

# THE MEDIUM

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## Election policies amended at UTSC

DARREN SAVAGE

Rules and procedures regarding student union elections at U of T Scarborough have changed. A new system of campaigning and representation known as “slating” gives candidates the choice to run either individually or as a group. Slating at UTSC has been disallowed till now, but the policy has been in effect for years at both the Mississauga and St. George campuses, leading some to wonder about the sudden change.

“Part of the problem at UTSC has been that you have many individuals with ideas, but the problem is putting ideas together to create a collective vision,” said fourth-year student Aly Kassam, the editor-in-chief of UTSC’s campus publication, *The Underground*.

According to the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union executive elections information package, slating allows teams to produce a “collective vision about the organization and what they would like to do for the students.”

*Election continued on page 2*

## A megalithic proposal

UTMSU attempts to negotiate large-scale Student Centre expansion



AYMAN IMRAN/THE MEDIUM

UTMSU president Gilbert Cassar explains the details of the proposed expansion report.

STEFANIE MAROTTA  
 NEWS EDITOR

The UTM Students’ Union presented their lengthy proposal for an expanded Student Centre at a commission meeting on Thursday night. The union recently discussed the 80-page report with the university to negotiate a funding proposal. About 10 students attended the

commission meeting to discuss various concerns about food services, the poor financial state of the Blind Duck Pub, and allocation of the new space.

The document proposes a significant number of additions, including four large presentation rooms, a theatre, an expanded Blind Duck Pub and food court, a multi-faith prayer space, a bar-

shop, dance rooms, an arcade, a convenience store, a health and pharmacy centre, and larger offices for clubs, societies, levy groups—and, of course, UTMSU itself. The blueprint describes a space of over 130,000 square feet—only slightly smaller than the Instructional Centre, which cost \$70 million.

*Proposal continued on page 2*

## Debating the Arab Spring

RAWAN ABDELBAKI

The Arabs Students for Peace and World Change and UTMSU hosted an intellectual debate on Wednesday on the role of the Arab diaspora amid the populist uprisings in the Middle East.

Among the panelists were some prominent members in the academic and political arena, including NDP MPP Raed Ayyad and professor Rima Berns-McGown, accompanied by PhD candidates Mai Taha and Oscar Jarzmik. Professor Jens Hanssen, a Middle Eastern and international relations expert, facilitated the debate, which took place in the Instructional Centre.

“Out of all the universities in Canada, U of T prides itself on being one of the most multi-cultural institutions of higher education, and UTM perfectly exemplifies this fact,” said Mazin Hassan, a UTM student and the president of AS-PAWC.

*Debate continued on page 3*

## EPUS to hold referendum

With the reformation of EPUS, students should expect work on a part-time U-Pass

LORI-LEE EMSHEY  
 ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Erindale Part-time Undergraduate Students intends to hold a referendum next month for part-time students to vote on whether they want access to the eight-month U-Pass and the summer U-Pass. All current part-time students will be eligible to vote.

During the fall/winter session (September to April), any student taking 2.5 credits or fewer is considered part-time. Over the summer session, any student taking 1.0 credit or less is considered a part-time student. A student that is considered full-time in the fall/winter session does not automatically carry their full-time status into the summer session.

The Association of Part-Time

Undergraduate Students represents part-time students at all three U of T campuses throughout all three semesters and is based out of the St. George campus.

EPUS dissolved in 2007 after a referendum attempting to amalgamate the local part-time union Student Administrative Council and the Erindale College Student Union resulted in a legal dispute. The union reformed last summer after part-time students were promised a summer U-Pass, but at the last minute were made ineligible because APUS—which has jurisdiction over EPUS—decided the U-Pass would not be useful to a large enough portion of part-time students.

Gilbert Cassar, the president of UTMSU, explained that when part-time students were not able

to access the U-Pass, the contract negotiated with Mississauga Transit was affected and Mississauga Transit changed the U-Pass fee to over \$200. Students had already voted to pay a fee of \$85 for the summer U-Pass, so UTMSU renegotiated with Mississauga Transit and they settled at \$140.

The subsidy came to approximately \$140,000 and was taken from the contingency fund.

The UTMSU Board of Directors voted to subsidize the \$55 per-student difference for those enrolled full-time so that eligible students could still get the U-Pass.

The subsidy came to approximately \$140,000 and was taken from the contingency fund, an emergency reserve.

If EPUS passes the U-Pass referendum, part-time students will have access to the U-Pass at rates already negotiated between UTMSU and Mississauga Transit for summer 2012 and for the 2012/13 fall/winter session.

Cassar said the U-Pass is “100% guaranteed at \$85 plus inflation” for all summer students, part-time and full-time, if the referendum passes.

The EPUS referendum is scheduled for March 6 through 8.

In the event that a TA strike causes classes to run into the summer, Cassar promises that UTMSU will negotiate with Mississauga Transit to extend the U-Pass to accommodate extra classes.



**Rock for a Breast**  
 UTM Women’s Centre and UTM Music Club host benefit concert for breast cancer research.  
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**The great compromise**  
 The byproduct of the expansion debate.  
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**A night of art and culture**  
 UTM students come together for the annual Arts Festival.  
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**Green Dot comes to U of T**  
 Cheryl Champagne spills the beans on how it all began.  
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**Preventing obesity**  
 U of T researchers study just how effective children’s health campaigns are.  
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# UTM rocks for cancer research

Students jammed at the Blind Duck Pub on Friday in a benefit concert for breast cancer research

**CARINE ABOUSEIF**  
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

The UTM Women's Centre and UTM Music Club hosted the "Rock for a Breast" benefit concert at the Blind Duck Pub on Friday night as part of Keep a Breast Canada's "Music for Awareness" initiative.

Students enjoyed music by local artists Sola (featuring Ricky Solo), Rob Moir, District 5, Red Nightfall, and the Balconies. Concert proceeds will fund breast cancer research and breast cancer education programs by Keep a Breast Canada.

"People need to be more aware," said Farah Shubbar, an event volunteer. "Just because we're young doesn't mean we can't get breast cancer."

According to Keep a Breast Canada, about 23,000 women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010. Keep a Breast Foundation aims to decrease this sta-



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

Local artists perform at the benefit concert.

tistic by teaching young people about breast cancer through arts events, concerts, and educational programs. The "Music for Awareness" campaign is part

of that mission.

Red Nightfall band member Patrick Illian captured the feelings of the performers concerning the importance of the breast

cancer cause.

"It's something that affects everyone," Illian said. "We all have women in our lives who could get breast cancer."

Concert attendee Yasmeen Shubbar said the event was a different approach to a pub night and a great way to support talent in Toronto and the GTA.

In the low-lit pub, tables carried Keep a Breast pamphlets, newsletters, and stickers that read "I love boobies". The Balconies also sold merchandise the proceeds of which went to breast cancer research foundations. Students drank, ate, and conversed in the mellow atmosphere set by the performances. The crowd particularly enjoyed the District 5 set and chanted for an encore.

