



# THE MEDIUM

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## UTSU AGM drives on through opposition

Meeting sees wrangling over procedural motions but manages to pass all but one pre-approved motion

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The U of T Students' Union addressed each of its pre-approved motions at its annual general meeting despite procedural motions to amend the agenda and to contest the chair's rulings.

UTSU held its AGM last Wednesday in the OISE Auditorium at the St. George campus, with UTM students in attendance, as well as representatives from the Victoria, Innis, Woodsworth, and Engineering student societies.

The Trinity College society declined to send representatives and encouraged their members to boycott the meeting in an open letter on Facebook, accusing UTSU of "hiding behind bylaws and stifling any discussion not approved by the executive or the [Canadian Federation of Students]".

### DEFEDERATION QUESTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Guest speaker Andrew Lan-



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

The U of T Students Union's president, executive director, speaker, and minute-taker sat up front.

gille, the founder of youthandwork.ca, spoke about unpaid internships and took questions. Cat Criger, UTM's Aboriginal elder, was also set to speak but was stuck in traffic and did not make his address.

President Munib Sajjad gave the presidential address and then took

questions from the floor.

The first question was asked by Aidan Fishman: "[Is there] any circumstance under which UTSU would amend its bylaws to allow colleges or faculties that have voted in their own referenda to leave the union to do so?"

This was in reference to referenda

held in March in which three societies voted overwhelmingly to sever financial ties with UTSU and offer its services themselves. UTSU maintains that the referenda were not legitimate.

"What we serve to do is to represent all students," Sajjad replied. "We have a specific mandate to serve each

individual member of our students' union, and to say that we should separate [...] and not try to work out our differences—I think we really need to change the dialogue there."

He added that these societies are free to increase their levies if they wish to offer services to their members.

Sajjad was also asked why UTSU did not send its president to the Student Societies Summit organized by the administration to resolve the governance issues; according to the asker, every other invited society either sent its president or voted to do so.

The question was taken by VP equity Yolen Bollo-Kamara and VP university affairs Agnes So, the two UTSU representatives for the summit. Bollo-Kamara denied that the other societies had all voted to send their presidents and said that they had been chosen to represent UTSU as a result of a decision by the whole executive team.

Sajjad added that his executive was not a hierarchy, but that each member could speak for all.

**AGM continued on page 2**

## UTM student a finalist at UTSC conference

Erin Duncan among top three for "Best Paper" at Undergraduate Linguistics Conference

**MARIA IQBAL**  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

At UTSC's first Undergraduate Linguistics Conference on November 15, the only student participant from UTM, Erin Duncan, was recognized as one of the top three finalists for the "Best Paper" prize.

Organized by UTSC's Centre for French and Linguistics under the leadership of Prof. Juvénal Ndayiragije, the day-long conference offered undergraduate students the opportunity to share their research and answer questions.

The papers covered a range of different domains of research within the field of linguistics, including sociolinguistics, syntax, and applied linguistics.

Duncan's paper, titled "Informality and Perceptions", examined



KEN JONES/UTSC

Erin Duncan presents her paper at the Scarborough campus.

the ability of non-native French speakers to adjust the formality of their speaking style in accordance with different situations.

"I looked at their ability to speak informally when socially appropriate [...] and also their perceived knowledge of formality

ranges in French," said Duncan in an email interview.

**Duncan continued on page 2**



### Petition to divert fees

UTM students submitted signatures to UTMSU asking for a referendum to stop paying fees to the *Varsity*.  
Medium News, page 3

### The scope of a newspaper

Sometimes you print what's just fun to read. Sometimes you print what needs to be read.  
Medium Opinion, page 4

### All art on display at once

The Art Gallery of Mississauga is digitizing its collection so the whole thing can always be viewed.  
Medium Arts, page 5

### The sweetest sip

Coffee shops are breaking out their holiday flavours. They may be the most festive thing on campus.  
Medium Features, page 10

### One win, many losses

It's going to be a Blue Christmas for a number of U of T teams, except for women's Varsity hockey.  
Medium Sports, page 11

## CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

November 21, 12:40 p.m.

### Medical call

Peel Ambulance Services attended the CCT Building and transported a female to hospital. The female student complained about having abdominal pains.

November 22, 7:40 p.m.

### Medical call

The Erindale College Special Response Team and Campus Police attended the Recreational Athletics and Wellness Centre. A male student injured himself while lifting weights. The male was driven to the hospital by a family member.

November 22, 10:11 p.m.

### Trespass to Property

Campus Police attended the CCT parking garage and identified a group of males who were skateboarding in the lower level. The group was not affiliated with the university and were trespassed from UTM.

November 23, 11:50 a.m.

### Medical call

Peel Ambulance Service attended an apartment complex and transported a female to hospital. A female student had injured herself at an off-campus location the night prior.

November 23, 9:48 p.m.

### Suspicious person

Campus Police responded to the re-

port of a suspicious male seen loitering near the front entrance of an apartment complex. Campus Police searched for the male as he had left the area prior to the arrival of Campus Police.

November 24, 12:41 a.m.

### Disruptive Behaviour

Peel Regional Police and Campus Police investigated a report of fight between a group of males behind a townhouse. The group was gone prior to the arrival of police. Witnesses indicated one male was possibly armed with a knife but no knife was seen.

November 25, 12:48 a.m.

### Noise complaint

A noise complaint was received from a tenant residing inside a townhouse complex. Campus Police attended and all was found in order.

November 26, 8:39 p.m.

### Medical call

Peel Ambulance Services attended the Recreational Athletics and Wellness Centre and transported a female who felt unwell after working out.

November 27, 4:20 p.m.

### Assault

A student reported being punched by another student in the hallway of an apartment complex. Campus Police and Residence staff are investigating the incident.

## Linguistics finalist

Duncan continued from Cover

The fifth-year student said that the experience was well worth the long commute across the city.

"I was able to meet several UTSC faculty members and make connections I otherwise couldn't have. [...] There was also a really wide range of topics, so it was interesting to see where other students were taking their studies in linguistics," she wrote.

The top papers were chosen based on the thoroughness of the research, data collection, and analysis, as well as on the quality of the presentation.

"Erin's paper included comprehensive background research and a thorough analysis of an impressive amount of quantitative data. Her

presentation was well-paced and her delivery was clear and confident," said Karen McCrindle, the director of the CFL.

The proceedings of the conference are expected to be published online in the near future.

After the conference, in a department-wide email sent to language studies students at UTM, Prof. Emmanuel Nikiema recognized Duncan's achievement.

"Our sincere congratulations to Erin for this great accomplishment, and our appreciation to all those who participated in this conference," Nikiema wrote.

The award included a \$200 cash prize. Ndayiragije confirmed that a second conference will be held next fall.

## Disputes dominate AGM



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Engineering student Pierre Harfouche tried to amend the agenda and challenged the chair's rulings.

AGM continued from Cover

### REMOVING MOTIONS

Before the meeting proceeded, a motion to amend the agenda to add new motions was rejected, and then Pierre Harfouche, one of two engineering representatives on UTSU's board, moved to remove all remaining items except adjournment from the agenda.

Ashkon Hashemi, the chair and UTSU's speaker, allowed a vote on Harfouche's motion. After a glance, Hashemi declared it defeated, saying that it required a two-thirds majority.

As students began heckling him, Harfouche argued that only a simple majority was required according to Robert's Rules of Order, which provide basic guidelines for conducting union meetings, because the agenda had not yet been formally adopted. This was in reference to the absence of a motion to approve the agenda; last year's AGM included such a motion and abruptly ended when the agenda was rejected by students who contended that it did not represent their concerns.

Hashemi replied that what was before them was not an agenda but an order of business, explaining that the difference was that an order of business does not need to be approved.

Harfouche challenged the ruling, asking why the documents handed out to attendees bore the heading "agenda". Hashemi rejected this as a facetious question, but answered another student who asked why all AGM-related communication had used the term "agenda". According to Hashemi, "agenda" was used here not in the technical sense but in the general sense, and referred to "order of business" in the technical sense.

During the discussion, UTMSU VP external Melissa Theodore moved to limit debate to two speakers in favour and two opposed, and a majority voted in favour.

Hashemi argued that even if it were an agenda, Harfouche could not remove the motions because their inclusion was required by UTSU's bylaws. Harfouche replied that these motions would be addressed in a follow-up meeting as they were last year.

The vote was taken and a majority upheld Hashemi's ruling that it was an order of business.

Hashemi said that he should not have entertained a vote on Harfouche's original motion in the first place, according to protocol.

A motion to limit debate to two minutes per speaker was raised and passed.

### ADDING MOTIONS

Harfouche then moved to add a motion to the agenda. He had previously submitted three motions to be added to the AGM agenda but all were rejected by the board, two because they allegedly contradicted UTSU bylaws. He said the motion he wanted to add was the one that did not.

