

BLACKWOOD GETS IN YOUR FACE

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THE MEDIUM

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UTmail+ ready to launch

ADAM ERB
STAFF WRITER

New information about UTmail+ has surfaced since last week. After a migration to the new email server, old emails will not automatically carry over to the new account. Students must download a tool through the HelpDesk Resources, located on the UTmail+ website. Emails received after the migration will be automatically rerouted to the new account.

"The library is facilitating communication between the students and those involved with this tri-campus initiative," said Eva Stepanian, UTM's social media librarian. "The library is not the force behind this migration, but more of a helping hand for a smoother, more comfortable transition."

The new email rollout is set for Monday, January 30, and includes two weeks of prizes for those who switch over.

Email continued on page 2

TAs negotiate new contract

University and TAs begin conciliation in hopes of avoiding a strike



AYMAN KHAN/THE MEDIUM

Representatives from the union updated attendees on the current status of the negotiations.

STEFANIE MAROTTA
NEWS EDITOR

The U of T Education Workers held a town hall last week to discuss the ongoing bargaining between teaching assistants and the administration. CUPE Local 3902, the union that represents university TAs and sessional instructors, is negotiating contracts for student academic workers.

The greatest grievance is wages and benefits; little progress was made after the first conciliation meeting. Teaching assistants at U of T receive an annual salary of \$15,000. Moreover, considering the various duties and responsibilities included in their contracts, the union states that the current working conditions do not allow employees to adequately pursue research objectives and teach undergraduate students.

At the beginning of the term, TAs discuss their contract with the professor. They are hired to work for a determined number of hours and the total time is divided between the tasks they are expected to complete. According to representatives at the town hall, this usually works out to allow for 20 minutes of marking per essay or test.

Contract continued on page 3

U of T kicks off Green Dot

LARISSA HO
FEATURES EDITOR

UTM officially launched the Green Dot initiative last week. Information booths were set up in the Davis Building, the Instructional Centre, the CCT-library link, the North Building, and Oscar Peterson Hall.

According to an email from Deep Saini, the vice-president and principal of UTM, the Green Dot program is "an education and awareness initiative designed to reduce power-based personal violence by encouraging bystanders to take action or to support persons who may have been harmed, threatened, or harassed".

U of T's webpage on the Green Dot initiative says, "A green dot is any action that reduces the risk of violence in the moment, supports survivors, or creates a culture less tolerant of violence."

Green continued on page 3

Referendum for UTMSU membership

Medical students will vote to pay for or reject campus levies and services

LORI-LEE EMSHEY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

UTMSU announced a referendum in which students enrolled in the Mississauga Academy of Medicine will vote on joining the student union as paying members.

The referendum will be held from January 25 to 27 in the Health Sciences Complex. Only Mississauga Academy of Medicine students will be eligible to vote.

The referendum will consist of two parts covered under one vote. The first part asks whether the students wish simply to be a part of UTMSU. Currently, our student union represents all full-time undergraduate UTM students. Representation in the student union would give MAM students access to services such as the U-Pass and the student tax clinic.

The second part of the referendum asks whether the students approve of UTMSU's fee schedule, which they would pay for as part of their tuition.

The fees and levies, which all full-time UTM students pay, covers the U-Pass, the Student Centre, UTM-SU administration, the Blind Duck Pub, On-Campus Emergency Response, clubs, academic societies, the food bank, the refugee program, *The Medium*, and CFRE (UTM's radio station). Last year these fees and levies came to \$198.14 for the September to April academic year. For students stay through the summer term, additional summer fees apply.

Current MAM student fees cover the use of the UTM shuttle to and from the St. George campus and will not be affected by the referendum.

The fees and levies are an "all or

nothing" agreement. If MAM students wish to be part of UTMSU, they must pay for all the services, regardless of whether they will use those services. The Blind Duck fee (\$6.50 yearly) is refundable, but all other fees and levies are mandatory.

Representation in the student union would give MAM students access to services such as the U-Pass and the student tax clinic.

At UTMSU's Annual General Meeting last semester, a seat was created on the union's Board of Directors for a MAM representative before the referendum to approve their membership.

The first class of students was in-

ducted into the MAM at the Health and Sciences Complex this August. The school is one of four of U of T's medical academies for the education and training of medical students.

Although the students will spend all four years of their medical training on the UTM campus, MAM students' primary affiliation is with the St. George campus. All medical students apply directly to the St. George campus and are then placed at one of the four medical academies.

MAM currently has a student society, MedSoc. MedSoc elected representatives for the Mississauga academy in October. Regardless of the referendum results, UTMSU will continue working with MedSoc.

MAM expects to reach an enrolment of 216 students by 2015.



Health and Wellness Fair
UTM students explore campus options for healthy lifestyles at the third annual fair.
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Ivy League mentality
They think they're so much better than us. So do we, apparently.
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Seripop at Blackwood
3D paper forms flood the Blackwood gallery.
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Mixed messages
Are people of mixed race treated differently?
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Men's volleyball triumphs
UTM pushes for the win against the Faculty of Physical Education and Health.
Medium Features, page 11

Students seek healthy options on campus

The annual Health and Wellness Fair encourages students to lead healthy lives

SHERI VEIBL
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, January 19, UTM's Health & Counselling Centre and the Department of Physical Education and Athletics and Recreation held UTM's third annual Health and Wellness Fair at the RAWC.

"Students are not aware of what is offered to them in the community, and the Health and Wellness Fair is a great way to connect with the community organizations," said Rachel Tennant, the program coordinator.

There were complimentary items offered at each booth, including free massages, free food, and free tooth-whitening from Dental Hygiene Solutions.

"Chartwells showcases healthy alternatives for everyone at the university. We attend this fair every year, and as a result of the exposure more and more people get involved," said Agata Damiacka, the marketing manager.

UTM entities present at the fair included the Career Centre, official dietitian Kimberly Green, and the UTM Athletic Council.



JASON HU/THE MEDIUM

This year's Health and Wellness Fair saw 600 students in attendance.

Also present were Student Housing and Residence Life, Green Dot, the Sports Clinic, the Women's Centre, Erindale College Special Response Team, OUT@UTM, SEC, the Blood and Stem Cell Society, and Peer Health

Educators.

Many of the organizations at the fair had volunteer opportunities available. One such organization, the AccessAbility Resource Centre, aims to provide services to ensure that students with dis-

abilities can freely and actively participate in university life. Raeesa Jiwa described AccessAbility as the biggest volunteer organization on campus, with more than 400 participants.

The fair's attendance increased

over last year's, with more than 600 students present. Organizers hope that the fair's popularity will continue to exceed expectations, because it is a chance for students to gain support for their health and well-being.

"We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students who were glad to have the opportunity to learn about a variety of health topics and to discover or reconnect with the campus and community organizations available to support them," said Chad Jankowski, the health education coordinator at the Health & Counselling Centre. "The feedback from the exhibitors has also been really positive; they said that our students were really engaged, friendly, and excited to learn about ways to improve their well-being."

The UTM Health and Wellness Fair is part of UTMAC's Health Week, intended to encourage students to live a healthier lifestyle. Health Week started off with recipes fit for a student's budget yet attainable at OPH, a hands-on skill clinic, and a rowing competition.

Students can switch to the new UTmail+

Email continued from Cover

"Each weekday from the 30th, a random name will be drawn for that day's prize," says Stepanian. "Students who migrate their emails will be automatically entered into these draws and will be notified by email if they've won."

The prizes mentioned are currently undecided. Students needn't enroll on the day of the draw to be eligible; everyone is eligible for every draw on the days following their enrolment.

The draws will be held each day in the technology room of the library, and the result of each one will be updated on

the library's Twitter account (@UTMLibrary).

This migration affects not only all of UTM but also all of U of T, including St. George and Scarborough.

"The new UTmail+ looks clean and feels very open," says Alek Holm, an English and professional writing student. "It's more user-friendly and inviting. I'm excited to put it to use with the new, more organized design."

