



LANA DEL REY
PAGE 7

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Students rally against high tuition

Canadian Federation of Students leads campaign to protest restrictions of tuition grant

STEFANIE MAROTTA
NEWS EDITOR

Over 200 students from UTM travelled to Queen's Park last Wednesday for the Canadian Federation of Students' National Day of Action, arguably the organization's most criticized initiative. Members of the CFS across Canada protested high tuition fees and student debt.

According to the CFS, the Liberals promised a 30% tuition cut and, because the actual grant is not accessible to all students, McGuinty failed to follow through on his promise. On the Liberals' website, the election platform on education states that the promised grant would amount to 30% of the cost of tuition. It does not promise a comprehensive tuition cut.

The CFS states that the province should use the \$430,000 project for a universal 13% tuition cut rather than 30% for a portion of students. The grant excludes international, part-time, mature, and second-entry program students. Students from families with an annual in-



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

The crowd gathered at Queen's Park to protest against increases in tuition.

come greater than \$160,000 are also exempt from the grant.

"They could probably do more for mature students, and hopefully that will get worked out as the deficit goes down," said Jonathan Scott, a third-year English student and the president of the Trinity College Young Liberals. "It's absolutely dumb to say that everyone should get 13% off, because that's like being against progressive taxation. I think that adding this grant for lower- to middle-income stu-

dents is a really good step that they should be applauding rather than protesting."

UTM students met with those from U of T, U of T Scarborough, McMaster, Western, and York at Convocation Hall and paraded through surrounding streets to Queen's Park. The procession was led by CFS-Ontario Chair Sandy Hudson, UTSU VP External Shaun Shepherd, and Sajjad. They cheered slogans like "Fuck fees", "When I say cut back, you say fight back",

and "The students united will never be defeated".

At Queen's Park, NDP MPP Teresa Armstrong and PC MPP Rob Leone addressed students, spoke against tuition increases, and criticized the McGuinty government.

"I've talked to students that tell me they want change to make sure that education is accessible and affordable for everyone. We stand in solidarity with you," Leone said.

Rally continued on page 3

Professor speaks at murder trial

LORI-LEE EMSHEY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

U of T professor Shahrzad Mojab testified as the prosecution expert witness in the "honour killing" trial in Kingston that concluded last Monday.

The Kingston jury convicted Mohammad Shafia, 58, his second wife Tooba Mohammad Yahya, 41, and their son Hamed Shafia, 21, of first-degree murder on January 30. All three received life in prison with no chance of parole for at least 25 years.

Mojab teaches master's- and doctoral-level classes in the Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology at U of T. She is also the former director of the Women and Gender Studies Institute. Her research has focussed on honour killings, and she coedited the book *Violence in the Name of Honour: Theoretical and Political Challenges*.

Murder continued on page 2

TAs set strike deadline

Clock is ticking for university to make "reasonable contract"

ADAM ERB
STAFF WRITER

Negotiations between the University of Toronto and members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 3902) broke down this week after the university offered what the TAs, among others, considered an unreasonable contract.

Members of the CUPE 3902 voted against the new contract on Tuesday, considering the offer both insulting and unfair.

"We heard a loud and clear message from the members of our union," said Ryan Culpepper, the chair of CUPE 3902's bargaining team. "Clearly, what we've negotiated to this point is not sufficient. Because we are a democratic organization, any new

contract has to be accepted by our members."

"I always forget that I have a TA because most of them are so absent from my school experience.

I will care, however, if this strike puts school on hold and prevents me from graduating."
—Bonny Catherine

CUPE 3902 plans to strike on February 24 if the university has

not offered what the union considers to be a reasonable contract.

"You hear this type of thing every year," said Andrea Zadro, a fourth-year art and art history specialist. "I wouldn't hold my breath for a strike, since they threaten it every single year. However, a strike would put a lot of unneeded stress on the professors."

Professors around the UTM campus promise that the TA strike wouldn't affect the curriculum, but that syllabi would have to be adjusted to make more time otherwise saved by the teaching assistants.

"I always forget that I have a TA because most of them are so absent from my school experience," said Bonny Catherine, a

fourth-year English and history major. "I will care, however, if this strike puts school on hold and prevents me from graduating."

It's difficult to determine the extent of the impact a TA strike would have. It is recommended that students become familiar with the university's academic continuity policies.

"We look forward to reopening negotiations with the university," said Culpepper. "We're committed to bringing back a contract that meets our members' needs."

The union represents 4,200 teaching assistants, graduate-students instructors, lab demonstrators, and invigilators at U of T. TAs are asking for increased wages and improved benefits, among other demands.



ECC approves fee hikes

The Erindale College Council votes to recommend fee increases for residence and food services.
Medium News, page 3

Shocker!

Why the drop fees isn't such a bad thing.
Medium Opinion, page 4

The Grammys go indie

Shoe-ins, surprises, and snubs to mark Grammys.
Medium A&E, page 5

Mind your language

Luke's Languages signs off. But who has the last word?
Medium Features, page 10

Eagles advance to finals

Women's tri-campus basketball defeats St. George Black.
Medium Sports, page 11

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS AT UTM

CFS RECEIVES OVER HALF A MILLION DOLLARS OF STUDENT FUNDING FROM UTSU EACH YEAR

STEFANIE MAROTTA
NEWS EDITOR

As part of his election platform, Premier Dalton McGuinty promised a grant of \$1,600 to students from families with income of less than \$160,000. Unsatisfied with the grant proposal, the Canadian Federation of Students, a lobby group that advocates on behalf of its members for affordable and accessible education, is demanding a reduction in fees.

All undergraduate students at U of T are paying members of the CFS. Last year, the U of T Students' Union sent over \$600,000 of student money to the CFS to fund projects such as Drop Fees, Bottled Water Free, and Take It Over elections. The lobby group represents more than 500,000 students across Canada.

The debate over membership at U of T was tumultuous. In 2002, the Student Administrative Council (now UTSU) and the Erindale College Student Union (now UTMSU) discussed the possibility of joining the CFS. SAC governed student life on all three campuses from St. George, while ECSU represented students solely in Mississauga. After a council vote of 28 to 23 in favour of holding a student referendum to join with the CFS, the two groups divided and took opposing stances. Mississauga students belonged to both organizations and would become members of CFS through SAC,

regardless of ECSU's position.

"There was a bit of a turf war," says Aubrey Iwaniw, former environment coordinator and student governor. SAC argued that CFS would provide the largest forum in Canada for student collaboration and pose as a united front against tuition hikes. ESCU said that CFS was the priciest, most left-wing option. They argued that since students subscribe to different political orientations, other lobby groups, such as the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, should be considered before rushing into membership with CFS.

Various student unions across Canada, including Queen's University, opted to join the OUSA over the CFS. OUSA is policy-focussed and charges just over \$2 per student. In contrast, the CFS is activism-focussed and employs tactics such as protests and rallies.

Iwaniw and other students from SAC plastered walls with posters, handed out information pamphlets, and canvassed at residence buildings to cultivate support for CFS. Executives from the federation came to the Erindale campus to assist SAC. The Varsity criticized SAC for using student money to fund their "Yes" campaign.

The only material about ECSU's "No" campaign was an advertisement in *The Medium*.

"Well, that's typically the way it goes... right?" Iwaniw says. "I don't think the 'No' campaign was organized. CFS was giving us 'Yes'

campaign material. It's very rare that you get a 'No' campaign that's as funded as the 'Yes' campaign with CFS backing it."

At UTM, 79% of the students that turned out to the referendum voted in favour of the CFS. At St. George, where there was a more visible "No" campaign, only 54% voted in favour of the CFS.



The following semester, Jim Delaney, U of T's assistant director of student affairs, raised questions concerning the referendum, stating that he could not verify the results because of bylaw violations and unfair campaigning. Since tuition levy fees are transferred from the university to the student union, the administration has the authority to intervene when they suspect student money is abused.

The matter came before the University Affairs Board at the Governing Council, U of T's largest decision-making body. After SAC and CFS claimed that the referen-

dum was held democratically, the UAB certified the results.

Over the past 10 years, CFS has come under the scrutiny of student unions across Canada. Students at U of T have raised questions about the value of membership—over half a million dollars of student money each year.

At universities across the country, unions have had second thoughts about their membership in the lobby group considering the high fees, interference with student union elections, allegedly undemocratic procedures, and referendum regulations that make it difficult for unions to defederate.

Over the last five years, the CFS has taken the Simon Fraser Student Society, University of Victoria Students' Society, and the Central Student Association at the University of Guelph to court over referendum disputes after the unions attempted to disband. Meanwhile, 10 more student unions circulated petitions to leave the lobby group.

