



THE MEDIUM

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Students reject referendum

UTMSU president says rumours are partially to blame.

Medium News, page 2

Students are dissatisfied

UTM voted "no" in protest against governance.

Medium Opinion, page 6

Triple talent threat

No fewer than three separate events this week immortalized student talent once again.

Medium Arts, page 8

To all my single ladies

This is one editor who doesn't need another sappy Valentine's Day story.

Medium Features, page 16

Business and basketball

UTM's Austin Chambers says the sport helps him be a better student.

Medium Sports, page 18

MEDIUMNEWS

Editor | Maria Iqbal

Fees, Facebook blamed for “no” votes

UTMSU president Raymond Noronha attributed referendum failure to confusion and “rumours”

MARIA IQBAL
NEWS EDITOR

UTMSU saw the defeat of its Student Centre expansion referendum last week, according to official results revealed to the *Medium*.

In a close count, 1,621 ballots—approximately 50.7% of total votes—struck down the motion that would see an increase of \$37.50 per session in students’ overall tuition. On the “yes” side were 1,551 votes, accounting for approximately 48.5% of the total votes.

“The outcome is clear that students don’t want an expanded Student Centre,” said UTMSU president Raymond Noronha in an interview.

Noronha said part of the reason he feels the referendum failed was that students didn’t want to pay the extra \$37.50 per semester. He said students wanted UTMSU to negotiate with the UTM administration for a better deal than the dollar-per-dollar match.

Noronha confirmed that UTMSU will meet with principal Deep Saini, dean of student affairs Mark Overton, and chief administrative officer Paul Donoghue “as soon as possible” to discuss increasing the administration’s contribution to the expansion.

Noronha was unable to comment on whether UTMSU will hold another referendum in the future.



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

The Student Centre expansion referendum failed last week with 50.7% of votes against the proposed expansion.

“I think the fact that students feel that the Student Centre doesn’t need an expansion tells us more about the condition of the student life at UTM right now,” said UTM student Vincentia Kumala.

Another student, Shivani Maharaj, added that “maybe a lot of students

don’t think that the Student Centre is important because they’re so busy with the academic aspect of school life. I’m not [at the Student Centre] as often as I probably could be, because I’m often concerned about getting home after class.”

Maharaj also felt that the referen-

dum failed because of comments on Facebook by people who he felt hadn’t performed adequate research about it. Students complained about the insufficient study space in the library as a greater priority than the Student Centre, though a library expansion is outside of UTMSU’s jurisdiction.

“One of the big concerns was that there’s not enough study space on campus and [students] were saying ‘Why not expand the library?’”, Campbell said.

Failure continued on page 4

Major student groups submit Ontario budget proposals

Canadian Federation of Students asks the provincial government to create new student jobs and lower fees

CHRISTINE SHARMA

The Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario and the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance have submitted proposals to the province for the 2014 Ontario Budget. Both proposals advocate for lowering tuition fees and creating job opportunities through internships and co-operative education positions.

OUSA proposes increasing the Ontario Tuition Grant from 30% to 35%, amounting to about \$70 million of the budget.

The CFS-O, however, called on the government to eliminate the tuition grant altogether and instead reallocate the funds to reducing overall tuition fees by 30% for all undergraduate students, including those who currently don’t qualify for the grant, over three years. Currently, international and mature students are ineligible for the grant.

“The money from a tuition grant is often not reaching who needs it most,” said CFS-O chairperson Alastair Woods. “We could put that money towards a real tuition fee re-

duction for all students.”

OUSA’s proposal focuses on improving eligibility for Aboriginal students and those students who have dependents, regardless of how long they’ve been out of high school.

When asked about the inaccessibility of the 30% Off grant, OUSA president Amir Eftekarpour responded, “We want to increase [the grant by] 5% and extend eligibility to make the grant more available for everyone.”

OUSA also aims to improve the fairness and efficacy of financial assistance programs and teaching quality for students. In addition, the organization recommends that the province increase co-operative education placement opportunities by 10% and create informational resources for the students’ employers. In terms of teaching quality, OUSA recommends creating 200 new, evenly distributed, program-focussed teaching positions across Ontario.

The CFS-O’s proposal addresses the issue of unpaid internships and advocates for their elimination. In

addition, the federation calls for increased investment in public transit. The total cost of the CFS-O’s recommendations is \$817 million.

CFS-O’s file also suggests areas for saving about \$4.2 billion in government spending. Its suggestions include restoring 2009 corporate tax rates and introducing salary caps for university and college administrative employees.

Woods claims that this generation “has reached a turning point” with regards to escalating tuition fees, “where the younger generation is worse off than their parents”.

The Ministry of Finance conducts pre-budget consultations from December until February. The Minister of Finance, Charles Sousa, has organized a provincial tour to collect ideas from the public on how to optimize the budget for Ontario’s economy. This includes jobs, economic growth, and public services such as education.

Pre-budget consultations end on February 28, and the finalized provincial budget is expected to be released in March.



TEDXYORKU.TUMBLR.COM/PHOTO

CFS-O’s Alastair Woods says all students should get 30% off.

CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

January 30, 5:00 p.m.

Theft Under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated the theft of a wallet. The wallet was found but cash was missing.

January 31, 1:00 p.m.

Sexual Assault

Campus Police responded to a sexual assault complaint where a male inappropriately touched a female. An arrest was made and the investigation is ongoing.

January 31, 3:49 p.m.

Trespass to Property

Campus Police attended and investigated a complaint from the Parking Office in regards to prohibited activity in the CCT Garage parking areas.

February 1, 12:14 a.m.

Noise Complaint

Residence staff and Campus Police shut down a noisy party.

February 1, 6:00 p.m.

Motor Vehicle Accident

Campus Police responded to a fail to remain motor vehicle accident. Investigation continues.

February 3, 12:11 p.m.

Driving Offences

Campus Police cautioned a driver about his careless driving.

February 5, 8:14 p.m.

Theft Under \$5,000

A student reported that her cell phone was stolen.

Young Entrepreneurs Conference draws students, notable sponsors



SUMMER YANG/THE MEDIUM

George Babu, Director of OMERS Ventures, delivered a keynote address at the YEC on Saturday.

ANGELICA LITSIU
WITH NOTES FROM
MARIA IOBAL
NEWS EDITOR

On Saturday, students from universities across Southern Ontario convened at the second annual Young Entrepreneurs' Conference, hosted by the Digital Enterprise Management Society to promote innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship among students.

Over 150 students and faculty attended the event from U of T, Sheridan, Waterloo, Western, McMaster, and other postsecondary institutions.

Co-chaired by U of T students Nicolo Marchisio and Karen Yu, the event featured talks by keynote speakers, including Mississauga mayor Hazel McCallion and Anthony Wensley, UTM's director of the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information, and Technology.

During the breakout session

after opening remarks, participants dispersed into various tutorial rooms to hear from different speakers. Notable speakers included Kal Mokhtarzada, the CEO and founder of the socially conscious design agency Pixel Dreams, Adam

Students were asked to design a feature for Google+ that would enhance classroom experiences for teachers and students.

Deremo, the founder and managing partner at Awake Chocolates, Kim Relliinger, the senior account manager at Google, and the four-time TED Talk keynote speaker Bobby Umar, who is the president

of Raecallan, a company that trains motivational speakers.

The event also included a Google Creative Design Challenge, a case competition in which teams of students were asked to design a feature for Google+ that would enhance classroom experiences for teachers and students.

The winning team—which was awarded a \$1,000 cash prize, a networking lunch, and a tour at Google Toronto—created a collaborative ecosystem for teachers and students for synthesizing information, making it understandable, and allowing students to express their needs and interests to their professors.

The winners, called Team Manu, were also awarded the Innovation Award by the representatives of the Research, Innovation, Commercialization Centre who helped sponsor the event.

The other sponsors of the conference included Bell, Scotiabank, and Google.

UTM tests organic waste digester

System is the first of its kind to be installed at a Canadian university

LUKE SAWCZAK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

UTM's Hospitality and Retail Services installed a new organic waste digester system in Spigel Hall for a 60-day trial run beginning last Tuesday.

The system, supplied by Enviro-pure, breaks food waste into water that can be safely disposed of down the drain and works through aerobic digestion aided by an "all-natural bio-mix additive," according to an email from Andrea de Vito, UTM's assistant director of retail services and administration.

The system is the first of its kind to be installed at a university in Canada.

According to de Vito, the 60-day testing period to be completed with the help of the facilities department

will determine whether the system is a good fit for UTM. If not, Enviro-pure has agreed to take the unit back, minus the cost of installation.

De Vito did not disclose the price of the unit itself, partly because the organic waste disposal cost is currently included in a general space cost, he said, which means a comparison is unavailable.

But "if this is something that works really well and it appears that there's more environmental benefits to it than what we're doing with the green bin and the trucking-off of the organic waste, then even if the cost is comparable [...] the environmental impact is better," said de Vito.

The test unit will handle all waste from the main commissary kitchen and all food outlets in the Davis Building. If the trial period is suc-

cessful, said de Vito, UTM hopes to install machines at Colman Commons, the North Building, and the Instructional Centre over the next few years.

Hospitality and Retail Services also plans to put in a proposal for an ROP to allow students to test the water to determine whether the system meets all the requirements for wastewater for the Region of Peel.

De Vito said that the university had looked at one company besides Enviro-pure, as well as alternative methods of disposing of food waste.

Currently, organic waste at UTM is dealt with in small part through in-kitchen composting at the Blind Duck and a small-scale composting program for staff and faculty run by the greenhouse.

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“The outcome is clear”



This infographic is on the website [UTMSU](http://UTMSU.ca) still has up at print time for the “vote yes” campaign.

Failure continued from Cover

Another reason for the failure, according to Noronha, was the existence of “rumours” about the fee increase. He said students thought that the expansion would result in a \$50 increase per semester, when in fact it was an increase of \$37.50, amounting to a total of \$50 to be paid per semester.

“Moving forward, we can do a better job in terms of [...] making them understand the essence of the fee structure and how it [works],” he said, adding that perhaps making it more simple would help avoid confusion.

He also asserted that some students believed that the funding would be used only to benefit the students’

union.

“When there are myths and rumours about [...] this fee increase expanding the UTMSU office itself, getting better equipment, better furniture for the executives, or this is going to translate into higher salary for the executives, well, that’s not true. That’s not something the expansion was meant for and that’s definitely something that was in the mind of people that voted, because I have heard those comments myself, so hopefully we can dispel those myths by doing better outreach in future years,” he said.

Noronha also mentioned that the student feedback received at the time of the referendum had better informed UTMSU about students’

priorities, including the need for increased study space. He said that starting this week, UTMSU would make efforts to reach out to students to ask what they thought about the referendum and to find out how to better address their needs.

This referendum followed on the heels of another on identical terms last year, which was passed by a majority of students but was declared invalid because UTMSU had used the wrong voter list.

According to the official results, 3,195 votes were cast in this year’s referendum, representing approximately 24.8% of UTM’s student population. This represents an increase of 7%, or about 900 students, in turnout over last year.

»IF YOU COULD, HOW WOULD YOU CHANGE UTM?



Victor de Brito
1st year, biology

I was thinking about making passages between the buildings.



Filipe Diniz
2nd year, comp sci

Make the bus shelter bigger, because it’s really cold.



Megan Kotarscak
5th year, English

More study space in the library.



Yordanka Garmenova
4th year, psychology

We should have T-Card access like Robarts Library at St. George.

Catholic Students Week begins with cardinal’s visit

LUKE SAWCZAK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The archbishop of Toronto visited UTM for an hour-long lecture on Dante Alighieri’s classic *The Divine Comedy* to kick off Catholic Students Week on Monday.

