

UNCOVERING THE MYSTERY BEHIND GPA TRENDS

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Student voice in governance

UTMSU expresses concern about student input in the governance review process

STEFANIE MAROTTA
NEWS EDITOR

The UTM Students' Union advocated for greater student representation in the university's decision-making process at the governance town hall last Wednesday.

About a month after tension arose between the chair of the Erindale College Council and UTMSU, union executives expressed concern for the distribution of membership on the proposed UTM Campus Council. Meanwhile, the new boards under the U of T Governing Council will allow for autonomous local planning at the satellite campuses.

Amrita Daniere, vice-dean graduate and chair of UTM's Governance Review Committee, explained that the better part of the hour-long meeting would be spent on explaining and informing about the proposed reforms to ensure that students in attendance would understand the following discussion. Halfway through, Munib Sajjad, UTMSU's VP External, interrupted Bill Gough, vice-dean graduate and fac-



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

Approximately 20 students attended the town hall.

ulty governor, to request that question period begin. Sajjad wanted to ensure that students would have sufficient time to pose questions. Gough displayed one last slide and the student union began to question the process.

Gilbert Cassar, the president of UTMSU, opened the question period by expressing his concern for fair representation and transparency of information. He wanted assurance that students, as one of the largest stakeholders of the university, would be allotted greater membership on

the council.

Since the UTM Campus Council will fall under the Governing Council, the estates will need to comply with the U of T Act—unlike the current Erindale College Council. Governors and alumni will be required to have representation on the new council alongside students, faculty, and administrators.

"Student voices should be heard. There is no desire to exclude student input, and it is highly desirable at all levels of U of T governance. All the major boards include students,"

Gough said. "You want a broad representation of your community and the departments. You want all voices to be heard."

TFOG has yet to determine the composition of the Campus Councils.

Walied Khogali, the executive director of UTMSU, expressed his disappointment in the process, stating that the town hall was more of a lecture with a predetermined structure than a forum to provide suggestions.

Review continued on page 3

UTM updates email server

ADAM ERB
STAFF WRITER

A few days ago, leaflets and advertisements about a new UTM email interface plastered hallway walls to announce a more effective email system for students. In the past, the original UTORmail was criticized for being too slow, losing e-mails, and not properly forwarding to secondary email accounts.

"The UTOR accounts can be troublesome due to security and incompatibility issues where emails don't go through," said Michael Perczynski, a fourth-year English and math student. "The memory cap can be a problem as well, such as when the system starts to block emails from being received."

The UTM library stepped in with the growing demand for a better user interface.

The new program is called "UT-mail+." It is an attempt to step up from the old system to provide students with Internet applications and tools that yield a more accessible interface and an error-free messaging system.

UTmail+ continued on page 3

Raising the rainbow flag

OUT@UTM celebrates Pride Week on campus, hosts dialogue

ANGELA WANG

UTM celebrated its third annual Pride Week hosted by OUT@UTM in collaboration with UTMSU. The events were meant to increase the visibility of the LGBTQ community, to educate the public on the struggles faced by its members, and to provide a forum for its members and allies to meet and build community. This year the event was organized by LGBTQ coordinator Megan Gallagher.

"There are two communities: one that is visible and out, and one that is not yet comfortable being open to come to events. Some of the events hosted are not only for educational and recreational purposes, but to be visible to those that are watching the community and not yet ready to participate," said Gallagher.



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

The rainbow flag hung from the roof of the Student Centre all week.

On Monday, January 9, Pride Week officially began with the raising of the Pride Flag outside the Student Centre, which was followed by a speech made by Oliver Bedard, an active member of OUT@UTM. The film *Circumstance*, which explores

homosexuality in modern Iran, was then broadcast in the Presentation Room. An active dialogue was opened at the "Skin-I-Live-In" event, where people discussed their experiences of being a part or an ally of the LGBTQ community.

"Solidarity Against the Stigma" was a workshop organized on Tuesday to dispel some myths surrounding HIV and to reduce discrimination against people with AIDS.

Pride continued on page 2



Summer Job Fair

The Career Centre hosted the Summer Job Fair to help students find employment.
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ECC responds

Gordon Anderson, Chair of ECC, responds to allegations from UTMSU.
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Previewing ArtsFest

The auditions have been held; students expectantly await the results.
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Uncovering GPA trends

Why the average GPA increases so drastically after first year.
Medium Features, page 8

Eagles fall

Lady Eagles lose to St. George Blue. Tri-Campus looking tough this semester.
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Career Centre provides employment opportunities

Students come out in record numbers to battle unemployment at the annual Summer Job Fair

JEROME JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

More than 1,600 students attended the UTM Career Centre's Summer Job Fair on Wednesday.

Many remained for two hours after the event ended, submitting résumés and taking advantage of the chance to practise interview skills and gain experience networking with dozens of employers from various occupational fields.

The turnout was more than double last year's, and the Career Centre is looking to attract even a larger turnout for next year's event, said Claire Westgate, the manager of partner relations for experiential opportunities.

"Some companies, like those that attended the fair, really like this format for hiring students," said Michelle Atkinson, the coordinator of events and employment services. "They hire enough students at one time that coming to a fair makes sense for them: they get lots of candidates in one day, which works well."

Typically, many students start to think about their summer



JUNAID IMRAN/THE MEDIUM

Over 1,600 students attended the fair in search of summer jobs.

plans after the holiday break, so having the fair in January is good timing for students who are thinking they might like to start looking for work.

Unemployed and foraging into the job market, some students dressed in suits.

Businesses are often interested in current students for their

summer opportunities because current students are usually available between May and August, which overlaps with their summer hiring needs. That said, many of the companies here today were hiring for full-time positions as well.

Some of the jobs listed at the various companies' kiosks had

easily understandable titles, such as "administrative assistant" or "activities director". But others indicate highly specialized positions, such as working for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, serving in the Canadian Border Services Agency, or working with special-needs children. Indeed, public service work opportuni-

ties, which included working for the City of Toronto and the City of Mississauga, were of real interest to students.

"Many students are interested in different levels of government, so these are always popular booths," said Westgate. "I think each student is looking for something different. Many students are seeking retail or camp-style jobs for their first job, while other students are seeking more corporate experience."

To pique students' interest in the corporate world, big-name retailers and service providers, including Costco, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Danier Leather, FedEx, and the Centreville Amusement Park, were looking to fill hundreds of positions designed for students by the end of the school year.

"We hope that for UTM, this fair serves to continue to strengthen our ties to our local employer community, and that the employers enjoy their experience at UTM and continue to come back to visit us and hire our students in the future," Westgate said.

Professor recognized for scientific breakthrough

MELISSA CARTER

Physics World's top 10 scientific breakthroughs of 2011 were revealed on December 16. U of T professor Aephraim Steinberg made it to the top of the list.

Steinberg and his colleagues at the Centre for Quantum Information and Quantum Control at U of T won the honour with their experimental work on the fundamentals of quantum mechanics using an emerging technique known as "weak measurement".

A photon is a bundle, or "quantum", of light energy. Photons are always in motion and

move in distinct patterns. When a photon travels through two closely spaced slits, it creates an interference pattern on a screen behind, but if it has been determined which slit the photon will travel through, then the interference pattern disappears. This is why it was previously thought to be impossible to gain knowledge of a photon's path.

This concept was originally debated by Niels Bohr and Albert Einstein in 1927.

Enter Steinberg and his team. They replaced the double slit with a beamsplitter and two optical fibres. When the photon hits the beamsplitter it travels

along either the right or left fibre, allowing the path to be seen. It then exits at the end and creates an interference pattern on the screen. This makes it possible to watch the path of the photons and the interference pattern simultaneously.

The choice between first and second place was extremely difficult decision for *Physics World*, as the runner-up, a former colleague of Steinberg's, was conducting a similar experiment.

Steinberg hopes that people will continue to ask science's "forbidden questions" and discover further implications of quantum mechanics.

OUT shows their pride

Pride continued from Cover

Teams competed against each other during Wednesday's "Amazing Race" to locate queer-positive spaces on campus, such as queer sections in the library and gender-neutral washrooms. The day ended with "Beyond the Binary", a panel discussion on gender identity, gender expression, and identity in the transsexual community. One participant suggested that we "always think of the lowest denominator" when making policies for the queer community to ensure accessibility for all. The issue of gender policing and its implications was also raised during the discussion.