Hashemi ruled Harfouche out of order because his motion had been served without notice.

Harfouche challenged the ruling on the grounds that he had submitted it by the deadline, and asked Hashemi to produce a bylaw that authorized the board to prevent a motion from appearing on the agenda.

Hashemi read a section of the bylaws that required that notice of the AGM be given in the "campus publication, the union website", and other forums. He argued that according to Robert's Rules and UTSU's bylaws, motions could not be added to an agenda without notice, and said he had prepared this defence in advance because he "had a hunch it would come up".

"Can someone just bring up a motion at this meeting? The answer is no [...]" said Hashemi. "The whole point of having notice is so that members know what is being discussed.

"What I find especially galling in this instance is that last year there was an entire debate had about the board not giving advance notice so people knew when to submit motions by. So it kind of stuns me—it's kind of like sucking and blowing, right? One time when something was in your favour you want it a certain way and now when you don't want it that way, and you want it to go back to what it used to be."

Harfouche was given a turn to speak. "Nowhere in your bylaws does it state that the board has the authority to remove motions from the AGM that were given to you with notice [...]" he said. "There was no other requirement for that motion to come to the AGM—just read the bylaws. I'm not making up rules. [...] All I'm trying to do is get my motion back on this agenda."

The question was called, the vote was taken, and the chair's ruling was upheld. Hashemi refused a request to count the votes.

### AUDITED FINANCES

After a meeting to approve past minutes, the audited financial statements were presented.

The auditor gave a brief summary of the statements. Since UTSU is a

non-profit corporation, he said, "The idea is to get to zero, not to get to a \$300,000 profit [...] A \$52,000 deficit on a \$13-million revenue is very close to zero in my books."

He opened the floor for questions. The first student to speak moved to call the question to approve the statements, although other students were waiting to ask questions. A large majority voted to call the question and then to approve the statements, ending the discussion.

A student asked why Sajjad had voted in favour of calling the question, considering he had earlier deferred a question about the financial statements and promised to answer it. Hashemi replied that he should take it up with Sajjad.

### REMAINING MOTIONS

One of the remaining motions proposed bylaw amendments to ensure compliance with updates to the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

Harfouche spoke in favour of the motion. In particular, he said, the last clause—which amended a bylaw to read "A referendum conducted by the board in the constituency represented by the director; such a referendum shall follow upon a simple majority of the board vote on the resolution"—would allow student societies to hold referenda to sever ties with UTSU.

"I don't hold your view that that's what it says, but I'm not going to get into it because [...] you and I have wasted everyone's time here enough," said Hashemi.

Ryan Gomes stepped up to the microphone to add amendments to the motion, because, in his reading of the CNCA, they did not comply with the upcoming changes to Canadian law. Hashemi said that he could only propose changes to the paragraphs quoted in the motion as it stood, and told him he should submit his motions to next year's agenda.

The meeting ended with motions to endorse a campaign to raise the minimum wage to \$14, which saw some opposition and a defence by Sajjad; to investigate UTSU's board and commission structure, which saw two failed attempts at amendment; and to reprimand Students Against Israeli Apartheid for having protocol that requires event organizers to give speaking preference based on race, gender, and sexual orientation and to "visually judge" membership of such a group rather than allowing attendees to self-identify.

Only this last motion failed to pass when it came to a vote.

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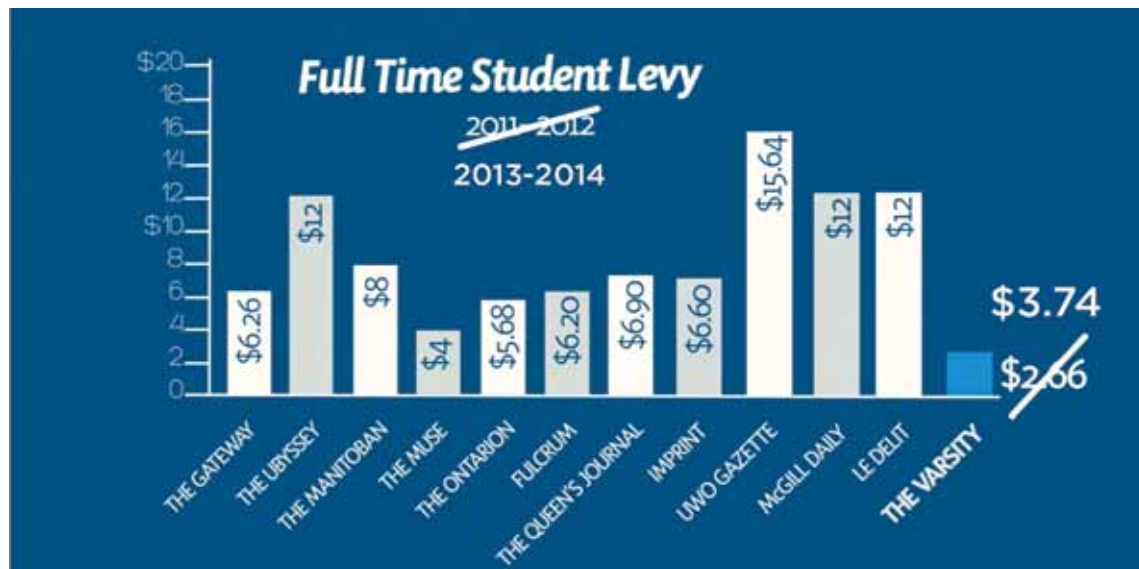
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# Students petition to divert *Varsity* fees

Some 600 signatures collected at UTM and delivered to UTMSU



THEVARSITY.CA/PHOTO

A still from the downtown newspaper's campaign to increase their levy, with an update or two.

A group of UTM students collected 600 signatures in support of their petition to the UTMSU board of directors to hold a referendum asking students whether they would be in favour of diverting fees from *Varsity Publications* and either forwarding them to *Medium II Publications* or refunding all undergraduate UTM students.

On Wednesday, Raymond Noronha, the president of UTMSU, sent an email to Joshua Oliver, the editor-in-chief of *the Varsity*, and Luke Sawczak, the editor-in-chief of *the Medium*, informing them of the petition and inviting them to discuss it at UTMSU's board meeting the next day at 6 p.m.

Noronha attached scans of about half of the signatures that had been collected. Neither Oliver nor Sawczak had been given notice of the petition until they received the email.

Oliver and Murad Hemmadi, the managing online editor of the *Varsity*, attended the board meeting on Thursday, along with Sawczak and Larissa Ho and David Sanchez, the *Medium's* news editor and advertising manager, respectively. Also present were the petitioners themselves and Cameron Wathey, UTSU's VP internal and services and the UTSU designate on UTMSU's board.

After other items on the agenda had been discussed and voted on, Christopher Thompson, last year's president of UTMSU and its current speaker, read the motion and gave the students who had collected the signatures speaking rights. They argued that *the Varsity* did not include enough UTM coverage to justify its value to UTM students.

"I was very surprised and concerned to hear about this petition [...] It obviously shows that there are some students who are at UTM who are not happy with the services that we've been providing them, which I take very, very seriously as the leader of the organization," said Oliver at the meeting.

Oliver went on to say that the *Varsity* doesn't feel that this "formal remedy" is the best way to go forward, since UTMSU is not formally involved in the governance structures relating to the *Varsity* fees, which are collected by the university on behalf of *the Varsity Publications*, a corporation.

"There are some students at UTM who are not happy with the services that we've been providing them, which I take very, very seriously as the leader of the organization."

—Joshua Oliver

"We don't feel that UTMSU needs to be formally involved, although we obviously welcome the informal input of UTMSU as we go forward [...]" said Oliver. "I think the first step would be for us to have a discussion and exhaust every possible other option before we got into something procedurally complex."

Sawczak expressed his concern that the *Medium* had not been consulted about its inclusion on the petition

and defended *the Varsity's* usefulness at UTM.

"As UTM we are part of U of T," he said. "I appreciate a kind of patriotism for UTM, but at the same time, to cut a flow of information into the campus that keeps students better informed of what's going on at U of T, which is really the parent organization of UTM—I don't think it's a good idea to cut this education."

Najwa Hassounah, one of the students who had collected petitions, said in an email interview, "I did not see any value in paying for both the *Medium* and the *Varsity*. I was also not happy that *the Varsity* implemented a fee increase through a referendum that was not promoted at UTM last year."

She discovered that many UTM students did not know that they pay incidental fees to both the *Medium* and the *Varsity*.

"Also after reviewing the articles from *the Varsity*, there [were] little if any articles about the affairs at UTM or UTM students," said Hassounah. "We wanted UTM students to decide where their fees are directed. The petition was a process for us to raise attention and awareness as well as voice the concerns of UTM students."