Cardinal Thomas Collins praised the poem and expounded on its theology during the event, which was attended by some 40 UTM students and faculty, as well as by a group of students from Holy Name of Mary College School in Mississauga.

“There’s nothing wrong with reason. We need it,” Collins said during a subsequent question period. “If we just have faith alone, just sort of an emotional faith, that’s just not sensible—it’s destructive. God gave us our minds to seek the truth.”

Lisa D’Souza, a fourth-year UTM student and the president of the Catholic Students Club, said the club was able to connect with Collins through their chaplain.

“We should take some time out at the end of every day to reflect upon our actions.”
—Raymond Noronha

“We live in a fast-paced world, trying our best as students to make ends meet, balancing our academics, work, and personal life. It’s not the easiest of things to do, especially when we only have 24 hours in a day,” said Raymond Noronha, the president of UTMSU, after the lecture. “We should take some

time out at the end of every day, even if it’s five minutes, even if it’s one minute, to reflect upon our actions.”

Marilena Tesoro, the head of school at Holy Name of Mary, commented on the all-girls’ school’s decision to send the class. “It’s inspiring the girls to be able to use their faith and their reason,” she said. “It’s broadening the horizons of the girls [...] and empowering them to be future Catholic leaders.”

The audience learned during an introductory speech by Michael Lettieri, the founder of UTM’s language studies department, that Collins, a native of Guelph, Ontario, holds multiple degrees, including a doctorate in sacred theology from Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University.

This was the first event of Catholic Students Week hosted by the Catholic Students Club.



Cardinal Thomas Collins delivered a lecture on Dante last week.

JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

NEWS BRIEFS »

Switzerland moves to reintroduce quotas on EU immigration

In a close vote on Sunday, Swiss voters decided to impose quotas for immigrants coming into the country from the European Union. The controversial decision was met with opposition from the European Commission in Brussels. Formerly, Switzerland allowed citizens free movement to and from the EU.

Source: Reuters

Denmark zoo puts down giraffe amid complaints, backlash

The Copenhagen Zoo put down a giraffe on Sunday, stating that anti-breeding regulations made him and his genetic materials surplus in Europe. Zoo officials received death threats after they rejected offers from others seeking to adopt the two-year-old giraffe. The giraffe was killed by a bolt gun and fed to other zoo animals.

Source: *The New York Times*

Worshippers gunned down in Russian cathedral

A Russian Orthodox cathedral was attacked by a gunman on Sunday. A nun and a parishioner were killed. The motive for the attack remains unknown; officials have said that the suspect will undergo a mental health evaluation.

Source: *The Sydney Morning Herald*

London doctor faces terrorism charges over three years after arrest

Khurram Syed Sher of London, Ontario will be tried in Ottawa. The 31-year-old doctor was arrested in August 2010 with two other men on charges of conspiring to commit terrorism. Police found literature, videos, and materials for homemade bombs. The other two men cannot be named due to a publication ban.

Source: CTV News

Jury unable to reach verdict in murder of five-month-old baby

A jury failed to reach a verdict in the trial of Ronny Munoz-Hernandez, who was accused of the second-degree murder of his girlfriend’s baby. The jury had been trying to reach a decision for two days before the judge dismissed the group on Saturday evening.

Source: *The Toronto Star*

MEDIUM OPINION

Editor-in-Chief | Luke Sawczak

MASTHEAD

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Making sense out of a near loss

UTMSU's next step will depend how they interpret the referendum's failure

Some of the time, I feel like I've had an epiphany that there is no *Medium*, no UTM Students' Union, no UTM Debating Club, no Hindu Student Council, but only this one division: students who go to campus events and students who don't. This feeling comes out most clearly when, on some days, I see members of one of these groups in the morning for a newspaper interview, those of another at a cultural food lunch, those of still another in the atrium looking at paintings, and finally all at once the same evening at a poetry gala in the Blind Duck. You realize that some 30 students are involved in everything in one way or another, and the rest of the almost 13,000 UTM students turn a half-interested eye on their doings now and then but, hey, school comes first. Now and then you tend to agree.

So the question that naturally arises when a proposal is voted down and the voter turnout is, if not approaching democratic levels, better than usual (it was 25% or 3,100 of us, give or take), is what to make of it. Outside of this editorial, the question of what interpretation to take of the facts is dealt with in four ways this week: a news article with an interview of the union's president, a letter from a senior student, a letter from a UTMSU board member, and video interviewing random students around campus.

The conclusion I take from it is that nobody has set the Thames on fire. We're not looking at a startling new grassroots movement wherein a group of radically disenfranchised students has decided to throw down UTMSU's decisions. Nor do the figures readily support that. The margin of majority is so small (about 70 votes) that chance could have accounted for it. Thus, when the president, Raymond Noronha, said that

That the referendum failed isn't so much a sign of students' sudden engagement in campus politics as it is a reminder of the opposite fact.

"students don't want an expanded Student Centre", I'm not so sure he's right. A better summary would be "Slightly more students don't want it than want it."

But in fact, I doubt most students really even voted on the expansion. Judging by the opinions we've gathered, they voted against paying more fees. (Maybe the unequivocal zeal for paying less that the Canadian Federation of Students fosters in its members worked too well.) They often said that they want to be

around to experience what they pay for—a complaint that, surprisingly enough, I find less reasonable than UTMSU's serene response: that we enjoy what we didn't pay for.

It's because of this, I think, that Noronha's answers more or less put the loss down to misconception and "rumours". Not that there was no misinformation; not many people we spoke to got the numbers exactly right. But I think that's the other extreme from the "radically disenfranchised" explanation. Perhaps students are neither outright opposed to UTMSU nor simply misinformed, but have—at least those who aren't swamped in their schoolwork—some discrimination as to which fees they'll accept and which they won't. After all, besides the closeness of the vote, the recent outcry about UTMSU having voted down an increase in the Health and Counselling Centre's budget shows that students are willing to pay for some causes they deem important. And the reason they don't deem the Student Centre expansion important probably comes down to a lack of use of it—and that brings us back to the bit about the few interested students. So no, the fact that the referendum failed isn't so much a sign of students' sudden engagement in campus politics as it is a reminder of the opposite fact. (Not that this is another tired call to get involved.)

And perhaps the union was aware of that. After all, it would seem a bit unusual that they went all out campaigning for the "yes" votes this year even though the same terms were passed last time around (but invalidated due to human error)—unless they suspected, apparently correctly, that our tolerance for in-your-face campaigning was about maxed out.

The main pragmatic question is what happens now, and nobody has talked much about it. I believe that's because it won't be clear what they'll do until an official interpretation of this year's results is decided on and solidified, which will probably happen over the next couple of months and be passed on to the incoming execs. They might ask themselves: Was UTM just misinformed? Then make it clearer. Was UTM scared about fees? Then negotiate a better agreement with the university, and if that fails, make the costs less explicit and get angry at the *Medium* for printing it clearly (hey, it worked last year). Were the various anonymous Facebook pages too effective a platform of dissent? Be more hip next time. Or... Do students just not want a Student Centre? Hard to say what they'd do then. That one might stump them.

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK



Referendum failure a sign of opposition to students' union

Will it translate into something more substantive?

Dear Editor,

The students' union announced on Monday that its referendum to expand the Student Centre has failed. Of the 3,195 students who chose to vote on the issue (a 24.77% turnout), 1,621 students, or just over 50%, voted against the expansion. While I was personally surprised by the outcome, it certainly did not exceed the limits of imagination. I had seen many students voice their opinions against the plan to expand the building, both in person and on Facebook. Of particular concern to many of these students was the incongruence between UTMSU's stated goal of reducing student tuition fees all while arguing for substantial increases on fees paid to the union to support the building and maintenance of the expansion. This is not the first time that I had seen many students voice their skepticism of the expansion, and indeed the union's effectiveness as a channel through which students can have their opinions heard. When this very same referendum was held last year, student opposition was present, if more subdued, and when elections for the student's union executive team were held, I could sense some wind of cynicism wafting through any discussion of the voting.

Defeat of this referendum signals two things to me: first, contrary to the cliché, UTM students do care what happens at their school, and they don't need someone to tell them to participate on campus. Opposition to the expansion was an organic move-

ment whose members were not organized in any formal manner. There were no Facebook pages or posts. There were no posters, flyers, or any other campaign materials. If you had walked through campus throughout the past few weeks, you would have predicted that the motion would pass almost unanimously. One of the big criticisms levelled at UTM is the lack of school spirit and disinterest in university affairs and so this spontaneous movement signals that students

UTM students do care what happens at their school, and they don't need someone to tell them to participate on campus. Opposition to the expansion was an organic movement.

do actually care about what is happening on campus, even if it is only likely that they are doing so because it relates to how their tuition is spent. Second, I think this indicates a general skepticism of the students' union and its goals. Despite the lack of apparent opposition to the manner in which the students' union is generally run, defeat of this referendum signals that many students do not believe the union's goals are aligned with their own, at least on this issue.

So does this signal the start of perhaps more competitive and, by

extension, more democratic student representation on campus? I don't think so. The general poor opinion of the performance of UTMSU and a movement that would seek to put an opposition team to oppose the so-called "caucus" that seems to churn out UTMSU execs every year are not the same thing. There were no campaigns organized to vote "no" to the expansion. The referendum failure was the result of students individually voicing their opinion through voting. By contrast, opposing the current slate effectively would take organization, campaigns, and commitment, which I suspect is presently too isolated to gain momentum in an election. The last time two full slates ran for UTMSU executive positions was in 2009/10, and I think it is still too soon to talk about the return of such competition to student elections, no matter how unhappy students are with the same group of students that runs year after year.

The result of this vote will not by any means be the end of the union's crusade for an expanded Student Centre. I am quite confident they will return in the near future to argue the need and supposed want for a bigger building. But I think this result will serve to highlight to UTMSU that perhaps they are not fully in tune with students' wants. And perhaps, just perhaps, this might lead to better student engagement.

Sincerely,
Faris Al-Natour
4th year, commerce

To all UTMSU members

I'd like to begin by saying thank you to everyone who voted during the Student Centre expansion referendum. Whether you voted for or against the expansion of the Student Centre, you took time out of your day to speak up for what you believe in. It is apparent that you do not want the Student Centre to expand. But please, do not show any animosity towards each other. We are all students or alumni at this school and we all want what's best for the students. However, it seems as if there is an extreme disconnect between the union leaders and its members. Students of UTM have spoken in regards to the expansion and to the way campaigning has been done. No one likes to be bullied into voting. No one likes to be pestered into doing something they really don't want to do. The former president of UTMSU, Christopher Thompson, had a vision to expand the Student Centre. His vision was to create something for UTMSU which may be comparable to the amenities York students may have at their campus, amenities including theatres, barbershops, study spaces, club spaces, and more for the members of UTMSU. This referendum was not so we can just increase space for a few clubs. This was so we can have enough space to bring livelihood to the soul of UTM and expand the culture of UTM. I agree that this type of rogue campaigning is not right. I agree that the repetitive nature of pestering members to vote is bothersome and distressing. I want you to help us. Umentioned UTM is a fantastic tool for students to anonymously

express their distaste for the way UTMSU campaigns. I wish to encourage it. I want more students at these ministry meetings. More students wanting to get involved with campus affairs. Why not change the whole culture of pestering others? Keep in mind, UTMSU is not your local government. UTMSU is the administration. UTMSU is a union. It is a gathering of students working together to make sure their rights and services are protected. I ask that we all please work together in fixing this disconnect between union leaders and union members. And I am pleading for you all to just be a little patient. The current executive team at UTMSU is almost fresh. A lot of them did not have much experience going into this position and were leading the same way they were led in the past. Please do not lose faith in them. Criticize accordingly, but do not lose faith. If you as a student want other services, please say so. If you want less services, feel free to express that as well. Be patient. Things are changing. There has to be a different way to campaign. There has to be another way to get members engaged. We need to instill culture back into this campus. We need more programs for fourth-year students to find entry-level positions right after university. We need more campus news sources (TV, social networks, etc.), and we need unity. Without unity, there is no union.