"The old email cluttered my taskbar with extra windows and tabs," says Kerris Seko, an anthropology specialist. "But the new email looks sleek and organized. I can actually access sent and deleted emails."

The developers hope to work out some bugs with linking secondary email accounts to grad and student accounts by the launch date.

Students can migrate their email accounts prior to the rollout date (and will still be eligible for the draws), but access to all features of the program won't be available until January 30.

"We can't stress enough how important it is for students to migrate as soon as possible," says Stepanian. "We don't know when, but eventually the old UTOR accounts will become obsolete. So switch over as soon as possible."

Christian clubs hold unity week

CUA supports campus community

CLIFF LEE

The Christian Unity Association held its seventh annual Christian Unity Week.

CUA is comprised of Baptist Student Ministries, Chinese Christian Fellowship, Agape Impact, the UTM Catholic Students Club, and Erindale Christian Fellowship.

Christian Unity Week is dedicated to making the presence of the Christian community on campus known and inviting other students to investigate. Booths were set up in the Student Centre, including prayer stations, free books, Bibles, DVDs, and hot chocolate.

"We make it a point that everything we do in every event and every movement, we serve the students freely and use the funding that is given to us to allow students to benefit from it," said Tarak George, co-president of CUA. "All our events are free and everything we give out is free, too. Free music, free Bibles, free hot chocolate, free everything, because as Christians, we received from God freely, too."

The week also consisted of an event called "Worship in the Pub" where the Christian Unity band played Christian music on Monday and Wednes-

day afternoon.

About 750 Bibles, 500 DVDs, and hundreds of hot chocolate drinks were given out.

The week ended with Christian Unity Association's talent night.

"Every year, this is one of our highest-anticipated events, where students come out and present their talents," said George. "Whether it be a rap, a song, a skit, a dance, or anything at all, we allow students to come out and offer a bit of themselves. At the same time, we hope that those who come out can have their questions about Christianity answered."

The talent night started with the Christian Unity band leading the attendees in a round of worship. The acts that followed consisted of singers, rappers, and bands.

"I think it was a good showcase of the talent that UTM students have, and it was encouraging to see Christian performers align their talents in a way that not only communicated the gospel but was also entertaining," said Timothy Daniels, a CUA executive.

CUA holds monthly events on the last Thursday of every month during the school year. All are welcome to attend.

SHOOT FOR THE MEDIUM
Email Edward
photos@mediumutm.ca



TAs and university bargain to avoid strike

Contract continued from **Cover**

As a result, undergraduate students do not receive criticism or feedback on their work. TAs also do not receive compensation for overtime.

The union requested that wages increase with inflation each year, according to the Consumer Price Index for Toronto.

"You have to ask yourself how good of a job you can do in that time," said Ryan Culpepper, chair of the bargaining committee and a history TA at the St. George campus. "I can skim through the essay and leave a few comments at the end. That's a consequence of the fact that my tutorials are too big and the department doesn't have any more hours to give."

Meanwhile, the university eliminated the Doctoral Completion Grant and replaced it with the Doctoral Completion Award. By switching to a competitive awards system, many graduate students that were eligible for the grant will no longer receive fund-

ing. The grant covered approximately 40% of tuition.

After almost nine months without a contract and failure to reach a decision during the bargaining process, the university filed for conciliation (a provincial conciliator mediates between the two parties). Out of four meetings set up for the month of January, three remain. If the university and the union cannot reach an agreement, there could be a lockout or strike in approximately a month.

In a vote taken in November, over 91% of union members supported the option to strike.

In a vote taken in November, over 91% of union members supported the option to strike.

"If conciliation breaks down, it won't be us," Culpepper said. "We have made it clear that we want

to negotiate. We're hopeful that the conciliator will help us reach common ground."

The university could lock out teaching assistants, preventing them from instructing classes, leading tutorials, and marking assignments.

Amy Buitenhuis, UTM coordinator of the bargaining committee and geography TA, encouraged students to become familiar with the university's academic continuity policies.

In the event of a disruption, instructors will determine whether changes to the classroom procedures are necessary. The proposed changes should be discussed with students and a vote held with those present. If a student feels that their mark was unreasonably affected by the disruption, they can appeal the grade.

If a disruption is declared in a specific course after the last date to drop, students can withdraw without academic penalty and will receive a full refund of the course tuition fee.

»WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE INTERNET BLACKOUT?



Lisa
2nd-year, Social Sciences

"It didn't really matter to me; I don't consider Wikipedia a reliable source in the first place."



Sam
2nd-year, Art & Art History

"I didn't mind; there are Internet blackouts on residence all the time."



Pouya
3rd-year, Psychology

"It wasn't a big deal; one site shutting down doesn't mean you can't get information you want."



Amir
4th-year, Theatre & Drama

"I'm glad to see someone's taking initiative when it comes to piracy; I'm for SOPA."

U of T professor's YouTube video goes viral on social media sites

SANA HAO
STAFF WRITER

A YouTube video on health by U of T professor and doctor Mike Evans recently reached over a million hits. The video was uploaded in December and became popular on Twitter and Facebook.

In the video, he describes a longitudinal aerobics study by Steven Blaire, a professor at the Arnold School of public health in the University of South Carolina, which found that a number of deaths could be avoided by eliminating "typical risk factors", such as hypertension, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

The factor that brought the

most risk is what Evans calls the "mysterious CRF factor", cardio-respiratory fitness (which simply means "poor fitness"). Blaire's study suggests that poor fitness is the strongest predictor of death.

He mentions that most studies have been funded by pharmaceutical companies, and that it's nice to see a trial that's not driven by business.

Evans highlights that the study is particularly interesting because of two important findings of another trial, in which Blaire showed that obesity combined with no exercise is extremely detrimental to health. He also discovered that if an obese individual is active, then regardless of any weight loss, the

activity will negate many of the harmful consequences of obesity.

Since the studies found a big difference from individuals who started from no activity to a small amount of activity in their life, Evans poses the question, "If exercise is the medicine, what's the dose—how long, how often, and how intense?" His answer is a personal one, based on his own interaction with patients in his clinic. He emphasizes the need to "think about your style, habit, and personal cues". Evans says that 30 minutes of activity a day is the optimal amount. The greater the amount of activity the greater the impact on your health, but not always the better.

University launches anti-violence initiative

Green continued from **Cover**

The website sums it up: "A green dot is your individual choice to make our university safer."

Sean Kinsella, the community development coordinator at UTM Student Housing and Residence Life, and who also serves on the Green Dot Committee on campus, was on hand to answer questions about the new initiative and promote the bystander training seminars, which will take place on January 29 and February 23 at UTM's Faculty Club in the Davis Building.

"A red dot is anything that leads to an act of power-based personal violence," said Kin-

sella. "The idea is that on our campus, we want to change those red dots into green dots. We recognize that in particular the statistics of acts of power-based personal violence is high. Statistically, the red dots happen to women, but we wanted a program that everyone could participate in—and that everyone understands their responsibility to create a different culture on campus where we're dealing with red dots proactively."

The program is supported at UTM by the Health and Counselling Centre, Student Housing and Residence Life, Physical Health & Education, Campus Police, and others.

NEWS BRIEFS »

Canadians arrested in Jamaica after boy's body found in suitcase

The son of a married couple living in Jamaica was found dead in their suitcase. Neighbours became suspicious after not seeing the son for a number of months. They began to stone the couple when police intervened. Upon investigation, officers discovered the body. The father is a Jamaican citizen and the wife is from Toronto. The corpse is allegedly missing several organs.

Source: *The Globe and Mail*

Mulcair visits UTM, responds to Harper's critical comments

Thomas Mulcair, one of nine hopefuls running for leadership of the NDP, visited UTM on Tuesday to answer questions in the Student Centre. Earlier that day, Prime Minister Stephen Harper criticized Mulcair for his dual Canadian and French citizenship. Mulcair defended himself at the meet and greet, stating that it is unfair for Harper to suggest that someone is less Canadian because a person's family is not from Canada.

