The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is winding down services at their Child Youth and Family (CYF) Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) for children and youth after an internal review reported that the clinic was practicing reparative therapy.

Reparative therapy, or conversion therapy, is an outdated practice that aims to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity. It is illegal to perform conversion therapy on children in Ontario. Dr. Kwaame McKenzie, a medical director at CAMH and professor of psychiatry at U of T, said that the review was not intended to investigate whether or not conversion therapy was taking place. “Our clinicians have always said, and still say that they do not practice reparative therapy. The review made it clear that it could not say that reparative therapy was taking place. But it could not say that it was not. Our position is that this should not be an issue,” he said, adding that he was satisfied with the way in which the investigation was conducted.

CAMH released a report on the review’s findings on December 15, 2015. The report made mention of several complaints submitted to Dr. Kenneth Zucker, the former functional clinical and research team leader at the CYF GIC. Marissa Hetherington, a former patient at the GIC, said that she was happy to hear the clinic was winding down. “As a former patient, I was...really not a positive experience, and my opinion of it has only degraded over time,” she said. Hetherington said that she was repeatedly deadnamed — referred to by the name given to her at birth instead of her chosen name — and that the views and principles held by the clinic were not aligned with her identity.

CUPE 3902 files labour complaint against U of T months after strike’s conclusion

Union of public employees alleges university “bargained in bad faith”

The Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3902 (CUPE 3902), which represents teaching assistants, sessional lecturers, and postdoctoral fellows at the University of Toronto, has filed an unfair labour practice complaint against the University of Toronto through the Ontario Labour Relations Board, effectively initiating a form of legal action against the university.

Representatives from CUPE 3902 released a public statement alleging that, during labour negotiations with the university last winter, the university administration were dealing in bad faith in that they did not accurately report data related to the contentious Graduate Student Bursary Fund. The university and CUPE 3902 entered into binding arbitration last March, in order to reach consensus on two unresolved grievances, one of which was the Graduate Student Bursary Fund. CUPE 3902 is now accusing the university of obfuscation. The statement alleges that the data relating to per-student funding on which the union had based their negotiating position was “outdated, inaccurate and misleading.” The release goes on to suggest that the numbers provided by the university included other sources of income that “union members secured independently of their funding.”

“It cannot be overstated how important this data was to our position in bargaining. It completely underpinned the Fund we negotiated. Not only is the Fund now insufficient for its intended purpose, we can’t disburse the money we do have because the data is junk,” added Isabel Stowell-Kaplan, vice chair of CUPE 3902, Unit 3.
PHOTO OF THE WEEK

A miniature one piece living room 3D model produced by 3D System’s “Projet 600Pro”. It prints models slightly larger than the size of a piece of paper to a height of roughly eight inches in full color.

NATHAN CHAN/THE VARSITY

THE EXPLAINER

HEADLINES (LIKE THE DRAKE SONG)

The biggest stories of 2015

CUPE 3902 STRIKE

After failed negotiations with the university administration, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3902 Unit 1, which represents around 6,000 teaching assistants and academic staff, went on strike. The union campaigned for higher wages, as many of its members were receiving income below the poverty line. The month-long strike came to an end after the union agreed to binding arbitration. The union previously filed a labour grievance against the university, alleging that the university bargained in bad faith.

FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

After months of lobbying by activist groups such as UofT350, the university’s presidential divestment committee released a report that recommended “targeted divestment” from fossil fuels. This report also came in wake of the COP21 conference in Paris as well as a report from Corporate Knights, which claimed that the university had lost $550 million by not divesting from fossil fuels.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Ahead of the federal election, the UTSU encouraged students to vote by running “Democracy Week.” The Varsity spoke with candidates from numerous ridings in the GTA, as well as Green Party leader Elizabeth May.

UTSU

There was no shortage of headlines relating to the University of Toronto Students’ Union (UTSU) in 2015. March saw the victory of a slate without ties to the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3902 Unit 1, which represents around 6,000 teaching assistants and academic staff, went on strike. The union campaigned for higher wages, as many of its members were receiving income below the poverty line. The month-long strike came to an end after the union agreed to binding arbitration. The union previously filed a labour grievance against the university, alleging that the university bargained in bad faith.

TRENDS AGAINST U OF T FEMINISTS

Following comments made on a BlogTO article calling readers to shoot U of T feminists, students held the university accountable for what they believed was an inequitable response. By failing to acknowledge which specific students and departments were targeted, many students were disappointed that the university did not take the threats more seriously.

The Varsity is the University of Toronto’s largest student newspaper. TheVarsity.ca is an additional online publication. This publication has adhered to the Canadian Association of University and College Journalists’ Code of Ethics. Comments to: thevarsity.ca.editor@utoronto.ca or via our feedback form. Comments@thevarsity.ca or via our feedback form.
Former UTSU executive director Sandra Hudson files statement of defence, counterclaim

Claim seeks $300,000 in damages

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

STATEMENT OF DEFENCE AND COUNTERCLAIM OF SANDRA HUDDSON

Plaintiff

1. The defendant Sandra Hudson (“Hudson”) admits the allegations contained in paragraphs 7, 11, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32, and 34 (except that Appendix II to the statement of claim is (incompleat) of the statement of claim).

2. Hudson denies the remainder of the allegations contained in the statement of claim, except where otherwise admitted below.

The Parties

3. The Students’ Administrative Council of the University of Toronto, carrying on business as the University of Toronto Students’ Union (“UTSU”), is the undergraduate student organization for full-time students at the University of Toronto’s St. George and Mississauga campuses.