"It would be wonderful to have this concert as an annual event," said Antara Ashra, UTM-MWC's volunteer coordinator. "It would also be great to host the concert as annual event, taking on a different cause each year, but it's up to the students and what they choose to do next year."

## UTMSU seeks feedback on Student Centre expansion

*Proposal continued from Cover*

Over the last few years, the union has purported to be negotiating a deal with the university to renovate the Student Centre. The claim, which is often boasted during elections, has never included any concrete groundwork until now. According to UTMSU, the university estimates that every square foot costs about \$1,000 after consultation, construction, and other necessities. Thus, the union's proposed expansion would cost an estimated \$130 million.

The university countered with a smaller project that would cost \$6 million and include a smaller renovation of the Student Centre. They offered to finance up to \$2 million. Since the university is almost at borrowing capacity, it would be unlikely that the project could be mortgaged. The responsibility to cover the remaining balance would fall on students and any potential donors willing to contribute to the construction.

The interests of various groups

need to be taken into consideration when considering the space made available by the smaller renovation. Clubs, academic societies, and levy groups like *The Medium* and ECSpEeRT need larger offices and students need greater study and leisure space.

The Student Centre was constructed in 1999 to accommodate 6,000 undergraduates at the UTM campus. The capital project cost \$6 million and students were asked to cover \$1 million. Through a referendum, students accepted the proposal and agreed to pay a \$25 levy from tuition.

Over a decade later, 12,000 undergraduates share the building. Enrolment is expected to increase to 15,000 over the next few years.

The commission held off on the vote to approve or disapprove the proposal. UTMSU president Gilbert Cassar intends to hold a town hall with the administration for students to become informed about the finances of the project, make recommendations, and ask questions.

## Scarborough Campus Students' Union allows slating in elections

*Election continued from Cover*

Whereas executive positions (president, vice-president student and equity, vice-president academics and vice-president external) were once elected individually, they can now band together and form a "slate".

"UTSC is notorious for voter apathy," said Kassam. "In the four years I've been here, I think there was only one year—2009 to 2010—where the voter turnout was higher than usual, and this was right after Zuhair Syed was impeached as president."

That public disgrace may have had a lasting effect, as evidenced by the fact that this year only one slate is available for students to vote for. However, it does not dissuade those who feel like the policy change can only increase student engagement.

"The slating process creates more buzz and excitement," said Abdalla Al-Baalawy, the current VP external and presidential candidate of the sole slate, named Forward Together.

While the move may enable candidates to reach more people, it may be unable to combat the indifference of voters. Despite the prevalence of slating at UTM, student engagement and voter turnout has been low. In the spring 2010 elections, voter turnout was at a dismal 20%. It increased to roughly 26% the following year. Regardless of these numbers, the slate system appears to produce a 100% in-

cumbency turnover rate.

Gilbert Cassar, the current president of UTMSU, ran as part of the slate Students First for the UTM elections of spring 2011. Before that, he ran as VP internal and services with the slate Students United. In both cases, all candidates under the banner were elected to office.

While the move may enable candidates to reach more people, it may be unable to combat the indifference of voters. Despite the prevalence of slating at UTM, student engagement and voter turnout has been low. In the spring 2010 elections, voter turnout was at a dismal 20%. It increased to roughly 26% the following year.

"In the spring 2010 election there was strong competition between Students United and another slate called UTM Renew," said Cassar. "It was very exciting. That's the kind of election you want: exciting and engaging."

According to the UTMSU elections procedure code, candidates get in based on a "plurality of the votes cast". Instead of a majority, which requires a minimum number of votes, candidates get elected simply if more people say yes than no. But the slate system builds on this simplicity by presenting unique problems, such as slates developing around race.

"Another negative consequence, which I think is already taking place during the campaigns for the upcoming election, is the slates overshadowing candidates," said Cassar. "[They] have to work twice as hard to have their voice heard. A voter might decide to vote for a candidate simply based on the fact that they are voting for another member of the same slate, not because they believe they are a better candidate."

The move raises questions regarding responsibility.

"I think that the buck stops with the voter. [They] decide if they want to support a team with united values or an individual with exceptional points. In that way, I think slating is democratic," said Cassar.

Democratic or not, problems can arise if individual members who are not part of slates get elected into office. But that does not appear to concern Al-Baalawy.

"Even if someone doesn't get voted in, we can still work as a team," he said. "We are more than happy to work with anyone who comes in."

**SHOOT FOR THE MEDIUM**  
Email Edward  
photos@mediumutm.ca



# New innovation in cardiac surgery

U of T professor uses stem cell technology in heart surgery

**SANA HAO**  
STAFF WRITER

U of T professors performed the first cardiac stem cell transplant in Ontario, using a novel medical procedure that, so far, is unique to Canada.

The patient's bone marrow was isolated in the operating room to derive stem cells, which were transplanted to the heart during the coronary bypass surgery. The transplant took place at the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre in Toronto and was led by Dr. Terrence Yau, a U of T professor of surgery and the director of the Cardiac Stem Cell Therapy Program.

This procedure has made an impact on research for the development of a treatment for the 50,000 Canadians diagnosed with heart failure each year. The

traditional treatments for heart attacks have not been able to reverse its effects. Researchers hope that stem cell therapy will help improve the functioning of hearts damaged by heart attacks.

This procedure has made an impact on research for the development of a treatment for the 50,000 Canadians diagnosed with heart failure each year.

James Culross, a 67-year-old man from Etobicoke, was the

first patient to receive this type of transplant. A team of doctors transplanted about 2.83 million stem cells into seven sites of his damaged heart.

Dr. Richard Weisel, a U of T professor of surgery, states that once the stem cells are isolated from the patient's bone marrow, injecting them into the heart in an efficient manner makes an important difference in improving the heart function. The process of stem cell isolation lasts four to six hours.

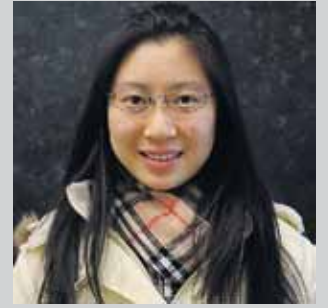
The leading cause of death in Canada is heart disease; almost one in two Canadians will suffer from a coronary disease at some point. Not only has stem cell therapy proven to be a leading development in treating heart diseases, it has also helped pave the way for further research in human disease.

## »WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR READING WEEK?



**Natalia**  
5th year, anthropology

"I'll be studying, partying, and catching upon sleep."



**Cherise**  
2nd year, psychology

"Just going back and catching up with friends."



**Danish**  
Alumnus, anthropology

"I'm already working! I'll be studying for the bar, so there's a lot of reading to do."



**Deer**  
4th year, undeclared

"I want to take some time for myself and then reconnect with my herd before hitting the books again."

# ASPAWC debates the Arab diaspora

*Debate continued from Cover*

"In order to truly appreciate and admire the richness of this cultural diversity, debates and discussions on issues of diaspora are incredibly important," Hassan said.