Source: *The Mississauga News*

Five unemployed Moroccans set themselves on fire

In protest over the lack of jobs, five unemployed men set themselves on fire in Rabat, the capital of Morocco. Three were hospitalized for their burn injuries. The demonstration was part of the unemployed university graduates movement. The national unemployment rate is 9%, but rises to 16% for recent graduates. About 160 people have been occupying the Ministry of Higher Education for the last two weeks.

Source: *My Way News*

Feed the craving: woman offers sex for Chicken McNuggets

A woman in California was arrested after allegedly offering sex to a customer outside a McDonald's in exchange for his Chicken McNuggets. She proceeded to open several car doors near the drive-through window. The customer supposedly turned down the offer and called the police. The woman was arrested for suspected prostitution.

Source: *Huffington Post*

Owners of capsized cruise ship share blame for incident

Another body was recovered from the ship on Sunday, bringing the death toll up to 13. There are still 20 missing people. Captain Francesco Schettino has been charged with multiple manslaughter and abandoning ship before evacuation was complete. Schettino told investigators that Costa Cruisers, the ship's owner, instructed him to perform a manoeuvre that brought the vessel close to shore as a display.

Source: *Reuters*

MEDIUM OPINION »

Editor-in-Chief » Michael Di Leo

The Ivy League mentality

This past New Year's, a friend introduced me to Henry.

Henry enjoyed camping, hockey, and Canadian Club. He was fairly tall, about six foot two, and had a mop of unkempt brown hair. He went to a high school in Toronto and, barring his obsession with the Montreal Canadiens, was rather similar to most of my other friends. Except for one thing: Henry went to Harvard.

When people heard this, their ears perked up. Henry was a pretty popular guy at that party—I remember counting at least seven girls who were more than happy to share their digits with him. "He's not that cute," my friend Sarah said. "But it's so hot that he goes to school there." Others agreed.

I'll admit, I was impressed. But then I started to think about it. Why

were we all subject to this weird Ivy League fetishism? Why do we swoon when we hear that someone goes to Yale, but not when they're from McGill? We keep getting assured that the quality of Canadian postsecondary education is on par with other prestigious American universities, but if that's true, why do we always feel the need to convince ourselves of it? Do Princeton or Stanford students say the same things about U of T or McGill or UBC? I doubt it.

The difference, I believe, is something inherent to students in Canadian undergraduate programs. We do not share the same sense of expectation or entitlement. This might sound like a good thing—no one *really* likes those smug Ivy League trust fund babies—but I think this sense of expectation is an important, even

necessary, part of competing in an increasingly global economy. And it often comes from studying at a prestigious American university.

Rotman professor Reza Satchu would agree. His course on entrepreneurship stresses the importance of exposing students to models of success, and his recent summer program, "The Next 36", brought Canadian students together to experience the process of starting and managing a new business in the real world. Most striking, though, were his reasons for starting the program. In an interview on CBC's *Lang & O'Leary Exchange*, Satchu shared his experiences coming out of a Canadian undergraduate program and working on Wall Street.

"I remember thinking, as I'm surrounded by all these kids from Harvard, Stanford, and Yale, that these

kids must be so much smarter, so much better educated," he said. When it turned out they weren't, Satchu recognized that they *did*, however, have two advantages coming from an Ivy League institution. The first was the exposure they received—exposure to leaders from a variety of fields, especially outside of academia. "The second advantage, which was a direct result of the first, was a far more expanded set of expectations. They don't want to just write a book, they want to win the Pulitzer Prize."

It's important to recognize the difference between that and simply having goals. There is an additional virtue that is created through the institution—one that Canadian universities don't successfully inculcate in their students or their programs.

I look back at the week I spent

lodging with a friend at Claremont McKenna College in California. CMC is by no means a large institution—there are just over a thousand undergrads—but it is considered one of the premier liberal arts colleges in the US. I went to my friend's classes and events, and by the time I caught my flight home I had seen and heard Karl Rove, Harry Jaffa, and David Foster Wallace (who was a professor at the nearby Pomona College).

I remember thinking how privileged I was, just to be there and listen to them speak. I could feel that it was more than simply educating these students; it was preparing them for a successful life outside of university.

YOURS,

MICHAEL DI LEO

Conscious of our responsibility to respect

And here is yet another letter to the editor on the subject of language, attitudes, and negativity on campus. Which leads to the question: Why do our attitudes and speech matter so much?

The fact is that we are not just isolated individuals going about our daily lives leaving the existence and attitudes of others untouched. The ideas which I might present or support (consciously or unconsciously) may be adopted by others, particularly if I am in a position of influence. The same applies to the actions and attitudes of others affecting my own belief systems and actions. What I see commonly in the behaviour of others also shapes what I deem acceptable on a social level. Hence, the concepts of "societal norms" and "socialisation" exist.

We represent the small percentage of the world's population that actually gets to attend university. Given this, you would think that, as the most privileged in terms of access to educa-

tion, we would also be among the most enlightened people on the planet. You would think that we would further realize that we have the responsibility to be aware enough to retain a certain level of respect towards all people, and ensure that our speech (particularly the public expression of ideas) and actions do not cause harm to identifiable segments of society. Those who identify as members of the different abilities community, as a group, already have a history of being marginalised within our culture and therefore it is very important to ensure that our speech and actions do not cause further damage.

This is why I was so disappointed with the way one of my professors decided to speak flippantly of mental illness in order to illustrate a concept in International Law a few weeks ago. The comment basically implied that mental illness renders people incompetent as agents in domestic legal systems. Further, it seemed from the comment that the behaviour of those "mentally

unstable" individuals ought not to be taken seriously as a rule, as these individuals do not actually have control over their actions. This is arguably not the case, as the term "mental illness" can refer to a variety of different disorders, all of which manifest themselves in different ways in different people. Those who might face mental illness can and do contribute to society at every level, and therefore should not be dismissed in this way. To speak like this seriously stereotypes and stigmatises mental illness, which is the complete opposite of what we as a community should be working towards.

In yet another instance, a different professor recently used the word "retarded" to describe university policy on course scheduling, trying to convey that whoever designs the course timetables is clearly unintelligent. I am positive that she was unaware that this use of the word's stereotype, and thus can be considered disrespectful to those with different intellectual abilities as

an entire group. I am certain that not many people are conscious of the fact that the word "retarded" was originally used to describe a very particular type of intellectual disability, but has become a synonym for "idiotic" behaviour, and is thus stigmatising different intellectual disabilities by association.

Both of these comments come from people in positions of influence that I and other students respect a great deal. While I do not believe that they had the intention to be discriminatory or offensive in any way, the fact remains that they were completely unaware that this type of language reflects attitudes strongly influenced by ableist thought. However, I don't mean to go on a self-righteous rant. I have used ableist words in the past also, before I was aware of the reality of ableism inherent in our culture. What I do want to do though, is encourage every member of the UTM campus community to be open to examining the language that we use every day, critically.

In order for this to happen, however, we need to educate ourselves and honestly evaluate whether we have a good understanding of those who might appear to be different from us, with whom we share the university experience. If we do not truly understand how those with different abilities wish to be treated, we must then ask ourselves, why is this the case? It appears to me that the best way to break down the barriers to the inclusion of people with different abilities, open our hearts and minds, and kill stereotyping and stigma, is to start forming friendships in the unique opportunities which our university classrooms provide. I would hope that you agree.

I truly hope that as students we will make the decision to speak conscious of our responsibility to respect those with different abilities in the future.

