

CCR through phase 2

The co-curricular record is due for an overhaul in September on the heels of student consultations.

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Communication lacking

Letter: UTMSU needs to make students feel their input matters.

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UTM's Oscars

Videos by student filmmakers get screened and picked for awards.

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Painting it black

Listen to the stories of these five who've struggled because of the colour of their skin.

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Big business bully

Author Evan Katz talks about why pro sports has no motivation to cut out the locker room behaviour.

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THE MEDIUM

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MEDIUMNEWS

Editor | Maria Iqbal

Student CCR consultations done

Student Life gathers student feedback on co-curricular record from student organizations

MARIA IQBAL
NEWS EDITOR

The Department of Student Life concluded the consultation phase for the co-curricular record last week, intended to draw feedback from students, staff, and faculty on the project launched last September, with the hope of making substantive changes next year.

According to Kimberly Elias, the tri-campus project coordinator for the CCR, more than 300 sessions have been held over the past two years to consult and train members of the U of T community across its three campuses. The most recent phase involved meeting with the leaders of recognized student groups to determine how to include and validate student involvement in campus organizations on the record.

“One of the elements of inclusion on the CCR is a staff or faculty advisor, or validator of the student hours—we recognize that not all clubs, groups, and societies have that,” said Kate McGartland-Kinsella, student development officer at the Department of Student Life and lead administrator for the CCR at UTM. “We wanted to meet with the folks who are doing the roles to find out how we can achieve that.”



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

The Medium is one of the societies and clubs that could be added to the CCR in September.

There were two consultations with student leaders at UTM, both held last month. According to McGartland-Kinsella, while all Ulife-recognized student clubs and organizations were invited to the consultations, a total of no more than five students participated in both sessions combined.

Overall, while participants wanted executive positions in student groups recognized on the

CCR, McGartland-Kinsella said most of the student leaders didn't want to be responsible for validating other students' involvement in the groups. Instead, they preferred to have a faculty or staff member act as validator.

“Our challenge is deciding how to make that work, to ensure that those positions can be on the CCR but still be validated by a faculty or staff member,” she said.

She added that students also said they didn't want every group and position recognized on the record.

“They wanted to recognize those students who are really putting in a lot of time and effort, instead of just ‘Hey, I attended one event. Therefore, this is on my record.’” she said.

CCR continued on page 4

TEDx returns to U of T

ANGELICA LITSIOU

U of T held its second TEDx talk this past Saturday at the Isabel Bader Theatre downtown.

Several speakers and performers took to the stage, presenting research and ideas on topics that included the construction of a real invisibility cloak and the dangers of a kiss.

According to a blurb on the event's webpage on TED.com, “The purpose of TEDxUofT is to promote free knowledge and inspiration from the world's most inspired thinkers. It's to allow a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other.”

Students applied in advance to attend the event. The conference was described as having been planned for 500 people, an increase over last year. The event opened with an address from Karen Gomez, the event chair.

The first speakers, Cameron Robertson and Todd Reichert, discussed the importance of making time for failures and how to handle various degrees of failure when taking on new projects.

TEDx continued on page 4

Specialists debate religious extremism in Pakistan

Speakers offer insight on questions of sectarian violence at discussion forum hosted by PSLA, PYA, and PDF

DYLAN PRIOR

Last Wednesday, specialists from three universities visited UTM to discuss sectarian violence and religious extremism in Pakistan.

Around 30 students attended the event in the Instructional Building, where it was hosted as a collaboration of the Political Science and Pre-Law Association, the Pakistan Youth Alliance, and the Pakistan Development Fund.

The guest speakers were York masters student Saad Sayeed, Ryerson professor Tariq Amin-Khan, and University of Cambridge professor Tahir Kamran. Kamran participated via Skype.

During his introduction, Kamran spoke about religious sectarianism and its violent history within Pakistan. In his discussion of the historical perspective on Pakistan as a colonial state, Kamran remarked that “problems are crystallizing” in regards to the Shia and Sunni populations.

Amin-Khan, on the other hand, was optimistic that Pakistan's sectar-



NICOLE RAQUINIO/THE MEDIUM

About 30 students attended the discussion forum on religious extremism in Pakistan.

ian problems could be resolved. He spoke about the need to prioritize education, denounce military attacks, and encourage the media to

clean up the culture of cruelty.

“I don't think democracy and religion are incompatible,” he said. “I feel that the two can coexist.”

Sayeed spoke about ongoing struggles of religious intolerance, making special note of the violence against the Ahmadi, Christian, and

Hazara minorities in Pakistan and questioning the factions supporting the military.

“The terrorist is the root of all problems,” he said.

The other topics included the controversial blasphemy laws, the need for education, and the meaning of modernity.

After the three speakers had a chance to respond to one another, the floor was opened for a Q&A session with the audience. Questions about colonial rule, the role of the military, and secularism were asked and addressed.

According to Hadia Hussain of the PYA, the event was organized to raise awareness of the issues in Pakistan. Rija Rasu from PSLA added that the discussion was meant to help work towards developing a resolution to the problems.

Kamran and Amin-Khan have both published articles on the discussed issues and have appeared in several broadcasts and given lectures on the subject.

The discussion forum was filmed by UTM/TV.

CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

February 22, 8:35 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated the theft of food and liquor from a residence.

February 24, various times

Fraud

Campus Police investigated three altered Mississauga Transit bus passes. The transit passes were discovered as altered by the Lost and Found Service of Mississauga Transit. The person(s) who altered the transit passes are being investigated.

February 25, 11:24 a.m.

Fire call

Mississauga Fire Department attended the William G. Davis Building in regards to a fire alarm. The alarm was caused by contractors welding.

February 25, 1:10 p.m.

By-law offences

Campus Police responded to a noise

complaint at MaGrath Valley. Tenants watching a movie were asked to lower the volume. The tenants complied.

February 25, 2:06 p.m.

Injured Deer

Campus Police responded to a call in regards to an injured deer on the UTM property. Mississauga Animal Services and Peel Regional Police were contacted to assist.

February 25, 2:13 p.m.

Trespass To Property

Campus Police investigated an online complaint in regards to soliciting inside the Student Centre.

February 25, 5:25 p.m.

Theft Under \$5,000

Campus Police received a complaint in regards to a cell phone stolen from the Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness Centre.

BSS hosts language day

Students enjoy traditional food in celebration of Bangladeshi culture



CHRISTY TAM/THE MEDIUM

The Bangladesh Student Society offered fuchkas and sweets to celebrate Mother Language Day.

HRIDI RIDWA

UTM's Bangladesh Student Society held its first official event last Wednesday in the Student Centre. The event was held in celebration of International Mother Language Day, an annual event that promotes linguistic and cultural diversity. It was attended by UTM students, as well as York University's Bangladesh Student Federation.

"As an international student away from home and family, it was the best

experience I had. The feeling of home was truly priceless," said UTM student Rasin Zakaria.

The event featured complimentary traditional snacks, such as *fuchka*, a round, crispy Indian flatbread with a spicy filling. Attendees were dressed in traditional Bangladeshi attire.

"The event was very organized," said Rishabh Dev. "The fuchkas and the sweets were really amazing. I also asked my friends to come down to the event, as they were very tasty—in fact, one of the tastiest fuchkas I've

ever had."

"We need to have more cultural gatherings like this on campus," said UTM student Nabil Arif.

Saad Alam, the co-president of BSS, said, "Organizing this event was more of a fun time than actually working. Everyone's cooperation and enthusiasm truly made all the work seem [like] nothing. I believe that the event was quite a success and [I'm] proud of our team."

The event was sponsored by Premium Sweets in Mississauga.

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Researcher on global food crisis

Guelph's Evan Fraser discusses challenges to global food security



ATGUELPH.UOGUELPH.CA/PHOTO

Professor Evan Fraser of Guelph spoke about issues in food production and distribution.

NICOLE DANESI ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Unless farmers of the world produce 70% more food, the world will face a big problem by 2050, according to Evan Fraser, an associate professor at the University of Guelph, who spoke at the Geography department's fourth Csillag Seminar last Wednesday at UTM.

Fraser, who is a Canada Research Chair in global human security, discussed food security in front of approximately 30 attendees.

"The world is facing a crisis," said Fraser. "Population growth and urbanization are pushing our demand

for food up. Climate change and high energy prices are making food harder and more expensive to produce."

The two-time University of Toronto alumnus took issue with the idea that simply increasing food production would solve food security issues in the world. He pointed to current food distribution systems as another important issue that must be addressed.

Fraser also explained what he called his "crisis of faith", in which he questions the idea that producing food locally would solve the problem. He pointed to the decreased popularity of local food production in urbanized nations and the inefficiencies of

the practice as causes for concern. However, Fraser was quick to note the many problems with globalized food production methods as well.

Instead, Fraser emphasized the need for a holistic method to solve the impending global food crisis.

"Depoliticizing the debate over global food security, understanding that there [are] different principles at work, and applying those principles in a non-polemic way, on a case-by-case basis—we need a little bit of everything," said Fraser.

The Geography Csillag Seminar Series' final lecture will take place on March 26. The last speaker has yet to be revealed.

Young scientist at TEDx



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

U of T's second TEDx conference on Saturday featured talks and musical performances.

TEDx continued from Cover

Other notable speakers included Clifton Vanderlinden, the founder and CEO of Vox Pop labs and the creator of Vote Compass.

The event included musical performances by classical guitarist Tariq Harb and by singer-songwriter Sarah Kenvyn and her band.

Near the end of the day, delegates heard from Matt Ratto, who presented his research on the produc-

tion of prosthetic limbs through 3D printing.

