub nights, and more!



email: news@mediumutm.ca

Women's Centre remembers the Montréal Massacre

SHERI VEIBL
STAFF WRITER

The UTM Women's Centre, in cooperation with UTM Campus Police, Green Dot, UTMSU and ULife, held a memorial on Friday in the Student Centre in honour of the 14 women who lost their lives in the 1989 shooting at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal.

November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The UTM Women's Centre, a resource centre that supports equality on campus, recognizes these acts of aggression in the hope of preventing future violence against women. The female victims in both these crimes were targeted because of their sex.

The event featured guest speakers Amy Mullin (UTM's vice-principal academic and dean), professor Joan Simalcik, a representative of the UTM Campus Police, and Ruba El-Kadri (UTMSU's VP Equity).

The goal of the memorial was to educate the community and



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

Professor Joan Simalcik commemorated the victims.

raise awareness about violence against women. Instead of illustrating that women are the only ones subject to violence, the event emphasized that we are all affected by violence. Although this was a Women's Centre event, both males and females were welcome.

Many people wore a white ribbon at the event to support the UTM Women's Centre's move-

ment to eliminate violence against women.

"Even though the event is a memorial, we would like to also move in a positive direction from this issue," said Synthia Truong, the advertisement and promotions coordinator of UTMWC. "The purpose of the annual event is to remember, reflect, and move forward towards making a change."

»WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THE BREAK?



P. David Kosinski
Fourth-year, Science

"I need to do last-minute gift shopping for my girlfriend. It's her birthday."



Rusan
Third-year, Psychology

"I'm going to Las Vegas with my family."



Ina
Third-year, Economics

"I'm going on vacation to Pheonix to see family."



Haseef
Third-year, Economics

"I'm having friends over from Montréal. We're gonna party."

UTM discusses parking expansion

Parking continued from Cover

"By a modest increase over the next three years, we can avoid the financial shock that would happen if we waited until 2015 when we run out of spaces," said Bailey. He estimated that if they only started financing for the expansion in 2015, they would have to suddenly raise parking fees by 40%.

"People who drive pay for parking. If parking costs increase, we don't increase tuition," said Bailey. He also pointed out that parking fee increases do not just affect students, but faculty and staff as well.

"Many staff don't earn big salaries, and they pay to park. If you earn 40 [thousand] a year, a thousand is a lot to pay in parking. Clerical staff and administrative staff don't get a U-Pass, either," he added.

Each year, UTM makes approximately \$3 million from parking permits and from pay-and-display. Approximately \$2.5 million is paid back in maintenance, repairs, and balancing the \$1 million loan taken out each year to finance the building of the underground CCT parking garage.

This year, annual revenue dipped to \$478,379 from an estimated \$585,658, because of unplanned maintenance and signage involved in building lot 8.

A similar revenue of \$578,744, including the permit price increase, is forecasted for next year. The Resource Planning Committee wants to "stash away" some of the 2012-13 and 2013-14 revenue as a down payment on the lot 8 expansion, explained Bailey.

The parking fee increase will raise the cost of reserved permits

from \$880.33 to \$906.74 per year for lots 1 and 5 and the CCT underground parking. A reserved permit means the permit-holder is always guaranteed a parking spot, so if there are 300 spaces, the parking office will issue 300 permits.

Premium unreserved permit passes will increase from \$628.27 to \$647.12 per year for lots 3, 4, 8, and 9. With a premium unreserved pass, a permit-holder can park in any of the four lots, but is not guaranteed a spot. The parking office deliberately oversells these permits, since not every permit-holder is at UTM all day every day, so there are usually still spaces available.

Unreserved permits will go from \$607.90 to \$626.13 per year for lots 4 and 8. This permit is similar to the premium unreserved permit, except that the permit-holder can only park in lots 4 and 8.

Afternoon permits will rise from \$509.23 to \$524.51 per year for lots 3, 4, 8 and 9. These permits are good after 3:30 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends, and are intended for people taking evening classes. The carpool passes will also increase accordingly depending on the lot and whether the space is reserved or not.

There will be no increase in the pay-and-display prices.

The plan to gradually increase parking fees to pay for more parking spaces makes sense, but only so long as students, faculty, and staff can afford the permits.

In past years, UTMSU opposed the increases, circulating petitions and raising awareness to UTM clubs and societies. This year, UTMSU intends to present the ECC with a report of alternatives to increasing parking fees. UTMSU

president Gilbert Cassar called high parking fees "a barrier to education".

"I'm thinking about taking the bus now, because that's ridiculous," said James Noga, a fourth-year psychology student. Noga has paid for parking permits for the past three years.

"Nothing's sold out, because it's too expensive," said Noga, commenting on the current parking availability. "Last year it was cheaper to get an evening pass and just get parking tickets the rest of the time."

This year Noga bought a carpool pass, which works out to around \$130 per year if you carpool with four people. This pass was the only one to completely sell out.

"I don't want to pay for a parking lot I'm never going to see, let alone use," said Noga.

NEWS BRIEFS»

ECC violates its constitution; UTMSU reacts

UTMSU sent emails to the Erindale College Council last week inquiring about the agenda for the upcoming meeting. According to UTMSU, the ECC failed to publicize the agenda seven days before the meeting on December 1. The ECC constitution stipulates that agendas must be made available to members of the Council and the UTM community.

Will Toronto lose its zoo? Ford launches the 2012 budget

City Hall will launch the 2012 Capital Operating Budget on Monday. Following Ford's announcement that various spending cuts would be required to balance the budget, many protests were held. Among the proposed cuts, the mayor proposed selling the Toronto Zoo and cutting spending at libraries. Council will vote on the budget early next year.

Gumby attempts to rob convenience store; officers seize the suit

A 19-year-old man and a 20-year-old man were accused of trying to rob a convenience store in a Gumby suit. The incident was caught on security tape. Gumpy is seen entering the store waving his long green arms back and forth. Both were placed on three years of probation, without the Gumby suit.

Québec nationalists protest for cultural values; pelted with beer bottles

About 30 people took part in a peaceful protest in downtown Montréal when another group pelted them with rocks and beer bottles. The protest had been to protect Québec's culture, values, and moral principles. Ten people were taken into custody and were described as "anarchists and anti-fascists".

World's fattest man loses weight; demands subsidy for skin flaps

The former world's fattest man wants the public to pay for plastic surgery to remove the loose skin from his body. Before undergoing his gastric bypass surgery, the 50-year-old man weighed 840 pounds. The British National Health Service refused to finance the cosmetic surgery.

Source: 680 News

Source: The Huffington Post

Source: The Globe and Mail

Source: Daily Mail



MEDIUM OPINION »

Editor-in-Chief » Michael Di Leo

It's that time of year again

Every year, UTMSU's Annual General Meeting is one of the most important stories *The Medium* covers. To put it lightly, there has always been some tension.

Back when Ali Kasim was our Editor-in-Chief, three years ago now, we discovered that many of the proxy forms used at the UTM-SU AGM were obtained through fraudulent means and were quickly (and quietly) destroyed immediately after. The next year, under Alain Latour, we found that UTM-SU's distribution of proxies used by UTM students at the U of T Students' Union AGM was, to say the least, questionable. Since then there haven't been any major scandals, but the distrust lives on. I still hear about how *The Medium* has been biased in our coverage of UTMSU, and the issues surrounding past AGMs have always been used as a reference.