On Thursday, mature panelists joined UTM students to discuss the experiences they faced as a part of the LGBTQ community when it was not as acceptable. The generational speakers included Ralph Carl Wushke, a chaplain with the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at University of Toronto, Cameron Clairmont, a co-chair of Positive Space, and Susan Gupka, an activist committed to the empowerment of transgender and transsexual people who has worked as the TBLG Commissioner for the Cana-

dian Federation of Students-Ontario.

The third annual Pride March was organized on Friday. Students were encouraged to parade from the North Building to the William G. Davis Building to show their support for the LGBTQ community.

"One of the challenges with Pride Week involves getting people to march because of the stigma associated with it," said Gallagher.

In conjunction with the parade, artistic pieces created by the queer community were also displayed outside the MiST Theatre to showcase their creativity. The informative and action-packed week wrapped up with the "Queer Cab" held in the MiST Theatre on Friday night, which was filled with music, dance, and spoken word performances.

"We want people to be aware of the presence of a queer community on campus, and that we are welcoming and supportive. We want them to know that if they face difficulties coming out, we are there for them," said Gallagher. The joint effort of OUT@UTM and UTMSU ensured the success of Pride Week and promoted a more positive environment for the LGBTQ community.

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U of T alumnus Paul Martin receives Order of Canada

LORI-LEE EMSHEY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Paul Martin, a U of T alumnus and former prime minister, was named a Companion of the Order of Canada at the annual ceremony on December 30.

The title of Companion is the Order's highest honour, and Martin, 73, was the only person granted the title this year. The Order recognized Martin "for his distinguished contributions to Canadian politics and for his active involvement in promoting opportunities for Aboriginal Canadians".

Martin graduated from U of T after transferring from the University of Ottawa with a BA in history and philosophy in 1961. Martin continued at the U of T Faculty of Law, from which he received his LLB in 1964. Martin started his political career in 1988 when he was elected the Liberal MP for LaSalle—Émard, a riding in Québec.

Martin served under Jean Chrétien as finance minister from 1993 to 2002 before running for Prime Minister. As finance min-

ister, Martin balanced the Canadian debt within four years. Martin was elected prime minister in December 2003 and served until February 2006. His term in cabinet was highlighted by his leading Canada into the war in Afghanistan.

After he lost the 2006 election to Stephen Harper, Martin retired from the Liberal party, but continued to act as Member of Parliament for the LaSalle—Émard riding until 2008.

It is for his work done through MAEI that Martin was nominated for the Order of Canada.

In 2008, Martin founded the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative to support aboriginal students in elementary and secondary schools. The MAEI is founded on the hope that improved education will lead to an improved standard of living. It provides entrepreneurship opportunities, mentorships, funding for business startups, and tutoring for

Canadian Aboriginal youth. It is for his work done through MAEI that Martin was nominated for the Order of Canada.

Each year the Governor General considers up to 600 nominations for 150 appointments. The Order of Canada was established in 1967 to recognize lifetime achievements of merit or service. Companion is the highest of three levels in the Order of Canada, followed by Officer and Member.

Inducted into the Order as Officers this year are U of T undergraduate alumnus Gordon Guyatt for his work in evidence-based medicine and graduate alumnus Tom Jenkins for his contributions to Canadian high technology. The Order appointed alumnae Ana Lopes and Mair Verthuy as members. Lopes, a philanthropist and humanitarian, was recognized for her work in healthcare in Toronto, and Verthuy, a French literature professor, for her work in feminist causes in Canada.

Martin and the other appointees will formally receive their badges from the Governor General at a ceremony in Ottawa later this year.

»WHAT DID YOU THINK OF CLUBS WEEK ROUND 2?



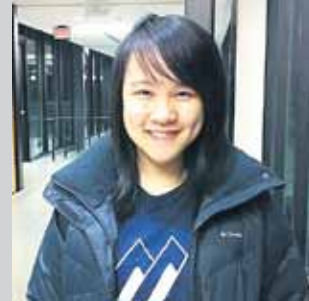
Christian
Fourth-year, Comp Sci

"I think they should hold it at the Student Centre. You wouldn't know about it unless someone told you."



Oscar
Third-year, Business

"In the past two years you'd sign up for a club and not hear back. It was pretty much a big waste of time."



Oi Lang
First-year, Management

"It's not very useful. It's in a remote corner of the school. Unless you were passing by the gym you wouldn't see it."



Gilbert
President of UTMSU

"I thought it was exceptional. Clubs are the backbone of campus; they are the strength behind campaigns."

UTM prepares to launch new email

UTmail+ continued from Cover

UTmail+'s setup and design in the folder-based Microsoft Outlook style to provide students with better message organization. The new program also provides students with a calendar, contacts, and to-do functions to keep them on task.

This new system is meant to replace the old, clunky, dated UTORmail accounts. However, a few problems arose before deployment.

"There seems to be some technical issues being uncovered right now," said Eva Stepanian, UTM's social media librarian. "So we are in talks with the project team of the initiative regarding whether the rollout will actually be on the des-

ignated date, or be pushed back a week or two."

One of the problems concerned forwarding to some undergrad and grad student accounts.

"The team would like to work on these errors before the launch, so that all students can change over as quickly and easily as possible," Stepanian said.

Students are advised to keep checking their UTORmail accounts for now; weekly news publications, and signs around campus on when the new program will be active and open to students.

When the new system is phased in, there will be a migration of the data of the old UTORmail accounts, which will then become

obsolete. Upon registration for the new UTmail+, messages from the previous account will be automatically forwarded to the new one. The new addresses will take the form `firstname.last@mail.utoronto.ca`.

Other UTmail+ features include a 10GB inbox, automated sorting, integrated messaging, mobile access, enhanced spam filtering, and integrated web applications. The server will also be accessible for integration into external mail clients, like Microsoft Outlook and Mozilla Thunderbird.

Students are urged to switch over to the new account as soon as information surfaces. You can find more information and migrate your account at www.utoronto.ca/utmail.

U of T governance restructured

Review continued from Cover

"Yes, they proposed a model, but it's up to the campus to shape this model so that it reflects our needs and priorities," Daniere said. "The intention of having an open and inclusive review process shows the commitment of this campus to building and shaping a new governing structure that prioritizes inclusivity, transparency, and diversity."

Students should direct suggestions and questions to the website, Daniere stated.

Gough and Daniere continued to entertain questions after the town hall adjourned.

The Towards 2030 document was created in 2007. It outlines the changes the university will undergo over the next 20 years to achieve

higher standards of excellence. The Task Force on Governance was stricken to oversee the restructuring of the university's decision-making processes and recommended that the Mississauga and Scarborough campuses be given greater autonomy to make decisions on the local level. The UTM Campus Council will have fewer members than the Erindale College Council.

Currently, UTM's Erindale College Council comprises faculty, administration, and students. The council reviews budgetary matters and academic planning proposals and makes recommendations through a voting process. The agenda then moves to the Governing Council, based at the St. George campus, to finalize decisions.

NEWS BRIEFS »

Police drop charges against alleged six-year-old reckless driver

Charges against a six-year-old boy in Mexico were recently dropped. Two days after Christmas, the boy drove his gas-powered miniature motorbike into an SUV. Police charged the child with reckless driving, driving without a licence, and failure to register his vehicle. The motorbike was impounded. On Thursday, city officials announced that the charges would be dropped. The boy said that he's happy to have his bike back even though it no longer works.

Source: Huffington Post

Student unions surveilled by RCMP during Cold War

During the Cold War, the RCMP Security Service conducted surveillance of universities to keep an eye on potential radicalism among student leaders. The RCMP watched the Student Administrative Council at U of T, of which Bob Rae was a member. "There was a lot of activism and discussion about ideas and about politics," Rae said. "The idea that there's a cop at the back of the room who's writing everything down—I guess that was also a reality of the time."

Source: CBC News

Long live the Queen: Liberals knock abolition of monarchy

The Liberal Party of Canada will not support a proposal to abolish the monarchy in Canada. The idea was put forth by the party's youth wing, along with a proposal to legalize marijuana. Youth said it will help to reinvigorate the party; 75 percent voted in favour of the marijuana proposal. They also supported electoral reform and changed their own voting format to allow both party members and non-members.