Sincerely,

Sanaa Ali-Mohammed

UTMSU Accessibility Coordinator

the
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MEDIUM A&E »

Editor » Nives Hajdin

The Bard meets the King of Pop

Theatre Erindale merges Shakespeare with the '80s in *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*

COLLEEN MUNRO
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

Shakespeare may have a large collection of comedies, but he is best known for his tragic plays, such as *Romeo and Juliet* and *Othello*. But what if Shakespeare had given his characters the power to prevent the easily preventable tragic incidents in these plays? This is just one of the many questions that **Anne-Marie MacDonald's** 1988 play *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* asks. But don't worry—it asks these questions in hugely entertaining, often hilarious ways. And with Theatre Erindale's latest production of the play, you're bound to leave the theatre not only laughing, but also with a few new ideas to ponder.

The play begins in the 1980s, and it follows the life of a meek assistant professor named Constance Ledbelly (**Olivia Lloyd**). While working on a research project one day, Constance is magically transported to the time of Shakespeare's classic plays *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet*. She goes on to form tenuous friendships with each play's heroine, respectively Desdemona (**Michelle Nash**) and Juliet (**Brenna Stewart**), and now finds herself able to stop both of the very famous literary tragedies from occurring. Through an array of misadventures that include mistaken identity, sexual confusion, and more than one dance-off, Constance unintentionally wreaks havoc on these two Shakespearean worlds. Faced with multiple newfound suitors and also an enemy or two, Constance must get handle on her historical meddling and also somehow find a way back to her own time.

Clearly, with this premise, *Goodnight Desdemona* is a comedy, and it's one that's not afraid to go over the top. It mixes eras and fully embraces its '80s influences, using songs by **Michael Jackson**, **Soft Cell**, and many other '80s hit-makers. The costumes and a spectrum of neon lighting also help to set the lively mood. Throw in choreographed dance numbers and surprisingly forward-thinking literary heroines, and the especially strong second half of the play often resembles a madcap '80s teen movie more than it resembles *Romeo and Juliet*.

MacDonald's script serves as a really smart and fun starting point, but a big part of why the play's more outlandish moments



JIM SMAGATA/PHOTO

Even star-crossed lovers can get sick of each other (Brenna Stewart and Adam Cresswell).

work so well in this particular production is the contribution of the cast. All five leads in Theatre Erindale's *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* prove to be multitalented. Not only must they master the Shakespearean language, they must also tackle comedy, sword fighting, physical stunts, singing, and dancing. Like any good tragedy, it features more than a little violence, and they're up to the physical challenges that come along with that. Director **Daniel Levinson** has brought his extensive experience as a fight director to this production, and the professionalism is clear in this production's numerous and exciting fight scenes.

Olivia Lloyd does a good job of conveying Constance's no-nonsense exterior, as well as the mess of insecurities and shyness that simmers just below the surface. **Michelle Nash** also makes for a powerful Desdemona, and she and Lloyd are a fun onstage duo when Constance visits the wonderful world of *Othello*.

Adam Cresswell is also especially entertaining as the flamboyant and petulant Romeo. From his over-the-top tantrums to his more subtle moments of physical humour, Cresswell clearly has a lot of comedic skill, and his enthusiasm is infectious.

Another standout in the cast is Brenna Stewart, who plays Juliet. As well as nailing the play's more dramatic moments, Stewart also proves to be a great comedic actress as Juliet descends into increasingly spastic behaviour.

Finding herself already bored by her new teenage husband the morning after their wedding, Juliet looks for love elsewhere, and Stewart shines as the newly empowered and unexpectedly for-

ward Juliet.

Jack Morton takes on multiple roles (as do most of the cast members), and he does well at portraying his well-varied characters, including Othello. But his stron-

gest performance of all may be as professor Claude Night, the object of Constance's affections in her own era. Night is an all-around insufferable character, and Morton seems to relish playing the villain, giving a hilarious and caustic portrayal.

Some of the material in *Goodnight Desdemona* could have come across as awkward or simply unfunny, but this talented cast is unashamed and keeps the energy high. Their efforts certainly didn't go unnoticed by the enthusiastic crowd, who laughed and cheered along with the play's escapades.

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) has some interesting things to say about gender politics, and it's a play that takes a lot of pleasure in flipping Shakespearean stereotypes on their head. However, you definitely don't have to be an expert on *Romeo and Juliet* and *Othello* to enjoy this production. It's meant for a wide audience, and while it is thought-provoking, it's mostly just a lot of fun.

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) runs until January 29 at Theatre Erindale.

date

JAN. 30 & 31

place

STUDENT CENTRE

hours

9-7:30

last day

9-5

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The weightlessness of the world

Printmaking iconoclasts take over the Blackwood Gallery with 3D paper installations

NIVES HAJDIN
A&E EDITOR

Art is an onslaught of meaning. It is meant to provoke. And it can get all up in your face—literally—as the Blackwood Gallery demonstrates with its most recent exhibit, *Landscapes Events Reproduced*. Yannick Desranleau and Chloe Lum, the Montréal-based duo known as Seripop, aren't afraid to challenge viewers with colossal structures, super-saturated shades, and multiple points of attention all at once, and the result is an immersive yet delicate negotiation of space.

The Blackwood's director/curator, Christof Migone, describes the exhibit in terms of the way it is meant to be experienced, as an opportunity to "play with possibilities until monomania sets in" and to "disturb and derange 2D into 3D". Certainly there is an element of irony at play with Seripop's 3D paper structures, which are meant to convey the sheer mass of buildings and whales yet simultaneously undermine such heavy forms with their very ephemerality.

Upon entering the main space of the Blackwood Gallery, the viewer is confronted by a cube-like piece hanging from a rope and hook known as "More Time than Space", a site-specific work that extends towards the back wall and morphs into a poster piece along the gallery floor. As a result,



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

there is some hesitation on the part of the viewer to traipse over the word art (even though the words bear no meaning at all and therefore somewhat validate the act of stepping on them), and so space quickly becomes limited in the mind of visitors, even though you are perfectly welcome to walk across the entirety of the unoccupied gallery floor. (I too found myself tiptoeing towards the painted floor, unsure if I should go any further.) Desranleau and Lum have previous experience with postering and typography as well, and they use this interest in

language to both construct and collapse meaning wherever they can.

Occupying most of the neon floor space is "Dis-donc à la grosse de se tasser", which was reinstalled at the Blackwood following its appearance at the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal in 2011. The urban piece is a towering structure of paper cylinders that requires the viewer to walk around in order to see the text painted on the walls behind, but also requires you to have some knowledge of the classic Herman Melville tale *Moby Dick*.

"DISENGAGED AND" occupies one wall while the opposite reads "HOISTED ON DECK", and the nautical theme continues in the gallery with "What Should Have Been and What Would Not", another work specifically designed for the gallery space. There is even less room to wander around here, with an immense net hanging from the ceiling and filled with more 3D paper configurations, leaving just enough room in the aisles for visitors to limbo under the belly of the beast in the rear of the space. Clearly a reference to the captured

whale, Seripop describes the *Moby Dick* reference as "a metaphor of conquest of spatial entities of all forms by man". The ongoing issue of space is also linked with the highly ephemeral nature of the pieces as the weight crushes down on the origami-style shapes, and they eventually spill down onto the floor where nothing shields them from the threat of slush-covered shoes (so be careful!).

An extension of the exhibition is the unusually placed "Chandigarh Is One" sitting atop the archway of the CCT Building link to the library, which features another pile of 3D forms—perhaps the remnants of the larger paper sculptures on display in the galleries, or a representation of debris and rubble as a comment on the way society indulges in material excess, only to toss it aside for something new.

Seripop also designed the cover art for MSTRKRFT's 2007 album *The Looks*, for which they won the Juno Award for CD/DVD Artwork Design of the Year, and also belong to the "noise rock" group AIDS Wolf.

Landscapes Events Reproduced runs until March 4 at the Blackwood Gallery in the Kaneff Centre and in the gallery across from lecture hall CCT 1080, open Monday to Friday from 12 to 5 p.m. (Wednesday until 9 p.m.) and Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 3 p.m.



