



THE MEDIUM

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Referendum results delayed

UTMSU president, executives take questions at Debating Club forum on expansion

LARISSA HO
NEWS EDITOR

The unofficial results of the Student Centre expansion referendum held last week have not been released as of press time.

UTMSU's president, Raymond Noronha, had previously promised the results in time for this issue, in an answer he gave to Jill Kennedy, station manager of CFRE, at a Student Centre Tenants' Meeting on January 17 in which he assured her that they would be "in that Monday's issue of the *Medium*".

According to UTMSU VP internal Nausheen Adam, the poll clerks are taking longer than anticipated to count the votes. As such, the Elections and Referenda Committee will not make the results public until Monday, February 3.

"The poll clerks got tired and had to go home," said Adam.

Meanwhile, on Monday last week, the day before voting opened, the UTM Debating Club



...../THE MEDIUM

held a forum at which students could discuss the referendum, inviting UTMSU and the *Medium*.

Over 30 people attended the event in the Davis Building's

Council Chambers, most of whom answered an opening question saying that they were in favour of the referendum. Six students were undecided.

Swapnil Shah, a first-year computer science student, was one of the latter.

Results continued on page 2

Campus to get safety upgrades

MARIA IQBAL
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Most violence against women is perpetrated by a person known to the victim.

This is one among a number of startling facts that the recently launched Community Safety Plan will seek to teach students this term. Revealed at the Health and Wellness Fair in mid-January, the plan identifies key priorities for making the UTM campus safer for women.

"Women's safety is everyone's responsibility," said Nythalah Baker, UTM's equity and diversity officer. "When the campus is safer for women, it's safer for everybody."

The plan is based on findings from a campus safety audit completed by the CampUS Safety Project in the first year of its two-year tenure.

Safety continued on page 2

HCC budget increase voted down by UTMSU

Some Health and Counselling Centre services will be cut after fee increase proposal failed

LUKE SAWCZAK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
WITH NOTES FROM
LARISSA HO
NEWS EDITOR

The HCC will have to make cuts to services next year following the failure of a fee increase proposal presented to Quality Services to Students in January.

Representatives from the UTM Students' Union controversially voted down the fee increase proposals, including \$3.34 per full-time student per semester for the Health and Counselling Centre, at the QSS meeting of January 17.

The HCC increase was tied to a proposal for new services that recommended adding two staff: an intake coordinator to help determine the mental health needs of



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

The proposed budget included funding for a health educator who would promote services like this.

new patients and a health educator to promote the HCC's services and increase students' awareness of healthy behaviours. Both would be at ¼ of full-time.

In a Facebook post, UTMSU justified the decision to vote down the increase, among other increases that could have added up to \$11.74 per full-time student per semester,

by saying services would not be cut as a result of the decision to vote down the budget.

HCC continued on page 3



UTMSU loses more staff
The sustainability coordinator quit last week, posting public criticism of his former employer.
Medium News, page 3

Free to follow conscience
There's such a thing as unreasonable religious accommodation, sure. What happened at York wasn't that.
Medium Opinion, page 4

Joust of the jockeys
CFRE's SoundClash event sees DJs sparring for an eager crowd. Check out the video snippet online.
Medium Arts, page 5

Eat St. starts at UTM
Food Network star James Cunningham on his alma mater—our very own Mississauga campus.
Medium Features, page 8

Letting the Argos go
A partnership of nearly two decades ended abruptly this week, sending the team away from UTM.
Medium Sports, page 10

CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

January 24, 2:10 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A student reported the theft of her laptop that was left unattended on a table inside the Temporary Food Court in the Davis Building.

January 24, 3:39 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A student reported the theft of his computer. The item had been left unattended at a study cubicle located inside the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre. Two suspects were seen in the area.

The first suspect was described as male, white, 25–35 years old, unshaven “stubble”, dark hair, possibly had a ponytail, medium build, 5’10”, 150–160 lbs. Wearing a black jacket, red sweatshirt underneath his jacket with a red hood, blue jeans, and black and white running shoes.

The second suspect was described as male, white, 25–35 years old, unshaven, medium build, 5’8”–5’9”, 150 lbs. Wearing a black winter jacket with crests on both shoulders, brown pants, tan-coloured work boots, brown Yukon winter hat with white or grey flaps.

January 24, 4:04 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A student reported the theft of his

backpack. The item had been left unattended at a study cubicle located inside the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre.

January 24, 4:04 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A student reported the theft of her phone. The item had been left unattended on table inside the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre.

January 24, 4:20 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A student reported the theft of his laptop. The item had been left unattended at a study cubicle located inside the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre.

January 24, 11:47 p.m.

Noise Complaint

Campus Police attended an apartment complex and cleared two unsanctioned parties. Patrons cleared both units after they were instructed to leave the areas by Campus Police.

January 28, 7:50 p.m.

Motor Vehicle Accident

A student reported witnessing a minor motor vehicle accident in a parking lot located on campus. A parked vehicle had been hit by another vehicle that had driven away. Pertinent information on both vehicles involved was provided to Campus Police.

Expansion referendum debated

Results continued from Cover

“I’ve had a couple of lectures that have been interrupted by the students’ union [...] pretty much trying to convert us to say yes,” said Shah. “But most of the reasons they come up with are pretty much cookie-cutter reasons. You see these reasons on the website and the people who are giving these speeches are saying those reasons word-for-word.”

Shah invited executives to speak for the expansion “in their own words”.

Hamza Ansari, UTMSU’s VP university affairs and academics, took the question and cited the campus’s growing enrolment. “What’s also important is the unprecedented deal that we’ve received from the university. A dollar-to-dollar match [...]” said Ansari. “Sitting behind closed-door meetings, you might not know what it’s like to face the administra-

tion. It’s extremely difficult. It’s extremely political.

“We’re interested in always lowering the fees for students,” he added. “This dollar-to-dollar match from the university is the best deal we’re ever going to get on the table.”

“There is also a high possibility that a majority of students will vote [no].”

—Raymond Noronha

Noronha also took multiple questions on whether students want fee increases from a union that, in the askers’ opinions, had a mandate to lower fees. “It’s the democratic process and it’s the decision of the students on this campus that we respect

[...]” said Noronha. “There is also a high possibility that on Friday, when you get to hear the unofficial results, a majority of students will vote against the referendum.”

When asked about UTMSU’s large-scale yes campaign, Noronha replied that anybody could have formed a “no” advocating committee and that notice had been given of the deadline of January 10 to form such a committee.

He also mentioned the referendum notice ads that UTMSU placed in the *Medium*, which included the deadline but appeared in the January 13 and 20 issues.

“I truly wish there were a ‘no’ advocating committee [...] It’s more fun engaging students on campus, because they don’t only hear one perspective, they hear multiple perspectives, and that’s when the students actually get a chance to see what’s right and what’s wrong,” he said.

Making campus safety a priority



KAMILA SYDYKHANOVA/THE MEDIUM

Most gender-based violence against women is committed by someone known to the victim.

Safety continued from Cover

The audit was presented before the CampUS Advisory Committee (comprising students, campus service providers, and community organizations), who then drafted the Community Safety Plan, which lists four main priorities to be addressed in the second year.

Chad Jankowski, a member of the CampUS Advisory Committee and formerly its co-chair, described the four priorities as “tangible and realistic goals” that can ensure greater safety for women at UTM.

The main priorities of the Community Safety Plan are to empower students to prevent gender-based violence; to address the needs of young women for their physical safety; to improve the process of reporting incidents to Campus Police; and to provide increased healing support services to victims of gender-based violence.

According to Jankowski, steps are already being taken to accomplish these goals. He noted that over 30 student volunteers have been trained as CampUS Safety Project ambassadors, whose role is to educate students about violence

against women. The safety ambassadors form one of two work groups established to work towards improving the safety of women on campus.

The second work group reviews the procedures for reporting incidents of gender-based violence to Campus Police and the way in which Campus Police respond to such reports.

In terms of physical changes set to be made to the campus, the *Medium* was unable to contact Len Paris, manager of Campus Police services, in time for comment. Baker, however, confirmed that there were talks of developing an improved emergency phone system on campus.