Source: 680 News

NDP leadership candidate to visit UTM on Tuesday

Thomas Mulcair will hold a meet-and-greet in the Presentation Room of the Student Centre on Tuesday afternoon. Mulcair is a Member of Parliament from Québec and the party's deputy leader. He is a candidate for the federal party's leadership after the passing of Jack Layton last year. Members of the NDP will select the new leader in March.

Source: Mississauga News

Cruise ship off the coast of Italy hits a rock and capsizes

The Costa Concordia was carrying about 4,000 passengers when it sailed off course on Friday night. The ship struck a rock that created a gash more than 150 feet long in the hull. While the investigation is still underway, officials speculate that a "harmonic interference" caused power failure and navigational problems. So far, five passengers have been pronounced dead and three others have been rescued alive from the capsized ship.

Source: *The Independent*

MEDIUM OPINION »

Editor-in-Chief » Michael Di Leo

Disagreement can be a good thing

It is my pleasure to present to you the very rare, fabled two-page opinion section. In my five years at *The Medium* I have seen it only twice, and then only to present candidates (and their rather long platforms) in the UTMSU elections.

Given the amount of feedback I have received on such a wide range of issues, I must conclude that people do, in fact, have opinions on what goes down at UTM, despite what you may have heard. Apathy is so 2011.

Fun and games aside, I am pleased that the ECC debacle has sparked a sort of infor-

mal debate. Whichever party is right or wrong, it certainly seems as though these letters have afforded them the opportunity to blow off some steam in the process. Which is a good thing, in my opinion.

That's because behind the surface, past the gridlock, the calling out, and the highly opinionated stances, these letters prove, in some small way at least, that democracy is in effect at our campus.

Let me clarify.

People don't all agree on the same issues. Shocking, right? Well, it should be, considering students' take on what happens in the politicized gov-

ernance process. I admit I'm often guilty of assuming that others share my opinion, as long as they're rational human beings. Which is a pretty big step, considering my opinion gets shared thousands of times every week throughout the university. When there are things I disagree with, especially in regards to the institutional process (both student and administrative), I'm vocal about it.

I find that others tend to be the same way. We all think that there are simple, logical solutions to our governance woes and, while us student folk all agree on what to do, our rep-

resentatives (administration or otherwise) take pleasure in drawing out the process, making it as painful as possible.

Say the tables were turned. Say we had some sort of direct democratic influence on the process. I've heard from several student leaders that students are "the university's largest stakeholders" (fun fact: we're not), so there shouldn't be a problem voting in smart changes. Populism would take precedence and *voila*, our problems, such as the ECC dispute, would be solved.

But that just isn't the case. In reality there are as many opinions as students. Here, in

The Medium's office, I count seven different views on who's in the wrong in the ECC matter. In fact, after asking what they thought, it turned into a debate of our own.

Disagreements are key to a democratic process, as are voicing those disagreements to the public. It shows that things are working—that different opinions still make it to the forefront. And when I think about it, if there weren't disagreements I would be worried.

YOURS,

MICHAEL DI LEO

ECC in response

Dear Editor,

As an avid reader of *The Medium* I have noted two letters regarding the workings and operations of ECC which relate to me as chair of ECC. I've never been given to writing to the paper in the past, feeling that it is primarily run for and by students, but in this case I feel I have to.

I must first respond to untruths in both Gilbert Cassar's "Presidential Seasonal Message to the Masses" and Ruba El Khadri's "Student Voice Stifled" pieces. I have no wish to enter into a debate with members of the UTMSU executive over the "just" or otherwise behaviour of ECC, which is clearly a matter of opinion, but they do seem to persist in purveying untruths. Thus I would like to point out

to the university community at large, and especially the student community, what is true.

Erindale College Council is not the highest decision-making body at UTM indeed it is not a decision-making body at all, it merely recommends and advises the administration on matters of policy both financial and academic. Decision-making is not a mandate of the Council; ultimately it is the prerogative of the vice-president and principal, who has no obligation to follow its recommendations. A governance body such as ECC is there to ensure that UTM is managed well, but not to manage UTM directly.

The December 1 meeting of Council was not held with less than seven days' notice, and was thus not unconstitutional. Circulation of the notice and

agenda anytime up to midnight on Thursday 24 November for a December 1 meeting would have been completely in line with section 8 of the ECC constitution as then written and, as Gilbert's letter asserts, the agenda was sent out on the afternoon of the 24 (about the only assertion in his letter that was correct!). This has always been College Council practice and always will be. Interestingly, the notice requirements of the newly revised Constitution of ECC, which was supported by the UTMSU executive are weaker still with an "all reasonable efforts" clause added, so this complaint sounds to me even more disingenuous!

As for the "suspicious and shameful" consideration of the budgets before the Christmas break, UTMSU officers or

their representatives are always members of all ECC sub-committees (budgetary, academic, and executive) that set agendas, consider timelines, and peruse budgetary and academic program details, etc., for the upcoming council meetings in the yearly cycle. Had they been paying attention in those meetings they would have learned that Simcoe Hall required our budgets earlier this academic year so that, unlike last year, they had to be considered before the holiday break. As of this cycle the contribution and input of UTMSU officers in these meetings (especially the College Council Executive Committee of which I am chair and of which Gilbert is a member) has been singularly absent.

ECC continued on page 5



COREY BELFORD/THE MEDIUM

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MEDIUM

MEDIUM II PUBLICATIONS
3359 Mississauga Road,
Room 200, Student Centre,
Mississauga, ON, L5L 1C6
Phone: 905.828.5260

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Michael Di Leo
editor@mediumutm.ca

NEWS EDITOR
Stefanie Marotta
news@mediumutm.ca

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR
Lori-lee Emshey

A&E EDITOR
Nives Hajdin
arts@mediumutm.ca

ASSOCIATE A&E EDITORS
Colleen Munro
Aristotle Eliopoulos

FEATURES EDITOR
Larissa Ho
features@mediumutm.ca

SPORTS EDITOR
TBD
sports@mediumutm.ca

ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITORS
Isaac Owusu
Michelle Duklas

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Edward Cai
photos@mediumutm.ca

DESIGN EDITOR
Sophia Leonard
COPY EDITOR
Luke Sawczak
copy@mediumutm.ca

WEBMASTER
Gary Li
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DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Gurami Lomidze

AD MANAGER
Victor Dri
ads@mediumutm.ca

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College council clarification

ECC continued from page 4

I can assure you that in the minutes of those meetings nowhere are there to be found any expressions of concern on the part of UTMSU representatives regarding the nature of the budgets or the timeliness or otherwise of their consideration. In their silent presence or absence they were indeed willing parties to all agendas, timelines, and “just” or “unjust” behaviours.

With regard to the VP Equity’s reference to the “appalling[...]manner of the chair” and “inexperience in Robert’s Rules”, I have to confess some guilt to the latter as a new chair in my first elected year. To the former, although I do not think I was rude, I accept that my manner was perceived as somewhat disrespectful or sarcastic and since it was not my intention I immediately conceded the point (actually Ruba’s quote was incomplete; what I said was, “Point taken, forgive me!”).

Also, with regard to the first point, the fact is I had taken the trouble to visit with mem-

bers of the executive in their “den” to explain why their assertion of a violation of the constitution was wrong and that the meeting was not unconstitutional (I also did so by email), yet UTMSU executive members persisted with the accusation both in and out of the Council. As part of a democratic body meant to effectively administer a post-educational institution, I believe it is incumbent upon all members to perform without self-interest and to the utmost of their abilities. As a consequence, I find it difficult to be respectful of people who willfully choose not to listen, deliberately choose not to understand, and who do not attend or are silent in meetings where agendas are set and then claim the outcomes to be “suspicious and shameful”. This, it could be argued, is negligence of the worst order on the part of members who are responsible to a constituency that, on their behalf, has elected them to responsible positions. I guess my sarcastic English sense of humour got the better of me, for which

I am truly sorry (not for the English sense of humour, by the way, but for any offence it caused). With regard to the second point on my knowledge of Robert’s Rules, I did not have, nor am I required to have, a speakers’ list. Admittedly, I was somewhat overcome by events at the end of the meeting when during the last five minutes I was interrupted numerous times when trying to carry out business. Robert’s Rules should be used to facilitate communication and not be misused as a means to subvert it.

As I understand it, a basic element of Robert’s Rules is that the majority is allowed rule while the minority must be heard. I did make sure that in the over 70 minutes of discussion on the parking issue, UTMSU’s voice was heard (they had over 90% of the floor during that time)! Ruba is indeed correct this is not according to Robert’s Rules, as I should have alternated between speakers from each side of the debate and allotted even time to both sides.