The other speeches touched on numerous specific projects and research. Jessie MacAlpine, an 18-year-old who discovered a herbicide with the potential to treat malaria, encouraged the delegates to "question the world like a child".

"Her innovation and drive at such a young age was truly inspiring," said John Wilson, chief tech of Power Barr, one of the event's sponsors.

The other sponsors included Manulife Financial, Hart House, Nuance, and U of T itself.

The student-organized TEDx event was streamed live online, where students from all three U of T campuses could watch the speakers and performances.

TED is a non-profit organization founded in 1987. Its TEDx division licences organizations around the world to organize TED-style events in their own communities.

Record set to be expanded

CCR continued from Cover

Elias said another concern was the large number of groups that must be added to the CCR, noting that U of T has more than 800 groups across its three campuses.

McGartland-Kinsella elaborated on the importance of the project for encouraging student involvement and overall success in the workplace.

"At such an academically focused institution [...] it's great that the university is supportive of co-curricular engagement," she said, adding that students who are engaged on campus tend to get higher grades and are more likely to graduate.

She also mentioned that because the CCR's structure involves skill development, the record would help students talk about their experiences on campus to future employers and

graduate schools.

"We've often heard from employers that students are coming into these interviews with wonderful experience, but lack the skills to talk about it. [...]"

McGartland-Kinsella said that students who are engaged on campus tend to get higher grades and are more likely to graduate.

"One of the main hopes is that the CCR will give students that language to be able to talk about their experiences in a meaningful way," said McGartland-Kinsella.

According to her, the tri-campus

CCR implementation group, a working group that includes faculty and staff members, will meet at the end of March to discuss the feedback, and hopes to implement changes to the CCR by September.

"We are still finalizing a process and wrapping up consultations," said Elias, adding that students can still provide comments and suggestions through email.

"We would like to start encouraging student groups to apply for CCR recognition as early as the end of March. This process will be ongoing and continue throughout the summer and into the fall," she said.

The co-curricular record was given a light launch with 450 registered activities this year after over two years of planning. In October, Elias said to expect a total of 4,000 by next September.

»WHAT'S THE MOST AWKWARD THING YOU'VE SEEN ON CAMPUS?



Sarah Fisher
4th year, geography

I saw a guy running naked outside the library. He had a hat, shoes, and a glove.



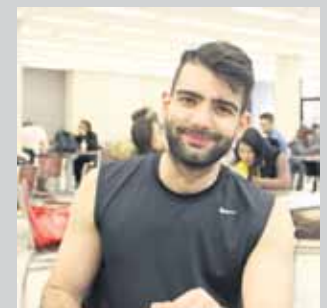
Hira Imam
4th year, psychology

The condom board in Davis during Valentine's week.



Kevin Choi
2nd year, commerce

One time, someone blocked my shot in basketball... and then he said "meow".



Ali Huseynov
3rd year, environment

The feeling when someone is eating you with their eyes when you're working out.

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NEWS BRIEFS »

Ottawa student leader protests against sexual comments on Facebook

The president of the University of Ottawa students' union is speaking out against the "rape culture" on postsecondary campuses in Canada. Anne-Marie Roy's comments were a response to a Facebook conversation between U of Ottawa students that involved graphic sexual content. Roy was targeted in the conversation.

Source: *The Toronto Star*

Victim fighting for life after stabbing in east Toronto

A 40-year-old man is in hospital with life-threatening injuries, after being stabbed several times. The attack occurred in the east end of Toronto after 9 p.m. on Saturday. The police have not reported any suspects as of press time.

Source: *The Toronto Sun*

Navy crew returns to work after fire on ship causes damage

Crew members of the Canadian navy returned to work on Saturday evening after a fire broke out on their ship a day earlier. The Royal Canadian Navy reported severe damage to the ship's engine and nearby compartments as result of the fire. The causes of the fire are being investigated.

Source: *The Toronto Sun*

Knife attack in China leaves 33 dead, hundreds injured

Thirty-three people have died in a knife attack at a Chinese railway station on Saturday. Over 10 people arrived with long knives and marched through the station. It's believed that the attackers were separatists from the northwestern region of the country. Police killed four of the assailants and have taken another into custody.

Source: *The Wall Street Journal*

Thirty injured in 104-vehicle crash on Denver highway

A huge accident on Denver's Interstate 25 left one person dead and 30 injured in the midst of a heavy snowfall. Police report the crash, which occurred on Saturday, involved 104 vehicles. Officials closed access to northbound lanes on the highway for several hours. People who had been injured were taken to hospitals.

Source: *The Toronto Star*

MEDIUM OPINION

Editor-in-Chief | Luke Sawczak

MASTHEAD

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CCR needs funding to be fixed

Universal access involves the headache of supervision, but no movement yet on hiring staff

Last week, I went to a consultation on how to work out the kinks of the co-curricular record. The invitation was sent to many heads of clubs and societies, but only five showed up to UTM's two sessions. Maybe they were too busy being so engaged elsewhere. Who can say. Anyway, I gave my opinion, along with our former news editor, Larissa Ho.

It's a question of numbers. There aren't many people dedicated to the CCR; there's a tri-campus coordinator downtown. Without them, the basic problem is this: We have a lot of clubs. Not many of them are in close contact with staff or faculty. But we need a reliable, objective party to validate a student's application to have their activities listed on the CCR with their transcript. If we don't have that check, the CCR gets inundated with underserving students and loses its credibility. So who should be the validator?

The *Medium's* case is easy. Everyone who writes gets their name in print. We'd just submit the list of people who've written six articles over the year (whom we call "staff writers").

But most of UTM's clubs don't have such tangible evidence of involvement. Say you organize a typical club event—discussion and *fuchkas*, perhaps—and students come. Should you take attendance? Even if so, how do we prove to a third party that you were responsible for that work? We could have the club president sign your application. But how do we avoid people signing for their friends? Could you turn down a friend who asked you to let them get credit so they could have a shot at getting into grad school?

As for UTMSU being the signer, the credibility problem still applies, albeit to a lesser degree, and so does the difficulty of having a fairly small staff supervise a lot of clubs.

The solutions proposed to us in the consultation were not bad, but not perfect. They proposed breaking the requirements into three more clearly defined steps. That's good. But you still need to figure out who makes the assessments. The solution proposed was that each club be a part of a "community of practice", linking them to relevant departments or offices of the university who could liaise with the clubs. In other words, break up the supervising into a lot of smaller pieces. But pairing them up might not be easy. Sure, the UTM Archery Club could be matched with the RAWC. But what about the many ethnic clubs we have? Do they all get dumped on the lap of, I don't know, the sociology department? Or do they default back to UTM's Department of Student Life, who offloaded them in the first place, and who currently has one person running the CCR in addition to her job description?

So how about we hire more staff? A student fee to pay for a CCR coordinator at UTM was proposed at a QSS meeting in February 2013, but was voted down by students who felt the university should fund it. Without it, the people best placed to sign are club execs, who'd still require verifying.

So far, the response is more consultation. Maybe we're not ready for the CCR. Or maybe the university should make room in its budget for staff to manage the service.

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK

CORRECTION NOTICE

The article "UTM ad team among top 25" in the Feb. 24 issue said that the competition involved advertising a 2014 Chevrolet Camaro. It was in fact a Stingray.

Communication: it's a two-way street

Dear Editor,

I think that most of the discontent that the student body has with the UTMSU office team comes from a lack of effective communication between both groups. Communication is key if the UTMSU office team wants more students to voice their

opinion and get involved.

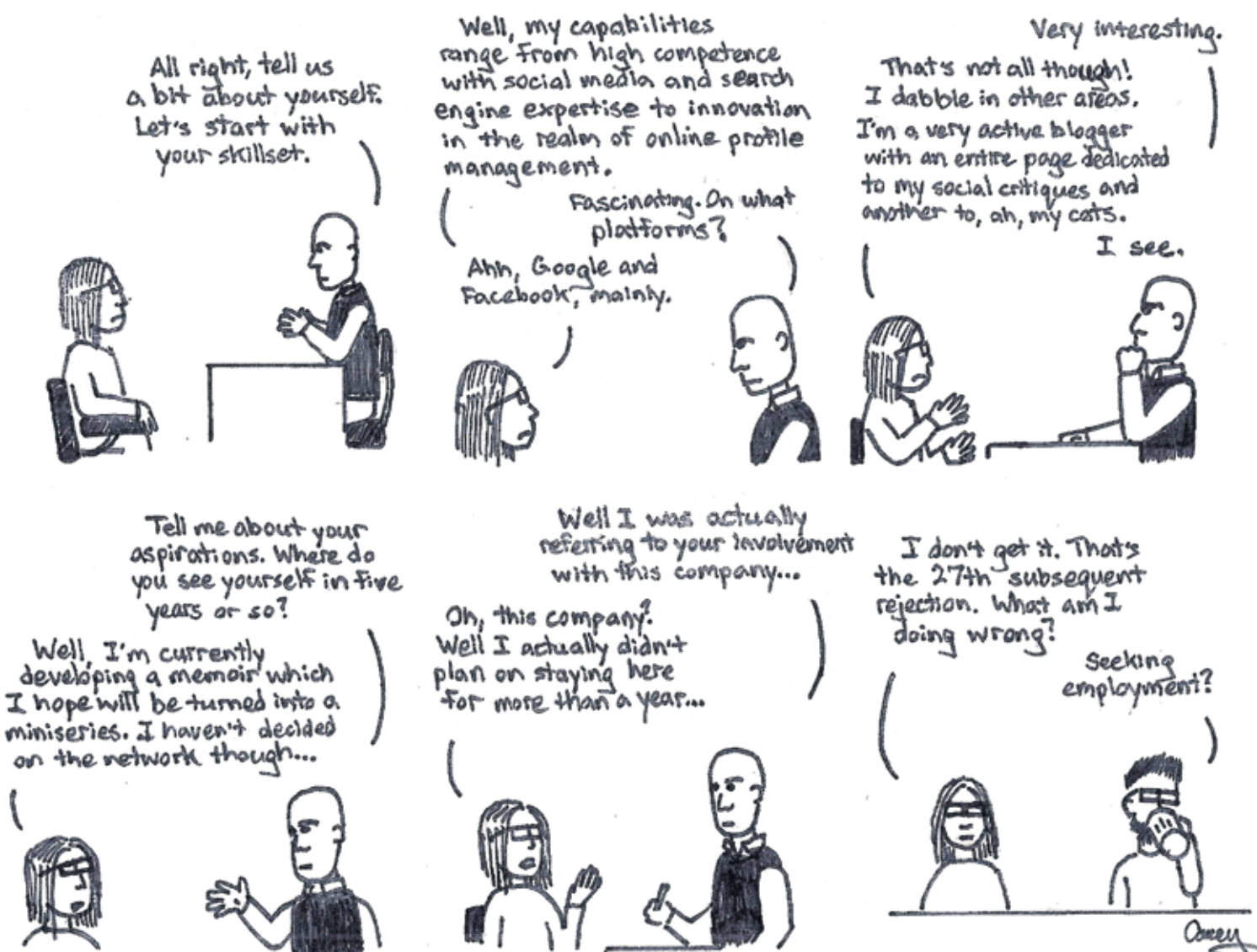
Students often complain that UTMSU seems to not focus on important issues like lack of study space in favor of ideas like the student centre expansion or the heated bus shelter. These problems have a root cause with a lack of effective communication between the two groups.