The project will officially be completed by the end of July, though Baker said that many of the activities will likely conclude at the end of April.

“At the time of project completion, we expect to have implemented meaningful and long-lasting improvements that enhance safety on campus,” said Jankowski. These changes include increased healing support services available at the HCC, physical changes to the cam-

pus to ensure increased safety, and increased accessibility to procedures for reporting incidents.

Baker said that whether project volunteers will be recruited again next year depends on the availability of funding. When asked whether the lack of funding would be addressed, Baker said, “The reality of addressing violence against women is still not a priority in a national context, and that national context trickles down to our communities. So the fact that women are still at greater risk of experiencing violence and usually at a greater risk of experiencing violence by somebody they know, who’s usually a man, indicates that, societally, we still have a fair ways to go.”

The CampUS Safety Project was created after the Status of Women Canada, an organization within the federal government, made a call for proposals for projects that would help young people reduce gender-based violence on postsecondary campuses. The Mississauga-based women’s shelter Interim Place applied for the funding and partnered with UTM’s Health and Counseling Centre to launch the project.

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Sustainability coordinator quits

Employee alleges that UTMSU failed to meet his dietary needs

LARISSA HO
NEWS EDITOR

UTMSU's sustainability coordinator resigned from his position last month, alleging in a Facebook post that the work environment was unwelcoming to his needs.

According to Raymond Noronha, president of UTMSU, Kamran Khan resigned from UTMSU on January 22 following disputes with UTMSU regarding what Khan called "health and safety issues" as well as over UTMSU having declined to cover the cost for Khan to attend a conference in his capacity as sustainability coordinator.

In a Facebook post that was also privately forwarded to the *Medium*, Khan announced his resignation and explained that as a diabetic and celiac, he had not been provided with appropriate meal options while attending staff meetings.

"I didn't realize that this would become a trend with UTMSU. No food was ever provided for me and as a result threatened my health, and they didn't seem to take it too seriously even though this was a violation of equity and health safety in the workplace," said Khan's

post. He said that halal needs were more regularly attended to than his own.

Noronha said in response that he doesn't think it was an equity or a health and safety issue.

Khan alleged that during an Environment Week event, local organic food was expected, but an "associate" of Khan's planned on purchasing non-organic food at local supermarkets.

"I will admit that on one occasion we did fail to provide Kamran with food tailored to his needs. He made us aware of that fact and we committed that moving forward, we would order food specifically catered to his needs," said Noronha. "However, there was no other instance after that where UTMSU failed to cater to his needs."

Khan also alleged that during an Environment Week event to which students and faculty were invited,

local organic food was expected and required but an "associate" of Khan's planned on purchasing non-organic food at local supermarkets, an option that Khan refused on moral grounds, he said.

Khan also cited the fact that UTMSU did not pay for his attendance at the seven-hour Toronto Environmental Summit, though he was hired staff, as a motivation for his resignation.

In response, Noronha said in an email interview, "We highly encourage UTMSU staff members to attend conferences that would enhance their skills at the workplace. We encourage them by often paying the cost associated with attending the conference, which also includes registration costs and food. Kamran attended the conference and UTMSU agreed to reimburse him for his travel, food, and registration.

"We do not pay any coordinators or associates to attend the conference," Noronha continued. "The reason for going to the conference should not be [to get] paid for a few extra hours, but rather for the skills and knowledge you gain via being in attendance."

Khan declined to comment.

»WHAT FOOD DO YOU WANT TO SEE AT THE PUB?



Sierra Dawn
3rd year, CTEP

Healthy options. And curry.



Elizabeth Corazza
3rd year, CTEP

Pad Thai.



Jacquelou Magsila
3rd year, CTEP

Pasta.



Alex Escobar
1st year, life sciences

I'd like healthier food, at least.

Some HCC services to be cut

Safety continued from **Cover**

In response to online comments, UTMSU explained that the funds required to maintain the same level of service would come from an increase linked to the 2% Consumer Price Index or a temporary increase linked to the University of Toronto Index.

According to Mark Overton, UTM's dean of student affairs, the CPI increase they are pursuing would be \$0.66 per full-time student per semester. He said this is not enough to sustain the same level of service, adding that the HCC would eliminate evening hours and reduce health education initiatives next year to run on this budget.

A UTMSU representative also responded to a student on the post, saying that "the university magically finds money from its operating budget to

fund services that we 'vote down.'"

"I don't know that the posting makes sense," Overton commented. "Funding for the Health and Counselling Centre hasn't and doesn't come from UTM's operating budget, except for about 0.1% of revenue each year to offset first aid that the Centre provides on occasion to faculty and staff."

As for why the proposal was voted down, Raymond Noronha, president of UTMSU, said, "Student representatives did not have an opportunity to shape the budget process by focusing on student priorities. They were not presented options to revise the budgets [...] This made it impossible for student representatives to approve all the budgets at QSS."

In another Facebook comment, VP external Melissa Theodore wrote that the "root of the problem" of mental

health issues among students was deregulated fees and a lack of government funding, saying that students cope with high tuition fees by taking harder course loads and working multiple part-time jobs.

Theodore herself was on the advisory body that generated the proposal, among two HCC staff and nine other student leaders, including UTMSU members Ro'a Saafan (VP equity) and Sanabel Abdulrahman.

Full-time students pay \$33.01 per semester for HCC services, meaning the proposed increase was 10.11%.

The other proposed increases were \$4.19 for athletics and recreation, \$1.38 for the International Centre, and \$2.83 for student service portions.

QSS makes recommendations on, and ensures the continued operation and funding of, student services.

Goodbye for now...

I didn't think when this week started that this would be my last issue ever for the *Medium*. I anticipated it would happen in another two months, at the end of the term. But after nearly four years of working at the *Medium*, I resigned on Friday.

I've worked at the *Medium* for nearly four years. I started out first as the associate news editor in October 2010 and then became the features editor. Two Septembers ago, I became the news editor. I've been in the newsroom since then.

For those of you who read the *Medium* (and I guess if you're reading this, then you're one of them), you may recall my letter published on October 21, 2013, entitled "Address the Stigma."

In this letter, I asked that we change how mental health is perceived in society. I also revealed that I have mental health issues (which is why I advocate

for lessening the stigma associated with these issues).

This year has reminded me time and again that I can't make the mental health issues go away. This year, "exhausting" has taken on a new meaning. My mental health issues aren't backing down to accommodate for the position that the *Medium* has in my life.

I want to tackle my duties and responsibilities with as much enthusiasm and energy as I can, but those are in short supply (as well as volunteer writers this year for the news section, which has added to the burden).

Therefore, I'm passing on the torch to my associate, Maria Iqbal. I bid everyone involved with the *Medium*, as well as readers of the *Medium*, farewell. It's been a pleasure.

Yours
Larissa Ho

NEWS BRIEFS »

New prostitution laws expected for Canada before December

The federal government has announced that new legislation about prostitution is expected to be introduced well in advance of its deadline this December. The new legislation follows the Supreme Court's decision to strike down laws banning prostitution last year. Justice Minister Peter Mackay said the new laws will continue to protect women from abuse.

Source: *Globe and Mail*

Philip Seymour Hoffman dead, drug overdose suspected

Oscar-winning actor Philip Hoffman was found dead in his New York apartment on Sunday. Officials reported they found a syringe with what appeared to be heroin in his arm. The actor was in the process of filming *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay* and was also to star in *Happyish*. It is believed he died from drug overdose. He was 46.

Source: *Toronto Star*

Nova Scotia protestors demand accommodation for special needs

A group in Nova Scotia is rallying the government to make changes to the criminal code for people with intellectual disabilities. The protestors argue that the behaviour of people with special needs should not be classified as criminal. The group organized eight protests across the province.

Source: *Globe and Mail*

Heavy rainfall killing baby penguins in Argentina

Magellanic penguin chicks in Argentina are dying due to heavy rainfall. Their downy coats are unable to keep the chicks warm when wet, and can result in hypothermia. Researchers say starvation is the most frequent cause of death in the chicks, but have found that heavy rain is becoming increasingly common due to climate change.