The CFS constitution includes referendum regulations that critics claim hinder accountability and transparency. When holding referendums to disband from the CFS, the "No" campaign run by a group in opposition of the CFS is limited in the amount it can spend, whereas the "Yes" campaign in favour of continued membership is not given a spending limit.

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting, the CFS passed bylaw amendments stipulating that no

more than two membership referendums can be held in a three-month period, limiting the number of unions that can file for defederation.

UTSU put forth a motion to reallocate the responsibility to oversee referendum procedures to the Chief Returning Officer, a position appointed by CFS executives. Previously, the Referendum Oversight Committee adjudicated referendums and comprised two national CFS executives and two student union representatives. CFS stated that the amendments were made to ensure that students remain united against the provincial government in opposition of high tuition fees.

In recent history, with the exception of the tuition freeze in 2002 as part of McGuinty's election campaign when he was first elected into office—a move the CFS attributes to their own lobby efforts—fees have annually increased.

The last Drop Fees campaign was held two years ago; in it, UTMSU spent nearly \$11,000 on transportation to Queen's Park, t-shirts, food, posters, and buttons.

"Do I think that we're getting our money's worth? I don't know," Iwaniw says. "I do believe in what they're doing. I think having a structured debate is really important for students."

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U of T expert discusses Shafia honour killings

Murder continued from Cover

Mojab gave expert testimony on what an honour killing entails to assist the jury in reaching a verdict. She did not give her opinion, but instead explained the difference between an honour killing and domestic violence and the role that religion plays. Mojab explained that "honour murders" (her clarification of the term) in this case are seen as a way to cleanse one's family of shame and regain honour through the shedding of blood.

The four victims, Zainab, 19, Sahar, 17, Geeti, 13, and Rona Amar Mohammad, 52, were found dead, floating inside the family's partially submerged Nissan Sentra in the Kingston Mills Lock on June 28, 2009. Rona was Shafia's first wife and the children were three of seven from his second marriage to Yahya.

The shame Mojab referred to was, according to the defence, caused by the three sisters pursuing a more "Canadian" lifestyle. Zainab ran away and married a man the family did not approve of and Sahar wore "revealing" clothes and had a boyfriend. The youngest, Geeti, sought out social workers to help her be put in a foster home. Their stepmother

was murdered as well because she allowed the girls to behave in this way.

According to Mojab, Shafia saw the behaviour of the women as shameful, because the patriarch no longer had control over them. An honour murder would restore the family's honour, using blood as purification.

"There is a very important difference between honour killing and violence against women in the form of domestic violence. It is plotted; it is premeditated."
—Shahzad Mojab

According to the prosecution, the eldest son, Hamed, under instructions from his father, used a second family car to ram the Nissan containing the four bodies into the seven-foot deep lock. The prosecution also believes the women were dead before the car entered the water, as their seatbelts were still fastened and they had apparently made

no effort to escape as the car sank.

Mojab emphasized that honour killings are not inherently part of Islam and are found in many religions, distancing the religious factors from the case.

"There is a very important difference between honour killing and violence against women in the form of domestic violence. It is plotted; it is premeditated," Mojab said in an interview with CNN.

Judge Robert Maranger gave Mohammad Shafia and Tooba Yahya immediate life sentences because the act was premeditated.

Mojab was the last of the prosecution's witnesses and testified last week. The trial lasted three months; it was delayed in November when Ontario Superior Court Judge Robert Maranger put the trial on hold after Mohammad Shafia was hospitalized for cardiac problems.

After the ruling, the defence argued that Mojab's testimony was openly biased, as she has devoted much of her life to eradicating honour killings and other crimes against women, moving for an appeal. *The Canadian Press* reports that Hamed Shafia plans on appealing his conviction, but no date has been set.

Parking vote confusion resolved

Erindale College Council recommends fee increases

STEFANIE MAROTTA
NEWS EDITOR

The Erindale College Council met last week to discuss the budgets for residence, food services, and conference services. The UTM Students' Union took the opportunity to request that a vote be taken to strike the results of the parking vote from the minutes of the meeting in December.

Tensions rose between UTMSU and the chair of ECC when speakers were cut off after a lengthy debate to call to question the vote on parking fees. The student union states that since the order of speakers was not respected and the vote was taken after the meeting was scheduled to adjourn, the resulting vote in favour of parking fees was not legal.

"The integrity of Erindale College Council is at risk," said UTMSU's president, Gilbert Cassar. The responsibility of the ECC is to make sure that first-time speakers are allowed to express themselves. What happened was quite conspicuous. First-time speakers were overridden to allow someone else to call to question, which limits debate."

Cassar suggested that a new vote be conducted.

"The words 'integrity of the ECC' have been used frequently, and that bothers me," said professor Deep Saini, the principal of UTM and vice-president of U of T. "The last minutes carry three and a half pages of summary on the parking debate. To say that not enough discussion happened on this issue is incorrect."

The council voted to maintain the results of the parking vote from the December meeting to increase parking fees by 3% with inflation.

Fees for residence and food services will also be increased

by 5%.

The residence budget for 2012/13 shows a positive operating result of over \$500,000, which will be put towards the outstanding mortgage of the recently constructed residence buildings.

With this year's residence at 95% capacity, Cassar suggested that the university take greater measures to promote the campus's residences to generate more revenue rather than resort to fee increases.

"At the end of the day, let's just look at the reality. The proposed increases are tiny sums of money, but it is going to help us avoid some much more painful decisions that we would otherwise have to make."

—Deep Saini

Mark Overton, the dean of student affairs, explained that the university must be careful not to overbook and risk compromising single rooms, a selling point when recruiting new students.

"I do appreciate that [residence is expensive], but if a landlord has a 95% occupancy rate, that speaks to whether or not the landlord's rates are in line with the market," said professor Lee Bailey, the chair of the Resource Planning and Priorities Committee.

While representatives of the student union spoke against residence fee increases, Gina Lai, an undergraduate student, ECC member, and representative on

the Student Housing Advisory Committee, expressed her approval of UTM's services and said the cost is justified.

"I think the 5% increase is reasonable, because UTM housing actually provides really good services compared to other universities—such as PALs and genOne," Lai said.

Bill McFadden, the director of hospitality and retail operation, presented the plans for food vendors on campus. The Tim Hortons in the Davis Building will undergo expansion and renovation, and the cafeteria in North will be remodelled.

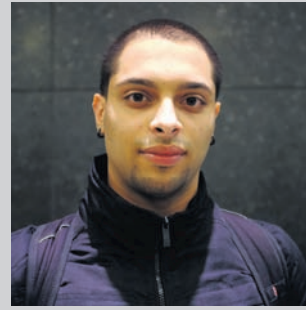
All the budgets for the upcoming academic year were approved by an overwhelming majority, with representatives from UTMSU either abstaining or voting against.

At the end of the meeting, Saini addressed the council to clarify the issue of the proceedings of the December meeting. He explained that ECC is an advisory body that makes recommendations to the principal but does not hold formal decision-making power.

"I have the responsibility to make a decision that is fiscally sound," Saini said. "What would I be faced with if I didn't accept the parking budget? This means that we wouldn't be able to build a parking structure and students in the future would say that lack of parking space is a barrier to their education. Another scenario is that we wouldn't increase parking fees but we would take money away from one of the other needs of the institution."

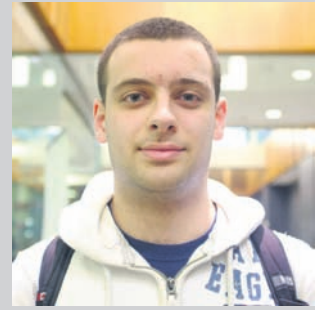
"At the end of the day, let's just look at the reality. The proposed increases are tiny sums of money, but it is going to help us avoid some much more painful decisions that we would otherwise have to make."

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF DROP FEES?



Andrew
2nd year, Biology

"Tuition is ridiculous. People are working as hard as they can. If the school can't help us, the government should."



Hassan
1st year, Biology

"The tuition grant should be geared towards everyone, especially people who are struggling financially."



Monica
5th year, Psychology

"I feel like the campaign gets more unsuccessful every year. It's not really making a difference."



Shahla
5th year, Economics

"I got a grant; I'm happy."

UTM flocks to Queen's Park

Rally continued from Cover

The provincial Conservatives oppose the grant, stating that it is fiscally irresponsible of the McGuinty government, considering that Ontario still carries a large deficit.