Amir Moazzami
UTMSU Division IV board

Letter originally posted on Spotted at UTM.



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Candidate Statements

Voting period: Monday, February 10, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. to Friday, February 21, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.
Online voting will take place on ROSI (www.rosi.utoronto.ca).

Campus Council

ITAQA AHMAD

My name is Itaq Ahmad and I am pursuing a specialist in Criminology. Having been a part of various student organizations at which I have held many leadership roles, I am a best fit candidate for Campus Council. I will lobby to introduce academic forgiveness policies, work to remove additional fees for essential services, lobby to increase Study Space on campus, and advocate for a freeze on parking fee increases. A vote for Itaq Ahmad is a vote for greater student input in the issues central to UTM students!

SAAD ALAM

My name is Saad Alam and I am running for your student representative for the UTM Campus Council. I worked under the Ministry of Education under the WUSC program, where I have engaged students on a regular basis. This has given me a unique perspective on what changes they want to see, from more library space, to better food options. We need to stand collectively and ensure our voice is heard, and being more experienced and towards the end of my University career, I have the confidence, fortitude and dedication to fight for what students need. Please Vote for me.

EMERSON CALCADA

Hi my name is Emerson Calcada I am running for campus council. I strongly believe that the university can be the ideal students believe it should be, that is my goal as campus council. What I plan to do is expand the spaces for studying and relaxing for the students of UTM. Along with that I plan to allow the students to see the syllabus for each course two weeks in advance, so that each student will be able to prepare for their course. Students should be appreciated and I promise to accomplish all of my goals.

ERIK HERNANDEZ- OBERDING

My name is Erik Hernandez-Oberding, I am a second year student at the University of Toronto's Mississauga campus and I would like to run for a full time undergraduate seat on the campus affairs council. I am currently the manager of the BikeShare, as well as President of the Mississauga Freethought Association and I believe my experience in administrative positions as well as my involvement with the student body give me a unique insight into our campus that would serve the council and it's intended purposes well.

ALICE KE LI

As the current elected full-time undergraduate representative on UTM Campus Council, I believe I am an excellent candidate because I possess the relevant experience and skills to be a leader. During my current year of service, not only did I gain an understanding of how things work behind the scenes at UTM but I also made sure the student voice is heard and represented in university decisions. UTM Campus Council is the highest decision-making body at UTM and I hope to contribute another year of dedicated service to the school. Looking forward to another year of success for UTM!

MUHAMMAD TALHA MAHMOOD

N/A.

Campus Affairs Committee

AYMAN ABU-SHAHAN

N/A.

NOURA AFIFY

Hello everyone! My name is Noura Afify and I'm a third year Political Science, Sociology and Religion student. Serving as Food Bank coordinator for the past two years has opened my eyes to a lot of issues on campus, which I would like to have the opportunity to address. I would be grateful to have the opportunity to represent students and student issues at the Campus Affairs Committee and I promise to commit myself to this responsibility.

TRISTAN FONSEKA

N/A.

TAEHO LEE

Don't forget to vote for Taeho Lee! Taeho means great sky in Korean; I am an international student who likes meeting new people and adventures. I will represent our voice to school and make sure final decisions are not biased in favor of one side. I believe in karma; positive thought brings positive action is my motto. I work for the UTMSU info booth and organize events for Language Exchange Club; I am, just like you, a full-time student who wants to know how our school works. I wish I can get a chance to work for Campus Affairs Committee.

MINAHIL MINHAS

Hello folks! My name is Minahil Minhas, a third year student hoping to be a part of the Campus Affairs committee so I can learn about the important decisions affecting our campus and relay it to students from there. I would also like to voice the concerns of students so they can be accounted for properly. I was part of the Erindale College Council last year and would love to continue next year!

MOE QURESHI

Third year. Chemistry and Environmental Science double major. Second time nominated to serve UTM undergrads on the Campus Affairs Committee. "Let's make ours a campus worth attending. More facilities. Better time at uni. High in the rankings."

Academic Affairs Committee

FARISHTA AMANULLAH

My name is Farishta Amanullah. I am running for a position on Academic Affairs Committee because I want to advocate for better relations between students and teachers. We have one of the best researching institutions in the world, which was reflected in the current rankings released in 2013. I want to represent students in the best way possible by helping implement the best academic policies that benefit all students equally. I am very passionate about the academic policies that affect each and every student. I will do my best to represent students anyway I can.

HUSSEIN KOTEICHE

N/A.

GENEVIEVE LAWEN

My name is Genny Lawen and I'm a second year student studying Criminology and French. I would like to run for the Academic Affairs Committee because I am very passionate about academic integrity, academic policies and related issues. I believe all students should receive the best education at UofT - which is partly influenced by academic policies shaped by this institution. I recognize this and would like to be involved in the process where policies are discussed.

MAAHAM MALIK

Fellows UTMers, it's that time of the year when September seems a not-so-distant yesterday, and the coming spring a promising tomorrow. While accruing academic worries and financial commitments, we the students deserve a fearless voice within the Academic Affairs Committee to lighten our burdens. Through this position I aim to increase student representation, expand relief programs and scholarship opportunities, and ultimately provide students with more awareness and potential benefits. Previously I've projected student aspirations through multiple on-campus ministries and committees; indeed I'd be honored to serve again. Continue this hopeful journey towards a gratifying student experience; Vote for Maaham Malik.

KHALID SHAMIYAH

My name is Khalid Shamiyah and I would like to run for Academic Affairs. I am a very dedicated and a hard working person that always strives for nothing but perfection. I tend to interact with a lot of different people on campus of different cultures, religions, and beliefs making me a very open minded and a social person. These characteristics will help me fill in the shoes of a candidate for academic affairs and I shall provide my all to make every student get to his or her success story.

HADITARIQ

Hadi Tariq is an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto planning to major in biology and chemistry. He is expected to graduate in 2017 and plans to pursue a career in cardiology. As a member of the Academic Affairs Committee, I will strive to work as part of a team to educate UTM students about progressive academic policies aimed at enhancing the academic experience of students on this campus. Therefore, from February 10th to 21st, vote for a representative that will advocate on your behalf. Vote for Tariq. Vote for progressive academic policy at UTM.

KUMARTHAPLIYAL

My name is VinayKumar Thapliyal and I am a Criminology student running for UTM Academic Affairs Committee. I would like to represent students to ensure that our collective academic rights and obligations are met through policies considered and approved by this committee. As your representative I will strive to address your academic interest and continue to lobby for progressive academic policy.

MEDIUM A&E

Editor | Colleen Munro

Visual art and performance converge

Artistic Resource Team's ArtsFest returns for another successful year of celebrating student art



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

Student performers showed off their skills at the 13th annual Arts Festival, hosted by ART.

MARIA RUIZ

One of the things I like best about UTM is that it's filled with opportunities to display the incredible talent on campus, with the Artistic Resource Team's 13th annual Arts Festival, held this past Friday, being the latest. Last year, ART was forced to reschedule due to a snowstorm that shut down the university. "We were nervous with all the snow because of last year," said **Becky Arnot**, ART's chair of the committee,

on the preparations for this year's event. But in the end, ArtsFest came together to provide an unforgettable night packed with UTM talent.

ArtsFest began at 6 p.m. with the work of over 30 visual artists displayed around the CCT atrium, allowing visitors to peruse the diverse works of art and to vote for their favourite to win the Viewer's Choice Award at the end of the night.

At 8 p.m. the doors to CCT 1080 were opened to let in the eager crowd that was almost large enough

to fill the 500-seat auditorium. Campus favourites **Northern Souls** returned as an alumni guest band to open the night. Many diverse and engaging performances followed, split into two acts. During the intermission, the **UTM Dance Team** performed two routines.

The judges for the night included UTM faculty **Holger** and **Alison Syme**, UTM alumnae **Siobhan Burbidge** and **Jenna Malone**, and musician and community member **Sonia Sengupta**.

The visual arts prizes went to **Noor Nagawheh** for print, **Amarpreet Kaur** for photography, **Yi Fei Lin** for drawing, **Christine Rodenburg** for painting, **Lesley Hampton** for sculpture/mixed media, **Sophia Luo** for digital media, and **Cailin Stefan** in the Viewer's Choice category.

In terms of performances, **Arvin Huang** won in the solo category, performing well-known tunes (including theme songs of popular shows) and taking requests from

the audience. The prize for duet went to the group **Yalla Yalla**, who performed their original song "Doucement". The rock band **the Lizards** claimed the prize for Best Band with their enthusiastic cover of **Radiohead's** "My Iron Lung", and **Arnot** herself scooped up the prize for the dance category with her skillful tap dance routine to **Anna Kendrick's** "Cups".

ArtsFest continued on page 9

Student talent flocks to the Blind Duck

The annual UTM's Got Talent event brings out the campus' best dancers, singers, and entertainers

ANNIE RATCLIFFE

The Blind Duck was packed last Thursday night as the contestants and audience waited for the fifth annual UTM's Got Talent competition to begin. The doors opened at 6 p.m., and excited students quickly filtered in to await the arriving finalists and the start of performances. On a stage decorated with balloons, stars, and strobe lights, hosts and UTMSU executives **Francesco Otello-DeLuca** and **Emile Sabga** opened a night filled with impressive talent.

Fourth-year student **Natalie** kicked off the night with a beautiful rendition of **Ed Sheeran's** hit "Give Me Love" accompanied on guitar. The talented singer included the audience in the final chorus, providing an excellent introduction to the evening of music and dancing.

A variety of talents were on display: second-year student **Karim's** rap of "I



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

The bustling Blind Duck once again served as the venue for UTM's Got Talent.

Wish I Was Me"; accounting specialist **Alice's** exciting medley of tap, ballet, highland, Latin, and hip-hop dance to songs like **Lou Bega's** "Mambo #5" and "Power" by **Will.I.Am.**; **Sean's**

"All by Myself" on the alto saxophone (just in time for Valentine's Day); and "cool sound specialist" **Jason's** vibrant, ambient stylings on the electric keyboard. The performances were ex-

citing and vastly varied. The audience even joined in with **Manmeet's** Punjabi "UTM" song.

At intermission, students swarmed the Blind Duck's bar for pizza, cake,

and pop provided by UTMSU while the hosts and judges prepared for the second half of the evening. Prizes were awarded to winning ticket-holders, including Square One Shopping Centre gift cards, Raptors tickets, and iPod Nanos, and UTMSU VP part-time **Grace Slobodian** and VP part-time affairs **Hassan Havili** surprised the audience with a song. While every performance was handpicked for the competition, some truly stood out. The third-place prize of a \$100 Square One gift card went to **Rhythm**, a UTM dance troupe and winner of 2013's UTM's Got Talent, for their carefully choreographed dance of "Colours of the Wind". They were adorned with colourful costumes and dramatic face paint. The group experiments with various dance styles to create a style they call "artistic fusion".

Talent continued on page 11

A theatrical treat for TO

London Road plays up the dramatic potential of truth



DRAMASTMARIYS.BLOGSPOT.COM/PHOTO

London Road's "verbatim theatre" technique and creative staging make for a unique experience.

KATE CATELL-DANIELS
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

London Road is unlike anything I've seen before. Writers **Alecky Blythe** and **Adam Cork** experiment with a technique called "verbatim theatre", which means that actors take text collected from interviews and repeat it word for word without removing filler words, repetition, or any other slips that would have an English professor feeding your term paper to his dog. This is challenging to do effectively because actors and audience members are likely

used to writing that's edited and polished before it's even exposed to an outside eye. Here, natural pitch and speech patterns are used and overemphasized by being set to music. While *London Road* isn't exactly a Broadway-style song and dance production, the way it transforms monologue and dialogue into a musical adds variety and allows for repeated and overlapped sections of text without the cacophony that results when people talk over each other.