To sum up, I am really con-

cerned about the behaviour of the UTMSU executives in this matter, their belief that if you repeat an untruth a sufficient number of times people will ultimately believe it to be true, and their unwillingness to participate in the Council process and then to complain that choices they were in fact party to were “suspicious and shameful”. I really hope that the positions they took and the way they represented their constituency were based upon bad advice rather than choices of the executive itself.

In the end, students themselves are responsible for the officers they elect (regrettably witness the shameful “Silent AGM of UTMSU”), yet

good behaviour that focusses on reaching positive solutions must never be left out of any human equation. As an elected body, it is incumbent upon the UTMSU executive to behave in a manner that provides the best service to their constituency and not behaviour that is focussed on self-aggrandizing and what really amounts to sabotage of the democratic process. All concerned deserve better—especially the students of UTM, whom we are all gathered to serve.

Sincerely,

Gordon Anderson
Chair of ECC

Parking fees are not a barrier to education

In the last edition of *The Medium* before the holidays, Lori-Lee Emshey reported an Erindale College Council proposal to annually increase parking fees by 3% in order to accommodate additional parking on campus. Enrolment at UTM will experience growth over the next five-year period. Failing to address expansion will result in a lack of parking for students that prefer to drive to school.

Gilbert Cassar, president of UTMSU, responded to the ECC proposal with an outrageous claim: “Parking fees are a barrier to education.” Perhaps in the early 20th century this notion of barriers to education was true. Nowadays, with access to scholarships and OSAP, I can’t help but search endlessly and needlessly for this imaginary barrier. Cassar should read the U of T Policy on Student Financial Support, which states, “No student offered admission to a program at the University of Toronto should be unable to enter or complete a program due to lack of financial means.” U of T has eliminated financial barriers. There are fewer barriers to education today than there ever has been in history.

Students across the country

cry foul anytime there is a proposed financial increase. The fact of the matter is that every university must determine the best way to raise funds for future growth. Some of the best universities in the world are in Canada, and to expect us to keep up with the rest of the world without adequate finances is unrealistic.

Students and UTMSU must take a sensible approach when opposing fee inflation. It is only logical for students to resist any and all financial increases, but simply doing so does not make the students’ case very strong. Hence, we must be selective in the fees we unanimously oppose, or risk having our collective voice silenced.

Apparently, Cassar is developing alternative methods to raise funds for UTM parking expansion. Whether or not those ideas are feasible remains to be seen. Perhaps Cassar would prefer tuition increases. However, the substitution of one limited “barrier” for an all-encompassing “barrier” is not ideal. Who better to solicit than the students that use the parking facilities? It would not be fair for all students to share the financial burden.

The students that drive and

park on campus today might argue that they should not have to fund the future endeavours of UTM. While I don’t agree with this short-sighted approach, I can certainly appreciate the concerns of students that do park on campus and do have limited funds. What’s the solution? Don’t park on campus. Park nearby and take public transit from there. It certainly is better than paying for parking, particularly if the minimal 3% increase will prevent you from receiving your university education.

The proposed increase is small. The most expensive parking permits would increase by 11¢ per day, which amounts to \$3.30 per month, or \$26.41 for the entire school year. Pay and display parking would increase by 39¢ for the day. By simply rejecting a viable and sensible approach to acquiring finances, Cassar is merely appeasing the fewer than 25% of current UTM students that park on campus. Without addressing the need for parking expansion now, future students will have nowhere to park. Is it worse to have a 3% increase or to have no option to park on campus in 2015? You decide.

Andrew O’Brien



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MEDIUM A&E »

Editor » Nives Hajdin

“It couldn’t please me more”

Profound pansexualism and the panoply of life explored in Hart House’s production of *Cabaret*

DARREN SAVAGE

Life is a cabaret, old chum.

Hart House Theatre was full of life this past Friday for the opening of its rendition of *Cabaret*. Though the food, drink, and individual tables were lacking, the entertainment was in full force.

Based on two novellas written by **Christopher Isherwood** in the 1940s, the musical has an admirable history of productions and spawned the 1972 movie *Cabaret* starring Michael York and Liza Minelli. Though there are a number of differences between the film and most stage performances, the plot itself remains intact in director Adam Brazier’s version, and conveys that general plot with a few subtle differences.

American writer Clifford Bradshaw (**Keenan Viau**) arrives in Berlin during the Weimar period hoping to finish a novel while earning income as an English teacher. He finds room and board with an independent and tenacious German woman, Fraulein Schneider (**Renée Stein**). His first student, Ernst Ludwig (**Glen Mills**), introduces him to the Kit Kat Club, a melting pot that blurs sexual and perhaps even moral distinctions, allowing one to express and enjoy him or herself without fear of



DANIEL DIMARCO/PHOTO

With crowd favourite **Michael-David Blostein** at the helm, the cast of *Cabaret* received a standing ovation on opening night.

reproach.

While there, Bradshaw has his first encounter with a dynamic and gregarious English performer named Sally Bowles (**Courtney Lamanna**). The two quickly fall in love, despite Bradshaw’s possible covert homosexuality, and their relationship flourishes in a Berlin void of restriction. Emblematic of this freedom is the figure of the Emcee (**Michael-**

David Blostein), who hosts the nightly shows and directs the many Kit Kat dancers. Everything is free and beautiful until it begins to disintegrate in tandem with the rise of the Nazis.

The most captivating part of the show is easily Blostein’s performance. A thin and ghastly fellow, we meet a not so flamboyant though no less striking Emcee. His deep voice and gothic appear-

ance enhance the indifference later confirmed in act two during the musical number “I Don’t Care Much”. However, his brilliance does not detract from the compelling performances of others, such as Lamanna and Viau, who use their respective vocal talents to full effect. Delivering a free and fun-loving Bowles and a rigid and formal Bradshaw, both are spot on as they explore the qualities of

a doomed relationship. That tension is once again raised in the relationship of Fraulein Schneider and Herr Schultz (**Don Berns**). With the spectre of Nazism on the rise, a romance between a German woman and a Jewish man is dangerous.

Furthermore, neither of the Kit Kat dancers miss a beat; their constant presence draws the audience’s attention to that thin line between reality and fiction. In the same way, the androgynous appearance of many and the ease of movement of all blurs that mysterious divide between male and female, showing each as what they fundamentally are: human.

All in all, the performances will blow you away and you’d be hard-pressed to find the same vocal talents for such a low price. *Cabaret* is a musical that encapsulates much of the human experience: love, loss, hatred, and freedom (be it sexual, political, or otherwise). We encounter controversial topics, but they’re treated with the care and respect that should only provoke sincere thought. If you are looking for a good night, some laughs, and stunning talent, Hart House Theatre is ready to oblige...so come to the cabaret!

Cabaret runs until January 28 at Hart House. Visit harthouse.ca/hart-house-theatre/cabaret.

Gearing up for ArtsFest

MATTHEW BUTLER

Those of us who fancy the arts—whether theatre, film, music, or poetry—value the artistic events and activities that take place on campus. Although there are many opportunities at UTM for expression and celebration, improvement in this tradition is always welcomed by the many students who are passionate about sustaining a healthy and vibrant arts community.

Largely facilitated by the growing presence of the Artistic Resource Team, a variety of performance and showcase nights have emerged on campus. The ART’s mandate is to help students express their talents and passions through campus-wide and student-run events, and so far has proven highly effective. From the biannual Coffee House nights to the upcoming ArtsFest on

February 10, these events matter a great deal to the students who have come to depend on their art and creative-collaborative nature to enrich their university experience and further their development as artists.

Enter a long weekend of competitive ArtsFest auditions that took place on January 6 to 8.

A wide range of artists from across campus gathered in the CCT Building last weekend to audition for UTM’s upcoming ArtsFest. Musicians, vocalists, actors, dancers, and other performers gathered in front of the audition panel—made up of members of the Artistic Resource Team and Residence Life—to compete for slots in the showcase and performance series.

Performers were asked to email weeks in advance to express their interest, and students

patiently waited for their opportunity to deliver the best possible performance for the panels. From the comedy of musical theatre to the complex physical dynamics of dance to the subtle art of vocalizing and playing instruments, students performed competitively in front of the panel judges for a chance to shine in the showcase.

