

THE MEDIUM

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Principal takes questions

A new town hall saw 40 come out to grill high-ranking staff.
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Striking a balance

Health means doing something but not overcommitting.
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Demolishing history

A UTM alumna's mural in North will be lost during the construction.
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The way to avoid having your brains eaten at UTM.
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Blues goalie plays for Leafs

U of T's Brett Willows called to play backup for Jonathan Breiner.
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MEDIUMNEWS

Editor | Larissa Ho

Old questions at new town hall

A small crowd joined Principal Saini at a forum on campus concerns, including the Middle Entrance

LARISSA HO
NEWS EDITOR

About 40 people attended the first principal's town hall at UTM, held in light of the changes in governance that took place this July and saw the Erindale College Council, an advisory body, replaced by the Campus Council, a decision-making body.

"While UTM's governance needs outgrew the old Erindale College Council, its value as a forum for broad-based exchange of ideas was worth preserving," said Principal Deep Saini on his Facebook page. "Therefore, the UTM administration is introducing this town hall—which is one of two planned this year—to capture, indeed expand, that spirit of open communications and consultation."

In a lecture hall in the Davis Building last Monday, Saini made short welcoming remarks before the structured Q&A session. Staff, faculty, and students had been invited to register and submit topics



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Deep Saini speaks at the town hall last Monday.

of interest and questions in advance using an online form.

One priority that Saini outlined was creating more high-quality

spaces for classrooms, teaching and research labs, faculty and staff offices, study areas, student services, and cafeterias, which he said would

be taking place through the recent construction and renovations. The second priority, he said, is to lower the student-to-faculty ratio, the dif-

ficulty of which Saini attributed to a lack of space for offices for new faculty. The final priority Saini mentioned was to increase services, especially those related to student success and counselling, and later to expand student aid and scholarships, fundraise for new faculty positions and capital projects, and raise UTM's profile in the community. Saini also cited a massive increase of the proportion of international students in UTM's population over the last decade.

After the introductory remarks, the pre-submitted questions were read along with prepared answers by various high-ranking members of the staff. The Q&A period began with questions in the theme of transportation and infrastructure. The first question was, "Why aren't there more parking spaces?"

Paul Donoghue, UTM's chief administrative officer, said that another parking deck project is in plans for implementation in 2016.

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Music and (multilingual) lyrics

Department of Language Studies hosts its annual awards ceremony



KAMILA SYDYKHANOVA/THE MEDIUM

Professor Emmanuel Nikiema making opening remarks at the podium.

LARISSA HO
NEWS EDITOR

The UTM Department of Language Studies hosted its annual Awards Evening and Music Gala to celebrate the academic successes of UTM students studying languages (including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, German, Latin, Persian, Italian), linguistics, language teaching and learning, and concurrent teaching and education.

Last Friday, students, their families and friends, faculty, and staff gathered in a lecture hall in the CCT Building to support those who won awards and to enjoy musical performances.

The chair of the department, Professor Emmanuel Nikiema, made welcoming remarks and introduced Professor Amy Mullin, the vice-principal academic and dean, who said a

few words before turning the microphone over to the co-presidents of the Language Studies Academic Society, Caitlin Cook-Yeo and Monia Manrakiza. Mullin was on hand before intermission to congratulate each student after they received their awards; winners were announced in sections by the professors in their field.

The awards included general program awards, faculty choice awards, and scholarships, including some by external sponsors. The department also honoured course instructors who "have distinguished themselves as outstanding teachers". The Italian awards included scholarships to study Italian abroad.

Many award-winning students were not in attendance to pick up their award because they are currently studying overseas in Florence, Italy as part of the Study in Florence

program offered by the department.

This prompted Nikiema to joke that he was jealous that the French department does not offer scholarships for students to study French abroad.

The audience enjoyed musical performances by U of T Faculty of Music students pianist Lisa Tahara (who performed "Clair de Lune" by Debussy), violinists Jessica Leung and Kathryn Wiebe, accordionist Michael Bridge, and sitarist Sepideh Raissadat.

Prior to 2003, UTM only offered courses in French, German, and Italian. In 2010, UTM officially changed the name of the Department of French, German, and Italian Studies to the Department of Language Studies, putting all the languages offered at UTM under one umbrella department.

Forty attend town hall



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Mark Overton, the dean of student affairs, answers questions from the floor.

Principal continued from page 2

“Parking is expensive and there’s no way around that,” Donoghue continued.

He added that the cost of the new deck, which is estimated at \$8 million, will be partly covered by the surplus in parking revenue over expenses that the service currently generates thanks to the introduction two years ago of an automatic parking price increase of 3% per year.

One question concerned cars speeding on campus. Donoghue replied that although there are several measures in place, including speed bumps, dedicated crossings, and signage, UTM cannot issue speeding tickets because it is private property.

The question “Why doesn’t UTM offer healthier, more affordable, and more diverse food options?” was also answered by Donoghue, who said that physical space is a challenge. Next September, when Phase 1 of the North Building construction opens, there will be more options, he asserted; another improved food source will be Colman Commons in the Oscar Peterson Hall residence, which he said will undergo renovations next summer.

Other topics that came up were water accessibility on campus now that UTM is bottled-water-free; the creation of more multi-faith space; the cost of the Middle Entrance; smoking too close to building entrances, which Donoghue said the campus could not legally enforce; and whether UTM will implement flat fees.

Mark Overton, dean of student affairs, said that the administration is looking at converting larger spaces into a larger number of smaller spaces to be used as multi-purpose areas, including multi-faith spaces for quiet meditation or reflection, and explained that peer pressure is key in reducing the amount of people smoking at building entrances.

Donoghue summarized the process by which the university developed the redesign of the Middle Entrance signage, which received coverage last week in the *National*

Post and *Global News* TV. He added that UTMSU has recently appointed a student to fill the student seat on the Space Planning and Management Committee, which approved the project.

Amy Mullin, vice-principal of academics and dean, addressed the drop-credit policy, which she said undermines the “faithful and accurate record of the courses taken and grades received”. She reiterated that instead of the drop-credit, a later drop date and the credit-no credit policy were implemented.

Mullin also answered the flat-fees question, saying, “That’s a simple one. No, UTM doesn’t have plans to introduce program fees at this time.”

“The redesign involves a whole slew of things of which you have been personally made aware, not once, not twice, but more than that.

Let’s talk about apples as apples and oranges as oranges.”

—Deep Saini,
Principal of UTM

The question “What effort is the University of Toronto making to ensure tuition is affordable and accessible?” was also answered by Mullin, who attributed the university’s dependence on tuition to the province’s failure to commit to funding increases to keep up with inflation.

Diane Crocker, UTM’s registrar, answered the question of whether or not UTM will have a fall break by saying that “it’s on our radar”. The St. George campus has a new two-day fall break this year on November 11 and 12.

The administration then took questions from the floor.

UTMSU president Raymond Noronha raised an issue, saying that because students had to submit their questions online before

the town hall, it was not an open forum. “I noted that [for] a lot of questions that were submitted by myself and others, I don’t think we got accurate responses,” said Noronha.

One such response, he said, was the claim that there would be designated multi-faith space in the renovated North Building, which Noronha denied. Overton clarified that he had meant multi-purpose space that could be used as multi-faith space.

Noronha also reopened the Middle Entrance question: “The problem with the sign is that it has a million-dollar price tag attached to it, and that on the SPMC there was no student representation [...] there was no chance for UTMSU to receive any feedback.”

Saini replied that this portion of the Q&A constituted an open forum, and that questions had been invited in advance for the structured portion to ensure that students who could not attend in person had a chance to ask questions.

On the subject of the Middle Entrance, Saini said, “What some people have chosen to do is to take pictures of one aspect and put a tag of a million dollars on it. Their intentions are, of course, not to tell the truth. The redesign involves a whole slew of things of which you have been personally made aware, not once, not twice, but more than that. [...] Let’s talk about apples as apples and oranges as oranges.”

The final questions included a request by UTMSU’s executive director, Walied Khogali, calling for the university to investigate its mental health strategy and a question by a student about the tendency of ethnic groups on campus to stay closed and homogeneous rather than to disperse and mingle with other groups.

A faculty member raised questions about why flu shots are offered only to students and not faculty and staff; Overton directed him to the Health and Counselling Centre. The faculty member also complained about perpetually wet washrooms and asked whether the replacement of paper towels with hand dryers in campus washrooms was really necessary.

CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

October 17, 5:55 p.m.

Theft Under \$5,000

Campus Police responded and investigated a theft complaint from the Recreational Athletic and Wellness Centre. Personal items were stolen from an unlocked locker.

October 18, 8:00 a.m.

Fraud

Campus Police investigated a fraud complaint in regards to a Mississauga Transit Bus Pass. All persons involved were identified and investigation continues.

October 18, 10:00 a.m.

Missing Person

Campus Police responded to a missing person report. The person was located in good health.

October 18, 10:37 a.m.

Parking

Campus Police supervised the towing of a vehicle from parking lot 1 due to excessive fines.

October 18, 1:40 p.m.

Fraud

Campus Police took a report in regards to fraud. Peel Regional Police became involved in the investigation.

October 19, 12:26 a.m.

Noise Complaint

Campus Police responded to a noise complaint at the Schreiberwood Residences. The tenants were identified and cautioned.

October 19, 1:10 a.m.

Disruptive Behaviour

Campus Police responded to two groups of persons arguing near Putnam Place residences. Campus Police dispersed all persons involved.

October 19, 1:36 a.m.

Causing a Disturbance

Campus Police responded to a disturbance call near McLuhan Court residences. All parties involved cleared upon the arrival of Campus Police.

October 21, 5:15 p.m.

Motor Vehicle Accident

Campus Police responded to a call in regards to a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian. All injuries were minor.

October 23, 12:20 p.m.

Mischief

Campus Police responded to a mischief to vehicle call from the CCT garage. Investigation continues.

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UNIVERSITY OF
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Quiet elections wrap up



CHRISTY TAM/THE MEDIUM

A small crowd of students sit at the UTSU executive elections debate on October 11.

LARISSA HO
NEWS EDITOR

The U of T Students' Union held their by-elections from October 15 to 17, with former vice-president campus life Onik Khan running as the sole candidate for vice-president external, a post that has been vacant since mid-July. He won with 1,088 voting yes and 268 voting no.

There were also several board of directors positions open. The candidates for directors for the transitional year program, the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, and the Faculty of Dentistry were acclaimed. Pierre

Harfouche and Sanchit Mathur won the two seats available for the faculty of engineering.

"Sweet! Looks like I have a seat at the UTSU board of directors," wrote Harfouche on his Facebook page. "I will now move to advocate to get rid of it." The motions he submitted for UTSU's upcoming AGM were rejected.

This was the first election for which UTSU used online voting, which was implemented after the board of directors approved the recommendations of the Elections and Referenda Committee in September.