Leading up to the rally, UTMSU spent months promoting it. Past protests have come under harsh criticism for the egregious amounts of student money used to fund a CFS initiative. In 2010, UTMSU spent over \$10,000 on transportation and merchandise such as t-shirts, posters, balloons, buttons, and food.

Munib Sajjad, UTMSU's VP External, stated that he was uncertain of how much student money was spent on this year's rally, but he insisted that expenses had decreased since previous years.

"The [rally] is the primary way

for students to get out to show their opposition and show how many students care," Sajjad said. "They march towards their cause. The Drop Fees Campaign isn't just one day of action where people get out and shout. It's about constantly engaging students."

Instead of holding a rally last year, the CFS decided to concentrate on the launch of their federal campaign, "Education is a Right". The organization held National Lobby Week, where representatives from student unions met with MPs to advocate for increased federal transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education, the creation of a federal Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Research, and the conversion of loans from the Canadian Student Loan Program into non-repayable grants.

NEWS BRIEFS

Mississauga Academy of Medicine students join UTMSU

The results of the MAM referendum were released last Monday. Mississauga Academy of Medicine students were asked whether they would like to incur campus levies and become paying members of the UTM Student's Union. Out of a total 54 students, the referendum passed with 32 in favour and 10 against. The overall voter turnout was 77%. UTMSU will now administer services to MAM students such as the U-Pass and the tax clinic.

Source: UTMSU

Boy sings karaoke, father proceeds to shoot self in leg

A 70-year-old man in California has been charged with the attempted murder of his 50-year-old son. William Henry Oller Sr. allegedly shot his son multiple times. Oller Sr. visited his son's home on Thursday and became annoyed when his son was singing country songs. He went out to his car to retrieve his gun and his son locked himself inside the house. A while later, the son opened the door and physical fight ensued. The son suffered several gunshot wounds and the father shot himself in the leg.

Source: *The Toronto Star*

Bronco's player Tebow considers career in politics

In an interview on the Golf Channel's *Feherty Live*, Bronco's football player Tim Tebow said he is open to the idea of a future career in politics. "It could be something in my future," Tebow said. "It's something I'll have to think about, and if I pray about,—you know, I have no idea right now. But possibly." The football star is an evangelical Christian, takes a pro-life stance on abortion, and has had many endorsement requests from Republican presidential candidates.

Source: NFL.com

55-year-old man starts car chase with police because he felt like it

John C. Hughes of Butte, Montana faces a misdemeanour count of reckless driving after racing away from pursuing police officers at speeds greater than 160 km/h. Police finally had to use "stop sticks" to bring the speeding car to a halt. The man was not intoxicated, and there was no apparent reason why he decided to start a car chase. Hughes commented that he "just always wanted to do that".

Source: *Huffington Post*

Red light camera nets \$4 million in fines in one year

One camera in Oakland, California near the on-ramp to Interstate 980 at 27th Street and Northgate Avenue generated more \$4 million in fines in 2010. In all, 9,273 tickets were issued at a rate of \$450 each. The rate is one of the highest in the US, and local groups have recently sought to get it reviewed. Only a small percentage of the fines make their way to the city coffers after other parties take their cut.

Source: sfgate.com

MEDIUM OPINION »

Editor-in-Chief » Michael Di Leo

The “Drop Fees” benefit

And now it's time for the obligatory “Drop Fees” opinion column, where we take a look at how our student union once again got itself tied up in this “reduction of fees” promise nonsense. Frankly, I'm tired of repeating what I've said here on other occasions, so instead I will summarize a few of my main points by way of introduction.

Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberal Party never promised a reduction of fees in any way, shape, or form. What they did promise was a tuition grant equivalent to about 30%

of the average cost of tuition for students. This, of course, is not what you're hearing from our student leaders or the Canadian Federation of Students.

Further, there is a reason why international students do not get a tuition grant or fee reduction or whatever. It's because they don't pay the same taxes. The government isn't handing students money they found in a duffle bag behind Queen's Park; they're redistributing some of the money Ontarians have already paid for services. The cost works out to about the same for internationals.

Glad we got that out of the way.

On the issue of the rally itself, it occurs to me that perhaps some of my earlier criticisms were a bit too harsh. While I still believe that the “Drop Fees” campaign, in addition to being grossly misguided and misinformed, is an exercise in futility, I do think there is some ancillary value to be gained from taking part in such events.

It seems to me that student unions serve two purposes: to maintain relations and hold dialogue with the university community on behalf of students

and to promote and participate in student causes. The “Drop Fees” rally falls under the latter *raison d'être* and, while it may not have actually served any other purpose than to promote CFS and the unions behind it, I think that is a suitable end in itself.

I believe our student union has done a good job of making itself visible, both on- and off-campus. This is in large part due to their participation (hell, leadership) in the “Drop Fees” initiative. Seeing that much of their influence is derived from visible support, I can under-

stand why rallies such as the one held last week make up such an important part of their agenda.

Despite the absurdity of the event itself, it is nice to see our union go out and take some initiative. If they want to spend their time campaigning under a false premise then bless their little hearts. Just try not to disrupt any more of my classes.

YOURS,

MICHAEL DI LEO

Op-Ed: Policy vs. protest

Apparently, I'm the girl that doesn't like the Drop Fees campaign. I guess I can see where this idea came from as I am usually the person that covers the more sensitive issues in the News section. When I do a little digging into an issue and try to put together facts in a coherent and unbiased article to inform the unaware student, it's interpreted by my peers as harsh criticism.

It's for this reason that I was apprehensive about covering this year's Drop Fees campaign, but when Munib, UTMSU's VP External, told me last semester that he was anticipating my coverage on the rally, I decided to take on the article. So I attended the Drop Fees.

Unfortunately, it was exactly what I had expected. I'm all for activism. To the students that attended, I applaud you for taking time away from your classes and part-time jobs. The right to protest is an important component of our democratic society—when it's used

properly.

U of T students pay a hefty amount to the Canadian Federation of Students, and with those funds the organization lobbies for the provincial and federal governments in the interest of students. When issues are addressed from a cooperative, policy-driven approach, progress is more likely.

When sensibility fails, movements in opposition of injustices are arguably necessary, as we've seen in the case of Egypt. In Ontario, aggressive and offensive displays are not justified.

I followed the truck that led the procession and listened to the chants that were led by CFS chair Sandy Hudson and the VP External of UTSU and UTMSU. Shouting “Fuck fees” won't result in budget changes to fix the province's deficit. Jeering outside the office of Glen Murray, the minister of training, colleges and universities, won't increase transfers to postsecondary education when there isn't any more money in the budget to give.

They cheered, “When I say cut back, you say fight back.” If those cuts don't come from education, then which sector will suffer? Health care? And allow long wait times for life-saving surgeries to persist? Social housing? And refuse shelter to families in need?

While I was at the rally, every once in a while I would look up at the grand windows of the provincial parliament in search of an onlooker. I didn't see one.

I agree with Mr. Sajjad. It's important to engage youth directly with issues, especially at an institution of higher learning. But I also think it's more effective to educate students on the financial and policy matters that surround not only the interests of the people of the province as a whole. That's why I write news articles—so you can see both sides. That's something the CFS and UTMSU don't do.

Stefanie Marotta
News Editor, *The Medium*



COREY BELFORD/THE MEDIUM

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MEDIUM A&E »

Editor » Nives Hajdin

Stop! GRAMMY TIME!

Adele and Bon Iver make the biggest waves, but what about Kanye?

PHILIPPE WITMER

Ten years ago, no one would have been able to predict that the most prominent nominees at music's biggest awards ceremony would include a white English soul singer, a rigidly traditional folk-rock outfit, and an ambitious, high-voiced folkie with a penchant for orchestral flourishes. The 54th Grammy Awards are shaping up to be one of the more fascinating in recent memory, and only partially for the nominees.

Last year saw Montréal's **Arcade Fire** nab the coveted Album of the Year award for *The Suburbs*, an event that may have kickstarted the current wave of indie-flavoured mainstream rock, à la **Young the Giant** and **Foster the People**. The win was much talked-about in the ensuing months and it restored the Grammys to a somewhat greater relevance after years of being lambasted as "out-of-touch" by self-appointed music tastemakers. What providence it is, then, that 2011 was rife with acts that, like Arcade Fire, both tore up the charts and tickled the ears of music critics.