If selected, students will compete in their respective categories in front of judges and an audience. Potential prizes and audience participation hangs in the balance and is part of the dynamism that makes ArtsFest a favourite with UTM students.

Finalists and performers will be selected this week and will perform at UTM’s 11th annual ArtsFest showcase series on February 10 in CCT 1080. Come out and support artistic talent on campus!



AYMAN KAHN/THE MEDIUM

Given to the Wild—The Maccabees

COREY BELFORD

The cover art for the latest from **The Maccabees**, *Given to the Wild*, displays a stone kiln in the middle of a field of dead grass, a field which is slowly being consumed by bright, orange flames. An evocative image, the snapshot serves as a metaphor for the music to be found within; this album possesses substance with the potential to set fire to the imagination.

Produced by **Tim Goldsworthy** of DFA Records, this album suggests a more electronic atmosphere than their previous efforts, and to great effect. The third outing from the London quintet is a collection of elegantly orchestrated masterpieces, each with its own unique story to tell.

Given to the Wild begins with a swirling synthesizer-filled atmosphere of a title track, from which echoing vocals and guitar melody emerge as if from a dark cave. The instrumentation of the intro slowly accumulates, giving birth to “Child”, which serves as the formal introduction of the bass and keyboards as a looping melody, not to mention the undeniably pretty vocal performance of **Orlando Weeks**.

“Child” takes the listener on a colourful, anthemic merry-go-round of melody before halting abruptly and moving into the gentle, minimalist drumbeat and vocal pairing of the first verse of “Feel to Follow”. This track begins at a delicate, steady pace, proceeding into a chorus that gradually



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builds in energy and intensity. Pulling back and proceeding again, the song teases the listener until exploding into a fireworks display of guitar progressions that do figure eights around one another.

The happy-go-lucky piano melody of “Ayla” follows, and the soothingly

wistful lyrics ease into an epic chorus of towering horns and militant drums. “Glimmer” begins, appropriately, with a shimmering guitar riff gliding in overtop of an elusive drumbeat, evoking the feeling of skating on an ice rink, surrounded by lights on a cold December night.

“Forever I’ve Known” pairs a brooding bass line with faraway cries of a wailing guitar, transforming into a riveting dance. Stylistic parallels can be drawn here, some to more notable contemporary groups. “Heave” possesses a Coldplay-esque vocal chorus, begging the simple question, “Are

we so different?” “Go” reaches the heights found on Arcade Fire albums, complete with trembling, sincere vocals reminiscing of Win Butler. The most upbeat track on this album is “Pelican”, beginning with an exciting, “Eye of the Tiger”-like pace, restrained by vocal harmonies that reflect on the nature of life. “Grew Up at Midnight” sends the album out on a victorious high note, yet bears a reminiscent quality to it, honouring the past and the days of youth, proclaiming, “We grew up at midnight; we were only kids then.” Though they may have been kids once, *Given to the Wild* marks this band’s passage into musical adulthood.

If asked to describe this album in one word, the most appropriate term would be “crescendo”. Gradual buildups resulting in explosive choruses and spectacular instrumentals are a recurring element on *Given to the Wild*, but The Maccabees never stray too far from their roots, containing their fiery melodies and epic breakdowns under a thin veneer of indie sensibility. Everything about this album yearns for the majestic, the musical equivalent of a magic carpet ride at night time over natural landscapes and brightly lit cities. With *Given to the Wild*, The Maccabees take the listener out on a fantastic adventure, and given the sheer grace with which this album is executed, one might find it difficult to say no to the call of the wild. **MMMM**

Love What Happened Here—James Blake

COLLEEN MUNRO
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

For the past year and a half, it’s been nearly impossible to visit a music blog without encountering some mention of British electronic musician **James Blake**. And while it’s debatable whether or not the 23-year-old dubstep artist is worth the cavalcade of attention, Blake is nothing if not prolific. His self-titled debut LP came out last year, and his latest release, *Love What Happened Here*, is the fifth EP he’s released in less than two years.

Blake also gets points for being diverse. His music ranges from faithful piano covers of **Feist**’s “Limit to Your Love” and **Joni Mitchell**’s “A Case of You” to the glitchy, fully electronic sounds found here on *Love What Happened Here*. And while this virtually vocal-free release may not be his most accessible work, it’s still listener-friendly enough to pull in a wide audience. At just three tracks, it’s a quick listen. Blake has created a tightly woven, atmospheric collection.

From the opening whooshes of the synthesizer on “Love What Happened Here”, it’s clear that this is very much a James Blake album. He doesn’t need a piano to show off his jazz influences, and even when he’s working mostly with electronic blips, Blake has an unmistakable off-kilter, darkly soulful style. “Love What Happened Here” is a looping, hypnotic track that effectively uses cryptic vocal samples for variation.

Then, after the punches of the opening track, Blake gives us “At Birth”, which is a moodier, more



BEATSPERMINUTE.COM/PHOTO

club-friendly song. And while sceptics may argue that not much happens over the course of the song’s four and a half minutes, there are enough swells and dynamics to prevent the pounding beat from becoming monotonous. Blake crafts his songs carefully, and this is one that benefits from multiple listens.

The album’s closing track, “Curbside”, is the most playful on the album. With dynamic percussion and a tinge of world music influence, Blake picks up the energy level, crafting a song that feels surprisingly breezy. This layered song somewhat bridges the gap between Blake’s more accessible recent work and his more obtuse earlier EPs, such as 2010’s *Klavierwerke*. “Curbside” is a song to be appreciated on many different levels, and Blake’s brilliant use of sampling has a lot to do with its appeal. The song flies by.

This album manages to be both enigmatic and playful. And while some fans (including myself) might miss Blake’s smooth vocals and off-kilter piano, this is still a very interesting collection of songs. Each of Blake’s releases so far have been different, and this latest evolution in his music is no less interesting than the ones before. Blake and his career are still very young (despite what his large output would suggest), and it’s great to see that he’s still full of ideas.

Love What Happened Here may only consist of three songs, but Blake makes the most of the short format, offering three varied, equally interesting tracks. The songs balance each other out perfectly, and Blake shows a real sense of playfulness and vivacity in this short offering. I can’t wait to see what he comes out with next. **MMM½**

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MEDIUM FEATURES »