The UTMSU also held their by-elections from October 15 to 17. There

were 10 candidates for the elections for Division 1. According to Abdul Rehman Kamali, the chief returning officer, the total number of ballots cast was 602, compared to last year's 311. The candidates with the most votes were Nirmal Patel with 210 votes, and Naveed Ahmad with 163.

Two applications were received for Division 4, according to Kamali, but neither of them qualified. One applicant failed to show up to the mandatory all-candidates meeting and the other failed to secure 10 required part-time nominators for the validation of his nomination form.

»WHAT WAS THE CRAZIEST THING YOU'VE EVER BEEN FOR HALLOWEEN?



Zameena Jaffer
3rd year, psychology

A hoola girl. I forgot my lei and was just in a grass skirt.



Jeanine Evangelista
2nd year, environment

A bunny.



Victor Dang
4th year, forensics

Clark Kent.



Nina Tran
3rd year, psychology

A cop. It was the only thing I've ever dressed up as.

Diwali brings out lights, festivities, dancing



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

Students perform at the Blind Duck Pub to celebrate the "festival of lights".

DOAA ROHILLAH

On October 25, the Blind Duck Pub was filled with students dressed up and ready to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

The Hindu Student Council, in collaboration with UTMSU, put together their ninth-annual Diwali Dhamaka event. The event was sponsored by Sony.

The attendees included UTM students, staff, and faculty, including UTM's principal, Professor Deep Saini.

As everyone poured in, a photographer set up in the fog room of the pub, where students and faculty could get their pictures taken in front of a backdrop. Students were dressed in traditional Indian attire, which consisted of vibrant embroidered saaris,

kurtas, and suits, ornamented with South Asian jewelry.

Steffanie Pinto, the vice-president of HSC, explained that the four-course dinner consisted of authentic vegetarian Indian cuisine. For dessert, an Indian delicacy called "ghulab jaman" was served. The carbonated beverages provided had tropical flavours such as lychee and mango for a more authentic Indian experience.

The night consisted of singing and dancing performances by UTM clubs; the Erindale Punjabi Association performed a traditional Punjabi acrobatic dance that included several dancers and dhol players, and the UTM Music Club's band's performance rounded out the performances, leading to a dance that concluded at 1 a.m.

This year, Diwali will fall on November 3.

NEWS BRIEFS »

Art school student to lose virginity in front of class

A 19-year-old student has announced a controversial upcoming art project in which he intends to lose his virginity live in front of an audience—all in the name of performance art. The project will involve Pettet and a close friend engaging in a sex act at an art space in front of 50 to 100 classmates and members of the public.

Source: CBC News

Flights delayed at Trudeau airport due to suspicious package

Travellers faced significant delays at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau Airport on Sunday after police removed a suspicious package found near the U.S. customs area. Police said the package was removed at 1 p.m. and the contents have been sent to a lab for tests. Sixteen flights were delayed during the police operation.

Source: CBC News

Karen Stintz will run for mayor of Toronto in 2014

City councillor Karen Stintz announced on the weekend that she will be running for mayor in 2014. The Ward 16 Eglinton-Lawrence councillor says that she is assembling a campaign team and believes she would be a good alternative to Ford, who has already stated his intention to seek a second term.

Source: The Toronto Star

Government UFO Agency Officially Reactivated

Peru's official UFO investigation department is back in business, and its government is soliciting information from the public after an increase of sightings. The Peruvian Office of Anomalous Aerial Phenomena Research will seek air force personnel, sociologists, archaeologists, and astronomers to analyze UFO data.

Source: Huffington Post

Mirvish sells site of iconic Toronto retailer Honest Ed's

David Mirvish has signed a deal to sell the site of the discount retailer at Bloor and Bathurst to Westbank Properties of Vancouver. Mirvish, the son of the late "Honest Ed" Mirvish, confirmed Sunday that Westbank has the property under contract. Honest Ed's site is one of the largest potential development sites in Toronto.

Source: The Globe and Mail

MEDIUM OPINION

Editor-in-Chief | Luke Sawczak

Don't undervalue the casual

You might feel even more stressed with a pastime, but it helps in the end

Beside and below this editorial you will find two letters that both seem to be calling for good things: one calling for more attendance at sports games, and one for coping with stress. They represent what students often feel are two forces pulling them in opposite directions: the urge on the one hand to become more active, more involved, more engaged, and on the other to simply slow down.

What I've found in my four and a half years here is the two are not in as strong contradiction as it seems. Like many choices between extremes, it's a question of balance. The times that I consider among my healthiest are those in which I have been engaged, not in nothing, nor in something that absorbed all my time, but in a casual hobby or regular get-together.

The good news is that as an average student, this is not actually a call to do much. It doesn't necessitate being an executive of a club or an employee of the *Medium*; those were and are very stressful experiences for me, and even though the return on investment has sometimes been greater doing them, I

wouldn't recommend them to anyone who's trying to cope with stress at this instant. It just means going to places, often with people, and taking it in.

One obstacle associated with that is guilt. From talking with my friends, I know I'm not alone in typically feeling like I'm not spending my time wisely if I go to an event and just enjoy myself. We often feel we have to be spending all our energy or we're not getting ahead—or making the most of our university education—or running low on stories to tell friends—or any such thing. But when you step back the picture changes focus. My current distressor is a home church on Mondays that, for the first part of the year, I felt too busy to go to. Then I made myself go because I missed (and felt obligated to) people, and now I never regret going. When I come back I feel calmer and more ready to deal with the week.

It might seem like overdoing it to return to the subject of mental health for a second week, and moreover via personal anecdotes. Part of it is as a response to Ms. Ryrak's invitation to

share coping strategies, and the other part is that the topic is still live. At the principal's town hall last week, UTM-SU's executive director, Walied Khogali, rightly ressed the university staff again for a commitment to strong mental health strategies at UTM. As Ms. Ryrak points out, \$27 million from the provincial government won't singlehandedly fix the problem, and while individual action to find relaxing pastimes (and why not our underappreciated sports?), we need campaigns—even if just for information—from those who can run them.

For now, don't undervalue the casual hobby for refreshing your mind and ultimately making you more, not less, able to cope with having to do so much in so little time. Besides, there's always a chance of the byproduct of actually becoming interested in something while you're there, and then you might be the one asking the questions next time.

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK

Little support for sports

Dear Editor,

I try to attend as many UTM sports games as I can. Of course, having a busy school schedule doesn't always permit my attendance, but whenever I get the chance I'm usually treated to some fun on-campus entertainment. Sadly, whenever I go, there aren't many people sitting in the stands with me. The culture at U of T seems to be focused solely on academia that there is not much attention given to the students giving their all for our sports teams. I reckon it's disappointing for these athletes not to see anybody rooting for them in the stands, to have the name of the school you play for but no one off the court cheering that school on. The question has been bugging me... Do students really care about sports at U of T, and if not, how can we get them to care?

American universities and colleges are given their identity based on the success of their school sports teams; there is camaraderie among students, a sense of oneness. March Madness College Basketball is covered on all the largest sports networks and news outlets—even the president of the United States makes

a bracket with his predictions every March. Theirs is a community that thrives on a love for sports. Granted, the scale of American college sports is an entirely different than anything in Canada, but the interest for sports is present in our student community; we just don't get the opportunity to show our support. Maybe it's our schedules that keep us from going, or the feeling that we're cheering for a team with players whose names we don't know, or the fact that we don't know when the games are. Whatever the reason, we need to change the culture at U of T, show some pride in our school, and support those who represent us on and off campus.

Jason Coelho
Sports Editor

CORRECTION NOTICES

In last week's article "Winter res fees not set to budge," it was stated that there are 300 vacancies in residence. There are 30.

The photo for last week's article "Blues beat Memorial in pre-season action" was credited to Jasmeen Virk instead of Christy Tam.

University stresses are not so very unlike adult stresses

Dear Editor,

I was intrigued by the large amount of coverage of student mental health last week. But I want to raise matters that I feel have been overlooked.

First, it's important to separate university students with chronic, pervasive mental health issues from those who are fine before the stresses of university set in. Bipolar disorder is an example of the former, and "I failed a test and couldn't sleep for a week due to anxiety" the latter. While the student with bipolar disorder likely needs a lifelong relationship with healthcare, the student whose insomnia is set off

by a bad grade needs something else: coping skills. I'm unconvinced that the challenges of university life are all that different from what we'll have to face in the real world after graduation. In other words, confronting stress and anxiety on a daily basis is not part of the student experience; it's a part of the adult experience. That's what we are—adults—and it involves stress, anxiety, and periods of unhappiness because adults have, to put it frankly, a lot of shit to deal with, and you no longer have people to deal with it for you. I say unhappiness and not depression, because, to be fair to those who suffer from chronic depression, and to

paraphrase one doctor, if a cheque for \$10,000 or a new relationship removes your blues, that's not depression.

We'll all face situations like not finding a job, not getting to live where we want, and realizing that our true loves aren't the people we thought they were. And we're likely to be prescribed something if we seek help. If we don't start developing personal coping strategies for dealing with everyday adult stress, we'll be absolutely screwed.

And the sad news is that there are so many of us in university who are faced with incredible mental and emotional stressors, which in turn affect our mental health, that the \$27 million

doled out by the Ontario government will simply not be enough to help every struggling student. Let's hope that they at least get to the most severe cases before it's too late. And it will not be enough because mental health is not a student issue, it's a Canadian issue. As CAMH reports, "In any given year, one in five people in Ontario experiences a mental health or addiction problem." So it shouldn't be universities that provide the majority of mental health services, but local clinics and hospitals. And these services should be fully, not partially, covered by OHIP. In her letter to the editor last week, Ms. Ho talked about the difficulties of ac-

cessing mental health services, and that's because our government doesn't deem these services important enough to fully fund. Even the services that are covered have enormous wait times.

One of the ways we can help each other is by sharing our coping strategies. Please do, because I believe we're still far, far away from the day when we can walk into UTM's health clinic and say, "I've been having stress-related insomnia and I'd like to speak to someone today" without walking away disappointed.

Valeria Ryrak
Fourth-year UTM student

the
MEDIUM

MEDIUM II PUBLICATIONS
3359 Mississauga Road,
Room 200, Student Centre,
Mississauga, ON, L5L 1C6
mediumutm.ca

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Luke Sawczak
editor@mediumutm.ca

NEWS EDITOR
Larissa Ho
news@mediumutm.ca

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR
Lily Bowman

A&E EDITOR
Colleen Munro
arts@mediumutm.ca

ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR
Kathelene Cattell-Daniels

FEATURES EDITOR
Maria Cruz
features@mediumutm.ca

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR
Vacant

SPORTS EDITOR
Jason Coelho
sports@mediumutm.ca

ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR
Vacant

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Jasmeen Virk
photos@mediumutm.ca

ONLINE EDITOR
Edward Cai
online@mediumutm.ca

DESIGN EDITOR
Mubashir Baweja
design@mediumutm.ca

COPY EDITOR
Olga Tkachenko
copy@mediumutm.ca

ASSOCIATE COPY EDITOR
Andrew Nablo

WEBMASTER
Kevin Joy
web@mediumutm.ca

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Warren Clarke
distribution@mediumutm.ca

AD MANAGER
David Sanchez
ads@mediumutm.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Luke Sawczak, Paul Donoghue,
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MEDIUM A&E

Editor | Colleen Munro

Theatre Erindale starts season on a high

UTM drama students offer bewitching interpretation of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

KATE CATTELL-DANIELS
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

I first saw Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* adapted by Soulpepper a couple of years ago, and I liked it; the profoundly disturbing and thought-provoking play left me thinking for several days afterwards. Soulpepper, considered one of the top classical theatre companies in the GTA, has another thing coming with Theatre Erindale's production of *The Crucible* opening last week.