The story follows the inhabitants of London Road, a street in Central

London where, in 2008, five prostitutes disappeared and were found dead within a few weeks of each other. Each actor plays a handful of characters, including news reporters, neighbours, police, coffee shop baristas, and worried parents. The choice of people interviewed is noteworthy—while other prostitutes share their thoughts, the families of the victims don't, and the man who was eventually convicted for the crimes isn't in the play.

London continued on page 11

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.

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

With a lofty band name like **Christ vs Krishna**, I was expecting some truly compelling things from the band's 2013 EP, *Move and Scale*. Maybe some social commentary in the lyrics or some purposely challenging and cacophonous melodies. But I should have known by now that band names can be misleading. Instead, what I heard on *Move and Scale* was a collection of surprisingly pleasant yet relatively innocuous songs that draw from a variety of influences.

Calling to mind the buoyant pop-rock of **the Shins** at times, **Christ vs Krishna** offers a clean sound that would fall into line quite nicely with the indie music sound of the past decade... or the '90s, or even the '80s. There's some of that distinctively '90s alt-rock jangle in the guitars, yet at the same time the band often calls to mind **the Pixies** at their most surf-y and **the Cure** at their sunniest. In a way, this gives songs like the softly swooning "Fall Apart"

a rather timeless quality. At the same time, it can also give the listener an unexpected sense of déjà vu upon first listen.

Lead singer **Pank Bagga** has an appropriately drawling voice for the band's mostly laid-back music, but he also sings with a conviction that prevents **Christ vs Krishna's** music from losing focus or devolving into background music. It may not be a particularly distinctive voice, but it's a tried and true sound in indie rock that serves **Christ vs Krishna** equally well.

For fans of bands like **Surfer Blood** or **Wolf Parade**, **Christ vs Krishna** may be worth a look. Those who bemoan the middle-of-the-road tendencies and increasingly homogenous sound of indie rock will likely want to stay away. Songs such as "We Fall Apart" and "Walk on Water" are just catchy enough to get stuck in the listener's head while simultaneously prompting them to queue up some temporarily forgotten favourite albums from bands of bygone days.

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

Celebrating 13 years of ArtsFest



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

Drinks, hummus, and more were provided in the CCT atrium while students browsed the gallery.

ArtsFest continued from page 8

The favourite act of the night was undoubtedly the three-member band **Nebula**, who won the audience over with their original song "Skinny Jeans", inspired by the band's experiences at UTM and described by lead singer **Liyana** as "sexy and raunchy, but that's how we like it". They won awards for both overall performance and viewer's choice.

Other acts included **Sean Yokoyama** with his "sexy" saxophone solo (which featured familiar hits like

"Thrift Shop" and "Demons"); **Amar Kapur** and **Peter Serrado** with a unique twist on "Fix You" by **Coldplay**; **Yohanna Beraki** with a cover of the hit song "No One" by **Alicia Keys**; **Matt Lee** and **Ehsan** performing the old favourite "Chasing Cars" by **Snow Patrol**; **Sigrid Ariado**, **Lara Lechner-Anderson**, and **Kimberly Sauder** of the **UTM Dance Team** with a sizzling hip-hop routine called "Headband"; and **Walter Sim** with a vocal arrangement of the Japanese band **Supercell's** "Odds & Ends".

A highlight of the night was host

Dan Squire's stand-up comedy between performances. Squire drew laughter from the audience with his provocative and sometimes risqué jokes. "I had a lot of censorship," Squire admitted with a smile after the show.

"The host was great," said **Malone**, who, besides being a judge this year, has also been involved with ART and ArtsFest for three years as a student. She added that the show was "one of the best performance series I've seen".

ART aims to make art accessible at UTM. For more info, visit utm.utoronto.ca/student-life/arts-culture/art.

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Poetry Gala gains a vaudeville touch

EDSS's celebration of their annual poetry contest takes to the Blind Duck and takes it up a notch



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

The EDSS Poetry Gala moved to the Blind Duck this year, offering dinner, dancing, and a celebration of the annual poetry contest winners.

LUKE SAWCZAK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The English and Drama Student Society's Poetry Gala was a spectacle on something of a different level compared to previous years. Last year's announcement of the winners and their readings, for example, took place in the Faculty Club for the benefit of the few who attended. It was lovely, but low-key. This year, they booked the Blind Duck.

It was fun, but there was something vaudevillian about it—I hardly no-

ticed some of the poetry among all the raffling, enjoyable halal lasagna, dance music, cheesecake, karaoke, beer cups filled with iced tea, and breakdancing. To be fair, right off the bat I should have gathered from the cover charge that I would find people in suits sitting at red tablecloths when I walked in. Basically, the event got classy.

The banter of hosts **Mike Dopsa** and **Carter Ried Kniffen** wasn't awe-inspiring, but it wasn't entirely awkward either. It was entertaining enough to support the three-hour runtime if you also had friends to

talk to and/or got a second slice of cheesecake. That's three hours plus the open dance floor that the pub became afterwards. There was also the raffle dilemma. Ticket 80 won, and then when nobody answered, ticket 124 was called. Then the holder of ticket 80 materialized, but "Too late," declared the winner of ticket 124. Oh well—the proceeds went to Big Brothers Big Sisters, who are, of course, the real winners anyway.

So what was the poetry like? That's the reason we were all there, right? Well, EDSS can be commended for allowing plenty of shortlisted contestants to read. If you don't win, an audience respectfully quiet (perhaps owing to the garlic bread in their mouths) is actually a pretty good door

prize. "Hands" by **Aliza Khalid** was breathtakingly beautiful. There were a few spoken word pieces, too, including one about the illegality of our occupation of Afghanistan, but somehow that particular form has lost its lustre for me. Sorry, fellow poets, it's no reflection on you.

What can I say? There was music (I heard people around me praising **Edna Bovas'** original piano songs as they nibbled on feta cheese), there was laughter, there was dancing. Even **UTM Rhythm** put in an appearance. There were sad reminders that the acoustics in the Blind Duck are abysmal for every application except dance music. And there was the announcement of the winners, whose means of selection I've always found a bit hit-

or-miss—it's based on Facebook likes.

These lucky three were **Nancy Savio's** "A Part of Me" in third, a pretty good poem by **Sara Peters** called "A Visit to Ms. Landon" in second with an impressively sustained length, and the unfortunately vacuous "She" by **Nicole Yiu** in first. All of these can be read, along with the others on the shortlist, on the EDSS @ UTM Facebook group's page.

Also, I was given the illustrious Ms. **Valeria Ryrak's** poems "Downtown" and "Schooling" to read in her absence. In my humble opinion, the winners could've slid over to make a bit of room for her. But you shouldn't take me too seriously. For all you know I could just be rooting for her because she's a friend.

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Diverse performers at UTM's Got Talent *Exploring London Road*



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Talent continued from page 8

The *a cappella* group **Diversity**, comprising **Matthew**, **Victor**, and **Monarie**, won the second-place prize of a \$200 Square One gift certificate for their intricate and perfectly timed rendition of **Lady Gaga** and **Beyoncé's** "Telephone". The group performed their song in parts, and the performance was so good that the audience was ended

up cheering on their feet while Diversity shared a group hug.

First-place went to **Angeline**, who sang **Rihanna** and **Mikky Ekko's** "Stay" and transitioned into **Adele's** "Someone Like You". Angeline won a trip to Montreal for Reading Week and had the crowd shouting for an encore. She obliged.

As the night came to a close, the crowd left the pub, lingering to congratulate the winners and the com-

petitors, catch up with friends in the audience, and grab the remaining food before it was all gone.

"My favourite performance of the night was Angeline, because she was super cute and extremely talented. She blew me away," said fourth-year art and art history student **Victoria Valle**. "All of the performances were awesome. It was really cool to see so many talented people perform. You don't get to see that every day."

London continued from page 9

Like the music, the technical aspects of the production seem simple but are actually complex. In the opening, one *London Road* resident talks about the gardening competition she helped organize to bring some joy back into the lives of those dealing with the aftermath of the murders. She specializes in hanging baskets, which, right on cue, drop from the ceiling and hang around her. People's homes are depicted through a myriad of rolling furniture, including couches, chairs, and a TV set, which slide on and off the stage almost imperceptibly. A couple of rolling walls are used to create bars, a coffee shop, and outdoor walls. This is an effective way to show the changes in locale as people share their experiences in a wide variety of settings.

However, certain elements of the production are a little overdone. For instance, during segments involving news reports and journalists, a panel of five blue-lit screens is lowered onto the stage. This is unnecessary—no actual video foot-

age is shown, and I don't believe there was any possibility for confusion about the characters.

During the scenes leading up to the trials, an actor in a police jacket pulls wide blue and white ribbons from various points in the ceiling both onstage and offstage and anchors them to the floor. The ribbons form a kind of crisscross maze around the characters sitting in their living rooms, working both literally and figuratively to show the kind of quarantine regular citizens were under while police searched for the criminal.

The cast is made up of some of the best acting and singing talent Canada has to offer. While I like to see emerging artists at work, these are the professionals who grace the stages of Soulpepper and the Stratford and Shaw festivals. They know what they're doing, and it shows. It takes a great deal of focus and skill to be able to drop in and out of characters as rapidly as these actors do, changing costumes, hats, hairstyles, and mannerisms at amazing speed.

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Candidate Statements

Voting period: Monday, February 10, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. to Friday, February 21, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.
Online voting will take place on ROSI (www.rosi.utoronto.ca),
and through a secured website for postgraduate medical trainees.

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NABIL ARIF

Passionate, trustworthy, qualified, and committed. Hello fellow UofT student, my name is Nabil Arif, and it is an honor to run for Governing Council. As a UTM student, I believe in unifying and further integrating all three campuses at UofT for our collective benefit. I want to improve our world-class reputation and our student experience. My priorities include ethical and decision-making, quality and cost of education, and strong and equitable representation for students. I vow to be there for you. Elect me, empower yourself. Much love. From February 10- 21, please vote Nabil Arif for GC on ROSI. www.facebook.com/nabil4gc.

KRITI BHATT

Do you sometimes feel like your voice doesn't count in the major decisions being made about your education and campus? If so, vote Kriti for Governing Council. I'm running because I believe we deserve to be informed about the discussions well before decisions are finalized. We need to have a stronger voice in charting the direction of our school and education. I'll work to bridge this communication gap, and decrease student costs however possible. I'll also strive to improve access to scholarships, work placement opportunities, and move toward a more sustainable UofT. Let's make a difference, together. Vote Kriti.

BEN COLEMAN

BEN COLEMAN for UofT Governing Council. But why? Any student can say they'll make UofT more than a soulless string of nights at Robarts, but only Ben Coleman has the experience and insight to make it happen. I broke the story on U of T's interest charges, and will ensure that UofT stays financially accessible. I'll advocate to bring UofT in line with provincial study space standards, and make sure our unquenchable thirst for prestige doesn't prevent excellent undergraduate education. After a successful year as UTSU's most active and vocal independent director, vote Ben Coleman for Governing Council. <http://www.votebencoleman.ca>

SHRIYA DANGWAL

I am running for governing council to further enrich my student experience, while helping to shape the future of an institution I am proud to be a part of. I was the Vice President of George S. Henry Academy, as well as the President of the Athletic Council. During my first year, I was elected, and served my term as the Undergraduate Representative for Free the Children UofT Chapter. This year, it is a privilege to be serving as the Vice President of Membership Development at Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for women. Trust me to be your student voice. www.shriyadangwal.com

COLE DEMPSEY

Hi my name is Cole Dempsey. I am a Full-Time Undergraduate Student at University of Toronto, St. George Campus. I am immensely passionate about education and have committed a lot of time and effort to helping improve education on the local, provincial and international levels through my work on various councils and committees. Now that I am in university, I want to play my part on improving how education looks and feels at U of T. For more information of my past experience and what I hope to bring to the Governing Council please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/coledempseyforgoverningcouncil>

JING GUO

Do you find yourself asking the question: Why did I come to U of T? Maybe you are overwhelmed by the stress and frustrations of your academic life or you are feeling the university is not preparing you for the workplace. If so, VOTE for JING to be the connection between you and the

university council. I support fairer academic assessment, shortening the "skill gap" between real jobs and your education, and voicing for all students. Don't leave the university with regrets. Express your concern, and together we can find a solution for it.

