



WHEN SPIRIT ISN'T ENOUGH

PAGE 11

THE MEDIUM

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New entrance signage draws criticism

Students react too late to the cost of refurbishing UTM's Outer Circle Road entrance

LARISSA HO
NEWS EDITOR

A new sign built for UTM's Middle Entrance as part of administrative plans to refurbish UTM's three entrances has generated overwhelming negative student feedback.

In April 2011, architects were invited to submit preliminary ideas for a redesigned entrance to create a "substantial sense of presence at [the] front door to our campus," according to Paul Donoghue, UTM's chief administrative officer. "To suggest the old Erindale College sign was low-key would be an understatement."

In August and September of that year, a focus group of faculty, staff, and alumni worked with architect Jonathan Kearns of Kearns Mancini Architects in Toronto to work through various iterations of the design, the final result being one that Donoghue felt "captured perfectly what [they] were trying to achieve". Construction of the new entrance started in March 2012.

The sign is made of Credit Valley stone, a selection that speaks to the history of the campus's natural setting.



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

The campus receives a facelift in the form of a new Middle Entrance.

The entrance also harks back to the founders of Erindale College, especially its second principal, John Tuzo Wilson, an internationally acclaimed geophysicist and geologist who advanced plate tectonics theory and first described the concept of a transform

fault.

Donoghue revealed that the total project cost was \$998,000.

The UTM Students' Union posted a photo of the new Middle Entrance on their Facebook page on April 4, challenging students to guess the cost. The

post has received over 250 comments and 80 shares to date, as well as 23,000 views, reported UTMSU's president, Raymond Noronha.

The response from students was almost universally negative, deploring what was seen as an excessive cost

and listing other possible uses of the funds, including expanding spaces to keep up with the demand of enrolment and slowing tuition increases.

"The fact that University of Toronto, a public institution, splurged \$1 million on a vanity project is rather outrageous," said Ju Li, a fourth-year math and economics student, in an interview.

Consensus was also reached unequivocally that the sign's appearance was unattractive.

Not all student feedback was critical of the bodies that approved the sign, however.

Christopher Fletcher, a fourth-year CCIT student, suggested that its purpose was to direct guests and prospective students in and ultimately increase enrolment. "Without something iconic like a sign, some people will never even know that this school exists," he said.

Other students pointed out that the publicity from UTMSU came long after the project's approval and the beginning of construction.

Entrance continued on page 2

First Welcome Week runs at UTM

KIRANJYOT CHATTHA

It was that time of year again last week: clubs and academic societies sat behind tables with banners taped to their fronts, scattered around the Student Centre and—for the first time this year—also around the CCT Building. Club and society representatives invited students to sign up as members, sometimes for a fee. Many booths offered candy as an incentive.

This year, the Department of Student Life, which holds an annual Welcome Day on the first day of Frosh Week, asked UTMSU to move the UTMSU-run Clubs Week to the first week of classes rather than the second week, as is traditional. The joint event was rebranded as Welcome Week.

"It was an effort to make a cohesive event," said Jenna Menzies, a student development officer at the Department of Student Life. "That's why I would call it a collaboration."

According to Menzies, both parties



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Students take a look at booths during Welcome Week.

were equally interested in the collaboration. Welcome Week is a way for students to see both Student Affairs and Services and UTMSU as more of "a single entity as opposed to two separate ones running two parallel events", said Menzies.

This year's Welcome Week was a pilot run for the two organizations, and the experiment faced some minor

glitches. The plans to collaborate were conceived late in the summer. UTMSU confirmed that they could move Clubs Week to the first week of classes to align with the Welcome Week that Student Life had planned. Communications to the departments in Student Affairs had already gone out with instructions to close their booths earlier than UTMSU's booths did.

"We wanted to keep the flow of Orientation," said Menzies. "We wanted to give students who didn't go to Welcome Day a chance to connect and upper-years the chance to reconnect."

Raymond Noronha, president of UTMSU, said he thought Welcome Week "went very well".

Welcome continued on page 3



Innovation excavation

A large new addition to Kaneff will house various business programs.
Medium News, Page 2

Passing the blame

The reaction to our new signage may be overblown, but it sure hasn't blown over.
Medium Opinion, Page 4

Ten films in short bursts

Our reviewers take a panoramic look at TIFF's offerings—the good, the bad, and Joe.
Medium A&E, Page 6

Wanted: 8 hours of sleep

We just can't seem to fit this health necessity into all our priorities.
Medium Features, Page 8

New slate, new story?

This year's president of UTMAC spells out her goals for the year.
Medium Sports, Page 12

A new home for UTM's future innovators

Construction has begun on the Innovation Complex, which is set to open next September

LARISSA HO
NEWS EDITOR

Some UTM students were shocked to return to campus last week and discover that construction was taking place on the 11-year-old Kaneff Centre, the first major academic building constructed on campus since the North Building and the William G. Davis Building, then called the South Building.

Because UTM is expecting its enrolment to swell to 15,000 students by 2017, there is an urgent need for more space. UTM has seen a 77% increase in space in the past decade in the form of classrooms, labs, offices, and residences, but even this hasn't kept up with enrolment growth.

The new four-level Innovation Complex will be constructed as an addition to the Kaneff Centre. Expected to be completed next September, the building will host the new Institute for Management and Innovation, which currently offers undergraduate and graduate business degrees that combine management studies with projects in industries including accounting, biotechnology, and environmental sustainability. Of the nearly 13,000 UTM undergraduates, over 2,200 are enrolled in an undergraduate management program.

According to Carol Phillips of Moriyama and Teshima Architects, one of the key architects involved in the design of the new Innova-



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Right now, the Innovation Complex is a huge hole in the ground.

tion Complex, the \$35-million, 6,300-square-metre complex will house the Li Koon Chun Finance Learning Centre on the lower level, as well as a variety of new instruction

group study, research spaces, and classrooms—one 90-seat class and two 45-seat classes. The main floor will consist primarily of existing Kaneff teaching spaces, TA and sup-

port rooms for the Department of Economics and Management, non-assigned multipurpose presentation rooms for teaching and other campus activities, the Office of the Reg-

istrar, and other student services, as well as the Recruitment & Admissions Office. It will be fully integrated with the two-storey Kaneff Centre. Finally, an underground pedestrian tunnel will connect the Innovation Complex to the Davis Building.

The ceremonial "Rotunda" space, which will fill in the circular green of the existing Kaneff Centre, will be used for special events and social gatherings; it will consist of natural limestone at the lower level and a screen of interior wood fins at the upper level. The Rotunda is the main social space of the building, intended to serve as an everyday student lounge and a space for events. The upper levels will largely be faculty offices for the departments of economics and management, including the MMPA program.

The complex will be designed to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certification. It will include a green roof prepared for but not initially fitted with solar panels, interior glazing to harvest natural light, stone wall cladding, terrazzo floors, and an oak ceiling.

Each room in the complex will have acoustics designed for voice, whiteboards, and a location for projection ensuring maximum visibility. There will also be a small food services facility for coffee and some limited hot food options.

Innovation continued on page 3

CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

03/09/2013 — 12:37 pm

Theft Under \$5,000

A female student reported \$200 was stolen from her lost wallet.

04/09/2013 — 3:12 pm

Liquor Licence Act

Campus Police were called to a residence building for a suspicious male who was consuming alcohol. The male was trespassed from the UTM campus.

05/09/2013 — 7:20 pm

Call to Service

A student reported a strong odour in the CCT Building. Engineers determined the odour was coming from the CCT Garage where contractors were line painting.

05/09/2013 — 8:16 pm

Trespass to Property Act

Campus Police cautioned two males after they fraudulently tried to gain entry into the Athletic Centre. Both males were banned from the Athletics Centre.

06/09/2013 — 4:35 pm

Motor Vehicle Accident

Campus Police investigated the report of a parked vehicle that had been struck by another vehicle in Lot #8. No witnesses to the accident.

06/09/2013 — 10:31 pm

Suspicious Person

A resident student reported a suspicious male in McLuhan Court courtyard. Campus Police attended and determined the male was visiting a resident student.

10/09/2013 — 9:22 pm

Noise Complaint

Campus Police received a call about five males running through Oscar Peterson Hall advertising an event. The males had left the area prior to the arrival of Campus Police.

11/09/2013 — 12:25 pm

Medical Call

Campus Police and Erindale College Special Response Team (ECSpeRT) responded to an ill female complaining of difficulty breathing.

11/09/2013 — 4:50 pm

Power Outage

Several areas on campus experienced a short power outage due to the heavy rain and wind in the area. A large tree also fell onto residence road, blocking the roadway. The roadway was cleared of debris.