Editor » Larissa Ho

Watch your mark

Uncovering the mystery behind GPA trends: why grades start low and get higher

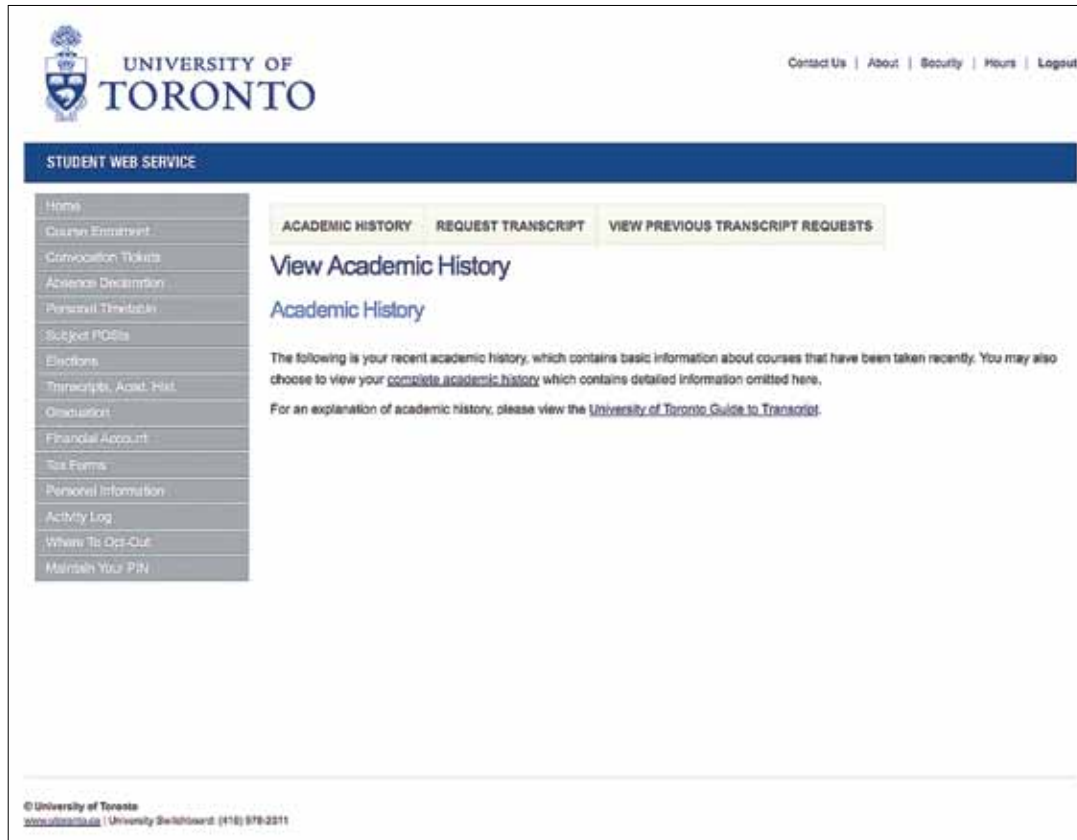
AHMAD AL-HENDI

Has your grade point average got you bogged down? For students looking to continue their education at the professional or graduate level, or those applying to full-time jobs after their undergraduate degree, GPA often plays a crucial role in their success. Fourth-year UTM forensics student Kyla Marie Jorgenson said that her grades were often her main motivation. “It makes sense,” said Jorgenson. “When you’re applying to medical school, you need to have a high GPA.”

According to a study conducted by Wayne Grove and Tim Wasserman for *The Journal of Economic Education*, the majority of undergraduates’ GPAs follow a similar pattern. Their article “The Life Cycle Pattern of Collegiate GPA” claims that a student’s GPA follows a “checkmark pattern.”

Grove and Wasserman tracked the GPAs of 12,663 students from five consecutive graduating classes, collecting each student’s GPA at the end of each of the eight semesters in their undergraduate careers. The pattern shows that students received their lowest grades at the end of their first year and their highest grades in their fourth year.

This pattern is alarming to many



ROSI.UTORONTO.CA/PHOTO

who come out of high school and expect to have the same level of academic success. “My marks were so much higher in high school,” said first-year life science student Adora Orhiobhe. “I really hope that my marks start to improve. I plan to get into medical school, and it’s very

competitive.”

So why is it that grades take such a hit in a student’s first year at university? Diane Crocker, UTM’s registrar, attributes the drop in grades to the change of environment that a student experiences in their first year of university: “All of a sudden, 17- and 18-year-olds are given a great deal of responsibility, and the problem is that they don’t make the adjustments needed for them to be successful.” She also noted that many first-year students work as many as 30 hours per week in part-time jobs or in family businesses, adding, “It doesn’t hit them until they see their marks that they’re spreading themselves too thin.”

Curtis Norman, the student development officer for the genONE program, attributed the lower first-year grades to a shift in motivation. Norman said that students are in university for very different reasons in their first year than in their final year. “A lot of students are influenced by the goals and aspirations of their parents while in their first year of university,” he said. Another challenge for first-year students is the large class sizes in the majority of first-year courses, he said. Classes like first-year chemistry, economics, and psychology can have up to 500 students in a lecture. “Not to say that these classes are not meaningful learning experiences. They do teach a lot of life skills and push students towards self-learning,” said Norman. “They definitely contribute to a student’s

development, but they are different from what students were used to in high school.”

Mike Jamieson, a fourth-year commerce and finance student, said he took a difficult but required first-year course that he felt was used to “weed out the weak.” “The class average was 50% in my first-year calculus class,” he said. “Most people don’t pass classes like that.”

But Crocker claims that the problem is not in the difficulty level of the class. “If a student puts in the time required and is passionate about the courses they’re in, they should be successful,” she said. The lowest cutoff for admission into any program at UTM is 75%. “We only accept students who have the ability to succeed here,” she added.

On the other hand, there are also classes purported to be “bird courses.” Bird courses are those with a reputation of being less challenging, and are therefore taken mainly to boost one’s GPA. Birdcourses.com, a website that allows students to share information about different bird courses offered at Canadian universities, picks out courses like first-year psychology, second-year ecology, and the second-year course “Philosophy of Religion” among the extensive list of bird courses at UTM.

Crocker doesn’t recognize bird courses as a reality at UTM. “I know, because I see the grades in courses,” said Crocker, “and you probably won’t be surprised to learn that students fail courses when they

don’t prepare, participate, and attend, even if other students consider the course to be a bird course.”

First-year lectures are often skipped, says Crocker: “You’d be shocked to see how few students are attending.” By mid-October, class attendance is significantly lower than it was at the beginning of the semester.

Why does the average GPA increase so drastically after the first year? There are multiple contributing factors, according to Philip Clark, a philosophy professor at UTM. “In philosophy, students begin to gain confidence in their analytical abilities. They begin to identify themselves as strong philosophers,” he said. This applies to the sciences and social sciences as well. By the time students enter their third and fourth years of study, they start to become “experts.”

“I’m so much more invested in my classes now,” attested Amrita Mrahar, a third-year psychology and forensics student. “I’m interning at Princess Margaret Hospital in January, so I feel like I’m slowly becoming an expert in my field.” Mrahar said she’s more motivated to do well now that she loves what she’s doing.

“When you’re passionate about learning something and your GPA isn’t your main concern, then I believe that you will succeed in it,” Norman commented.

Crocker also highlighted the correlation between student grades and participating in transition programs like genONE, utmONE, and rezONE. These programs are designed to help first-year students in the academic part of their transition to university. “Students who participated in a similar program we had called ‘stepONE’ saw a 5% increase in their GPA,” said Crocker. “These programs are in place because they work.”

Another important element in academic success is finding a community to identify with. “It can be a group of students in your program, staff or faculty members, or a student club on campus,” said Norman. “Relationships like these really help to build an effective learning community.”

Clark said that the material doesn’t get any easier as you move into upper-year courses; rather, students are making the adjustments needed to succeed. He said that these adjustments include improved time management and regular class attendance. “It just takes time for a student to get it right.”

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LUKE'S LANGUAGES

/luks'leɪŋgwə,dʒɪz/

#8: AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

LUKE SAWCZAK

Oh, hello there! How nice to see you again. This week will just be a short feature in between the serious lessons. We're just going to look at what I call "linguistic candy": checking out some random and cool stuff from various languages. (NB: These are mostly gleaned from classes and textbooks; thanks to the various teachers and editors for them!)

English is the only language that capitalizes the first-person singular "I". However, many languages conventionally capitalize the formal second-person (like "you").

In **Atsugewi**, you choose a word for "move" based on what kind of thing is moving. One word is for small, shiny spherical objects, another for smallish, flat objects, another for slimy, lumpish objects, another for limp objects suspended by one end, another for loose, dry dirt, and another for runny, unpleasant material.

The **Eskimo-Aleut** language family, although it can make infinite suffixed forms, has about the same number of root words for snow as English. However, the **Saami** language family, spoken by a people

that live north of Norway, has hundreds of words for snow and snow-related stuff. Also for reindeer.

In many languages, including **Iranian**, **Uralic**, and **Turkic** families, when you conjugate verbs you have to express evidentiality, i.e. indicate how you know what you're claiming. Some options, not all from the same language, can be loosely translated "definitely", "supposedly", "perhaps"; "as far as I understand"; "it is rumoured"; "someone directly told me"; "I personally felt it"; "I personally saw it"; and more.

Some dialects of **Abkhaz**, spoken in Georgia, have no more than two vowels. Another language, **Rotokas** of Papua New Guinea, has but six consonants. (There are ways to expand the tiny inventory. One of them is by having pitch, or tone, change the meaning, like in **Mandarin Chinese**.)

Japanese (among many others) is a "head-final" language. One consequence of this is that prepositions become postpositions; it's not "of Devonshire" but "Devonshire-of". The head of such a phrase also reverses position. "Zeruda no Densetsu", which would be "Zelda, of which (the) Legend", is the Japanese name

of a popular Nintendo game.

A grammatical future tense is rare, when you think about it. Most languages express future tense with a present-tense verb meaning either wanting (e.g. "I will go") or moving (e.g. "I'm going to go"). We also have "shall", which once meant "to owe, to be obligated to". **Mandarin Chinese** more or less lacks tense altogether; instead, the tense is inferred from another word that gives you the time at which the verb happened, happens, or will happen.