However unfounded these claims may be (I have yet to see a news article skewed against the union, even if there are some where the facts we report aren't pretty), they continue to dominate the discourse surrounding the AGM and, by extension, our continued coverage of the union. And although I could do without the tension, it certainly makes this job interesting.

With that in mind, I'll take a look at last week's UTMSU AGM and focus on two issues that I feel deserve special attention.

First and foremost, I was shocked by the number of proxy votes used at the meeting. As discussed in our cover article and again by Mr. Cassar below, while there were only around 90 members in attendance, 700 votes were entered by proxy. In other words, 88% of the votes were cast by people who not only weren't present, but might have had no idea how their votes would be used. Assuming that all of the proxy votes were collected through proper means, there are of course no legal implications—it's well within UTMSU's rights to collect them—but I still find it strange that such an overwhelming amount of voters acted through a third party.

The second issue, and the one that directly affects *The Medium*, was the change in UTMSU's constitution that effectively discontinued the practice of giving notice of elections in our newspaper. "Campus newspaper" was changed to "campus publication" in their bylaws, thus allowing them for the first time to publicly announce their elections without advertising in our newspaper. What these other campus publications are, I don't know. I have yet to hear of any other UTM outlets that provide ad or promotional space to external organizations.

The idea that this change might have been made to do anything other than bypass *The Medium* is laughable. More importantly, I think it only serves to create more distance between our two organizations. Perhaps this is a good thing—some would argue that less interdependence among campus organizations leads to better coverage. I believe it will only lead to more tension.

YOURS,

MICHAEL DI LEO

ECC: Erindale College Complaint

Dear UTM Students,

I hope all is well, and that you are achieving adequate preparation for your final examinations. Have a relaxing and well-deserved holiday vacation before the commencement of the winter session.

On behalf of your students' union, UTMSU, I write to thank you for your attendance at UTMSU's Annual General Meeting, to inform you briefly of the work being done for the Academic Policy Reform process, and to encourage you to attend the Erindale Council Meeting, that is unjustly being held on December 1, 2011.

The Annual General Meeting of UTMSU was well attended by approximately 90 students in person, and 700 students via proxy. Thank you for participating as we celebrated our collective work and prepare for the challenges ahead.

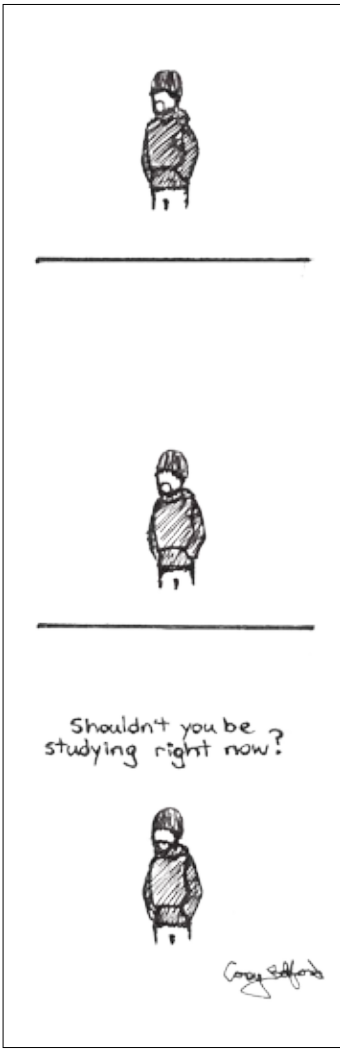
UTMSU has listened to the concerns of students, and has formally put forth lobby documents for the 1.0 drop credit and the Academic Forgiveness Policy. These policies champion the notion of constructive academic policies, rather than punitive ones, meeting the needs of students and the purpose of the University of Toronto, to foster an academic community in which the learning and scholarship of every member may flourish. Please stop by the Infobooth or UTMSU Office to sign a petition in support of these academic policies. A productive conversation with our vice-president academic and dean, Amy Mullin, is currently happening.

Erindale College Council is the highest decision-making body at UTM. It is where your parking fees, residence fees, meal plan fees, and conference fees are determined, among other factors. Despite the important mandate of this Council, there is being little room given for a proper consultation process with students. The meeting is being forcefully being held on December 1, 2011, at the busiest time for students (exam season), and with less than seven days' notice. The constitution of ECC in section 8 states, "At least seven days' prior notice of the dates and agenda of the Council meetings shall be given to all members of the Council and to the UTM community." This notice requirement in and of itself is insufficient to communicate complex ancillary budgets, and much more notice should be given. Nonetheless, even the minimum notice was violated, as the agenda was sent out four hours late, only after members of ECC inquired about the missing agenda. Despite letters from students and UTMSU, the chair to date has refused to reschedule the meeting.

What is even more suspicious and shameful is that these same ancillary budgets were considered last year at a January 26 meeting, and are for implementation in the following year. Hence, this is no justification for rushing this process. Nonetheless, UTMSU is uniting students for the unjust December 1 meeting. Students, Erindale Council Representatives, clubs, and academic societies are being encouraged to sign petitions opposing the proposed ancillary increases: parking fees increase of 3%; residence fees increase of 5%; non-residence meal plan increase of 3.1%; and residence meal plan increase of 2.1%.

UTMSU continues its forensic analysis of the budgets, and extensive research which will culminate in formal lobby documents and depositions at the upcoming meeting. UTMSU is principally opposed to barriers to education created by very high ancillary fees, which we see escalating at unjustifiable rates. For instance, at 2011 levels an annual reserved parking pass, at an abominable \$880.33, could be used to purchase approximately two half-year courses. All students are invited to stand in solidarity at the unjust and unconstitutional December 1 Erindale College Council Meeting, at 10:10 a.m. in room 3130, Council Chambers (Davis Building)! Note that is an open meeting.

In student solidarity,
D. Gilbert Cassar II
President of UTMSU



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MEDIUM A&E »

Editor » Nives Hajdin

Pass the glass eyes, please

New exhibition at the Art Gallery of Mississauga explores the many possibilities of food

COLLEEN MUNRO
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

Food is an undeniably important part in our lives. The way we acquire it, the way we prepare it, and the people we share it with are unique to every individual. That diversity is the subject matter of a new exhibition on display at the Art Gallery of Mississauga. In *Eat Drink Man Woman*, nearly a dozen artists use a variety of media to explore the subject of food, and the results are often unexpected and thought-provoking.

Eat Drink Man Woman is named after **Ang Lee's** 1994 film of the same name, which also serves as the exhibition's introductory piece. The film examines the ritual of food preparation and the ways in which it can bring families together, and as you wander further into the exhibit, the inclusion of the film makes perfect sense.

Many aspects of food are explored in *Eat Drink Man Woman*, but the amount of actual food on display is minimal. **Fiona Kinsella** is one of the few artists who uses food in her work. Her cakes are constructed of wood, and she uses actual icing to decorate the frames



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

of her models. But while the icing makes her cakes look very realistic, she also uses far less conventional media to decorate the cakes, including teeth, used glass eyes, and hair. Kinsella also gets more abstract with some of her other works on display. Using huge globs and layers of oil paint on canvas (some of which were still

drying when I visited), she created several highly textured sculptural "paintings" that look almost edible.

Elsewhere, the artistic depiction of food is more along the lines of the expected. **Chris Shepherd's** collection of photography gives an after-hours look at several Toronto restaurants. And while freezers and diner furniture are not

groundbreaking subject matter, his lovely, colourful images still evoke meaning for anyone who has fond memories of such restaurants.