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 - UTMSSU) represents all full-time undergraduate students at the University of Toronto Mississauga

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

UTMSSU 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.

UTMSSU works closely with UTMSSU 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 UTMSSU Board of Directors, the union's highest decision-making body. The MAM representative will also serve on one of the committees of the UTMSSU Board of Directors

UTMSSU 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, SIC Cards, 24/7 photocopying center, Free Tax Clinic, the Infopath, the Blind Duck Restaurant, and much more.

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

UTMSSU also provides to its undergraduate members access to the popular Universal Bus Pass (UPass) - an unlimited bus pass for a 1

Mississauga Transit routes for 8 months (September 1 to April 30 inclusive). UTMSSU 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).

UTMSSU charges the following specific levies and fees:

Compulsory Non-Academic/Incidental Fees	Summer 2011	Fall 2011	Winter 2012
	Full-time	Full-time	Full-time
Student Societies			
U of T of Mississauga Students' Union (formerly known as the Erindale College Student Union) Society (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2006)	12.25	13.25	13.25
Student Centre Levy	12.50	12.50	12.50
On-Campus First Aid/Emergency Response	0.50	0.50	0.50
Blind Duck Pub (refundable)	3.25	3.25	3.25
Club Funding and Resources	1.25	1.25	1.25
Mississauga Transit U-Pass (flat amount for summer compared to fall and winter, increases up to 9% permitted without referendum - current provisions approved fall of 2010)	25.50	25.75	25.75
Academic Societies (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2007)	0.50	0.50	0.50
Food Bank (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2005)		0.50	0.50
Student Refugee Program (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2009)		1.00	1.00
TOTAL	\$117.50	\$98.07	\$98.07

The Society portion of the UTMSSU fee funds the many services described in the Preamble:

The Student Centre Levy portion of the UTMSSU fee funds the operations of the UTM Student Center, which is home to UTMSSU 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 UTMSSU fee funds the levy group Erindale College Special Response Team (ECSRPT), which provides first aid support for the many events that take place throughout the year.

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

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

The Mississauga Transit U-Pass portion of the UTMSSU fee guarantees UTMSSU'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 UTMSSU fee is a source of funding for the popular academic societies recognized by UTMSSU.

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

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

UTMSSU charges a membership fee for the provision of these services and advocacy. In 2011, UTMSSU charged \$17.50 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 UTMSSU 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 UTMSSU 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 UTMSSU website (www.utmssu.ca)

Please note that advocating committees are required to register in accordance with UTMSSU's Charter for Referenda.

Inquiries should be directed to UTMSSU's Chief Returning Officer by telephone: 905-828-3701 or via e-mail: cro@utmssu.ca

Visit us online at:

www.facebook.com/UTMSSU or follow us on Twitter @myUTMSSU

Artist spotlight: The Folk

MATTHEW LONG

Mark Ferrari (guitar, vocals), **Sara Bortolon-Vettor** (synth, vocals), **Emma Bortolon-Vettor** (guitar), **Liam Magahay** (bass), and **Patrick Rody** (drums) are **The Folk**. Hailing from Guelph and Toronto (U of T, to be precise), they have played POP Montreal, The Hillside Festival, Canadian Music Week, and Toronto Indie Week.

The Medium sat down with the five-piece indie rock outfit for a quick chat before a recent show at The Garrison in Toronto. If only Patrick could join them...

TM: The Folk played as a four-piece until Patrick joined the band. How did a drummer change the band dynamic?

Liam Magahay: If anything, it filled our sound so we became as awesome as I knew we could be. Growing up, I always wanted to be **The Who**. They're my ideal rock band. With Patrick, I think we're one step closer.

Emma Bortolon-Vettor: Before Patrick, Sara was responsible for a lot. She would alternate between playing drums, keyboards, and singing. Now, she focusses on singing and our songs rock a lot harder.

TM: Did The Folk always intend on following that direction?

EBV: We all play our instruments with



ADAM CURRIE PHOTOGRAPHY/PHOTO

The Folk won Victoria College's Battle of the Bands on January 13.

a classic rock mindset, even if that isn't always where our music is.

Mark Ferrari: We've always wanted to sound as big as possible while creating music people relate to. The songs we're writing are definitely structured in a pop format, but we're going for extremes. We want to be as loud and intense and anthemic as we possibly can be.

LM: Essentially we want to be Toronto's **Arcade Fire**.

MF: We've got less members than Arcade Fire, but we make up for it.

TM: How long have The Folk been

together?

LM: Two years.

MF: Well, that's right, and it's wrong.

Sara Bortolon-Vettor: The band started playing together in late 2009. Emma and I have known each other since the womb, and Liam and Mark met at U of T. We knew Liam from Guelph, and one day we just started playing together. Patrick joined about a year later, and here we are now.

LM: It's actually pretty close to the two-year anniversary of our first show.

SBV: We've learnt that with rock, you can't take on a certain image and try to

be perfect. You'll make mistakes here and there, but as long as the show is good, you can't get upset.

TM: The Folk recently released their first EP. Can you tell us about it?

SBV: Yeah, it's called *You Say, I Say*. We put it out on December 20, 2011, the day before [the official first day of] winter.

LM: The EP was a long time coming, that's for sure.

MF: It took almost six months to complete. We wanted to learn the process, so we took our time, but it's unbelievable

the time it took.

EBV: We're definitely really happy with it, but we're hoping to record three more songs in Guelph during Reading Week.

MF: And record them a lot faster.

TM: Does The Folk have any other plans for 2012?

LM: Festivals. We're going to apply for all the major Canadian festivals.

MF: Festivals have to come before any tour.

SBV: We're mostly just waiting to see what happens with this EP, really.

TM: Any upcoming shows?

EBV: We'll be rocking the stage at the Guelph Off the Floor Festival on January 26. Beyond that we're not sure, but there's always more to come.

MF: Oh, my phone is ringing. [Looks down at phone.] It's Patrick. [He answers.] Hey... What, really, you are? All right, just hold 'em off, we'll be there soon. All right, bye. [Hangs up.] Patrick's at The Garrison already.

SBV: What? Really? Why is he there?

MF: Apparently we were supposed to be at the venue for six.

SBV: Six? When did it become six?

MF: Apparently the emails always said six.

EBV: All right, we've got to get a move on.

You can listen to *The Folk's* new EP, *You Say, I Say*, on *Bandcamp* or *Myspace*.

You've got femail

Love Systems releases new guide for men struggling in the world of online dating

AMIR AHMED

Let's say I saw a pretty girl on Facebook. She's a friend of a friend, into books, alternative music, and vintage dresses. In other words, she likes all the stuff I do (vintage dresses flatter my gams). To top it off, she's funny. She's charming. She's exactly the type of girl I'd like to ask out. And I'll never get to. We don't know each other in the real world, and so we'll never know each other at all.

Doesn't seem fair, does it?

It's hard to build a connection online, and even harder to actually attract women on a dating site. Even if a guy meets his hypothetical Coupland-reading, Arkells-listening, flower print dress-wearing Wonder Woman on a dating site, he'll still wonder what to say, how to act, and what to do to actually get the girl.

That's probably why **Love Systems** is releasing *The Gentleman's Guide to Online Dating*, a guide to meeting and seducing women online.

Love Systems is a dating coach, a company offering training sessions, books, and videos—all aimed at teaching men how to attract women. The company was founded by

Nick Savoy, a member of the "Toronto Crew" featured in **Neil Strauss'** *The Game*.

The Gentleman's Guide is one of a long lineup of Love Systems products. The company, buoyed by pop culture's interest in pickup artists and the seduction community, now teaches in every imaginable area of seduction, including phone seduction, daytime seduction, and even how to seduce strippers. The book is authored by **Derek "Cajun"**, a professional dating coach with Love Systems. Cajun teaches dating classes worldwide and has appeared in *Keys to the VIP*.