Directed by Aaron Willis, the season-opening production combines a stellar cast with brilliant technical elements and one of my favourite staging configurations, leaving Soulpepper's adaptation knee-deep in Massachusetts dust.

All the actors share a wonderful chemistry, so much so that simply watching them breathe was fascinating. Kaitlyn Alexander and Christian Tribuzio as Elizabeth Proctor and her husband John lead the play with grace and impressive stamina. Bailey Green, Eliza Martin, and Adrian Beattie (depicting Rebecca Nurse, Mary Warren, and Mr. Hale, respectively) inhabit their characters with profound honesty. Every actor deserves to be commended for the openness and freedom with which they tackled their characters, especially characters so



JIM SMAGATA/PHOTO

Tempers run high during Theatre Erindale's production of *The Crucible*.

different from themselves in age and mindset.

Some of my favourite moments were those of complete silence, when the audience was given time to truly absorb an event. One such moment is when Judge Hathorne (Victor Pokinko) reads a letter delivered to him by Proctor and Mary Warren, the girl who works in his

house. The moment was allowed to sit with the audience, as they, along with the other characters in the courtroom, waited to hear what would be read.

Dialogue is somewhat unevenly distributed among the characters, and consequently people are often left standing and listening while conversation unfolds around them.

Those who stood silently during a scene were often the most riveting to watch, simply for their reactions.

The set and costumes perfectly illustrate the play's setting. The thrust stage, surrounded by audience members on three sides, is framed by wooden beams that help create various indoor settings: an upstairs bedroom, a dining room and kitchen,

a courthouse, a jail. Some claustrophobia accompanies this frame, since it almost denies the audience access to the play; the frame and the shape of the stage made me feel like an intruder in the private lives of the characters, as though I was seeing something I wasn't meant to witness.

The costumes were sparse and simple, varying slightly depending on the social status of the character. All had neutral colours, which make exceptions like the judges' black robes stand out all the more. The neutral palette also made the characters almost blend in with the stage and beams, making them indistinguishable from their surroundings. In a farming community so obsessed by which land belongs to whom and whose cows are roaming the streets untended, it's fitting that people appear so close to their setting.

The Crucible raises moral dilemmas and ambiguities that stayed in my thoughts for days after seeing the show. This isn't a play that can be digested lightly; on the contrary, it weighs heavily on the soul and left me a little shaky. This impact, though, is proof of a successful production. A good play, no matter how funny or morally ambiguous, should linger a little.

Theatre Erindale's *The Crucible* runs until November 3.

Looking for love at the Art Gallery of Mississauga

Gallery hosts Monster Mixer to help art-loving singles connect in an atypical setting

NICOLE DANESI

The young and eligible searched for love at the Art Gallery of Mississauga's Monster Mixer last Wednesday evening. The event, attended by 65 singles, centred on a unique dating approach, ditching the tired format and awkward setting of traditional speed dating.

Mixer attendees played a game of bingo dating, in which participants chat with other singles in three-minute intervals about books, cars, celebrities, and food, among other topics listed on dater bingo cards. Following each three-minute conversation, participants indicate on their bingo card if they're interested in getting to know their conversation partner in the future. If two singles note a mutual interest in each other, Bindi Dates, the matchmaking service administrating the event, contacts both singles a few days later to inform them.

Bindi Dates, an offshoot of mybindi.com, is a South-Asian matchmaking service, and one of



NICOLE DANESI/THE MEDIUM

AGM's latest exhibition, *F'd Up!*, provided a colourful backdrop while singles searched for romance.

the first matchmaking services in Canada. "The whole idea of tonight is not to find your soulmate, but to see if there's a spark," said

Syrah Virani, the editor-in-chief and CEO.

The evening was hosted by Jus Reign, a popular YouTube vlog-

ger known for his satirical comedy skits on East Indian culture. Reign, toting a bow and arrow and dressed in red-feathered cupid

wings, provided much-needed comedic relief for jittery daters while lending his matchmaking skills to singles attending the mixer.

"There is one gentleman right now who doesn't have a partner," said Reign in regards to one unpaired event participant. "I am going around and forcefully pairing him up."

Although speed dating is normally associated with intense awkwardness and discomfort, the event provided a relaxing way for singles to meet in an artistic and casual environment; the current AGM exhibition, *F'd Up!*, provided a unique backdrop and a point of conversation for attendees.

Tina Chu, the gallery's engagement officer and one of the organizers of the event, described the benefits of hosting a mixer in a gallery. "There [are] a lot of commonalities—love and art are both so abstract. I'm just hoping [they] will inform one another and that it will create an interesting dynamic," said Chu in an interview with the *Medium*.

Campus construction jeopardizes Thomasos mural

Mural by renowned UTM alumna will be demolished during North Building reconstruction

ANNIE RATCLIFFE

If you're an upper-year student at UTM, you've most likely seen the massive, haunting mural in the North Building's upstairs lobby; more recent students may have missed it due to construction. Either way, there's a good chance you don't know much about the partially concealed, stunning work.

"Till the River" is an early work of **Denyse Thomasos**, a 1987 UTM graduate of the art and art history program. Thomasos—who passed away during a medical procedure in 2012 at the age of 47—is one of the few internationally renowned graduates of the program, according to **John Armstrong**, a professor of painting in the art and art history program. The piece was her first large-scale mural. Thomasos went on to paint murals in public art galleries, including the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga and the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The mural was completed in 1986 as part of a summer work grant. "We were in charge of choosing colours to repaint the North Building, and we thought it might be interesting to have some murals that reflected the experience of being a student at UTM," says Armstrong.

"Till the River", which depicts a river scene surrounded by bathing and protesting figures, reflects the anti-apartheid movement; Thomasos was an active member of the Caribbean African Student Society. The piece is painted onto the cinder blocks of the walls using Thomasos' original tech-



EVA CHAN/THE MEDIUM

Denyse Thomasos's "Till the River" currently sits in the North Building's upstairs lobby.

nique of "stumbling" the paint.

The *Toronto Star* described Thomasos as a "powerfully confident artistic voice" in a recent article discussing her current exhibition at the MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie. In a 2012 article, they called her "aggressive and ambitious". Unfortunately, Thomasos' mural is being demolished as part of the North Building's reconstruction. The North Building, originally meant for temporary use during the construction of the South (now William G. Davis) Building, was to be demolished in the early '70s, so the destruction of Thomasos' work has been a

long time coming.

"It's inevitable that if the building is to be rebuilt, it has to be removed," says Armstrong.

Many students aware of Thomasos' work are upset by the destruction of "Till the River". As put by fifth-year art and art history specialist **Irram Bhatti**, "To destroy any piece of art in general [...] it grabs your heart. Especially that one, how unfortunately she passed away—it's a memoir to her."

In one of UTM's capital campaigns, adds Armstrong, Thomasos' face was prominently displayed around campus.

Grace Bedwell, a fourth-year art and art history student, says, "It's not pretty. It's kind of out there. But we could look back and say, 'Wow, we had a Denyse Thomasos original at one time, and it's gone.' But [that's] also kind of the problem with murals."

"They should put more effort into acknowledging her, because it makes the university look kind of ignorant to artists that have graduated from our program," adds Bedwell. "I didn't know anything about the mural until someone told me. UTM is very science-focused—there isn't much recognition for the arts."

"We're fortunate to have the Blackwood Gallery. We have the Bernie Miller Lightbox, which is always engaging," says Armstrong, adding that in terms of installed student art on campus, there could certainly be more.

In addition to the Blackwood Gallery and the Lightbox, UTM artists exhibit their works at ArtsFest, a student-run art festival.

Still, some current and former art and art history students, including **Lexie Nelson**, **Julia Suave**, **Sonya Filman**, **Andrew Ihamaki**, and **Becky Roth**, agree that our campus could use more student art. "[The school] seems to be continuing with a modernist style that you can see in the North Building plans. There doesn't seem to be anywhere to paint a mural," says Bedwell. "I like the idea of having murals on campus—it [increases] student initiative to be connected to the school."

"They could commission Work-Study students in our program to paint for the school, and paint on boards so they are removable—you don't have to tear it down," suggests Bhatti.

"I went to Mount Allison University, where **Alex Coville**, an acclaimed painter, was a student, and his murals are still up there," says Armstrong. "As a young art student, I used to love walking around the campus and looking at his early works. We wanted to improve the experience of being in the building for students and faculty by having [Thomasos's] mural."

Preparing for a month of madness

The agony and accomplishment of attempting NaNoWriMo

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

The term "NaNoWriMo" may sound like gibberish to you, but for many eager writers, the word is full of possibility and possible frustration.

National Novel-Writing Month (better known as NaNoWriMo) is the annual initiative that challenges writers to pen an original 50,000-word novel over the month of November. Starting as an online movement in 1999, NaNoWriMo has since grown into an international phenomenon with in-person meet-ups for participants living near major cities, and even the creation of Camp NaNoWriMo, an annual summer writing retreat.

But why do NaNoWriMo? Why put the pressure on yourself to create so much in one month? Well, while NaNoWriMo may not be for everyone, it does present a unique opportunity for those who think that they can reach the hefty word count; in order to meet the 50,000-word mark, one needs to write an average of 1,666 words every day in November. Depending on what your writing habits are like, that may sound like small potatoes, or it may seem an impossible feat. But even if you don't meet the 50,000-word goal (like many participants), you'll still have something to show for it. Who knows where a half-finished manuscript could lead?

For those who think that it's impossible to create anything of publishable quality in a month's time, some of NaNoWriMo's success stories may prove you wrong. The hugely popular novels *Water for Elephants* and *The Night Circus* both started as NaNoWriMo projects, and according to the NaNo website, over 100 other NaNo novels have been published through traditional publishing houses. It's unlikely that your first draft will be a bestseller, but it could be a good place to start.

NaNoWriMo's website offers forums where you can seek story-writing help from thousands of other NaNo allies.

As a one-time NaNoWriMo failure myself, I'm going to give it another try this year. During my previous attempt in high school, I was ahead for the first few days, before dropping off the radar entirely less than halfway through the month. This year's personal challenge is to write every day and stick it out the whole way, even if I don't quite reach the 50,000-word goal.