CLAUDIA JIANG

Hello Everyone! I am in first year, studying in the Rotman Commerce program on the St. George Campus at U of T. As a student and an individual, I am passionate about making positive change (no matter how small), step-by-step. Past contributions include: raising over \$20,000 for cancer research and being the voice of the whole student body to promote positive learning in the school community. I may be just a meager first-year student who has firm but high hopes to answer your needs and wants, but VOTE for me and see positive CHANGE happen!

MICHELLE LAI

Being involved in numerous activities and associations across campus has given me the opportunity to interact with and get to know many of my peers who are all uniquely wonderful. I would like to have this chance to give back to the students in a fundamental manner. As a third year pharmacology & toxicology double specialist, I am extremely detail oriented, motivated and organized. As a leader, I am able to prioritize, communicate, and collaborate effectively. All in all, I will get any job done and bring you the best I can give. PTSA V.P.(Present), OHPSA Outreach(2012-2013)+...

MARC LAURIN

The University of Toronto is Canada's oldest, largest, and highest ranked university. Therefore it is no simple task of upholding our reputation, delivering superior education and also ensuring opportunities for learning and personal growth are available to all students, regardless of status, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual identity or disability. I will ensure the interests of all students are represented when advocating on the issues that affect us. I seek to engage the community and promote positive change through involvement, awareness and progressive action. My hope is that every student can enjoy their educational experience here at the University of Toronto.

KEVIN RAMPAGE

High tuition fees, lack of student club support, and inadequate admin-student relations are all issues that impact students. UTSC is my home and the unique experiences of our community deserve a voice at UofT's highest decision-making body. As your full-time student representative on Governing Council, I will ensure that our vision is kept at top priority when decisions are being made. Through experiences in the Scarborough Campus Student Union, my organization; CTWFA, and simply just being a member of this community, I know I will be that voice for us, and I will ensure that our voice is heard. <https://www.facebook.com/votekevin>

AYLA SHIBLAQ

My name is Ayla Shibliq and I'm a first-year student from Victoria College hoping to major in Political Science. I am not only a contributor on various campus publications such as Demo and The Varsity, I am also the finance executive on the Victoria College Chapter of Amnesty International. As a member of Governing Council, my top priority will be providing a voice for the UofT community. I have both the leadership ability and the motivation to help make decisions that are best for the university. Wow. Such Reliability. Much leadership. So Ayla. Website: aylashibliqforgc.tumblr.com

DANIEL SZULC

Hey there UofT'ers. My name is Daniel Szulc, and it would be an honour to be elected as your voice for the Governing Council. Your undergraduate experience should be some of the best, most creative and most inspiring years of your life, and I plan to ensure that every student has that opportunity.

I'm constantly involved in my community from fundraisers to organized sports, so I hear and see all of your problems. School's hard enough and as your representative I'll do all that I can to ensure that what you want and what you need is what you'll get.

HTAY TINT

I'm a first-year student in the TYP, which was developed to facilitate access for students who did not have an opportunity to finish their education because of the circumstances beyond their control. As a former refugee who was prevented from completing education in Burma, I understand the importance of access to education in counteracting the effects of inequality. That's why I've become involved in the fight to save TYP from threats to its funding, faculty and space. As your representative on Governing Council, I will continue to work to preserve the TYP and to help build an accessible university.

LOUIS TRAIN

Louis Train has been working to improve the campus since his first year. He is an editor for blogUT, The Mike, and The Howl; an executive of Peace by PEACE; an employee of the Family Care Office; and a participant on the Arts and Science Council and the Humanities Curriculum Committee. Now Louis asks for your vote so he can represent you on the Governing Council. His devotion and experience make him the ideal candidate to fight on your behalf for improvements to student life. Get on board - get on the Train train. www.votetrain.co.nr

FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, CONSTITUENCY II (PROFESSIONAL FACULTIES)

ANASTASIA ALKSNIS

My goal as an elected member of Governing Council will be to bring forth a clear and unbiased student perspective when addressing all university affairs presented to council. I hope to strengthen bonds between administration and students, communicating our views effectively, using the experience I possess from previously serving on executive councils. With over 67 thousand undergraduates, we make up the majority of the school population, and it is of utmost importance that our needs be met in order to promote a flourishing academic environment. <https://www.facebook.com/aa4GC>

ANDREW GIRGIS

Having served on the Governing Council for the past two terms, I have been dedicated to fulfilling the diverse obligations that come with being a steward of the university. I have been privileged to serve for the Executive Committee, the Academic and Business Boards, the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs and have paneled a number of cases for the Academic Appeals Committee. I authored several peer-reviewed articles and was a recipient of a national award for an innovative start-up business. I am committed to applying my accrued experience with your continued support to help shape our university moving forward.

PADRAIGAN MURPHY

As a Faculty of Law student, I have demonstrated commitment to student participation and governance issues. Active in the SLS working groups on Financial Aid, Career Development, and Tuition Advocacy, I've worked to improve the quality of academic experience for professional students. Previously, as a course union executive, I successfully lobbied the Faculty administration to preserve the Cognitive Science academic program when budget cuts threatened its existence. My priorities include increasing student financial aid, mental health and wellness, lobbying governments for increased funding and supporting all professional students. From February 10-21 on ROSI, vote Padraigan Murphy for Governing Council. <http://tinyurl.com/pvuma9d>.

ANDI MUSA

As a second-year Chemical Engineering student, Executive of the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering – UofT branch, and member of the Greek Students' Association, I have been an active student at the University of Toronto. As Governor, I will be an assertive voice for all professional students on issues such as fair representation and differentially high fees for professional students. I will work with Governing Council to ensure experiential learning opportunities so students have practical experience and work placements for their academic programs. Vote online on ROSI from February 10-21. Vote Andi Musa for Governor. www.andimusa.com

AVINEET (VINNY) RANDHAWA

There really isn't much that can be said in statements like this, so I'll keep it short and meaningful. Although our faculty rivalries are fun, UofT is very decentralized so I'll advocate injecting more effort into creating more campus-wide events and the like. And, although you're probably tired of hearing this by now, I'll ensure every engineer and professional program has a voice on the campus-wide scale. Finally, being from Vancouver, you can believe I've got a huge vested interest in ensuring campus-life is as great as it can be. Thanks for voting!

QASSIM TEJPAR

I am very excited to be running for Governing Council! I am a Resident Physician in Family Medicine at the University of Toronto, as well as one of the chief residents at my training site in Mississauga. In 2009-10, I served as a student representative on the General Faculties Council at the University of Alberta. During that year, I worked with a group of student leaders to successfully advocate against a tuition increase for Medicine and Dentistry students. I hope to use my experiences and passion to represent my fellow students at the U of T. Thank you!

IVAN ZDRAVKOVIC

As a representative for all professional faculties, I will ensure that all our interests will be fairly and properly represented when overseeing affairs at the University. My varied work, volunteer, and extra-curricular experience will allow me to have an informed, fair view to properly represent you all, my constituents, in fulfilling the responsibilities expected of an elected member of Governing Council. These experiences include 16 months of engineering work experience and various executive positions in the Engineering Society and UofT clubs. In addition to my position's obligations, I will create a positive university experience for all Professional Faculty students.

PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

LAURA AMODIO

Living in a society that promotes and values life-long learning, part-time students are clearly a vital component of the University of Toronto student body. As a fellow part-time student who has many responsibilities outside of studies, I can relate to those of us who are trying to find balance in it all. As Governor, I'll represent you and be your student voice. I'll listen to you to determine what your key issues/concerns are, come up with an action plan on how to address and advocate for the key issues, and follow through on the action plan.

SUSAN FROOM

As a mature student studying philosophy and political science, and President of the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students, I know firsthand that part-time students need lower tuition fees, access for students with disabilities, more bursaries, childcare, evening courses and university services. I have advocated on these issues across UofT at the Council of Student Services, Library Committee and Hart House, provincially, and nationally through the Canadian Federation of Students. Years of student organizing and social justice advocacy have given me the skills and experience to serve on Governing Council. From February 10-21, vote Susan Froom for Part-time Governor on ROSI. www.facebook.com/froom4gc

REEMA GOWANI

Vote Reema Gowani - my goal is to bring forward the student voice at U of T. I will put forth my time and absolute effort, going above and beyond to represent the Arts and Science students. Knowing that U of T is a large institution, my plan is to bring a fresh, innovative perspective to help govern our school. Everyone should have an unbiased, accurate understanding of any issues that arise at their university, and most importantly someone who can help voice their opinions of those issues. Let me represent you, and I will make your voice heard - your opinion matters.

SUSAN MURRAY

My name is Susan Murray and I am running for Part-Time Undergraduate Representative on Governing Council. As a third-year Woodsworth student in Fine Art History and Classical Civilization, my academic experience has been enhanced through my involvement in the Part-time students' union. I have successfully organized campus events and campaigns, aiming to serve the needs of part-time students with disabilities and mature, single-parent students. My goal is to ensure the voices of all students are heard. From February 10-21, vote on ROSI to help me accomplish this goal and to serve as a member of the Governing Council for 2014/15. www.facebook.com/susan4gc

GRADUATE STUDENTS, CONSTITUENCY I (HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)

CAITLIN CAMPISI

As a PhD student in Humanities, Social Sciences and Social Justice Education at OISE/UT, I successfully advocated for increased student representation in departmental governance. As OISE representative on the Graduate Students' Union, I was chosen to represent all graduate students on the Council on Student Services, where I advocated against ancillary fee increases. As your Governor, I'll be a critical voice for all graduate students, advocating to increase graduate student funding, defend academic freedom, and increase resources for international students, student-parents, and mental health services. Vote Caitlin Campisi on ROSI for Governing Council on February 10-21, 2014. www.strikingly.com/caitlincampisigc

MICHAEL DICK

I am a PhD Candidate in Information Studies at the Faculty of Information with a background in media, communications, and information technology. I am currently a member of faculty, SGS, and university-wide academic appeals boards, and previously served on the Academic Board, the Graduate Education Council, and on multiple subcommittees of both. In addition, I am an experienced student leader, having served as a Vice President and as President of my faculty's Doctoral Students' Association. As a member of Governing Council, I would leverage my expertise in academic affairs to build mutually beneficial relationships between graduate students and the administration.

GRADUATE STUDENTS, CONSTITUENCY II (PHYSICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES)

AFSHIN ARTI

My name is Afshin Arti. I am a first year PhD candidate on Biomedical Engineering at IBBME. I have a M.Sc in Animal Science from the University of Guelph. As a governing council nominee I do all my best to with expressing the opinion and demands of you students could express your will to the university. I wish to you elect me to could serve you graduate students with all my best.