11/09/2013 — 9:37 pm

Personal Safety Concern

A female reported a suspicious vehicle parked in Lot #7. The vehicle had left before the arrival of Campus Police.

Sign pays homage to UTM's second principal

Entrance continued from Cover

Faris Natour, a fourth-year commerce student, agrees that the expenditure "does not directly benefit students", but holds the union accountable for failing to lobby against it.

"UTMSU have failed in their job to, at the very least, educate us about the statue and its costs," he said in an interview. "Don't they attend Campus Affairs Committee meetings that are supposedly involved in the planning of such projects?"

When asked why UTMSU was unaware of plans to reconstruct the main entrance until after construction began, Noronha replied, "UTMSU was not notified by the university regarding the campus's Middle Entrance project."

According to Noronha, last year's president, Christopher Thompson, repeatedly asked for the cost of construction at the last meeting of the now-dissolved Erindale College Council on April 4.

When his questions went unan-

swered, said Noronha, UTMSU's VP part-time affairs Sabiha Sumra requested that the chair of ECC ask Donoghue to answer. Donoghue confirmed that the total project cost was approximately \$1 million.

"The reaction from the student representatives and faculty was [...] shocking," said Noronha. "Professor Judith Poe shared her concern about the lack of adequate resources invested by the university to enhance the academic experience of students in the classrooms, such as better lab equipment."

Noronha said that UTMSU was unable to lobby against the project because the details were "very secretive."

Explicit mention of the sign is made in ECC minutes from at least as long ago as October 2012.

Projects that cost less than \$3 million are not subject to the same process as capital projects, which are guided by a project committee with prescribed membership that includes faculty, staff, and undergraduate and

graduate students before the project is routed through the university's governance process.

The Middle Entrance project and other projects costing less than \$3 million (of which there are typically 30 to 40 going on at any given time at UTM) are instead routed through UTM's Space Planning and Management Committee for review and approval.

The Middle Entrance project was approved by SPMC on April 22, 2012.

There is one spot on the SPMC allotted to student representation; according to Noronha, the administration did not fill this reserved spot with a student.

"Hence, no student was consulted on the project at any moment since its launch," said Noronha. "UTMSU requested for formal representation on that committee. The University administration rejected that request. UTMSU does not consider [the SPMC] process transparent and made a formal request for a revision on these practices."

Students dance the night away

LARISSA HO
NEWS EDITOR

Students waited in hordes last Thursday night by the Blind Duck doors in anticipation of First Pub, dubbed "Tight and Bright", well before doors opened at 10 p.m. This is the first time the pub night has been held during Welcome Week.

"The crowd was crazy. We had so many people with so much energy,"

said Grayce Slobodian, VP campus life, in an email interview. "I think the most exciting thing about First Pub for people is getting to see their friends after the summer break."

Slobodian said she was excited to be hosting her first pub in this capacity.

The DJs at the event were from ICS Nation, whose DJs have been employed at UTM's pub events for

years. ICS Nation DJs also perform at many events in downtown Toronto.

In the past years, the Blind Duck has hosted various events, including Techno Night, Caribbean Night, Sexual Awareness Pub, Halloween Pub, and Last Pub.

The event's 500 tickets went on sale for \$10 each on the first day of classes, and were quickly sold out to students and their guests.

Innovation Complex on its way

Innovation continued on page 2

“The identity of the project is only partially academic,” said Phillips. “The inclusion of the Registrar and Rotunda elevate the project beyond its academic functions to one that is an architectural introduction to the campus, a social nexus, and a backdrop for everyday and ceremonial memories for a majority of students.”

Phillips said that Wi-Fi, power sources, and seating will be provided in the common spaces to “support the idea that learning occurs everywhere”.

“It is a challenge to work with an existing structure,” added Phillips. Measures have been taken to upgrade Kaneff’s routing and power requirements to the same standard as the

addition’s.

UTM will pay \$35 million in construction costs for the complex, but the administration expects to eventually pay between \$70 and \$100 million for the business school plans of which the complex is a part, including planned expansions to the facility.

In May, one week before the complex’s groundbreaking ceremony, U of T’s president, David Naylor, and UTM’s vice-president and principal, Deep Saini, went to the Mississauga city council and received a commitment of \$10 million over 10 years from the city to finance the project. A KPMG study showed that the project, once completed, would have an economic impact of over \$22 million per year for Mississauga.

The Innovation Complex was ap-

proved by Governing Council, the highest decision-making body at U of T, on June 14, 2012.

On May 23, 2013, UTM officials and other dignitaries arrived on campus for the groundbreaking ceremony on the Five-Minute Walk between the Davis Building and Kaneff.

A few days later, Professor Hugh Gunz was appointed inaugural director of the IMI institute and assumed his two-year position on July 1. Gunz spent eight years as chair of UTM’s Department of Management and is currently a member of Governing Council.

The Kaneff Centre opened in early 1992. It boasts the second-largest lecture hall at UTM with a capacity of 350 seats and is also the home of the Blackwood Gallery.

Collaborative effort brings students together

Welcome continued from Cover

“We could have better integrated collaboration with Student Life but this would be a task for next year’s team,” said Noronha, who added that he will be soliciting input from academic societies and clubs on how to improve the event.

This year, Welcome Week also had participation from tri-campus services based on the St. George campus, such as Hart House and the Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office. Student Life had a different theme

for each day, focussing on the environment, academics, health, community, and culture, in turn. According to Menzies, these themes “were chosen to represent the holistic university student experience”.

The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre, a resource for students to help develop basic study skills, also tabled during the week.

Menzies said she hopes next year’s event will include more activities and the participation of more departments. Academic departments were invited to participate this year; they

agreed to and received their own tables.

Laura Klamot, a student running the ICCIT Council booth, which runs a popular gala at the end of each year, said that “the turnout was similar to last year”.

Andy Kim, who ran the DECA UTM booth, said this year’s turnout was better. Last year, DECA, which imposes a membership fee to supplement UTMSU’s funding, had over 150 students sign up; this year, said Kim, they passed 250 early in the week.

Students welcomed at the Civic Centre

NICOLE DANESI

International students studying at UTM and Sheridan College received a warm welcome from the City of Mississauga on Friday evening.

Over 100 students originating from approximately 40 different countries were greeted by Mayor Hazel McCallion, UTM’s Principal Deep Saini, and Jeff Zabudsky, the president and CEO of Sheridan College, and other city staff in Mississauga’s City Hall Council Chamber.

Saini echoed McCallion’s greetings and spoke about the long-lasting relationship students will develop with U of T following their studies at the Mississauga campus.

“[There are] more than half a million University of Toronto graduates all over the world in close to 180 countries,” said Saini. “UTM

this year will have more than 20% of students—one in five students—who have come from another country.”

Saini also reflected on his experience as an international student studying in Australia: “I remember those days; it was not easy to be in a completely foreign land.”

Natalie Meyer, a UTM exchange student visiting from Australia, expressed her excitement to learn about Canadian culture while studying in Mississauga.

“I’ve never had a Thanksgiving before,” said Meyer at the event. She also expressed interest in experiencing Halloween: “We don’t really celebrate Halloween in Australia.”

Attendees also heard a brief history of the city and learned about the various recreational activities and services Mississauga offers. Students also had a chance to mingle with McCallion, Saini,

Zabudsky, and fellow international students in the Civic Centre’s Great Hall.

International student Shawn Huang, a master of management and professional accounting from China, has already begun to experience Mississauga.

“I live with a local family,” said Huang, who has visited Mississauga and surrounding cities extensively with his host family. “They took me basically everywhere.”

Huang also expressed his interest in exploring hockey as a favourite Canadian sport. “Canadians are crazy about hockey,” he said.

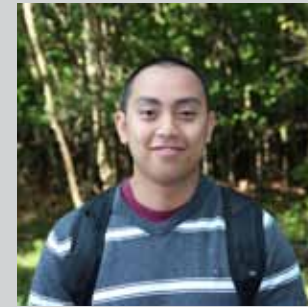
“We want you to get to know the city [... and extend] a warm welcome,” said McCallion in her address. “Your presence and your background is so important to building a knowledge of the [cultures] of the different parts of the world.”

» WHICH CLUBS DID YOU JOIN AND WHY?



Sara Sturino
5th year, philosophy

The Philosophy Academic Society. Basically, it’s the best club.



Francis Tran
4th year, anthropology

Chinese Christian Fellowship, because of the friendship and team-building.



Catherine Zheng
3rd year, psychology

Erindale Christian Fellowship, cuz it’s just a great way to meet people.



Paul Filaber
5th year, CTEP

I joined all the Christian clubs, cuz you just can’t get enough.



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Principal Saini and Mayor Hazel McCallion speak to students.