Maintaining enthusiasm and writing consistently is a major roadblock for many NaNo participants. Some become overwhelmed by the word

count or intimidated by the success of others. However, if you take on NaNo and then find yourself on the verge of deleting your haphazard Word document after a few thousand words and pretending like the month of November never happened, fear not! NaNoWriMo's website offers forums where you can seek story-writing help from thousands of other NaNo allies. One of the site's most popular subforums is titled "NaNoWriMo Ate My Soul", so you can rest easy knowing that you certainly won't be the only one struggling.

I'm hardly in a position to dole out advice for NaNo success, but I will offer one tidbit to those brave (foolish?) souls who are gearing up for potentially the most hectic month of the year: just get your ideas out. Part of the fun of NaNo is the spontaneity of it all. The pressure to put words onto paper (or computer screen) doesn't always inspire one's best work, but it does get you to write. Too often in my own work, I fuss over every sentence and find myself deleting and rewriting paragraphs as I go. NaNo-ers don't have the luxury of agonizing over their work. Not every sentence and idea has to be brilliant. And many of them won't be. But even if a certain idea doesn't come out exactly how you envisioned it in your mind, it's the seed of something. You can always go back and cultivate it later.

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The bold new world of Arcade Fire

Canadian favourites switch gears on fourth LP



FACTMAG.COM/PHOTO

You might not be able to tell from this picture, but Arcade Fire knows how to get their groove on.

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

Last week, after months of promotion, the latest album from Canadian darlings **Arcade Fire**, *Reflektor*, suffered the same fate as many records nowadays—it was leaked. This forced the band to reveal their secretive project for free via YouTube a few days before the original release date.

Early reviews of the record proved divisive, and after listening to the album (the band's fourth), it's not hard to see why. Whether you love it or hate it, *Reflektor* is undoubtedly the band's least accessible offering yet. There are no obvious singles like "Wake Up" or "We Used to Wait". Instead, many of the tracks on this 75-minute album blend together and meander amorously without providing much of a traditional pop hook.

Even *Reflektor*'s title track, which kicks off the album and is likely the closest thing to a hit the album has, is extended from its radio version on the album. Weaving in and out of a comfortable dance pocket, it becomes

almost hypnotic, setting the stage for the rest of the album.

Much has been made of the fact that **James Murphy** of **LCD Soundsystem** produced *Reflektor*. And while it's true that the album has a distinctly more dance-y sound, this isn't an entirely different Arcade Fire. "Afterlife," nestled deep in the album's second half, would have sounded right at home on the band's last album, *The Suburbs*, and it often recalls the joyous beat of that album's "Sprawl II (Mountains Beyond Mountains)". Meanwhile, "Normal Person" offers a searing guitar line that feels just as powerful as anything on the band's 2004 debut, *Funeral*.

However, there are more differences than there are similarities between *Reflektor* and Arcade Fire's previous work. And that's not necessarily a bad thing. Arcade Fire have shown growth with each album, and here they're clearly going for a more experimental and ethereal sound. It's a bold move, and the band seems to be revelling in challenging the expectations of a band whose last album won the Album of the Year Grammy.

Unfortunately, *Reflektor* often comes across more as a contrarian statement album than it does a compelling collection of songs. Amid the noise and electronic fussing, the songwriting just doesn't feel all that satisfying on a lot of tracks. For example, "Flashbulb Eyes" begins with a few discordant clangs and never really evolves from there. Even the relatively strong track "We Exist", which offers a catchy beat and a hook-y chorus, doesn't reach the potential that the build-up promises.

I applaud Arcade Fire's commitment to innovation, though. It would have been easy to crank out another album of songs filled with handclaps and sing-along choruses simply to appease the fans they picked up with *The Suburbs*. And in that sense, *Reflektor* is basically the opposite of resting on one's laurels. It may lack the immediacy of some of their past work, and it feels bloated and at times indulgent—it's far from perfect—but it's difficult to fault a band with so many ideas. Maybe they just shouldn't have tried to fit them all into one album. **MMM**

Atwood returns with another feisty tale

MaddAddam offers more of the same

KATE CATTELL-DANIELS
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

I keep saying I'm going to give **Margaret Atwood** one more chance to convince me that she's the writer Canada gives her credit for being. And yet I can't shake my own perceptions: Atwood writes the same novel over and over, varying nothing but minor plot points and character names.

MaddAddam is no exception to Atwood's formulaic environmentalist feminism theme, featuring a distressed and sexually frustrated woman nearing middle age, her masculine partner, and a post-apocalyptic setting.

In some ways, *MaddAddam* is a great success. I was disturbed by the destroyed Earth Atwood painted because it's a logical extension of the current corruption and manipulation. The novel centres on Toby, a fairly young environmentalist, but the most interesting characters are the supporting ones: Toby's partner Zeb and his brother Adam. Their voices and habits come through strongly, making it easy for the reader to feel an affinity for them.

Toby, on the other hand, I could have done without. I simply didn't care what happened to her. When I found out she was infertile, for instance, I wasn't all that sorry. Her desperate need to keep Zeb near her was irritating at best. The fact that I couldn't look up to the female protagonist as a role model was a letdown as far as much-needed depictions of strong women go. In fact, I caught myself looking to Zeb for strength

and resourcefulness. For instance, while Toby sat around pulling weeds and studying healing, Zeb honed his skills as a computer hacker and ran away from his murderous, corrupt father. He worked for months at every job imaginable from flipping burgers to working as a magician to a bouncer, all in the dirty, dangerous "plebs", or suburbs gone bad.

The plot structure was disappointing. The novel rambled on for 200 pages, with both intriguing and pointlessly annoying insights into the characters' pasts, before plummeting into a climax with an absurdly high-stakes battle involving a new species of humans with blue genitals, pigs with human intelligence, and a rescue mission. I was shocked and confused as to why the story, which mainly explained how the characters ended up in their current sanctuary while waiting for a character to wake up from a coma, suddenly transformed into an *Inception*-esque action novel.

At least in *Surfacing* there was a shred of modesty. The characters were better, if not well thought-out, and I could follow the plot and understand why characters made the choices they made. But with *MaddAddam*, Atwood has gone to town, creating the most bizarre characters and events. And she clearly thinks she can get away with it, given her iconic Canadian writer status.

Let's just say there's a good reason **Alice Munro**, not Atwood, won the Nobel Prize in literature. But if Atwood is your thing, then enjoy *MaddAddam*: this is Atwood at her very best and most self-absorbed.

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WARREN CLARKE
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Bird and the Bee

Ray Guns Are Not Just the Future

I immediately thought of sex when I picked up the **Bird and the Bee**'s 2009 album, *Ray Guns Are Not Just the Future*. Not because I have a fetish for ray guns—though I'm sure some people do—but because the band's name is reminiscent of an awkward conversation you may have had with your parents about what happens when a man and a woman get together.

When I inserted the disk into my dated CD player, I heard something far from sex for the ears. The Bird and the Bee have an indie sound that combines Feist-like vocals with co-

lourful instrumental cuts. The combination seems promising at first, but the CD just downright disappoints. It seems to have all the elements of a great album, but at too many points it sounds as if the two artists threw a few layers of sound together and called it a song.

The dynamic duo just didn't bring enough to the table; their intros have catchy melodies and vocals but ultimately fall apart into a disorganized clash of noises. The album's saving grace is the tracks "Phil" and "Polite Dance Song", which when played together sound quite harmonious. The Bird and the Bee have produced some interesting music through the years, so if you're a fan of their style then *Ray Guns Are Not Just the Future* is the album for you.

Like the sound of the album? The first person to come by our office this week can pick it up for free.



UMC hosts night of musical diversity

UTM Music Club open mic invites students to show off their skills and share their songs

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

After a busy year of performance nights and projects like the *Original Chords* album, the UTM Music Club is celebrating UTM's music community as enthusiastically as ever this year. Last week, they held their first open mic performance night of the school year in the MiST theatre. The event got off to a late start, but proved to be a packed and entertaining night.

UMC's open mic nights run in a casual coffeehouse format. Various instruments, amplifiers, microphone, and wires littered the stage of the MiST, and musicians who signed up for the event were invited to come up from the crowd to perform their tunes. UMC co-president **Rahul Varghese** served as host for the evening, encouraging audience response and creating a welcoming environment for the performers.

The night featured songs in a variety of musical styles, from classical piano music to multiple **Led Zeppe-lin** covers. The diversity held the attention of the audience, who showed enthusiasm and support for every performance.

Among the standouts of the night was **Angela Nethersole**, who wooed the crowd with her soulful take on **Frank Ocean's** "Strawberry Swing".



JENNIFER DO/THE MEDIUM

Host and UMC co-president Rahul Varghese performs at open mic night.

Plucking an acoustic guitar, she seemed completely comfortable on stage and offered a lovely lilting vocal.

Nerves seemed to affect a few acts, including **Kevin Tran**, who conceded that he was "so nervous" as he set up for his performance, an acoustic cover of **Avicii's** massively popular "Wake Me Up". But everyone seemed

to overcome most of their stage fright once they began their performance and fed off the energy of the small but excited crowd.

One act that seemed cohesive and confident from the start was the trio **Nebula**. Playing guitar, piano, and cajon (a percussive box-shaped instrument that the player sits on), they offered a medley of several cur-

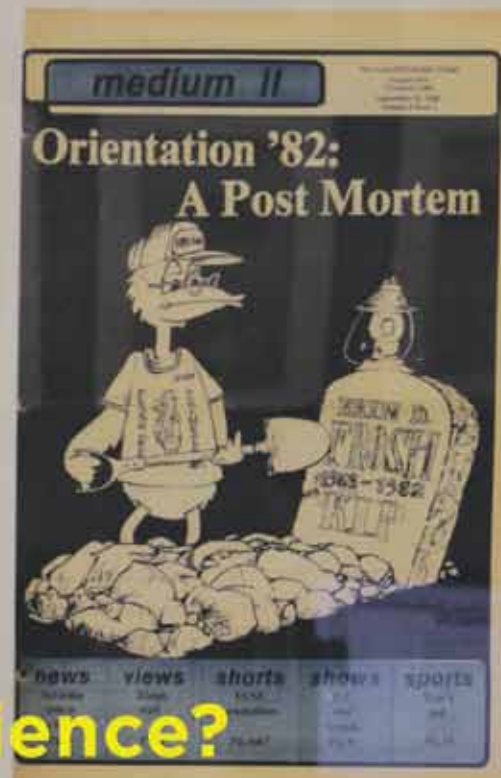
rent pop hits. Somehow, combining **Lorde's** "Royals", **Justin Bieber's** "As Long as You Love Me", **Calvin Harris** and **Ellie Goulding's** "I Need Your Love", and **Miley Cyrus' "Wrecking Ball"** worked perfectly; the interplay between the Bieber and Harris tunes was especially strong.