Colwyn Griffith takes a tongue-in-cheek view of food with his work "Graceland". Griffith built a model of Elvis's famed Memphis mansion out of junk food, complete with wafer roofing and gum-

drop shrubbery, and then photographed it for display. It's easy to spend a long time trying to distinguish the various foods employed. It creates an effect reminiscent of the "I Spy" books that require children to look for small objects in bigger images. However, the piece can be enjoyed on many levels, since—as the exhibition booklet suggests—Griffith is also making a statement about how food commodities sustain colonialism.

Eat Drink Man Woman is a fun and diverse exhibition. Each artist offers their own view on food preparation and consumption, and each of these different perspectives is interesting in its own right. There are many different media used, including sculpture, photography, video, and painting, a tactic that seems to reflect the many different ways people interact with food. With so many different ideas on display, *Eat Drink Man Woman* is bound to make you think about food in a new way.

Eat Drink Man Woman runs until December 22; admission is free. For more information, visit artgalleryofmississauga.com. There will be a free curator's walk with **Tara Marshall** and **Cole Swanson** on December 8 at 7 p.m.

The style list

Entirely avoidable holiday fashion disasters—don't say we didn't warn you

LYSAN SEQUEIRA
STAFF WRITER

The Ghost of Christmas Past isn't the only thing to be afraid of this holiday season. Pageant hair, super-cleavage, and other heinous holiday style blunders are much more terrifying than an old dude in chains. That's right folks—'tis the seasons for style slipups. Slowly put down that extreme push-up bra and the glitter hairspray and follow these tips to avoid looking like a Christmas tree.

Open-toed shoes and stockings

If you can see your toes, you shouldn't be wearing stockings. In a city like Toronto where it snows for about four months a year, it's necessary to invest in a

pair of pretty, closed-toe heels.

Pageant hair

If your hairstyle involves both a curling iron and a flat iron, a hundred bobby pins, and a full can of hairspray, you've got a bad case of pageant hair. Keep your hair simple and low-maintenance to accentuate your gorgeous eyes and perfect pout.

Super-cleavage

Taking fashion risks is one thing, but showing the whole party your personal holiday ornaments is another altogether. Enough said.

Disco-ballin'

It's easy to overdo the glitter during the holidays. Try to wear

one item of sparkle at a time, unless you want to look like Ke\$ha.

"Too tight to move" dresses

There's nothing more annoying than a dress that won't let you move around comfortably. Don't risk being compared to the stuffed turkey at the family Christmas dinner; instead, find a dress that'll let you pack in a few (say, twenty or thirty) more hors d'oeuvres.

Do you have any other disastrous holiday fashion faux pas? Let us know at mediumutm.ca!



BLOGSPOT.COM/PHOTO

Special mention: ugly holiday sweaters are never acceptable.

Best. Music. Ever.

Our associate editors give their two cents on the best albums of the past 11 months

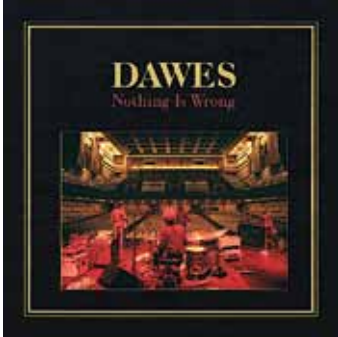
Bass Drum of Death
GB City

Bass Drum of Death offers up straightforward garage rock on their debut album (think **Wavves** meets **Arctic Monkeys**), and they do it well. This is a band that has a sense of humour, but also the ability to write a great hook.



Dawes
Nothing is Wrong

On their sophomore album, folk rockers Dawes offer more of the straightforward but resonant songwriting that made their first album, *North Hills*, so appealing. Fans of bands like **Mumford & Sons** will likely find a lot to admire in this rousing collection.



Yuck
Yuck

In the tradition of bands like **Dinosaur Jr.** and **Pavement**, Yuck offers seemingly messy songs. But a closer listen will find that some of the songs, such as “Get Away”, are far too perfectly constructed to be a happy accident. Yuck is noisy, catchy, and a lot of fun, but it’s also a very smart album.



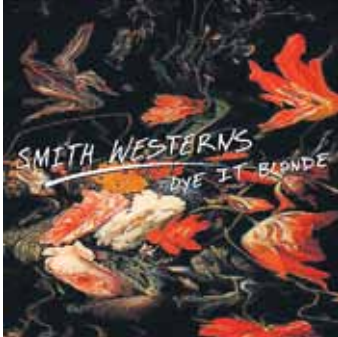
Laura Marling
A Creature I Don't Know

Marling is already a well-established artist at the age of 21, and her third album offers darker, more complex songwriting. Marling’s addition of electric guitar (among other instruments) to her usually sparse arrangements makes it feel like she’s entering an exciting new stage of her career.



Smith Westerns
Dye It Blonde

These Chicago natives made a splash as high school students with their lo-fi self-titled debut back in 2009. On *Dye It Blonde*, they’ve now polished their sound without losing the exuberance, and they offer a lot of sharp songwriting. “Weekend” is one of the catchiest feel-good singles of the year.



Florence + the Machine
Ceremonials

Fans of Florence + the Machine’s previous work likely won’t be disappointed with this sophomore effort. As you might expect, *Ceremonials* offers one stirring anthem after another.

Ryan Adams
Ashes & Fire

Adams announced his supposed retirement in 2008, but now he’s back with a very strong, concise set of new songs. It’s some of his most mature work yet, and tracks like “Lucky Now” are among the best he’s written.

Fleet Foxes
Helplessness Blues

Fleet Foxes top themselves with this sprawling, diverse collection of songs. **Robin Pecknold**’s lyrics perfectly capture the guilt, uncertainty, and optimism that come with growing up.

Kurt Vile
Smoke Ring for My Halo

Smoke Ring for My Halo is an off-kilter, vaguely unsettling approach to the “singer-songwriter” genre. Vile’s voice is world-weary, and his songs are unexpectedly moving.

Bon Iver
Bon Iver

Justin Vernon of Bon Iver ignored the high expectations for his sophomore album, and instead wrote a collection of less accessible but equally lovely songs. “Holocene” is one of his best tracks yet.

ARISTOTLE ELIOPOULOS

COLLEEN MUNRO

The Weeknd
Thursday

Despite the more accessible sound of his other 2011 mixtape, *House of Balloons*, The Weeknd’s (**Abel Tesfaye**) *Thursday* is dark and complex, and with time leads to a more rewarding listening experience. The collaboration with **Drake** doesn’t hurt, either.



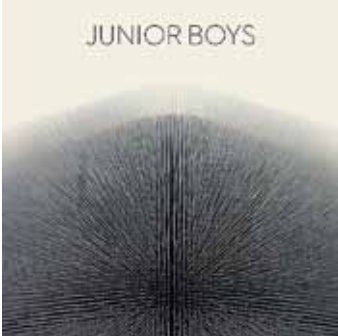
Girls
Father, Son, Holy Ghost

A record that travels between various genres. From the surf-rock vibes of “Honey Bunny” to the acoustic six-minute ballad “Vomit”, *Father, Son, Holy Ghost*’s consistent variety and small hooks work to make a strong collection of songs.



The Kills
Blood Pressures

While darker than their previous album, *Blood Pressures* keeps the catchy yet hypnotic lo-fi sound **Jamie Hince** and **Alison Mosshart** are known for, and makes it work for 11 songs you can bob your head to.