NEWS BRIEFS »

World’s oldest man dies at 112 in Buffalo suburb on Saturday

The world’s oldest man, from western New York, has died at 112 years old. Sanchez-Blazquez became the world’s oldest man when Jiroemon Kimura died on June 12 at 116. Guinness says the world’s oldest person is currently 115-year-old Misao Okawa of Japan.

Source: The Toronto Star

World’s smallest pony stolen from its stall in Italy

Italian police said someone stole the 24.8-inch pony, Charly, believed to be the smallest in the world, from its stall at the National Horse Fair of Citta di Castello. Police said the thieves may be seeking ransom money from Charly’s owner, Bartolo Messina.

Source: Breitbart.com

Mexico’s first openly gay mayor takes office in Zacatecas

Mexico’s first openly gay mayor has been sworn in at a ceremony in city of Fresnillo. Benjamin Medrano said his sexuality only became an issue in the electoral campaign when the opposition tried to use it against him in conservative Zacatecas state.

Source: BBC News

NBA MVP LeBron James marries longtime girlfriend

LeBron James and Savannah Brinson got married on Saturday in San Diego. Guests had their phones taken away for the ceremony and reception in an effort to ensure that no photos or details leaked out. Security was incredibly tight at the ceremony.

Source: The Toronto Star

Unarmed man, possibly looking for help after wreck, shot by police

An unarmed man who may have been looking for help after a vehicle wreck was shot and killed by a police officer Saturday as he ran toward him, police said. The officer was later charged with voluntary manslaughter.

Source: CBS News

MEDIUM OPINION

Editor-in-Chief | Luke Sawczak

A late overreaction is still something

Most of the time, developments like this go under the radar. It's nice to see some pushback for once.

The students now reeling from the energy and loud music of Welcome Week and settling into another school year at the good old University of Toronto Mississauga will have passed the new sign—alternately hailed on the student union's Facebook page as “a true triumph and the guiding inukshuk of Erindale College” and “the Stonehenge of Idiots”—on their way in.

Although projects of its magnitude and cost are by no means uncommon at UTM, the refurbishing of the Middle Entrance has become the centre of a miniature controversy, perhaps because of its high visibility and the discrepancy between its cost—\$998,000—and its value in the eyes of

students. As you can read in the news section, UTMSU posted a photo of the statue that saw thousands of views and hundreds of comments.

Much of this attention constituted a fascinating passing around of blame. Most of the commenters feel somebody should have scuttled this idea before it could get away, but nobody can agree whose fault it is that it escaped. The obvious target is the administration—to most of us, just as indivisible an entity as that—who approved the project's design and cost. Shouldn't they have solicited students' opinions? students reason. A few commenters turned it around and asked UTMSU (not unreasonably) why they were making such a

fuss about it after the fact rather than lobbying against what they were so eager to demonstrate students disliked.

Raymond Noronha, the president of UTMSU, responded that the project's details were “secretive”. The planning began two years in advance and was mentioned in more than one council meeting before and during construction. From what I can gather, it wasn't so much secretive as it was mundane; it failed to come up on the radar because it was hard to predict that this would be the eventual reaction.

To be fair, members of the union have also alluded to the fact that the *Medium* failed to cover the develop-

ment early on. This is a reasonable observation, and the only explanation is that the news stories we had selected eclipsed what we would have found in the minutes of these meetings. Since there are often conflicting leads for our small staff to investigate, we follow the lead of many publications in offering an anonymous tip line on our website.

When you take a step back, some of the public reaction is certainly a little over the top. Its eyesore status is subjective, and realistically, the cost of this sign would not—as some commenters suggested it should—go very far in subsidizing everyone's fees. But for all that, the administration's serene lack of acknowledgement could

be mildly unsettling to some.

Then again, a Facebook post isn't the best forum for lodging complaints. Noronha alleged that the forum that *is*—the Strategic Management and Planning Committee, which approved the project—was missing its student seat last year, and even rejected UTMSU's request to fill it. Then again, student presence at ECC meetings, where the project was also discussed, was apparently not enough to deter its approval.

My question is: what would have been?

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK

UTMSU overcame adversity at Frosh

Can't help but feel we were shortchanged

Dear Editor,

Reading the cover page articles of the *Medium* last week, I couldn't help but feel like UTMSU was being portrayed in a bad light. I felt like the *Medium* didn't focus on what should have been a better story by showing how UTMSU overcame adversity, but chose to focus on the OCs and every other small issue that occurred during the planning for Orientation Week.

Firstly I'd like to put to bed any notions that the executive team might be unreasonable in their actions. I have worked at the union for over 2 months and in that period of time I can say to you that I haven't seen anyone being screamed at. Neither have

any of the executives created an environment where any employee or volunteer or student will feel demeaned.

Having been involved in helping plan Orientation Week and lending a helping hand during the week, I would like to commend the executives, committee members, and leaders for stepping up to the plate and making Orientation Week the success that it was.

I understand it's the right of the paper to let the people know everything that goes on but I feel it is also the right of the people to know the truth and hear a particular story from every perspective.

Ebi Agbeyegbe
Associate to the VP external
UTM Students' Union

Shed some light on the successes

Dear Editor,

I was reading your first issue of the *Medium* and I had a chance to go over the articles written by Larissa Ho. The article “UTM departs on an Odyssey” gives a very brief and factual description of how Orientation Week was scheduled to operate, but failed to give descriptions about the student experiences, fun, and excitement that the week entailed.

I would also like to give credit to Larissa for the second article, “Orientation coordinators resign from UTMSU”; as it outlines the views of the OCs and UTMSU. Although long, it shed a light on issues the *Medium* felt important to bring to the attention of students.

After reading the articles and reading the editorial, I think the *Medium* is drifting away from the main issue that should have been covered during Orientation Week. Is the main issue to shed a light on the “series of unfortunate events” that occurred behind the

scenes that froshies and upper-year UTM students didn't know about? Or is it to inform and educate their readers about how Orientation Week actually went despite allegations made by the OCs towards UTMSU?

Since the OCs resigned, the executives, along with Orientation Committee members, picked up most of the slack. It's unfortunate that they resigned a few weeks before Orientation Week, but this did not in any way negatively impact planning for Orientation Week. I would like to commend the leaders, committee members, and my executive team for all the hard work they put in to make Orientation Week 2013 successful. Not only did we have a phenomenal week, but we were able to break the record for the number of tickets sold. With over 1,165 attendees, UTMSU's Orientation Week included its first-ever paint party. The week also included a great turnout for other novel events. In addition, UTMSU's Frosh's Got Talent had various amazing performances from individu-

als as well as clubs, and topped off with the winning performance by our own froshie, Monarie!

I think if the *Medium* deems it necessary to shed a bright light on the OCs resigning, it should also shed a small portion of this light on the successes of Orientation Week and give due credit to those that made it successful. Executives and committee members put in long work hours because we all believed in a single vision: to make Orientation Week 2013 the best week that froshies would ever have at UTM, and having worked very closely together, there was nothing that was strong enough to distract us from this vision.

Finally, I am proud to say that Orientation 2013 was just the beginning of many successful events to be brought to our students by their students' union.

Raymond Noronha
President
UTM Students' Union

the
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MEDIUM A&E

Editor | Colleen Munro

The universal truths of Bone Cage

The *Medium* chats with Matt White, director of Hart House Theatre's first production of the seasonCOLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

Hart House Theatre is currently preparing for the debut of its first production of the season, *Bone Cage*, which opens this Friday. *Bone Cage* is written by Catherine Banks and tells the story of the 22-year-old Jamie, who lives in a small rural town and finds himself dissatisfied with his job in the clear-cutting business.

The *Medium* sat down with *Bone Cage* director and UTM grad Matt White amid his busy schedule of rehearsals to talk about what audiences can expect to see and his vision of the play.

The *Medium*: The protagonist of *Bone Cage* is a young adult. What relevance do you think audiences who are around his age can take from the play?

Matt White: It's a terribly human story. I mean, it's set in Nova Scotia, but we're not concerned about setting it in Nova Scotia. To me, it is a universal tale. [Banks] has been so specific with the details of this world that she's created that it becomes universal. And so anyone who's grown up in a small town, anyone who's grown up in a pocket of Toronto, in an oppressive family, can empathize with these characters. Anyone who feels that they don't have an actual choice in their life can empathize with these people.

TM: I saw that Catherine Banks is going to be participating in some talks with the audience and with students. Does that feel like added pressure on you and your crew to do the play justice, or is it simply nice to have her there to provide more insight?

MW: It's a delicate balance. I haven't actually talked to her yet, because I've needed to give myself space. But



HART HOUSE/PHOTO

A preliminary set rendering done by set designer Elizabeth Kantor for *Bone Cage*.

from everything that I've understood from her, she understands that space. I mean, this is a very collaborative art form, but then sometimes you have to allow yourself the freedom to create in your studio and then share it. So there was pressure. Because we are anticipating to make it our own show. To take her story and have the message and the themes and everything come to light through our interpretation.