Nebula weren't the only performers to include mashups in their per-

formance. **Ronny ElShabassy** and **Joe Measures** (performing collectively as **Yalla Yalla**) took the stage later in the night with their innovative guitar-driven take on **Gorillaz's** "Feel Good Inc". Combining the song's moody, rhythmic style with **Nina Simone's** soaring "Feeling Good" paid off, making for one of the most dynamic numbers of the night.

Several acts also shared their own original works with the audience, including returning UMC executive **Andrew Wilson**, who described his untitled song as "a sad song about being sad". Wilson's choice to forgo a microphone and guitar amp forced the audience to listen even more closely as he belted out the lyrics with his eyes closed, making for a stirring moment. **Adam Laughton** also provided one of the show's highlights with a bluesy original song, proving equally strong as a singer, guitarist, and songwriter.

Closing the night were performances from UMC's presidents, **Zain Ali Shah** and Varghese, and a happy birthday sing-along for one of UMC's founders, **Umar Syed**. The finale seemed to encapsulate what UMC is all about—community. Between UMC veterans and open mic rookies, the night offered a preview of the impressive efforts UMC has in store for this year.



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MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

Fighting stereotyping of Somalia

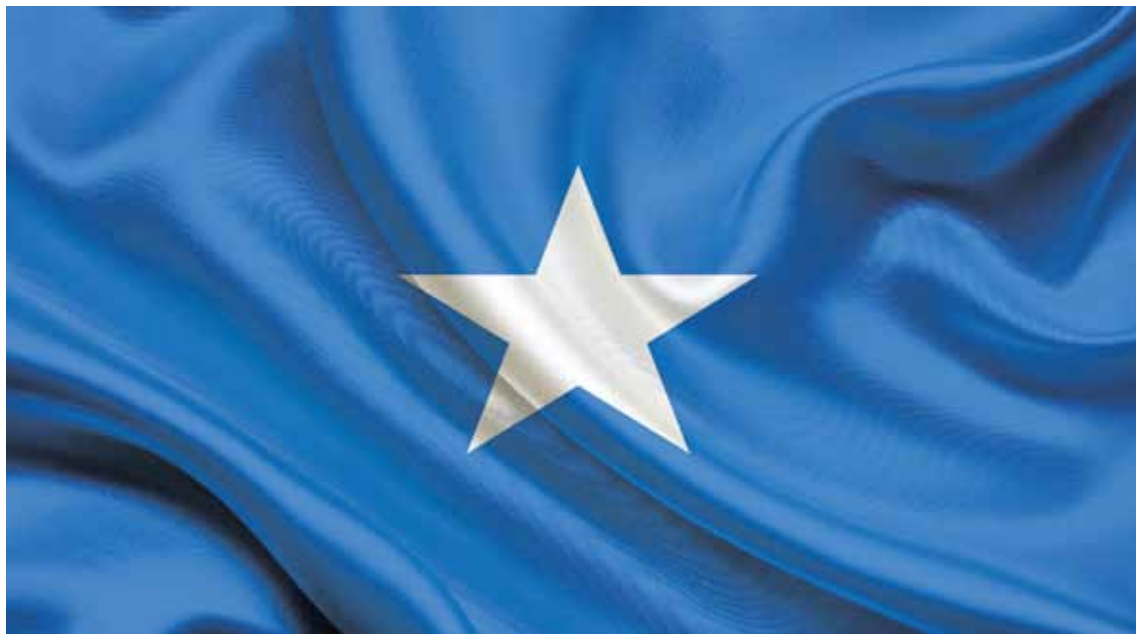
The Somali Student Association reaches out to misunderstood Somalis on campus

MARIA CRUZ
FEATURES EDITOR

What comes to mind when you hear the word “Somalia”? How much do you know about the people, their culture, and their religion? The media reports of negative events in the country, some as recent and awful as a suicide bombing reported by the BBC on October 19, often prevent us from looking past the news at the much larger portrait of their whole culture.

UTM’s many ethnic clubs reflect its diversity, and the UTM Somali Student Association is one of the more recent among them. The SSA comprises a group of young Somalis mentoring and teaching one another about Somali history and heritage and sharing the history and importance of Somali culture with the rest of the campus.

Zakaria Abdulle, the SSA’s acting senior advisor, sat down with me last week.



1ZOOM.NET/PHOTO

The Somali Student Association is working to better the image of Somalis on campus.

The club was launched in 2009, in Abdulle’s first couple of years at UTM, but he admits he didn’t have the experience or know-how to re-

ally allow it to take off until 2012, when a new set of particularly supportive and enthusiastic Somali students arrived on campus, eager

to bond with one another and learn about their culture.

One of the club’s goals is erasing the negative stereotypes of Soma-

lia. “There are a lot of misconceptions,” says Abdulle. “We’re not so much a darling in the media, but we’re getting a lot of media coverage throughout the world.” He went on to decry the equivocation of terrorist organizations of Somali descent with the views of any of the Somalis on campus or the culture as a whole.

“Stigmatization that goes along with being a stereotype has dramatic effects not only for people my age but also for kids growing up reading this for the first time and hearing their friends say, ‘Oh, you’re Somali... You guys do this and that,’ ” says Abdulle.

The SSA is trying to change their culture’s image at UTM through mentoring and through other programs to reach out to the broader community.

Somalia continued on page 11

Helping students help each other out

Bassil Eid talks about how his website, Cooplearn, will benefit postsecondary students

MARIA CRUZ
FEATURES EDITOR

What if there was a place where students could find and share relevant course content like notes and past assignments and exams? Imagine not having to raid the library for past exams or having to send the dreaded “Can I please have your notes?” mass email.

UTM students Bassil Eid and Robin Defaye are the creators of Cooplearn, a website launched to a select handful of students over the past few weeks. I had the chance to speak with Eid about the reasons for the website’s creation, its future direction, and the reviews Cooplearn has been getting from users.

Eid and Defaye came up with the idea for Cooplearn when they realized how dependent they were on their friends for completing assignments and studying. “We also performed much better when we communicated with our friends and classmates about studying for exams and completing assignments,” says Eid. “We learned that going through a tough experience with others who are in the same situation as you always makes the experience a lot easier.”

With this in mind, the creators came up with the idea for a website that would allow students to have constant contact with their peers for help with schoolwork. Students



Cooplearn’s objective is to make school a little easier for students.

prepare “studyrooms” where they upload content. “In this studyroom, students are connected with other students in their class and they work together to complete posted assignments, share notes, and study for upcoming exams all in one spot,” explains Eid. “The studyroom allows for interactivity and collaboration among the students which makes getting through the school’s projects and studying for exams much easier.”

The website is still under development, but I got a chance to try it out. I noticed a couple of drawbacks at present. For one thing, you need to make a profile before you can enter a studyroom, which

requires you to enter your name, email, and school. This isn’t very intrusive, but it is a setback for first-time users who want to look around before they make a studyroom. You can’t just dive in.

Another disadvantage at the moment is that the website is still in its infancy, having only been released to a handful of students since its creation. A welcome video shows everything up and running in an ideal finished version, but the studyrooms’ usefulness depends on student interaction and uploading, which is hard to gauge at this point.

“The quality of the studyroom really depends on the creator. The creator has the ability to run the

studyroom, meaning they’re responsible for adding assignments given out by their professor the day of the lecture,” says Eid. “The creator is responsible for adding past exams, new and old notes, textbooks, facilitating the flow of discussion to attain a particular answer, et cetera. The creator can also appoint admins to assist with managing the studyroom.”

Eid and Defaye agree that convincing students to take time to add information to a studyroom could prove difficult, especially if they’re uncomfortable sharing their work with strangers.

Eid and Defaye point out that there are also advantages to being

in control of a studyroom and say that not all the responsibility is on the creator. Just because you’re uploading content doesn’t mean you’re in charge of creating it. “What we find is that there’s always one student in the class who tends to take the lead and creates the studyroom,” says Eid. “They lead that studyroom and invite their friends first.”

The two are still working on their website, and through what they’ve done so far, they’ve realized the demand and potential for their product.

Eid and Defaye have received positive reviews so far from students. “The public has reacted quite positively. There has emerged a commonality among students. Students want to work with their friends to get through school,” says Eid. They’ve also learned, he added, that as user activity increases, there are more ideas and chances for collaborating to find answers to tough questions.

Cooplearn’s creators are very aware that their user base will be the ones who can make their site a success, and they believe the demand is enough to achieve that. “At first, the goal of the website was just to be used by close friends and a small subset group,” says Eid. “Now it seems like it’s a tool that would be beneficial to every post-secondary student.”

COOPLearn.COM/PHOTO

What intimidates the intimidating?

UTM professors told the *Medium* which horror flicks stay with them forever and ever and ever



SCIFINOW.CO.UK/PHOTO

It doesn't even need to be a horror movie for Jack Nicholson's face to be terrifying.

MARIA CRUZ
FEATURES EDITOR

'Tis the season to open Netflix and grab your favourite stuffed animal for protection. Many students will go to a Halloween party this year, but some will honour the tradition of staying home and watching a good ol' fashioned horror flick. With so many horror movies to choose from, it's hard to pick just one. The *Medium* spoke with some favourite professors, who dished out their picks for the best-ever horror flicks to help you decide.

CHRIS KOENIG-WOODYARD
SESSIONAL LECTURER
ENGLISH

That's easy. *28 Days Later*, directed by Danny Boyle (he also directed *Trainspotting*, *Sunshine*, and *Slumdog Millionaire*). This fantastic movie is an intense, paranoid reworking of the zombie genre. The zombies are frightening. They don't lumber along brainlessly—they sprint ferociously after you.

IRA WELLS
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
ENGLISH

The Shining. So many creepily iconic images: the river of blood sloshing through the elevator doors; little Danny riding around the cavernous hotel on his big wheel (not to mention those twins!); Jack at his typewriter, glowering into the camera... Just an unremitting aesthetic distillation of dread and revulsion and total paranoia.

RAHUL SETHI
SESSIONAL LECTURER
PWC

I really enjoyed the first *Saw* flick. I caught the midnight showing of *Saw* when it first came out in theatres, and I remember laying myself down to bed that night and noticing that my closet door was open a crack. I was instantly freaked out by the possibility of Jigsaw being on the other side. That's what makes a great horror flick: the fear festers even after the movie's over.

JONATHAN WEISBERG
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
PHILOSOPHY

For me, it's a toss-up between *The Shining* and *The Exorcist*. Lots of movies scare you by startling you. Great horror uses disturbing and unsettling ideas. It develops terrifying possibilities that you find yourself grateful to realize aren't real. Actually, *The Shining* and *The Exorcist* were the first movies I saw as a kid with truly disturbing realities.

Hope that we can soon change the narrative

Somalia continued from page 10

"We have formal sit-downs and seminars for a lot of young Somali parents in the Peel region. For them to come down to the UTM campus, we plan on renting the lecture hall and telling them about things their child will need to become a successful university student," says Abdulle.