Dr. Rima Berns-McGown, a professor in the Department of Historical Studies and an expert on diaspora communities, echoed this sentiment and highlighted the importance of dual identities, which she considers a "conflicting yet rich space". She urged the audience to form a "nuanced position" and to use their voices to spur change.

One of the central themes that emerged during the debate was

the power of the West and the legitimacy of the United Nations as

"In order to truly appreciate and admire the richness of this cultural diversity, debates and discussions on issues of diaspora are incredibly important."  
—Mazin Hassan

a peacekeeping institution.

Ayyad stated that the UN Security Council's members that

wield veto power are "flexing their muscles" when it comes to international affairs, whereas the panelists unanimously opposed any form of military intervention, for example in Libya.

The audience, mostly composed of Middle Eastern students, expressed their concerns and their opinions on the issue with a vast majority alleging that the hegemony of the United States is a primary obstacle in achieving peace in the politically volatile Arab world.

ASPAWC, a UTM organization whose mandate is to provide an arena for expression of cultural concerns, is hoping to organize another political debate in March.

## Ontario to build new university campuses

**CANDICE CASSAR**

The Ontario Liberal government has promised to create three new undergraduate campuses to improve access to postsecondary education.

These universities will provide high-quality education for students at a more affordable cost. These new campuses will combine college and university instruction, incorporating hands-on training and new technologies, such as e-learning. Class sizes will be smaller—averaging about 45—with the intention of allowing the professor to spend more of their time teaching rather than conducting research. This allows for greater interaction between faculty and students, a factor in how well stu-

dents succeed.

Since the number of students attending universities in the GTA is expected to increase from 30,000 to 50,000 over the next 15 years, new campuses must provide new opportunities for undergraduates. It is recommended that these new campuses create different programs from most universities in order to vary the choices students have.

The new campuses are supposed to be more affordable than creating universities that follow the traditional university model. They may also require a lower tuition, with estimates of up to \$2,000 less over the course of a four-year program. Students will be able to select the campus that best satisfies their learning requirements.

## NEWS BRIEFS »

### Judge orders man to take wife on date to Red Lobster

Judge John Hurley of Florida ruled that Joseph Bray, 47, must take his wife out on a date. Bray was charged for domestic violence. The argument started when Bray forgot to wish his wife a happy birthday and also shoved her against a couch and grabbed her by the neck. Hurley stated that Bray has a clean record and the incident was "very, very minor". The accused must take his wife to Red Lobster and then for a game of bowling.

Source: NBC Miama

### Twitter outpaces the press; man tweets Houston's death

A man tweeted nearly half an hour before mainstream media that Whitney Houston had died. @chilemasgrande tweeted, "My sources say Whitney Houston found dead in Beverly Hills hotel... Not in the news yet!!" And 15 minutes before him, @AjaDiorNavy tweeted, "omgg, my aunt tiffany who work for Whitney Houston just found Whitney Houston dead in the tub. such ashame & sad." *The Associated Press* tweeted the official announcement just before 5 p.m., sourcing Houston's publicist.

Source: Mashable

### New anti-terrorist strategy lists so-called eco-extremists

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said that extreme environmentalists should be regarded as adversaries. The strategy states that "vulnerable individuals" that could be politically inspired to commit violence. Other causes include animal rights, white supremacy, and anti-capitalism. NDP MP Megan Leslie opined that the government is attempting to incriminate environmental and Aboriginal groups that oppose the Northern Gateway Pipeline.

Source: *The Globe and Mail*

### Man found naked and covered in chocolate and peanut butter

22-year-old Andrew Toothman was accused of breaking into Food World IGA, a supermarket in Kentucky, naked except for his boots. He used up all of the fire extinguishers and spelled "Sorry" on the floor with NyQuil. He slathered peanut butter and chocolate all over himself. Toothman was charged with indecent exposure, burglary, and criminal mischief. He was incarcerated in Letcher County Jail and was later released.

Source: *Huffington Post*

### Arab League approaches UN Security Council

The Arab League asked the United National Security Council to send peacekeepers to Syria in hopes of achieving a ceasefire to end the violence. The League hopes that Arab nations will sever ties with Syria to pressure the end of the civil war. The League's own mission to Syria failed last month. "The violence cannot stop without a common view on a political compromise," said Nabil el-Araby, the League's secretary general.

Source: *The New York Times*

# MEDIUM OPINION »

Editor-in-Chief » Michael Di Leo

## The great compromise

About five years ago UTMSU first proposed an expansion to the Student Centre. Since that plan fizzled out, there has been a lot of talk about an expansion, but very little... *expansion*.

It is clear that students want an improved building. No one doubts that. The problem, as usual, lies in the compromise. More specifically, measuring students' needs and demands against the cost—both what the university is prepared to contribute and the effects, through a levy, on the next few generations of students.

An expanded Student Centre

would solve a number of issues related to student groups and student use in general. One of the most common complaints—the lack of office space—seems like a fair place to start. Simply having all student groups under one roof would, without a doubt, foster a much more cohesive and active student community. Moreover, it would be nice just to have a little extra space for hanging out.

So when I heard that UTMSU presented their expansion proposal to the administration last month, I was pleased. After years of delays and false starts, they

were actually doing something. There was a physical document in the administration's hands, and (this is the important part) they read it. From there, though, things started to go a bit off course.

As you can find out about in the Student Centre expansion article on the cover, the plan UTMSU submitted called for a space of over 130,000 square feet, making it only slightly smaller than the newly constructed Instructional Centre. Such a building would come at a cost of well over \$100 million.

Take from this what you will.

The university administration was obviously not having any of it, which is why UTMSU came back and held last week's commission meeting to get students' opinion on how to scale the project down. It's clear that much of the plan was excessive to say the least (a hair salon? Really?), but hey—at least they tried.

What concerns me is how this might affect future negotiations with the university. There's no way UTMSU went into their meeting thinking that their proposal was reasonable. It just wasn't serious. And the administration had every

reason to treat it as such.

But the next time our union goes back to the bargaining table, will the administration feel the same way? Will they feel like they are working with sincere people who are serious about making real change, or a group of daydreaming students who lack the capacity to deal with others on a realistic level? I certainly hope it's not the latter, for my sake—and for the Student Centre's.

YOURS,

MICHAEL DI LEO

## Why did everyone get quiet?

Dear Editor,

It is so good to write to you another letter. I am finally able to do this because Reading Week is just around the corner! I do not have a letter to reply to but I do have something to say that I hope everyone will read.

Today I want to write about participation in class. First is technology. Every year I notice more. Classmates with laptops, classmates with smartphones, classmates with cellphones. And so few are using it to take notes. To those who are: they have my respect. To the girl who has Facebook up, always, in front of me in my psychology class: please stop, it is distracting me. Besides, this is the third year in a four-year program. Do they *still* not care

enough to pay attention to the professor?

I do not want anyone to understand me wrong, though. It is perfectly okay to be on Facebook and to own smartphones and other devices. In fact, I am on Facebook myself. But why would someone bring it to class? Is class so boring that they need to bring extra entertainment? But they are *paying* for this! They are paying money for that time. And then it distracts me and I am paying money also.