JAMES BATEMAN

James Bateman is a graduate student in the Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering. He previously served on Governing Council and Academic Board during the 2012/13 term, as an undergraduate in Engineering Science. As a former governor,

mature student and entrepreneur, with nearly a decade of industry experience, James is well prepared to represent graduate students at the University of Toronto on Governing Council. Vote for James Bateman and trust in his experience to represent you on the highest governing board at U of T. More information can be found at <http://individual.utoronto.ca/jamesbateman/>

ANDREW FISHER

My name is Andrew and I am a Master's student in Civil Engineering. Throughout my academic career, I have successfully represented thousands of students at departmental, faculty, and university-wide levels. Using this experience, I will bring an informed student perspective to decisions involving your finances, academics, and overall student experience. I will work hard, in concert with the UTGSU and CUPE 3902, to advocate your graduate student needs to university officials. My dedication, relevant experience, and personable demeanor make me a qualified fit to be your next graduate representative on Governing Council. www.andrewfisher.ca/governingcouncil

MARIO MILICEVIC

Mario Milicevic is a highly-motivated engineering PhD student, who is also a UofT undergraduate alumnus (2010), researcher, teaching assistant, and avid Hart House enthusiast with comprehensive experience in student dynamics. His passion for student engagement and extensive volunteer experience leading local and international teams to deliver high-impact results, will enable him to uphold and voice the academic, employment, and funding interests of graduate students. As Chair of the IEEE Toronto Young Professionals group, Mario understands the importance of investing in UofT's next generation of innovative leaders – YOU. Mario will strive to make strategic and financially-savvy choices to support YOUR success. <http://bit.ly/milmar>

ALEXANDRA HARRIS

This past year the university has undergone substantial leadership transformation, so it's particularly important to have effective stewards right now to guide the university's strategic, financial and academic directions. I believe I've been a committed, collaborative and trustworthy representative and am seeking your support to continue my efforts. Also, I reflect the perspectives of both professional and research-focused graduate students, having completed a Master of Nursing & Health Administration and now studying as a 2nd year PhD student. So please, RE-ELECT ALEXANDRA (ALEX) HARRIS as your representative. To learn more about my leadership experience and goals as a governor, visit www.alexharrisrn.com

MEHALA SUBRAMANIAPILLAI

I am a Master's student at the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, having completed my undergraduate studies also at the University of Toronto, majoring in Neuroscience. I have served on the Board of Directors at Justice for Children and Youth, currently organize women's intramural basketball and support many community organizations. Through the graduate perspective, I will be able to advocate for and act in the best interests of this world-class university in order to support its continued growth, development and success. It would be my privilege to serve as your graduate representative. I hope to have your support.

DAN WEAVER

Dan Weaver is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Physics who has spent a decade engaged with the University of Toronto community. Dan has proven leadership experience advocating for science funding and serves on Evidence for Democracy's Board of Directors. Dan also has extensive experience as an educator. He offers the excellent public speaking skills needed to give graduate students a respected voice. Dan offers you an experienced, reliable, and dedicated representative at the Governing Council. Dan is committed to working with other student organizations to improve our shared community, particularly to advocate for minimum financial support above the poverty line. www.danweaver.ca

Questions about the Governing Council elections process may be directed to the Chief Returning Officer, Mr. Anwar Kazimi (416-978-8427; anwar.kazimi@utoronto.ca), or the Deputy Returning Officer, Ms. Mae-Yu Tan (416-978-8794; maeyu.tan@utoronto.ca).

Students registered at UTM and UTSC also encouraged to vote in the elections for the Campus Councils and their Standing Committees.

MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

An MMA fighter's road to recovery

After suffering an injury that nearly killed him, Nic Du Preez's training got him back into shape

CASSANDRA TAGLIAPIETRA

It doesn't take a dangerous sport or job for parents to worry about their children's safety. In January 2012, Nic Du Preez's family had their lives put on hold while their son battled life-threatening injuries after a serious accident in Thailand. A former MMA fighter who dreamed of a professional fighting career, Du Preez shared the story of his accident and recovery with me.

Now 23 years old, Du Preez, first developed a love for the sport when he was 15. After trying various classes in boxing and floor work, he found his passion in Muay Thai. Du Preez started his MMA career in Grade 10, and he competed in his first official fight six months after beginning his training.

Du Preez trained to become a firefighter but found it hard to get a job after graduating. "They said I was young and needed more life experience," he says. "So [my parents and I] decided that I'd go to Thailand, and I got my life experience that way."

Du Preez arrived in Chiang Mai, Thailand in September 2011, where he continued training alongside his



Nic Du Preez practising his technique during his time in Thailand.

friend Dan. He practised his technique and devoted his time to perfecting his style, training for eight hours a day. It was in Thailand that Preez would kick-start his professional career in Muay Thai, fighting once every three weeks. "I got paid [for the fights]—3,000 baht, which is C\$100. But over there, it can feed a family for a month," says Du Preez.

"I was unstoppable," he continues. "I was 3-0 in my professional career with two knockouts against people who practised every day for years and years. I had it all going for me."

Just four months after arriving in Thailand, Du Preez went for a leisurely ride on his scooter and collided with another vehicle while trying to switch lanes. Du Preez wasn't wear-

ing a helmet. "I went to change lanes early in the morning and hit a car, fell off the bike. The guy in the car got out and stopped all the other traffic from hitting me," Du Preez recalls. "The paramedics took me to the hospital. They went through my phone and dialed the last number that I called. It was a friend I had over there. She posted on my Facebook that if anyone

knows Nic's parents, please tell them he's been in a serious accident."

Du Preez's parents and his best friend, Brent, felt something was wrong when they hadn't heard from him for a few days. Brent was browsing Facebook late at night when he came across the message. He immediately called Nic's parents. Upon being alerted of Du Preez's injury, his parents frantically called Dan to check on the severity of his injury. They were told to fly to Thailand as soon as they could. "You're in a different country, about 20 hours away, and can't do anything for your child," says Du Preez. "My mom was worried something would happen, and it came true."

Du Preez suffered a brain injury resulting in the loss of basic motor skills. He couldn't walk, talk, swallow, or feed himself. He had to relearn all these essential skills and lost all strength on his left side, and the weakness on his left side persists to this day. The brain injury also affected his memory, leaving him unable to remember the week prior to the accident, and up to a month following the accident.

Preez continued on page 15

Depending on daddy's money for school

With the high cost of tuition, female students find new funding methods: sugar daddies

ANNIE KAZMI
WITH NOTES FROM
ARANIE VIJAYARATNAM

The cost of education is rising but the value of a degree is also, they say, high. The majority of students think of a postsecondary education as a gateway to a job, income, and a career. And the increasing importance placed on education means that some students are willing to pay their tuition using any means possible.

Seekingarrangements.com serves this market by matching students who need funding with money-makers who are able to fund their education (and then some). The site boasts the "rare opportunity to finish college debt-free" with the "sugar lifestyle". When registering, students are able to select what kind of lifestyle expectations they have, from "practical" to "high".

The *Medium* contacted Leroy Velasquez, public relations manager for the site, who revealed that although both male and female students are able to register and find "sugar daddies" or "sugar mommies", the site primarily matches female "sugar babies" with older males. Most females on the site are 19 to



U of T ranks fifth among Canadian universities with the fastest-growing number of sugar babies.

26, while the sugar daddies average around 39 and make about \$250,000 a year. The sugar babies receive about \$3,000 a month from their sponsors. Since the website launched in 2006, its membership has grown to 2.7 million users.

Information released in 2013 indicates that the school with the fastest-growing numbers of sugar babies is the University of Central Florida, while New York University currently

has the most students registered with the site.

In Canada, seven of the fastest-growing sugar-baby schools are reportedly in Ontario, with U of T sitting at number five. Most UTM students we talked to, though, weren't aware that this site exists. Although most girls were shocked at the exchange of services that the site offers, it wasn't something they outright condemned.

Hejab Batool is an 18-year-old student enrolled in criminology who doesn't take issue too seriously with the site. "I've never heard about the sugar daddy thing before. I was very shocked, and a [bit] disgusted, because something of this sort isn't accepted very easily in society," she says. "[But] everyone has the right to do what they believe in. If the girls are adults then there should be no problem. But they should al-

ways make sure that they're safe, and should quickly get out of any situation in which they don't feel comfortable."

Jam Bravo, a 27-year-old pharmacy student, had a similar reaction. "At first I was very judgmental, but after careful thinking I realize there's nothing wrong with forming a relationship with someone in that way, as long as both parties are honest about their intentions and what they want out of the relationship," she said.

Feher Mansoor, a 27-year-old law student at the University of Florida, says, "The sugar-baby [phenomenon] is really just a sign of the times. Tuition is higher than ever. It's harder to pay for cars, food, [and] clothing than it ever has been as a student. Though the idea of a sugar baby may be morally questionable to some, I see it as women simply being pragmatic about their circumstances."

Most of the students interviewed saw the situation as something that girls were forced into after struggling with tuition, books, living expenses, and other costs associated with being a student.

Sugar continued on page 15

Beating his inner demons



3.BPBLOGSPOT.COM/PHOTO

Once 3-0 in his professional career, Du Preez lost it all in a freak accident.

Preez continued from page 14

When Du Preez woke up in the hospital and started remembering things, he wanted to start training again. He was required to go to physiotherapy but would make up excuses to avoid it. Du Preez told the doctors he wanted to do what he was used to; he wanted to run, and do push-ups, sit-ups, and squats. The hospital managed to find a nurse to run with Du Preez every day when he was able-bodied enough. The doctors told him that if he wasn't so well conditioned, he would have died. In May 2012, Du Preez was discharged from the hospital.

"I was told I would never be able to fight again. This was my dream. I would have given anything in the world to be a champion," Du Preez says. "When I got this news, I didn't know what I was going to do. I was

convinced I was going to kill myself."

Later, while browsing a bodybuilding forum, Nic came across Aziz Shavershian, a body builder and personal trainer known as Zyzz, who inspired him to start weightlifting again and to begin rebuilding his life. He competed at 155 pounds, but after being in the hospital for four and a half months, his weight had dropped to 130 pounds. Six months after his release from the hospital and after countless hours in the gym, Du Preez brought his weight up to 185 pounds.

Nearly two years after his accident, Du Preez carries on with a separated shoulder and a scar on the side of his face near his ear from hitting the side view mirror of the car.

"I still have a little bit of a memory issue, but it's not too bad. The energy it takes for my brain to process something versus yours is much more, so I get tired very easily," says Du Preez.

"That's why I work a split shift. I work for a bit, and then I'm extremely tired. I come home to nap, and then go back to work later in the evening. Sometimes, my left arm will start shaking if I'm lifting weights because of the nerve damage. I also get headaches pretty often."

Even though he can no longer compete, Du Preez continues to practise what he loves. He plans on going back to school to study nursing. In the meantime, he works as a certified personal trainer for L.A. Fitness, where he helps people reach their goals as he continues to strive towards his goal of weighing 200 pounds.

"I almost had it all, then had it taken away by a freak accident. I wasn't supposed to live, yet here I am," Du Preez says. "I used to think I was invincible. Now I know how easily life can be ended and how precious it is."

LinkedIn University Pages: not much use to students at present

Mostly alumni viewing the pages meant mainly for employers

FARAH KHAN

If there's one thing most university students can agree on, it's how difficult it is to find a job. Cue the millions of students creating LinkedIn accounts in the hopes of finding a job and making some steady income. Currently, 30 million of LinkedIn's 259 million members are students and graduates, and this number only continues to grow.

And now, the professional networking site is working to increase the appeal to its fastest-growing demographic by introducing LinkedIn University Pages, a tool that helps educational institutions promote themselves. Each university's page advertises itself by posting recent news and information about the school and engaging with prospective students. People who visit the page can update themselves on the institution's activities, ask questions about programs, and see notable graduates and careers pursued by alumni.

More than anything, University Pages is a marketing tool, drawing in potential students and adding to LinkedIn's clientele. Since its launch with 200 universities in

August, University Pages has been adding about 200 more each week. There are currently approximately 1,500 university pages for institutions in over 60 countries.

But does the tool succeed in helping students? You'd think the most useful aspect of University Pages would be for potential employers to view the professional careers and employment of university graduates.