"Their child needs their support more than ever when they enter university. And the skills the child needs and the steps they need to take forward are extremely important because their parents are really busy and their hope is their children."

Many of the Somali students on campus are the first in their families to attend university, according to Abdulle. Immense pressure is placed on these students, and they have to overcome many barriers to their attending university, says Abdulle, and those who go out and meet with success should be in higher profile.

"There are many successful, vibrant young Somalis out there, male or female, doing really wonderful, great things," he says. "What needs to be shed light on more are these

success stories and not the negative portrayals of the [2013 film] Captain Phillips, of the alleged scandals in the City of Toronto, because that's not who we are."

Abdulle, who will graduate soon, stresses that he is only the spokesperson for the club's "glut of young Somali females [and] males" who will be taking leadership roles in the future.

"Stigmatization that goes along with being a stereotype has dramatic effects not only for people my age but also for kids growing up reading this for the first time."

—Zakaria Abdulle

One of the biggest problems is the lack of Mississauga-based Somali youth organizations, according to Abdulle, who says the SSA is the city's first.

Though Abdulle admits that the

club is still in its fledgling stages, he hopes it will become a beacon, and that it will expand and fulfill his hopes and plans for it, appealing to the city and Peel region in general. "I want to expand this where students can go anywhere in Canada and feel like [they have a] sense of community," says Abdulle.

"How are people going to think of you when you're from Somalia? They're going to think you're lawless, you're barbaric, you don't have a sense of pride, and you don't have a sense of identity," he goes on. "I feel that through learning about my culture, I have a sense of culture and identity and I have a place to call home."

"I do have hope that we can help change the narrative. It may not take a year, it may not take two. It may take a decade, it may take 20 years. But we're up to the challenge and we have some great leaders in our community."

"I always wanted to make this happen," Abdulle concludes. "It's very important [that] you know and love where you come from. Having a sense of identity, having a sense of culture, it speaks volumes [of] one's own ability to feel confident and comfortable in their own skin."

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ZOMBIEPOCALYPSE

Finally, your worst nightmare has become reality: drooling, lumbering zombies walk the Earth. Your home is not safe enough, and so mehow or other you find yourself taking shelter on campus. On the bright side, midterms are the least of your worries now. But what's a student trapped at UTM to do? Follow us, dear reader, and you may live to write another exam.

FOOD is your biggest concern. Run to the Temporary Food Court in Davis, the cafeteria in Oscar Peterson Hall, or one of the other campus cafés as soon as the zombie apocalypse begins. Most likely, other survivors will do the same; take this opportunity to collect food, network, and join a group while you enjoy the last slices of banana bread. These food sources will be the first to run dry without the usual replenishing, so rationing is key. Or visit the Blind Duck, which offers fresh and frozen food supplies and alcoholic beverages to drown your sorrows. Try not to overindulge—you'll need your senses sharp to stay alive.

If you're running low on energy, rummage through the bookstore's meagre supply of sugary snacks or topple a vending machine for a quick boost of junk food.

As the zombie apocalypse drags on, you'll need to learn to collect mushrooms and edible forest plants in the wooded areas around UTM. At this point, a biology background may finally come in handy for identifying

what you can eat. Use your new weapons to hunt the numerous deer, squirrels, raccoons, mice, and skunks that inhabit our campus.

Most of the areas where food is available on campus are dangerously exposed, so stay alert when scavenging.

WEAPONS are a high priority. Without a convenient stash on campus, survivors will have to make do with whatever they find.

The Campus Police office may have some arms if you're lucky, but even so, ammunition will be limited. Hitting up the Health Sciences Centre yields scalpels, scissors, and other medical supplies. These may be sharp objects, but they're used at close range and as such aren't ideal for zombie-fighting (unless you're an accomplished scalpel-thrower). But sharp objects come in handy for fashioning stakes out of chair or table legs. The Student Centre's wooden chairs are highly recommended, being easier to carve than the plastic or metal ones found elsewhere on campus.

If you must go close-range, shards of glass make another good and easily accessible weapon. Wrap a thick cloth around one end of a large piece of glass and you've got yourself a great zombie-slashing tool. Even so, don't risk staying close enough for more than a couple hits. Consider raiding food court kitchens for metal utensils, especially knives. Go for non-serrated; you wouldn't want the knife's teeth to catch on a zombie's insides and leave you battling to get it back.

Another good option given the amount of construction on campus is work tools. A sledgehammer packs a great punch, though it will wear you down if you're out of shape. If you're lucky, you might get a hold of the ideal zombie apocalypse weapon: a crowbar. It's good for opening doors, breaking locks, and smashing a zombie's head in at arm's length. If no crowbars turn up, try raiding someone's trunk.

Lastly, remember that your weapons won't hold up forever, so always keep your eyes peeled for more.

KINDLING for warmth and cooking is essential. Books, tables, and chairs are ideal. The Copy and Print Centre will have some leftover printer paper and you probably won't need to pay 10 cents a sheet given the collapse of civilization. The *Medium* doubles as high-quality kindling. If you run out, pay a visit to the bookstore for a fuel haven.

LIGHTING is a good idea because you're pretty sure to face a power outage. The flashlight on your iPhone won't last longer than a day or two. Colman Commons might have flashlights. Matches or candles will be your best sources of light. It might be hard to secure a medieval-style torch, but the alcohol lamps hidden in the labs around the Davis Building will do the trick while adding some much-needed ambiance to your surroundings. Remember that the bright light could draw a zombie horde, so be careful.

BARRICADES can be made by stacking chairs, desks, and couches against points of entry

to keep the zombies out unless and until they happen to swarm. Avoid stacking too many things in front of doors to keep your escape route accessible in case of emergency. You also need to worry about the noise of moving desks in case you need to make a run for supplies.

AN ESCAPE PLAN will complement the barricades. They won't hold forever, and you need to know your way out in case you get swarmed, especially if you're hiding above the first floor. Jumping out the window and breaking your leg means instant death in these circumstances. If you have a car, keep it parked close by and have the runners in your group siphon gas from any abandoned cars around campus to keep your tank full.

ALCOHOL can be used for sterilizing medical equipment or as a fuel source for an alcohol lamp. If any St. George or Sheridan shuttles happen to have been left at UTM when zombies overran the place, sneak aboard and snag the first aid kits.

HORRIFIC HIDEOUTS



CCT SURVIVABILITY 38%

CCT's main floor walls are windows with weak structural integrity and high visibility, and at night zombies can see inside but you can't see out. Collect food and first aid supplies from the first floor in the initial stages of the zombie invasion. You might also be able to secure a kitchen cleaver or at least a pizza cutter from the Circuit Break Café. Zombies are harder to cut than pizza, but you take what you can get.

The second floor has a small kitchen next to the ICCIT hallway, but the resources in this area are limited. Once upstairs, survivors must seal the stairwars. Unfortunately, the majority of tables in CCT are screwed to the concrete flooring and there aren't enough chairs to block both stairways. The higher up you go, the fewer barricade materials are available. There are computer labs on most floors that seem very secure but they offer no

escape routes.

The only really safe place in CCT is the elusive fourth floor, which you'll know about if you've ever taken part in a psych experiment. Stairs to it are rare and you might be able to get to it by using the elevator before the power goes out. Supplies are scarce, but there is a little break room and kitchenette where you can prepare food. Ultimately, though, your only option here is to wait for a rescue mission.

Luckily, there's another option. CCT is well connected to other buildings. The library isn't a good option, but you can get to Davis via the connecting hallway by CCT1080, and there are more connections on upper floors (I suggest the second-floor ICCIT hallway through the Annex). Try to get to an area with more resources and enclosed areas.

This venture is extremely risky, since it's unlikely the Annex will be cleared and that other groups of survivors, if there are any, will welcome a new group sharing resources.



LIBRARY SURVIVABILITY 3%

When the zombies attack, don't be in the library. The walls consist mostly of windows and will do little to prevent zombies breaking through, while two staircases that stop at every floor make it nearly impossible to hide upstairs safely. Most of the tables and chairs are screwed to the floor, preventing their use as barricades or weapons. The study rooms are too vulnerable; avoid them.

The library has few supplies to offer beyond basic first aid kits. Starbucks has some food if you can get to it through the small doorway and across the hall, protected only by glass. (If you can get there, of course, you'll feel like you saved a lot getting a \$2 cake pop for free.) Weapon availability is low. Perhaps survivors could throw books to slow the undead, although this will only postpone the inevitable. On the bright side, those hiding out in the library will have no

shortage of flammable materials to keep them toasty.

The library's most terrifying feature is the shelves, which form a deadly book maze with zombies potentially waiting around every corner. Due to the tall bookshelves, you can't see who or what is coming towards you. You can press a button and slide them over to crush an unsuspecting zombie in a pile of books and that helps, but this weapon is really too slow to be effective. Besides, what happens when a zombie accidentally lumbers into one while you're between the shelves?

The escape routes include the link to CCT, the doors to IB, or the basement door leading to the field north of the building. Every route guarantees an encounter with undead wanderers craving human flesh—survivors who try to escape will probably be eaten.

No place is safe to stay. No route is safe for escape. There is no hope for those in the library.

IB
SURVIVABILITY 3%

IB offers little safety from the incoming zombie horde. The main floor is vulnerable since it's almost entirely walled in glass. All the tables and benches in the building combined wouldn't block the undead from breaking and climbing through the windows. Collect the food and first aid supplies by Second Cup within the first few hours of the zombie invasion, before the first floor floods with zombies.



The upper floors of the building are somewhat safer, and barricading the stairways could prevent an attack. The upper-floor vending machines provide enough food for a short while.

Due to its vulnerability and low food supplies, IB is only viable as a short-term refuge until you move to a better location. Before you leave, smash the upper-floor windows and craft the shards into daggers; use the metal rods under tables as clubs.

After collecting a sufficient number of weapons, survivors have a few escape routes available. The north exit, next to the shuttle bus stop, is best used for jumping into a conveniently parked vehicle with the hope of finding safety off-campus. Using the west exit gives you the options of moving to the North Building or stealing one of the abandoned cars in the nearby parking lot. If you choose the east exit in the hopes of finding resources and safety in CCT, prepare to sprint the short distance between IB and the library.

KANEFF
SURVIVABILITY 28%

Being surrounded by a glass building in the middle of a zombie apocalypse is a bad idea. One wall on the semi-circular first floor of the building consists almost entirely of glass windows.

Zombies are slow and relatively stupid, but should they get past the pit, hundreds of them pressing up against a window would mean serious trouble for whoever is on the other side. Luckily, the presence of a gigantic construction hole in the middle of the yard will prevent zombies from breaking down the glass and getting inside the place, at least assuming the zombie apocalypse happens before the renovated building opens next September.