Since *the Varsity* and the petitioners agreed to talk it out before taking formal action, UTMSU's board moved to accept the petitions but to strike out the second part of the motion about the referendum. According to Walied Khogali, UTMSU's executive director, the referendum would not in any case be legal.

The current levy to *the Varsity* is \$3.74, having been raised last year by \$1 via a referendum.

## »WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?



**Paige Falardeau**  
3rd year, drama

A record player!



**Brian Nyandong**  
2nd year, management

A black jeep with no roof.  
Thinking about the summer.



**Yerassyl Satybaldiyev**  
2nd year, commerce

A new watch. Not a Rolex...  
I'd rather have a U-Boat.



**Matthew Li**  
1st year, life sciences

I actually don't need anything... exam answers?

## UTMSU finds students winter break housing

ALESSIA PICCOLO

UTMSU is connecting UTM students with off-campus housing options for less than the \$400 they would pay to stay on residence for the two-week winter break.

Through Places4Students, international student affairs coordinator Agita Wijaya secured offers from 11 registered landlords to house students at a discounted rate. The negotiable prices range from \$300 to \$400, and include Wi-Fi, a bed, and up to three meals a day.

"Students have been complaining that fees are too high to stay on campus during the winter closure," said Melissa Theodore, UTMSU's VP external. "The costs can be anywhere

from \$400 to \$500 and only include housing. I came up with an idea that would help reduce fees for students who would not be going home over the winter break."

The idea of staying with local families was also mentioned by Dale Mullings, UTM's director of residence and student life, at a meeting with students last month where he also stated that he did not intend to change the fee.

The two-week break will begin when the university closes on December 20; the university will reopen on January 5.

The deadline for applying for a winter housing extension from the university was November 29.

## NEWS BRIEFS »

### Disabled woman denied entry to U.S. due to medical record

A Toronto woman was shocked after she was denied entry into the U.S. because she had been hospitalized for clinical depression. A U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent with the Department of Homeland Security cited her hospitalization and said she would need "clearance" from one of three psychiatrists in Toronto whose assessments would be accepted.

Source: *The Toronto Star*

### Metro-North train is derailed in New York City

Police confirm that a Metro-North passenger train has derailed in the Bronx. The FDNY confirmed the four deaths in a press conference. They said that at least 67 were injured, 11 seriously. Of the four killed, three were thrown from the train after it derailed. The FDNY said that all of the injured people were in stable condition and not expected to die.

Source: *Huffington Post*

### Server told cops about woman breastfeeding and drinking

A server at an Arkansas pizza restaurant said she was fired after alerting police to a mother breastfeeding her child while drinking alcohol. A manager at the pizzeria told the local station that the call to police was not relevant to why Connors was fired. The mother was arrested and charged with endangering the welfare of a minor. Her child is seven months old.

Source: *Huffington Post*

### Paul Walker of *The Fast and the Furious* dies in car crash

TMZ reports that Walker was in a Porsche Carrera GT when the driver somehow lost control of the vehicle. It then slammed into either a post or a tree and then burst into flames and exploded. Although it's unclear what caused the accident, authorities have said speed appears to have played a major factor.

Source: 680 News

### Inmate escapes from prison, visits dentist, turns self back in

A 51-year-old Swedish inmate broke out of prison in November "because he had a toothache and wanted to go the dentist," officials said. The man told Swedish newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* he had been complaining to prison officials about the pain for four days and finally busted out because he "just couldn't stand it".

Source: *Huffington Post*

# MEDIUM OPINION

Editor-in-Chief | Luke Sawczak

## MASTHEAD

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## Looking further than our front yards

We shouldn't get rid of the *Varsity* at UTM; we need these points of contact with U of T

A good question was raised quite unexpectedly, maybe even unintentionally, this week: how wide is the scope of a campus paper?

A few UTM students started a petition to the UTM Students' Union that asked the union to hold a referendum to have UTM students stop paying fees to the *Varsity*, the newspaper based at St. George, and to have that money either go to the *Medium* or go back in students' pockets. UTMSU invited the petitioners, *Varsity* editor-in-chief Joshua Oliver, and myself to a board meeting at which the petition would be discussed. That was the first we'd heard of it, and as far as we were concerned, it came entirely out of left field.

For one thing, it was a very unorthodox way to go about it. UTMSU doesn't actually have any authority over those fees, so the petition's goals would be accomplished through lobbying the administration (and there's little chance they would take the campaign seriously, in my opinion). Redirecting those fees to the *Medium* wouldn't be so cut-and-dry either. Not that we couldn't stand to improve our financial position—we most certainly could, ad revenue having fallen from \$70,000 in 2009 to \$40,000 the next year and never recovering—but we weren't consulted, and I don't think that research had been done. And finally, there was no forewarning. The *Varsity* is holding their fall meeting this Wednesday, and as Mr. Oliver said at the board

meeting, direct routes like that are welcomed for raising complaints.

But this particular instance aside, the question at the heart of it is, in the words of Ms. Hassounah, one of the petitioners, whether there's "any value in paying for both the *Medium* and the *Varsity*". Isn't the *Varsity* supposed to be St. George's paper and the *Medium* UTM's? How much UTM coverage is there in the *Varsity*? More to the point, can't the *Medium* cover everything we need to know about UTM?

Two questions are in play here. One is the question of what an audience can identify with most closely.

The other is what an audience needs to know, what concerns them.

One thought that comes to mind is the question of resources: the *Varsity*'s per-student levy is under \$4, less than half of the *Medium*'s, but they also draw it from many times the number of students and so their budget is higher. The ratio of services rendered to what an individual student pays is very good. As UTM grows, so will the *Medium*, but we haven't caught up yet.

I have a different point to make, though. The (no doubt well-meaning) petitioners do have something right: if you flip through the last few issues of the *Varsity*, you won't find much on UTM. Searches for "UTM" and "Mississauga" don't turn up much that deals with our campus specifically in the past months. Last week they ran a story on UTMSU barring us from filming their AGM, after having read about the incident in the *Medium*.

But the key word here is "specifically". There are two questions in play here. One is the question of what an audience can identify with most closely. This was the topic of disputes with certain editors in the past whose idea of our scope differed from the editor's at the time. Take sports, for example. You can read about U.S. tournaments in any number of papers, many of them offering more informed coverage than we have. But nobody else covers UTM teams and games. The players, their coaches, their friends, their families, and their competition all read those articles. The same goes for the local clubs, departments, union, and so on. For things like these, yes, the *Medium* is the most appropriate paper.

The other question is what an audience needs to know, what concerns them. Obviously, the *Medium* pursues every UTM story it finds out about in that category. But UTM stories are not the only ones that affect UTM students. There's a whole world

of central U of T governance that trickles down to our campus, and frankly, most of the coverage of those stories is done by the *Varsity*. We at UTM may not need to read about a residence into which students are slotted without their foreknowledge, but we can certainly benefit from articles on U of T research in an entire separate science section—a section the *Medium* simply isn't equipped to run yet. Maybe one day soon.

And it goes the other way too. We report on U of T-wide happenings based downtown when we feel their impact is particularly relevant for UTM students. The installation of a new president, the creation of a new committee on mental health, the annual general meeting of the downtown union to whom we pay fees—in my view, these all require a UTM take in addition to whatever other coverage there may be, that is, a take with what UTM students feel is important. God forbid that someone should petition to take our fees away from us with the claim that the *Varsity* already covers these things.

The basic principle is to be careful about which information you want to have access to. UTM will always be the main interest of UTM students, but as long as we remain part of the bigger university, we should keep abreast of its news, too.

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK



Idea by Corey. Drawn by Mubashir.

## MEDIUM A&amp;E

Editor | Colleen Munro

## AGM explores digital-age art roles

The Art Gallery of Mississauga offers a peek into the process of digitizing their permanent collection

COLLEEN MUNRO  
A&E EDITOR

The Art Gallery of Mississauga frequently brings in dynamic exhibitions from a variety of locales—both from local artists and from those who hail from the other side of the world, as was the case with last year's fascinating "(Dao bao)(Takeout)" exhibit. But for their latest exhibition, "Allegory of the Cave", the gallery keeps things close to home, choosing to highlight their own permanent collection and adding an interesting new twist to its presentation that aims to change the way viewers consume the AGM's art.

Clearly making the most out of the gallery's somewhat limited space, a wall full of art immediately greets the viewer as they enter. The whopping 42 pieces of art on one wall are both impressive and a little overwhelming. Holding paintings, photography, contemporary art, and traditional Inuit artwork, the wall is a dizzying collection of media and styles.