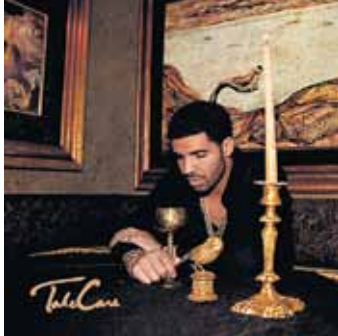
Sky Ferreira
As If!

A guilty pleasure. Even though you won’t hear her on the radio, Ferreira’s EP has all the hooks and production of perfect radio potential.



Cults
Cults

A record drenched with sunny pop hooks inspired by the ’60s and the girl groups of that era. Despite its retro sound, *Cults* is still dark and modern in its lyrics and themes.



Patrick Wolf
Lupercalia

An album that first made me think Patrick Wolf might’ve gone soft turned out to be an overall enjoyable listen. From the **Huey Lewis** vibes of the opening track, “The City”, to the fun twist in the love song “Bermondsey Street”, Wolf might have lost some of his dark side, but he’s still a skilled musician who knows how to craft a solid pop song.

Lady Gaga
Born This Way

What might’ve sounded good to Gaga in a multi-million dollar recording studio sounded just bad to me on a pair of earbud headphones. But after a few listens, the album grew on me, and only seemed to sound better with time, making me wonder if Gaga might just be as ahead of her time as she thinks she is.

Junior Boys
It's All True

My favourite electronic act. **Jeremy Greenspan** and **Matt Didemus**’s new material doesn’t reinvent the wheel, but definitely adds to their impressive discography. They also prove you can make a nine-minute song and still make it feel like it would succeed on the radio.

Washed Out
Within and Without

The album succeeds based on its distinguished and sophisticated production. Washed Out’s **Ernest Greene** crafts the perfect record that can range as the backing music for your quiet night at home to the soundtrack of a chic downtown restaurant.

Drake
Take Care

Our favourite rapper just keeps getting closer to the edge of the R&B cliff. Luckily, Drake hasn’t crossed over, but the R&B tracks can definitely overpower the rap moments on *Take Care*. Depressing and self-reflective in all the right ways, Drake knows we expect more from our run-of-the-mill rappers, and he’s doing a good job of exceeding our expectations.

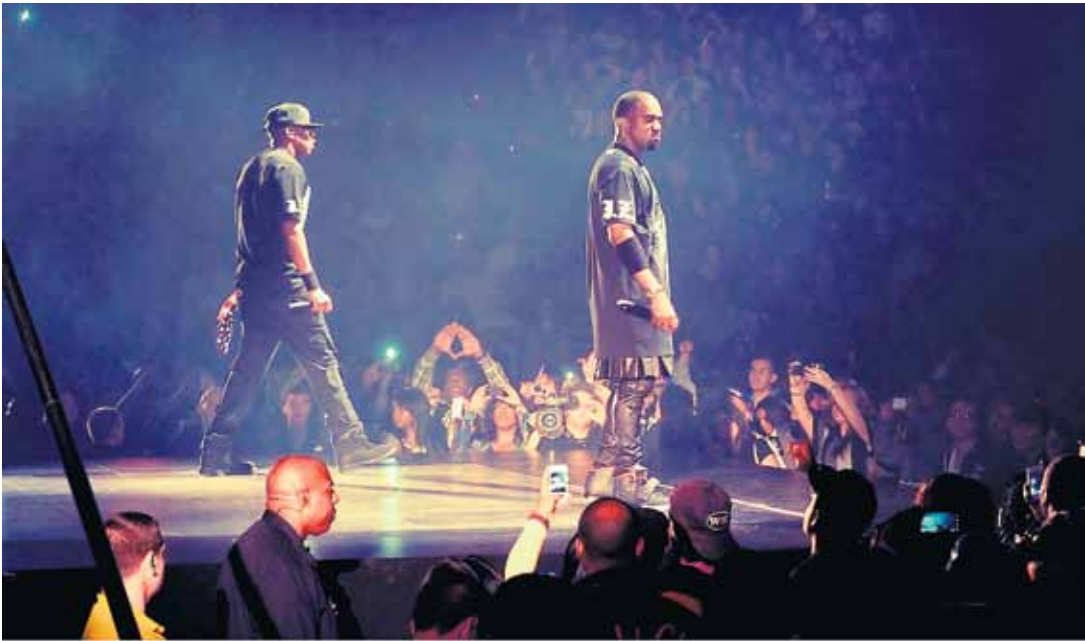
That show cray

Jay-Z and Kanye West’s *Watch the Throne* tour was “the best concert of life,” according to many

MATTHEW LONG

Stopping in Toronto for their much-hyped *Watch the Throne* tour, **Jay-Z** and **Kanye West** delivered two outstanding shows last Wednesday and Thursday nights at the Air Canada Centre. Combining their talent, they took the stage with a non-stop groove, many classics, and effortless precision. They flowed between anthems off this year’s collaborative album, *Watch the Throne*, and hit after hit from their back catalogues. Audiences were not underwhelmed, even for a moment; most of their major songs were performed, leaving every fan satisfied.

The show was a celebration of the artists’ talent and skill. Jay-Z effortlessly commanded awe and respect as he ripped through one classic track after another. Hearing him deliver selections from his entire 15-year career only proved how much he has contributed to the rap industry. Jay-Z has grown up, though. Hearing him perform “New Day”, in which he promises a perfect life to the child he is soon to have, was transcendent. Kanye proved himself wor-



FLICKR.COM/PHOTO

“Who taught you to take photos? Yeezy taught me!”

thy of the stage with his mentor. Like Kanye, the show was simultaneously minimalist and over the top, but always spot-on. Constant lasers, giant raising cubes used as stages, and shooting flames highlighted the overall simple set. Kanye’s performance of last year’s mammoth anthem “Runaway” was as enormous as such an artist demands. Building on a single

note, he stood proudly atop a glowing red cube at least 30 feet in the air in the centre of the ACC and put layer after layer on top of that note, transforming it into an anthem for this generation. Another highlight was “All of the Lights”. It took three tries for Kanye to be satisfied because, as he said, “We paid enough money that we are going to get

a perfect ‘All of the Lights!’” In truth, the crowd roared all three times equally enthusiastically, suggesting that it was only Kanye who noticed there was anything less than thrilling about the intro. But when the song was finally performed, it definitely turned out perfect. The show was also a celebration of their influences and their worlds. In fact, the first

highlight of the night didn’t even come from Kanye or Jay-Z, but from **Otis Redding** singing “Try a Little Tenderness”. The crowd sang along beautifully to the full two-minute clip, ultimately building to the sample that is this year’s hit, “Otis”. The two then stormed onto the stage with enthusiasm, passion, and fire. This effort was repeated with Louis Armstrong’s “What a Wonderful World”.

Nearing the end of the show, the performance of the soulful “Made in America” was the show’s most beautiful moment. The audience created a universe of lights with lighters and cellphones, as supersized images of Martin Luther King Jr. and other heroes were reverently displayed.

These two may be the biggest names in rap today, and by coming together, they’ve only boosted each other to greater heights. Just as Michael Jackson is the “King of Pop” and Aretha Franklin is the “Queen of Soul”, so this show only proved that Jay-Z and Kanye West have rightfully taken the rap throne.

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MEDIUM FEATURES»

Editor » Larissa Ho

Kwanzaa and you

What is Kwanzaa, where did it come from, and how do you celebrate this unique cultural holiday?