Another thing that I am noticing lately. Please, you tell me why this is. When students are not using their technology they become very quiet. The professor asks a question and nobody answers, and still nobody answers. Then the pro-

fessor becomes nervous and then she talks to the class like to real people, not students. But still everyone does not want to even show that they are listening. Maybe they are not! Maybe they all have Bluetooths in their ears. I do not know how that works, that could be it.

Anyway I do not want to be a depression to anyone's day, so that will be all I will say now. But in summary, participation all around is going down. Sometimes, technology. Sometimes, just shy. Why is it? You could write an article on this question or an editorial. I am sure it is not just me!

P.S. The newspaper is better and better every week.

—Aleksi Zloczewski

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OPINION?



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✉ editor@mediumutm.ca

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# MEDIUM A&E »

Editor » Nives Hajdin

## Theatre and the outback

Theatre Erindale continues its 20th anniversary season with *Our Country's Good*

COLLEEN MUNRO  
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

Last year, the movie *Hugo* earned a lot of attention from eager film critics, a few of whom described it as **Martin Scorsese's** ode to silent filmmaking, and many of whom were enraptured by its tacit, unwavering argument that cinema is capital-I Important. Along those lines, Theatre Erindale's latest production, *Our Country's Good*, celebrates everything to do with live theatre. The production, directed by **Patrick Young**, explores the transformative power of theatre, makes the audience question its effect on a performance, and also offers some very sage advice from its theatre-obsessed main character, Lieutenant Clark: "Those who can't pay attention shouldn't go to the theatre."

*Our Country's Good* (written by **Timberlake Wertenbaker** in 1988 and based on **Thomas Kenneally's** novel *The Playmaker*) is set in 1789, and depicts true events from the colonization of Australia. In the play, Captain Arthur Phillip (**Jonathan Walls**) and his crew have just transported hundreds of convicts to the newly discovered continent of Australia. Looking for ways to occupy the convicts' time and introduce some order to the newly founded penal colony, Second Lieutenant Ralph Clark (**Chris White**) proposes that he could help the convicts put on their own theatrical production. Despite the reluctance of some of the other lieutenants and the colony's reverend (**Alison Blair**), Clark convinces the good-hearted captain to approve the suggestion. They settle on a comedy, namely George Farquhar's *The Recruiting Officer*, and the convicts begin to put on their own unpolished and slightly unhinged production.

The story of *Our Country's Good* is unconventional, and Theatre Erindale presents a lively adaptation. The staging is for the most part simple, but uses a few key props to great effect. In particular, the two large translucent screens that sit on either side of the stage prove multifunctional. Not only do they display the projected text when needed, they are also cleverly used to highlight eerie ghostly apparitions, and they mechanically tilt downwards at times to represent the walls of the tents that various characters live in. The entire set is even transformed a couple of times by colourful projections that recreate the world of an aboriginal man (portrayed by **Julio Ospina**) impacted by the colonization of his land.

While the main storyline is about



JIM SMAGATA/PHOTO

Somebody needs a time out ... (Brandon Gillespie and Jessica Allen)

putting on a play, there are also many less lighthearted story elements. Many of the prisoners claim innocence of the crimes they have been convicted of, and the play explores some of the many facets of justice and morality. But though the play is largely dramatic, there is also plenty of comedy interspersed as the play goes on, especially during the scenes in which the convicts rehearse their own play. These moments are a welcome break from the production's heavier elements, and they also let many of the actors (almost all of whom play multiple roles) show off their comedic chops.

However, the way the comedy and drama are juxtaposed feels a bit jarring at times. For example, the first act ends with the play's most broadly comedic scene up to that point. So when the second act began with much heavier moments, some audience members seemed unsure how to react. To be fair, though, my quibble has more with the source material than with the actors, who for the most part transitioned seamlessly through the play's shifts in tone.

One actor who balances comedy and drama especially well is **Brandon Gillespie**. His primary role is the play's most overtly villainous character, Major Ross, who strongly opposes the idea of letting the convicts put on a play. In to Gillespie's blustering performance, the major is a character that's fun to hate, but who also shows a volatility that seems legitimately dangerous.

**Michael Esposito II** also gives a charismatic and genuinely funny performance as Sideway, one of the more enthusiastic and theatreminded convicts in Lieutenant Clark's cast. And while **Heather**

**Dennis's** colourful convict, Dabby, might not be as pleasant a character, she's made loveable by Dennis's boldly comedic performance.

The character of Liz Morden (played by **Jessica Allen**) is arguably the heart of *Our Country's Good*. Though she's one of the more acidic members of the convict acting company, her mistreatment in the past and present is slowly revealed over the course of the play, and she becomes a surprisingly sympathetic character. Allen's fearless performance only enhances the pathos of Liz Morden, and her portrayal rings strikingly true.

White is also strong in the central role of Lieutenant Clark. He seemed to become more assured in his performance as the story unfolded, giving a heartfelt, wry, funny performance as the sometimes exasperated but always well-meaning Clark. Walls deserves credit as well for taking on two large roles and performing both equally well. He plays the captain of the expedition, who works with Clark to get the play produced, and also a thoughtful young convict who shows a passion for the written word. His performances may not be the showiest, but Walls is a steady, refreshingly natural presence on the stage.

That sentiment actually applies to a lot of things about *Our Country's Good*. It's not a flashy, action-packed production, but it rewards the audience in subtler ways. Theatre Erindale's production offers several strong performances and some interesting staging, and while *Our Country's Good* might take a little longer to get up to full speed, once it gets there it's an enjoyable ride.

*Our Country's Good* runs until February 19 at Theatre Erindale.

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# ArtsFest showcases student talent

**ARISTOTLE ELIOPOULOS**  
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

Last Friday night, the UTM Artistic Resource Team held its 11th annual Arts Festival in the CCT Building. The show provided an opportunity for many of UTM's artistic talented students to come together and show off their work. The first part of the evening, the visual arts exhibition, held in the CCT lobby, was a display of a range of visual art from many of the university's most talented artists. The paintings, drawings, and photographs included social and political commentary, pop culture, and even self-portraits, and the CCT lobby was filled with students, professors, and alumni interested in seeing the unique perspective of UTM students through their artistic creations.

Entertained by a harpist and a jazz pianist, light refreshments, and a diverse collection of traditional, experimental, and digital art mediums within the artworks, students like **Sarah Gong**, a UTM undergraduate and the program designer for the night's show, enjoyed the altered ambience. "Even though I'm usually on campus all the time," she said, "being able to see such a familiar space be transformed into some-



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

thing so sophisticated is great." **Gregory Grist**, a fourth-year physics student, also enjoyed the night: "The jazz musicians really change the atmosphere. It's nice to see students so busy with schoolwork and exams come together for a night of culture, a night to discuss something besides exams and papers."

The second part of the night, the performance showcase, further explored the scope of our artistic talent. Graced by the charming

and relaxed demeanour of organizer and host **Matthew Butler**, the show sailed through an assortment of young talent that ranged through dramatic performances, poetry, music, and dance.