First and foremost among these is British neo-soul songstress **Adele**, whose sophomore release *21* broke several retail records worldwide while appealing to both "serious" listeners and anyone who just happened to turn on the radio at any point during the year. With six nominations, including the all-important trifecta of



THIRDAGE.COM/PHOTO

Last year, **Arcade Fire** pumped life back into an otherwise tedious awards show. Will another indie sensation snag some of the big awards this year?

Album, Song, and Record of the Year, Adele seems poised to dominate the night—and a clean sweep from her would invoke less rage than if, say, fellow six-award nominee **Bruno Mars** were to accomplish the same thing. It's her across-the-board appeal that makes her a safe and secure bet to rake in the trophies.

There are other tidbits to consider, though. The National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences seem to have reached out a more generous hand to rock bands this year, with longtime vets the **Foo Fighters** and English folk

troubadours **Mumford & Sons** up for Album and Song of the Year, respectfully. The latter band, whose song "The Cave" is also nominated for Record of the Year, are probably the least rockish group to be nominated for such high-profile awards in quite a long time.

Perhaps the only ones who can top them for such a juxtaposition of musical obscurity and prominence of nominations is Minnesotan band **Bon Iver**, who have been nominated for Song and Record of the Year for "Holocene". Their self-titled second album, a baroque-pop collection heavy

on atmospheric and short on catchy singles, is an odd choice for an institution that generally favours artists who move units rather than minds. The likely rationale is that NARAS is attempting to create buzz by lauding a relatively unknown artist after noticing the sizable attention in the wake of Arcade Fire's victory. A Song of the Year win for Bon Iver, while unlikely given the more popular competition, would elevate the group's stature far more substantially than if they only win Best Alternative Album. It would also likely draw the ire of the group's

leader **Justin Vernon**, who has not only declined to perform at the Grammys but has previously referred to the awards as "ridiculous" and "self-congratulatory".

And yet there's someone else who has been surprisingly absent from the Grammy discussion despite normally being a lightning rod of controversy: **Kanye West** may have seven nominations, more than any other artist this year, but neither *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* nor *Watch the Throne*, his collaboration with Jay-Z, have been nominated for Album of the Year. To many, this constitutes a major snub as both albums, particularly *Dark Twisted Fantasy*, were huge sellers that were praised by critics. No clear, immediate reason can be given for this, other than to possibly prevent the notoriously unhinged West from chalking up another outlandish speech on his résumé. Still, as the adage goes, any publicity is good publicity and the exclusion of West from what may be the most prestigious award of the night remains an egregious mistake.

It's important to note that this may be the first "actual" Grammys of the 2010s, the first to capture the lack of musical cohesiveness that is so far defining the decade. It seems as if we might see more ceremonies where pop megastars rub shoulders with indie rockers and whatever else may eventually fall under the definition of "popular music". Rock on.



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Radcliffe all grown up

The boy who lived takes on new horror flick, *The Woman in Black*

RAJ-KABIR BIRK

The horror genre is littered with stories of haunted houses, from the 1963 classic *The Haunting* to the more recent *Insidious* and *Paranormal Activity* series, but rarely is the English countryside seen as it is in James Watkins' *The Woman in Black*. Based on the 1983 Susan Hill novel of the same name, the film follows Arthur Kipps (**Daniel Radcliffe**), a lawyer, widower, and father, as he tries to save his job by taking an assignment in rural England. Upon his arrival, he finds the townspeople avoiding him and reluctant to aid his investigation of the finances of the deceased Alice Drablow. It becomes clear that they aren't protecting themselves but their children from a presence that haunts the town. The mystery deepens as Arthur reaches the Drablow estate, an isolated embankment of barren forests and a graveyard surrounded by endless marshes.

Daniel Radcliffe turns in a mature performance as the bewildered lawyer trapped in the middle of an eerie tale of suicidal children. In only his second feature film outside the realm of Hogwarts, Radcliffe manages to make the audience forget his past of



Lumos!! Oh—that's a candle, not a wand...

wizardry and mischief and announces himself as an actor growing in stature and confidence. His piercing blue eyes and pale complexion make him suitable for such a role, and he doesn't look out of place when walking down a dark corridor wielding an axe instead of a wand. Why Radcliffe chose such a role as his first after the final chapter in his Harry Potter legacy isn't obvious, but he demonstrates the ability to go beyond his years as he portrays a grieving father.

With director James Watkins (*Eden Lake*) at the helm, we are given a visually striking period piece that provides thematic relevance and entertaining scares. Retaining the mysterious nature of the novel (and its subsequent adaptations of plays, radio broadcasts, and a made-for-TV movie), the film manages to create an effectively foreboding atmosphere. Watkins uses the darkness and prominent contrasts to present his titular character, an elderly woman veiled in black who bears a

striking resemblance to the antagonist in James Wan's *Insidious*. Appearing in shadows, mirrors, and windows, her terror is augmented by the toys that dominate the house.

Marco Beltrami, best known for scoring the *Scream* series, uses his broad experience to supplement Watkins' direction to great effect. Nominated twice for an Academy Award for the western *3:10 to Yuma* and war film *The Hurt Locker* respectively, Beltrami sets the tone and

allows the setting to solidify in its supernatural, mysterious nature. Writer Jane Goldman takes a break from her frequent collaborations with *Kick-Ass* director Matthew Vaughn and gives the story a subtle progression, including a 30-minute period with no dialogue save the shrieks of ghosts and the gasps of a perturbed Radcliffe. But as the film progresses, it starts to fall short in the scope of storytelling. Trying to make the audience uncertain and intrigued, Watkins and Goldman actually make them confused and uninterested. The film's final flourish doesn't do justice to the laboured buildup, and the compulsory horror film twist isn't one that will be long remembered.

In the end, *The Woman in Black* manages to scare, but also suffers from the shortcomings of the subgenre. Although it's old-fashioned and lacks the common exploitive nature of modern horror thrills, it's certainly a refreshing break from the teen slashers and demonic possession that dominate the current trend. It is a decent entry into the long list of haunted house horrors, but one that will be better known for Daniel Radcliffe's breakout than for James Watkins' shrieks and squeals. **MMM**

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Looking good in Facebook photos

LYSAN SEQUEIRA

Good first impressions are extremely important, even if you're making them over the Internet. Your profile picture is your first chance to represent yourself, regardless of what social media network you're on, and often it's just as important as the rest of the content on your page. So stop taking mirror shots and tinting your photos green and continue reading these tips for a sweet Facebook picture. Hope you "like" it!

Light up. Areas with soft light always make for beautiful photos. If you're taking a close-up, having a light source behind you will cast a halo around your face. And that is a good thing.

There's an app for that. If you've got a smartphone, tablet, or computer, you can add cool filters to your photos with a variety of applications, such as Instagram, Photo Booth, and PicStitch.

Go natural. If you want to avoid looking like you've spent all day practising your pose in the mirror, the best thing you can do is to use an activity as



QUICKMEME.COM/PHOTO

Do not become "Annoying Facebook Girl".

an opportunity to take a new profile picture. Going skydiving? Hanging out with some dolphins while on vacation? Cameras out!

Forget the "fun" filters. You may have played around with them for your MySpace or Hi5 profile, but it's time to grow up. Stop making yourself glow pink and yellow and avoid using those stock filters.

Party time! If you've got a camera that lets you play with

the shutter speed, change it to the "nighttime" or "slow-sync shutter" setting. You'll get some trippy light effects on your party pictures, which always make for awesome photos.

Learn some Photoshop basics. Removing red-eye, auto-adjusting colour levels, and upping the contrast are all really easy editing tricks you can do to make your images shine and not scream, "I spent 20 minutes editing this picture in Picnik."

Born to Die—Lana Del Rey

ARISTOTLE ELIOPOULOS
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

Hype is a tricky thing. For **Lana Del Rey**, hype made her into an instant Internet sensation. After releasing her first single, "Video Games", online, Del Rey catapulted onto the front page of every music blog on the Internet. Her silky voice, retro fashion style, and honest lyrics gave her a mysterious persona, and she was bathing in praise and attention as people were desperate to find out more about a woman that seemed to appear out of nowhere with just one song.

In the weeks leading up to the release of her major label debut, *Born to Die*, the very hype that turned Del Rey into a instant star threatened to kill her career before it even began. With a disastrous and critically panned performance on *Saturday Night Live* and a string of interviews that revealed the young singer as a giggly, squeaky-voiced young woman who seemed to reek of naivety, praise turned to dislike and dislike turned into unadulterated animosity.