TM: Do you consider it an environmentalist play?

MW: No, I don't consider it an environmentalist play. If anything, I consider it a humanistic play. It deals with the human condition more [...] I mean, the environment is the backdrop and the environment is sort of this force that acts on top of it and

within it. But if it wasn't environmentalism it would be Hamilton and factories and Toronto's east end [...] But [*Bone Cage*] has its own beautiful poetry and grittiness.

TM: You have a fairly extensive body of work when it comes to directing plays. What are some of the unique challenges that *Bone Cage* has offered, compared to the other plays you've done?

MW: For the most part, everything else I've done has been independent, and so I've been producing it, or I've been helping produce it, or something. And I've had a hand in creating the budget or there hasn't been a budget. And so now we have a budget and now we have people who are actually in places and doing things, and so making sure that I can maintain

proper communication with those people [has been a challenge]. A lot of the logistics of things are so much different when you get to work on a level like this. And that's also what I think makes it a great training ground for people, because all of a sudden they have to answer to more people than just themselves or their buddies. [...] I have] a hope and a responsibility to make sure I don't let them down. It's not about just coming in here and doing your interpretation of something because you want to be artistic and funky and weird. You have to also make sure that it all makes sense and is justifiable and is speaking to a specific audience.

TM: Catherine Banks has talked in interviews about how she had a lot of trouble finding someone to produce

Bone Cage after she had first written it, and that it made her wonder if people didn't think it was good. That's obviously not true, since it went on to win the Governor General's Award, but was there a time in your career where you faced similar roadblocks that made you doubt yourself? And what advice would you give to young people who might be questioning their own talent or dreams?

MW: Every day I question it. And it never goes away. You kind of think, "Maybe tomorrow I'll feel comfortable and confident," and every day you're second-guessing and questioning and all this. And I think it's actually better if you do that. I mean, Saturday I woke up at three in the morning and had a panic attack about the height of some of the pieces in the play. And then I questioned, is this going to fall flat on its face and are people going to laugh us out of the theatre? You know? And the thing is, no one can take away your dream, but keep that mentality over there. Don't let it kill you and don't push it away so much that you get so egotistical and so believing your own hype that you lose sight of what you're actually doing this [for]. I'm not doing this because I want people to know Matt White. I'm doing this because I want to create good art. And so as long as we all try to remember what it is we got into it for—that it's about the art form and it's not about a personality. If you're in it for your personality, you're going to have a short shelf life, because personalities come and go. And what people want from people comes and goes. So be true to yourself. Figure out what it is that you want, and [...] hold onto it as long as you possibly can.

Bone Cage runs at Hart House Theatre from September 20 through October 5. For more information, visit harthouse.ca/bone-cage.

The Arctic Monkeys continue to evolve

British rockers return to challenge fans with their new album, *AM*

JAIME POKHOY

The Arctic Monkeys storm back into the spotlight with the release of their fifth album, *AM*. As with each previous album, the British band from Sheffield further experiments with their sound here, resulting in a classic retro-rock collection injected with frontman Alex Turner's signature wit. As the band's image matures, so does the sound of their music. With less youthful ranting and more slick wordplay, Turner paints the desperate

drunk nights of a hopeless romantic.

However, regardless of the high quality of *AM*, some Arctic Monkeys fans are at a loss to respond, still dreaming that the band will return to the punk roots they debuted with on their first album *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not* in 2006. On the other hand, *AM* manages to draw a new group of ears to the band as Turner's lyrics take you on a trip of lust, heartbreak, and loneliness.

"Do I Wanna Know" leads the album with its heavy drum kicks and

aggressive guitar riff, as Turner steals the attention with his baritone voice and clever lyrics. Other gems that stand out from the impressive collection include the fast-paced track "R U Mine" with a sound similar to the Black Keys and "Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High" with its catchy tune and Dr. Dre-inspired beat. "Arabella" and "Snap Out of It" are the only tracks that drag the quality of the album down, thanks to their mediocre melodies and heavy reliance on recurring falsettos and stale

beats.

The 40-minute collection contains its fair share of high-energy, amped-up tunes, the remainder being slow-paced blues tracks that Turner's voice seems to naturally fit. The Arctic Monkeys have transformed their sound from the original fast-paced, clever rhymes and garage band sound to a harder Americanized rock with catchier lyrics that echo in your mind. On *AM*, the band also cites influences from artists such as Aaliyah and Dr. Dre, which explains the

subtle hint of hip-hop throughout the album.

Whether you're looking for a "soundtrack to disaster" (as Turner puts it) or a playlist you can sink into, *AM* is sure to leave you more than satisfied. It's clear that the Arctic Monkeys have established themselves as artists, and that they aren't comfortable confining themselves to a specific genre. Instead, they'll keep experimenting, leaving fans on the edge of their seats to see what's next.

MMMM

THE MEDIUM

goes to

tiff.



SCREENCRUSH.COM/PHOTO

The Double

In *The Double*, **Jesse Eisenberg** plays a man who is slowly driven mad when his much more charismatic doppelgänger—also played by Eisenberg—appears and begins to overshadow him in all aspects of his life. Even aside from the quirky concept, it's clear from the start that this is a film operating within its own set of rules, and director **Richard Ayoade** does a fantastic job of building a grimy, industrialized world of shadows. It's

surreal and grim at the same time, yet it still feels like a place that we want to spend time in, if only to see just how bizarre it can get. Eisenberg, too, does daring work, distinguishing his two characters in subtle but instantly recognizable ways and bringing his signature snarky humour to the part. It's not a warm or feel-good film, yet the madcap humour of Ayoade's vision makes *The Double* a surprisingly entertaining watch.

MMMM — Colleen Munro



EW.COM/PHOTO

August: Osage County

An ensemble of **Meryl Streep**, **Julia Roberts**, **Ewan McGregor**, **Chris Cooper**, **Abigail Breslin**, **Juliette Lewis**, and **Benedict Cumberbatch** star in *August: Osage County*, a dark comedy about a dysfunctional family that reunites after a tragic loss, only to remember the reason they spend so much time apart. Based on a play by **Tracy Letts**, who also penned the screenplay, and directed by **John Wells** (*The Company Men*), the film

explores a family embroiled in scandal, stricken with grief, and struggling to move on from the past.

Despite the gravity of these issues and the serious subject matter with which the film is burdened, Letts is able to cut through the tension cleanly with outrageous banter and witty comebacks from this wonderful cast. Streep shines in the role of Violet Weston, the matriarch of the family who struggles to salvage whatever is left of her relationship with her

daughters, especially with her eldest daughter Barbara, played by the talented Roberts. Roberts and Streep are the heart and soul of the film, turning in Oscar-worthy performances and livening up the days the Weston family spends in Osage County considerably. And as this family faces a range of issues from years past, their only option is to laugh off their troubles. As the characters realize this, so does the audience.

MMM — Jason Coelho



INDIEWIRE.COM/PHOTO

Joe

The fact that Joe is perhaps **Nicolas Cage's** most toned-down, realistic role in years says a lot. However, while this is a movie with a sly, irreverent sense of humour and moments of surprisingly brutal violence, director **David Gordon Green** still manages to avoid sensationalism and tells a gritty, grounded tale of a teenage boy, Gary (**Tye Sheridan**), who befriends a scraggly outlaw, Joe (Cage), in hopes of finding a job. Green really

captures the dire circumstances that Gary and his family are in without it ever feeling too manipulative, and by sprinkling in a variety of local, non-professional actors into the supporting roles, he gives this Southern tale a true feeling of authenticity. While the film's mixture of prolonged, mood-driven scenes and sudden emotional outbursts gives it a slightly unsettled tone, *Joe* is a strong effort overall from all those involved.

MMMM — C.M.



IONCINEMA.COM/PHOTO

Hotell

Swedish director **Lisa Langseth** somehow mines a sweet and frequently funny film out of the dark matter of postpartum depression with her latest film, *Hotell*. The film begins very dramatically, as we see the harrowing effect that a complicated birth has on first-time mother Erika (**Alicia Vikander**, *A Royal Affair*). However, she soon joins group therapy and ends up taking off on an unlikely road trip with a group of newfound friends

to temporarily escape their overwhelming lives. Boosted by a searing lead performance by Vikander and a delightfully quirky supporting cast, *Hotell* shows the devastating effects of depression, yet it also offers a hopeful but unsentimental message of self-discovery in the film's second half. It's not a comedy *per se*, yet it successfully finds humour in some of the darkest experiences people endure.

MMM½ — C.M.