Meanwhile, in **Maithili** (of Nepal), they have the same word for "yesterday" and "tomorrow". The tense usually lets you distinguish them, but what about ambiguities like "He was supposed to come yesterday/tomorrow"? We know when the supposing happened, but what about when he was supposed to come? So the standard reply is: "You mean the yesterday/tomorrow in the past, or the yesterday/tomorrow that hasn't happened yet?" In fact, the word is really more like "the day(s) right beside today". (Thanks to my Nepal-based aunt for this one.)

Whew! That's all for now! Too much of this stuff and you feel dizzy. Tune in next week!

Creative Corner

A silent shattering

ABEER REHMAN

The tinkle of a broken glass hangs in the air

Long after it's smashed, damaged and broken

The yelling, the screaming, all the fake gleaming

Were given every day as love's small token

As a poignant note played on the piano,

An echo, a resonance, or the cry of a soprano.

An end of a melody, a deluded fantasy,

a song, a lullaby that needn't be justified

Reverberating in the air, unspoken yet heard

It ended all at once, in one fast blow

In a swift movement, in an artistic flow

The magic, the charm, the beauty, all gone

Scattered all that was once a whole,

The life, in a life, that is no more.

Treated as if destroyed will not make a mess,

will cause no pain, no damage, no hurt, no stress.

The illusion perceived as an actuality

Across the moment, a ghastly reality

Not realized then, just blissfully immune,

That with one small act, lives will be strewn

Unrecognized, and unseen,

That on the other side lies a different scene.

Spoken a million times, across a million crimes

The plea of every victim to a sinner at their prime,

The hope for reasoning a display of humanity

The hope to again remember, The forgotten virtues and morality.

Forgotten in time, forgotten in words,

Forgotten in crowds and even in herds,

A simple fact, a truth, a decree, A lesson for all, for all to see,

That the leaves on a branch make up a tree

That each drop in the ocean makes a sea,

And that many people are a part of me.

You dare to break one then you dare to break all,

Not only those destroyed, but the destroyer suffers the

greatest fall.

Stress: friend or foe?



SILENTMOTIONYOGA.COM/PHOTO

Stress is inevitable, but it's not all bad. It can actually be good for you!

ABHILASHA PATEL

The simple word "stress" may trigger flashbacks of several unpleasant crises: bills, doctors' appointments, exams, losing your wallet. Research often focusses on the negative outcomes of stress, such as the increased risk of Alzheimer's. So it wouldn't be hard to agree that, for the majority of us, stress is a foe. Or is it?

Whether stress is beneficial or not depends on the level of stress and how you decide to deal with it. At sudden stress, our initial reaction is the "fight-or-flight" response. We depend on this response to protect us and warn us about unexpected danger. Studies show that this type of "good"

stress strengthens our immune system and enhances recovery after a surgery, for example.

Moderate levels of stress also improve productivity. It can promote personal growth and encourage you to accomplish goals, like studying well before a test. Without temporary stress, people tend to become lazy and ignore what's important: procrastination... remember that?

Stress can force you to gain new skills and learn more about yourself. Confronting a stressful event may help improve your coping abilities to prevent further stress. When it results in a minor failure, stress can promote self-reflection and help you learn from your mistakes—maybe next time you'll do those

readings on time! Once you finish a major assignment, the relief from stress and the sense of accomplishment promotes a healthy state of mind.

Stress is inevitable. But it can be healthy to some degree. Life without stress could get boring, leaving us nothing to look forward to. Hans Selye, the father of stress research, believed that there are two types of people when it comes to dealing with stress: "racehorses", who prefer stress to live a fast-paced life, and "turtles", who do best in a quiet, calm, peaceful lifestyle.

So the next time the stress bug bites you, remember that you can control it and use it to your advantage, not the other way round.

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MEDIUM SPORTS »

Editor » TBD

Inspiration is not enough

Does a country's success in the Olympics inspire participation from its people? Research suggests otherwise



DIGITALJOURNAL.COM/PHOTO

MICHELLE K. DUKLAS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Deeply rooted in Olympic ideology is the idea that if a country excels at the Olympics, the medal-winning athletes will inspire more children to train hard to achieve the same goal.

Peter Donnelly disagrees. Donnelly, the director of U of T's Centre for Sports Policy Studies, presented a paper back in October arguing that the more a country succeeds in mega-events such as the Olympics, the less likely it is that children will be inspired to do the same.

Donnelly's research, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, focussed on the prom-

ise that Olympic bid committees and organizing committees make to their governments: namely, that hosting the Olympics will inspire more participation in sports and physical activity.

Even though the research suggests otherwise, Donnelly knows why Olympic committees keep repeating this promise. Since the 1970s, the costs of holding such an expensive sports events have skyrocketed. Olympic committees increasingly rely on the use of public funding to pay for their events, since sponsorships and television revenue don't cover the entire cost. The committees tell taxpayers that public funding is an investment since it can lead to social benefits in

the form of increased sports participation and healthier generations.

Especially nowadays, this sounds extremely appealing. The number of people out of shape continues to increase, leading to more public health concerns. Attracted to a simple solution to this social problem, governments often agree to fund these mega-events.

But data from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom show a different story. Following the hosting of a sports-based mega-event, participation in recreational sports teams either stayed the same or decreased. Donnelly acknowledges that the 1999 Rugby World Cup hosted by the United King-

dom proved to be an exception. The World Cup sparked more interest in rugby for residents of the UK.

Unfortunately, even if children are inspired to join sports teams, there are financial boundaries in their way. Olympic athletes continue to be selected from smaller and smaller sections of the population, where parents play a large role in enrolling their children for specific sports. Donnelly estimates that one third of the 2012 UK Olympic team will be drawn from 7% of the British population and that more than 50% of British medal winners will come from that same 7%.

More needs to be done to make sports accessible to all. For the 1999 Rugby World Cup

held in the UK, they had the infrastructure necessary to set up rugby clubs for those interested.

But the infrastructure is generally set up to favour the elite, Donnelly argues. In addition, elite sports consume a large amount of money and resources set aside for sports. Worse, sports that have multiple events, such as swimming or rowing, are given increased funding over team sports that have only two medals, such as basketball.

Donnelly questions the selection of Olympic sports at the end of his presentation. He wonders how the Olympics can promise greater participation of the masses when the masses can't afford to participate in most of the sports at the Olympics.

UTM winter sports: scouting report

Back to school, back to the gym. The RAWC kicks off the beginning of the 2012 winter season for UTM sports

ISAAC OWUSU
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Reading textbooks, restoring sleep habits, and eating three square meals a day are some duties that returning students have to deal with, but in the first two weeks of classes the RAWC was the centre for another one—athletics—as UTM's host for team tryouts.

RAWC program coordinator Jack Krist and assistant program coordinator Cameron Walker explained how the first week's tryouts have been, and what to

look forward to in intramural sports.

With the ringing in of 2012 came life-changing resolutions that resulted in an explosion of new teams. According to Krist and Walker, the turnouts have been great for some sports and not so great for others. Men's soccer seems to be a popular attraction; Krist and Walker estimated a turnout of around 70 players. The showing for UTM Intramural Women's basketball has also been positive, and Krist believes there will be enough participants for a

second team.

Krist and Walker are excited about women's field hockey and indoor soccer teams, as they are fresh for the new semester, and many students have been vying for opportunities to be a part of them.

The excitement carries over to the UTM pitch, which will officially unveil its two new cricket teams, which were put together at the beginning of the fall semester's tryout period and until now have trained and worked on team chemistry for the

season that begins this semester.

Even with the new teams, some current squads see room for improvement.

The Men's Division 1 basketball team held an open tryout, despite carrying over their roster from last semester.

"If a student came to UTM in January, we want to give him a chance for the coaches to at least take a look at him, and they could add him if he is up to that standard. He would be put on the roster, so he'd be eligible for the playoffs, because all you need is to

make three games," Krist said, as an explanation of the recruitment process.

While the basketball team opens its doors, men's lacrosse will close theirs, as there has not been the same level of participation, leading to the team's folding.

The women's ice hockey and lacrosse teams are still looking for participants to join, with plenty of open roster spots for both teams. The teams will act as Campus Rec squads, but will play their games in the downtown intramural league.

Lady Eagles accept defeat

Women's Tri-Campus basketball falls to St. George Blue



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

INGRID MELDRUM

If you were in the gym last Thursday night, you would have had the chance to watch the Tri-Campus girls' basketball game, get free pizza, and win prizes from UTMAC.