When putting on *Born to Die*

for the first time, one might be tempted to skip the first four tracks. "Born to Die", "Blue Jeans", "Diet Mountain Dew", and "Video Games" have already been dissected by Internet users for weeks leading up to the album's release. By piling the well-known songs on top of each other, *Born to Die* establishes a strong beginning for itself, but also creates a suspicion that the rest of the album will only disappoint, that the album has already reached its peak before it has even really started.

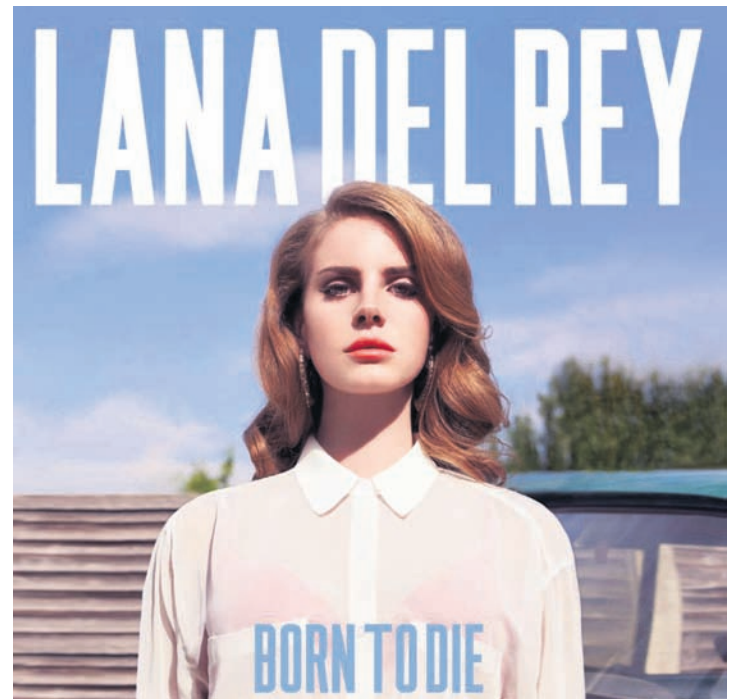
But given the arrangement, the rest of the album is surprisingly good. While none of the songs are as immediately great or as attention-grabbing as "Video Games" or "Born to Die", they are still thoughtful and well done.

The record is immaculately produced, sometimes so produced that it doesn't always match Del Rey's vocal ability, but nevertheless always conjures up a dreamy, slow-moving soundscape that matches the tragic lyrics of love lost and of hopelessness. Songs like "Dark Paradise" and "National Anthem" are catchy and kind of

breathy. The songs work, and while *Die* doesn't stretch its lyrical content beyond images of Americana and the Hamptons, one could argue this as an intention to create a thematically strong album, rather than proof of Del Rey's inability to write about anything else.

Despite being a perfectly satisfying pop record, *Born to Die* is an album conceived by an artist that people love to hate, an artist who's been under such heavy scrutiny and criticism since her arrival on the music scene that her major label debut could never truly succeed. Each moment of slight weakness on *Die* becomes an elaborate reason to condemn and denounce an artist who never once claimed or tried to convince the public that her music was groundbreaking or deserved attention.

Born to Die is an album that's born to disappoint, given such high expectations from a public that wants to see failure. For Del Rey, an artist who can inspire loathing with a simple pucker of her supposedly collagen-filled lips, *Born to Die* should be seen as an accomplishment. Del Rey has created



BLOGSPOT.COM/PHOTO

a collective work that's been anticipated by many on the strength of one song, a work that experiments with an interesting soundscape, subtle but well-crafted hooks, and if not always strong at least consistent vocals—something that can't be said of every debut album. *Born to Die* is an album that might be appreciated years after the smoke surrounding the Del Rey phenomenon

lifts, and people will be able to hear the music without fixating on her public image. But until then, prepare to see some pitchforks and torches. **MMM**

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Old Ideas—Leonard Cohen

LUKE SAWCZAK
COPY EDITOR

I'm a **Leonard Cohen** fan, the kind that goes to the Arts Editor and says, "Nives! Nives! Have you heard 'The Traitor' off *Recent Songs*? Or what about 'Dance Me to the End of Love'? YOU NEED TO HEAR IT!" So when Cohen busted out his 12th album, our perspicacious editor obliged me by asking me to review it. I thought long and hard for about two seconds and then agreed.

It's true that after 2004's *Dear Heather*, which is less of an album and more of a poetry reading, I wondered whether Cohen's imagination had finally dried up. On listening to *Old Ideas*, I have good news: the ideas may be old, but Cohen's 12th album feels new. It's hard on the first listen to pick out exactly what it is. It's the same cool beat, jazz organ, piano, low sweet violin, vivid guitar, women's choir, etc., and the waltz-tempo songs still predominate. It could be that he's experimenting a little more with his vocal range after having plunged an octave or two, or it could be the variety of producers, a couple of whom even have cowriter credits on some songs.

It's 10 songs at a refreshing 40 minutes. The first and last tracks, "Going Home" and "Different Sides" respectively, are well chosen for their positions, since they're also my favourites. The first one is a pretty new sight in his lyrics: he casts himself as a humble, misguided servant of some divine being that's been behind his music the whole time. It's a nice change from showing off his cleverness in favour of stepping down so some higher being can take the stage. (I don't know about you, but personally, I like his pseudo-religious songs—of which "Show Me the Place" is both the best on this album and one of the best in his career—for the light they put the world in. Whatever you believe, it's hard



STEREOGUM.COM/PHOTO

not to call them beautiful thoughts.) The album closer is the good old Cohenesque romantic dialogue, though to read the lyrics you'd think the music would sound much darker, which has an interesting effect. The contrast of these particular backup vocals gives the impression that Cohen's given the woman more of a chance to reply than he usually does.

Most of the other songs, though a great listen, are a little more forgettable. "Amen" and "Darkness" are pretty lyrically dull (not a good place to be for Cohen); "Crazy to Love You" strongly resembles his early work with its ballad style and its sparse instrumentation; "Anyhow" is more typical Cohen poetry. The chorus on "Come Healing" is nice in that it proves that his melodies are not just reminiscent of beauty but actually beautiful, in the proper octave. Though not many of the songs are likely to make you immediately hit repeat, they do each have a certain value. (Except "Darkness". It's really lame.)

So, yeah. It's good. Hey, it's hard to not sound like I'm biased when it's an artist whose work has overtly or subtly dominated the music scene for so long, so do bear with me. *Old Ideas* is a great album, even for Cohen, intertwining the (by now grandfatherly) moods of his old albums with new thoughts, or maybe the other way around. Whatever it is, it's working. **MMMM ½**

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MEDIUM FEATURES»

Editor » Larissa Ho

A warm winter? What's that all about?

Canadians love talking about our unpredictable weather. What do they think about our strangely warm winter?

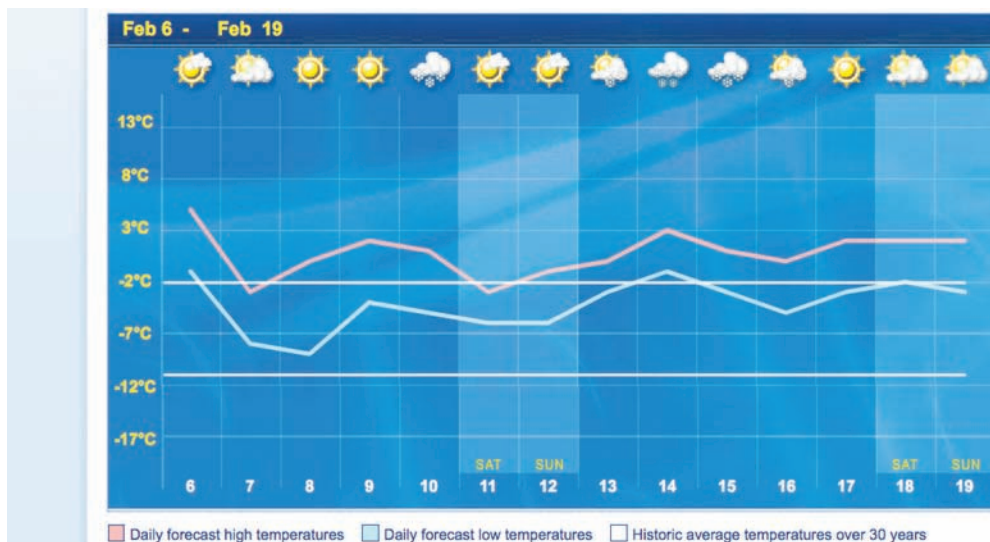
EMILY ACHESON

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Congratulations, Canada. Our land, that with the longest coastline and the most freshwater, has also won first place for being the world's most boring country. Why? Perhaps it has something to do with our obsession with the weather.