Source: *Toronto Star*

NDP proposes limit on ATM fees in federal budget

The NDP is reviving its motion to limit ATM fees. The party is calling on the Conservative government to address the issue in the federal budget. The NDP proposes to cap the fees at 50 cents per withdrawal. The motion is to be debated in the House of Commons on Monday.

Source: *Globe and Mail*

MEDIUM OPINION

Editor-in-Chief | Luke Sawczak

MASTHEAD

EDITORS

Editor-in-Chief
Luke Sawczak
editor@mediumutm.ca

News
Larissa Ho
news@mediumutm.ca

A&E
Colleen Munro
arts@mediumutm.ca

Features
Maria Cruz
features@mediumutm.ca

Sports
Jason Coelho
sports@mediumutm.ca

Photo
Jasmeen Virk
photos@mediumutm.ca

Design
Mubashir Baweja
design@mediumutm.ca

Copy
Olga Tkachenko
copy@mediumutm.ca

Online
Edward Cai
online@mediumutm.ca

Blog
Michelle Bonsu
Safia Amin
blog@mediumutm.ca

ASSOCIATES

News
Maria Iqbal

A&E
Kathelene Cattell-Daniels

Features
Alexandra Geddes
Madeleine Brown

Sports
Ebi Agbeyegbe

Copy
Andrew Nablo

Photo
Mahmoud Sarouji
Christy Tam
Cody Greco

STAFF

Advertising Manager
David Sanchez
ads@mediumutm.ca

Webmaster
Kevin Joy
web@mediumutm.ca

Distribution Manager
Warren Clarke
distribution@mediumutm.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

To contribute, email
editor@mediumutm.ca

Common sense isn't homogeneous

The media mislabelled the York student's case out of fear of the unknown

When I was interviewing candidates for the position of online editor, one of them, a hijab-wearing woman, declined my handshake and explained that she couldn't because of her religious restrictions. This happened again when I was going around from table to table during Clubs Week, asking people to notify us of their events so we could cover them: one of the executives, also wearing a hijab, declined to shake my hand. (This time I didn't have a look of confusion, so no explanation came.)

Now, for me, there was no offence whatsoever. To clarify two things: One, I'm not of the same religious persuasion; I'm an Anabaptist Christian, and nothing I believe coincides exactly with this kind of restriction. But I do understand the shared and widespread concept of limited intimacy between genders except in appropriate relationships. Two, I grant that mainline Islam may not include a justification for a restriction of this degree, as some columnists have argued is relevant. Despite these two facts, I don't question the sincerity or the legitimacy of these women's religious convictions.

But let's compare this case to what happened at York recently. To summarize: a male student was taking an online course there, and the students had to work in in-person groups for an assignment. He asked to be excused from working with a group of females, citing his religion, which a

column in the *Star* last week implied was either Islam or Judaism. The student's professor denied his request at first, but then the York administration overturned his decision and allowed the accommodation. Now the media is up in arms over it, as are Facebook comments and even an article in the *Varsity* last week.

The main complaint raised against this case is that equality has been breached by allowing the accommodation. The critics argue that the male student's refusal to work with female students constitutes discrimination, a treatment of women as unequal with men.

But this assessment reflects only a jumpiness that balks at anything that seems like gender-based treatment. In fact, I think it's a red herring. Avoiding intimacy—even to a considered extreme in our Western culture—is not the same as discriminating; it's likely just an extension of the principle of restricted intimacy. That is, to give the student the benefit of the doubt, his request wasn't necessarily because they're women; if it was in line with the handshake refusals, it would be because they were of opposite genders. According to the tenet in question, they should have had the same qualms about working closely with him. Neither gender would receive special treatment. To take it so is willful naivety. In my mind, sexism is no more in question here than it was when these women

declined to shake my hand because I was a man. (Some readers will conclude that I'm just anti-feminist; they would be wrong.)

The other factor in question is the limits to accommodation. As a columnist for the *Star* wrote, there are good reasons for religious accommodation, within reasonable limits. Agreed. So what's beyond the pale here? Where's the necessity of forcing this particular student to mix genders? (Was it somehow essen-

Where's the necessity of making this student act against his conscience? What was at stake? Only the discomfort of those who misread the situation.

tial to the assignment?) Is it a fear of the slippery slope that motivates the suggestion that the male student should be forced to act against his conscience? What was at stake? Only the discomfort of those who misread the situation.

You'll also find a features article a few pages further along in this issue on the subject of religion on campus (a coincidence, actually—it was pitched months ago). We seem to be

pretty inclusive at UTM. We have several faith-based clubs, we have facilities for religious observances, and now and then we have faith awareness events in public spaces. None of means opposing viewpoints can't also exist on the same campus. And thank goodness. That's one reason why I disagree with the columnist quoted in the features article; the fundamental role of a university is not to squash ideas that a few deem useless, but to furnish us with tools for discussion. As long as we propose to limit the freedoms—the reasonable freedoms, anyway—of a person, we act against that mandate.

I want to reiterate that I'm not defending the York accommodation because I agree with the student's religious convictions. My personal opinion is there's no risk of overstepping the borders of intimacy in a classroom collaboration, or even in a handshake. But I can respect the other view, especially when the only infringement is on my convenience and comfort zone. To refuse to do that is simply xenophobic.

The columnist for the *Star* accused York of failing the test of "common sense" in accommodating the student; this could only refer to the sense considered common in Western culture.

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK



MEDIUM A&E

Editor | Colleen Munro

Soundclash puts UTM DJs in spotlight

CFRE, ICCIT Council, and EGO joined forces to hold second-ever battle of the jockeys

ANGIE LIU

The second-ever Soundclash was hosted by CFRE, the ICCIT Council, and the Erindale Gaming Organization last Thursday at the Blind Duck. Soundclash can best be described as a battle of the bands, but with DJs, whose only instruments are a set of turntables, their laptops, and a pair of giant headphones. Five DJs competed for a first-place prize of a \$250 gift card and a runner-up prize of a \$100 gift card to Long & McQuade. Each competing DJ got a 20-minute set to show off their musical talents, and the crowd chose the finalists and the winner.

Doors opened at 9 p.m. and the first competitor, DJ Tranquada, hit the turntables around 10. The crowd was sparse as he began spinning, hoping to liven up the room with some house music and Euro dance tracks.

By the second set, more people had entered the Blind Duck and crowded on the dance floor, pumping their fists to the beat and shouting to their friends over the heavy bass emitting from the speakers. Dance circles continued throughout the night, with students showing off their moves, or lack thereof (I'm looking at you, Mr. Failed Moon-



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

Students took to the Blind Duck Pub to watch student DJs compete at Soundclash.

walk).

DJ G-Rex added some variety by playing old-school hip-hop and R&B, and the crowd responded enthusiastically. The pub was alive with students dancing, laughing, hollering, and enjoying the bubbles that rained down on them from a bubble machine.

Jill Kennedy, the station manager of CFRE Radio, felt the pressure to top last year's Soundclash. "This year, we had five competitors who all have shows on CFRE," Kennedy said. Special guests Peter Plurtastik, DJ Adverb, and DJ Red-I, who spun but didn't compete, are CFRE alumni. "I think it was cool to bring

focus to up-and-coming acts from our very station this year," Kennedy added.

Last year's Soundclash had three DJs but not all of them were from CFRE. This year's event gave students a glimpse of some musically talented UTM students and lent some exposure to the campus radio

station.

EGO contributed to the event by live-streaming the game *Beat Hazard* on a screen behind the DJs during their sets. The game responds to the music to create a unique gaming experience. Corey Belford, CFRE's marketing director, stressed how important it was to collaborate with other campus clubs. "It's mostly to spread the word about the event itself, but it also helps broaden the appeal of the event and find a larger audience," he said. "That's why we have DJs that are mixing a variety of music genres, too, so there's something for everyone."