The building isn't entirely useless. Kicking the doors off lockers would provide sturdy weapons against one or two zombies. Vending machines will keep groups going on soda for a couple months if properly rationed. The Blackwood Gallery has a box office from which you could snipe zombies in the hallway if you have any kind of weapon that can be used at range.



There is also second floor that has a bit of a labyrinthine quality and some accessibility issues if the elevators are down. But in the end, there are few supplies that make the building worth visiting. No food, no decent weapons, and more than four entrances, in addition to the wall of glass, make Kaneff a bad spot for sitting out the zombie attack. The only plus is a quick dash to the bus stop for a getaway.

STUDENT CENTRE
SURVIVABILITY 43%

The Student Centre is hit or miss. It has glass walls, but it's close to the pub, so there's lots of survival gear at hand.

The highly exposed pub will be closed off by a secure gate that separates the pub from the rest of the Centre. The two points of entry in the Centre can be easily barricaded with the couches on the main floor and the tables in the pub. Pub chairs could also serve as kindling for a fire. There will probably be food storage in the back, too, as well as alcohol.



The stairs to the second floor offer a last-minute defence against a zombie chase. Shoving one down a flight of stairs would slow them down. There are stairs up to the balcony that have access directly to the second floor, though, and it could be hard to guard them all. The office doors in the Student Centre might be flimsy, but at least they lock (UTMSU policies probably do not include office access for zombies).

The final bastion is the *Medium* office. It has a large glass wall, but only a small part of it is accessible. Its only entrance is a heavy locked door. However, it does have a sink and a water supply—you have to crawl and turn a valve—and stale food has sometimes been spotted in the darkroom.

Should you escape, the Student Centre is too far from other buildings; Kaneff, CCT, or the townhouses are the only nearby refuges, and none of them rate highly.

And most importantly, unless you can get past the awkwardness of the unisex bathrooms, the only other ones are located on the lower floor, so if a zombie gets in you may just go in your pants rather than sally forth down the stairs.

LEAST LIKELY TO BE MAULED

HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE
SURVIVABILITY 63%

The Health Sciences Complex consists of four floors with a central staircase linking them. The staircase is a liability, but one thing's certain: you don't want to be on the first floor. There are several glassy entrances that will be difficult to watch all at once. But there's a connection to Davis on an upper floor, so you don't need to keep the downstairs option open. Block off the stairway thoroughly at the second floor.

A bit more security can be gained by finding the complex within a complex, a.k.a. the faculty and staff offices, which are barred with a large wooden door to make an inner fortress. Even behind the door, I recall there being exits to the terraces in case of emergency, and those are on upper levels so they probably allow for a somewhat safe escape.

There are two long-term advantages to the HSC. One is the possibility of doing research. If you happen to be a medical student (and if you're in there after hours, I suppose you must be, what with the locking-out of the general populace), then you can take advantage of the labs and instruments for some dissection that could eventually shed light on the origin of and solution to the zombie infection, depending on which universe we're working in here. If you find the antidote, make sure you share it with everyone else on campus.

The other advantage is the little haven on the top floor that includes (besides nice seating) a snack bar stocked with many kinds of tea and other amenities, as well as an electric kettle, last time I checked. The use of these items is supposed to be exclusive while the campus is running normally, but the zombie apocalypse affords the perfect chance to get in on these treats while waiting to be overrun.

**WILLIAM G DAVIS BUILDING**
SURVIVABILITY 49%

Davis is built like a fortress, but it doesn't offer much for the struggling survivor. The massive, rat maze structure is bound to confuse you as much as it confuses the zombies. And there are too many entrances in the building to ever be truly safe inside. Barricading them all is inefficient and impossible. The exits in the large classrooms make good escape routes for survivors but an easy way in for zombies.

With four floors to the building—and a fifth if you know the mysterious route to the UTM Greenhouse—keeping a distance from the zombies would be feasible for a while. If you need to escape quickly, you can get up to the roof through one of many stairwells. But besides getting lost in machinery rooms, your only option is jumping off the roof and that option sucks.

The small classrooms and offices on the upper floors won't fit more than one or two people. The group will need to split up into separate rooms, making it more dangerous if the entire group needs to in leave in the middle of the night. But there are many floors to hide out on with tons of classrooms in which to set up camp. If a group of zombies storms in, hide out in one of the classrooms and the horde may pass right by you. The small but vulnerable glassed EnviroHub across from the Faculty Club on the third floor affords a commanding view of the Meeting Place.

Getting lost in the basement would mean almost instant death. Even competent navigators will have trouble finding a safe way upstairs to escape. And basements are creepy enough without adding the slow growl of a zombie behind you. Or beside you. Or in front of you... It's possible. The architecture is really confusing.

**NORTH**
SURVIVABILITY 70%

Probably the most hated building by students during the school year, North is by far the best chance for survival during the zombie apocalypse. With barely any glass and plenty of concrete, the building is a secure place for survivors.

The building, particularly the second floor, is maze-like, though significantly smaller than the Davis Building and easier to manoeuvre. If you know your way around, hiding inside one of the many offices to avoid zombies will be easy. Living students have a hard enough time navigating the second floor, so imagine the trouble the zombies will have. Plus, the windows inside the offices serve as good lookout points. If the North Building had been built in the Middle Ages (and it's so old it might have been), those would have made excellent arrow slits.

The stuffy classrooms may elicit moans from students during the year, but they'll keep you safe from the moans of zombies. The crowded classrooms will stay warmer in the winter months. But the doors are flimsy, and it might not take much effort for zombies to enter. Heavier doors are on the drama students' rehearsal halls. Ask one of them to share the code with you now so you're prepared when the zombie apocalypse happens.

The construction site offers a great weapon selection. Of course, if you're trying to wield a jackhammer, you might be more of a danger to yourself than to the zombies.

The building is hidden away in the back of campus, making it easier to avoid an attack there. But the location may be too secluded. Travelling to the rest of the campus to gather supplies would be dangerous and terrifying.

words by
MARIA CRUZ FEATURES EDITOR
ALEXANDRA GEDDES ASSOCIATE FEATURES
LUKE SAWCZAK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
OLGA TKACHENKO COPY EDITOR
photos by
JASMEEN VIRK PHOTO EDITOR

FORENSIC SCIENCE SHACK (NEAR LISLEHURST)
SURVIVABILITY 0%

Don't even get me started.

MEDIUMSPORTS

Editor | Jason Coelho

UTSC defeat extends UTM win streak

The UTM White men's basketball team made a four-run streak with their 83-58 win over Scarborough

JUSTIN HERNANDEZ

The UTM White men's basketball team dominated UTSC with a 83-58 win last week in the RAWC, giving UTM a 4-0 streak so far in the season.

UTM started off slow, while UTSC capitalized and took a five-point lead. UTM committed three fouls within the first five minutes of the game, which didn't help them stop UTSC's offence. In addition, the team gave up a couple of turnovers, leaving them scoreless for the first few minutes. UTM's guard Miguel Bediones opened the scoring for UTM with a jump shot, ending UTSC's run and putting the score at 5-1.

UTSC's effective defence made it difficult for UTM to catch up. The UTSC players marked the UTM players closely and forced them to commit several turnovers. Refusing to let turnovers stop them, UTM was able to lock their defence down to prevent UTSC from getting further ahead.

Joshua Codinera and Zak Khan's appearance on the court boosted UTM's offence. Codinera's first shot was a three-pointer; he used his speed to slash through defenders and score in the paint, totalling 15 points at that point in the game.

Head coach Juan Nunez put two of his tallest players, Jeff Thorpe and Hans Nuskanovic, on the court to control the rebounding. Thorpe tied the game 21-21 by grabbing a couple of offensive rebounds and laying both in by the five-minute mark of the first half. Khan then put UTM ahead of UTSC with a



MARIA NG/THE MEDIUM

The UTM White men's basketball team is now the first seed in Division 1 standings.

layup while Codinera provided the assist. Now, it was a closely contested match. There were eight lead changes, with UTM leading 31-30 following a hard foul against Codinera that led to him being slammed hard on the floor by a UTSC player. The tough Codinera was immediately back on his feet to provide a no-look pass to Khan, who buried it with a jumper.

It was then that UTM began pulling away from UTSC, with Codinera burying a three-pointer and putting UTM ahead at 36-30. UTSC's head coach called a timeout, hoping to end UTM's run of seven in the last two minutes. UTM didn't waver but tightened up their

defence by forcing turnovers. UTM forward Han Wang stole the ball and scored an easy layup. The first half ended with a layup by Khan, putting UTM ahead at 42-32.

The second half began with a three-pointer by Codinera. UTM didn't let up in their attempts to score, but soon faced foul trouble once again. Unfortunately for UTSC, they failed to capitalize at the free-throw line and were unable to put up more points. To make a bad situation worse, UTSC began committing careless turnovers, and several UTSC players were called for travelling. UTM took full advantage of the UTSC turnovers; Codinera stopped a fast

break by disrupting a pass to the intended UTSC player while Wang helped with a block shot.

Khan contributed to his team's scoring effort in the second half, managing to steal the ball and lay it in. He also provided a pull-up jumper to put his team further ahead to 55-40, leading the scorers on both teams with 19 points to his name.

UTM also dominated UTSC in offensive rebounds. UTM players fought hard to get the loose balls. UTM big man Thorpe was a beast in the paint, grabbing another offensive rebound and scoring; Thorpe finished the game with 12 points off the bench.

"It was like dancing," said Thorpe in reference to his rebounding performance. Thorpe contributed his leg strength to a summer spent biking in Montreal; he said this gave him that extra edge to "push guys around without the ref seeing".

With UTM in complete control of the game and a commanding lead of 75-56, some UTM fans heckled UTSC players at the free-throw line. Remaining resolute, UTSC continued to fight hard, as forward Jeffrey scored back-to-back three-pointers. UTSC players continued to charge forward even though they were down by double digits. UTM players matched UTSC's tenacity, which resulted in a technical foul against Nuskanovic. UTM supporters were shocked and vocal when UTSC was awarded four free-throw attempts. Fortunately, it was too late and UTSC couldn't catch up to UTM. The UTM bench played a big role in the win, with three bench players scoring in the double-digits.

"Every guy brings something to the table by the end of the day to help the team win," said Nunez. In regards to his team's foul troubles, he believes they have to "address some issues on defence, like moving our feet, not using out hands. I feel like that was specifically [why] most of the fouls were called."

Nunez is very hopeful that his team will reach the finals and win. Last year, UTM made it to the semi-finals but fell short. If this game was any indication, UTM has a chance of making Nunez's wish come true.

NFL season reaches the halfway point

Some teams have been pleasantly surprised, but more teams have been bitterly disappointed

EBI AGBEYEGBE
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Going into week eight of the NFL season, one thing is for sure: this season is not the same as last season. This season has been full of surprises. Some teams have pleasantly surprised, but more teams have been bitterly disappointed. Some players stand out, while others have suffered from this season's abnormally severe wave of injuries.