HAKIMA HAFIZI

Just last month, the world’s population reached an astounding 7,000,000,000. It’s mind-blowing to think that, despite the long chain of zeroes in that number, each and every individual is unique with their own distinct personality and characteristics. Regardless of this variety, the world is undoubtedly becoming culturally homogenized. We know that we can strut our Chanel bags anywhere in the world and it will almost certainly be recognized. We can count on people from different continents to know the lyrics to Lady Gaga’s latest hit, and we know we can go to almost any country in the world with the comfort of knowing that the familiar golden arches of McDonald’s will be there to greet us. With so many people conforming to so few ideas, it becomes difficult to find your own inner self and explore what you’re all about, independent of external influences.

That’s exactly what Kwanzaa is about. This celebration of uniqueness and unity was born during a time of social and political upheaval in Los Angeles. It was a time of fighting for African American freedom and identity. It was created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, now a professor of Africana studies, who was disturbed by the Watts riots of LA and the racial and social tensions surrounding that event. The riot lasted five days and resulted in 34 deaths, over 1,000 injuries, and over 3,000 arrests. It was one of the most severe riots in the city’s history. Karenga’s goal in creating Kwanzaa was to give blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and their history, rather than following the holidays of the dominant society. However, its roots actually go back to the first harvest celebrations of various African cultures. “Kwanzaa”



CELEBRATEGREEN.NET/PHOTOS

The seven candles are called *mishuma saba*. They are to be lit one a day in a specific order.

comes from the Swahili *matunda ya kwanzaa*, which translates to “first fruits of the harvest”. Kwanzaa is about sending a cultural message about what it means to be African, and human, in the fullest sense.

Kwanzaa is a celebration of the oneness and goodness of life. After the holiday began to become popular, Dr. Karenga said it was not a religious holiday, but rather a cultural one that would unite people of similar cultural descent. He defined certain symbols and concepts for the ceremony. In particular, the number seven has a crucial significance. It is celebrated from December 26 to January 1, a duration of seven days. There are also seven guiding principles—principles that are believed to have been integral to the construction of strong and productive families and communities in Africa.

There are also seven symbols used in the celebration of the event. One is the crops (*mazao* in Swahili), which repre-

sent African harvest celebrations and their collective labour. Another is the straw mat (*mkeka*), which represents the tradition and history of Africans, a foundation on which they build. The candle-holder (*kinara*) symbolizes the roots and ancestors of the African people. The corn (*muhindi*) symbolizes the children and the future. The seven candles (*mishuma saba*) represent the seven principles and the set of values that Africans are encouraged to live by to reconstruct their lives according to their own needs and wants, an important element of the holiday when it was created. The unity cup (*kikombe cha umoja*) symbolizes the foundational principles and practice of unity. Gifts (*zawadi*) symbolize labour and love for parents and the commitments made and kept by the children. In all of this, Kwanzaa is to be celebrated with only the best and most beautiful art objects, colourful cloth, and colourful decorations, to reflect one’s commitment to the holiday. Throughout the

seven days, the celebration focusses on family, friends, and food.

Just as important as the symbols are the guiding principles. A new candle is lit each day to represent each of the doctrines of Kwanzaa. On the first day, the guiding principle is unity (*umoja*). This reminds Africans that although they come from various ethnicities and tribes, they are all united. The unity cup is filled with fruit juice and passed to all the members in that household. The first candle, a black one, is lit and placed in the centre of the *kinara*. The second day is about self-determination (*kugichagulia*). The leftmost candle, which must be red, is lit. The one who lights the candle is also responsible for reciting a passage or a poem on self-determination and explain how it relates to their lives. The unity cup is again shared between the members and then the candles are extinguished. The third day is about collective labour and responsibility (*ujima*). On this day, the lighting begins again with

the black one, then the leftmost (red) one, and then the rightmost (green) one is lit. The fourth day is about building cooperative economies (*ujamaa*). The principle guiding the fifth day is purpose (*nia*). Once again, the one who lights the candle must talk about the meaning of purpose in their lives. Other household members also contribute. On this day the black candle, then the leftmost (red) candle, then the rightmost (green) candle, then the second red candle at the left side and finally the next green candle are lit. The sixth day is about creativity (*kuumba*). Plays are performed and family members recite passage and poems related to the seven principles of Kwanzaa. On this day, there is also a great feast, or karamu; some of the usual dishes are rice and peas, fried chicken, baked potato pie, corn bread and calaloo, jallof rice, and vegetable stew. Finally, January 1 is all about faith (*imani*). This last day is also known as the “Day of Meditation”, whereon Africans are encouraged to consider themselves and their lives, engage in quiet reflection, and be calm.

This year, December 26 will mark the 45th annual celebration of Kwanzaa. Whether you are white, black, brown, yellow, or orange, African, Chinese, Vietnamese, American, German, French, Indian, or Pakistani, we can all follow the principles of Kwanzaa in our lives to better understand ourselves and our place in the world. As the saying goes, “You may be one person to the world, but to one person you may be the world.” Amid all that’s occurring so rapidly around the world and in our own lives, don’t forget your own importance and uniqueness, or where you came from. You have a unique role to play in the world and a unique impact, and that should never be forgotten.

LUKE'S LANGUAGES: #6: IDIOLECT AND CONVENTION

/luks'laɛŋgwə,dʒɪz/

LUKE SAWCZAK
COPY EDITOR

Hello, everyone! (Oh, look, a weird new script is on the banner! Don’t be frightened; it just says “Luke’s Languages” in IPA—that is, the International Phonetic Alphabet). Well, this is *The Medium*’s final issue this semester, and with it the closing of this run of the series. Let’s wrap up the year by stepping back for a broader look.

We do so with the concept of “idiolect”. There’s a lot to be said about this. It comes down to the principle that what you say is unique to you. Because of your genes, your culture, your history, your personality, and even your own choices, you have certain habits

of speech (and both old and new habits die hard). Your words have shades of meaning to you that they do to no one else, your sentences are formed such that they can be analyzed and often recognized for their author, you have phrases you like and phrases you hate, and you even pronounce sounds with subtle, not consciously detectable differences. In short, your whole speech is customized and tweaked in a hundred ways.

But there is something to that last bit—did you catch it?—the part about “not consciously detectable differences”. With a lot of them, it takes a lot of awareness of yourself and others to hear what’s different. There’s a goldmine of linguistics and psychology

in every person’s speech, but when it comes down to the practicals of how it works, it’s obvious we can only understand each other by convention. We know what we need to mean what, and we tend to ignore the differences.

Ever wonder where the rules about writing letters of various kinds came from—all those conventions like “Dear ___” and “I am writing to inform you” and “Sincerely, ___”? Well, before the printing press, there were many formal, standardized constraints on the use of space in writing. A book called *Copia* by Erasmus realized that with the ease of printing, we had room to breathe, to find new and delicious ways to say things. Language, he wrote, is best free, not

bound. (He proceeded to suggest a few dozen ridiculous but charming ways to write “Thanks for your letter”).

Since then, the style has gone back and forth in all directions, including on indulgent wordiness. But what’s important is that people begin to choose about it. Language became an end, not just a means.

That brings us to my challenge to you, until we meet again: be aware of what you say and how you say it. Notice when you use a word, when you use a phrase, when you like the sound of a name. Think about your language, and take charge of your language. After all, you should know what you like—you’ve been speaking it for some twenty years. You’re an expert.