Though it definitely wasn't the busiest pub event of the year, the energy of the students who came out, whether to support the DJs or just for drinks and laughs, exceeded expectations. "This year's Soundclash generated a higher attendance," Kennedy said. "However, the level of enthusiasm from guests was the same."

The finalists, DJ Naived and DJ Keener, had another 15 minutes each to fight for the audience's love. In the end, DJ Naived came out on top. Whether it was raised by the music or the bubble machine, the adrenaline of the attendees brought Soundclash to life.

EDSS launches new student webseries

Shows get a new platform with the launch of the English and Drama Student Society's WebTV

KIMBERLY JOHNSON

The English and Drama Students' Society has launched a new web channel that displays content made by students for students. The web channel will feature two new shows, *PranksNews*, airing at the end of January, and *Challenges on Res*, airing in March.

Last Thursday, the team behind the web channel filmed the first episode of *PranksNews*, a talk show that follows hosts Katherine Nader, Marlo Young, and sidekick Mike Dopsa as they interview students (from UTM and from other schools), talk to professors, discuss campus events, and pull pranks.

This episode's featured guests were Nelkfilmz (Kyle Forgeard and Niko Martinovic), a duo of filmmakers most famous for serenading unsuspecting girls in lecture halls, health education coordinator Chad Zankowski, and chemist David Patch.

The show and WebTV are the brainchildren of Nader, president of



EDSS/PHOTO

The hosts and guests of *PranksNews* filmed the first episode of the series last week.

EDSS, who says the idea came from one of her courses and a desire to do more creative things with EDSS.

"It started in November," Nader explains. "I watch a lot of talk shows

and I was looking ahead to my second-semester courses. I noticed one of my syllabuses required us to do podcasts, and I thought, why not do it through a talk show? Since EDSS

has the funds (because we end up doing a lot of academic events) and since we lost a lot of our drama-interested students, we thought this would be a nice way to get them back,

so they could help produce shows for the WebTV channel."

Nader acknowledges the presence of other channels affiliated with U of T, but she says WebTV is "funded and sponsored by EDSS and will produce student shows".

WebTV's other new show, *Challenges on Res*, will find two teams of students competing against each other in various challenges around campus, as the title suggests.

Nader says there will be two episodes of *Challenges on Res* and four of *PranksNews*. EDSS is also open to producing more student series in September.

WebTV offers new and different ways to get involved on campus. If writing and producing shows is of interest to you, or you just want experience in a new area, you can get involved by volunteering with WebTV.

You can watch *PranksNews* on the WebTV YouTube channel starting this weekend, and find more information by emailing englishdrama@utmsu.ca or by visiting the EDSS Facebook page.

Rom-com clichés get a male-centric twist

That Awkward Moment is an uncomfortable, overly accessible mix of mirth and melodrama

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

That Awkward Moment feels like a film that's made to appeal to everyone, but ends up being so vague that it likely won't truly resonate with anyone. It's not funny often enough to be a *Hangover*-style comedic romp, but it's also not serious enough to be an insightful drama. This leaves *That Awkward Moment* in the awkward position of being a reasonably likeable film that's so thinly plotted that it nearly dissipates into nothingness by the end.

The movie follows three friends, womanizing bro-clones Jason (**Zac Efron**) and Daniel (**Miles Teller**), and the more serious, married Mikey (**Michael B. Jordan**). When Mikey's seemingly perfect marriage suddenly falls apart, his friends enthusiastically introduce him to their world of emotionally vacant and intricately planned hookups. The friends also make a pact to stay single in solidarity with Mikey because, well, the movie needs some semblance of a premise to pull it through its 90-minute runtime, right?

Of course, things quickly become complicated as Jason and Daniel almost immediately find the girls of their dreams in the forms of Ellie (**Imogen Poots**) and Chelsea (**Mackenzie Davis**). Meanwhile, Mikey is trying to re-



Zac Efron and Imogen Poots' chemistry largely goes to waste in the tepid *That Awkward Moment*. THATAWKWARDMOMENTMOVIE.COM/PHOTO

kindle things with his estranged wife, Vera (**Jessica Lucas**). But, of course, the guys can't tell each other about any of this because of that pesky pact.

As is the case in most rom-coms (which, no matter how you want to dress it up, is exactly what *That Awkward Moment* is), things take a turn for the serious in the third

act as people's feelings get hurt and various grand gestures are made in response. It's not as though the first hour is anything really subversive, but some of the banter is funny, a few rom-com tropes are inverted, and the film's characters at least somewhat resemble fully-formed people. By the end of the film, you can practically recite

the cliché dialogue along with the characters. Even more annoying is the fact that the once independent and spunky characters of Ellie and Chelsea are reduced to objects of desire for the protagonists to track down, really doing a disservice to the interesting actresses who portray them.

The guys get a little bit more of

a satisfying arc to their stories, but the material still doesn't give the movie's talented main trio much to do. Teller has excelled in the role of a whip-smart slacker in movies like *21 and Over* and *The Spectacular Now*, and while he has the pattering, sarcastic sparring down pat, he basically plays the same character again here. And while Jordan is charismatic and has some good comic timing, I still can't help but feel like this is a disappointing step down for him in light of his work in quality projects like *Friday Night Lights*, *Chronicle*, and last year's powerful *Fruitvale Station*.

It's a shame, because there's a kernel of something interesting here in the way the movie examines its characters' unwillingness to be emotionally available. For example, there's actually something quite sad about Jason's mantra-like affirmations of his bachelor lifestyle and the workman-like approach he takes to his romantic trysts. But just as first-time writer and director **Tom Gormican** starts to wade into this more introspective territory, he pulls back, forgoing a darker undercurrent in favour of the usual rom-com plot points. With a screenplay more willing to take risks, we could have gotten a biting black comedy. Instead, *That Awkward Moment* largely offers more of the usual fluff. **MM½**

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Drama Club tackles *The Tempest*

UTMDC offers an innovative new production of Shakespeare classic

KATE CATTELL-DANIELS
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

The Tempest is a handful of a show. One of Shakespeare's last plays, *The Tempest* is highly complex both in text and in plot development. But the UTM Drama Club's actors and directors are in no way put off. They charge fearlessly into a realm both very strange and disturbingly familiar. *The Tempest* is a play that speaks to people. It covers a lot of ground: generational conflict, power, loss, freedom, slavery, parenthood, coming of age. It would be a challenge not to identify with at least one of the characters.

Directors **Nathaniel Kinghan** and **Isaac Giles** made a bold choice right from the start with cross-gender casting. I hesitate to call it "gender-blind", simply because a character's gender does matter in the context of the play. For instance, Antonio becomes Antonia (**Rachelle Goebel**) and, because of this change, her love affair with Sebastian becomes an important and refreshing element of the subplot. Casting Ariel (**Alessa Dufresne**) as female is not an uncommon choice, but this is the first time I understood her as a female counterpart to both Prospero (**Stuart Hefford**) and Caliban (**Brett Houghton**).

The trouble with well-known plays is that they're well-known. I've seen

The Tempest a few times, and it's difficult not to compare productions. One element that often disappoints me is the relationship between Prospero and Miranda (**Rachel VanDuzer**), which often falls flat. The first scene between them is chiefly exposition, but here I saw an actual relationship develop within the exposition.

Directors Nathaniel Kinghan and Isaac Giles made a bold choice right from the start with cross-gender casting.

For the first time, I felt sympathy for Miranda and Ferdinand (**John Wamsley**). When first reading the play, I wanted them both to disappear; they seemed so boring compared to Prospero, Caliban, and the men from the shipwreck. This time, I sympathized with the lovers and found myself rooting for them. This caused me some distress, since I also felt Prospero's pain at seeing his daughter grow away from him. Hefford's ability to embody an old man was remarkable. He tackles the long speeches assigned to Prospero with impressive dexterity and sympathy, and the final moments of the play left me shaken.