There are many interesting works in this cluster, but one that stands out, thanks in part to its creator's name recognition, is **Arthur Lismer's** "Tree in the Forest, BC". Lis-



ARTGALLERYOFMISSISSAUGA.COM/PHOTO

**Arthur Lismer's "Tree in the Forest, BC" is a highlight in the AGM's latest exhibition.**

mer, a member of the famed Group of Seven, had a distinctive, frenetic style that is well represented in this relatively small oil painting. Boasting rich blues, browns, and greens, the piece is punctuated with splashes

of stark off-white. The subject may be small, and the painting pales in comparison to some of Lismer's more famous work, but it's nonetheless an eye-catching piece in the AGM's collection.

On the opposite wall, the gallery opted for a clean simplicity, displaying just three large photographs. As the label explains, the gallery wants to "turn a new lens on art in Mississauga" and collect more photography,

video, and other "lens-based" works.

This focus on newer forms of media is appropriate. In this latest exhibition, much of the gallery's back room is devoted to explaining the AGM's new digitization project. The idea is to make the gallery's permanent collection more accessible to the public. Like most art galleries, the AGM's collection is far too large to ever display all at once, so much of the artwork spends a lot of time stowed away in storage. Now the gallery plans to take high-quality photographs of each piece in their collection and upload them online so that art enthusiasts can enjoy the entire collection at their leisure.

Interested AGM visitors can even witness the digitization process firsthand. Nestled in the back of the gallery are a sturdy tripod, a pair of high-powered lights, and an easel that bears the next piece of art set for digital immortalization. The gallery staff will work their way through the permanent collection, and they're letting the public watch the extensive photoshoot happen as it unfolds over a number of days.

"Allegory of the Cave" runs at the Art Gallery of Mississauga until January 1.

## Back into the fray, in a different way

The *Hunger Games* comes back, offering a sleeker second instalment in the franchise

MARIA RUIZ

The film adaptation of the second book in Suzanne Collins' best-selling *Hunger Games* series opened in theatres last weekend, and it was every bit worth the wait. It was one of the most anticipated films of the year, and *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* does not disappoint. In my opinion, it's firmly better than the first instalment of the series.

The film opens in District 12, one year after the events of the first movie. Katniss and Peeta, the victors of the last Hunger Games, try to settle into a normal life after their traumatic experiences in the arena. It soon becomes clear, however, that their lives have been irreversibly changed.

**Jennifer Lawrence** and **Josh Hutcherson** reprise their roles as Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark, the star-crossed lovers of District 12 and the only people in Panem's history to share the title of Hunger Games victor. Joining them are **Woody Harrelson** as Haymitch, the quirky mentor, and **Elizabeth Banks** as Effie, the image consultant. They help Katniss and Peeta navigate the Capitol's complex politics and settle into their new roles as public figures



FANPOP.COM/PHOTO

**Katniss and Peeta serve as unwilling figureheads in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*.**

expected to spread the Capitol's propaganda. New to the cast are **Sam Claflin** as Finnick and **Jena Malone** as Johanna, victors of previous Hunger Games. Director **Francis Lawrence** replaced **Gary Ross** for this instalment, and while the changes in style are subtle, they make a huge

impact.

Like the first film, *Catching Fire* opens with Katniss and Gale (**Liam Hemsworth**) hunting in the woods, but it's immediately clear that everything is not back to normal. *Catching Fire* focuses on politics much more than its predecessor. We see a soci-

ety on the brink of a great upheaval, struggling to hold together, and a complicated relationship between appearances and the truth. The conflict between President Snow (**Donald Sutherland**) and Katniss is a definite highlight of the movie; their interactions are summed up perfect-

ly by the new gamemaker, Plutarch Heavensbee (**Philip Seymour Hoffman**), as "moves and countermoves".

All the actors deliver great performances, each delving a little deeper into their character and revealing more as they face harder times and higher stakes. Lawrence in particular stands out in her portrayal of Katniss struggling to find a balance between playing her part in upholding the Capitol's image and holding on to who she is. And newcomers Claflin and Malone play Finnick and Johanna with the depth they have in the books, convincingly portraying them as characters who are already well-versed in upholding appearances and playing the part the Capitol expects from them.

A notable improvement from the first film, as many will be happy to see, is the disappearance of the widely criticized "shaky camera". Aside from that, the visuals match the stunning and disturbing ones of the first film. Overall, *Catching Fire* takes the story to an entirely different level. The stakes are higher and there are twists at every turn. By the end of the film, you'll be left in disbelief and desperate to see what comes next. **MMMM**

# Top 10 albums of 2013



NYLONMAG.COM/PHOTO

Indie darlings Vampire Weekend are sure to find a spot on many critics' year-end lists this year.

**COLLEEN MUNRO**  
A&E EDITOR

## The National

*Trouble Will Find Me*

This stately, gorgeous sixth album from the **National** once again validates the band's growing legion of loyal fans. From the clanging "Sea of Love" to the hushed and searing "Pink Rabbits", this album feels like yet another step up in an already great career.

## James Blake

*Overgrown*

**James Blake** scooped up a Mercury Prize for his latest album, and it's easy to see why. He expands on the interior electronica of his earlier EPs and self-titled LP, making his sound more accessible and letting his sweetly morose voice shine on every track.

## Queens of the Stone Age

*...Like Clockwork*

Blistering, sludge-y rock has always been **Queens of the Stone Age's** signature sound, and this album shows no signs of their slowing down. Plenty of established bands released passable new LPs this year, but Queens was one of the few who actually upped the ante.

## Moonface

*Julia with Blue Jeans On*

Best known for his work in the cur-

rently defunct Canadian indie outfit **Wolf Parade**, **Spencer Krug** opts for something different on this sparse, piano-driven solo album. His distinctive voice is on full display, perfectly suited to wrenchingly personal ballads like "November 2011" and the title track.

## Vampire Weekend

*Modern Vampires of the City*

**Vampire Weekend** have kept up their momentum by branching out on each new album. *Modern Vampires of the City* is no exception, showing more introspection in their sound. It wraps up with the gorgeously restrained "Hannah Hunt", allowing frontman **Ezra Koenig's** voice to soar.

## Fast Romantics

*Afterlife Blues*

If you like propulsive, instantly catchy Canadian indie rock (think the **Weakertans**, the **Arkells**, etc.), you should check out this second LP from Toronto's **Fast Romantics**. "Funeral Song" offers an unexpectedly upbeat take on a sombre topic, while "White Lights" is just as spirited as anything the **New Pornographers** have put out.

## Laura Marling

*Once I Was an Eagle*

Quietly earning the favour of music critics since her debut at the age of 16, the now 23-year-old **Laura Marling**

returns with her fourth album, *Once I Was an Eagle*. Her albums are always full of exquisitely crafted, deceptively restrained songs, and she continues to mature and develop her craft here.

## Jake Bugg

*Shangri La*

Indie rock's new "it" boy shows his songwriting chops and delightfully off-kilter voice on *Shangri La*. "Messed Up Kids" proves that **Bugg** knows how to tell a relatable story, while the swirling Britpop of "Simple Pleasures" suggests that he might be capable of filling arenas before long.

## Villagers

*{Awayland}*

Eschewing the myth of the sophomore slump, **Villagers** craft a dynamic blend of genres with *{Awayland}*. They even offer a shimmering, accessible single in the form of "Nothing Arrived", which sounds like a cross between **R.E.M.'s** "Nightswimming" and **Bright Eyes**.

## Johnny Flynn

*Country Mile*

**Country Mile** may be folk-rock troubadour **Johnny Flynn's** most fully-formed album yet, a comfortable blend of folk, rock, and pop. Gems like the politely crashing title track and the soothing lullaby "Einstein's Idea" are new high-water marks in his catalogue.

# How to mind one's modern manners

Unexpected lessons from actress Liv Tyler

**NIVEEN FULCHER**

**Liv Tyler** is best known as an actress (*The Lord of the Rings*), a model, and the daughter of **Aerosmith** frontman **Steven Tyler**. Who would have expected her to co-author a seamless mixture of old-school etiquette and personal anecdotes about manners? But so she has in the recently published *Modern Manners*, written with her grandmother **Dorothea Johnson**, an etiquette teacher who taught Tyler table manners early on. It's a clear and simple guide that also happens to be useful for university students poised to enter the professional world.

*Modern Manners* is divided into six sections: "Meetings and Greetings", "On the Job", "Electronic Communications", "Out and About", "Dining Skills", and "The Savvy Host". The advice is predominantly geared towards young and middle-aged adults who are establishing careers and professional relationships and hoping to be recognized and treated with respect. Johnson and Tyler point out that in today's competitive workforce, your expertise may not be enough to set you apart; knowing how to get along with others and being aware of what makes people feel comfortable or uncomfortable is vital to success, as are simple, humble small acts of kindness.

This book is arranged in an eclectic, interactive way: rather than just paragraphs of dos and don'ts, bubbles throughout the book present random historical facts and reminders. One "Did You Know?" bubble contains advice on greeting people who enter the room, with a fun summary of greeting rituals across different cultures.