**Lindsay Middleton**, a third-year theatre and drama student who dazzled the audience with her risqué monologue "Milktray Man", commented, "There's a lot of brilliant performers. I saw the dress rehearsal, and there's lots

of great talent this year, I'm really excited." When asked about her own upcoming performance, she replied, "I'm so nervous!" but added, laughing, "Hopefully everything will go well."

Considering the cheerful and enthusiastic audience reaction, the night was a success.

Some standouts were **Stacey Gawrylash**, who carried a simple cover of Brandi Carlile's "Pride and Joy" with extraordinary vocals and guitar in the first half of

the show, and **Joseph Feldmeyer**, who delivered a self-aware spoken word performance that resonated with postmodern vibes.

**Kate Cattell-Daniels**, a recent theatre and drama student, also wowed the crowd with a short yet powerful monologue in the second half of the showcase, a monologue spoken by Hermione in Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*. **Carolyn Nettleton** and **Hailey Gillis** also gave a delightfully campy rendition of Celine Dion's "All Coming Back to Me Now".

**Alex Tkachuk**, winner of the spoken word section of the festival, also pleased the audience with his original word-play and innovative yet surreal poetry. When asked after his performance to comment on the recognition he received from the judges, he replied: "It's nice. It's really nice... Sorry, it's hard for me to take a compliment. I'm very flattered!"

Overall, the night was a hit, with a large audience turning out to support the UTM artists. Now in its 11th year, the UTM Arts Festival continues to be an outlet for students to exhibit their talent. Here's hoping next year's festival can top an already elaborate and entertaining night of art and culture.

## Devious minds think alike

The Department of Visual Studies's new student society emerges as the voice of art and culture on campus

**NIVES HAJDIN**  
A&E EDITOR

Last Wednesday, the Department of Visual Studies Student Society held its first-ever AGM, following its establishment as an official student society last September. Also known as "Devious Minds", the group aims to "enrich the experience of students at UTM enrolled in the Department of Visual Studies by providing support, resources, and events that promote academic, professional, personal, and social development". This includes locating new spaces on campus for the exhibition of student art, planning academic workshops throughout the year to assist students (e.g. with grant-writing and installing their own work), and offering mentorship opportunities in the form of panel discussions and networking sessions with artists, professors, and curators.

President **Ebony Jansen** and secretary **Dorothea Hines** opened the meeting by addressing DVSSS's desire to bridge the gap between the departments of visual studies, including the departments of art history, art and art history, visual culture and communication, and cinema studies. Until recently, the CCIT Council was the only academic society affiliated with programs like VCC (while A&AH and cinema studies had no student representation whatsoever), and now that VCC has branched off into its own department independent of CCIT, a small group of students felt it was time to form a new society that addressed the interests of a much larger portion of art and visual culture students



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Left to right: execs **Joe Measures**, **Robyn Lew**, **Sophia Leonard**, and **Ebony Jansen**.

at UTM. The executive council—made up of Jansen, Hines, vice-president **Sophia Leonard**, treasurer **Chris Fletcher**, advertising and communications director **Zach Honey**, and **Chev Burbidge**, **Robyn Lew**, and **Joe Measures** (the department liaisons for A&AH, VCC, and cinema studies, respectively)—outlined some of Devious Minds' upcoming events for the rest of the semester, but especially stressed the need to plan ahead for future years as DVSSS continues to build momentum as an up-and-coming academic society.

Events this semester include "The Blackwood Talks", a roundtable discussion surrounding *Seripop*, the current exhibition at the Blackwood Gallery (March 8), Pie Day, an afternoon of pie-making followed by a one-of-a-kind lecture on pies led by Amish Morrell (March 14—3.14, get it?), and the DVS end-of-the-year party, where you can

minge with other DVS students and staff while chowing down on delicious goodies (March 23). Other plans include implementing soup kitchens on campus to raise enough money for the establishment of a grant, which will be awarded to one student to fund an undergraduate project.

Devious Minds is currently looking for new members to become involved in the arts community on campus, assist with event planning, and offer ideas for future endeavours. The executive council is also preparing for its upcoming spring elections on March 20. Whether you're a VCC specialist concerned about deregulated fees, an art history major hoping to see more art opportunities on campus, or a cinema studies minor looking for ways to expand the department, consider running for an executive position or simply getting involved with DVSSS. They're eager to listen.

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# MEDIUM FEATURES »

Editor » Larissa Ho

## Green Dot on campus

The Green Dot bystander training program caught the eye of Cheryl Champagne, who instituted it at U of T

**LARISSA HO**  
FEATURES EDITOR

What do you think of when you see violence? Do you immediately think that it's none of your business, that someone else will call the police, that there's nothing that you can do to make a difference?

The Green Dot bystander training program, which launched a few weeks ago at U of T, teaches students that you can make a huge difference, even as a bystander.

According to the U of T Green Dot website, "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. A green dot is your individual choice to make our university safer."

The Green Dot initiative kicked off at U of T last month, but it's actually been about two years in the making. Founded in the United States by Dr. Dorothy Edwards, creator of the Green Dot Violence Prevention Strategy program, it caught the eye of Cheryl Champagne, U of T's assault counsellor and educator, when she was researching community approaches U of T could take to diminish violence on campus.

"I became more interested in the whole bystander approach, which is really about a community approach—helping our community to step up and take responsibility and realize that violence is something that affects us all," says Champagne. "I started doing research on what other places were doing, and then my Work-Study student found something on Green Dot and I heard Dr. Dorothy Edwards do a talk on a webinar that was about violence prevention, and it just really resonated with me."

This was back in 2010. Champagne went to the University of Kentucky and attended the four-day Green Dot facilitator training program, then returned to U of T and started to promote the program. She formed a steering committee with other people who were interested in the program and they spoke to upper-level administration in order to get the initiative off the ground.

The Green Dot program is based on a foundation of research, much of which relates to the bystander effect and how each of us is affected by these dynamics.

"The green dot is an entry-level curriculum; it's very general and



LEN PARIS/PHOTO

**Axel Thomas (Residence Don), Chad Jankowski (Green Dot Committee), and Kim Hoang (Peer Health Educator) in CCT Link on January 17, the day of the Green Dot launch.**

starts with basic skills. It's about engaging the good people who are not being violent to step up. The bystander training is the curriculum that includes looking at the bystander effect, the peer influence, our own personal obstacles, and the 'three Ds'—the strategies for how we engage and how we do it in a way that we feel safe and comfortable with who we are as well," says Champagne.

What's at the heart of the Green Dot strategy?

"The training part is really important," says Champagne. "It's not enough to just believe that violence is wrong. We have to know what to do about it. That's what the Green Dot strategy does: it provides actual training. It's in the bystander training that they learn how to recognize power-based personal violence, some of the risky situations, and also understand and appreciate what our obstacles are."

As the assault counsellor and educator at U of T, Champagne knows perhaps better than anybody just how many cases of violence are taking place on campus—and she has something to say to those who think nothing can be done about it.