The biggest communication issue is a lack of effective communication channels. A lot of students don't even read the weekly UTMSU e-newsletter—they consider it spam. Some cite that the same things are posted in there every week. Others compare it to someone leaving a flyer on the windshield, an advertisement

that they must now delete from their inbox.

Some students don't even know how to voice their complaints directly to the union. They know that there's an office but they have no idea who to raise their issues with.

Input continued on page 6



Summit a breach of autonomy

Dear Editor,

I would like to clarify a few things from your editorial last week ("Don't give us gobbledygook", Feb 24, 2014).

Firstly, UTMSU has put in both time and effort to make the students on our campus aware of what's happening at the student societies summit. There are nearly 13,000 students on our campus and reaching out to the vast majority is often a challenge considering the various different campaigns UTMSU runs year round.

The reasons that might seem "nonsensical" to you will make perfect sense when one carefully goes through the content of the entire letter. The letter not only summarizes the reasons but also gives a detailed explanation of why we believe so. Since the beginning of the summit meetings, the environment has been one that is very controlled and hinders active participation and discussion. I don't understand why the U of T administration is taking a lead on this summit when the outcome of this summit is in no way enforceable upon an autonomous organization such as UTSU. If student

societies have concerns, they should raise it with UTSU directly rather than approaching the administration for help. UTSU is membership-driven. If there are concerns by its members, it will definitely look into those concerns.

The summit is a breach of autonomy on many levels. The administration is trying to influence the workings of an independent organization such as UTSU by hosting this summit. Why aren't levy-collecting groups a part of this summit? Do they not have a direct stake in what is being discussed behind these closed doors?

The issue to me seems that student societies (that, by the way, duplicate what UTSU does) just want to redirect membership fees from UTSU to themselves. Well, if you are that determined to redirect and collecting fees to fund similar services already being provided by UTSU, why don't you run your own referendum to do so?

UTMSU's relationship with UTSU was endorsed by our joint membership at the annual general membership meetings of both UTMSU and UTSU and is re-emphasized in our union's by-

laws—By-law XV. Students at UTM appreciate the cooperative relationship we have with our sister students' union that has saved UTM students' money and provided students with access to services such as the health and dental plan. You wrote that the university requires anyone who receives student money to be financially transparent. Well, keeping that logic in mind, students at UTM also pay tuition fees to the university. Does that mean that if students put forth a request to view Chartwells' contract with the university, the university would provide them with the original and "unblackened" version of it? UTMSU had made this request repeatedly for many years and has been denied. Does this mean that the University of Toronto is not financially transparent? If so, we hope that you will focus your future editorials on why students need a strong central students' union that will hold the university accountable and ensure more transparency.

Raymond Noronha
President
UTM Students' Union

Open letter from UTMSU to QSS re: concerns about flawed governance model

Dear members of Quality Services to Students committee, administrative faculty, and administrative observers,

I am writing to share with you the concerns raised by representatives of the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union at meetings of the QSS committee. These concerns have been communicated in past QSS meetings and we hope that members of governance will be able to create spaces for these matters to be adequately resolved.

The concerns are:

The decision by the university administration to pursue non-QSS-approved priorities with no recourse from student representatives.

The lack of a permanent secretary, and meeting minutes been circulated without adequate notice.

The lack of transparency. A budget process that prevents members from adequately consulting their members.

As a students' union, we are further concerned that the current governance timeline does not permit for adequate consultation regarding the budgets of university services.

Administrative decisions that circumvent the will of students

In the 2012/13 governance cycle, student representatives made it clear that they were not in support of certain expenses that will be forced onto students. One example is the cost of the purchase and maintenance of the shuttle bus ticket machine. Student representatives made it clear that the machine will serve faculty and staff, since students have access to a T-card and do not require shuttle bus tickets. All UTM Students are charged an incidental fee through the shuttle bus portion of the student services fee. At meetings of QSS, all student representatives on QSS made it clear that we do not support a mandatory charge for all students to purchase, operate, and maintain a ticket machine that will not service UTM students. A decision was made by the administration to purchase the ticket machine and charge all UTM Students for the operation and maintenance of the ticket machine. We request that the campus council and its committee review whether operation of university services are supported by QSS since they are funded primarily through QSS-approved ancillary fees.

QSS secretary and submission of meeting minutes

As per the terms of reference of the Quality Services to Students committee, the secretary of the body must be recommended by the dean of student affairs. We would like to encourage the administration to make a recommendation for a secretary as soon as possible. We are also concerned that meeting minutes are circulated during the meeting day and not in advance of meetings as per the expectations set out in Section 4: Policies and Procedures. We strive to abide by the terms of reference of this important

protocol body. Unfortunately, over the past 12 months we have noticed a trend of meeting minutes submitted just before meetings or at meetings. This prevents members from adequately reviewing and approving of these minutes in a timely manner. We hope this trend will be rectified moving forward.

Transparency of Sheridan and St. George shuttle bus operation

We have made many requests for more information on the status of the amalgamation of the Sheridan and St. George shuttle bus operation. We have pointed to the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities guidelines that govern how services funded through program fees are charged.

We have not been provided with any information that validates student approval for the amalgamation of the Sheridan and St. George shuttle bus operation as per the expectations of the protocol. We are also concerned with the prospect that the administration will recommend specific program-related costs to be borne by all students through an ancillary fee charged to all students. Our request for more information regarding the decision to amalgamate a program related expense (Sheridan service) with the St. George shuttle service has not been addressed to this date.

Representatives do not support a mandatory charge for all students to purchase, operate, and maintain a ticket machine that will not service UTM students.

The budget process: inadequate consultation

We are concerned by the current governance cycle that allows for little consultation regarding the proposed university services. In the current cycle, we did not have adequate time to properly review the proposed budgets with all stakeholders. The working groups of Quality Services to Students were not presented with budgets that they could review before making recommendations to the entire body. This is a concern that we hope will be addressed moving forward.

Finally, we would like to thank the directors of all the university services for being accessible throughout the process. We believe that the ongoing concerns will be resolved if we work together to find solutions that challenge our current governance system at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

With respect, and hope for a future where we can work together.

Raymond Noronha

President

UTM Students' Union

On behalf of the board of directors

Students' input must be valued

Input continued from page 5

Other students say that even though they've raised issues, they feel that those issues haven't been addressed or followed up on.

Students often feel harassed by the union's solicitors and volunteers. They feel that their personal space is being effective and that the concerns or questions that they raise are ignored or addressed with

cookie cutter answers. Students feel that some of the solicitors aren't trained properly or are rude. Here we can cite the example of the students being followed out of buildings by volunteers, as pointed out in last week's "Few attend open forum". This type of behavior is threatening and creates an environment where students will feel unsafe voicing their opinion.

In short, if the union wants to get

more students involved then they must create an environment where students can feel that their input is valued. This means that the communication between the students and the union ought to go both ways, and students must be made aware of how they can communicate with the UTMSU office staff.

Jakub Stach
Second year, philosophy



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Letter originally delivered to QSS committee.



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Tuesday March 11, Wednesday March 12, Thursday March 13
FROM 9:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M.

POLLING LOCATIONS:

ST. GEORGE CAMPUS:

- Sidney Smith
- Bahen
- Gerstein
- John M. Kelly Library
- Victoria College
- Faculty of Dentistry

MISSISSAUGA CAMPUS:

- Instructional Building
- CCIT Building

ONLINE:

- Access: utsu.simplyvoting.com

**The Victoria College polling station will be closing at 3:30pm on March 11 due to a prior booking

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Voting will take place both online & at the above polling stations. For voting at a polling station, please bring your UTORid for identification purposes. For voting online, please have you UTORid number & password ready to access the online system.