The "General Cellphone Etiquette" section includes a reminder that Rob Ford could have benefitted from.

The "General Cellphone Etiquette" section includes a reminder that Rob Ford could have benefitted from had he read Johnson and Tyler's book: "Do remember that anyone with a cell phone can record what you're saying, take photographs, and/or send messages letting others know where you are."

Whether or not you're surprised to see it from this quarter, Johnson and Tyler's *Modern Manners* is a must-read for young adults interested in conforming to the highest etiquette practices. And as Tyler's grandmother always told her, "It's better to know it and not need it than to need it and not know it."

## REJECTED REDISCOVERED

We get sent so many CDs to review that we just don't have room for them all. Here—sometimes years later—they get a second chance.

**JASON COELHO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

## Plant and Animals

*La La Land*

Imagine if **Arcade Fire** and **Fleet Foxes** hadn't yet reached their potential as musicians and combined to form a super-group. Since that very idea would blow the heads off indie rock fans everywhere, Canada has settled for the next best thing in **Plants and Animals**.

The band's second full-length release, 2010's *La La Land*, is as strange and wonderful as you would expect a disc covered in leopard print to be. *La La Land* opens with the surprisingly serious yet hilariously named "Tom Cruz", a quiet track that kicks into high gear around the two-minute mark, then fiddles around until the end.

It isn't until the trumpets sound on the third track, "American Idol", that the album starts to find its legs. Another strangely named

song, "Kon Tiki", starts off with a smooth interlude that sounds like a rejected **Eagles** track. It's the ideal mid-album "take it slow" melody—the type of song you'd want to listen to when you're watching the sunset from your Dodge Caravan and dreaming that you're not in below-freezing temperatures.

The album's peak comes in "The Mama Papa", and if you can't tell by its name, this song is all kinds of fun. *La La Land* lingers for a few more tracks, not accomplishing a great deal but offering some pleasant background noise to fill your ears. The closer, "Jean Jeans Jeans", is a very solid rock song that would likely have you banging your head at a live show, ending the album on a high note.

The mélange of sound that is *La La Land* represents a successful attempt to cram a variety of styles into its 47 minutes. It's a great effort by a budding Canadian trio; make sure to keep an ear out for **Plants and Animals** in the future.

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

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# Sheridan

# The Medium's Guide to Holiday Events

## December 5

### 12 TREES OF CHRISTMAS

Hosted by Toronto's Gardiner Museum, the 12 Trees of Christmas features 12 Christmas trees decorated by some of the city's top designers. The trees are on display at the museum until December 5, and then donated to various charities to celebrate the spirit of giving. This year marks the project's 25th anniversary.

## December 28

### PARFUMERIE

While you're visiting the Christmas Market, be sure to check out Soupepper's Christmas hit *Parfumerie*, a romantic comedy back for yet another run this season. This lighthearted holiday love story is just the thing after a long day of shopping. *Parfumerie* plays at the Young Centre for Performing Arts until December 28. Rush tickets for anyone under 21 can be purchased for as little as \$5.

## December 8

### ONE OF A KIND CHRISTMAS SHOW

This holiday craft show is as much an art exhibit as a chance to purchase a few gifts before December 25. The show has all kinds of original, beautiful, and good-humoured artwork, and is on until December 8 at the Direct Energy Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto. Oh, and don't forget the free arts and crafts station for children over 8—because no one is ever too old for glitter glue.

## December 31

### CELEBRATION SQUARE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Celebrate the arrival of 2014 at Mississauga's Celebration Square on December 31, starting at 8 p.m. Enjoy skating, dancing, and music for the whole family as you count down to midnight. Celebration Square is already warming up the season with Christmas tree lighting, a visit from Santa, and hot chocolate served at the C Café's winter patio.

## December 12-14

### BECK FESTIVAL

The Beck Festival is an annual collection of short plays produced independently by Theatre Erindale. The plays are traditionally based on published works or original scripts written by students, and this year's festival includes a combination of both. You can see the plays for \$5 or any amount you wish to pay on December 12 at 7 p.m., December 13 at 9 p.m., and December 14 at 8 p.m. in the MiST Theatre.

## January 1

### SECOND CITY

For those with an inner holiday sadist, the Second City, an improv-based sketch comedy venue, presents a series of sketches and songs about every awkward and hilarious Christmas-related event possible, including improvisations for added surprise. The show runs until January 1.

Kate Cattell-Daniels  
Associate A&E Editor

## December 15

### LOWE'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

Head downtown to Toronto's Distillery District for Lowe's Christmas Market, an event that promotes handcrafted products by local artisans. Enjoy a picturesque evening among historic buildings, have a warm winter treat, and browse the outdoor stalls at this free event, which runs until December 15.

## January 5

### ONCE

The musical *Once* is sure to put any music lover in the holiday spirit. The winner of eight Tony Awards, with a cast of multitalented live musicians, this production tells a story about growing personal relationships and the power of music. *Once* plays at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto until January 5.

## December 25

### MOVIES

Those who need a break from all the Christmas music, family dinners, and social obligations can escape to the movie theatre and watch *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, the story of a daydreamer who finally takes control of his life and encounters more than a few surprises along the way, or *The Wolf of Wall Street*, a crime drama about Jordan Belfort, a man involved in a 1990s fraud case on Wall Street. Both films will be released on Christmas Day.

## January 19

### DAVID CRONENBERG

This major exhibit at the TIFF Bell Lightbox explores the career of filmmaker David Cronenberg, delving into the theme of evolution both in terms of Cronenberg's artistic development and in terms of his fascination with the theme of evolution itself. The artifacts, visions, and previously unseen footage are on display until January 19.

## The Medium's Writing Contest

Open to all UTM students | Free entry

Submission: Sunday, November 17 – Sunday, December 22

Publication: Runners-up on January 20, winners on January 27

Categories: Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry

Limit: 1 entry per category per participant; new work preferred

Prizes: Winner: \$100, Runner-up: \$50

Per category

Submit to Luke Sawczak at [editor@mediumutm.ca](mailto:editor@mediumutm.ca).

Max. 1,200 words for prose or 40 lines for poetry.

Winners will be published with judges' comments and short biographies. Submissions may be lightly edited for length.

Judges: Larissa Ho, Maria Cruz, Colleen Munro, Jason Coelho, Luke Sawczak, and Olga Tkachenko



# MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

## Tired of the Black Friday approach

12 years ago, Buy Nothing Christmas began a movement to end overconsumption in North America

**MARIA CRUZ**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Having been suckered into giving my email address to every store that asks, I get bombarded with emails by the time Black Friday rolls around. And no, La Senza, I don't feel like buying \$100 worth of underwear just to score the 50%-off deal.

Inspired by North Americans' overconsumption around the holiday season, the Buy Nothing Christmas movement began in Winnipeg in 2001. BNC is a national initiative funded by volunteer efforts, initially created by Canadian Mennonites to inspire both fellow Mennonites and others people across Canada to decommercialize Christmas. Tina Newransky, a recent BNC member, explained how the idea came about and what their cause means for Canadians.

Aiden Enns, the founder of Buy Nothing Christmas, came up with the idea when he worked with Ad-Busters, says Newransky. Aiden decided to extend the activism of the BNC movement through the entire Christmas season. According to Ne-



JASMEEN VIRK/PHOTO

**BNC doesn't want people to go overboard with Christmas presents.**

wransky, BNC is founded on the belief that challenging people to tune out the voice of "consumer-driven capitalism" and listen to voice of the people speaking about problems like injustice, poverty, and pollution can bring about change.

"Overconsumption is definitely a

concern, with statistics stating [that] as much as one third of Christmas gifts go to the landfill. But the real purpose of the movement is to speak against the pro-corporate orientation of North American society," says Newransky. "Politically, socially, economically, in our country

corporations have more power than people, and their voice is the loudest."

BNC doesn't oppose purchasing presents for loved ones. "It isn't about separating those who buy from those who don't," explains Newransky. "Everyone buys. And that's

not a bad thing. But we can be conscious of how our buying habits affect the rest of the world."

This idea has received positive and negative feedback from consumers, says Newransky, although some find the concept "interesting but not realistic".

One of the negative experiences was last year's incident in which BNC representatives were escorted out of a local mall. "Negative reactions are handled with respect and acceptance," says Newransky. "Being part of BNC gives an opportunity to speak a radical message about the state of our world and our part in it."

The FAQ section of the BNC website addresses a question about whether people would lose their jobs if everyone were to buy nothing around Christmas, saying that while they would like to "see the retail sector shrivel", they hope the effort can be directed towards "developing more sustainable activities (how we build our homes, transport ourselves, manufacture clothes, and spend our leisure time)".