"There's always somebody stalking their partner, there's somebody who hit their partner—there are all these red dots that are happening. It's not like they happened organically and we can't ever change anything," said Champagne. "It's individuals who are committing these acts. These

individuals are part of our community and are also influenced by our community. So if other individuals with influence step in and say that that's not okay, and they

do a green dot, then it does make a difference."

Sean Kinsella, the community development coordinator of UTM's Student Housing and

Residence Life, says, "I would tell someone who believes that they can't make a difference that ending power-based personal violence starts with just one decision to do something—anything—to help end it. That one decision, like ripples in a pond, turns a red dot into a green dot and makes our campus a safer place. That green dot says to the world that one act of violence is too many, that the cost to all of us is too great. It is only by our personal choices that the world changes, and that our campus becomes a place where the violence stops."

Too many people think that violence has nothing to do with them. However, as Champagne said, "Somebody has to start. The idea with the green dots is that we're not doing it by ourselves; we're a part of a larger social movement on campus. It's part of being part of the solution and changing the culture."

When we don't do anything, it doesn't mean we're to blame for what happened. But what messages do people get? Whether it's the person who's being harmed or

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# Getting the vole story

Can true love can be scientifically explained? How monogamous rodents reveal the secrets of human love

EMILY ACHESON  
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Boys, Valentine's Day is coming up. According to a U.S. census, 53% of women would dump their boyfriend if he didn't get her anything for Valentine's Day. It's the time to buy flowers, heart-shaped necklaces, and chocolates, watch chick-flicks, go out for expensive dinners, and even propose.

Valentine's Day is not when people like to hear that love may not be a mystical, cosmic force, but more of a scientifically explained soup of brain chemicals and evolution.

But here it is anyway, through the eyes of a rodent.

It's now almost common knowledge, what the average man or woman subconsciously looks for when choosing the perfect mate. Men look for women with voluptuous hips, smooth skin, and glossy hair. Women look for men with broad shoulders, a deep voice, and a good income.

But what makes us fall in love?

Scientists decided to look into one species among the only 3% of mammals that form monogamous relationships: the prairie vole. The prairie vole is a rodent, resembling a fat mouse, that forms a lifelong relationship with its partner after they mate. The male avoids "cheating" on his partner, jealously defends her against other males, and loyally helps bring up their offspring.



SFGATE.COM/PHOTO

The prairie vole is one species among the only 3% of mammals that live monogamously.

Scientists decided to look into the chemical events occurring in the voles' brains to see what could trigger such strong bonds. They found that voles' brains had a particularly interesting distribution of the hormones oxytocin, vasopressin, and dopamine.

During sex, the voles' brains shoot out vasopressin, oxytocin, and dopamine. Brain receptors designed to collect these hormones are located in the "rewards and reinforcements" area of the brain. When the voles mate, they

get "rewarded" with a good feeling. They end up associating that good feeling with their mate, and from then on only prefer spending time feeding, mating, and raising offspring with each other.

Humans, on the other hand, have more complex brains, so scientists can't rely on injecting us with hormones to help us form longer relationships.

But they are trying.

Scientists already found that humans also get surges of vasopressin and oxytocin during sex.

They believe that humans may have defects in similar areas of their brains to voles when members of either species fail to form good relationships. If scientists can tap into where or what is causing the inability to form relationships, including ordinary friendships or business relationships with colleagues at work, they might be able to produce a drug to fix it.

At University College in London, scientists Andreas Bartels and Semir Zeki collected students claiming to be madly in love. They set up a brain scanner, looked for patterns in brain activity, and analyzed the parts of their brains that were stimulated by love.

They found that the area where love supposedly manifests is tinier than that activated for simple friendships. However, the area coincided with that which is sensitive to feelings in the gut and that which creates euphoria. These euphoric areas are the same areas stimulated when a person takes cocaine.

According to Bartels and Zeki, it's quite possible for humans to become love "addicts". The attachment to the sensation of deep love is not a far cry from taking coke!

Question: if humans can indeed form strong, lifelong bonds like prairie voles, then why do people cheat?

One Las Vegas social media company, cheaterville.com, released some interesting statistics last Thursday. The website found that 65% of people cheating on Valentine's Day are women. How did the website find out? Did the cheating women suddenly become overwhelmed with guilt and admit it online? Nope. Other women outed them.

Cheating behaviour is characteristic of a vole species otherwise similar to the prairie vole, namely the montane vole. Montane voles mate almost oppositely to prairie

voles. Montane voles prefer one-night stands, almost never committing to only one other vole of the opposite sex, and caring little for his offspring. They do not form lifelong relationships with a mate.

Scientists decided to take oxytocin and inject it into the montane voles in an attempt to induce "love", or at least a long-term relationship. After injection, the montane vole did not even respond to the hormone. However, when it was injected into a prairie vole, the vole locked onto a potential mate even when scientists kept the two from mating. The prairie vole preferred only that mate, even when other voles courted it.

The difference lies in the receptors present in the prairie vole brain. These receptors do not exist in the montane vole. The montane vole could not be induced to be faithful.

Humans are classed as "(generally) monogamous", although there is ample evidence to the contrary. There are many reasons why people cheat. One major idea may be that people desire the extreme, euphoric emotions of that first stage of love. Whether we like to hear it or not, that great feeling usually doesn't last forever, even when a more mature, perhaps "truer" love outlasts it.

It doesn't take a scientist to see that a loving relationship evolves in stages over a long time. When first falling in love, you feel a high and become obsessed with that one person, thinking and dreaming about them, longing to be with them every waking moment. This is when intimacy is greatest.

Over the years, as you get on with life, you sober up, but the bonds deepen. Sometimes children enter the picture, and then you spend more time raising the kids and less time with each other.

This too can contribute to a deeper, more "companionate" love, in which you simply like each other's company. You like chatting over the newspaper or playing board games on a rainy day. This type of love has less passion.

Less passion may not be a bad thing.

Long-lasting relationships, even from an evolutionary perspective, are critical to ensure that children are raised successfully. Desirous passion at this stage of life would distract from family, career, and life in general.

This isn't to imply that there are no couples out there who have lived together for decades without romantic passion. But scientists claim these couples are rare. If love fizzles and cools, it may be meant to. There may be less romantic excitement, but the bond between the couple could be stronger than ever, and their children happier.

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# Pursuit of prettiness

How an adaptive trait might play an important role in judging attractiveness

**CARINE ABOUSEIF**  
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

We've talked about this too many times before: women. Women and the way they look. Women and how they're portrayed. They're too skinny. They're too fat. They're too tall, too short, too naked, too childlike, too masculine, too feminine. And when we talk and talk about women and their muddled-up body image, we like to condemn "the media".

While that might, in some respects, be true, it kind of doesn't mean much anymore. When you blame "the media", do you mean the kind coming from your smartphone, your tablet, your television, or your magazines? Is it user-produced media like Facebook or Twitter, or is it press-produced, like *Vanity Fair* or *GQ*?

Before we begin to define the apparently elusive term, let's take a few steps back.