ELECTION DATES:	START / END
CAMPAIGN PERIOD	START: MARCH 3 at 9:00 A.M. END: MARCH 13 at 6:30 P.M.
THE ELECTIONS FORUM	THURSDAY, MARCH 6 AT 6:00 P.M. BAHEN CENTRE IN ROOM 1130
VOTING DAYS PERIOD	START: MARCH 11, 12 & 13 FROM 9:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M.

For more information, visit your Students' Union website at utsu.ca/elections or contact the Chief Returning Officer at cro@utsu.ca.

MEDIUM A&E

Editor | Colleen Munro

Student filmmakers find an audience

DVSSS gets into the spirit of the awards season by presenting the second UTM Film Festival

NESA HUDA

The second annual UTM Film Festival was a night to remember, with great films, prizes, and popcorn. The event was hosted by the Department of Visual Studies Student Society in the CCT Building last Wednesday night.

Films were submitted online until February 19, after which they were available for viewing on YouTube and Vimeo so people could watch them before the festival and vote for the viewer's choice award. The lack of an entry fee meant the contestants faced one less obstacle in sharing their work with a wider audience.

The bulk of the night was the screening of the 18 entries, from as short as 60 seconds to as long as 11 minutes. Some of the films were very abstract, while others told a clear story, and this diversity meant that there was something in the festival for everyone. At the end of the night, awards were given out for the best screenplay, best video art, best documentary, best film, and viewer's choice.

The best screenplay award went to **Francesco Reale's** *Salad*, described on Vimeo as "a dinner at home gone terribly wrong". This award was very well-deserved: the script, acting, and music worked together to make a very tense, real atmosphere. **Lesley Hampton's**



CHRISTY TAM/THE MEDIUM

The UTM Film Festival screened 18 diverse short films made by student filmmakers.

Extreme Comfort, which was both haunting and beautiful to watch, took the award for best video art.

The viewer's choice award was won by **Shaq Hosein's** *Crave*, a film about two estranged brothers and their reconnecting. It definitely deserved the award and was, in my opinion, one of the frontrunners for best film.

Alex Gougeon's *Filth Krew*, a documentary about an under-

ground rap group trying to make it in the music industry, won the prize for best documentary. This film gave a lot of insight into how the group was formed, and it was interesting to get to know them, see them perform, and appreciate their work.

Lastly, best film went to **Wajahat Syed and Hassan Naeem's** *Featherweight*, a film about a police officer's downward spiral. The

film was only about five minutes long, but its impact made it seem much longer. The film was in film noir style, a choice that worked to its advantage. Considering its impeccable script and great acting as well, the film deserved the award.

This being said, I enjoyed a few other films, too. The first was **Matthew Household's** *Home-made Pizza*, a hilarious DIY pizza tutorial that was only a minute long but

that made me laugh the most.

Another was **Katelyn Noyes' My Violent Society**, described as "an artist's critique of the overwhelming amount of violence in society (as a whole) today". This film was enlightening and a little frightening to watch, because as the pictures and symbols of violence flashed erratically on screen to some very loud music by **Nine Inch Nails**, the audience realized how much violence we actually see on a daily basis and have become accustomed to.

The last film screened was my absolute favourite: *The Invitation* by **Shaq Hosein, Mahmoud Sarouji, and Mubashir Baweja**. The film is described as "the story of a young man afraid of human interaction after he receives a strange parcel in his mailbox". But while watching the film, one realizes right away that there's much more to it. The script, voiceover, and editing are quick, sharp, and funny. This film was a great, upbeat closing to the show, and I was surprised when it didn't receive any awards.

The UTM Film Festival was a very enjoyable experience and a celebration of the talent at UTM. The only issue was the sparse attendance; I think this event deserved a larger audience than it attracted.

To watch the submitted videos, you can head over to dvsss.com/utm-film-fest-2014.

The *Tonight Show* gets a needed makeover

A newcomer to the show examines comedian Jimmy Fallon's first couple of weeks as the new host

KATE CATTELL-DANIELS
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

To be perfectly honest, I don't watch a whole lot of TV. Don't get me wrong; I knew the *Tonight Show* existed. I'd just never watched it in any form except short YouTube clips of interviews with my favourite actors. I'd never paid attention to the host. So when I was asked to write about the change in host from **Jay Leno** to **Jimmy Fallon**, I had to do a little research. Chiefly, this consisted of watching both hosts at work and working my compare and contrast muscles.

It seems Fallon's got a lot going for him. For one thing, he's hilarious. His comedy background shows through in that he's not afraid to ask interesting questions with funny answers. Fallon isn't afraid to make a fool of himself, which I saw clearly in a sketch about a fake



TVHOWL.COM/PHOTO

Jimmy Fallon took up residence as host of the *Tonight Show* last month.

teen talk show called *Eww*, starring **Will Ferrell** and Fallon in drag, as well as **Michelle Obama**. Laughter is a great way to win an audience's

heart, as are celebrity interviews. So far, Fallon's doing everything right.

The humour that Fallon's *Tonight Show* depends on has a serious side

to it, however. In his interview with the first lady, Fallon asked a perfect balance of personal and professional questions, discussing her

list of firsts (First meal she cooked? Pasta) and the development of her work in getting young people off the couch—a project Fallon himself is involved in.

The biggest problem I can see emerging from the change in hosts is generation conflict. On his version of the *Tonight Show*, Leno asked much more traditional questions than Fallon, focussing more on a person's political views, career path, and future goals than the details of their personalities. Somehow, I can't see *Eww* having any entertainment value for my parents or grandparents, but I was nearly on the floor.

Ultimately, it's a matter of taste. I must say that Fallon might have me hooked, especially if he continues to provide such dynamic and entertaining interviews after his first couple of weeks on set.

Shakespeare classics get a zany twist

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) takes a good satirical look at two tragedies

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

In the program for Hart House Theatre's new production of *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, director **Carly Chamberlain** has this to say about Constance Ledbelly, the protagonist of **Ann-Marie MacDonald's** famous Canadian play: "Constance's story is a very human experience. She is on the noblest of journeys: the search for her true identity, her essential self." And while there's a lot going on in *Goodnight Desdemona*—time travel, mistaken identity, mysterious quests, and cross-dressing, just to start—it's ultimately this sense of humanity that shines through and makes Hart House's latest production an enjoyable one.

Written by MacDonald in 1988, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* is a comedic reworking of two of Shakespeare's most iconic tragedies: *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet*. In MacDonald's tale, initially set in the present day, Constance is an overworked assistant professor who receives little appreciation for her efforts and no requited interest from the boss she secretly pines for. One day, she finds herself sucked into a time portal that masquerades as a garbage can and lands back in the tumultuous times of *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Finding herself able to alter the tragic fates of Shakespeare's characters, Constance has the additional challenges of trying to blend in believably with the time period and searching for the missing pieces of a puzzle that will aid her



SCOTT GORMAN/PHOTO

The mousy Constance (Lesley Robertson) tries to win the favour of her boss (Nicholas Porteous).

own academic pursuits.

The crux of both Constance's academic theorizing and the play itself is the idea that Shakespeare's tragedies could be reworked as comedies with a few simple alterations. In turn, the real treat in watching *Goodnight Desdemona* is the clever ways in which MacDonald subverts the audience's expectations of two very famous plays, often landing well-known Shakespearean characters in unexpected and humorously compromising positions. In particular, the representation of Romeo and Juliet as petulant and snivel-

ling teenagers is rife with comedy. In Hart House's production, **Katie Ribout** and especially Theatre Erindale alumnus **Nathan Bitton** seem to have a lot of fun playing these young lovers as complete flakes already bickering and scoping out new romantic interests the day after their wedding.

Theatre Erindale also mounted a production of *Goodnight Desdemona* back in 2012. The differences between the two versions are more plentiful than one might guess. While Theatre Erindale offered a more modern and overtly madcap

telling of the tale, Hart House opts for a more traditional Shakespearean tone when it comes to costuming (minus the Chuck Taylors) and line delivery. The humour and subversion of the text are certainly still there, but in some ways, it feels like more of straight-faced send-up of Shakespeare's classics. Both approaches are valid, and both have their strengths, but it does make for surprisingly different viewing experiences.

Goodnight Desdemona is a briskly paced play with a lot of story to fit in, and at times, Hart House's produc-

tion felt a bit like it was barreling forward without taking a moment to breathe and let the cleverness of the script fully sink in. It takes an almost workmanlike approach to the text, and even to the staging, which seems like a somewhat incongruous choice for an otherwise fairly colourful play.

Chamberlain is no stranger to the Hart House Theatre stage, having taken on acting roles in multiple past productions and served as assistant director for last year's *Robin Hood: The Legendary Musical Comedy*. Now, she takes on full directing duties for the first time with *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*. As mentioned in the program, she seems to have a particular interest in the play's female characters, and some of the most effective moments come when Constance is navigating the immediately complicated relationships she forges with Desdemona and Juliet. Constance herself is also a refreshingly well-rounded character, partly thanks to **Lesley Robertson's** likeable performance, a solid anchor in a suitably wacky and occasionally muddled production.

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) has inherent appeal thanks to the well-worn material it references, and Hart House presents a faithful and entertaining retelling. For Shakespeare fans in particular, the clever spins on dramatic tropes and the uncompromisingly tongue-in-cheek examination of Shakespeare's classics are bound to be appreciated.

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) runs at Hart House Theatre until March 8.

Alternative voices

The *Casserole* offers you self-expression

KIMBERLY JOHNSON

The *Casserole*, a newly launched free online magazine of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, art, rants, and blurbs, published its inaugural issue on January 31.

In short, the *Casserole* is essentially a mix of unapologetic stories and striking artwork. It conveys what founder and editor-in-chief **Sara Peters** calls "the experience of being human".