Cajun began experimenting with online dating a few years ago. Using the rigorous, rigorous approach that defines pickup artists, this man went on a lot of dates using online dating. These experiments culminated in *The Gentleman's Guide*.

The book builds on a lot of research, something common to the general "seduction community". In an interview with *The Medium*, Cajun said the rigour doesn't come from scientific zeal, but from the desire to get the advice right. "If I give advice, I want it to be accurate. We want to give the best information."

In search of more data, Cajun even created fake female accounts on popular dating sites to see what messages men usually sent women. It wasn't impressive stuff.

"I was getting 34 messages a day," Cajun said. "And 90% of them were complete shit. Stuff like 'Hey, sup?'"

A lengthy chapter in *The Gentleman's Guide* instructs that men should send playful, casual messages, and disassembles the construction of the perfect email.

And the advice does not end there. The book pretty much covers every aspect of finding and attracting a girl online, from how to make a charming opener to how to transition comfortably into a more serious relationship. If you're interested in learning more, head over to *gentlemans-guide.com* for information on *The Gentleman's Guide*, which will be released on January 26.

In the meantime, Cajun has some general advice for the men who want to pursue online dating. "The best advice is the simplest here," he says: have some good pictures, put time into your profile—and have a good life outside of the Internet.

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MEDIUM FEATURES »

Editor » Larissa Ho

Best of both worlds

Does our society now consider it a privilege to be of mixed race?

EMILY ACHESON
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

It happens the same way every time. The stranger approaches, smiles curiously, and asks the question I've been getting asked since I was five: "Excuse me, but what are you?"

Mixed-race people are increasing in Canada. Between 1996 and 2001, the number of mixed-race marriages in Canada increased by 35%. This is probably related to the fact that immigration continues to draw hundreds of thousands of minorities into our country, with these minorities increasing threefold between 1981 and 2001.

Canada, a country known for being not a "melting pot" but a national community open to appreciating the diverse people entering its borders, encourages its citizens to learn about each other's cultures and religions. As Canadian comedian Russell Peters once predicted, the world's population will mix and before we know it, "Everyone's gonna be beige."

Being mixed used to be looked down at as exclusion from either of their "pure" heritage races. Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a novel popular in Ontario high schools for teaching about racism, describes half black, half white children as the unluckiest of all. One character describes their sadness, saying, "Colored folks won't have

'em because they're half white; white folks won't have them because they're half colored."

Being mixed is now considered a privilege in our society. Mixed children are revered for an image of being more intelligent, beautiful, and even healthy. Why have the standard brown eyes and black hair, or blue eyes and blond hair, when you can have green Chinese eyes, light brown hair, and olive skin? Celebrities like Mariah Carey, Tiger Woods, and Keanu Reeves are increasing in popularity as they proudly declare their mixed heritage.

Yet many still believe that children of mixed races face psychological issues. Studies show these children often tell friends that they are only of one race, feel uncomfortable with their appearance, and don't think they can relate to their non-mixed peers. As a result, they are reportedly more likely to engage in dangerous behaviour, such as drinking or theft, to prove that they can fit in.

Other mixed-race individuals are happy to not fit it. They embrace their unique looks and diverse heritage. They also say that because of their mixed cultural backgrounds, they can relate to more than one cultural group. They have a better understanding of "cultural mentalities", sometimes speak at least two native languages, and fit easily into so-called "mixed" groups at school.

A potential drawback of sharing more than one racial background is the tendency to be asked by classmates, new friends, and even strangers about one's heritage. A lot of the time, such questions stem from genuine interest. However, a new issue that accompanies the growing number of mixing races is whether or not the question *should* be asked.

Our North American society seems obsessed with categorizing people by race.

In an increasingly politically correct society, many mixed-race people are irritated by being constantly asked questions like "Where are you from?", "What's your race?", and—probably the most offensive—"What are you?"

Several online forums dedicate threads to the question of how to interact with mixed people. One woman on Wordreference.com asked if "half-breed" and "half-caste" are appropriate names to call someone of mixed race. Her question was met with a resounding "no". Likely, if you're not sure if someone may get offended by being asked what their race is, it's best not to ask at all.

Besides, if you *did* know, would you treat them differently?

Our North American society seems obsessed with categorizing people by race. For instance, one of the most famous mixed people in our society is the president of the United States, Barack Obama. If you didn't already know, Obama is half white and half black, yet both Canada and the United States refer to him as the "first black president in American history". There is little mention in the media that his mother was white.

So why this need to simplify and label people by race? Hasn't our society moved beyond all that?

The truth is, our society will probably never stop being curious about each other's skin colour or cultural background. It has been argued that the desire to split people into groups is an innate biological characteristic of humans, while others say that it is strictly a social concept.

Those who argue for a biological basis claim that ancient tribes had to quickly distinguish friend from foe by physical appearance. Each tribe consisted of people who looked, spoke, and acted similarly. An enemy could easily be judged by being physically different.

Those who argue for the social construct approach claim it was and continues to be a

way to quickly classify someone's place in the social hierarchy. When an African slave had a child for a white European master, for instance, that child was classified as simply "black" and could not have the same social and financial power as their white parent.

Even at UTM, whether a person is mixed or not, students often ask each other about their cultural background. Comments like, "Oh, you're Asian? You probably don't even need to study," or "Hey, I noticed you're brown. You can help me with my taxes," are common in the classroom. These are usually taken as jokes, but some students are frustrated at being judged solely by their looks.

Sometimes people feel more comfortable forming groups with others who speak the same language, share the same cultural background, and look similar. Others enjoy learning about their classmates' different backgrounds, and more and more groups are forming that comprise a variety of visibly different groups.

Personally, I have never been offended by "the question". I actually enjoy listening to people guess, always incorrectly, what I am. Mexican? Italian? Pakistani? Egyptian? Spanish? Persian? I have yet to hear someone correctly say, "I'll bet you're of Indian, Russian, Cornish, Irish, and Scottish descent." But it's fun to keep them guessing.

Mindwaves paves the way for non-fiction prose

CARINE ABOUSEIF
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Nonfiction is the new fiction. William Zinsser, author of *On Writing Well*, explains how the non-fiction genre gained popularity around World War II. People left their homes, travelled across the world, and experienced new places for the first time. Suddenly, the world wanted facts. People wanted real stories. People wanted real stories about real experiences and real people.

Creative nonfiction does exactly that. Authors use the style and language of the fiction genre and apply it to real events.

"Everyone has a story to tell." This is part of the mantra of UTM's own literary journal, *Mindwaves*. Born out of the professional writing and communication program, *Mindwaves* collects, edits, and publishes the best of UTM's non-fiction writing.

Adam Erb, editor-in-chief of the current *Mindwaves* issue, stresses the importance of non-fiction as a defining aspect of the journal and the PWC program. "If all else fails, the actions that happen in the stories can succeed, even when there aren't many descriptions available," he says. His thoughts echo the 1940s and 50s movement

towards non-fiction in the literary world. Erb also points out another important aspect of real life stories or personal narratives: "It's also a new way for a writer to dig deep and really immerse themselves in their writing, since it's actually about them."

Erb also emphasizes the opportunity that a student journal like *Mindwaves* gives UTM students. "It's a great way for writers to get practical experience for the competitive writing field," he says. Getting published is, after all, the practical end goal for any writing student. But the journal also instills confidence in students.

"It's always a special feeling to know that someone liked something you wrote," says Amir Ahmed, who was published in last year's issue, "and it's always incredible to see your name in print."

This year, a team of six editors pored over 250 pages of submissions, and are still in the selection process. The team aims to publish 10 pieces in the coming issue. "More would be great," says Erb, "but 10 is what we budgeted for."

With the rising number of submissions every year, *Mindwaves* has become an important part of the PWC, while still accepting submissions from other

areas of study as similar as English and as dissimilar as chemistry.

The journal needs more exposure, though. "I just wish more people knew about *Mindwaves*," says Ahmed. The team called for submissions by announcing submission dates in PWC classrooms and putting up posters around campus.