In 1963, Betty Freidan published *The Feminine Mystique*. Followed in the footsteps of the first-wave feminism that had been building for per-

haps 30 years, the book railed against women's position in the household with their aprons, dusters, and Maytag washers. In the '70s, author Germain Greer published *The Female Eunuch*. Greer had a problem with Friedan's idea of women succeeding by essentially being men. Greer wanted women to succeed by being women, not by emulating men. About 20 years later, author Naomi Wolf was still not happy. There weren't as many aprons. There weren't as many women acting like men. But there were a lot more eating disorders.

Throughout the three periods, one thing remained consistent. Advertising both reflected and circulated the three different ideas of what it was or is to be a woman. In the '60s, there were washer ads depicting mothers showing their daughters how to wash. In the '70s, there were antiperspirant ads featuring a female gymnast reminding the audience that something beautiful needn't be fragile, but her words dripped with sexual connotation. Finally, in the '90s and early 2000s, Calvin Klein re-

leased ad campaigns featuring child-like models in nothing but jeans.

In her book, Wolf describes consumer culture as "best supported by markets made up of sexual clones, men who want objects and women who want to be sexual objects". Perhaps that's too harsh; perhaps it's not harsh enough. Perhaps it's still a little simplistic. We know that our buying habits influence our perception of ourselves, and not just vice versa. We know, for example, that modern addictive shopping is primarily practised as a search for identity.

But the place we pick our desirables from is perhaps the most potent educational tool. Advertising appeals to our fundamental wants, like that of belonging. It's a simple two-step process. Step one: create an insecurity. Step two: present a solution to the insecurity in the form of a product or service. Bad breath? Listerine. Big waist? Special K—and so on.

In the February issue of *Fashion Magazine*, Rani Sheen profiled Andrej Pejic. Andrej Pejic modelled women's wear for *Vogue Paris*. An-

drej Pejic walked the runway in a Jean Paul Gaultier bridal gown. Andrej Pejic ranked 98th in *For Him Magazine's* "100 Sexiest Women in the World 2011" list. Andrej Pejic is a man.

On the other hand, writer Nancy Etkoff disagrees with all of the above uneasiness about women's image. In *Survival of the Prettiest*, Etkoff argues that the "pursuit of prettiness" is not something we've learned from "the media" (there it is again), but an adaptive trait. If this is true, one might still reply that perhaps although the media hasn't told us that we have to look pretty, it's told us what is pretty.

However, Etkoff argues that adaptive traits play an important role in that judgement. Features like facial symmetry usually indicate good health, and so the health of potential offspring. That one probably wasn't a surprise. Other beauty stereotypes, such as the idea that men prefer blondes, have been addressed by University of California researchers, who suggest that the preference helps spot illness. Jaundice, anemia,

and other maladies, they say, are more easily spotted in fairer-skinned people (like blondes), making it easy for our caveman ancestors to be sure of the health of a potential blonde mate. So maybe you shouldn't get that tan.

"Ah," some will pipe up, "but you can't explain scary skinny models with evolution!" It has long been known that a high hip-to-waist ratio is key in an ideal mate. But it would be irrelevant if you take the approach that the fashion industry isn't trying to market women as much as find walking coathangers: the thinner the model, the more of the dress the audience sees.

Anyway, maybe that was informative, or maybe you just got even more confused. If advertising techniques just happen to tap into an adaptive trait, does that mean we should fall for them? Probably not. We can distinguish between the products we buy, the ads we see, and our own image. Maybe if we stop blaming the media we can begin to make finer distinctions that can help heal a little of the trouble.

## Online piracy acts

**DARREN SAVAGE**

This article is a product of the modern age. It was written by a pirate.

Recent bills proposed in North America, namely the Stop Online Piracy Act and the Protect IP Act in the United States and Bill C-11 in Canada, have met widespread opposition. In the past, governments have attempted to tame the Internet (think the shutdown of Napster) and these newest legislative attempts at online governance will undoubtedly change the way you relate to the Web. For starters, most of us will become outcasts. Criminals. Legally, pirates.

Most of the opposition to the respective bills is not to its stated purpose, but to what it could potentially allow. The bills use an axe where a scalpel is needed. Worse, since its heralded arrival and unstoppable expansion, the Internet has blurred the line between nearly every distinction we have, making it rather difficult to determine where even a scalpel should be used.

In the case of SOPA, the government is aiming to allow content holders the right to legal action against any entity that "aids in the proliferation of copyrighted material". Such a broad definition would affect far too many entities. For example, Google could get fined for listing torrent sites in a search. (Hint: torrents are not inherently illegal, only some content that tends to get torrented.) PIPA is essentially the same thing: an act that limits of online freedom.

In the same way, our very own Bill C-11 limits the right of content users. All bills drive at the heart of the consumption of cultural product, a sticky area if you are an artist. *RiP! A Remix Manifesto* is a free online documentary that explores the complications of cultural production through an examination of mashup artist Girl Talk. Directed by Canadian Web

activist and filmmaker Brett Gaylor, the documentary looks at both sides of the argument and, as the title suggests, creates a manifesto that defends remixing and rejects of heavy-handed copyright agreements. In his view, copyright in the information age merely creates unnecessary barriers and stifles the development of potential communities. According to the film, most of the \$135 billion claimed by the entertainment and publishing industries every year is produced by a small number of major corporations.

According to Gaylor, "big media" consists of "six [...] studios and four major record labels [that] now control Hollywood". Those are owned by even bigger corporations, he says: "Disney, Time Warner, Viacom, News Corporation, General Electric, and BMG own more than 90% of media holdings in the United States."

All of this calls into question the legitimacy of the respective legislations being proposed. After the protestive blackout of Wikipedia on January 18, many have turned their attention to these bills. Though they have been stopped for now and will surely be amended, they are still active and their passing will have implications for anyone who uses just about any sort of online content.

If you believe that we should be the creators of our culture, you can call yourself a "culture jammer", not a "pirate". Rather than make felons out of many and limit free speech and expression, the monolithic corporations that currently control our content should instead change their business models and adapt to the times. Our modern age, with the number of ways to share information and the inevitable blurring of distinctions it provides, has redefined freedom, for better or for worse. The online world that we have come to know is changing. Where that goes is up to us.



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# MEDIUM SPORTS »

Interim Editor » Anna Bediones

## Kicking off a new season of Campus Rec



AYMAN KHAN/THE MEDIUM

UTM's campus rec winter leagues have started. Soccer is the most popular, with 42 teams participating this year.



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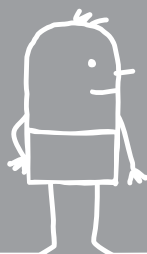
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## Combatting obesity through advertising?

U of T researchers study effectiveness of health campaigns on children

**MICHELLE K. DUKLAS**  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

A boy runs as fast as he can. He looks behind him. Three girls chase after him. He keeps running. The girls keep chasing him. The boy stops, panting and out of breath. The girls easily catch up to him and start kissing him on the cheeks. The slogan appears on the screen: "Stay fit... because you never know." This ad first aired in 2001 on Canadian TV.