P.S. I’d like to thank a reader who wrote to me about (and in!) “Kana-dio”, a semi-new language that represents one of many attempts at spelling reform for English (among other changes, most of them grammatical).

I didn’t get to talk about spelling reform this semester, but it’s a fascinating topic, which ties in with language reform in general.

The question it poses is: Would and should we trade our world’s diversity of languages in return for a single more logical and universally understandable language?

(In any case, the attempts of the last 150 years have made one thing clear: a perfect system is extremely hard to devise—sorry, Kanadio!)

It can feel like all we do is type

CARINE ABOUSEIF
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Type, type, type. For many of us, around this time of year, it can feel like all we do is type. We type term papers and test notes and emails. We then go and type Facebook statuses complaining about all the term papers and tests and emails.

You've probably figured out or heard by now that the repetitive motion that typing requires, and the long hours sitting in the same seat, are no good for your hands, neck, back, and eyes. Researchers at the University of Michigan found that ergonomic changes in an office helped prevent computer-related strain injuries. Repetitive strain injury (RSI) is when body parts react with pain to repetitive motion, such as typing. The study used posters, email tips, workshops, and ergonomic adjustments to office furniture to educate office workers on how to prevent RSI. The study found a 62% behavioural change and office workers reported a higher state of wellbeing.

The Ontario Ministry of Labour offers a set of guidelines on how to use your computer in a way that prevents injuries like RSI. Other organizations, like Hewlett-Packard and the American Academy



HOUSEMUSICESENTIALS.COM/PHOTOS

Typing for many long hours can lead to injury to your hands, neck, back, and eyes.

of Orthopedic Surgeons, also list tips on how to sit, how to type, and what your workstation should look like.

Let's look at the workstation first. When you type at a laptop or desktop, your upper arm should be relaxed and almost perpendicular to the floor. Your forearms should rest on the desk and your wrists should be straight. Certain additions to your workstation can make it more comfortable. For example, a wrist rest will relieve

strain from having your wrists hover over the keyboard as you type. Another option for laptop users is a plug-in mouse. If you're already using a mouse, make sure you move the mouse with your arm and not your wrist. Clear enough space on your desk that your mouse can be as close to you as possible.

The chair is technically part of the workstation, but there's so much that could go wrong with how we sit, how high we sit, and

how far we sit, that it deserves its own category. Your seat should be at a level where you're looking directly at the screen: your neck should not have to bend up or down. Obviously, netbooks and smaller laptops make it hard to coordinate healthy neck and wrist positions. The Ministry of Labour recommends raising your laptop on something, and adding an extra keyboard and mouse whenever possible. For students who spend hours at the library,

these extras may not be possible. The next best thing is proper sitting posture.

Your back should be completely at rest. I know you're excited about your semiotics essay, but hunching over increases back, neck, and shoulder strain, which means you won't be able to write for too long. Use a pillow or a rolled-up sweater for extra comfort. Next, your thighs and knees should fit easily under the desk. Think of your lower body in terms of right angles. Your thighs should be at a 90-degree angle to your legs, and your legs at a 90-degree angle to your feet. Flatten your feet on the ground. Use a foot rest if your feet don't reach the ground. The distance between your knees and the opposite wall should be at least 43 cm, and the distance between your toes and the wall should be at least 60 cm.

Finally, take breaks. The Ministry of Labour suggests a five-minute break every hour. Get up, do some stretches, and walk around. No matter how great your posture is, the motion is still repetitive and sitting down all day is unhealthy. If you're at school and fear feeling weird doing cat stretches at the library, grab a coffee or take a walk—and think about how soon this will all be over.

Are ya listening?

Christmas music reminds us that the holidays are near

CATHERINE LOPES

We're not walking in a winter wonderland just yet, but Christmas music has begun to play on the radio, at coffee shops, and in shopping malls. From "Jingle Bells" to "Deck the Halls", the carols and seasonal songs remind us that Christmas is coming in less than a month.

For some, the traditional holiday music brings the fear of Christmas bills and crammed shopping centres. For others, the tunes trigger the happiest childhood memories of hanging your first ornament on the tree, or when you snuck behind the gifts early Christmas morning to find your name on the biggest present.

In a 2007 report from the journal *Memory*, researchers played popular songs for a group of volunteers to see if the music generated memories. They discovered that those who were familiar with the songs were more inclined to associate the music with vivid memories.

To replicate these results, I walked around UTM and asked students to listen to popular Christmas songs, such as "Jingle Bells", "A White Christmas", and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer". A few times, students began to smile and sing along to the traditional lyrics. After the exercise I asked each to tell me their thoughts.

Claire Wildman, a major in English and woman and gender studies, listened to "Jingle Bells" and recalled calm memories of her childhood. "When I listen to Christmas music I remember

walking home from school with friends and singing carols. We would even stop and toboggan down the neighbourhood hill," she mused.

Even students who had not spent Christmas in Canada enjoyed reminiscing about holidays in their home countries.

Kristina Skorbach, a professional writing student, confessed that she listens to Christmas music in July to boost her spirits.

"Christmas music makes me think about when I was in Ukraine and how I used to watch Home Alone during the holidays," she said.

Radio stations such as 98.1 CHFI started to play Christmas music in early November. Many people, including many UTM students, consider this premature, just like people who put up their lights the day after Halloween. The fear is that the early start of the "happy Christmas feeling" will wear itself out too soon and end up an annoyance. Meanwhile, shopping centres use the music to get shoppers in the mood for a long month of commercialized Christmas as early as possible. The day after Halloween, the Zellers at Erin Mills Town Centre had already been decorated with Christmas trees, flickering lights, and tinsel.

Students who work in retail complain the most about the early start and overplaying of holiday music.

"You just keep hearing the same tracks over and over while on your shift. It gets so annoying," complained Gary Li, a CCIT student.

When Patrick Illian, a professional writing and communication student, listened to a few Christmas carols, he recalled an irritating high school memory.

"During the holiday season, my school would overplay the Alvin and the Chipmunks song 'Christmas Time is Here' to raise money for a fundraiser. We got so sick of it—until a group of students snuck in to the office and broke the CD," he remembered.

When listening to Christmas music on the radio, we sometimes come across new music by modern artists, such as Justin Bieber's "Mistletoe". When asked about it, a few people on campus said they detested the tune and asked to listen to Nat King Cole's "The Christmas Song" instead. This dislike might relate to the findings of the 2007 report: new songs just don't have the same feel, because we don't associate them with holiday memories. This lack of connection could also explain why musical artists who choose to release a Christmas album almost always go for new renditions of the same classical holiday carols.

Like it or not, Christmas carols will continue to follow us through the season to bring joy, peace, and irritation. We'll just have to make of it what we will. Remember, it's supposed to be "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!"

Happy holidays, UTM!

(P.S. Yes, I wrote this article with Christmas music playing in the background.)

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True leaders do the right thing

LARISSA HO
FEATURES EDITOR

When I received a mass email in early October from the Office of Student Life, saying “You can attend a leadership conference in Calgary for FREE!”, I was immediately captivated.

The Office of Student Life and Student Housing and Residence Life at UTM was going to sponsor two undergraduate students (one off-campus and one in residence) to attend the Canadian Conference for Student Leadership in Calgary and represent UTM.