LinkedIn has a lot more work to do in order to catch the eye of the desired audience, since they're currently mostly viewed by alumni instead of potential students or employers.

Isadora Petrovic, careers officer at U of T's Faculty of Information, highly recommends students use both the university page and the LinkedIn community itself. "Networking is still one of the key strategies for obtaining employment,

and I strongly suggest that students create LinkedIn accounts as a way of creating presence online," says Petrovic. "[A] LinkedIn account should be yet another document, apart from a cover letter and resume, which can enhance a job application since it contains additional information that's not listed on a resume."

LinkedIn has a lot more work to do in order to catch the eye of the desired audience with University Pages, since they're currently mostly viewed by alumni instead of potential students or employers. In this sense, the LinkedIn university pages appear to be competing with university Facebook pages, which draw a lot more attention.

A relatively new service, University Pages generally fulfills the purpose of promoting the institutions' brands. In terms of helping university students and graduates find a job, the page is more of a place to build contacts than market one's skills and work ethic. But the service shouldn't be dismissed for that reason, in Petrovic's opinion. "You never know—you might be 'talking' to your future supervisor," she says.

Female students opt for sugar daddy help

Sugar continued from page 14

When Eran Bath, a 22-year-old double major in English and history, was asked if she could see herself engaging in something like this, she said that "a person, regardless of gender, should be able to use their [body] however they please, as long as they're aware of and willing to deal with repercussions. However, I think it's an easy way out. There are options available that don't require a sugar daddy, but they aren't as easy [...] I'd never do it, but to each his own."

For Aranie Vijayaratnam, using a sugar daddy to help with tuition fees wasn't out of the question. "My part-time job as a tutor wasn't paying enough, and I couldn't find a second part-time job," she says. "My parents had already spent over \$10,000 on my brother's deregulated tuition costs; I couldn't ask them to pay an additional \$7,000."

Vijayaratnam tried Googling what it meant to be a sugar baby, searched forums, and eventually looked on Tumblr. "I found other female students who tagged their blog posts about their experiences with sugar daddies," she says. "The more I read about them, the more fascinated I became.

"Some blogs have guidelines and FAQs for people who want to be sugar babies," she continues. "They all suggest starting out on seekinarrangement.com.

"They also suggest that you live in a metropolis," she continues. "A person has a higher chance of getting a sugar daddy in a city."

The blogs also recommend telling a close friend where they meet their sugar daddies in case things go awry.

"The [sugar babies] may have started with the same reasons, but as they progress through a relationship with a sugar daddy (or sugar daddies, for some), feelings change, motivation changes," Vijayaratnam points out. "Many of these women married their sugar daddies."

After reading these blog posts, Vijayaratnam realized that the life wasn't for her. "My debt still exists, my unfinished online profile still exists, but I couldn't go through with it. My period of researching the lifestyle was the same time I was diagnosed with mild depression. During my therapy sessions I realized that becoming a sugar baby wasn't my last resort, but my way of coping [with] something I need counselling [for]. I didn't want a friendship or a relationship that was driven by financial need," she says.

"My depression put me in a place where I thought becoming a sugar baby would solve all my problems and make me happy. Counselling made me see otherwise. The only advice that stayed with me from the research is one of the most important rules all sugar babies share: understand yourself."

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Guys want Guns & Roses over gift-giving

The males at UTM share their opinion of Valentine's Day and offer some better names for the holiday

ALEXANDRIA RAMOUTAR
NATALIA RAMNARINE

Valentine's Day: a holiday created simply to acknowledge romantic love. But not for everyone. While you're probably used to hearing a female's take on the day—what she's doing and why she loves it—today, you get to read all about the man's perspective. We interviewed some men at UTM to get their opinion of the holiday.

Some single men we interviewed had some issues with accepting their relationship status. One student, Vinay Kumar Thapliyal, said, "[I'm in a relationship] with Arianna Grande, but she'll probably deny it. We play this game where she pretends like she doesn't know I exist." But hey, to each their own.

Others were much more accepting, indicating their single status with a curt "nope". In some cases, a wonderfully detailed conversation ensued, in which the phrase "overpriced chocolates, flowers, and romance" was dropped by a few interviewees.

On the other hand, men engaged in a relationship, like Simrandeep Sandhu, were more apt to describe the holiday using words like "love", "care", and "lust". In a similar vein, Rishabh Sharma said, "It's nice, it really makes you happy about things. A relationship isn't easy at all, but it's cool that they've set



JASMEEN VIRK/PHOTO

Some of the men on campus like the idea of Valentine's Day. Others say it should be Man Day.

aside a day to help you remember that apart from all the problems, all the fights, all the hate, they're the person who makes you happiest."

It's a good time to note that everyone's relationship status is subject to change at any time. "I used to love it when I was in a relationship," said Muhammad Razzaq. "[It] gives you an excuse to do something special for that someone, but it's annoying when

you're single." This was voted the best answer by every other man on the panel.

As for the consumerism inherent to Valentine's Day, there was a resounding cheer for the clever advertising ways of companies targeting people in love. "It's a very smart marketing scheme," said Sharma. "Works great for desperate guys, girls, and couples."

"I feel some people relate it far too much to couples," said Sandhu.

"It should be a chance to share it with whoever is closest to you that you love."

The most exciting aspect of this holiday is, of course, how you spend it. So what will the men of UTM do?

Thapliyal said he'll be emceeing the Hindu Students' Council's Guns & Roses event at the Blind Duck, and triumphantly pointed out the irony of his position. Razzaq intends to go to Guns & Roses

or stay at home, "Netflix-ing" his time away.

As for the guys with girlfriends, Sandhu admits, "To be honest, I have been caught up with school and it's been hard to keep up with everything, so I haven't put as much thought into it as of yet." In other words, no details will be publicized. The good news is, of the taken men we interviewed, all had, well, something planned.

And the gift-giving isn't all that bad for some men. Plus it's hard to forget to buy a present when every chain store in the world has been reminding you of Valentine's Day since Christmas.

Razzaq even said he was excited enough to combine the traditional Valentine's routine of giving flowers and chocolates with the perfect date in hopes of scoring some brownie points.

And some of the boys offered new ideas for celebrating Valentine's Day. Razzaq says, "I'd change it to Man Day, where everyone (including girls) can just appreciate men for once and have chicken wings." Thapliyal suggested turning it into Singles Awareness Day.

Disregarding the differences between those who are in relationships and those who aren't, all the interviewed men agreed that it was important to simply acknowledge that special someone in their lives. Happy Valentine's Day!

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Shout-out to the single ladies

Valentine's Day is so exciting, with all the gifts and... zzzzzzz



FLICKR.COM/PHOTO

Perk #43 of being single: I don't have to share these with anyone.

MARIA CRUZ
FEATURES EDITOR

Valentine's Day. God help me. I can practically hear Chopin's funeral march while my 53-year-old aunt takes me to La Senza to pick up lingerie for herself while I buy pyjamas (true story).

You're celebrating Valentine's Day this year, and I'll work on my happiness for you, but do us all a favour and for the love of God, keep the celebration to a minimum. No one cares what you do for Valentine's Day and I can promise you that

your single friends don't want to hear about it. "Can I get your opinion on what I should wear tonight?" No. What do I care? I bought myself pyjamas; you already know what my plans are. Don't rub it in.

And hey, having a day set aside for couples is not the biggest problem with Valentine's Day. I've made my peace with the, oh, let's call it "holiday". No, my biggest problem is that I should be able to walk into a restaurant with my friend and get a table when I'm hungry. Don't deny the fat girl her plate of balsamic chicken just so your girlfriend can

order a salad and then eat all your grease-soaked fries.

And I know what you're thinking while reading this. "You're just bitter that you're single." Ah, yes. That must be it. I long for a relationship. Yeah, that's the problem. Single girls are bitter girls. This is the logic of the fine specimen who tell their friends that the girl who rejected him was a lesbian.

Being single ain't a problem. To quote Russell Dunbar from Rules of Engagement: "Now if you'll excuse me, I have to go do whatever I want... all the time."

Turning the RAWC into a girls' club

Students on campus weigh in on whether having women's-only time in the RAWC is worth it

ZAINAB ANJUM

In his article "Why I'm suing my gym over their sexist women-only hours" published in the *Daily Mail*, men's issues journalist Peter Lloyd argued that the Kentish Town Sports Centre in London unfairly charges men a full-price membership, since they don't get men-only time in the gym. "Not only is this an outrageous business model, but it's also sexist," Lloyd writes. "Especially given that council officials base it almost solely on women's needs."

But here at UTM, the student population seems to have a more mature approach to the issue. In fact, according to some students, this doesn't even qualify as one.

The RAWC and its associated recreational programs allot a total of 13 hours a week for women's-only purposes, including three hours every other day that are set aside in the main gym. During these times, these visually isolated areas are available only to women. The rest are used for various intramural sports and specialized fitness and dance classes.

Louise Vanderwees, the program coordinator at the RAWC, explains that the planning of such hours is deliberate: when certain programs or spaces are in use by women, there are still plenty of other places and recreational options available to those who prefer a coed envi-



JUNAID IMRAN/PHOTO

The RAWC offers 13 hours a week of women's-only gym time.

ronment.

Some women's-only activities, including belly-dancing, ballet bar, and Zumba classes, are available outside of the regular gym facilities. These classes seem to appeal more to women and aren't attended by men. When these classes are on, the RAWC considerably offers drop-in fitness classes for those who prefer a coed workout environment.

Though there are no men's-only

hours at the RAWC, no male students seem set on suing the RAWC, and the lack of men's-only hours has not affected male membership. One only has to walk past the gym on the main floor during open gym time or drop-in basketball to notice how few women make use of the facilities at these times.

Vanderwees also highlights the little female representation at the High Performance Centre as a reason for the women's-only hours.

She says that the women's-only program was initiated in "an attempt to remove barriers to being active and foster inclusivity across culture, religion, and activity level".

At UTM, the program has received mostly positive feedback. According to Vanderwees, belly-dancing, ballet bar, and Zumba are all very busy classes.

Susanne Gretka, a third-year UTM student, makes use of both the women's-only and the coed

gym hours. To her, the time and place of her workout don't matter much, but Gretka supports having such options for women who need their space for solitude or religious reasons.

On the other hand, Hanifa Behram, a fifth-year UTM student, only makes use of the pool during the women's-only hours because she wants a more private experience, and she's glad that the RAWC offers them.

Even so, the situation isn't always ideal. Vanderwees explains that sometimes men aren't very receptive to the idea, especially if they're wrapping up a workout or just starting one. Some students are surprised to find out that women's-only hours are offered at the RAWC. Sami-ul Haq, a second-year sociology student, says that the program doesn't bother him because he was never really aware of it in the first place, likely because women's-only time isn't allotted during peak hours at the gym.

Haq believes that the accommodation shouldn't be an issue, because society has advanced to understand that people are different and have diverse needs, and that it's necessary to accommodate these differences when possible. "To think otherwise, especially in a city like Mississauga, in a country like Canada, would be just plain ignorant," he opines.

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Editor | Jason Coelho

One-on-one with Austin Chambers

UTM Eagles point guard has played the game since he was 10, but wants an MBA for backup

ERIC HEWITSON

Winning a game of one-on-one basketball wouldn't be an easy task for any opponent who challenged Austin Chambers. Austin's outstanding athleticism and determination are apparent every time the point guard steps onto the court with his Division 1 UTM Blue squad.

The 20-year-old business management student from Ajax first fell in love with basketball at the age of 10. "Once my dad bought my first outdoor hoop, I would spend all day shooting and practising on it," says Chambers. "Ever since then, playing basketball has been my absolute favourite thing to do."

The second-year student has dedicated his life to the love of the game. "Growing up, I would usually play on a school team as well as a club team," he says.