The Tempest is not only sentimental and thought-provoking, though. As the play straddles the boundary between comedy and tragedy, the wide cast of characters provides much-needed comic relief. Caliban, Stephania (**Chelsea Ranger**), and Trinculo (**Zane O'Connor**) get up to some hilarious antics, my favourite being Stephania's discovering Trinculo beneath the "monster's" blanket. I won't ruin the surprise, but I was nearly in tears of laughter watching the three of them charge around the stage.

Personally, I'm not a huge supporter of the fanfare of special effects that often accompanies magic onstage. Magic in *The Tempest* is absolutely essential, but in this production magic is problematized. Prospero is losing his abilities, moving from competent, confident magician to staggering, aging man. The actual magic, though, is about timing and suspension of disbelief. For example, while Ariel isn't invisible to the audience, the characters treating her as invisible makes her so.

The Tempest is a touching and funny show, brought to life by a highly talented cast and production team. Here is the perfect balance of smart without boring and beautiful without pompous. *The Tempest* runs in the MiST Theatre from February 6 to 8 at 7 p.m.

Looking to the Blackwood's future

New Blackwood Gallery director discusses her plans for the space



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Christine Shaw recently took over as director and curator of the Blackwood Gallery.

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

The Blackwood Gallery recently welcomed **Christine Shaw** as its new director and curator, taking over from **Christof Migone**. Shaw will inevitably bring a new perspective to UTM's art gallery, and the *Medium* sat down with her to chat about the direction she plans to take Blackwood in.

The Medium: To start with, could you talk a bit about the path that you took to become the director of the Blackwood Gallery?

Christine Shaw: It's a path of all kind of diversions and connections, if that makes sense. I started off as a practising artist, so I have a BFA and an MFA in visual arts. I did my MFA at Western University back in the late '90s, and at the time it was one of the first programs that was really thinking about the intersection between art and theory. So while doing that, I became really interested in the potential of theory and concepts for new kinds of experimentation in contemporary art. I ended up doing a PhD in social and political thought, which was a bit of a digression from visual arts. [...]

But what was really interesting to me throughout all of that was looking to informal structures for learning—so not just looking to the university to think about knowledge, but looking at informal networks. I've always been engaged in alternative forms of education, as well. Back in the mid-2000s, I co-founded a project called the Toronto School of Creativity and Inquiry, and it was a way of making connections between the academy and the public outside it and [asking], "What could we learn together?" I'm really interested in connecting with non-academics.

TM: What kind of artistic community have you noticed here at UTM, and how do you hope to nurture that or contribute to that with your work at the Blackwood Gallery?

CS: It's interesting that you ask me that, because it's not just the artistic community that I'm interested in.

I'm interested in all of the different faculties and disciplines across the campus, and how the work at the Blackwood can connect with them. In terms of the artistic community, I think our relationship with Sheridan is really important. I think the kind of work that's being done at Sheridan is remarkable.

TM: The UTM campus is seeing a lot of population growth and lots of construction around campus. Do you see the Blackwood Gallery growing with that? Do you think it might get a bigger space down the road?

CS: We'd always love to have more space! It's not in our plans for the very near future, but it's not a concern for us. [...] Something that the Blackwood has been really successful with, especially under the previous director and curator [Christof Migone]—and I intend to continue that trajectory—is creating spaces that aren't necessarily our Blackwood Gallery in the Kaneff Centre or the e|gallery, but looking across campus or looking across Mississauga. It's not just about audiences coming to our two spaces, but it's about our programming going to audiences within and off campus. I think that that's exciting. So while we want more space, some of the spatial limitations we have provoke us to think about new ways of exhibiting art and new places to do it.

I also think that when cities or campuses are in transition, it raises a whole series of issues about the economy, urban infrastructure, architecture, population, and mobility. Those are issues that we can take up in our programs at the Blackwood. Transition is an interesting problem for us to take on.

TM: As you've mentioned, the Blackwood finds a lot of alternative spaces throughout the city, but in terms of the ones actually on campus, how do you see the main Blackwood Gallery space and the e|gallery connecting, and how do you plan to use that e|gallery space?

CS: I think having two spaces is really important, because students are always on the move. So if we entice them into different spaces,

that's really great. [...] I've been thinking a lot about the connection or non-connection between the two physical spaces. One of the curatorial ideas I'm playing with right now is looking precisely at the path or even the corridor of the CCT Building and the space between the e|gallery and the Blackwood Gallery and [asking], "How might we think about that as a space of transition, not just for people but a transition of an exhibition? How might I use the two galleries to actually transform exhibitions and have parts moving and people thinking about what's actually happening and unfolding and occurring in both gallery spaces?" Maybe [we'll] make them pay attention.

TM: Are there any specific perspectives, styles of art, or mediums that you feel haven't been explored as much as they could be that you'd like to delve into at the Blackwood Gallery?

CS: The Blackwood has been really successful at engaging in all kinds of mediums and practices. There's a lot of variety, from performance to sound, sculpture, painting, drawing, installation, and kinetic work. So I don't know if I have much more to bring in terms of the range of disciplinary work within visual arts. I think one thing I'm interested in doing that might deviate a bit from what's been done before is coming up with and trying to understand some of the shared experiences and shared struggles that can be explored on campus, how we might develop long-term conversation about them.

Another thing I'm really interested in is how to even more actively engage students and faculty in our exhibition program. Not just in terms of how they experience our presentation of art through exhibitions, events, and catalogues, but how might they become involved in the actual construction and development of it? So that's where some of my strengths in terms of forming collaborations and bringing different people to work together on projects is going to be interesting.

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.

LUKE SAWCZAK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Susan Justice
Eat Dirt

As I picked up the mostly black and white CD featuring pictures of a woman and her guitar entangled in various apparently affectionate positions, and as I read the solo musician's stage name—"Susan Justice" ("Sue's Injustice?")—my hopes were not very high. A background check shows that she picked the name partially to distance herself from her delightfully reggae family band, and that *Eat Dirt*, it turns out, was released by EMI not even two years ago.

The genre she switched to instead is nothing unique, mostly pop with a production that's about 70% background and 30% interesting. That said, the album is surprisingly well done musically. Her voice is strong and she has a good sense of self-harmony. Our photo editor rather accurately compared her to **Taylor Swift** when I was

(bashfully) blasting Ms. Justice in the office, and if you were to do a song-by-song matchup I think the comparison would be favourable as often as not.

Where she isn't on the same level is in her lyrics. Rather than the mindless but gratifying love songs pumped out by the writer of "You Belong with Me", Susan Justice shoots for a profundity that, while sincere, isn't bursting with originality ("Never wonder / if a good girl should wonder at all"). That said, I was surprised to find myself interested in the title song despite its central theme being a childhood episode in which she ate candy off the ground. "It tasted better than the ones in the kitchen cupboard."

Overall, the album is actually fairly enjoyable. Still, compare it to the greats and you wonder why you're not listening to them instead. "I wish I was born Bob Dylan," she sings on the confessional first track. I can't help but agree. Might've written some better poetry.

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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MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

UTM's award-winning alumnus

From the Collegeway to *Eat St.*, UTM's James Cunningham is indulging in success

MADELINE BROWN
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

James Cunningham is the host of Food Network Canada's hit show *Eat St.*, the creator of the award-winning touring show *Funny Money*, and a successful stand-up comedian. He has hosted and performed for clients such as Pepsi, Sobeys, Canadian Tire, and McDonald's.

On top of all of these achievements, he's also an alumnus of UTM and Sheridan College's theatre and drama studies program. James took some time during his busy touring schedule to chat with the *Medium* about university life (including the staples of the student diet), food trucks, and finding humour in finances.

TM: What were the food options at UTM when you were a student?

James Cunningham: Almost slim to none. We would go to our buddy's place [on residence] for lunch. There wasn't a lot going on there back then. We had the Blind Duck, more or less. We'd bring our own or go to one of the cheap Chinese restaurants on Dundas.

TM: What were the essentials of your student diet?

JC: I lived at home all throughout



PAPERNY ENTERTAINMENT/PHOTO

James Cunningham, host of Food Network Canada's popular food truck review show *Eat St.*

university to save money, so my diet was pretty good. I saw firsthand there was a big difference between the girl student diet and the guy student diet. My guy friends lived on 80% ramen noodles and Kraft Dinner, whereas the girls would actually make things like vegetable stew and soup.