The email went on to promise, “At the conference, you can expect to network with other institutions, share ideas, become inspired, have fun, and leave determined to make a difference at U of T Mississauga.” It seemed too good to be true; I looked up the Canadian Conference for Student Leadership website, saw the schedule of events, and looked at the keynote speakers scheduled to deliver seminars over the four-day conference, hosted by the University of Calgary. Two of them caught my eye. One was Connor Grennan, the author of the book *Little Princes: One Man’s Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal*, which I had seen many times at Chapters; the other was Craig Kielburger, the lively founder of Free the Children, whose story had enthralled me back when I was a 13-year-old doing research for a grade eight speech on child soldiers.

I’ve always been interested in social justice, human rights, and changing the world. Once a shamelessly idealistic child, lately I had been caught up in the whirlwind of school life and had forgotten to feed my soul with a little inspiration now and then. I totally needed it, though. I knew I had to apply



LARISSA HO/THE MEDIUM

Student leadership representatives, left to right: Tanveer Singh, Larissa Ho, Dray Perenic Price.

to represent UTM at the conference. I was mesmerized by the whole idea of it. Within half an hour, I had found the online application, answered the three questions—“What do you hope to gain by attending the conference? How will you bring back the knowledge to the UTM community? Please describe an extra-curricular experience you’ve been involved with and explain what you learned from this experience that help to make you a good leader”—and submitted my application.

When I discovered about three weeks later that I had been selected by Greg Hum, the Coordinator of Residential Transition Programs at SHRL, and Dray Perenic Price, the Student Development Officer at the Office of Student Life, to represent UTM along with resident student Tanveer Singh, I was very worried; I was swamped with essays, assignments, and upcoming tests. How on earth would I be able to make it to the conference?

But I did. Somehow, all the work got done and on November 17, Tanveer, Dray, and I were on a plane to the conference.

The conference itself was amazing.

The cold was not as enjoyable, but it did add to the overall experience, which turned out to be incredible; I resolved to share it with the UTM community as soon as I returned from Calgary. (Of course, one way of doing that is to write about it in *The Medium*.)

On the first day, we listened to speeches from the mayor of Calgary and the president of the University of Calgary. We also had a leadership café, where we munched on hors d’oeuvres while discussing different ideas about leadership, such as “What is leadership?”, “Is leadership glorified?”, “Can humans be leaders like superheroes can?”, and “Can you name a person who has had a tremendous impact on you as a leader?”

On day two, leadership workshops were held throughout the day, and W. Brett Wilson presented a keynote. At any given hour of the day before 5 p.m., about five different workshops were being held at the same time in separate rooms in the Grant McEwan Student Centre, based on four different areas: health and wellness, community engagement and service learning, emerging leadership, and refining

leadership. Students were given the opportunity to choose which workshops to attend, based on brief descriptions. Students themselves also conducted the workshops. The first workshop I attended was called “The Journey of an Emerging Leader” and was hosted by Siraat Mustafa of York University. He talked about mastering the art of “owning your message” and maximizing your impact as a leader. I also enjoyed the workshop called “Refining Today for a Better Tomorrow”, hosted by University of Guelph students.

On the third day we attended more workshops, listened to Connor Grennan’s speech, travelled to Banff by bus, and explored the little resort town, all while basking in the natural beauty of the Rockies.

On day four, we listened to Craig Kielburger speak and said our farewells to the people we’d met.

The main question going through my mind throughout the conference was: What makes a good leader? For me, personally, I felt that applying for a position of authority at your university and getting it was not enough. I met a lot of student leaders at the conference

who had done just that, and had either done the job well or had just decided to go along for the ride and reap the rewards that authority brings without really working for it. Surely leadership, I thought with disappointment, isn’t just having a good title behind your name. It has to be more than that.

I decided that leaders could be anywhere, in or out of positions of authority; they were only true leaders if they inspired others, and always did the right thing no matter who was watching, and did what no one, perhaps even they themselves, wanted to do, because it had no glory or fame behind it. Someone at the conference said, “If we take out the glory and the fame, that’s when we filter out the true leaders.” I couldn’t agree more. I think our ideas of leadership are broad, and leaders come in many shapes, sizes and forms, but there will always be fundamental qualities of good leaders, such as trustworthiness and the ability to inspire others.

And I was, without a doubt, inspired at the conference by the keynote speakers, and especially by the other students I met. Connor Grennan and Craig Kielburger gave wonderful speeches, and their stories are inspiring more people every day. And the student leaders who do what they can with what they have, while maintaining a good attitude and striving to make a positive difference to the world—no matter how small—could not have been more encouraging to me as a fellow student.

What is leadership? I guess that question will continue to be debated. However, I think it’s most important when people aren’t debating it at all—they’re just doing it.



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Going home for the holidays? Lucky!

PRIYANKA KUMAR

It’s that time of year: Christmas music is blaring everywhere around you, it’s getting colder, and decorations are popping up everywhere. But what about those who can’t go home and be with the family? Here are some guidelines to still have a good holiday away.

Skype it up. Thanks to social networking, you can catch up with people without even leaving your house. If you can’t make it home for the holidays, have a lengthy Skype session with your loved ones. You can even open presents with each other over Skype!

Create a family. They say you can’t pick your family, but you can pick your friends, so why not combine the two? If you’re away from family for the holidays, create a family: a family made out of friends. Get together with the pals who’re spending the holidays away from home and celebrate together. Create new traditions with the family, have a potluck dinner, or go out somewhere.

Take part in local activities. It’s a bummer being away from home, but wallowing in sadness won’t help your situation. Go out and take part in the holiday festivities that are going on. Almost every town holds a Santa Claus Parade—go and check it out! Take part

in any holiday festivity that your town has to offer; you’ll be so busy with the events that you’ll forget that you couldn’t make it home for the holidays.

Celebrate the holidays in your own way. It’s all about how you spin your situation. Don’t think of how you’re missing out on Mom’s homemade meal; just celebrate the holidays in your own way. Besides, do you hate how your family insists on turkey for every family dinner? Ring in the holidays with your favourite comfort food. If you hate decorating the house, now you don’t have to. Do the holidays your way this year.

Take yourself away from it all. If you find it too difficult to spend the holidays away from your loved ones, then don’t celebrate. Do anything else. Instead of decorating, go see a movie. Don’t want to watch holiday specials? Read a book.

Holidays are supposed to be family times, but sometimes that’s just not possible. If you’re without family this holiday season, don’t get upset, because that’s not going to make it any better. Try out these tips and make the best of the holiday you have, with or without the family. Remember, the best use of the holidays is peace and rest. Whether you’re with the family or not, make sure you use the holidays to sit back, relax,

See you next year

And Then Some beat Sunny D to claim men’s Campus Rec Intramural basketball championship

ISAAC OWUSU
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Captain Zak Khan of team “Sunny D” battled for a loose ball in the first of two overtimes, butting heads with “And Then Some” captain Tevin Sutton-Stephenson. The result: Zak got an extremely swollen right eye, which will definitely lead to some bruising.

Khan played on until the end the second and deciding overtime period, where Sutton-Stephenson’s squad emerged victorious. Khan was rushed to the hospital.

“Basketball never dies. Even on this level, it means everything. Zak is a warrior,” Sutton-Stephenson said after the game. “We worked hard; that’s the hardest I’ve ever

worked. That’s the first time we had a team revolve around me. I’m not used to being the guy on a team, but we got the championship—my first.”

It took four quarters, plus two bonus ones, for And Then Some to edge Sunny D out by a score of 59–58 to claim the men’s Campus Rec Intramural basketball finals. Controversy surrounded the finish.