Peters says the name came from the dish and represents the "whole is greater than the sum of its parts" philosophy.

She says the idea came from "the early '90s riot grrrl zine scene. The edginess of it—the ad-hoc, do-something-now attitude—intrigued me." Peters felt that many of the publications on this campus have specific rules about what's publishable. She wanted to "carve out a space in which people didn't

feel censored in terms of content or style".

Those who contribute determine everything about the way the magazine looks, sounds, and feels. There are no rules. Scrolling through the magazine's first issue, one can see a sense of artistic randomness that celebrates a beautifully human quirkiness that suits the people of UTM. The editors of the *Casserole*, comprising **Peters, Madeleine Brown, Matt Long, Matt Spadafora, Muzzamil Abdur-Razak, and Melissa Carter**, approach writing with an open mind.

Peters says the name came from the dish and represents the "whole is greater than the sum of its parts" philosophy. The magazine is open to everyone, regardless of program, writing skill, or interest. Basically, if you have something to express, this magazine wants you to know that it's the place.

To read the magazine, visit thecasserole.ca. They're currently accepting work. If you want to get involved or give feedback, you can email the editors at thecasserole@rogers.com.

To Overcome any Challenge

You just need the right gizmo.

Request an Assistive Device or Volunteer!

UTM's Devices 4 Disabilities Club matches volunteer engineering students with students with disabilities. Together, they design and build customized assistive devices that help students overcome barriers in their day-to-day activities. To request a device or volunteer, get in touch today!

For more information, contact:

PAUSE performers get a small but enthusiastic crowd

Students and staff alike take to the Blind Duck to perform at PAUSE's annual variety night



MARIA NG/THE MEDIUM

PAUSE's annual variety night brought out an array of performers in support of ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment and Development.

FARAH BADR

UTM's Psychology Association of Undergraduate Students at Erindale held their annual variety night at the Blind Duck last Thursday in support of ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment and Development. The cold temperatures unfortunately meant that the donations and attendance were on the slim side. Those who attended had come to see favourite performers, judging from the many immersed faces, bobbing heads, and untouched beer pitchers.

The event began with a welcome and introduction by PAUSE's **Mary Soliman** and **Gaby Sikora**, who dropped some classic "What does the psychologist..." jokes between acts. "How many psychologists do you need to change a light bulb? Only one, as long as the light bulb wants to change."

The night was headlined by a heated performance by the **Shift**, professor **Jeff Graham**'s own "boy band", formed in 1997 during his time at the University of Western Ontario. Lead guitarist **Steve Grodzuik**, per-

cussionist **Gary Hoag**, and the dashing bassist **David Robertson** played a pale orange guitar, a translucent set of orange drums, and a bright orange bass, while Graham's silky vocals and guitar action held the band together. The Shift's setlist included modern rock and older rock classics by **Pink Floyd** and the **Beatles**, more obscure '80s and '90s pieces, and a few original compositions. "We learned this just for you guys," said Graham, introducing one of the songs. "We learn a new song every 17th year, you know." The original

songs were good enough for a borderline rock fan like me to easily mistake for popular hits.

Meanwhile, the next performer, professor **Dax Urbszat**, dressed in a biker leather jacket, received a considerable amount of hysterical hooting as he got onstage. He proceeded with much calmer pieces than the Shift's, ending with his cover of **Green Day**'s iconic "Time of Your Life".

The night also included student performances. **Ansar Khan** sang "I Want It that Way" by the **Backstreet**

Boys, much to the audience's delight. The fedora-sporting saxophonist **Hina Sait** played the very familiar tunes "Mambo No. 5" and "Tequila", as well as the **Beatles**' "She Loves You", prompting two girls at the bar to break into synchronized '60s-style swaying, and receiving a pressing demand for an encore.

Though attendance may have been sparse, PAUSE still put on an enjoyable show, and, most importantly, raised money for a good cause. For more information on ErinoakKids Centre, visit erinoakkids.ca.

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.

ANDREW NABLO ASSOCIATE COPY EDITOR

Greg Wood *Greg Wood*

I'm not a woman between the ages of 21 and 39, and that's disappointing. Normally I wouldn't care, but after listening to **Greg Wood**'s self-titled album, I really want to be what Greg Wood wants. So I'm here to sell the ladies on Greg Wood.

Greg Wood has a lot to offer. He can play the guitar and he can sing. He probably owns a dog. His style of rock is a little generic and he sounds kind of like **Chad Kroeger**, but at least Greg Wood will treat you right. I know this because he has several songs about the specifics of treating you right.

Greg Wood is sensitive. He sings,

"Life is like a river, and I'm like a stone." That's pretty deep. He could be your shoulder to cry on. Imagine your tears dampening his guitar strap and tell me that's not a bonding experience. I'd feel safe in Greg Wood's hands. He doesn't wear a hat on the album cover, but I'd hold his hat if he asked.

Greg Wood's a romantic. On the eighth track, "I Want a Girl", he sings, "I want a girl, I want a girl, I want a girl, I want a girl." Girls love a guy who can communicate, and Greg Wood understands the female condition. His best track by far is "Broken Hearted Girl". He sings softly about heartache and backs it up with intricate acoustic guitar-playing. I loved every second of it and I'm not even a broken-hearted girl.

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

Short on runtime, high on thrills

Just Before Losing Everything offers suspense and effective drama



LATIMES.COM/PHOTO

A tense moment in the French short film *Just Before Losing Everything*.

EMILY KOVACS

Just Before Losing Everything is a short French film by filmmaker **Xavier Legrand** that chronicles the hours preceding a woman's decision to leave her abusive husband with her two children in tow. This engaging, ever-evolving enigma earned an Oscar nomination for Best Live-Action Short Film.

From start to finish, it's mysterious and puzzling, with a suspenseful buildup. The whole thing is very tight, the plot taking place over a few hours on one decisive day. *Just Before Losing Everything*'s real-time shooting, and cinematically realistic atmosphere and tone increase the tension. It begins as a drama, but the cat-and-mouse chase is full of emotional dis-

tress and surprise deceptions.

Just Before Losing Everything introduces its three central characters within minutes. We meet a young boy who hides under a bridge, a teenage girl whose tears flow freely, and a tense woman who picks up the two in a car. The film is set in innocent and normal-looking places: a bus stop where the teenager is picked up, a bridge where the boy is found, and a big box store where the trio leave their car. Even in the ordinary scenery and scenario, the anxious actions and strained faces of the characters create tension. The viewer quickly sees that there's something foreboding beneath the normalcy.

The viewer learns more about the characters and their situation as the plot unravels, but things aren't imme-

diately explained. In fact, for much of the start of the film there's no dialogue to illustrate the narrative at all, leaving the viewer unsure of why the characters find themselves in their situation. The believable situations and obstacles the characters face are very engaging. The answers are revealed to viewers little by little, but just as one answer is discovered, Legrand introduces another turn, keeping the suspense very active.

Legrand's characters have an emotional impact and inspire concern for their well-being in the viewer. The ending doesn't resolve the characters' fate. Have they escaped to freedom? Will their tale end in more misery and fear? *Just Before Losing Everything* orders the viewer to feel something, whether they like it or not. **MMMM**

MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

Black is always the new black

An in-depth walk through the inspiring advice of five panellists who shared their struggles

MARIA CRUZ
FEATURES EDITOR

In honour of Black History Month, UTM's Women's Centre hosted Black is the New Black in the Student Centre last Thursday. The event featured influential people of colour who shared their stories of success and hardship and offered advice for their peers in the black community.

The evening was kicked off with a spoken word piece before the panellists were introduced. Among the panellists were Rose Streete, Jade Nixon, Raymond Kingu Jr., Selvin Lennon, and Sandra Danial.

Streete, after moving from a small town near Ottawa to Toronto, "found her wings here in the GTA." She dropped out of high school after having her second child, but went back to university two years ago. She's currently running for city council representative in her board and is the 2013 YMCA Peace Medallion winner for her work on anti-violence initiatives. "I don't preach anti-violence, I preach anti-conflict because before violence, there's conflict," Streete said. "And when we address that, we're miles ahead."

Selvin Lennon moved from Jamaica to Ottawa in 1989 and lived there for eight years before coming to Toronto. "I went to school in a bad neighbourhood," Lennon said. "I grew up in Rexdale, so I've seen the worst of the worst and, fortunately enough for me, I had a praying mother and never became a product of my environment." He studied psychology, graduated, and was awarded a basketball scholarship, with which



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

Panellists speak to audience members about their experiences.

he went on to win a national title in 2008. Six months later, he played professional basketball in Germany, then came home to start his organization.

"We provide opportunities, the same opportunities that I didn't get growing up," Lennon said. "I think one of the biggest problems in the black community is lack of knowledge. So we try to foster that in our young people today."

Danial, who studied philosophy, political science, and gender studies, worked for the Women's Centre on campus as the social outreach coordinator. "I loved that position because it gave me the chance to do exactly what I love and work with people in the community and to have a voice on campus," she said. Danial also worked with Amnesty International and an

international human rights organization at Ryerson. "Human rights has always been a passion of mine," she said. "That extends to women's rights, human rights, black rights—everything. So I stand for it all."

Danial recently applied to law school. Her reason for applying, she says, was that she saw some of her friends go to jail and serve unjust sentences because they were black. "I look forward to getting my law degree so I can fight for people who have been marginalized and people who have had their voices taken away from them," she said.