CINEMATEASER.COM/PHOTO

Dallas Buyers Club

Over the past few years, **Matthew McConaughey** has transformed his career incredibly, switching gears from the cliché romantic comedies he became known for to the artistic and dramatic world of independent film. In *Dallas Buyers Club*, McConaughey shows the world that he is serious—and seriously talented—by putting on the skin of accidental AIDS activist Ron Woodroof in a film based on real events that took place in the late 1980s. Supported

by a talented cast, including **Jennifer Garner** and **Jared Leto** (whose performance should net him a nomination for Best Supporting Actor at the Oscars next year), McConaughey is at the top of his game.

Dallas Buyers Club chronicles the life of Woodroof, who, after being diagnosed as HIV-positive, struggles to receive adequate treatment in the United States. This forces him to import medication unapproved by the FDA from Mexico, fighting along the way to have these highly

effective medications approved.

Directed by Canadian **Jean-Marc Vallée** (*C.R.A.Z.Y.*) with a screenplay by **Craig Borten** and **Melisa Wallack** (who met with the real Woodroof over 20 years ago so that they could one day tell his story), *Dallas Buyers Club* is a low-budget film that has already won the hearts of critics at TIFF, which is hopefully only the beginning of the accolades it will receive.

MMMMM — J.C.



HOLLYWOODREPORTER.COM/PHOTO

Night Moves

Director **Kelly Reichardt** seems to enjoy testing the patience of the squirmier moviegoers with ponderous films like *Meek's Cutoff* and *Wendy and Lucy*. Her latest film, *Night Moves*—which stars **Jesse Eisenberg**, **Dakota Fanning**, and **Peter Sarsgaard** as three radical environmentalists who plan to blow up a dam—is no different.

With *Night Moves*, Reichardt combines her signature lingering camera-

work and slow pace with compelling character drama to let the film's impact really sneak up on you. Reichardt leaves magnificent breathing room in her movies, and that provides a nice juxtaposition to the tightly wound characters of *Night Moves*. Eisenberg in particular gives a brilliantly measured and internalized performance. Gone is the jittery banter he's known for; instead, the emotional weight of the film more or less rests on his expressive face. He need only slightly

clench his jaw or raise an eyebrow to tell us what he's thinking.

Reichardt shows that you don't need elaborate character backstories or even much dialogue to make an emotionally affecting film. All of those moments of half-heard conversations and long shots of landscapes aren't just there to be artsy. And when the credits began to roll, I was left with the unmistakable feeling of having seen something truly special.

MMMM½ — C.M.



THEDAILYBEAST.COM/PHOTO

Labor Day

Jason Reitman's successful directing career, including films such as *Juno*, has seen him rise to become one of Hollywood's top directors. In *Labor Day*, Reitman writes and directs a story of a young boy and his divorced mother who help out an injured man they encounter, only to realize later that he is a fugitive on the run. Adapted from the novel *Labor Day* by **Joyce Maynard**, the film brings together a cast featuring **Kate Winslet**, **Josh**

Brolin, **Tobey Maguire**, and **Gattlin Griffith**. Reitman expertly crafts a romance-thriller hybrid through this story of a Labor Day weekend that changes the life of a family. The consistent pace, though sometimes slow, is expansive in covering every detail of this long weekend. Reitman has created yet another endearing film, with a haunting performance from Winslet that's bound to appeal to both critics and fans.

MMM — J.C.



BENEATHTHEHARVESTSKY.COM/PHOTO

Beneath the Harvest Sky

Though it may cover familiar teen drama territory, *Beneath the Harvest Sky* is ultimately a potent film as a result of the respect shown to its characters. It evokes the hazy boredom and defeat of small town life through its two main characters, Caspar (played brilliantly by **Emory Cohen**) and Dominic (**Callan McAuliffe**), who long to escape their dead-end town but lack the means to do so. The dynamic of their relationship is

really what ensures that *Beneath the Harvest Sky* succeeds. The film's crime storyline never quite kicks into gear convincingly, and many of the film's supporting players feel like nonentities, yet I found something oddly moving about watching Caspar and Dominic attempt to muddle their way through life against the backdrop of gorgeous cinematography and a searing soundtrack.

MMMM — C.M.



ACESHOWBIZ.COM/PHOTO

Kill Your Darlings

Kill Your Darlings follows **Allen Ginsberg (Daniel Radcliffe)** at the start of his stint at Columbia University. There, he manages to get sucked into a countercultural movement led by a charismatic, sly young rebel by the name of **Lucien Carr (Dane DeHaan, The Place Beyond the Pines)**. However, as is the case with most tales of excess, things take a turn for the worse and the fun and games threaten to vanish before the young men even make it

out of college.

There is an undeniable, volatile chemistry between Allen and Lucien, which becomes apparent when the boys first meet during one of Lucien's regular outbursts in the school library. DeHaan has an especially commanding presence on the screen, both relishing Lucien's showmanship and delving into the depths of his bruised psyche.

However, considering the anti-establishment bent of the film's charac-

ters, *Kill Your Darlings* comes across as a fairly standard telling of a familiar (albeit true) story. It's *The Great Gatsby*, it's *A Separate Peace*, and it's *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. The film would also be stronger without the cliché scenes featuring Allen's mentally fragile mother. Somehow, the free-spirited lifestyle of these young beat poets comes across as a touch superficial.

MMMM½ — C.M.



COLLIDER.COM/PHOTO

Devil's Knot

Atom Egoyan is one of Canada's most celebrated directors thanks to films like *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Exotica*, but you wouldn't know it from his messy, mishandled new film, *Devil's Knot*. It follows the trial of the West Memphis Three, in which three teenagers accused of being Satanists were wrongly convicted for the murders of three young children in 1993. In the end, Egoyan's execution here is too unfocused to forgive. For example,

nearly all of the most interesting information about the case's ambiguity is relayed through expository text placed on the screen at the end and throughout the movie. He would have been better off focussing more on the character of the grieving mother (played well by **Reese Witherspoon**) and giving her a satisfying arc, rather than trying to display every side of the story.

MM — C.M.

RAJ-KABIR BIRK STAFF WRITER

Between the celebrity fandom and Oscar hopefuls at this year's Toronto International Film Festival, there was a smaller, less recognizable group of filmmakers exercising their imagination through Short Cuts Canada, a program that allows Canadian filmmakers to showcase their talents through short films. Said imagination was in abundance in Programme 2 (of six), which premiered at the festival on September 8. It featured a roster of varied styles and scope, and put another nail in the coffin of the myth that Canadian cinema has nothing to offer.

One of the more subdued shorts

was **Jeremy Lolonde's** *Out*, which chronicles a family dinner between a father, a mother, a daughter, a son, and the son's "friend". We are led to suspect that the son, Geoff, has decided to reveal his homosexuality—but we are taken aback when he reveals he is a vampire instead. Lolonde, an experienced filmmaker, plays on the taboo of homosexuality in a domestic setting. It will be funny to some and offensive to others, but it intends to be light-hearted and simple, and offers an alternative to the more complex and intricate shorts of the program.

The most intricate of these was **Sol Friedman's** *Beasts in the Real World*. Part documentary, part science fiction, part animation, Friedman lets the camera roll as it wan-

ders through a sushi restaurant, a chef's kitchen, and a forest. We see a rocky relationship between co-workers, the final living moments of a mysterious creature, and a

We are led to suspect that the son, Geoff, has decided to reveal his homosexuality—but we are taken aback when he reveals he is a vampire instead.

cartoon war between hot dogs and hamburgers. With its visual effects and dark comedy, the film takes us on a journey through a genre-bend-

ing world that differs from those depicted in conventional filmmaking.

We are brought back down to earth with *Daybreak*, **Ian Lagarde's** look at pre-adolescence in open rebellion. The short opens with a young boy, **Xavier**, looking at himself in a mirror, entertained by his own reflection. From here, we see him and his friends navigate the suburbs of Montreal without direction and without regret. Lagarde's camera dissects the actions of children with sharp imagery and minimal dialogue, and its broken narrative style challenges our need for flow in a chaotic world.

The most immersive and innovative of shorts showcased at TIFF was the cyber-journey *Noah*. The

film, seen entirely through a teenager's computer screen, explores relationships between people and their technology in the digital age. Most impressive about *Noah* is that it is the directorial debut of **Ryerson** grads **Walter Woodman** and **Patrick Cederberg**; they expertly crafted an original concept that never becomes gimmicky or excessive. Instead, we are given something relevant, honest, and fresh. *Noah* is a highlight of Short Cuts, demonstrating the importance of giving opportunities to emerging filmmakers in a country brimming with talent.

These shorts, among others from Short Cuts Canada, are currently streamed on the Official TIFF YouTube page.

MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

Getting by in our sleep-deprived society

Staying up past bedtime is routine for students, but frequent all-nighters have their drawbacks

ANDREEA MIHAI

In today's fast-paced world, where people are juggling work, school, and family, sleep often gets tossed aside as a luxury. A good night's sleep is essential for the brain to commit the day's events to memory and to recover the body's energy, among other functions.

So what does that mean for a society that is becoming increasingly sleep-deprived? For starters, a constant lack of sleep impacts metabolism, blood pressure, and mood, and may even lead to heart disease and diabetes.

The number of non-fatal car crashes due to driver drowsiness is also on the rise, comprising 1-3% of all police-recorded non-fatal crashes. According to the Sleep Medicine Group, a chain of sleep clinics in the GTA, driver sleepiness accounts for 4% of all motor vehicle fatalities.

An article in *Psychology Today* states that, on average, adults get less than seven hours of sleep, but they need eight to perform optimally. The article also went on to say, "New research reveals that sleep loss affects the body on a systemic level as well, creating metabolic and immune disruptions that can cause obesity, heart disease, reduced fertility—even cancer."



8TRACKS.COM/PHOTO

Trying to fall asleep at 3 a.m. Somehow there's no room to put your head down.

Yet many students see sleep deprivation as an unavoidable part of the university experience.

"You have to worry about all your homework, assignments, and class hours," says Ashley Jagdat, a second-year commerce student. Of the 10 students interviewed, nine said they got between five and seven hours of sleep a night, often going to bed between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. All cited schoolwork

as the main reason for going to bed so late, while procrastination, employment, and housekeeping were some of the others.

The Sleep Medicine Group's website states that "85% of teenagers are not getting enough sleep [...] 26% of students get six hours or less on a school night". The clinics' definition of teenager, in regards to sleep deprivation, is anyone between the ages of

11 and 25.

During puberty, a young adult's circadian rhythm—the body's natural timing system, which regulates the cycle of wakefulness and drowsiness—is constantly shifting. As a result, the sleep habits people establish as young adults influence the health of their circadian rhythm later in life. The common signs of sleep deprivation in a young adult include difficulty

waking up in the morning, irritability in the early afternoon, and falling asleep easily throughout the day.

Fortunately, a single good night's sleep, called "recovery sleep", can reverse the adverse effects of prolonged sleep deprivation.

According to the sleep clinic, the quality of sleep has a greater effect than the quantity. Interestingly, studies have shown that people reach the deepest state of sleep faster when they sleep for a smaller amount of time.

The sleep clinic suggests maintaining regular waking times rather than sleeping in on days off, going to bed when drowsy, and engaging in calming pre-sleep rituals, all of which help the body maintain a healthy circadian rhythm.

In addition, regular exercise approximately six hours before bed is encouraged. Heavy exercise too close to bedtime leaves the body stimulated and results in restless sleep.

Trying to fit sleep into our busy schedules is stressful enough without having to worry about the harmful results of a lack of sleep. After all, we often feel we need to be productive by extending our waking hours further and further into the night. But the reality is that we're not only more alert if we put work off till we've slept better—we also avoid several serious health risks.

Process of elimination

Are multiple-choice tests effective?

ANAGHA NATARAJ

Everyone has probably experienced that familiar feeling of anxiety before a test or exam. I, for one, love to rattle on in short-answer questions. I discuss the issue until I drift off into an abyss and end up talking about how I will save the galaxy.

Is this the reason why tests don't solely consist of short-answer questions? Are professors trying to ensure they aren't stuck grading papers until their next birthday?

Several students I interviewed said they felt their knowledge was better tested by short-answer questions, since they were forced to make full use of the concepts they studied. One student, Bharat, said he felt his capabilities were better tested by short-answer questions. Another student, Prem, said that while he prefers multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions allow him to thoroughly show that he studied the material and to explain answers in his own words.

Hineet, a good friend of mine, observed that the main strategy for devising multiple-choice questions is to make the answers so similar that even a student who

might know the right answer ends up picking at random between two confusing options. Hineet believes that students' intellectual capabilities aren't measured by multiple-choice questions, since their opinions aren't factored in and their critical thinking skills are less involved.

Aashika Jayanth, a third-year psychology student, says she finds it convenient to have all possible answers on hand in a multiple-choice question, pointing out that when students write their own, "there is no guarantee that what [they] think is right will be considered right by the professor". For her, multiple-choice questions eliminate this subjective factor.

More than one of us has lost marks for not using the correct word or phrase a professor or TA is looking for.

To be fair, the multiple-choice question helps to simplify unmanageable amounts of grading, in a way that feels fairer than scanning for a keyword. But when the answer is included on the page, it has to be well-disguised, which can be difficult to achieve without simply confusing the student.

Tests continued on page 9

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The upside of having homework

Reading an 800-page novel can be tedious, but U of T research shows reading can open our minds

ANNIE RATCLIFFE

One incarnation of the popular “Lazy College Senior” meme reads, “Read pages 40-79 for homework. Sweet, no homework.” It’s meant to be humorous, but it has some truth to it. The value of our reading assignments is often lost on many of us, especially those juggling so many things throughout the school year.

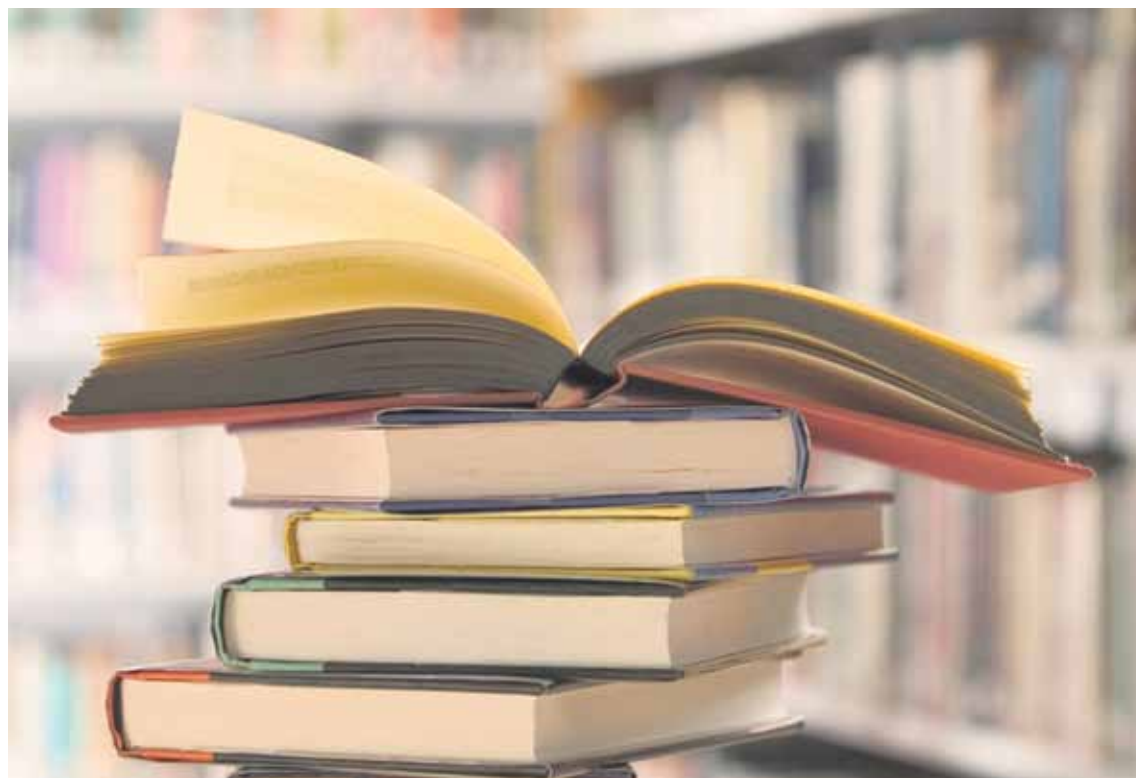
Earlier this year, U of T’s Maja Djikic, along with colleagues Keith Oatley and Mihnea C. Moldoveanu, published an article in the *Creativity Research Journal*. An experiment with 100 participants from U of T found that readers of fiction are more open-minded—they have less of a “need to reach a quick conclusion [...] and an aversion to ambiguity”. (English students might be pleased to know that they compare favourably to readers of non-fiction.) More generally, several studies have demonstrated the benefits of reading, finding that reading can better our memory and verbal skills.

Even aside from the psychological benefits, professors frequently remind us about the importance of completing our reading assignments. But somehow it all still stays in the back of our minds, out of the realm of practical action.

“I would say that I very seldom complete my readings, if I even start them,” one upper-year student admits. And this response is not uncommon.