TM: What are your fondest memories of your time at UTM?

JC: All my profs were really good. The quality of the UTM staff is always

top-notch. I had a lot of great times with my friends; we had a lot of fun in residence. The [theatre and drama studies] productions were one of the greatest things about UTM. Your life became that production. It was the coolest thing.

TM: Did you intend to go into comedy?

JC: I graduated and I wanted to be an actor. I thought I would go do stand-up comedy to give me some-

thing else to sell. I began with Yuk Yuk's amateur night and just started working so much that I didn't have time to act. It took over my whole [life].

TM: How did you get involved with *Eat St.*?

JC: I auditioned for *Wipeout Canada* and I got down to the final four. But my audition tape from that show started making the rounds. I got a call from a guy in Vancouver and he

said, "I want to get you on this new show on food trucks. These gourmet food trucks are taking over the street. The network doesn't want a comedian, but I think you're great." So I flew down and auditioned in New York. On the spot, he said, "I'll take a risk if you take a risk. Let's shoot episode one with you as the host. If you do it for free, we'll send it to the network and see what they say." And now we're talking season five, so something obviously worked out.

TM: What's the filming schedule for the show?

JC: It takes one full day to shoot the six-minute [segment for each food truck] that you see on TV. We shoot the footage first, we edit it, and then we write the episodes around that. We go back to where the trucks are and shoot the throws.

TM: Do you have a favourite food truck?

JC: I eat my fair share of food for sure. It's impossible [to pick a favourite]. They're all so good. Every time we say, "Oh my god, that was the best truck," then we go to the next city and we say, "Oh my god, this is the best truck." To make this show to begin with, you have to be a good truck. We get the best of the best.

James continued on page 9

Mixed beliefs on religion's place at UTM

Cape Breton University professor's article sparks debate regarding prayer spaces at UTM

ALEXANDRA GEDDES
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

In an *On Campus Maclean's* article published last September titled "Universities shouldn't provide prayer spaces", Todd Pettigrew, an associate English professor at Cape Breton University, argued against any sort of religious accommodations being made by universities. He used as an example the University of Regina's installation of special prayer preparation sinks and a prayer space solely for Muslim students.

"Religion is not like food," Pettigrew wrote. "Every human being requires nutrition. No human being requires religion. Religion, which puts premium on acceptance of dogma, tends to run contrary to the primary function of a university education, which is to promote critical and independent thinking." Pettigrew added that universities should challenge and even undermine religious convictions as opposed to encouraging them.



JASMEEN VIRK/PHOTO

One of the 17 prayer spaces that are spread over U of T's three campuses.

Despite comments like these, UTM proudly promotes its acceptance of religious diversity. A UTM Prayer Spaces webpage's blurb says, "The University of Toronto provides facilities for members of all faith communities to practice their religion, their traditions, and

rituals and is accommodating a diversity of faith-based and spiritual practices."

There are 17 prayer spaces across the three campuses, each seating between 10 and 30 people.

Students on campus had mixed reactions to Pettigrew's article. "I

don't have any objection to them unless I'm being asked to fund them myself," says Corey Belford, a third-year liberal arts major. "However, I understand that UTM has a lot of facilities that I don't use."

UTM's prayer spaces and re-

sources are currently funded by students through incidental fees. The funding practice is upheld by the UTMSU.

"I think prayer rooms are [necessary]," says Tiffany Limgenco, a fourth-year CCIT student. "Especially for religions that call for prayers at specific times of the day. [...] I'm Catholic, so we don't have to pray at specific times of the day. But for our Muslim students, for example, a prayer room is key for those times."

"I have an issue with there being a brothers' prayer room but none for the women practicing Islam," she added.

Religious accommodations on campus became a heated topic again in December, when a York University student refused to do in-person work with female classmates for an online course, saying the interaction would be against his religious beliefs.

Religion continued on page 9

Protecting women on campus A surprise for students

Now in their second year, CampUS shares their plans for 2014



KAMILA SYDYKHANOVA/THE MEDIUM

Walking along down the roads of UTM isn't yet as safe as it could be.

MARIA CRUZ
FEATURES EDITOR

CampUS, a two-year initiative and the result of a collaboration between Interim Place and UTM, began in March 2012 with the goal of making the campus a safer place for female students. UTM's Campus Police, the Health and Counselling Centre, and the Women's Centre, as well as Peel Police and community agencies gathered information from female students on campus. They found that 16% of those surveyed had experienced gender-based violence at UTM, and that 40% had experienced violence off campus.

CampUS also released statistics on female students at other universities, including that "between 15 and 25% of young female adults will experience some sort of sexual assault during their academic career, and four out of five female undergrads surveyed have been victims of violence in a dating relationship".

In the second year of the project, CampUS is focusing on the top four priorities of their community safety plan.

Priority one is to teach students to prevent and reduce violence against young women. CampUS plans on collaborating with several UTM services to train male and female students in these strategies. These students will go on to coor-

minate campus activities to prevent and reduce violence against women.

The second priority is to plan for young women's physical safety needs on campus. The physical improvements set to be made at UTM might include improvements to lighting, walkways, better access to the emergency phones, and special consideration for safety features in the RAWC and the North Building.

Third, CampUS plans to work on the Campus Police reporting process when dealing with violence against women. The Women's Centre and Campus Police will work on improving the process of receiving and answering calls from female students who have been exposed to or have been victims of violence on campus.

Lastly, CampUS hopes to develop resources for healing supports for young women. Non-campus service providers will work with UTM service providers to provide counselling centres for young females on and off campus. The support may include a specially trained outreach worker from Interim Place and counselling space at UTM.

Jacqueline Benn-John, the CampUS project manager, says that CampUS was created in response to a call for proposals from Status of Women Canada. Interim Place approached UTM to collaborate on an initiative that could engage the

campus community in addressing gender-based violence.

For instance, last December, a 19-year-old woman was sexually assaulted while walking on the Collegeway around 9 p.m. Benn-John says this occurrence is part of the violence that women experience on a daily basis. "The statistics demonstrate the need for on- and off-campus engagements like preventative education, policy process enhancements, and crisis and counselling support services," she adds.

According to Benn-John, Status of Women Canada has funded 21 campus safety projects across Canada. "UTSC has a campus safety project funded by Status of Women Canada. The Scarborough Women's Centre and UTSC have collaborated to deliver this campus safety project entitled Build.Act.Change," she says. "Interim Place has a long history working with boards of education in the Peel Region and Sheridan College." Build.Act.Change is a joint initiative between UTSC and the Scarborough Women's Centre and aims to prevent violence against women on campus.

With four priorities to focus on in their second year, CampUS will continue to work in collaboration with UTM to expand the CampUS project in hopes of raising awareness of violence against women, and creating counselling centres on and off campus.

MESA made UTM a little brighter last week

MARIA CRUZ
FEATURES EDITOR

Did you happen to receive a rose with an inspirational quote last week in the Student Centre? What about a waffle? With a few acts of kindness, the Middle Eastern Student Association brightened the days of students, faculty, and staff last week, when the group held several events where they performed random acts of kindness and encouraged other students to do the same.

Jalal Al Noubani, MESA's vice president of external relations, says that it was a unanimous decision to spread kindness through the campus and that the group's motto served as inspiration. "Our motto and mission is 'To be everywhere and impact everything.' As a student group, we understand the daily stresses that students go through," Noubani says. "Doing something kind, with no reason, at a random unplanned moment of your day would create joy, which was our inspiration." Noubani went on to say that MESA's members wanted to ensure students felt genuinely

surprised and significant and would go on to carry the torch of kindness.

The week began with a workshop that prepared roses with motivational quotes attached to them. "The following day consisted of free custom-made waffles that were given out in the Student Centre," Noubani adds. "On the side, we made special compliments and gave them out to students. On the last day, we thought we also owed the UTM staff some appreciation for all their hard work, so we gave out baked goods to the UTM staff and that was greatly appreciated."