Jade Nixon, who majors in English and sociology at UTM, was born in Mississauga, then a predominantly white area. "I felt excluded in my

educational journey," Nixon said. "In Grade 11, my average was 49.5%, and I wanted to prove myself. The following year, I raised my average up to an 88. Since then, I've been striving towards academic excellence and helping my community." Having been told she wouldn't make it to university, Nixon started the UTM initiative Project Code Noir, which seeks to empower black students to pursue postsecondary education.

Kingu Jr. comes from a difficult environment. At a young age, he wanted to be his own boss, start his own business, and work for himself. Now, at 26, he owns a clothing company and a health and fitness company. "I didn't get to finish school, so when I hear all this, I really commend those who are in university and secondary educa-

tion to finish and still stick with it," Kingu Jr. said. "It shows a lot of initiative and discipline."

Kingu Jr. didn't always see eye-to-eye with his father, and after a fight, he was thrown out of the house. "It was between living and going to school," he said. "I had to survive. I had to make a choice. It was either that I stayed in school or I had to go work." Kingu Jr. was forced to drop out of college two years in and join the workforce.

His bilingualism meant he easily found work with large corporations. "It didn't give me an advantage [over] those who were in school, but it helped me to understand how the real life workforce was," he said. "And that's when I went ahead and started my own business and started working and started getting into investments."

After the speakers' introductions, questions were asked of the panel in general. The first question asked was, "How do you feel your ethnicity has helped you in achieving your goals or realizing your potential?"

Streete answered first. "I was the black girl with no hair. I'm still the black girl with no hair—this is a wig," she laughs. "Not a problem—I had brains. I was what they thought was a child prodigy. I skipped two grades, and the thing about my ethnicity—that was my tool—was that because I was a smart girl, I made sure the door was open for everyone else behind me. I was the underdog. I was so unlikely to succeed in their eyes, not realizing what they were up against."

Black continued on page 12

Another continent, right around the corner

Situated close to campus, the French Corner Bakery offers not only sweet treats but also a good study spot

MADELEINE BROWN
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

I've noticed the French Corner Bakery and Patisserie's bright blue sign many times on my bus ride over to Westdale Mall to buy groceries each week. When I first started taking this bus route I allowed myself to stop by any business that caught my eye before I ran my errands. From the Chinese bakery to the halal butcher, each of these adventures proved a failure. I decided, though, to give the French Corner a chance after two friends recommended it to me.

A stream of bright light nearly blinded me when I entered, and a waft of baked bread warmed my shivering body. The bakery isn't big. The front area has a few sets of tables and chairs

and is framed by a L-shaped counter, beyond which is a series of ovens, prep space, and shelves. I approached the counter and discovered the array of delicious baked goods inside. The French Corner has everything from your basic chocolate chip cookie to slices of sweet loaves, colourful macarons, and meticulously made French pastries.

Then I discovered the baskets of fresh bread that I'd completely missed on my way in. I spent about 10 minutes pacing the bakery in awe. The woman behind the counter thought I was lost and tried to help me. They were about to close; I tried to pull myself together.

While I walked around mindlessly, a man walked in and swiftly bought the last cinnamon bun. I was dev-

astated: after hummingbird cake, cinnamon buns are my favourite baked good. I decided to purchase a chocolate-covered gingerbread man, a Linzer cookie, and a loaf of their whole-wheat sandwich bread. I couldn't wait to get home and try my purchases.

The bitter chocolate encasing the gingerbread man was the perfect contrast to its sweet interior. I took tiny bites to make it last longer. (This was one man I wouldn't let get away.) The Linzer cookie has that strong almond flavour you always hope for but don't often get in a Linzer cookie. The whole wheat loaf isn't revolutionary, but, being homemade, it still beats Wonder Bread or Dempster's any day. I feel like I've found a sugary haven a five-minute bus ride from campus

that I know will comfort me in times of stress, sadness, and hunger. It's also more affordable than grabbing a slice of strudel or a crêpe from the nearby Apricot Tree.

Since my first visit to the French Corner, I've been back to try their meringue, cinnamon bun, and a mini whole-wheat baguette. The meringue was mildly disappointing. Mind you, my standards are high since I sold my soul to the gigantic chocolate meringues at Carluccio's, an Italian chain in London, England this past summer. The French Corner's meringue was too small, with a weak structure and minimal sweetness. But I thoroughly enjoyed the cinnamon bun and its endless intertwining layers of warming cinnamon and brown sugar. And the baguette completely beat out

their whole wheat loaf. It had the perfect combination of a crisp exterior with a soft yet firm interior. It made the ideal accompaniment to my Jamaican jerk chili.

The French Corner offers lunch options, including sandwiches and salads, and a variety of hot drinks. I hope to return for a proper sit-down meal in the future. I'd also like to finally try one of the more complex pastries one day, although I've always found that style of baked good too finicky for my taste. The French Corner would make a good study spot: it's close to campus, it's quiet, and it has an endless supply of baked goods to get you through even the most unbearable of assignments. So I say, "Let UTM eat cake!"

Just don't touch the cinnamon buns. Those are mine. All mine.

“You are nothing but a little coloured girl”

Black continued from page 11

“For me, my ethnicity, coming from Jamaica, there wasn’t much for young black kids,” Lennon said. “One thing I think furthered me in where I wanted to get to was, as young black kids, you don’t give up on anything. It’s that stick-to-it attitude that you always have and hold dear.

“Being in an environment where you’re not supposed to succeed or you’re not supposed to get ahead or you’re immediately placed in the back because you’re a certain skin colour—it made that goal, that dream, that drive, a lot harder. I really wanted to do that much greater. For me, I saw it as a positive. They saw it as a negative. But I’m here today and a lot of them aren’t.”

Nixon added: “As a black girl in high school, it helped me because mediocrity wasn’t an option. I couldn’t just be mediocre because I felt excluded, so I had to be better. I had to always set the bar high, and it’s helped me set higher goals for myself.”

Danial said that, like Nixon, she felt she stuck out in elementary school, teased by the teacher and made to come in after class. Once, while she

that. For me, growing up in a poverty situation was no greater drive. When you wake up and you don’t have and you go to school and you see kids who do have, there’s no other motivation that you need other than that.”

The third question, asked solely of the women, was: “As a woman in your position as it stands now, what are some words of wisdom you can offer?”

“Belief is a very powerful thing. I stand on that,” Streete said. “When I took a leap of faith to be at the service of the people, I fell flat on my face. And that’s why I was homeless and lost it all. Remember that you’re a humanitarian first and foremost. Remember that you must have unconditional positive regard for every man, woman, and child, regardless of where you come from.

“The fact that I’m a black woman speaking about issues that relates to black people—it just means I’m speaking from my vantage point. But that doesn’t mean I can’t understand pain from another person. [...] It just means I understand it just a bit differently,” she continued. “For women, it doesn’t matter if people don’t believe in you, as long as you believe in yourself. Don’t

added that being authentic is vital in a position of leadership.

“I’m also a Christian, and my personal belief is love one another as you love yourself. And if you do that, all other things will fall into place,” he continued. “If you love someone, you won’t do somebody wrong. If you love anything, you won’t want it to affect anything else you do in life.

“I tell my young people, ‘You can hope for anything. Nothing in this world is ever limited. You can achieve anything you want to and it just starts from a small grain of mustard seed, which is faith and hope.’ Those are key components I use to drive my young people to the final destination.”

The next question asked was, “Did you face any form of discrimination on your journey and if so, what impact did it have on you?”

“Having a business or company, I kind of discriminate against myself,” said Kingu Jr. “I never really wanted to be the face of my brand, because I felt like [...] people wouldn’t even want to buy my product because I’m a young black guy. I always stayed in the background. It’s because of the people I had around me that make

should’ve entered Grade 7.

The second-last question asked was, “How does your work impact the community and what effect do you wish it had?”

Kingu Jr. said that his company is starting boot camps in the summer for young people who are looking to lose weight and get in shape. “When you tackle [obesity] early, you give yourself a chance later on,” he said. “So we’re starting boot camps. I’m coaching a basketball team right now.”

Lennon says his company has contacts in the Jamaican Canadian Association, who’ll be offering seminars on proper money management for young men and women this summer. “Finances in the black community is something that’s not really talked about,” Lennon said. “In my household, you don’t ask. It’s really hush-hush. The common thing I heard when I was younger was ‘You have to save’. But how do you save?”

Employees of Lennon’s company will also be working together to help the homeless.

The last question was an earlier one, turned this time to the males: “As a black man in your position, what are some words of wisdom you can offer?”



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

The Women’s Centre hosted **Black is the New Black** last Thursday as part of Black History Month.

was cleaning the chalkboard, her teacher bent down and told her, “You are nothing but a little coloured girl [who] won’t amount to anything.”

“I graduated from university. I have a degree from U of T and she doesn’t,” Danial pointed out. “Those words motivated me and they pushed me. Don’t let anyone dictate who you are or what you’ll do.”

Next, panellists were asked, “Was there a significant event in your life that motivated you to get to where you are now?”

“What really hit was the first time I got arrested,” Kingu Jr. said. “That was shocking, being in there [with] real criminals who committed real crimes. I didn’t commit a crime [...] it was just because a police officer comes and says, ‘Oh, you’re a black man? You’re gone.’ Just like that. I couldn’t even explain myself.

“That experience alone helped me understand how valuable time and life is. It helped me really understand that I never wanted to be a statistic. I always wanted to be that perfect black guy. I never tried to get into any trouble. Never smoked, never drank, never did anything like that. But somehow, trouble still found me. And I learned from that.” Kingu Jr. said that he left jail with even more fire, set on being a role model, and trying to stop similar things from happening to others.

Lennon answered second and said, “I think it was the first time I had a gun pointed at me. It’s a scary thing and it forces you to understand life is extremely short and extremely fragile.