**BNC continued on page 9**

## Transgender: a minority within a minority

OUT@UTM tries to educate UTM students about a group within LGBTQ they feel is too often overlooked

**MARIA CRUZ**  
FEATURES EDITOR

After its inception 11 years ago, preceding that of the Equity Office, OUT@UTM became the first forum on campus where LGBTQ students could be guaranteed the opportunity to feel safe and share their stories without being judged.

One of the missions of OUT@UTM is to enlighten students about what it means to classify oneself as transgender and dispel misconceptions.

Roya Ghahremani, the executive director of OUT@UTM, defines a transgender person as "someone whose gender identity or expression doesn't match the one they were assigned at birth", but stresses that in the end it's a personal identification, not a definition. "No one can label you, you're the one who identifies," she says.

Vincent Santiago, an OUT@UTM volunteer, says some common misconceptions include transgender people being confused with those who do drag and assumptions about the operations a transgender person has or hasn't undergone. Transgender people "are also considered to be confused," he says.

Another volunteer, Vincencia Kumala, adds that "when people talk about transgender, they talk about



FINEARTAMERICA.COM/PHOTO

**OUT@UTM encourages students to accept all members of the LGBTQ.**

them as if they have a big sexual appetite".

She believes one of the biggest misconceptions is that "they're overtly leaning to one gender, like they're more masculine or feminine. Sometimes, they're not necessarily overtly masculine or feminine."

In order to educate UTM students about transphobia, the club hosted Trans Day of Remembrance on November 20, inviting students to come by and learn about the community and the club.

Ghahremani says that this event is OUT@UTM's biggest celebration of the transgender community. During the rest of the year, OUT@UTM also distributes flyers. "A lot of people don't understand, and they don't get educated on it," she says.

OUT@UTM also offers resources for students going through the difficulties associated with being transgender, including directions for changing their name through the Office of the Registrar. "We also have links to different groups," says

Ghahremani. "We have a calendar that shows days when trans-community groups meet every Wednesday or so. So we can hook people up."

The notorious "bathroom bill" has been considered and debated throughout Canada and the U.S. If passed, the bill will allow transgender students to use the bathroom of the opposite sex in schools. An article on [lifesitenews.com](http://lifesitenews.com) states that "numerous family organizations have opposed the bill, saying that it would open a Pandora's Box of sexual anar-

chy, including giving biological men a legal alibi to use women's bathrooms, shower rooms, and changing rooms".

Ghahremani says that UTM's gender-neutral bathrooms, located near the OUT@UTM office in the Student Centre, are a more successful accommodation than a bathroom solely for transgender people would be.

"I think the problem with having [a bathroom] solely for transgender people is that if you see someone going in and coming out of the bathroom, you might just assume that they're transgender," she says. "A lot of people in the transgender community go as, what we call, 'stealth'. They don't want people to know that they're transgender, they want to be known as female or male."

Santiago says that transgender people are sometimes disenfranchised members of the LGBTQ community. "I feel like the transgender are part of the LGBTQ, and they're sort of considered a sub-minority in the community," he says. "I think it's good to be inclusive of everyone."

Ghahremani agrees with this assessment. "There's gay, lesbian, straight—and then transgendered people can be [of] any sexual [orientation] but they still won't be accepted into any group," she says. "We've created a welcoming space for people, and it's changed people's lives."



# The gift that just keeps on taking

Students on campus wonder what they did to deserve some of the worst gifts they've ever gotten

## MARIA CRUZ

FEATURES EDITOR

## ALEXANDRA GEDDES

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

## MADELEINE BROWN

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Don't kid yourself—we've all received presents that were recycled, came with a hidden agenda, or just plain sucked. *Time* identified six types of bad gifts last year in an article about "presents you should never give". In the article, consumer psychologist Kit Yarrow determined the worst gifts by interviewing people, mainly those in their 40s and 50s.

But after going around UTM, we discovered that students are no strangers to these types of gifts either. You don't have to be over the hump to have come into contact with a plethora of gifts bad enough that, in the words of one student, "I cringe to this day just thinking about it."

## OBVIOUS RE-GIFT

We've all been on both sides of it.

Fourth-year history major Vanessa Compoli had an awkward re-gift tale to share. "I once received a gift from 'Aunt Rosa'. I have no idea who Aunt Rosa is. My friend forgot to take the tag off a bath set," she says. "I think they felt bad. I had given them a gift earlier and they had been caught off guard. I never brought it up [to them]."

Jasman Budwal, a fourth-year English major, says that he has never received or given an obvious re-gift. "I've gotten gifts I didn't care for, but still kept them all," he says. "My parents re-gift things like pots and dishes. When they'd receive gifts for Christmas, they'd give them to different families."

## ALL-ABOUT-ME GIFT

This is the gift people give when they have no interest in what the recipient wants but are aiming to please the parents, compete with siblings, or prove that they're big spenders.

Anthony Peters, a third-year psychology and sociology major, says he received all-about-me gifts during the first year of his parents' divorce. "It was awful. They were trying so hard to show up the other and I was caught in the middle," he says.

Peters says his mother bought him a \$300 watch and his father bought him a new laptop. "At the end of the day, neither gift had any thought or sentiment behind it," he says.

Emily McDonald, a fourth-year Italian major, says the worst present she ever got was a donation to PETA in her name. "Are you kidding?" she says. "If I wanted to donate \$40 to PETA I would have, thank you."

## NON-GIFT

Yarrow describes this last category as "the baddest of bad". It's a gift that has been chosen without any input whatsoever from the recipient, and tends to have a general "What is this I don't even" veneer adorning it.

"I got a car from my dad, but it was a standard. I tried to learn it, but I just couldn't stand it. I was a liability on the road. I ended up having to sell it," says Dragana Kovacevic, a fourth-year history student.

"Another time, I got a piece of jewelry from my mom that I didn't really like," she continues. "I had to wear it because my mom expected me to and I didn't want to hurt her feelings. I felt like I had to be extra careful not to lose it, which was really stressful."

## PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE GIFT

Yarrow cites the case of Theresa, a woman in her 40s who received such a gift. "My mother-in-law takes the cake," she says. "One year for Christmas, she gave my husband a thick, beautiful cashmere sweater and she gave me a mug that said 'Scott's Wife.'"

Second-year theatre and English major Emma Miziole received a less cruel misfire gift herself. "I always had dark circles under my eyes since I was a kid. It got worse in my teens. My mom and my sisters didn't like it. They always wanted me to get under-eye concealer, but I just didn't wear makeup," she says. "One Christmas, my sister took it upon herself to buy me concealer for my stocking without knowing my shade—and she's more tan than me. She got mad when I used it for other things, like acne. Or when it faded, she would claim I wasn't wearing it."

## STATEMENT GIFT

Ah, yes, the statement gift. You know the kind we're talking about: the dress that your frenemy buys you that just happens to be two sizes too small, and she definitely knew it but bought it for you anyway? Yeah, that kind.

Andrew Hill, a fifth-year management major, says that he once got a gym membership from his girlfriend's mother. "I'm a little overweight and [my girlfriend] has told me that her mother mentions it behind my back," he says. "When she handed it to me she went, 'Just a little something to help you.' I pretty much hate her now."

"My dad once bought me a nose-hair trimmer. I don't know, I didn't exactly think that was the greatest gift to buy your son," laughs third-year Italian major Michaelo Barrini. "Especially since I wanted a PS3. Talk about your big letdown."

## WELL-MEANT MISFIRE

Misfires happen when the recipient's feelings are neglected because the giver chooses the gift with only their own perspective in mind. Maybe they think their choice is helpful, thoughtful, or funny, but that's not what it looks like from the receiving end.

Jill Sandham, a third-year criminology and social legal studies student, says, "In the fourth grade, I broke my leg snow-tubing. I hit a tree and snapped my femur in half. The snow tube popped and it was [left behind] in the park. Then, the next Christmas my mom bought me the exact same type of snow tube that I had broken my leg on."

"She meant it as a joke, but I didn't find it funny whatsoever," Sandham continues. "And she took a picture of my reaction. The snow tube's still sitting unopened in a corner of my basement, accumulating dust."



So funny in the movie. So painful in real life.

MYDISGUISES.COM/PHOTO

## Taking excessive gifts out of Xmas

BNC continued from page 8

Their website also acknowledges that something would need to change at a deeper level; it denounces capitalism but declines to endorse communism, and claims that economists are working at "new models".

"Everyone buys.

And that's not a bad thing. But we can be conscious of how our buying habits affect the rest of the world."

—Tia Newransky

"I think the "Buy Nothing" concept is a form of protest. It is for a limited time and place. Not buying anything, ever, would be impossible," Newransky says. "BNC isn't about whether you buy gifts, or how

many. It is about thinking when you buy. What impact will this purchase have? What impact can I have?"

"If overconsumption ceased to be a problem, BNC would continue to encourage people to think globally in their shopping—to ask themselves if an item is needed or if it will only be clutter, if having is more important than helping," she continues.