There's no doubt that Canadians love talking about our weather. We talk about it on the bus, we listen for it on the radio, and we watch it on TV. Canadian students often organize their schedules around weather predictions because one good snow-fall could cancel buses, bury cars, and (hopefully) close schools.

This year, our winter has been particularly strange. Instead of chipping ice off our windshields, we are enjoying spring-like temperatures, rain, and the occasional dusting of snow. Some attribute this to global warm-



THEWEATHERNETWORK.COM/PHOTOS

As the Weather Network graph shows, it has been (and will continue to be) and unseasonably warm winter.

ing. Others think it's just a natural quirk. Actually, it may be a bit of both.

La Niña, a naturally occurring set of weather extremes in the tropical Pacific Ocean, sent the jet stream far-

ther north over Canada than usual. By pushing it up higher over the continent, it has also pushed the colder Arctic air up as well. On top of this, La Niña is sending up warm Gulf air and its moisture. Meanwhile, Europe is enduring an unusual cold snap so brutal it's collecting a death toll.

Where did I hear this? In a family conversation, of course.

Our odd winter has not kept us from our usual weather-centred conversations. If anything, Canadians are instead discussing how bad the winter was last year, how glad they are to avoid winter driving, or how upset

they are that they can't go skiing.

Why do we love to obsess about our weather? Some weather networks say Canadian weather brings people together.

Canada has not always been known for having the "warmest" people. Some Canadian provinces even pin the "nastiest Canadian" title on other provinces. (We can recall the controversial 2009 Coors Light ad in British Columbia that claimed its beer was "colder than most people in Toronto".)

Yet when the weather turns unbearable, even strangers take time to

help each other.

Some say we keep ourselves constantly updated on the forecast because Canada boasts some of the most unpredictable weather in the world.

And we like to be ready for it. On the whole planet, there are only three networks dedicated to weather. Canada is home to two of them.

Bryan Jones, a meteorologist with Canada's Weather Network, has another idea. "There have been many times when weather events and climate episodes have changed the course of history," says Jones. "The lull in the storms either side of the Normandy invasions of World War II, the abandonment of the Viking settlements in Greenland and Newfoundland as the Little Ice Age developed, the Irish Potato Famine of the late 1840s and the resultant mass emigrations, and many other weather-related events have helped alter how the wave of history might have turned out otherwise."

According to the Weather Network, our mild conditions could last until the end of February. They caution that winter could still show up at any time. Snow recently pummelled areas north of Lake Superior, and the rest of us still have March to go.

Don't worry. We still have a lot to talk about.

Why the !@#\$ do we swear?

PRIYANKA KUMAR

It's all around us. Walking through the halls of UTM you're sure to hear a few F-bombs getting dropped. "F this!" "F that!" "She's such an F-in' hoe!" But why? Why is swearing so constant in our daily lives? Is it impossible to get through a day without cursing? What causes some people to insert a cuss word in almost every sentence of every conversation?

Specific words that society deems vulgar have been around for hundreds of years, and their meanings have changed over time. "Four-letter words", like the F-bomb, are powerful because they do a particularly good job of expressing strong feelings. Geoff Nunberg, a linguist from University of California, claims that "big F-ing deal" is quite reasonable to say when you're talking to a friend about something that was a big effing deal. According to him, "It's empathetic and has an intensity of emotion. To say 'This was certainly a big deal' doesn't convey the same emotion."

The reason behind the power of swearing, according to *Discov-*

ery, is the taboo factor they carry. The more restrictions you put on something the more alluring it becomes; the "forbidden fruit is always sweeter" factor comes into play. In saying something that we aren't really supposed to say, we're pointing out that this topic is so important to us that we are willing to cross boundaries to make it clear.

Another reason for swearing might be psychological. Studies done by Timothy Jay of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts have found that swearing can provide both an emotional release and relief from physical pain. "People have a sense of catharsis; they feel better after using this kind of language," he says.

One still wonders why swearing is particularly common on the public stage, such as in songs or acceptance speeches; it's as if certain celebrities' statements wouldn't be complete without some sort of swearing. An example of this can be seen in Jay Z's recent news-making. When his daughter, Blue Ivy, was born, it was rumoured that from then on Jay Z would refrain from us-

ing the word "bitch" in any of his songs out of respect for his newborn baby girl. The rumour flew around the Internet, magazines, and tabloid television networks for a week or so, but it wasn't long before Jay Z's representative said it was just a rumour and the rapper had said no such thing. Now that it's been laid to rest and we can feel reassured that future HOVA songs probably will include the word, one has to wonder, why is it such a big deal to use the word in every song? Can't he even try? Perhaps Nunberg's theory that swearing conveys an intense emotion in a unique way is behind this one.

Even though we know swearing isn't the politest habit, we continue to do it. Not only does it actually relieve the perceived pain from an injury, it also punctuates a point. And in songs from any genre, sometimes it's necessary to demonstrate the artist's emotions—and sometimes it's completely unnecessary, and then it feels as if the artist is using it as filler. No matter why we swear, the fact is, it's not going away anytime soon.



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Speak out: How our voices reveal personality

What does your voice say about you? Whether it's high, low, or fast-paced, your voice communicates lots

TAI NGUYEN

From spicing up casual conversations with everyday friends to making a good first impression in a job interview, the benefits of mastering the nuances of your voice are virtually limitless. A Stanford University study showed that people seem to hear personality in others' voices. The pace and tone of a voice is critical to how it's perceived.

Vocal coach Sally Hague says, "You can tell a lot about how someone is feeling by listening to their voice: whether they are relaxed and happy or feeling upset and tense. Often we don't think about what we are hearing on a conscious level, but we interpret far more from the way people speak than from the actual words they say."

But you never thought of that! With that little insight in mind, let's take a look at how we speak.

THE FAST TALKER

What your voice says

Speaking too quickly can make you appear anxious or sloppy and can make it difficult for others to understand. This is not to say that speaking quickly is always ineffective. We see it at auctions. If the auctioneer speaks too slowly, the audience may lose interest in the item being sold and in bidding. Part of the persuasion is the auctioneer's rapid delivery that speeds up the bidding process and motivates the audience to bid quickly.

Nonetheless, try to take the time to pronounce each syllable and pause between phrases, because more often than not your listener is not planning to go anywhere.

Advice

If it happens to be the case that you *are* anxious or nervous, a deep breath before you speak and natural pauses while speaking can work wonders.

Psychologists Robert Segal, MA, and Jeanne Segal, PhD, advise: "Use body language to convey positive feelings even when you're not actually experiencing them. If you're nervous about a situation—a job interview, important presentation, or first date, for example—you can use positive body language to signal confidence, even though you're not feeling it. Instead of tentatively entering a room with your head down, eyes averted, and sliding into a chair, try standing tall with your shoulders back, smiling and maintaining eye contact. It will make you feel more self-confident and



Morgan Freeman is known for his distinctive voice, while Christian Bale's unique Batman voice in *Batman Begins* and *The Dark Knight* has both come under criticism and received rave reviews for its originality and for conveying Batman's personality.

FILMGRENADE.COM/PHOTO

help to put the other person at ease."

THE SLOW TALKER

What your voice says

You appear in control, calm, and confident and as a result your listener will feel comfortable conversing with you and take the time to hear what you have to say. However, this style of talking can backfire as you can appear absentminded, or worse, put others to sleep.

Advice

People who speak slowly are more likely to seem monotonous to others, so be aware of this. It is at your discretion to know when to increase your pace. If you are afraid of boring your listener, mastering when to stress a word is a good counter.

THE HIGH-PITCHED VOICE

What your voice says

People who speak in high, squeaky, or whiny voices generally sound unpleasant and unstable. After a few sentences, your listener may even think of ways or excuses to end your conversation.

Katrina Onstad of the *Globe and Mail* claims, "The up-high, up-talking voice is not generally considered the soundtrack of world leadership, no matter how substantial the content of that voice. It's the sound of a child, which means invisibility."

Advice

Contrary to popular belief, people with high voices aren't stuck with them, though trying to fix your tone on your own can be damaging to your vocal chords. A vocal coach's training can bring your voice down a notch.

THE LOW TALKER

What your voice says

This can be a double-edged sword. A low, powerful voice can exude authority because a deep voice correlates with high testosterone. Judith Felik, the president of Impact Communications, remarks, "Practise speaking at a slightly lower octave. Deeper voices have more credibility than higher-pitched voices. It will take getting used to pitching your voice down an octave, but it will be worth the effort." This

style of talking can also backfire, as people with low voices are generally more prone to mumbling. Despite how you sound, if your listener is getting frustrated trying to make out what you are saying, it is a lost cause.