UTM played against St. George Blue, who challenged the Eagles with a full-court press that the girls just could not beat. After winning the first half of the game 45-19, St. George Blue kept up their good defence, allowing the

Eagles to score only 15 points. Two key players from St. George Blue scored 20 points each, 18 of which came from behind the 3-point line. Key players from UTM were Micheline Khan, who was the top scorer from UTM and controlled the Eagle's offence, and Andjela Ocicek, who made clean passes into the key for some quick layups.

After the game, coach Jack Krist commented, "We didn't handle their press very well, but once we've practised it, we will be

the better team. They are the team to beat, and we only need to beat them once: in the playoffs!"

With a final score of 68-34, the Eagles accepted their defeat and gathered afterwards to discuss a game plan for Sunday's game against the very same team.

Although the girls did not end up winning the game, the overall energy in the gym was intense. The Eagles fought hard for every single basket, and were rewarded by a positive, energetic crowd of UTM students.

What is wellness?

UTM's Health & Counselling Centre collaborates with other organizations for *Wellness January*

ANNA BEDIONES

We are only three weeks into 2012... and how many of you have already given up on your resolutions? Each year, many of us come up with goals to improve our lives, but can only struggle to maintain the consistent effort of achieving them. Between healthy eating, working out, doing homework, and quitting smoking, there is an ongoing theme at work here: a positive lifestyle.

To kick off the new year, UTM's Health & Counselling Centre is leading an initiative called Wellness January, a month of activities promoting health and wellness. Perhaps you need a motivational push to keep you going, or some advice on maintaining a positive lifestyle.

A common misconception people make is that a "positive lifestyle" is all about being active. Rachel Tennant, a program coordinator at the Department of Physical Education, explains: "We want to promote a healthy lifestyle. We want people to incorporate better wellness in their lives. It's not just an athletics thing; we're just helping to promote it. Athletics is only

a small part." Several organizations contribute to the HCC's Wellness January activities.

Last week, the theme was "5 Ways to Wellbeing", one for each day of the week: take notice, be active, give back, connect, and learn. The Department of Physical Education participated through their Twitter account (@UTM_Athletics) by providing examples and retweeting responses from students.

This week is both Health Week and National Non-Smoking Week. Activities include a running group, workshops such as "Stress Busters" and "Leave the Pack Behind", a Health & Wellness Fair, and an indoor carnival.

For more information, check out the UTM Health & Counselling Centre's Facebook page.

Wellness January activities this week:

Monday: Cereal Killers
Tuesday: Green Dot Day, Girl Talk
Wednesday: Stress Busters
Thursday: Health & Wellness Fair
Friday: Leave the Pack Behind, Badminton Tournament

LOL--LOOK WHAT I RENTED FOR THE WEEKEND!!! :-P

SWDYT???

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NOTICE of REFERENDUM

VOTING DATE: **Wednesday, January 25th to Friday, January 27th, 2012**

TIME: **12:00 pm - 7:00 pm, daily**

LOCATION: **Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex, Mississauga, ON L5L 1C6**

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (U.T.M.S.U) will be holding a Referendum in conjunction with Medical Academy of Medicine Students on their representation at the UTM Campus. Those eligible to vote in the Referendum are the 54 students from the class of 1T5, full-time undergraduate students, registered at the Faculty of Medicine and affiliated with the UTM campus. * Bring your TCard for identification.

BACKGROUND

Membership of the Erindale College Student Union
(operating as the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union)

Preamble: The Erindale College Student Union (operating as the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union - UTMSU) represents all full-time undergraduate students at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

UTMSU also provides social and academic services that promote the general interests of all full time and part time undergraduate students at UTM.

UTMSU serves as a bridge between the students and the Faculty/Administration/MAM at UTM. This is to ensure that the needs of undergraduate students are being addressed at all levels of university governance.

UTMSU represents undergraduate students in various committees representing the student perspective and advocates on behalf of its membership with regards to campus needs regarding food services, parking spaces & rates, the student centre, academic curriculum and student services.

UTMSU works closely with UTSU and the Medical Society to make sure that the needs of MAM students are satisfied at the UTM Campus.

MAM students will be represented by an elected representative on the UTMSU Board of Directors, the union's highest decision making body. The MAM representative will also serve on one of the committees of the UTMSU Board of Directors.

UTMSU manages and administers many services such as the Book Exchange, Movie passes, Yuk Yuk's Tickets, Transit Tickets, Lockers, Student Center Bookings, Health and Dental Plan, Food Bank, On Campus Advertising, ISIC Cards, 24/7 photocopying center, Free Tax Clinics, the Infobooth, the Blind Duck Restaurant and much more.

UTMSU provides Bursaries such as project based grant funding and resources to its Academic Societies.

UTMSU also provides to its undergraduate members access to the popular Universal Bus Pass (UPass), an unlimited bus pass for all Mississauga Transit routes for 8 months (September 1 to April 30 inclusive).

UTMSU also plans to launch a new UPass program that will allow its members an unlimited bus pass for all Mississauga Transit routes for 4 months (May 1 to August 30 inclusive).

UTMSU charges the following specific levies and fees:

Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees	Summer 2011	Fall 2011	Winter 2012
Student Societies	Full-time	Full-time	Full-time
U of T at Mississauga Students' Union (formally known as the Erindale College Student Union) Society (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2006)	12.86	13.28	13.28
Student Centre Levy	12.50	12.50	12.50
On Campus First Aid Emergency Response	0.20	0.50	0.50
Blind Duck Pub (refundable)	3.25	3.25	3.25
Club Funding and Resources	1.26	1.26	1.26
Mississauga Transit U-Pass (different amount for summer compared to fall and winter; increases up to 9% permitted without referendum - current provisions approved fall of 2010)	86.5	65.75	65.75
Academic Societies (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2007)	0.93	0.96	0.96
Food Bank (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2009)		0.53	0.53
Student Refugee Program (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2009)		1.04	1.04
TOTAL	\$117.50	\$99.07	\$99.07

The Society portion of the UTMSU fee funds the many services described in the Preamble.

The Student Centre Levy portion of the UTMSU fee funds the operations of the UTM Student Center, which is home to UTMSU Clubs, Academic Societies, The Student Newspaper (Medium), The Radio Station and the popular food service operation, the Blind Duck.

The On Campus First Aid Emergency Response portion of the UTMSU fee funds the levy group Erindale College Special Response Team ECPERT, which provides first aid support for the many events that take place throughout the year.

The Blind Duck Pub portion of the UTMSU fee is a refundable fee that supports the operation of the Blind Duck Restaurant & Pub.

The Club Funding and Resources portion of the UTMSU Fee is a source of funding for over a hundred clubs and academic societies recognized by UTMSU.

The Mississauga Transit U-Pass portion of the UTMSU fee guarantees UTMSU's members' access to the popular Universal Bus Pass (UPass), an unlimited bus pass for all Mississauga Transit routes for 8 months (September 1 to April 30 inclusive).

The Academic Societies portion of the UTMSU fee is a source of funding for the popular academic societies recognized by UTMSU.

The Food Bank portion of the UTMSU fee is a dedicated source of funding for the popular UTMSU service whose members rely on.

The Student Refugee Program portion of the UTMSU fee is a source of funding for the WUSC service that allows UTMSU to sponsor a student refugee to attend the University of Toronto Mississauga.

UTMSU charges a membership fee for the provision of these services and advocacy. In 2011, UTMSU charged \$117.50 for the Summer Session and \$99.07 for the Fall and Winter Session (\$198.14 per fall/winter period).

Question:

Are you in favour of a becoming a member of the Erindale College Students' Union (operating as the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union) as described in the preamble, and

Are you in favour of the mandatory and dedicated UTMSU fees being charged as described in the preamble?

YES () NO ()



Please note that, at the time of this publication, "University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union" and/or "UTMSU" refers to the Erindale College Student Union, Inc. ("ECSU").

News, information, updates, and official notices in relation to the referendum, including any changes relevant to this notice, will be posted to the UTMSU website (www.utmsu.ca). Please note that advocating committees are required to register in accordance with UTMSU's Charter for Referenda. Inquiries should be directed to UTMSU's Chief Returning Officer by telephone: **905-828-3701** or via e-mail: cro@utmsu.ca

Visit us online at: www.facebook.com/UTMSU or follow us on Twitter @myUTMSU