The Kansas City Chiefs finished last season 2-14 and ended up with the first overall pick in the draft. They traded for San Francisco 49ers castaway Alex Smith and brought in long-time Philadelphia Eagles coach Andy Reid. The

Chiefs are now the only undefeated team in the league at 7-0.

"The Chiefs have done a complete 180 and are now one of the best teams in the league. They look unbeatable and now teams can't simply walk into their home stadium and expect to win," says Robas Arif, a third-year management student at UTM.

Kansas City has slowly become a defensive force to be reckoned with. The team leads the league in points allowed per game at 11.6; they are fifth in yards allowed per game and third in the league in pass yards allowed per game at 194.7. Reid has the team working down in Kansas and it's looking like no team in the NFL will be able to stop them.

Other teams that have surprised this season are the New York Jets and the Cincinnati Bengals. Many expected the Jets to have a tumultuous

"The Chiefs have done a complete 180 and are now one of the best teams in the league. [...] Teams can't simply walk into their home stadium and expect to win."

—Robas Arif

time this season trying to cope with their quarterback situation, but rookie Geno Smith has

engineered some fourth-quarter and overtime comebacks to get the Jets over .500 to 4-3.

The Bengals have also overturned expectations; the team leads the AFC North ahead of their rivals, the Baltimore Ravens and the Pittsburgh Steelers. They are playing convincingly on defence, and with quarterback Andy Dalton and wide receiver A.J. Green carrying the team each week on offence, this year might be the one in which the Bengals will win it all.

As in every NFL season, there are teams that everyone expects to do well and those that are expected to underwhelm based on early season projections. This season is no different. The Pittsburgh Steelers,

Houston Texans, New York Giants, Atlanta Falcons, and Tampa Bay Buccaneers have all come up short this season for various reasons.

The Houston Texans have been evolving for a number of years. They won their first playoff game as a franchise two years ago and have lost in the divisional playoff round two years in a row. This year, the team was supposed to make it to either the conference finals or the playoffs. The season has not started off well, though; quarterback Matt Schaub has been inconsistent and the team now holds a disappointing 2-5 record in the AFC south.

NFL continued on page 16

U of T's Brett Willows backs up the Leafs

After Reimer's concussion, the Varsity Blues goaltender was called up to sign an emergency contract

JASON COELHO
SPORTS EDITOR

On a regular night, while out to dinner with his teammates, Brett Willows sat at the Noodle Bowl on Spadina, ordered his meal, and waited patiently for the food to arrive. A few minutes later, his food came to the table, he took two or three bites of his chicken chow mein, and received a phone call. For Willows, a second-year kinesiology and physical education major, October 17 is a day that won't be soon forgotten. Willows got a last-minute call from Darren Lowe, the head coach of U of T's Varsity Blues hockey, informing him that the Toronto Maple Leafs were down a man and needed someone on the bench as soon as possible.

A Blues goaltender, Willows rushed to the Air Canada Centre after Leafs goalie James Reimer sustained a head injury from an accidental collision with teammate Josh Levio. Willows was called to play backup to Jonathan Bernier as the Maple Leafs battled the Carolina Hurricanes. Willows raced to pick up his equipment from the Varsity Centre before rushing to the Air Canada Centre to jump at this once-in-a-lifetime chance. "Going down to the ACC was exciting and nerve-racking. I didn't really know what to expect or how it was all going to work," said Willows, who is currently in his third year on the Varsity Blues hockey team.

Signing an emergency amateur tryout contract, Willows entered the U of T dressing room during the beginning of the second period, while Leafs staff were assessing the status of goaltender James Reimer. When it was decided Reimer couldn't play the



FLICKR.COM/PHOTO

Blues goalie Brett Willows was called up by the Maple Leafs to play backup to Jonathan Bernier.

rest of the game, Willows began putting on his equipment and quickly received a Leafs jersey with the number 82 stitched onto the back, below WILLOWS in large white letters.

Due to a contract stipulation, Willows wasn't allowed to sit on the bench during the game, but watched from a TV in the equipment training room. "I didn't have too much interaction with the players and coaches since they were in the middle of a conference game they were trying to win. I mostly just tried to stay out of the way and not be a distraction

as much as possible," said Willows, recalling the whirlwind experience. However, one Maple Leafs player reached out to the young goalie: newly signed Leafs right-winger David Clarkson, who was serving a 10-game suspension that left him sidelined during the Leafs-Hurricanes game. "David Clarkson was nice enough to sit and watch the game with me in the third period. It would have been easy for him to just brush me off and say hi and leave, but he took the time to make me feel welcome, so I'm pretty grateful for that," said Willows.

The 23-year-old Rivers, a Manitoba native, didn't see any ice time during the night but cherished the experience nonetheless, tweeting after the game, "What I dreamed about [while] playing mini-sticks in the basement just came true." According to Willows, he began playing hockey simply because all of his friends played. He realized there weren't many goaltenders with a height of 5'9", but that didn't stop him from playing between the pipes. "I kind of picked certain things I liked about a whole bunch of goalies and tried to implement them

in my game," said Willows. "Growing up, my favourite goalie was Jose Theodore; I guess you could say he influenced me a little bit." As Willows improved his game, he played in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League for the Dauphin Kings, helping them earn a championship in 2010. It was then that the Varsity Blues attempted to recruit the 20-year-old. "They originally called at Christmas during my 20-year-old season, but at that time I had committed to play in the States. Eventually, the States scholarship fell through, and luckily for me Coach Lowe still had a spot available."

After three years with the Blues, Willows looks ahead to the future of his hockey and professional career and eyes a possible change of environment. "After I'm done my undergrad, if the opportunity presented itself to play pro in Europe, or even for a year in the East Coast League, I would jump at the chance," he said. "But if not, the goal is to keep my marks high enough to be eligible for physiotherapy grad school."

For the time being, Willows is still taking time to process a dream come true. To make sure he doesn't forget the night of October 17, the Leafs organization has agreed to send him an official team jersey with his name and number on the back, said Willows. "It was definitely a thrill. I didn't really know what to expect going into the whole situation, but I know I came out with the experience of a lifetime," he added.

U of T students can watch Willows in action at the Varsity Centre as the Blues take on teams in the CIS every week. Their next home game will be on November 2 against the University of Waterloo Warriors.

UTM men's hockey takes out St. George

Tri-campus team beats UTSG Red 5-2

KYLE KUCZYNSKI

The UTM men's tri-campus hockey team battled St. George's Red team last Monday, October 21.

UTM played with a short lineup; fourth-year defenceman Mark Runciman and third-year centre Sebastian Klitch had suffered injuries.

"The game could have gone either way. Ben [Gryschuk] played unreal out there."
—Charlie Foster

St. George Red scored first, early in the first period, but UTM's centreman Anthony Theroux quickly answered and tied the score. St. George Red replied with another goal to take the lead, leaving the score at 2-1 to end the first period.

UTM came out much stronger in the second period, scoring two goals.

Defenceman Zack Zubac scored with a rocket slapshot from the point, while Theroux, after many shots and opportunities, scored his team's third goal and his second of the night, giving UTM a 3-2 lead at the end of the second period.

Rory Bourgeois, a third-year political science major, scored at the opening of the third period, while UTM's Dante Labog sealed the deal with the fifth and final goal of the game, making the final score 5-2.

UTM players were thankful to their goalie Ben Gryschuk, whose superb goaltending kept them in the lead.

"The game could have gone either way," says Charlie Foster, a second-year medical student. "Ben played unreal out there."

Even so, Bourgeois was not thrilled with UTM's performance. "We were soft on battles and sloppy with the puck. We got lucky," he said.

UTM plays their next game on Monday, October 28 against St. George Black at the U of T Varsity Arena.

UTM SPORTS MATTERS

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Giants have a lot of problems to fix

The Giants can't hold the ball, injuries have affected several big-name players, and Matty isn't "that guy" anymore

NFL continued from page 14

In 2012, the Atlanta Falcons had one of the best records in the league at 12-3. The Falcons have already lost four games this season and sit at 2-4.

"I don't know what's up with the Falcons this season," says Tobi Martins, a second-year political science major. "They seem out of sorts and 'Matty Ice' [quarterback Matt Ryan] doesn't seem to be that guy anymore."

The Falcons have lost the offensive charisma that they've carried for the past two years that made them a formidable opponent. They now sit in third place in the NFC South behind their rivals, the New Orleans Saints and the Carolina Panthers.

Another NFC South team people expected more from this year is the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The Buccaneers are 0-7 and are one of two winless teams in the league, the other being the Jacksonville Jaguars. The team has had issues at the quarterback position, which saw them release QB Josh Freeman two weeks ago because the team didn't see a future with him at that position. The organization handled the situation poorly and it seems it has affected the team negatively.

In terms of defence, the Buccaneers improved in the offseason, bringing in shutdown cornerback



The Kansas City Chiefs are undefeated in their start to the season.

Darrelle Revis via a trade with the New York Jets that freed safety Dashon Goldson from the 49ers. These two players haven't had a real effect on the defensive standings of the team.

The Pittsburgh Steelers started off the season 0-4 and there were talks that the team was aging. The Steelers have since put together two consecutive wins, including a win over the Baltimore Ravens, their bitter rivals. Things are looking good for the Steelers, but

at 2-4 and with the Bengals playing well, it'll be hard for them to make the playoffs this year.

Going into the season, another team that people see as annual playoff contenders is the New York Giants. The Giants have won two Super Bowls in recent years, yet started the season 0-6 and have been a turnover machine in each of those six games. Quarterback Eli Manning has thrown at least three interceptions in four games this season and has a total

of 15 interceptions.

"The Giants can't win games because they can't seem to hold on to the ball," says Mike Shannon, a second-year chemistry student. "They turn the ball over if they throw it and they turn it over if they run it. Eli has no coordination with his receivers and this is hurting the team."

The Giants have a lot of problems to fix, starting with Manning. These teams have faltered in their starts, and at this halfway

point in the season, one can only suppose that if they don't start performing well soon they might as well tank and hope to get good draft picks.

Every NFL season sees its share of injuries, but this one in particular has seen some big names go down. Some well-known names include Rams QB Sam Bradford and Colts wide receiver Reggie Wayne, both of whom are out for the entire rest of the season, Chicago Bears QB Jay Cutler, who is out for five to six weeks, and Packers wide receiver Randall Cobb, who is out six weeks, to name a few. The injuries to these players put big holes in their respective teams and make it that much harder for these teams to make it to the playoffs.

At this halfway point in the season, there are teams that will be pushing forward towards the playoffs, such as the Denver Broncos, Seattle Seahawks, San Francisco 49ers, New Orleans Saints, Green Bay Packers, and the New England Patriots. These teams have Super Bowl 48 in mind, which will be held at MetLife Stadium in New York. At this point, their dreams of making it there are still strong.

Keep a close eye on the games each week to see if your favourite team makes it. I'm watching out for the San Francisco 49ers—how about you?

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