Newransky feels the movement is growing, particularly considering the extremes being seen in the "Black Friday" approach to shopping, in which "getting up before dawn, standing in endless lines, fighting with neighbours and strangers over toys—is seen as justified in the name of getting some really good deals on our Christmas gifts," she says. "A lot of people are starting to say this is going too far."

This year, as in previous years, the Black Friday weekend was met with swarming, shootings, and brawls among shoppers competing for merchandise on sale, particularly in the States.



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# Christmas in a cup on campus

Starbucks and Second Cup take the title for the coffee shops with the best holiday drinks



JASMEEN VIRK/PHOTO

The peppermint mocha from Starbucks is one of the most sought-after holiday drinks for students.

**MADELEINE BROWN**  
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Is it odd that the most prominent holiday decorations on campus are the Starbucks and Second Cup banners advertising their line of seasonal drinks? Forget wreaths, stars, or mistletoe; for UTM students it's these advertisements that mark the start of the holiday season.

And they seem to be working—students look forward to the arrival of holiday-themed drinks on campus. Let's be honest, there's no better companion to a study session in the library or to a final lecture than a candy cane hot chocolate or an egg nog latte. These drinks make the winter break seem that much closer.

Indeed, when talking to UTM students, I discovered that Starbucks and Second Cup are king on campus when it comes to these drinks. Tim Hortons and the other food providers on campus don't have as competitive a seasonal campaign as these two.

Despite all the choices available at Starbucks and Second Cup, most students have one or two favourites that they buy regularly. Starbucks' peppermint mocha is the favourite of Sharon Kowalski, a second-year geography and visual art major, while Harman Sahota, a criminology and sociology major, says he prefers Starbucks' gingerbread latte and Second Cup's s'mores hot chocolate.

These Christmas-y beverages are

the kinds of drinks that pique students' interest around this time of year. Baristas at UTM's Second Cup say that their most popular winter drinks are the s'mores hot chocolate, the candy cane latte, and the candy cane hot chocolate.

Starbucks also sees a spike in business when they start offering their seasonal drinks, and a second spike around exam time. The caramel brûlé latte and the peppermint mocha are their most popular drinks at this time of year.

Despite the spike in sales, not all students have a signature holiday drink, much less get excited about their arrival. "I tried Starbucks' peppermint mocha and hot chocolate with whipped cream on a whim. But I'm more intrigued by

their autumn collection, like their pumpkin spice latte, which gets hyped up a lot," says Jordan Nisbet, an English specialist with minors in philosophy and professional writing.

"I don't pay attention to the holiday drinks," says Tom Ketchum, a theatre and drama studies specialist and English major. "I really only notice the holiday boards advertising them. I've tried some in the past but they're too sugary. When I get coffee, I want caffeine."

Even the students who like holiday drinks stick to the cheaper alternatives for their daily cup of joe for the sake of price and convenience. "I go to Tim Hortons regularly for their french vanilla or a double-double. Starbucks is more

of a treat," says Kowalski.

I find myself in the latter category. However, I get my real caffeine kick from tea. (Yes, go ahead and laugh. I'm a bit pathetic when it comes to caffeine.) Last week, though, after a tough day, I tried my first Second Cup candy cane hot chocolate with whipped cream. It definitely beat any regular hot chocolate, but I don't think I could commit to it on a regular basis. Nevertheless, I do enjoy seeing the changes in Starbucks' and Second Cup's seasonal advertising campaigns and the new products they develop. While these campaigns don't necessarily get me to pay up, they certainly inspire me to create my own holiday drinks at home and get me in the spirit of the season.



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# MEDIUMSPORTS

Editor | Jason Coelho

## Blues skate circles around Laurentien Voyageurs

Women's Varsity hockey team's 4-2 victory marks third win in a row and earns them the fourth spot in the OUA



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

The Varsity Blues women's hockey record now sits at 10-4 with a .714 win percentage.

### ERIC HEWITSON

The U of T Varsity Blues women's hockey team dominated the Laurentian Voyageurs with a well-deserved 4-2 victory last Saturday. This game marks Toronto's 10th win of the season, leaving them fourth in the OUA standings with an overall record of 10-4.

The first period set the game's pace and brought the chilly yet exuberant crowd at Varsity Arena to their feet. At the midway point in the first period, the Blues opened up the scoring. Blues defender Caitlin Maikawa sent a wrist shot through traffic from the blue line, which, to her team's surprise, found the back of the net and beat

Voyageurs goaltender Emily Toffoli.

Toronto's lead didn't last long, as Laurentian responded less than two minutes later with a goal from forward Victoria Medeiros. Skating to the front of the net, she took a rebound off the pad of Toronto's backup goaltender Michaela Logan and stuffed the puck into the open corner.

The momentum shifted throughout the first period, with no team in complete control. After the game-tying goal was scored, the Blues potted another goal with a point-blank shot from Courtney Brind'Amour-McClure's stick to make the score 2-1. The Blues' celebration didn't last long—Lauren-

tian's Amanda Pereira scored and tied the game 2-2 at the end of the first period.

After the opening whistle of the second period, fans didn't have to wait long to see another goal, as Blues captain Kelly O'Hanlon found an open Taylor Day, who managed to earn a breakaway and snap the puck to the top left side of the net, scoring the game-winning goal just a minute and 38 seconds into the period.

Blues forward Amanda Ricker added an insurance marker late in the second period, deflecting the puck off Makawa's shot and beating Toffoli to give the Blues a 4-2 lead before the third period.

The next period saw continu-

ous physical play but no goals. Both squads found penalty trouble on a few occasions during the final period, but U of T proved that they were the better team by winning the special teams' battle and outplaying Laurentian on defence and offence. The Blues used their size during the penalty kill to keep the puck out of their zone. While on the power play, the team consistently shot pucks on net and played strong defence along the boards, refusing Laurentian the opportunity to make a comeback.

Logan, the Blues' first-year goaltender and a British Columbia native, played sensationally and was a big factor in U of T's victory. Though Logan let in two goals

during the first period, she remained resilient and comfortable between the pipes later and made 17 saves.

Amanda Ricker, a fourth-year UTM kinesiology and physical education student, says the win was the result of a team effort. She hopes the team will earn more wins before the holidays to give them a confidence boost when they return in the new year to fight for a chance to play in the playoffs. "I thought we played very well. We battled really hard both offensively and defensively, and it's huge going into the holiday season," she said.

The Blues will play their next home game against York University on December 10 at 7:30 p.m.

## Reds rocket past UTM White

Women's tri-campus basketball loses to St. George a second time

### FERGUS TALBOT

Following a 26-point loss earlier in the season, the UTM women's White tri-campus basketball squad led by coach Jack Krist were hoping to enter their November 27 home game with better luck. However, their opponents, St. George Red, whom UTM had previously encountered on November 24, controlled the game right from the get-go.

St. George's Lola Soji scored a layup two minutes into the game after going coast-to-coast, straight into the heart of UTM's defence. UTM had difficulty preventing Red from bursting straight to the basket.

Bianca Baumann gave White's defence some problems, recovering rebounds and passing the ball

to her team's playmakers.

At the five-minute mark, Baumann sent a cross-court pass to May Muneeswaran, who beat two UTM defenders and scored, putting St. George up 13-4 and silencing UTM's fans.

"They were more aggressive than we were in offence and pressured us almost every time we had the ball. Tonight's loss hurt us. It shouldn't have happened."

—Jack Krist

UTM White showed some spark; with 13 minutes remaining,

Emily Goetz captured a rebound in Red's paint and positioned herself near the free-throw line to score on a one-handed shot.

UTM's Sarah May Edwards helped on the defensive end, blocking UTSG's resident rebounder Baumann's shot, though Red still managed to hold offensive possession.

Yahel Ihejirika and Baumann made their size felt in the home team's paint, attracting up to three defenders at a time, which allowed their teammates to handle the ball longer and take uncontested shots.

Messy UTM defending and a constant St. George possession yielded a halftime score of 34-21 in favour of St. George.

*White continued on page 12*

## Varsity basketball sees Blue Christmas this year

### SANTIAGO BOTERO

The Varsity Blues men's basketball team faced the fifth-seeded Ryerson Rams at Maple Leaf Gardens in their last game before the winter break last Saturday, trying to get back in the win column after three straight losses and an abysmal record of 2-5.

The game began with much back-and-forth play between the two teams. Ryerson led for the majority of the first quarter. Fifth-year guard Alex Hill helped put the Blues back in contention, matching his career high of 35 points at the end of Saturday's game. But Ryerson continued the dominating play and closed the first quarter with a small lead of 25-24.

The end-to-end play continued in the second quarter, and neither

team was able to establish any momentum. Ryerson eventually increased their lead with basket after basket to push themselves ahead 34-28 as the quarter wound down.