As for the students, though some of them were shocked, the majority were pleasantly surprised.

MESA plans on holding more such events. "The purpose of a student club is to cater to a lot of student needs and create a platform that enforces a positive atmosphere," Noubani concludes. "The turnout and reactions we received when doing this [were] indescribable and moving. We would like to see more smiles on campus, and be the club that contributed to making someone's day brighter."

James Cunningham remembers a home

James continued on page 9

TM: Did you have an interest in food before working on the show?

JC: I had an interest in food, but I wasn't a hardcore foodie. Now I could tell you what goes into a Korean short rib taco or the secrets behind really good American-Indian fusion. I mean, I loved to eat, but now I have a lot of experience in the food world.

TM: What's been the biggest surprise about working on the show?

JC: The people. The great places. I travel to places I normally wouldn't go. When you travel for comedy, you fly in, do the show, and fly out. But when I do [*Eat St.*], I spend days walking around, talking to people, and going to food trucks.

TM: How did your *Funny Money* show develop?

JC: I would pull into college and university campuses, talk to the students that were broke, and write jokes about that. I would give them advice and people would email me back and say, "It worked. You should teach this stuff." There's a lot of videos, apps, and great tools out there, but no one actually goes out and talks to high school or college students, makes them laugh and realize that we can do this. It's a really simple process.

TM: Have you had any particularly memorable performances?

JC: I love going into schools and seeing students walk in, going, "Oh man. This is going to be a stupid money show thing," and by the end of it going, "That was the best show I've ever seen. That was so funny." I love doing the show and making people laugh. I like talking to students afterward and finding out what they think about money.

People are very honest about these things, but no one ever wants to talk about it. I've done shows for 10 people and 500 people. We'll do 10 shows in a week and talk to about 5,000 students over the course of a week.

TM: Where did you get all your financial knowledge?

JC: My dad was an accountant; he was very business-savvy. I learned early on, especially going into the arts, you have to have your finances in order. The secret is you have to afford your [acting] career. For years you have to be on call to go out for an audition. You have to make money somehow, but still be flexible for your career. It's a fine line you have to walk. I tell people you have to use your credit cards wisely, build your credit, and start saving or investing your money.

TM: What's it like having a career that takes you all over North America?

JC: It's got pros and cons. I love travelling, but I do miss being at home. That, to me, is luxury.

TM: Do you have any advice for current UTM students?

JC: Maximize your time while you're there. Do the extra course, make use of the facilities, and join the clubs that you can join. [...] It's a little part of your life to make you a better human being. Use UTM to your advantage. Use the campus. Use the teachers. Now is your time to explore, fail, and try things. If I went back now I would work so much harder to get more courses in. When you're in the middle of it you're like, "This is so much work," but when you get in the real world you're like, "That was so easy. Why was I complaining back then?"

The debate on religion at UTM

Religion continued from page 8

After the professor denied his request on the grounds of gender equality, the head of department backed the student. York University's dean eventually ruled on the side of the student. The media backlash for the accommodation has been severe.

Universities are caught between religious diversity and secular principles. However, many students don't view even UTM's current standing as supporting diversity.

"I feel like the multi-faith prayer room is geared towards a Muslim-only crowd. I tried to go there once. I felt uncomfortable and unwelcome and left within five minutes of being there," explains Vanessa Campoli, a fourth-year history student.

Fourth-year anthropology major Danielle Elson adds that she has noticed students making rude comments to volunteers handing out Bibles during the annual Christian Unity Week.

Pettigrew acknowledges (in his own way) both sides of the debate in his article. "There are middle grounds, of course: have a religious centre but have it funded by outside sources. Such compromises are attractive, but still suffer from the basic problem that dedicated university spaces for religion still serve as endorsements of those religions. And, indeed, of religion in general," he writes.

The opinions of students at UTM show the need for referendum. It's unclear whether the majority of UTM students support the continued fund-

ing of religious spaces and events.

Student organizations, particularly UTMSU, promise to uphold student interests as a whole. With already tight budgets, students may not want to pay for services some will never use. Others view religious spaces as a necessity and representation of UTM's commitment to campus diversity.

In any case, opinions like Pettigrew's are those UTM is fighting. According to UTMSU's multi-faith spaces webpage, "UTMSU, along with students, staff, and faculty, continues to work to improve and expand multi-faith spaces at UTM so students of all faiths and backgrounds may comfortably, safely, and suitably practice their faith and excel as students."

MEDIUMSPORTS

Editor | Jason Coelho

Argos no longer practise at UTM

The CFL team will search for a new practice facility after calling UTM their home for nearly two decades

JASON COELHO
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Toronto has informed the Toronto Argonauts that they can no longer use the practice facility at the Mississauga campus.

Rumours surrounding the future of the Toronto Argonauts have made headlines in sports outlets across the country. Tim Leiweke, the owner of Maple Leaf Sports Entertainment, is believed to have plans to purchase the Argonauts and move them from their home at the Rogers Centre to a retrofitted BMO field, complete with a roof that will cost an estimated \$120 million. The proposed venue would benefit the CFL squad as well as its current occupants, the Toronto Football Club, with its English Premier League-style stadium that can be easily converted into a football field to accommodate both Toronto franchises.

As Toronto fans await the inevitable move, another issue has come to light: the current practice facility at UTM, which has been home to the CFL team since 1996.

"UTM and the Argos explored the possibility of extending our relationship as the team's training camp and practice site; however,



TUMBLR.COM/PHOTO

The team is rumoured to be moving to the KIA Training Facility in Downsview.

we didn't reach a mutually satisfactory agreement given their and our needs in the future," says Mark Overton, UTM's dean of student affairs.

The news comes as a surprise to the Toronto sports scene and the UTM community alike. "They have significantly bolstered the reputation of the gym and, as staff, we'll be sad to see them leave," says

RAWC employee and second-year psychology major Nolan Anderson.

About a year ago, it was rumoured that the Argos would make Varsity Field their new home after the impending expiry of their lease at the Rogers Centre, strengthening their relationship with U of T. The rumour about the team's new home later subsided, but there was

still no doubt about where the team would practice.

With this recent revelation, the team will now be in the market for a new practice and playing facility. The Argos may have the option to occupy the KIA Training Ground, the current 40,000-square-foot practice facility used by the Toronto FC in the Downsview area, but this option will only be made avail-

able to them once the sale is made to MLSE.

As for UTM, the campus will lose a friendly football partnership that has lasted nearly two decades, as well as bragging rights over the Scarborough and St. George campuses in terms of professional athlete sightings.

While the UTM campus will gain some space, the game plan for the South Field is currently undecided. UTM students should expect the area to be further developed in the future. "We don't have specific plans for the site where the portables used by the Argos were located," says Overton. "That general area has been zoned for potential use in UTM's master plan for several years, but there's no specific use or funding associated with it at this time."

Though the Argos will no longer use UTM's practice facility, Overton is proud of the partnership between the two parties. "We'd like to thank the Argos and wish them well," he says. "I know that our community will continue to be supporters and fans."

At press time, the Argos' communications director, Eric Holmes, declined to comment.

OUT on LGBTQ athletes at UTM

Discussion seeks to create positive space

JASON COELHO
SPORTS EDITOR

OUT@UTM held a queer sports seminar on Tuesday, January 21, during Pride Week to discuss homosexual identity in sports. Homosexuality is a modern-day civil rights issue, and with the recent coverage of the anti-gay laws and their impact on the Winter Olympics in Sochi, this discussion was an important one to have.

The sports world seems to exist in a hyper-masculine environment, where athletes are expected to act a certain way on and off the field. More and more professional athletes are challenging this stereotype and encourage a distinction between sexual orientation and perceived athletic ability.

A number of recent outings of LGBTQ athletes, both active and retired, have helped bring this issue to light. Most notably, Jason Collins, a centre for the Boston Celtics, became the first active male player in a major

league sport in North America to come out to the public about his sexual orientation in the spring of 2013. After Collins' reveal, the sports world has taken to preaching acceptance, with professional athletes in various sports speaking out on the topic with the hopes of effecting change.