David Francis Taylor, a professor of 18th-century literature at UTM, finds that “more often than not, the class just doesn’t complete their readings, especially if it’s a long one”.

And it’s not difficult for professors to figure out when we haven’t done them.



WINDHAM.LIB.ME.US/PHOTO

The endless pile of readings bestowed upon students.

“There are certain tell-tale signs that you see when people haven’t done the reading,” says Taylor. “I’ve found when I ask questions, there’s a wall of silence; that’s when you know very few people in the class have completed the reading.”

“There are other really obvious signs,” jokes Professor Chester Scoville, who has taught at UTM since 2004. “If someone turns in a test, and they’ve spelled the author’s name wrong, that’s usually a good sign they haven’t done the reading.”

To be fair, more often than not, students don’t have the time to finish all their readings unless school is their sole occupation.

“Among myself and classmates, there always tends to be one assigned reading that you can’t get to,” says another senior UTM student. “Often, students will have to pick one throwaway and focus on

the others.”

Incomplete readings rarely lead to an immediate penalty.

“As long as I do most of the readings in a class and really focus on a handful of them, my grades don’t suffer,” says one student.

Another says, “If I’d read everything, I could’ve done slightly better, but I don’t think there would’ve been a drastic increase [in grades].”

But psychological shifts are also commonly blamed. Taylor attributes a significant portion of the slacking to the stunted attention spans our generation has, in popular opinion, developed as a result of the bite-size format of the social media we spend so much time using.

“The current generation is digesting a lot of information very quickly, and they’re used to digesting that information in bite-sized

chunks. When they’re being asked to engage in a text where more attention is needed, like a 400-page novel, they struggle,” says Taylor.

Taylor’s opinion is consistent with the results of a study carried out at the University of Georgia. A survey held among journalism students revealed that students in the program did not read newspapers, magazines, or any other print media for their information. Instead, they received their news through TV and radio.

But professors do recognize the practical obstacles. “There are lots of things students have on their plate. It’s as simple as that,” Scoville acknowledges.

Unavoidable or not, failing to do the readings can have negative consequences later.

“The world beyond university is less forgiving,” warns Taylor.

“When you have a job, and someone hands you a 200-page document, and says ‘I need you to read this by Friday,’ and it’s Wednesday, there will be no one to make sure you do it. If you don’t do that reading, then you won’t be doing your job.”

“You need to put your work in,” he adds. “In a math course, you need to complete a series of equations; in an English course, reading those 60 pages is an absolute requirement. Some of that is about self-discipline and maturity.”

In some disciplines, you can find professors who answer the inevitable first-class question, “Do we really need to buy the textbook or are lecture slides enough?” with a hesitant, “Well...” Other professors, particularly in English, spend a few minutes at the beginning of every new class stressing the importance of reading. In the end, though, repetition will never go as far as changing tactics.

“One of the best ways to complete the readings is to slow down a bit,” Scoville advises. “There are better ways to read than to try and plow through in a big hurry. [...] It’s often a good idea to flip through, read some bits here and there, then go back and start reading with attentiveness.”

Having a professor who expects you to read 80 pages before next class can be stressful. Of course, the stress of attempting to read those pages the day before the exam is much worse. In the end, there are stronger motivations besides grades or even moralizing about really learning something in a course. Preparing ourselves now is the only way to be ready for the challenges we’ll face. Look at it this way: once we’re stuck reading reports in our 9-5 jobs, Huck Finn will seem like a cakewalk.

The pros and cons of having options

Why some students believe their knowledge isn’t being tested as effectively as by short-answer tests

Tests continued from page 8

This, I would imagine, is what Valerie Strauss of the *Washington Post* was trying to get at when she wrote that “multiple-choice questions don’t measure deep-thinking skills”.

Strauss observed that when students are given a multiple-choice question, they feel one option must be entirely right and the others entirely wrong. Since the wrong answers tend to closely approximate the truth, students become confused and doubt what

they’ve learned.

This is not to say that multiple-choice questions can’t be well designed. The Graduate Management Admission Test, for example, exemplifies what a multiple-choice test is intended to be: each word is used strategically, requir-

ing the student to pay attention to detail and analyze the subtle changes in meaning. All five options of a GMAT question are right, but one is more right than the others.

In the end, given the average standard of multiple-choice tests,

some students would like to see the day all tests are solely short-answer. But the chances of that happening are either:

- A. Iffy
- B. Slim
- C. Slim to none
- D. All of the above

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Keeping the profiles classy

Employers tend to check out our social media before hiring us. And so do our universities.

ALEXANDRA GEDDES

How many Facebook friends have you added this week? How many tweets have you posted? For most students, social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn allow for quick and easy communication. Sites like these allow students to express themselves to many audiences. But you also expose yourself to unsolicited scrutiny.

According to Fox Business, 80% of universities use Facebook and other social media platforms to recruit potential students. Although UTM doesn't scan the profiles of hopeful high school students prior to admission, it does implement an Honesty is the Best Policy guideline for those currently enrolled.

"There are no official rules or policies regarding students who tweet, post, or blog on behalf of U of T Mississauga," says Nicolle Wahl, the assistant director of communications at UTM. "We have laid out some general guidelines and best practices that apply to academic and administrative accounts. These would also apply to students who represent the university online."

These guidelines state that "the keys to success in social media are being honest about who you are,



WWW.HUFFINGTONPOST.COM/PHOTO

Employers keeping a close eye on our profiles.

being thoughtful before you post, and respecting the purpose of the community where you are posting". In short—be credible, accurate, and respectful.

Although the school claims it doesn't take action against slanderous postings, most students choose to play it safe.

"I've taken certain precautions with my profile [...] Technically, I don't use my legal name, so I feel as if no one could find me unless I wanted them to," says fourth-year student Priya Chopra.

"I don't post any pictures [depicting] drug use or excessive drinking," says Danielle Elson, a third-year anthropology major.

"It's the student's responsibility to keep their profile clean," says Tiffany Limgenco, a fourth-year CCIT major. "It's for their own benefit."

The same CareerBuilder survey found that 37% of employers do such a search before hiring—which was, surprisingly, down from 50% in 2010.

This isn't to say that every em-

ployer is solely trying to discover the negatives. CareerBuilder also showed that 29% of employers found something they liked on a profile and offered jobs based on the positives.

A few years ago, I applied to a part-time retail job to make some extra cash. After the second interview, the store manager told me that before I was hired, I would need to accept their friend request on Facebook.

Luckily, I keep a professional profile with very few pictures or

posts. However, I know plenty of people who neglect to delete party photos or strongly worded opinions from their accounts (but still make good employees).

The experience showed me the impact a person's online presence can have on their future.

Forbes Magazine published an article earlier this year quoting Brad Schepp, the co-author of *How to Find A Job On LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Google+*. He passed on the advice to "make sure any profiles you write are free of typos, the information is coherent and applicable to your industry [or job you're trying to land], and your photos present you in a favourable light. You can verify the applicability of the information by checking profiles of others in the same field."

He also advises that the material remain relatively consistent from site to site. "The story you tell on each site should be pretty much the same, although it's fine to adapt the material for the site."

Of course, we're all passionate about certain topics and everyone likes to have fun with their friends. But if you're looking for a job, think about holding off on swearing in your next tweet or deleting that sketchy photo from last year's Halloween party.

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Editor | Jason Coelho

Varsity Blues silenced by Gryphons

U of T struggles to maintain possession in their fourth OUA battle against the University of Guelph

JASON COELHO
SPORTS EDITOR

In their fifth game of the season, and the third on home soil, the Toronto Varsity Blues attempted to reach .500 against the University of Guelph Gryphons on a sunny Saturday afternoon at the Varsity Centre during week four of Ontario University Athletics action.

Coming from a disappointing defeat by the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees—in which the Blues suffered a 34-10 loss—the team came out of the gate to a cheering crowd, with 3,596 people in attendance. Right from the kick-off, fans celebrating the “Bleed Blue Spirit Game” erupted into a frenzy as Trevor Harvey returned the kick to the 35-yard line. UTM’s own Eric Hewitson also made use of the early momentum with a field goal from the 41-yard line to put the Varsity Blues up 3-0 at the beginning of the first quarter.

With a dominating defensive performance throughout the first quarter, the Blues adamantly tried to keep the Gryphons out of their end zone; this was effective until the four-minute mark, when Guelph scored a touchdown after quarterback Jazz Lindsey threw the ball to the end zone where his teammate and brother,



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

The Varsity Blues prepare to take the field against the Guelph Gryphons.

Saxon Lindsey, was waiting to make the catch and completed a 14-yard touchdown. The Gryphons later made the field goal, putting them in the lead at the end of the quarter with a score of 7-3.