And Then What’s squad featured an eight-man roster with fresh legs, compared to Sunny D’s five-man squad (only a starting lineup) and no bench. Sunny D took a literal and figurative blow with Khan’s injury.

And Then What acknowledged the discrepancy. The game was sealed by the defensive rebound

of Mehmet Akcaglayan. Following the contest, he’s ready to play even more basketball to silence any critics; he said, “It was a really fun game between two hard-working teams. We were just a better team today, and at the end the day, we won. If they want to go again, we can do that. We’ll still win.”

He continued, “It would be the same result, because those are their best; they had their main guys. Fatigue set in, but I played the whole game. They need to come prepared to play the whole game—and they did. We had a great game, and we came away with the win.”

Asked whether he was willing to have a rematch, Sutton-Stephenson said, “Of course—but next semester.”



AYMAN KHAN/THE MEDIUM

Close, but no cigar

Lady Eagles lose Division 1 game against St. Hilda’s



AYMAN KHAN/THE MEDIUM

The women’s team also competed against UTSC in the Tri-Campus league later that week.

ISAAC OWUSU
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

As the seconds on the shot clock wound down, four girls in white spread out around the key. Individually they pressed tightly to guard their opponents. At the top above the key, Cindy Zhou, having already scored a lot of points, made a cross-over move to her left, blew past her opponent, and scored a crucial finger roll layup.

Anthony Krmek, the UTM Lady Eagles coach, called for a timeout with 40 seconds left in the game. Nearly three minutes later, the game was over, with the Eagles having lost 31–30.

For only the second time this season, the oversized family that is the UTM women’s Division 1 basket-

ball team put their chemistry to test by featuring all 16 of their players. Zhou’s performance that garnered 16 points was all St. Hilda needed to upset the UTM Lady Eagles on their home court. Zhou dominated the Lady Eagles, who dressed with more than double St. Hilda’s seven-player roster), cementing her status as the UTM “giant killer.”

Even with time wearing down in the tight game, UTM’s defence strategy came down to one thing: stop Zhou. Krmek made an on-the-fly defensive shift, the simplified “box and one” defence. The strategy left a box-shape zone made by four players to protect the basket, while one player tried to one-on-one the best offensive opponent.

St. Hilda’s stout defence shut down Micheline Khan, UTM’s star point

guard, who scored only two points. Katie Bora played like a woman possessed, and her 10 points (the majority coming from St. Hilda’s turnovers) kept the Lady Eagles in the game until the end.

When Krmek called the final timeout with 40 seconds remaining, the Eagles frantically passed, looking for the open shot—a good effort, but not enough time. He remained positive in defeat, thinking back to the season and towards the future.

“With a very talented squad this season, we just couldn’t put together all the pieces for a championship run,” Krmek said. “Our four and one regular season record speaks volumes about the potential this very special group of players possesses, and I look forward to what next season has in store for our Lady Eagles.”

Dropping the ball

Eagles men’s Tri-Campus volleyball team lose final game of season against St. George

MICHELLE K. DUKLAS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The UTM Eagles men’s Tri-Campus volleyball team played their final game of the season against St. George Black last Tuesday at the RAWC.

The Eagles fought hard in the first set. Kuba Orzechowski’s powerful jumps helped him block St. George’s hits, while Peter Bui’s hard spikes earned him numerous kills, including an ace. The set went back and forth as UTM and St. George battled for the lead. In the end, the Eagles finished on top, with a score of 25–22.

In second set, the Eagles built a steady lead with strong efforts from Orzechowski and Justin Nguyen. Orzechowski gave the Eagles two kills and Nguyen added one. On defence, Bui played the strongest for the Eagles and saved his team multiple times with his strong digs.

However, St. George played a more solid set and showed more energy. Each point elicited loud cheers from the team. St. George players Don and Lesniak worked hard on defence and Luczak finished the set with three kills and three blocks. The second set finished with a tight score of 23–25 in favour of St. George, leading to a deciding final set.

The third set proved a disappointment for the UTM fans who came to watch the game.

Shayan Yassaie gave UTM the first point of the set with his kill, but St. George’s Khan quickly gave his team an equal one. St. George earned their second point when the Eagles, confused, did not return the served ball. Eagles’ Nguyen gave his team two points to tie the game 3–3, but St. George dominated from that point onwards. They capitalized on the mistakes the Eagles made and pressured them into making more.

The set was marked by many out-of-bounds hits by the Eagles. Communication broke down among the players—no one was sure who would go after the ball whenever it came into the court.

The bright spot in the set was a late kill by Orzechowski. Nevertheless, the Eagles lost miserably with a final score of 9–25, and St. George took the game 2–1.

“It was a tough game,” said Yassaie afterwards. “We fought hard, but we couldn’t finish them off. The stress and tension got to us. We didn’t perform to our potential.”

“The result was fair,” admitted UTM coach Stew Arevalo. “The other team showed more energy. Our basic skills broke down.”

The team’s roster has also broken down. The Eagles started off the season with 10 players, but due to schedule conflicts and time commitments, they are now down to seven heading into the playoffs.

Shot at first place blocked

Men’s Division 1 basketball team, Eagles White, lose to Woodsworth College, remain in second place behind Eagles Blue

INGRID MELDRUM

On Wednesday, the men’s Div. 1 White basketball team played against Woodsworth College, a game that decided whether or not UTM White would tie for first place with three other teams, including the team’s home rival, UTM Blue. A win would put the team in first place and a loss would keep them in second.

The game started out with two unanswered 3-pointers and a layup from the opposing team. Already down by eight points, UTM White needed to step up their game in order to earn their spot in the standings, but Woodsworth was not going down without a fight. After a slow start, the Eagles got more intense with their defence and more controlled on offence. The Eagles fought hard and brought the score within four points by the end of the first half.

One of the key players from the first half of play was #31, Omar Jallow. He only played for a few minutes, but during that



KRISTINA WATERS/THE MEDIUM

A win against Woodsworth would have tied Eagles White for first place with Eagles Blue.

time he scored eight points, including an unexpected slam-dunk. Another player who stood out was #11, Zakariah Khan, who grabbed a lot of rebounds and played with a black eye he’d received from the campus rec basketball championship game earlier that day. Barely able to open his eye, Khan was some-

how able to make quick plays under the net, making good passes to the post players. Although he wasn’t named top scorer of Wednesday’s game, Khan earned the title of highest scorer in one game in last Friday’s extramural basketball tournament, scoring 26 points in one game.

In the second half of the game, the score went back and forth, neither team ever getting ahead by more than four points. Ahmad Ansary was a force to be reckoned with in the net, grabbing a majority of the rebounds, while Ferdi Peng and Daniel Pinnock shut down the Woodsworth point guards with

intense defence at the top of the key. Pinnock was able to make a lot of steals and sprint past the other players to the net for a number of lay-ups. With a minute of play left, Ansary fouled out, allowing Woodsworth to make a foul shot and put the opposing team ahead 67–64. Woodsworth then scored two more layups, winning the game 71–64 and putting both teams in second place.

Top scorers of the game from UTM were Manpreet Gill with 15 points and Pinnock with 13. The Eagles continue their season next semester with a home game against Scarborough on Wednesday, January 18 at 8 p.m.

UTM Blue also had a game on Wednesday for which they travelled downtown in the hopes of facing UC, who failed to show up. The UC team had lost against UTM White the week before with a point difference of 45, and UTM White had also lost to UTM Blue by 29 points; perhaps UC figured they didn’t stand a chance by simple syllogism.

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