The NHL has partnered with You Can Play, a campaign hoping to eliminate homophobia in sports founded by former Leafs general manager Brian Burke. In addition, *Re-Orientation*, a recent series created by TSN, showcases this new perspective on homophobia in sport, speaking to athletes and commissioners of sports leagues on the subject and looking at inequality at the Sochi games.

"Being gay, for athletes, used to almost be a death sentence, in a way," says Roya Ghahremani, a second-year psychology major and executive of OUT@UTM.

LGBTQ continued on page 11

White stays undefeated in Div 1



MARIA NG/THE MEDIUM

The team is rumoured to be moving to the KIA Training Facility in Downsview.

FERGUS TALBOT

The UTM White Division 1 basketball team beat the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education team 73-64 in an encounter last Wednesday that went down to the wire.

Coach Juan Nuñez told his team to intensify the pressure on the KPE squad in the last two minutes if they wanted to win this game with a clear difference in the score.

Both teams started the game out

with flawless three-pointers, but KPE took the early lead with an offence facilitated by guard Ari Ross.

Seven minutes into the half, UTM's Zak Khan carried out a brilliant solo effort, taking advantage of a KPE turnover and beating two defenders to take the ball to the hoop.

Both teams presented a solid and composed defensive game. By half-time, KPE held a slight lead over the first-place UTM White squad with a score of 31-30.

Just like in the first half, the second half was dominated first and foremost by attacking flair. UTM's Paolo Militar made a quick bounce pass to Justin Nguyen, who scored from close range.

In the first four minutes of the second half, UTM's Andrew Williams completed his solo move forward through a perfectly timed steal that led to a simple and successful layup.

Eagles continued on page 11

UTM's Watson wins varsity polo title

Women's varsity star hopes to repeat her successes on the team in the coming seasons

JASON COELHO
SPORTS EDITOR

Strength, endurance, quick reflexes, and awareness—these are the requirements of a successful water polo player.

These abilities come naturally to UTM's Jessica Watson. Watson plays the right side for U of T's Varsity Blues women's water polo team, the 2013 OUA champions. A native of Victoria, British Columbia, Watson entered the sport at the age of six by playing mini-polo, and has been hooked ever since.

"I like water polo because it has aspects of many sports incorporated into it," says Watson. "It's not only about being the fastest or the most skillful. You have to use your head and be a smart player for the best results. Also, the fact that it's a team sport really teaches you how to work together and be a team player, [which] you can apply outside the pool as well."

Since universities in BC didn't offer the sport, the second-year economics major came to the University of Toronto after being contacted by head coach George Gross. "I thought it was a good fit for what I was looking for," Watson explains.

After completing her second year on the varsity squad that went undefeated throughout the regular season, Watson has settled into her new environment at UTM quite nicely.

"Coming to Ontario and not knowing a single person, my var-



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

The team is rumoured to be moving to the KIA Training Facility in Downsview.

sity team became my second family," she says. "I was lucky to have such caring upper-years I could go to for advice through all the changes."

Even though she had the support of this new network of friends made on campus and through the varsity program, the decision to leave home and become independent wasn't easy for the varsity star.

Even so, "I made some pretty amazing friends here. They help me get through it," Watson says. "And as much as I miss home, I'm glad I get to experience moving away, taking care of myself, and having responsibilities. It really helps a person grow up."

Watson plans on returning home after her time at UTM is over. "I really enjoy living in a big city like Toronto because there's

always something to do, but when I graduate, I'm definitely going back to BC. The nature there is so beautiful, it just doesn't compare," she says.

Though the polo player is currently in the off-season, the buzz from winning the OUA championship still hasn't subsided. Not only were the Blues able to go undefeated over the course of the regular season and playoffs, the team also

managed to win their games with large margins, ultimately winning their final game against Carleton University by a score of 10-4. This was the sixth time the teams have met in the women's water polo final since the creation of the varsity women's water polo team.

In Watson's first year with the Blues, the final against Carleton went into a shootout that resulted in the University of Toronto losing 6-5 and earning silver.

This year, she was happy to be on the winning side. "It was my first experience winning a championship, and it was nice to be recognized for all our hard work and dedication throughout the season," Watson says. "My team trains really hard, so it's nice to have something to show for it."

Head coach George Gross unreservedly praises Watson for her work ethic throughout the season. "[She] was always a threat to score and did score multiple goals on the power play but also set up other players when the defence started keying on her," he said. "Watson also set a wonderful example of a strong work ethic combined with technical skills growth."

Now that her goal of winning a championship has been accomplished, Watson has a new set of goals in mind for the 2014 season. "As an athlete, I feel like you can always set new goals for yourself once you accomplish existing ones," she says. "Next season, I hope to play to the best of my ability and win the banner again!"

LGBTQ role models

LGBTQ continued from page 10

"As soon as they came out, their career took a turn for the worse," Ghahremani continued. "But today, LGBTQ athletes are role models to the thousands of people out there going through the same thing. And now that we have started to accept these diverse folk in the athletic world, we see them as strong and brave leaders."

Ghahremani felt it was important for the UTM community to engage in this discussion to end homophobia in U of T sports. "Many had felt at one point or another marginalized because of a lot of the language use—

words such as 'faggot' or 'pussy', or the way their coaches addressed them," Ghahremani says. The efforts to educate athletes and coaches to be aware and accepting seem to be working at U of T, according to Nathaniel Virgo, a third-year kinesiology major and player on the Varsity Blues volleyball team. "You accept a teammate for their personality and athletic ability. If I'm not mistaken, at our university there a quite a few athletes and teammates who have disclosed their sexual identity as gay or lesbian," Virgo says.

"If you can play, you can play," he adds. "Your sexual orientation doesn't change that."

Eagles in first at 9-0

Eagles continued from page 10

Each time UTM White scored, KPE responded, making it a close game throughout. Door's energy and refusal to give up seemed to lift his team's spirits as KPE pulled off a rapid comeback, going from 10 points behind UTM's lead down to being four points away the Whites' score, with five minutes to go.

However, a full timeout called by Nuñez inspired the home side to heavily press the visitors for the remaining

two minutes. Nguyen recovered the ball after a KPE turnover and scored a vital layup for his team to extend the lead and give UTM White a 73-64 win.

"[I] wanted to see them get on top of the Orange [KPE] in the last two minutes of the game," said Nuñez. Jeff Thorpe remained further back in defence to guard the basket, while his four remaining teammates were ruthless enough up front to give the Whites the win with a nine-point margin. This was something that was missing from previous tight matches.

TO ALL UTM STUDENTS DO YOU LIVE IN MISSISSAUGA SOUTH? DO YOU SUPPORT JUSTIN TRUDEAU?



UTM Alumni Dr. Sven Spengemann is seeking nomination for the Mississauga South Liberal MP Candidacy and we need your help!

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prateek.sanyal@mail.utoronto.ca



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENTS' UNION
LOCAL 98, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS:

The University of Toronto Students' Union is governed by a Board of Directors elected by you. Our campaigns and services are also shaped by you. Our aim is to provide services that save you money, provide advocacy to improve your education and to enrich your university experience.

WE ARE HOLDING OUR SPRING ELECTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

Executive Committee Positions:	SEATS
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Vice-President Equity	ONE (1)
Vice-President External	ONE (1)
Vice-President Internal & Services	ONE (1)
Vice-President University Affairs	ONE (1)

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To be eligible for a position, you must be a member of the University of Toronto Students' Union in the appropriate constituency.

Please note: Executive Committee positions are full-time. The University of Toronto Students' Union policies require that you cease to be a full-time student should you be successfully elected.

To run for a position, pick up a nomination package during the nomination period at the University of Toronto Students' Union office. Please keep in mind these dates and deadlines:

Nomination period start:	Nomination period end:
FEBRUARY 13, 2014 - 10:00 A.M.	FEBRUARY 27, 2014 - 5:00 P.M.

VOTING PERIOD: MARCH 11, 12 & 13 - 9:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M.

For more information, please email cro@utsu.ca.