In a more recent ad, a girl is shown fighting with the "media monkey", who censors the media she receives through her computer, her TV, and even the ads on the street. The 2010 commercial ends with the words, "You don't need a media monkey to make healthy choices. Think for yourself."

Concerned Children's Advertisers Organization developed the Long Live Kids campaign to persuade children to eat healthier and exercise more. This campaign is very much needed, considering that more than a quarter of Canadian children and teens are overweight or obese. Child obesity rates are climbing faster than

the adult rates. This will undoubtedly put a greater strain on the healthcare system, because obese children tend to become obese adults.

A University of Toronto study by the Exercise Psychology Unit examined the impacts of the Long Live Kids campaign. Guy Faulkner, Matthew Kwan, and Margaret Macneill, alongside Michelle Brownrigg from Active Healthy Kids Canada, conducted a survey across Canada. The authors were interested in learning whether or not the campaign had an impact on children's health behaviour.

They interviewed children and asked if they had seen any messages or ads for kids about physical activity or healthy living. Those that recalled seeing ads for the Long Live Kids campaign reported seeing the ads on TV. Overall, 3% of children remembered the campaign without prompts and 57% remembered the campaign with prompts. Children living in households with incomes greater than \$60,000 were three to five times more likely to recall the campaign than children living in house-

holds with incomes below \$20,000. This led Faulkner and his colleagues to suggest that future campaigns should be pre-screened by children of different socioeconomic backgrounds.

The authors then asked the children about their physical activity habits. Children who remembered the Long Live Kids campaign were significantly more active in their free time than children who couldn't remember the campaign. The authors did a followup interview and found that the children's physical activity had improved since their last interview. They suspect that it may be due to the campaign.

Faulkner and his colleagues were very encouraged by the results they found. While they admit that the link between the campaign and exercise were not ideal, they saw a correlation between watching the ads and increasing physical activity.

Faulkner and his colleagues are currently researching how children become aware of health information and how children understand this information.



# Sports and superstition

A look at the prevalence of pregame rituals

MELISSA PERRI

Lebron James throws chalk in the air before basketball games. Former Mets and Cubs pitcher Turk Wendell used to brush his teeth between innings. In the 1998 World Cup, French defender Laurent Blanc kissed the perfectly shined head of goalkeeper Fabien Barthez before each game. Rafael Nadal takes a shower with freezing cold water before every tennis match.

What's in a ritual? How does it start? How many different ones are there? All of these questions have unique answers from athletes around the world. Whether male or female, professional or amateur, young or old, pregame rituals and superstitions have found their place in sports.

The consensus is that athletes perform these rituals for mental relaxation and to "get in the zone". From listening to music to putting on equipment in a particular order, every athlete has his or her own carefully crafted routine.

"For a month, I went out for a bacon and eggs breakfast before every Saturday game. Good enough for a consistent two goals a game," said UTM student Tim Correia.

Many athletes begin making a tradition of a certain activity after reaching a career milestone. Scoring a first goal, throwing a perfect pitch, or driving a hole-in-one can cause an athlete to regard his or her activities as related to their success.

Professional athletes are known to have some quirky behaviours, which tend to become hot topics in mainstream media. On an episode of HBO's *24/7: Road to the Winter Classic*, Sidney Crosby discussed some of his pregame rituals.

"There's probably a few that are borderline crazy, but I guess we're all crazy in our own way," he said.

One of the most unique of Crosby's rituals is that he walks a significantly longer path than his teammates around the Pittsburgh Penguins' home arena, the Consol Energy Centre, so as to avoid passing the visitor's locker room. Crosby also tapes his stick a certain way, has a 5 p.m. peanut butter and jelly sandwich (with specific brands of each), participates in a soccer kick-around with his teammates, performs stretches in a certain order, and then puts on his lucky cup.

According to Peter Aldhous of *New Scientist*, experts say that sometimes such behaviours can develop into a form of obsessive-compulsive disorder or prevent competition altogether.

From professional athletes



CBS SPORTS/PHOTO

**NBA star LeBron James is famous for the pregame spectacle of throwing chalk in the air.**

to recreational league players, rituals and superstitions have shaped the pregame atmosphere. Whether taken seriously or just for fun, rituals seem to get more and more creative as another season ends and an-

other championship is won.

Not really athletic? There's always sports fan Jesse Hill's (@DevoidJKH) approach to pregame rituals: "Order beer, find a spot to the left on the couch, turn on TV."

# There can only be one

UTM White and UTM Blue have a rematch in the playoffs

INGRID MELDRUM

This Wednesday, the two UTM men's basketball teams will match up in the first round of playoffs. This will be the second time that both UTM teams face each other this season, and the White squad is geared up for a win to redeem themselves from last semester's 75-46 loss to UTM Blue.

UTM Blue finished fourth in the division with nine wins and one loss. One game was deemed a forfeit because of Kent Bray's

short-lived term on the Ryerson University varsity team. Had there been no forfeit, the Blue team would have placed second in a division of 10 teams.

As for UTM White, in their first season playing in Division 1 after moving up from Division 2, they ranked one spot below UTM Blue. They finished with a record of six wins and five losses.

The game will tip off at 8 p.m. this Wednesday in the main gym when the two teams decide their fate. The winner will advance to the semifinals.

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# ATTENTION!

## ALL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

### SPRING 2012 ELECTIONS

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union  
is holding its Spring 2012 Elections for the following positions:



- Division II - *Directors at large* (4 positions)**
  - Division III - *Central Directors at large* (7 positions)**
  - Division IV - *Part-Time Directors at large* (2 positions)**
  - Division V - *Professional Faculties - MAM* (1 position)**
- Executive Positions:**
- President***
  - Vice-President Equity***
  - Vice-President External***
  - Vice President Part Time Affairs***
  - Vice-President Internal and Services***
  - Vice-President University Affairs and Academics***

	<b>Dates</b>
<b>Election Nominations (All Positions)</b>	Monday, February 27, 2012, 10 a.m. to Friday, March 2, 2012, 4p.m.
<b>Silent Period</b>	Saturday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012, 6 p.m. to Monday, March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2012, 12p.m.
<b>All Candidates Meeting</b>	Saturday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
<b>Election Campaign Period</b>	Monday, March 12, 2012, 12pm to Thursday, March 22, 2012, 6pm.
<b>Election Voting Period</b>	Tues. March 20, Wed. March 21, Thurs. March 22, 2012, 9am-6pm.
<b>Election Results</b>	Monday, March 26, 2012

***To run for a position, please pick up a nomination package during the nomination period from the U.T.M.S.U Office - Room 115, Student Center. Please keep in mind the dates and deadlines above. For more information please refer to the union's Constitution and the Election Procedure Code. \*Bring your T-Card for Identification***

For more information, please visit [www.UTMSU.ca](http://www.UTMSU.ca) or contact the Chief Returning Officer at [cro@utmsu.ca](mailto:cro@utmsu.ca)

UTMSU Office: Student Centre, Room 115  
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Visit us on [www.UTMSU.ca](http://www.UTMSU.ca), [www.facebook.com/UTMSU](http://www.facebook.com/UTMSU) and Twitter @myUTMSU

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