The editorial team has set a tentative launch date for March 14. The *Mindwaves* launch, usually held in the MiST Theatre, promises exciting, funny, and beautifully written personal narratives read by the authors, and a chance to pick up a copy of the current issue.

Striving for justice

UTM alumna Pacinthe Mattar wants to help people be heard

AHMAD AL-HENDI

Work starts the moment Pacinthe Mattar gets out of bed on Monday morning. “I get caught up on the day’s news. I read the paper and listen to the radio or television while I’m getting ready,” she says. Mattar is an associate producer at CBC Radio’s *The Current*, a show that explores issues affecting Canadians today and highlights the importance of presenting multiple perspectives on these issues.

Mattar began her work with CBC as an intern in 2009 and landed a full-time position shortly afterwards. She is expected to pitch a new story each morning before being assigned her duties for that day, which include finding sources, running pre-interviews, and preparing an information package for *The Current*’s host.

Mattar wants people to relate to the stories she tells, to open minds, and to appeal to the hearts of Canadians. “I tell the stories of real people and their brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers,” she says. Her most memorable interview was with the father of 21-year-old Muhannad Bensadik, a Libyan-American who was killed in the fight for liberation from the Libyan government’s regime.

“It was a very intimate interview,” she says. “The man broke down in tears twice while remembering his son.” But

what made the story so special to Mattar was an email she received from a listener after the show aired. It read: “That was the most touching interview I’ve heard on radio in 60 years.” Mattar felt proud, as though she had “really done his story justice,” she says.

The most difficult part of the job, Mattar says, is finding guests to interview. Mattar usually has about 24 hours to select, track down, and communicate with potential guests. “Sometimes the chase is easy. Most times, it’s really hard, but journalistically rewarding,” she says. After a full day of running pre-interviews with guests for the following show, Mattar submits her information package to the host and begins the search for her next story.

Although the inspiration for her stories varies, Mattar has a special passion for telling stories that are usually overlooked. “It’s so easy to just talk about someone, or for someone, but why not just ask them?” she says.

Growing up, her family often moved between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, and Canada. “Always being an outsider as a little girl definitely helped me to see things from other people’s perspectives,” she says.

Since moving to Canada from Dubai to begin her undergraduate studies at UTM, Mattar has felt drawn to people of various cultures, races, and abilities.

She completed her degree in political science and French and earned her master’s degree in journalism at Ryerson. However, she found that she did most of her learning outside the classroom.

During her time at UTM, Mattar worked as a residence don, mentoring former students like Chris Lengyell, now a full-time employee of UTM’s residence department. “Our values at UTM are dependent on our diverse population,” says Lengyell. “It’s important to have people like Pacinthe to spread that lesson to the real world.”

Journalism hasn’t always been Mattar’s first career choice. She pictured herself working as a psychologist, a writer, and a United Nations ambassador at various points in her life, but what remained constant was her love of “making people really feel heard.” For Mattar, journalism is a means to that end.

Life doesn’t slow down for Mattar until Friday night, when she winds down after a week of hard work. What’s next for Mattar? She hopes to have her own radio show that continues to tell unheard stories. Mattar wants to address the challenges facing different minorities and educate those who are unaware of these challenges. “Through my stories, I have learned that it’s not just okay to be different, it’s great to be different,” she says.

Creative Corner

Surfacing

ABEER REHMAN

Glittering, shining, a promise, a hope

The sunlight of a new dawn, new day, new startings

Bathing me in light, in serenity, numbing peace

Washing and cleaning of all contaminants, of all pollutants.

Sterilized, sanitized from the worries of yesterday,

from the approaching labours of today and the never-ending pains of tomorrow.

Dancing in every particle of my soul,

Breathing, absolving, consuming my existence

For mere seconds lasting eons.

A living entity, near physical form, unbound by states of matter,

In a fluid, a solid, a gaseous state.

Unrestricted. Free from the chains of reality

Zealously broken from the strings of time,

And released from the commitments to responsibility.

A sweet escape, a needed escapade. Drenched in eccentric heartbeats and liberated smiles.

Eliciting laughs as sudden as the falling pearls of a broken necklace.

Rhythmic and successive, but oh so short. Never enough.

Scattering across the tangible and intangible portions of my being

Across my momentary existence.

Swirling into my head with a deluge of memories,

Clouding all semblance of reason, all assortment of thought.

Encaged in the pleasure of a temporary break...some relief...a little comfort.

An invitation to the worn soul for a true smile among millions faked.

A sip of life, a breath of verve signaling sanity, normalcy, consciousness.

Just a sip, a taste, a breath. No more.

Before I, once again, put the vial of routine to my lips

And consume liquefied reality. Unwillingly.

Before I continue to follow the shabby trails of custom, convention, and habit.

Before I religiously maintain all the infectants of my nature, my essence.

So now I wait. Expectantly. Anxiously. Intently.

For that next minute of sunshine to pull me to the surface.

To bring me to life once again and inculcate in me...some feeling!

LUKE'S LANGUAGES / luks' læŋgwə, dʒɪz /

#9: PEEKING BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF ETYMOLOGY

LUKE SAWCZAK

Sir! I’ve just come from the frontlines—the enemy is upon us! The dreaded Essays are advancing, the Assignments are attacking from the east, and we are besieged by the forces of Reading! But in this most dire of emergencies we managed to slip a single rowboat through the dreaded armada of Lectures by night, and now I am here to deliver you an important communiqué concerning linguistics.

Over the next little while, we’re going to venture into the land of historical linguistics. Hopefully not the boring stuff, of course. There are (as far as we’re concerned) two main threads of historical linguistics: specific content change, and system-wide pattern change. The first is more fun for most laypeople, so we’ll start with etymology, which is kind of a stepping stone into content change.

We’ll talk about broader trends next time, but this time I just want to whet your appetites with a single example: “court”. It all begins way back in Latin, where two words, *com-* “with” and *hortus* “enclosed yard, field, or garden”, make *cohors*, a place of coming together—and later, the people in that place. That’s as far as it goes in Latin, but Latin and its fancy case system

leaves a gift before the whole thing breaks down, namely the form *cortem*.

Perfect for French to inherit, amirite? They grab it as *cort* (later *cour*) with a newly narrowed meaning of the kingly or noble residence, and when they invade England the natural term for the government they set up falls right into our laps. In the next couple hundred years you get *curteis* (later *courteous*), meaning “how one behaves at court” and *court* “offer homage, impress, as one does at court”, which narrows to what we mean when we say “woo”. Speaking of “whew”, we’ve come a long way, haven’t we?

But we’re not done. We’re set up for another semantic shift, that is, a word slipping on another meaning like a set of clothes and winking at us in its new disguise. *Courteous* yields *courtesy*, “being courteous”, and from that point on all kinds of polite gestures counting as “courtly” behaviour, whether they’re done in a court or not. Now imagine this (an example borrowed from C.S. Lewis, a master of medieval linguistics): a young lady does a little bow, bends at the knee, and picks up of the corners of her skirt. An onlooker remarks her “courtesy”—by which he doesn’t mean any of the actual actions she performed, but the quality

that she demonstrated by the action. But if you get that often enough, the meaning begins to drift... until it finds a new home in the form of *curtsy*!

Now, leaving aside the spelling and pronunciation changes for the time being, we’ve more or less covered how “being together in a yard” yielded “kingly residence”, “wooing a lover”, “politeness”, and “picking up the edges of your skirt”. Oh, and somewhere along the line the Romans looked at *cohors* and thought, “Wouldn’t that make a great term for a division of an army?” So now we got skirts, lovemaking, and armies. Nice work, history. Nice work.

I hope you liked the story of one word and its family through time. Tune in next time to see how trends like this apply on a larger scale!