For many students living on campus, there's a thrill that comes with living independently for the first time, and doing so at a prestigious postsecondary school is important to both Austin and his family. "Playing basketball has drastically improved my experience here at UTM," he reflects.

Like many UTM students, Austin likes being part of an athletic team



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Chambers is known for his ability to drive the lane, complete slam dunks, and shoot three-pointers.

while getting to meet new people and enjoying the company of those who share the same interests. "It's [basketball] that I love doing the most and it has led me to meeting many amazing people," Chambers says.

Especially during midterm and exam season, using sport to relieve stress has helped Chambers' performance in the classroom, he adds.

Even though Austin has a full-time commitment to his schoolwork, he feels as though a commitment to his athletics has made him better at planning a schedule and managing his time. "If I notice on my schedule that there will be any conflict, I'm still able to complete my schoolwork ahead of time," he says. "I feel like I do a great job of balancing the two because it's

something I've been doing since I first started playing basketball."

Chambers spends his downtime at the RAWC preparing himself for game day and preventing injury. "I take full advantage of the weight-training facilities here at UTM, and I spend almost as much time lifting, foam-rolling, and stretching as I do actually playing," says Chambers.

Confidence is key when it comes to being a successful athlete, and in addition to having strong physical attributes, there's a mental toughness that comes with playing. Austin is known for his ability to drive the lane, complete slam dunks, and shoot the difficult three-point shots. "I have the speed and ball-handling ability to get by any defender or hit shots from pretty far past the three-point line if the team plays zone. One thing about me is that I absolutely hate losing."

"After graduating, I'm going to play professionally and continue enjoying this game that I love so very much," Chambers continues. Even though playing professionally is Austin's dream, he knows that having a backup plan is imperative. "I also plan on earning my MBA so that I will have something to fall back on once my playing days are over."

Austin has great ambitions for the future, but right now his goal is to lead his team to championship. The UTM Eagles Blue team currently sits in the fifth spot in the Division 1 league, with a 5-4 record. They'll take on their on-campus rivals, UTM White—in first place with an undefeated 9-0 record—on Wednesday, February 12, with tip-off at 8 p.m. at the RAWC.

Canada, Russia's old score

Team Canada has depth—but enough depth to take gold at Sochi?

PHILIP POWER

The game was tied 2-2 after a goal late in the third period was scored by Team USA winger Zach Parise. Despite fighting on home ice, the Canadian ice hockey team had struggled to get to this point. They finished sixth in round-robin play after being smashed by Team USA by a score of 5-2, squeezed out a shootout victory over the not-so-dreaded Team Switzerland, and had to play an additional game to make it to the quarterfinals.

Taking all the adversity in stride, Team Canada found themselves facing their rivals in the gold medal game after skating over Germany, Russia, and Slovakia.

With 12:20 left in the overtime period, Sidney Crosby put an end to the critics. Crosby tucked a shot behind U.S. goaltender Ryan Miller, who had been on fire the whole tournament and was later named the tournament's MVP. With "Sid the Kid" and the rest of the Canadian squad receiving gold medals, Team USA looked on in envy.

That was the cover story of ice hockey in Vancouver 2010. For a na-

tion so engrossed in hockey, Team Canada winning gold was a storybook ending. Winning it on home ice was the cherry on top. And winning it with a marvelous goal by a player who was lauded at the start of his career as "the Next One"—an homage to "the Great One"—was the stuff legends are made of.

It may be easy to forget the other story that stretches from Vancouver 2010 to Sochi 2014: the development of Team Russia.

Behind all that coverage, it may be easy to forget the other story that stretches from Vancouver 2010 to Sochi 2014: the development of Team Russia.

In Vancouver, the Russians left empty-handed. This marked 18 years since Russia had won a gold medal in ice hockey. They won in 1992 as the Unified Team, a group of athletes

from former Soviet republics in the middle of transitioning into democracies. But since then, Mother Russia has had lacklustre appearances. They captured silver in 1998 and bronze in 2002, the same year Team Canada broke a 50-year gold medal drought, and in 2010 they finished sixth.

On home turf for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Team Russia is hoping to make up for the last 22 years, armed with outstanding offensive ability and led by captain Pavel Datsyuk of the Detroit Red Wings.

Three ice hockey teams are looking to make headlines in Sochi.

TEAM CANADA

Four years since the last Winter Olympics, Crosby has gone from promising young talent to team captain, one of the greatest players in the world, and a good leader for the Pittsburgh Penguins. Crosby is on track to nab 111 points this NHL season, 20 more than fellow Canadian Olympian John Tavares.

Sochi continued on page 19

Women's v-ball narrowly gives up another to UTSC



NICOLE RAQUINIO/THE MEDIUM

The team played hard, but they're sitting in last place.

SANTIAGO BOTERO

With a mere three games left in the season, the women's tri-campus volleyball team faced UTSC at the RAWC last Thursday, hoping to nab their first win of the season.

UTM entered this game with a record of 1-17 sets won, sitting in last

place in the tri-campus standings. Though both teams fought to win this game, it was especially sentimental for UTM, it being their head coach Peter Bui's final game of the season.

Vball continued on page 19

Never rule out a miracle



WIKIPEDIA.ORG/PPHOTO

Vancouver 2010's closing ceremony saw Team USA leave dejected. That might not happen this year.

Sochi continued from page 18

Crosby will be leading the office, flanked and complemented by NHL stars Patrice Bergeron, Ryan Getzlaf, Corey Perry, John Tavares, and Johnathan Toews, with an astounding lineup of centres and wingers. This is a recipe for success. The team's management, headed by GM Steve Yzerman, has assembled a group of players who know how to score goals and pairs of players on at least three lines who play together on their respective NHL teams, so they'll have good chemistry from the get-go. Sniper Steven Stamkos is out with an injury, but his replacement, Tampa Bay Lightning line mate Martin St. Louis, has been red-hot lately, single-handedly carrying the Lightning to a top spot in the Eastern Conference.

On defence, the blue-liners for Team Canada will be the players who make it into talks for the Norris Trophy. Shea Weber will be an assistant captain and is a commanding presence with his booming slapshot. By his side will be Drew Doughty, Duncan Keith, and 2013 Norris winner P.K. Subban, along with other formidable names.

The goaltending position has been the toughest choice for Team Canada. The goalie lineup consists of 2010 gold medal winner Roberto Luongo, Montreal Canadiens netminder Carey Price, and the stone-cold goalie of the Phoenix Coyotes, Mike Smith. The problem is the inconsistent play of these goalies. Luongo has been shaky at best since losing the Stanley Cup to the Boston Bruins in 2012. Last season, he mostly sat on the bench as backup to Cory Schneider. Carey Price, although currently on fire, has had a history of being streaky. And Mike Smith, a goaltender not known for flashy moves, lacks big-game experience. It's not certain that he'll hold up under Olympic pressure.

TEAM RUSSIA

The host country will be eyeing success in every event. But in a country as hockey-mad as Russia, other teams should watch out here especially. Team Russia's roster features some of the best snipers and goal-scorers in the world. Captain Pavel Datsyuk

is a wizard with the puck, with stick-handling abilities that have been dubbed "Datsyukian" by colour commentators. He's a master at the game and a one-man tour de force on the ice. With superstars like Alexander Ovechkin, Ilya Kovalchuk, and Evgeni Malkin, the Russians have explosive scoring and elite snipers, boasting one of the best offensive lineups conceivable.

On defence, however, the Russians don't have as strong a core. They don't really have any star players on their blue line who would usually be found on a championship team. The only player whose name jumps out is Andrei Markov, and even though he's good, he plays second fiddle on the Montreal Canadiens to P.K. Subban. That being said, the Russian offence might be good enough to compensate for the lack of skill at the defensive end.

Team USA won't rely on defence to win games.

Although they have stars like Ryan Suter and Kevin Shattenkirk, the defence lacks the depth and star talent that Canada and Sweden have.

The goaltender position is less of a problem for the Russians than for Team Canada. Sergei Bobrovsky, winner of the 2013 Vezina trophy for best goaltender in the NHL last season, will more than likely get the nod to start. He's a talented netminder who will have backup from the likes of Semyon Varlamov of the Colorado Avalanche. Both players have prowess in net, but their inexperience in big games may be a problem. Bobrovsky's Columbus Blue Jackets have been near the bottom of the NHL for the past few years and, until this year, so have Varlamov's Colorado Avalanche.

TEAM USA

Finally, there's the team that came short of beating the Canadians in 2010 and wants to take revenge in

Sochi. The player who tied the gold medal game for the Americans in 2010, Zach Parise, is the captain. He has matured into a capable star and leader worthy of any NHL team. He also has skilled players at his side, including two-time Stanley Cup champion Patrick Kane, Los Angeles Kings captain Dustin Brown, and Canucks forward Ryan Kesler. Team USA also has the Leafs' first-line duo, Phil Kessel and James van Riemsdyk, who have proven one of the best winger pairs in the NHL. Although not as deep or skilled as Canada or Russia, Team USA can sure pack a punch and score against the best of them.

Team USA won't be relying on defence to win games. Although USA has stars like Ryan Suter and Kevin Shattenkirk, the defence lacks the depth and star talent that Canada and Sweden have.

But their goaltending is second to none, led by Kings star Jonathan Quick, who has proven himself the NHL's best goalie over the past few seasons and will likely have Buffalo's Ryan Miller and Detroit's Jimmy Howard for backup. Simply put, this goaltending depth gives USA an advantage over every team in the tournament and makes them the hardest to score against.

Team USA will look to take the gold medal from their traditional rivals. Although they most likely won't succeed considering the talent that Russia and Canada bring, the Americans have heart. Its players today are products of the days when a ragtag group of American college students trounced the Goliath that was the Soviet Union in the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid, USA. That "Miracle on Ice" led to the development of a much better national hockey system that fostered the growth of numerous American players. With a powerful offence and goaltending that's truly the best, Team USA might just win another underdog gold medal.

Although a Team Russia versus Team Canada gold medal match-up would be one for the history books, both will have to work hard to get by Team USA. The games are not low on spectacular storylines, and with the competition as fierce as it has ever been in men's ice hockey, it'll be a treat for fans to watch.

"The hardest we've played"



NICOLE RAQUINIO/THE MEDIUM

Caption.

Vball continued from page 18

UTM and UTSC were neck and neck. UTSC gained a 6-3 lead, but the Eagles wouldn't give in. After forcing UTSC to make errors, UTM regained the momentum, with Joanna Peplak tying the game. The Eagles' excellent defence kept them in this close match. UTM gained ground on UTSC and made the score 13-9. The shifts in momentum throughout the first set led UTM to concede on errors, allowing for a UTSC comeback that gave them the set.

With the second set underway, UTM took an early 4-0 lead. The Eagles' pressure, communication, and determination helped them gain some momentum, earning a 10-point margin against an equally determined UTSC squad, to make the score 18-8 halfway through the set. After digging themselves into a hole, UTSC was able to inch their way back into the game, making the score 22-18. Although UTM came close to giving up their hard-fought lead, they held on to the second set, 24-18.

As the third set began, UTM again took the early lead. UTM earned cheers throughout the final set from their RAWC home crowd, hoping to gain an advantage against the visiting team. The final set was filled with back-and-forth play, going down to the wire with a two-point difference. The crowd was on edge of their seats, hoping for UTM to come out with the win in their second-last home game of the season. As UTM attempted to gain two points and claw their way back into the game, UTSC finished off an entertaining game with the match point, taking the set 26-24 and winning their third match of the season.

Though it was a tough game, the Eagles fought until the end and put on a great show.

"We can improve in team-building and more talking," said UTM's Jelaina Whitney. "We have an amazing skill level at UTM."

"This last game was a good last game, and it's the hardest we've played," said Bui after the game. "It was intense, close, and we put up a good fight!"

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