A slow start to the second quarter

led to a slew of fumbles, interceptions, and continuous back-and-forth plays between the two teams. U of T passed the Gryphons at the nine-minute mark to loud cheers from fans. Yet a sudden surge from Guelph’s wide receiver A’Dre Fraser

to the 40-yard line put the team in position to make their way down the field, where their efforts were rewarded as the Lindsey brothers connected again to put the Gryphons up 14-3.

As U of T once again attempted a

comeback, they were met with an interception from the Gryphons’ Mac Myers, which led to a seven-yard penalty incurred by the Varsity Blues that allowed Guelph’s running back Johnny Augustine a one-yard rush into the end zone that put his team up 21-7 close to the end of the second quarter.

Despite the Blues’ efforts to get out of this rut, they continued to be picked off during offensive possessions, but at the same time played an outstanding defence in order to prevent the Gryphons from widening the gap. The team’s subsequent possessions were also short-lived, as Blues quarterback Chris Jugovic was sacked at the 35-yard line, allowing Guelph to advance 10 yards on the next possession. UTM’s Larry Broni suffered an injury to his left leg as a result, limping off the field to cheers of support from U of T fans as the half wound to a close.

As the second half began, U of T was on the defensive, suffering a sudden surge to the five-yard line from the Gryphons, which led to an eight-yard reception by wide receiver Dillon Dimitroff for the team’s fourth touchdown of the game, making the score 28-3.

Blues continued on page 12

UTMAC looking to unite campus

JUSTIN HERNANDEZ

As this year’s president of the UTM Athletic Council, Andjela Ocicek organizes athletic events and keeps the council on track in terms of athletics and other events.

UTMAC’s planning began before the beginning of the school year, and its first events were held during Frosh Week, including an obstacle course, a dodgeball game, a water balloon toss game, and a tug-of-war. UTMAC also took part in Welcome Week in conjunction with the phys ed department’s Get Experience Fair, setting up a booth outside the Student Centre to promote athletics, tryouts, positions in the department, and more.

Another priority of the council is off-campus activities, including an NFL game in Detroit, Michigan on September 29 in conjunction with UTMSU (tickets for which are currently on sale at the RAWC), multiple trips to Raptors’ games in November and February, and a free trampoline dodgeball tournament at Sky Zone in Mississauga in October and March.

UTMAC will also be organizing various fundraising activities for students during Charity Week, which will run from November 4 to 8, and is looking to work with the Health and Counselling Centre to extend Health Week’s activities over the entire month of January. Ocicek believes physical activity is integral to a healthy, stress-free university career.

In past years, UTMAC has sometimes come under fire for having poor communication between the council and the student body. Ocicek promises school-wide promotion for all home intramural games and some away games and playoffs to ensure adequate attendance.

She also states that U of T’s Varsity sports teams have not gotten the recognition they deserve and plans to promote their games as well.

Ocicek’s seven-member slate, Project RAWC, was elected last spring against a lone independent candidate. The slate’s campaign included a commitment to build an artificial turf field open all year.

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Varsity Blues bleed

BLUES continued from page 11

As U of T tried relentlessly to end their bad luck, the Gryphons attacked on all fronts, retaking possession through interceptions as they continued to dominate at the beginning of the third quarter. After conceding a conversion safety, which allotted two points to U of T, the Varsity Blues took over offensive possession and once again attempted to come back from their deficit, since they had ample time to do so. Even with an outstanding first down and a reception of more than 20 yards by U of T receiver Alex Pierzchalski, the team's hard work was not enough to end the scoring drought.

As the third quarter whittled down, fans were treated to a 36-yard gain by Paul dePass, before the following down was intercepted by defensive back Tristan Doughlin of the Gryphons.

Despite the score, U of T fans didn't lose hope as the fourth quarter began. They cheered on the Blues to make a comeback, a feat that seemed feasible with 15 minutes left in the game, Guelph shifted the momentum once again by promptly responding with a successful 47-yard field goal attempt by Daniel Ferraro—a career best—that gave the Gryphons a 31-5 lead.

The dominating performance continued as running back Bryson Wishloff-Doboush of the Gryphons made a 20-yard dash to the end zone to give Guelph a 38-5 lead. As the time ticked away, U of T fans, who thought all hope was lost, were treated to an incredible run by a fiercely determined Kevin Bradfield, who made a breath-

taking 97-yard punt return to the opposition's end for a touchdown that brought the score to 38-12.

However, as the seconds wound down, the highlight-reel-worthy rush was not enough to give U of T the win.

"That was incredible," said UTM's Eric Hewitson, a second-year English major and kicker for the Varsity Blues, who, despite the loss, is confident of his team's ability to win games. "I know for a fact that we have the coaching staff and the leadership to overcome adversity and pull through, and hopefully by the end of the year we'll make some noise."

"What I learned about our team is that we compete until the very end. We played the full 60 minutes, and I thought that part was important."

—Coach Greg Gary

Hewitson's outlook may be positive, but he understands that the team's performance will need to improve.

"We're tired of getting beat like this. We want to make some noise in the OUA," he adds.

Hewitson contributed a field goal in the first quarter, and he plans to continue working on his performance: "I'm just trying to hit my assignments; my special team's coaches have a lot of trust in me for field goals, and today I'm glad I was able to execute one of them."

Mirroring the positive attitude of his player, Greg Gary, coach of the Varsity Blues, still feels confident that his team has what it takes to win games.

"What I learned about our team is that we compete until the very end," says Gary. "We played the full 60 minutes, and I thought that part was important."

Gary praised his competition's execution as "near-perfect". Nodding towards the scoreboard, he added, "I mean, that shows you how they played. They played on all facets in special teams; on offence and on defence, they did everything they needed to do. We had a couple good runs, but overall they played really good run-defence."

In terms of success among his own players, Gary mentions two rising stars from UTM who have been integral to the success of the Blues: Larry Broni, a third-year sociology major, and Hewitson.

"Broni played fantastic today; he's a high energy guy [with whom] I look to have a great future in the [football] program," said Gary. "It's great that he's down at UTM; we like having a presence there."

Gary made it clear that Hewitson's contributions to the team have not gone unnoticed, even if the team's touchdown-centred game plan means they can't use his talents as often as they'd like at this point.

As the Blues move forward in their pursuit of victory in the OUA, they will finish their September matches by facing the University of Windsor on September 21 and Carleton University on September 29.

RAWCing programs

The *Medium* previews the gym's offerings

ORVILLE MACIEL

It's the time every student dreads: the beginning of a school year. But put your upcoming tests, essays, presentations, and exams out of mind for just a minute so you can take the time to get in shape. During a summer filled with festivals, food, concerts, travelling, and parties, many take a vacation from staying fit. Luckily, we have the facilities, programs, and trainers of the campus's Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness Centre.

The RAWC will host a variety of programs every day of the week throughout the year, including scheduled pick-up activities like soccer, basketball, and cricket, and registered activities, such as swimming, martial arts classes, and belly-dancing.

"We are always looking to broaden the scope of our programs and create more opportunities for students to become physically active," says Jack Krist, program coordinator at the RAWC.

He adds, "Getting new people in the building through one specific activity often opens their eyes to all the other opportunities available to them."

Last year, the RAWC introduced a unique training program using Hydroids (stationary bicycles designed for use in the water) in what is essentially an underwater spin class ideal for rehabilitation, especially for those with knee or hip injuries.

The dance programs at the RAWC have gained tremendous popularity over the years, with hip-hop, jazz, and ballroom dancing attracting the most participants. The growing population of South Asian students at UTM also created the demand for the a Bollywood dance class featuring authentic Bollywood music and fast-paced Bol-

lywood dance moves to bust out during pub nights.

Students looking for a holistic mind and body approach to getting fit will have the opportunity to do so in the Tai Chi classes to be featured this year.

"Tai Chi has been offered before. And although viewed as a gentle martial art, it's very healing and can be a really great workout for anyone," says Michael Foley, program assistant at the RAWC. "This year, we have created a mind-body section which really fits well with the university's messaging around positive mental health and our students being happy, healthy, and well."

The RAWC will also facilitate the squash ladder, a favourite among squash players, providing racquets to be signed out at the control counter. Squash lessons are also available this term from September 24 to November 20 for a one-time fee.

By contrast, the fees for most of these programs are free with the gym membership included in full-time students' tuition and accessible via a swipe of the T-Card. The membership includes access to all RAWC facilities, including the track and weight rooms, the gym equipment, and a number of pick-up sports.

Krist concludes by citing two more incentives to visit the RAWC. One, regular physical activity is actually linked with an increased GPA. Two, he points out, "Getting a group of friends together and playing in a campus recreation league or one of our University of Toronto intramural teams will generate lifelong friendships."

Students can find schedules, locations, and other information in the 2013/14 Activity Guide, available at the RAWC's front desk.

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