“After that point I sat in my house and said, ‘No matter where I go, no matter what I do, I’m never feeling that feeling again,’” he said. “I never want to feel like I can’t get past a situation like

let spiritual warfare from other people stop you from achieving your dreams. I had to leave my common-law husband of 16 years because of spiritual warfare, because I wanted to work in the community.”

Nixon stressed the importance of being oneself and self-love, a point also balanced by Danial’s reminder that “we try to be independent and to be a go-getter, and we tend to be so focused on ourselves that we forget to reply on people who have been there for us from the get-go.”

The next question was, “How are your values reflected in the work that you do today?”

“My values come to God above all; everything else comes second,” said Danial. “It doesn’t mean that family or friends don’t have an even playing field, but make God the centre of your life. At the end of the day, people will be drawn to what you believe in.

“With the work that I do, it’s about leadership and teaching these young girls that there’s something you need to work hard for. And never let what anybody tells you deter you from achieving any goals you have or deter you from who you want to be.” Danial added that, for her, the best way to identify herself wasn’t her race, class, or sexual orientation, but her Christianity. “As a Christian, it’s all about love. So I try to preach love in how I behave and act and how I treat others,” she said.

“I just wrote down a couple words: faith, hope, love, authenticity,” Lennon said. “I deal with a lot of young people. The word ‘authentic’ is probably the most genuine word you can use because I know, as a young person, young people see through the lies and the foolishness. And if you’re not authentic, they don’t trust you.” He

it like it’s so rare to see a successful black person own a company. Now that’s changed. I believe in myself. You’ve got to change your mindset to change your circumstances.”

Streete recalled how, in Grade 1, she finished her workbook in one month, prompting the school to advance her to grade two. “Beware of the hidden and overt dangers, we’re all telling you positive things, but I have to be honest or else we’re not being authentic,” she said.

“My Grade 3 teacher wrote the word ‘thier’ on the board and I said, ‘Mrs. Bishop, is it t-h-e-i-r or t-h-i-e-r?’ And she turned beet-red and at recess, she took me into the furthest point of the playground and she pointed to this rock. And she said, ‘Kneel on that rock.’ And I said, ‘Mrs. Bishop, why are you making me kneel on the rock?’ And she said, ‘Just kneel on the rock.’

“She made me kneel on the rock for 30 days. Every morning and afternoon recess. And the kids would say, ‘Why are you kneeling on the rock?’ And I said ‘I don’t know, ask Mrs. Bishop.’” Streete recalled that she told her mother, a custodian at the school, of the incident, but she was afraid to cause trouble.

“I said to her on the 29th day, ‘Mom, if you don’t do something about Mrs. Bishop making me kneel on the rock, I’m going to take a rock and stone her,’” said Streete.

The next morning, Streete’s mother spoke with Streete, Mrs. Bishop, and the principal, but the only apology Streete received was Mrs. Bishop saying, “I didn’t know it was hurting her feelings.”

Streete’s father told her, “Never let people know how smart you are, because they’ll hurt you.” Streete started university by the time she

Kingu Jr. said that the biggest thing is that the way you perceive yourself is how other people perceive you. “If you feel like you’re a failure and you can’t do it, you’re a failure. If you feel like you can win, you will win,” he said. “If you want to be a doctor one day, start thinking like a doctor. If you want to be a lawyer, start dressing like a lawyer and you’ll become one.

“We’re in a prison in our minds as black men sometimes,” he continued. “It’s really sad to see how that affects us. I see a lot of potential in a lot of young black men but they don’t see the potential in themselves.”

“You gotta be a server,” said Lennon next. “I think anything you do in service of others, it can’t help but turn out well. When you serve people, people will in turn serve you.

“Perseverance—there are days you’re going to wake up and say, ‘Why am I doing this? How can I do this?’” he added. “But when you know that ‘why’ [...] you’ll be able to understand and get over that feeling of ‘I don’t wanna do this, I don’t wanna get out of bed.’

“Persistence. I never understood the word ‘persistence’ until I heard the word ‘no’ 10 times in a row. I went to get a grant from a company and I heard ‘no’ from the CEO, the financial accountant, the business advisor, and I thought, the word ‘no’ is not a bad thing. It just furthers you along, it pushes you to be more persistent to getting to that yes.

“Use wisdom,” he concluded. “I believe the first thought you have is usually the right one. Whatever is deep inside, no matter what it is, you can do whatever you want to do. It doesn’t matter unless what you want to do is what you want to do.”

Balancing dua'a and student life

ZAINAB ANJUM

As a third-year student, I'm still at the bottom of the academic food chain. Meeting deadlines and juggling classes is something I've yet to master. But over the years I've established a routine for my daily predicaments: take deep breaths and drink loads of water, with constant *dua'a* for added relief.

Dua'a in Islam is a type of supplication. Derived from an Arabic term that loosely means to "call out" or "summon", *dua'a* is seen as the essence of prayer and a profound form of worship. It's usually performed after the five daily prayers. The time is given to put one's hands together and take a moment to speak directly to Allah. Whether it's to give thanks or to ask for help and guidance, *dua'a* is a direct confession to God. Though I'm still uncertain whether I fully understand the complete worth of this particular act, I'm very much aware of the consequence it has on my academic capabilities.

I don't believe in luck, and I think you can almost always find a correlation between the amount of effort you put into something and the end results. My GPA is proof of that. For courses I've poured sweat and many, many tears into, I've received the justified grades. For those I've slacked off in, that hasn't always been the case. Even then, the amount of faith I put in the power of a simple *dua'a* before and after a particularly challenging day is surprising, to say the least.

It slips from my lips when I'm not quite sure if I'll be enough. I make *dua'a* for help before a tough midterm, for strength for an upcoming interview, and to give thanks for the A on a paper I worked hard on. For me, *dua'a* comes as rants to no one in particular, because who's really to blame when my computer crashes 20 minutes before class?

Though *dua'a* doesn't necessarily make everything okay, it's the promise for me that I'm not the sole reason everything's a mess. It humbles

me and lets me feel small so I'm not too proud to address my weaknesses and take on more than I can handle. Think of it as the net under a high-wire walker. The net's there because without it, the wire would probably seem impossible to balance on. Without *dua'a*, life seems impossible to balance.

The amount of faith I put in the power of a simple *dua'a* before and after a particularly challenging day is surprising, to say the least.

Being part of an institution where almost everything requires references, footnotes, or tangible evidence, I can see why *dua'a* might seem to some like fairy dust or a placebo. But *dua'a* isn't a guarantee, and it's never

my back-up plan. I don't rely on secret prophecies for the answers to my multiple-choice questions. In fact, to me it doesn't even seem appropriate to ask for help when I haven't helped myself first. And that's what Allah says when He promises to change the circumstances of only those who've tried to change themselves.

I pull just as many long hours and all-nighters as the next person. I try just as hard to reach out for things I want. The difference is that after I've pulled that all-nighter and I've crammed to my brain's capacity, I make *dua'a* for it all to go smoothly. And part of me feels at ease because I'm able to believe that it will.

This reflection is the first of a series the Medium is considering on faith-based practices at UTM, timed as the university and the student union are collecting opinions on expanding multi-faith space. If you have comments or would like to contribute, please write to us at editor@mediumutm.ca.



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Editor | Jason Coelho

Eagles soar over UTSC in final game

UTM women's tri-campus team makes a comeback in the fourth quarter against the Maroons

FERGUS TALBOT

It took time to produce some sparkle, but UTM stormed the court with solid pace and retention of the ball for tri-campus women's basketball's final game of the season last Wednesday at the RAWC.

Sajana Saththiyantham made herself open in the UTSC paint to receive a pass, following some good ball movement, to score from close range. Lauren O'Grady was a key player for UTM; she started the match in good shape, despite the injury to her leg, as she bagged a three-pointer within six minutes. The Maroons had barely started a counterattack before UTM's Chelsea Bartholomew intercepted a pass and passed the ball to teammate Sarah Olefield, who netted another three-pointer. Despite the solid play by the Eagles, UTSC began to tilt the court to their favour, as UTSC's Pasha Binder was finally able to put the ball in the net for her team. The Maroons' offensive pressure was controlled by Emma Hagopian, who helped her team convert on points in the transition. Binder performed well during the first quarter, helping her team



NICOLE RAQUINIO/THE MEDIUM

The UTM Women will play their first game of the playoffs this Wednesday.

take advantage of a tired UTM squad. UTM head coach Jack Krist must have noticed the fatigue of his starting five, because he swiftly decided to substitute all the girls on the court to avoid a defensive calamity.

Right away, the five substitutes made an impact. Daesi Reale adventured herself alone in the UTSC paint against three UTSC defenders,

making a superb pass to Saththiyantham, who narrowly missed from close range. Back in defence, the same two combined well to dismantle the Maroons' attacking prospect. Raele wasn't disappointed by her second offensive stint; she passed the ball to Bartholomew following a neat fake-shot to give UTM a slim lead at half-time with a score of 20-19.

The UTSC Maroons were on the attack at the beginning of the second half, with player Cris Arribas opening the scoring. It took four long minutes for the Eagles to make any noise on their side, made possible by UTM's Emily Goetz. Arribas was the X factor for her team in the second half, contributing immensely on the offensive front. Bartholomew led her team on

the court for the second half to keep UTM in the game. Raele topped off a fine scoring performance from UTM, adding two three-pointers in the final 10 minutes and helping her team edge out UTSC to take a 50-33 victory.

The win stabilizes the Eagles' third-place position in the standings.