Advice

On top of visual cues, it is important to confirm that you are being heard or understood by your listener. As will be especially necessary for those who have impaired hearing or are at louder places (such as a

club), consciously raise your pitch when speaking.

IMPROVING YOUR TONE

Storytelling is a good indicator of your mastery of your tone of voice. Ever hear a captivating, mesmerizing story told in a monotonous voice with little emotion or passion? Doubt it. A major factor that allows the charismatic, passionate storytellers to tell it like that is their control of their voice.

Stephen D. Boyd, PhD, CSP, and professor of speech communication at Northern Kentucky University, suggests, "See in your mind the story you are telling. This will translate into your vocal quality. That is why a person who retells a story of an event that just happened will tell it with more excitement in the voice because the picture of the event is still fresh in his or her mind. Talk to a child at the end of a school day and he or she will give a more excited and animated summary of the day than if you ask about the day later in the evening or the next day. Train yourself to relive the story as you tell it and you will see a difference in your tone of voice."

There is no one style of talking that will fit any given situation. When it comes to communication, a little self-consciousness and common sense go a long way.

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The end of an undergraduate career

Profile on UTM graduating student Bobby Diaz, who volunteers working with LGBTQ youth in Toronto

LARISSA HO
FEATURES EDITOR

Bobby Diaz, a psychology and biology double major at UTM, has been involved in various activities throughout his undergraduate career, both on- and off-campus. His involvement with OUT@UTM, for example, which started back in 2009 and continues to this day, and with the Psychology Association of Undergraduate Students of Erindale (PAUSE) since 2007, are just two of the various avenues through which he channels his interests and passions. For the 2011/12 year, Diaz is serving as the social coordinator for OUT@UTM, the LGBTQ coordinator at UTMSU, one of two student chair representatives at the Academic Students' Society at UTMSU (ASAC), an Erindale College Council representative, and a member of the U of T Pride Planning Committee. Diaz will also represent UTM this May at the Canadian University Queer Services Conference (CUQSC), taking place at the University of Regina. The conference involves universities from across Canada and their LGBTQ campus groups.

"My passion for working with the LGBTQ community started off at UTM working with OUT@



BOBBY DIAZ/PHOTOS

Bobby Diaz as a frosh leader at the 2010 U of T Frosh Parade on St. George campus.

UTM, but as demonstrated this year and hopefully more in the future, my work will continue to expand its great reach, moving from simply Mississauga to [the] GTA and even Ontario-wide—the service that I help provide at the Sherbourne Health House is Ontario-wide specifically. My work started at the university level is simply just a starting point," said Diaz. "The best part of being a part of an organization and the work I do there is it provides me with practical ex-

perience for the field that I eventually want to have a career in, that is, counselling and working with LGBTQ youth at the professional level.

"I am able to continue my work that I am wholeheartedly passionate about, and it's something that is able to give back to the community that I am very much a part of," he says. "People and the media always talk about 'it gets better', but the problem is, how? I believe the work that I do challenges that whole ide-

al and instructs people on making it better."

This past year, Diaz started volunteering in Toronto as a counsellor at an organization (which cannot be named for confidentiality) affiliated with the Sherbourne Health Centre, where he works with LGBTQ youth aged 16 to 26, and where Diaz provides counselling on various topics regarding support, information, and referrals with issues that involve LGBT-TIQQ2S-identified individuals.

"My university experience thus far has been an amazing one, filled with memories and friends that I know I'll have for a lifetime. But as with anything, the university experience is very much transitory—we move on to bigger and better things," said Diaz. "Knowing full well that my undergraduate experience is ending soon, I wanted to expand my social and networking circles that go beyond the University of Toronto tri-campus and bridge into other organizations with a wider outreach.

"After I graduate, I plan on continuing my work with the LGBTQ community and pursue further my aspirations in clinical and counselling psychology. UTM has directly inspired me and my career choice through the professors in psychology," he continues. "In my fourth year, I had an epiphany [...] as inspired by my professors here in UTM and through my work with the student union; that is, to work in a career within the realm of developmental psychology—a calling that has been in front of me all along. Through this field, I can make a difference in the lives of people who need it most, greatly affecting how individuals live and evidently how they affect other people around them."

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LUKE'S LANGUAGES /luks'laɛŋgwə,dʒɪz/

#11: WEIGHING THOUGHTS, WEIGHING LANGUAGE

LUKE SAWCZAK

Hey, everybody! It's been good! But I must let you know you that this series—or at least this run of the series, since, God only knows, I might have a life outside of school later on—is coming to an end. With this issue, both construable as an end to the historical linguistics part and the culmination of a thinly veiled linguistic philosophy that has permeated the series, I will thank you for all our good times and send you on your way.

Last week we talked about language families, their relationships, and how the same patterns trickle down through all human language over time, and two weeks ago we talked about one word's journey through time. If anyone remembers a week before that, you'll be thinking, "Didn't he just show us how *different* languages are?" Yep, I did!

The great paradox is that no two people speak exactly the same, yet we all have to in order to understand each other at all.

We all have our own set of concepts and thoughts that only a language tailored to ourselves can express, yet we all share this world. And why I find language so damn fascinating. No no, bear with me. What I've got in mind this time is how it's the foundation of thought.

Over the past few hundred years people have been noticing an interesting trend: the less clear you are at language, the less clear you

are at thinking in general. A couple points: one is that clarity is *not* eloquence, it's clarity. Fishermen have been clearer than PhDs. The other is that yes, the direction of causality is hard to nail down. But the correlation is there.

Warning: this paragraph is the educational one. There's a lot of information on the phenomenon of general cognitive ability being tied to language use—again, not poetic elegance; more like the "*mot juste*"—including feral children (raised sans civilization or language) and other language deprivation experiments, which sometimes even end in psychosis, and the flourishing of literature with a successful society. But my favourite is Kieran Egan's *The Educated Mind* (1997), worth reading if you want to explore the topic. He argues for a historical trend correlating precise writing systems with sophisticated thought. An example that has stuck in my mind is some interviews with members of a Slavic tribe, whose *logic skills correlated with literacy*. (Read that again... fascinating, eh?)

Warning: this paragraph is the one you care about. The question worth asking is: how do you think? Do you agree that your thoughts themselves are more sophisticated, clearer, only when you can express them clearly? Or do you think it's a load of bull (which, like anything, it very well could be), and that you are indeed capable of conjuring up clear concepts without calling on words

all the time? How does your brain work? Do you *need* language?

Whatever the answer is, I ain't gonna risk living the unexamined life. I want to know myself, so I want to know my language. And I want to know other languages, and see language itself from a different angle. I'll study it, I'll study its history and its nuances, and figure out how it works, and in doing so figure out how *I* work. I hope you will too.

In fact, let me throw in a last technical term: "metalinguistic awareness". Awareness of how you and your brain use language—it's a fundamental aspect of every one of us.

Whew... anyway, I guess I'll stop my rhapsody, my rhetoric, right there. Goodbye, and thanks for reading along!

(P.S. I gotta do just *one* more etymology! An important correspondent asked me to explain the history of "egregious", an uncommon word that means "shocking" or "shockingly bad"—but which 400 years ago meant "distinguished" or "excellent". How does a word come to mean its opposite, she asks? The secret is that its root is neither good nor bad, but *neutral*, with the ability to swing either way. It's from Latin *ex-* "out of" and *greg* "flock", as seen in "aggregate", "gregarious", and "agoraphobia". So it just means "outstanding"—and so the ambiguous base was there for English to reinterpret it in an entirely ironic, even antithetical sense. Thanks for the suggestion!)

MEDIUM SPORTS »

Interim Editor » Anna Bediones

Lady Eagles advance to finals

UTM tri-campus basketball knocks St. George Black out of the championship race in a 55–53 overtime victory

ANNA BEDIONES
INTERIM SPORTS EDITOR

While the world prepared for Superbowl Sunday, UTM's tri-campus basketball team prepared for their own big game.

On this mild afternoon, I watched from the sidelines as my former teammates warmed up for their semifinal game against St. George Black. With more than half the team comprising rookies, I was excited to see the fresh additions to the team.

UTM looked to redeem themselves after losing to this team just weeks ago. With UTM ranked second and St. George Black ranked third, this was an even matchup.