(P.S. Oh my goodness, there’s a last piece of the story before we leave! If you have a quick ear, you might recognize offshoots of *hortus* in other languages. A notable example is Russian *-gorod* and *-grad*, both suffixes for city names (as in Novgorod and Stalingrad, for example). English *yard* comes by an indirect route, through German *Garten*—which for us is “garden” and is also the same word in “Kindergarten”, literally “yard (or garden) for children”—which itself comes eventually from *hortus*. Duh.)



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MEDIUM SPORTS »

Editor » TBD

UTM Running Club, get set... go!

Running program teaches students the fundamentals of training for long distance running

ISAAC OWUSU
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Rachel Tennant, the program coordinator of the Department of Physical Education, Athletics and Recreation, still remembers her first five-kilometre run. She doesn't remember how old she was, but the impression is still fresh in her mind: "I remember coming and saying to my partner, 'I ran five K!' I was so excited! I never thought I could, and now I'm training for a half-marathon. This is for anybody!"

Tennant and assistant program coordinator Cameron Walker are helping ambitious UTM students via the "Learn to Run" clinic, which culminates with the five-kilometre St. Patrick's Day run, held in downtown Toronto. This

term's Learn to Run is a free nine-week course for any student of any exercise experience. The program focusses on the fundamentals of interval running to improve endurance; for example, one-minute walk periods are added between runs.

"Learning to run is learning to recognize how to run at a speed that will enable you to make the distance, and increasing your cardiovascular endurance," Tennant explains. "Most people can get out there and run one minute and walk one minute, but when you increase your running distance while [still] walking the one minute, that's when people start to struggle."

It has sometimes been alleged that the clinic's regimen is too easy, but Tennant promises that

there are multiple challenges and goals the program meets. "It's beneficial for students to meet different people with a common goal. Improved posture, run technique, stretching, and breathing are some of the other benefits found in participation in the clinic," she adds.

Learn to Run clinics are free for all UTM students. For those looking to participate in the St. Patrick's Day run, there is a \$40 entry fee, which includes a bowl of chili or Irish stew from the Steam Whistle Brewery after the run.

The UTM Running Club will be meeting every Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information about the clinic and the St. Patrick's Day run, contact Rachel Tennant at rachel.tennant@utoronto.ca.



IFTTHESHOFITS.ORG/PHOTO

Non-head injuries can influence cognition in athletes

New studies among U of T athletes assess athletic injuries and their effects on the brain

MICHELLE K. DUKLAS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Recently, more and more attention has been focussed on athletes suffering concussions. In a hockey-crazy country like Canada, it's hard to walk around without hearing about another hockey player who's suffered a concussion. Notable NHL players that have recently graced the headlines include Sidney Crosby, Chris Pronger, James van Reimsdyk, Sami Salo, Marc Savard, and Nicklas Backstrom. The list of injured stars goes on. Sports-related concussions are common. The symptoms of a concussion can be serious: dizziness, fatigue, and difficulty with agility. They are also known to cause memory loss, difficulty concentrating, slower reactions, and difficulty processing information. But what about non-head injuries? Can they also cause concentration and agility problems for athletes?

U of T researchers Michael Hutchison, Paul Comper, Linda Mainwaring, and Doug Richards published a paper last November that studies the effects that non-head injuries, such as broken ankles

or torn ligaments, can have on the brain. In the first study of its kind, Hutchison and his colleagues used computerized tests designed to assess the cognition of concussed athletes and tested three groups of Varsity Blues athletes: concussed athletes, athletes with non-head injuries, and a control group of healthy athletes. The study included a total of 72 athletes, the majority of whom played either football or hockey.

Hutchison and his colleagues hypothesized that decreased mental capability may not be caused by concussions only. They predicted that other factors, such as pain, could distort reasoning and agility.

They found that athletes with non-head injuries performed better in cognitive ability than athletes with concussions, but worse than non-injured athletes. While concussed athletes performed the worst, athletes with non-head injuries didn't perform much better.

Hutchison and his colleagues speculated why the athletes with non-head injuries performed poorly on tests designed for concussed athletes.

Their poor responses could be due to psychological factors, such as frustration about the injury; they might have been bitter and distracted about not being able to train and perform in their capacity as an athlete. If the injury requires long-term healing, the athlete may even develop depression or anxiety, which would lead to worse test results. The researchers also postulated that pain or physical discomfort itself can influence cognition. They emphasize the need for more research into the causes of their results.

Hutchison and his colleagues suggest that results from standardized tests designed for concussed athletes be taken with a grain of salt. The results may be influenced more by the athlete's state of mind or threshold for pain rather than providing any real insight into the effects of non-head injuries on athletes' brains.

Nevertheless, the results of this research surely suggest that athletes should be more vigilant about their mental health after an injury—even if the injury isn't directly to the brain.

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Men's basketball steals win against Maroons

UTM White open the winter season with a home court victory

INGRID MELDRUM

Men's Div 1 Basketball (UTM White) played their first game of the semester last Wednesday against the UTSC Maroons. Despite having a smaller roster than usual, the teams were pretty evenly matched and the Eagles knew it would be difficult to pull out on top.

The score went back and forth throughout the game, and the Eagles struggled to keep up with the Maroons' 3-point force, Ravi Pren, who scored 15 of his 17 points from behind the arc. Both teams struggled with fouls, each losing two players to foul trouble. UTM maximized on UTSC's fouls, grabbing 19 points from free throws. The Maroons may have had some good shooters, but the Eagles have some agile players who made sharp passes between defenders to get to the hoop. Manpreet Gill and Zak Khan were forces to be reckoned with, weaving through defenders and netting easy layups.

On the defensive side, the Eagles had trouble stopping the 3-point shots, but were able to force turnovers and make quite a few steals. Daniel Pinnock made swift



ANNA BEDIONES/DEPT. OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

moves with the ball and was a key player for the Eagles when it came to steals, making the opposing team look like they couldn't handle the pressure.

When the buzzer went off at the end of the 40-minute regulation time, the score was 72-68 in favour of UTM.

After the game, coach Jeremy Wong commented on their first win. "The men's team returned a little bit short handed for their first game. We felt like we controlled the tempo and pace of the game quite

nicely. This was our fourth matchup against this team, so we knew how they were going to attack us. Our players really stepped it up," he said. "Chris Thompson and Ferdi Peng controlled the point guard position well, and Tyrone Campbell had a block party at the end of the game. It was nice to get a win for our home fans, and it was good to see all of them come out and cheer with us."

Both UTM teams will play again on Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the St. George campus.

Comeback season for men's volleyball

Div 1 volleyball pushes for the win over FPEH

JASON CROSS

In a hard-fought three-set match on Tuesday night, the UTM division 1 Volleyball team confidently came back from a one-game deficit to defeat the Faculty of Physical Education and Health.

Captain Justin Nguyen guided the squad to victory despite battling an ankle injury suffered in the first game. "My initial feeling was shock," said Nguyen. "I thought I injured it really badly."

Nguyen persevered through the injury that threatened the Eagles' comeback plans, even after dropping the first set 25-22. "After the first set, Coach asked me to pick up the team," he said—and that he did, paving the way for a 25-18 thrashing in the second set, followed by a hard-won 15-10 final set that bagged them the match.

The comeback win seemed to come as a delightful surprise to some of the players; the team had been suffering from unity is-

sues as of late. "We still have to work on our morale. Once we get down, the team gets down," said the coach. But on Tuesday, the team looked as unified as ever. Any locker room troubles seemed miles away when, at one point, the home team Eagles were leading the second set 12-2. The ease with which the Eagles disposed of their opponents did not seem to come as a surprise to Justin Nguyen. "We were a lot better than them anyways," he said with a grin.

The expectations are undoubtedly high for this veteran squad, who didn't take too much encouragement from this first game of the season. When asked what the team could do this season, one player's response seemed to speak for the whole team: "Go to the championship, of course—and we'll win it!"

The team plays against University College this Tuesday in the RAWC at 8 p.m.

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