"We dominated in the last 10 minutes, thanks to the fact that we passed the ball less and took more shots," said Krist. "We mainly saw that in the second half, which explained why our ladies were able to dig such a gap in tonight's final score. The real test comes this week, as we must play the St. George Reds twice in the space of four days."

Player of the Game:

Daesi Reale (UTM Eagles)

This game saw an outstanding performance from UTM's point guard. She coordinated her team's offensive tactics very well and was able to create several passes for Bartholomew and O'Grady. "The last time we played the Maroons, we needed to go overtime to beat them," she said. "It was a setback for us. This time, we almost got 20 points more than they did."

The scandal of bullying in the locker room

Author and therapist Evan Katz addresses the widespread bullying environment in professional sports



THESTAR.COM/PHOTO

Richie Incognito (68) and Jonathan Martin (71) play for the Miami Dolphins and were recently embroiled in a bullying scandal.

JASON COELHO
SPORTS EDITOR

After Miami Dolphins guard Richie Incognito was accused of bullying teammate Jonathan Martin, forcing Martin to sit out the remainder of the season, there's been a greater focus on the environment players and coaches are creating in the locker room, and whether it's causing dissonance for professional sports teams and players.

Evan Katz is a therapist and author of *Inside the Mind of an Angry*

Man, a book that looks at the causes of anger in males. He has been interviewed on the topic by major news sources across America, including Fox News. Katz's recent focus has been on professional sports and how athletes' stardom may make them feel as though the rules don't apply to them. The *Medium* interviewed Katz to delve into the topic of bullying in sports.

The Medium: After the Miami Dolphins incident, the focus on bullying in sports has increased tenfold. Why do you believe it has

taken so long for these issues to be brought to the forefront?

"[Sports leagues] only spend money on the bullying issue when they have to, when the public cries foul."

—Evan Katz

Evan Katz: The culture of sports has allowed, conditioned, and even

rewarded players [who] bully. A quick cost/benefit analysis explains it all. From a business perspective—and most sports, all the way down to the high school level, are business-oriented to some extent—it's fiscally more beneficial for leagues like the NFL, and team owners, to invest in revenue-making projects than in prevention of the occasional reported incident, or revenue-taker. Sports leagues and many teams are reactive versus proactive in their approach to bullying and unacceptable aggres-

sion on and off the field. They only spend money on the bullying issue when they have to, when the public cries foul. At present, the former is financially more beneficial than the latter. Thus, from a business point of view, the bullying issue is an affordable business expense. I think we can see this true in any sport where money is being made both directly and indirectly, especially at the college and pro levels.

Katz continued on page 15

Katz changing sports culture

Katz continued from page 14

TM: Does the male-dominated environment have anything to do with this behaviour?

EK: I don't believe so. We see more and more women doing the same. The more competitive and conditioned they are to be rewarded to perform well, the less a focus and concern conduct becomes.

TM: Why don't athletes behave in the locker room as they would in the workplace?

EK: Because in the locker room, there aren't consequences the way there are in society. They do it because they can.

TM: How can athletes regulate their behaviour to act in a civil manner?

"If a coach states that no one is above the rules, they need to keep their promises, even if it costs them wins, which may cost them their jobs."

—Evan Katz

EK: Starting with middle school, they need to be held accountable, the same as everyone else. They need to learn the natural consequences of life—that when you act like a bully or a jerk, people generally won't like you. Our culture enables the best players to get a pass, not being held accountable for their actions the way the valedictorian or any other student would be. We learn impulse-control and appropriate ways to deal with conflict in middle school and high school. The best players are taught the opposite: that they don't need to control their impulses or behaviours, and won't be held accountable to the degree that you or I would. This isn't true for all athletes or all programs. And society—the fans—should be held responsible as well. Society continues to minimize these behaviours as well, more often than not taking into account their performance on the field for accountability, when really it's irrelevant both on and off the field.

TM: You say there's a feeling of superiority for certain star players that's fostered by the coaching staff and makes these players feel as though the rules don't apply to them. How can coaches establish a stable environment to keep players grounded?

EK: Walk their talk: If a coach states that no one is above the rules, then they need to keep their promise, even if it costs them wins, which may cost them their jobs.

Model the behaviour they expect from players. Treat every player the same: as people who are athletes, not athletes who are people. If they don't, then a bias towards the best performers will likely take over.

Be present. Many head coaches are so wrapped up in administrative and other duties that they rely too much on assistant coaches to be their eyes and ears.

Get educated. Coaches aren't counsellors. They usually don't understand the underlying causes that result in a player's feelings of invincibility, grandiosity, entitlement, *et cetera*. They need basic education on signs of depression, anxiety, *et cetera*. Underlying emotions determine thinking and behaviour. They need to have a basic understanding of what to look for and what to do.

TM: Speaking to some varsity players, I noticed there seems to be a greater focus on team mentality in university sports and fewer incidents of bullying than in professional sports. Do the perks of fame, sponsorships, and high-paying contracts change the mindset of players for the worse?

EK: We have to remember that [postsecondary] players are highly monitored, not just by the rules of the NCAA but also by professors, college rules, *et cetera*. And because of their age bracket, they tend to socialize more with each other rather than spend time at home with the family, doing commercials, *et cetera*. Positive peer pressure is a good thing. It helps all of us stay in line with behaviour acceptable to those we want to be with and those we respect.

The pros, on the other hand, are the ones who experience the least accountability and most attention and reward. For the pros, the perks you spoke of fuel one's illusion that they are good people [because of] their performance on the field, when in reality what they do on the field is irrelevant to who they are and how they or those close to them see them as people. My experience working with high-performance professionals has been just that. They justify poor behaviour by the validation of others as their being fantastic people, when really the validation is based on performance.

In college, the emphasis on players as [postsecondary] students and the accountability to meet academic requirements gives better reason to balance their behaviour. We have to remember that only a small percentage of college players make it to the pros. So for most, the need to get good grades and think about the future is paramount, just like [for] every other student. Those headed for the pros see the money, fame, and fortune. They look towards that.

TM: Are there any other points that you would like to voice for students and student athletes on the topic of bullying in sports?

EK: Happiness is an inside job. No matter how much validation you get from big money, fans, and media, it will never be a substitute for the true image you have of yourself. If you can't look in the mirror at the end of the day and feel proud and respectful of who you see, then regardless of the fame and fortune you'll be dependent on the validation of others to justify to yourself that you're okay forever.

So be honest with yourself and act in ways that result in your respecting and liking yourself for what you think of you, not for what others think.

Nolan Anderson's game plan



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Anderson is a student athlete and an employee of the RAWC.

JASON COELHO
SPORTS EDITOR

Most students at UTM strive to better themselves academically. But swimming in coursework can become overwhelming, and many student use athletics to beat school-related stress. Nolan Anderson is able to get the best of both worlds every day. In addition to being a student, Anderson works at the RAWC's control desk. Born and raised in Mississauga, Anderson manages to balance time spent working on courses and time on the court.

Since being a student alone can be demanding, Anderson is happy to work somewhere that gets him involved with the campus community, promotes overall health, and is a stone's throw away from his lecture hall. "One perk of being a RAWC employee is the sense of community and belonging that the control desk staff and other RAWC staff have with each other," he says.

Anderson was interested in working at the RAWC because of his interest in fitness. According to Anderson, his athletic background, which includes being a player on the UTM men's tri-campus soccer team for the past two years, made him right for the job.

"Meeting a large and diverse array of people who attend the gym either regularly or once in a while is an added bonus, on top of increased familiarity with the inner functioning and programming of the RAWC itself," adds Anderson.

The athlete, who's won two back-to-back soccer championships and played in a number of leagues on campus, including ball hockey, Division 1 soccer, and co-ed soccer, sees his position as an opportunity to improve his physical well-being and get others involved, too.

Though the number of students joining Campus Rec and other leagues on campus has risen, Anderson believes that the level of competition

is lower than it used to be in campus sports leagues. "Based [on] others' perspectives, and from what I see in the leagues I play in, I would have to agree that the intensity of the competition might not be where it used to be," he says. "For example, there are only four soccer teams in Division 1 soccer, but as many as 12 in Division 2."

Anderson is currently in the second year of his psychology and philosophy double major. After graduation, he plans on attending graduate school for psychology or earning a degree in law or global affairs.

A Toronto Maple Leafs fan, he has enjoyed his time working at the RAWC, including the perks of spotting professional athletes using the workout facilities. "I [saw] Ricky Ray and Chad Owens, quarterback and wide receiver, respectively, for the Toronto Argonauts," says Anderson. "Having them use the facility on a regular basis clearly demonstrates the high overall quality of the RAWC."



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PERIOD	Dates
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Silent Period	Friday, March 7 th , 2014, 4 p.m. to Monday, March 17 th , 2014, 9 a.m.
All Candidates Meeting	Saturday, March 8 th , 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Election Campaign Period	Monday, March 17 th , 2014, 9am to Thursday, March 27 th , 2014, 6pm.
Election Voting Period	Tues. March 25 th , Wed. March 26 th , Thurs. March 27 th , 2014. 9am-6pm.
Election Results	Monday, March 31 st , 2014.

To run for a position, please pick up a nomination package during the nomination period from the U.T.M.S.U Office - Room 115, Student Center. Please keep in mind the dates and deadlines above. For more information please refer to the union's Constitution and the Election Procedure Code. * (Bring your T-Card for Identification).

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union is holding its Spring 2014 Elections for the following positions:

- 4 Division II - Directors at large**
- 7 Division III - Central Directors at large**
- 2 Division IV - Part-Time Directors at large**
- 1 Division V - Professional Faculties - MAM**
- 1 President**
- 1 Vice-President Internal and Services**
- 1 Vice-President University Affairs and Academics**
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