The Eagles' defence was the key factor in this game. They put

the pressure on early with a full-court press that St. George just could not break, forcing turnovers and converting them into buckets.

In the second half, St. George picked up an 8–0 scoring run early on to break UTM's lead.

The pace of the game escalated, with numerous lead changes. The atmosphere in the RAWC was thrilling: parents, friends, and fans occupied the stands and filled the air with chants.

With only 10.8 seconds remaining and a two-point deficit, the Eagles needed to make a move. Coach Jack Krist called the girls in for their final timeout to organize a game strategy: a perfectly executed sideline inbound play to shooting guard Ashley Nguyen, who dished it to team-

mate Katie Bora for an uncontested layup to tie the game.

The energy from the fans was contagious, and it translated into superb game play from the players in overtime. St. George Black could not recover.

UTM controlled the pace, led by fourth-year point guard Micheline Khan, who stepped up to score ten of her thirteen points in the last minutes of the game. Beside her, rookie guard Meghan McErlain also contributed crucial plays to seal the lead.

"The ladies just executed that last play to perfection," said Krist after the game. "The girls hustled and everybody played their roles."

UTM will face St. George Blue in the finals next Sunday, February 12.



ZOHA KAZMI/UTM DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Coach Jack Krist draws up the final play of the game.

Controlling obesity through policy

Researchers suggest implementing policies to promote healthy lifestyles

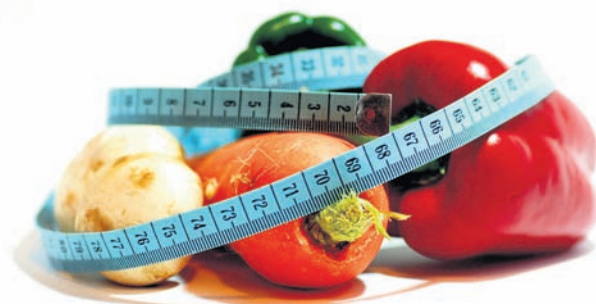
MICHELLE K. DUKLAS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

On February 1, the popular scientific journal *Nature* published an article that claimed that sugar was a poison and should be controlled like alcohol and tobacco. Naturally, this controversial article erupted into a media storm of contrasting views. When it comes to food, most people would rather have more choice, even if some of the choices are bad for them.

Just a few months ago, U of T professor Guy Faulkner teamed up with researchers from around the world to examine the ways in which obesity can be prevented by economic means. Their work was recently published in the *International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity*.

Obesity is a problem that has entered the limelight in the past decade. North American culture typically promotes an inactive lifestyle and unhealthy food choices that lead to obesity. The authors put together a panel of experts to determine ways in which governments can control obesity through policy.

The authors focussed more on the ways policy could be changed regarding food, rather than physical activity. They argue that implementing general tax credits for physically active people wouldn't encourage inactive people to exercise; instead, it would be better to target certain populations for subsidies, such as immigrant



TRAINBODYANDMIND.COM/PHOTO

populations and single mothers.

They go on to explain that obesity is on the rise because it costs less to buy and takes less time to prepare calorie-rich foods. Like most scientists, Faulkner and his colleagues suggest that the practical way to curb obesity is to change the policy at the root of the problem. They suggest that the government provide subsidies for fruits and vegetables. If fruits and vegetables are available at least as little cost as junk food, more people will be able to buy healthy food. They suggest that fruit and vegetables should even be offered free in schools. They also advise that farmers who grow fruits and vegetables be given subsidies, because these crops are much riskier to grow and depend on for an income than popular products like corn and wheat.

When it comes to taxing soft drinks, Faulkner and his colleagues have mixed opinions. Previous research shows that taxing soft drinks doesn't lead to a decrease in obesity, because children and adolescents tend to re-

place soft drinks with whole milk. However, all things being equal, whole milk has more nutritional benefit, so soft drink taxes may not be such a bad idea.

This type of tax wouldn't unfairly target low-income households, according to the article. The authors suggest that sugar-free diet drinks, diet beverages, and sugar-free juice and milk should be tax-exempt. This could have a huge impact on obesity, but the authors stress that it would take time to make that impact. The larger the tax, the lower the consumption. For every 10% rise in prices, consumption decreases by 8 to 10%. They suggest at least a 20% tax, and advise that the tax be made visible to consumers.

Obesity isn't going away anytime soon, and the emphasis on healthy eating and exercise has become more public. If we as a society are going to fight obesity and increase our lifespans, the government should do their part and implement better policies for curbing this health disaster and rising epidemic.

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The pool: more than just swimming

Testing the waters for UTM's new hydrorider class, a spinning class in the pool

INGRID MELDRUM

After three years, I finally decided to check out UTM's pool. I heard some good things about the new hydrorider class, so I thought that might be a good place to start.

The hydrorider class is like a spinning class in the pool. The participant pedals underwater, while the upper part of the body stays above the surface. The intensity depends on how hard the participant is willing to push; the tension of the bike can be changed to increase the difficulty.

I had done a few different drop-in classes at the RAWC before, but this one was dif-

ferent—I didn't feel sore or experience muscle pain after such a high-intensity workout. The class instructor, recent U of T graduate Andrew Griffith (who is also a DJ and a personal trainer at the RAWC), told me about the benefits of exercise in the pool as opposed to a casual workout in the gym. Going to the pool helps combat boredom. "It's good to change things up," he says. As well, the hydrorider class has a lower impact on the joints, and is particularly good for rehabilitating the knees, ankles, hips, and more, and hydriding allows exercises that can't be done in a regular spinning class, such as simultaneously working the legs and arms

by pedalling on the bike and doing arm exercises in the water. The hydrorider class instructors include off-bike exercises using the water for buoyancy and resistance.

After the workout, Andrew usually stretches with class participants in the hot tub, which is good for the muscles since they are already warmed up and more elastic. The jets also massage certain areas of the body and relieve tension.

So what held me back from going to the pool for so long? Probably the fact that I didn't want to take the time to change into a bathing suit—nor did I want anybody to see me in one. Boy, what a pleasant surprise

when I saw that the trainer and other class participants were wearing t-shirts with their bathing suits! Many people are shy about using the pool because they are a little self-conscious, and Andrew is well aware of this. "I lead by example—and I wear a t-shirt," he said. "It's not a beach bod competition. I want everyone to feel comfortable in the class."

The pool has allotted times for certain aquatic activities; hydrorider classes are held on Mondays (5 to 6 p.m.) and Wednesdays (12 to 1 p.m.).

For more information on hydrorider classes and other pool activities, visit the RAWC website: utm.utoronto.ca/athletics.

Toronto Maple Leafs playoff push

Leafs' hopes to make the playoffs look promising

MELISSA PERRI

As the Toronto Maple Leafs head into the unofficial second half of the season after the All-Star break, hopes of making the playoffs for the first time since pre-lockout are alive and strong.

The chemistry between Leafs wingers Phil Kessel and Joffrey Lupul led them to become one of the most dangerous duos on the scoresheet. Both players sit in the top 10 in league scoring, and both were invited to the All-Star game along with team captain Dion Phaneuf.

The ability to stay out of the penalty box is something the Leafs have worked on this past month. Their penalty kill percentage is still the worst in the league, but the team managed to maintain a clean January and not allow any power play goals during the month.

Depth is also a key factor for the Maple Leafs due to the multiple transactions made by GM Brian Burke. Players like Nazem Kadri and Jake Gardiner are being forced to fight for spots on the roster—a situation unheard of in years past.

The main strain on this team since the start of the season is the question of the starting goaltender. James Reimer, deemed the team's saviour after a spectacular performance during the second half of the 2010/11 season, suffered a concussion after a hit from the Montréal Canadiens' Brian Gionta last October 22. Reimer has not played the same since returning from injury, registering a .899 SV% in 18 games played this season compared to his .921 SV% in the 37 games played last season.

Blowing leads is something the Leafs need to work on as well. In two games in January, the Leafs allowed a tying goal in the last 15 seconds of regulation. Although they defeated the Islanders in overtime, they lost to the Penguins in the shootout and gave unnecessary points to two Eastern Conference teams.

Putting pressure on tough teams, such as the reigning Stanley Cup Champions, the Boston Bruins, is also key for the remainder of the season, since the Bruins have defeated the Leafs in their three matchups so far this season.

In order to maintain a playoffs position and lead into the post-season, the Leafs need to establish a strong, consistent roster and a definite starting goaltender. Post-season action is what Maple Leafs fans have been longing for. For a franchise that hasn't seen playoffs in almost 10 years, the team is finally giving fans something to cheer about.

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