"We're lucky to get a great offensive game from Alex [Hill]. He kept us hanging around for a while."

—John Campbell

The Rams' Peter McNeilly led his team with a contribution of 20 points, responsible for almost half of his team's score of 49-38 at halftime.

*Varsity continued on page 12*

# Blues iced by UQTR Pats

U of T men's hockey loses thrice in a row to University of Quebec

**KYLE KUCZYNSKI**

The U of T Varsity Blues men's hockey team took on the University of Quebec Trois-Rivières Patriots in their penultimate game of the first half of the season on November 30.

The Blues entered the game with a 9-7 record and hoped to end a losing run that had taken the past two games. The Patriots were coming from the previous night's 5-1 victory over Ryerson. U of T goaltenders Brett Willows and Garret Sheehan have been splitting ice time this season, and Saturday's game saw Willows between the pipes.

The Blues had a tough time keeping the puck inside the Patriots' zone and out of their own at the start of the first period. The Patriots played a strong defence and didn't allow the Blues to get any shots on net. The Blues switched to a more physical game for the rest of the first period and gained an advantage over the Patriots.

The Blues' Tyler Liukkonen scored the first goal on a breakaway after receiving a stretch pass from defenceman Connor Cleverly to end the first period with a 1-0 lead.

One and a half minutes into the second period, UQTR forward Tommy Tremblay scored a tip-in goal off a shot from defenceman Jesse Gauthier Le Breton, tying the game at 1-1. U of T made frequent use of the power play, yet couldn't capitalize on any goals, going 0 for 3 through the first two periods. They had plenty of scoring opportunities at even strength but struggled to put the puck in.

The second period saw a lot of action and physical play. Both teams' skaters played well, but Willows and Quebec's goalie Guillaume Nadeau were on their A-game, each stopping eight shots in the second period alone.

As the second period wound to a close, a questionable call on Patriots' Billy Lacasse sent the arena into a frenzy and Lacasse was punched in the back of the head, lost his helmet, and then received a slash on the back of the legs. Despite the dangerous play, the Toronto aggressors got away without a call, while Lacasse's harsh words to the referee afterwards landed him in the penalty box.

The Patriots' Billy Lacasse sent the arena into a frenzy and was punched in the back of the head, lost his helmet, and then received a slash on the back of the legs.

During the third period, it was evident that neither team wielded a strong advantage. U of T took seven shots during the third period while the Patriots had 11, yet the goalies' outstanding play kept the game close and the fans on their heels. A scary incident took place near the end of the game when the Patriots' Thomas Martin took a slapshot to his midsection, collapsing and screaming in pain, which led to a short hiatus.

But then Martin shook it off and stayed in the game.

A recurring problem for the Blues was their inability to convert the power plays. With less than four minutes left in the third period, the Blues were granted their final power play of the game. Head coach Darren Lowe called a timeout to ensure his team would have an effective power play and hopefully score a game-winning goal. This effort turned out to be effective for their competition, though, as the Patriots Tommy Tremblay scored an unassisted shorthand goal, his second of the game, and secured his team's victory. Tremblay intercepted the puck in his own zone, broke past U of T's blue line, and wired a wrist shot past a screen into the net.

The very close final score was 26-23 in favour of the Patriots.

"You're not [going to] win a game when you only score one goal, usually," commented Lowe. "We played very well, though. I thought that it was an even game for the most part."

As for his team's inability to make anything of the power plays, eventually giving up a shorthanded goal, Lowe said, "For both teams, penalty killing was really good [...] I hope [in] the second half of the season we'll be better. When you get a power play near the end of the game and the other team ends up scoring, it's a little bit like a knife in the back."

The Varsity Blues will enjoy a month off before taking on the Carleton University Ravens on December 29 in Ottawa in the hopes of ending their three-game losing streak.

# UTM tri-campus closely lose 56-50

*White continued from page 11*

The second half saw UTM lose its composure on both defence and offence. UTM's Daesi Reale assisted Chelsea Bartholomew on an unmarked shot to begin the scoring for the White team.

Reale, along with Goetz, later continued the scoring effort. With 10 minutes left in the game, it seemed as if the UTM girls would stage a comeback after bringing the score up to 40-33.

The UTM machine surged to life with Sajana Saththiyantham grabbing rebounds and converting on the offensive end, while Goetz took control of UTM's offence and was once again UTM's head playmaker. Goetz

handled the ball expertly despite great defensive pressure. With five minutes left in the game, UTM White began to put immense offensive pressure on UTSG Red. But despite the efforts of Goetz and Saththiyantham, they were unable to come back from their halftime deficit, falling to a talented St. George team with a score of 56-50.

"There were only five players on St. George's team," said Krist, who wasn't satisfied with his team's performance. "Today should have been a win. Right from the start, though, we gave them too much room to act. They were more aggressive than we were in offence and pressured us almost every time we had the ball. Tonight's loss hurt us. It shouldn't have happened."

# Blues basketball drops fourth game in a row

*Varsity continued from page 11*

"We're lucky to get a great offensive game from Alex [Hill]," comments head coach John Campbell. "He kept us hanging around for a while."

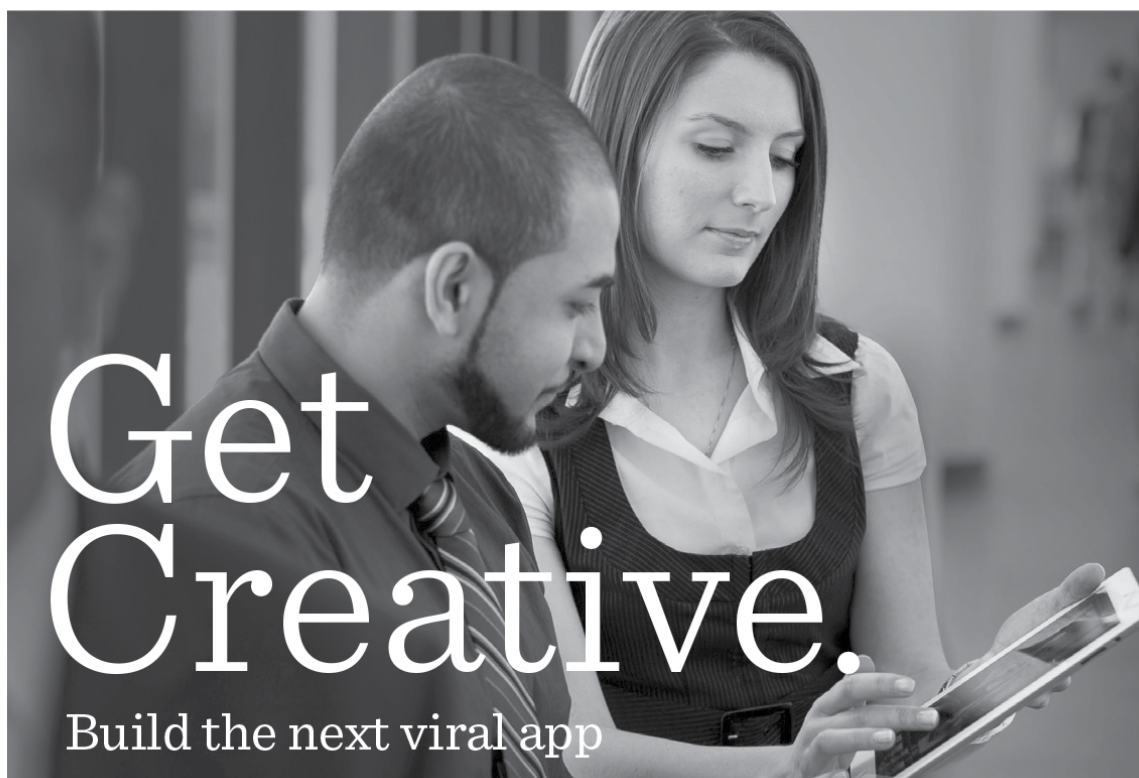
As the second half went underway, the Blues tried to catch up to the Rams but were unsuccessful. Hill and fellow veteran guard Matt Savel helped the Blues on the scoring end, with Savel adding 10 points to the Blues' comeback attempt. Despite their efforts, the Blues were down 70-60 at the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter continued with the Rams in complete control of the court. The Blues' sad defensive performance allowed Ryerson

to take advantage, lengthening their lead over the quarter and exposing the Blues' weak spots.

The University of Toronto couldn't match Ryerson's pace and eventually fell to the Rams by a score of 90-69 to mark their fourth straight loss of the year, giving the team a 2-6 record at the halfway point in the season and a win percentage of .250.

As Campbell looks ahead to the second half of the season, he's hoping the team can make some changes and play a more complete game. "The biggest thing for [us] is to get healthy and last for a 48-minute game," he says. "We do that and we can start to make some strides."



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