4. Hudson was UTSU’s Executive Director from August 27, 2012 until April 30, 2015.

5. As Executive Director, Hudson repaid two to UTSU director on the Executive Committee: the President and the Vice- Presidents, Internal and Services (“VP-IS”).

The first page of the counterclaim PUBLIC COURT DOCUMENT

ALEC WILSON

Responding to a civil suit filed by the University of Toronto Students’ Union (UTSU) earlier this year, former UTSU executive director Sandra Hudson has filed a statement of defence and counterclaim with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice seeking $300,000 in damages from the union.

STATEMENT OF DEFENCE

On November 19, Hudson filed a statement of defence through her lawyers which offers an alternative narrative of events leading up to her departure from the union in April. Hudson denies a number of the union’s allegations, including the claim that she “conspired to commit civil fraud.” Former UTSU president Yolen Bollo-Kamara and vice president internal & services Cameron Wathey were also named in the UTSU’s suit and have filed separate statements of defence.

The defence goes on to claim that, although Hudson had never filed for overtime in two-and-a-half years of employment, she did frequently work long hours on “non-managerial tasks” and had accrued a significant amount of overtime between 2012 and April 2015. Examples of this type of work includes “assisting at polling stations, closing the cash registers at the UTSU office, and completing minutes at polling stations, closing the cash registers at polling stations.”

James Grant, who is also a defendant in the suit, said he was aware of the above allegations and that he had “taken the opportunity to air any concerns that I had, and show my desire to prevent misunderstandings for everyone involved in this situation.”

Grant said the following: “At no point did I personally make comments on my views of her work performance to anyone beyond Wathey and Bollo-Kamara, the only two individuals she reported to, and this was only to address concerns brought forward by other members of the union.”

According to Grant, he received complaints about Hudson while he was chair of the Executive Review Committee. He stated that, “several allegations have been brought forward by the Executive Review Committee, of which [he] was the chair. Unfortunately, directors are given little to no formal training on dealing with complaints, but they have been brought forward by our members.”

It was after his lack of action that a public statement regarding these concerns was made. The defence also claims that when Hudson attempted to work with Wathey — “to treat Hudson harshly,” before terminating her job performance into question.

Hudson took place during which Grant alleged that Hudson had accused her of being upset and “to humiliate her.”

According to the defence, Hudson considered this revelation as “constructive dismissal” and informed Wathey that she intended to file a human rights complaint. It was at this point that Wathey suggested Hudson enter into a termination agreement with the union — an official conclusion of her employment that would entitle her to severance pay and preempt her removal by the incoming union executive — “to avoid further strife.”

Initially, Hudson was unwilling, but she changed her mind following a series of other negative interactions with UTSU directors, including an alleged incident during which Coleman suggested he was “able to tell [Hudson] and Bollo-Kamara (who are both Black women) apart, because Bollo-Kamara was wearing lipstick.”

When you screw up like I did with the lipstick comment, I think it’s important to face that and learn. Sandra and I had a private conversation about her frustrations with people confusing her and Yolen, in which I commented that it was especially ridiculous given that their senses of style were totally different.

You then posted publicly about it, which is when I realized my remark had come across completely differently than I intended. Coleman responded to The Varsity. “At my request, Yolen and I met so I could give her a full apology. I proactively set up a meeting with Sandy in April so that I could give her the opportunity to air any concerns she had, and show my desire to prevent microaggressions. I made a concentrated effort for Sandy to feel comfortable working with us, and knew she had been close to Yolen and Cameron,” he explained.

The termination agreement was made effective on April 30 and it entitled Hudson to payments comprised of two weeks salary in lieu of notice of termination, two years salary as severance; compensation for five weeks vacation; and compensation for overtime. The agreement also included a non-disparagement clause which bars the UTSU from making derogatory statements about Hudson, as well as the confidentiality clause and mutual release.

UTSU'S INITIAL CLAIM

The UTSU’s initial statement of claim, which was submitted on September 21, alleged that Hudson entered into a termination agreement with former union president Yolen Bollo-Kamara and vice president internal & services, Cameron Wathey, concluding that the agreement was not in the UTSU’s executive director. Pursuant to the agreement, Hudson was entitled to $247,726.40 in compensation upon her dismissal — a severance figure equivalent to roughly 10 per cent of the union’s operating budget.

The union that entered into this agreement represented a breach of “their fiduciary duty.” Their statement of claim alleges that Hudson, Bollo-Kamara, and Wathey “acted in a manner that was oppressive, unfairly prejudicial to and unfairly disregarded the interests of the UTSU and its members,” as well as that they “conspired to commit civil fraud” and that their actions “constituted civil fraud.”

The UTSU’s claim also alleges that, between January and April of 2015, Bollo-Kamara authorized a sum of $29,782.22 in cheques “for a total of 2,589.5 hours of overtime.”

The statement of claim also argues that in her two-and-a-half years as the UTSU’s executive director, Hudson had never recorded any overtime hours until April of 2015.

COUNTERCLAIM

Included with the statement of defence filed on November 19, Hudson also filed a counterclaim against the UTSU. The counterclaim seeks $300,000 in damages from the union, as well as a declaration that both the non-disparagement and confidentiality clauses of the termination agreement were breached.

The claim alleges that the UTSU violated the non-disparagement and confidentiality clauses by failing to seek a sealing order which would have restricted access to information pertaining to the suit — and filing suit before Hudson had an opportunity to procure one. Hudson also claims that the UTSU further violated these clauses when it provided The Varsity with copies of their statement of claim, and when Coleman made statements to the media.

On this claim, Coleman offered the following: “In our statements to the media and students, we’ve emphasized that this is about students’ money, and the ability to have a students’ union that has adequate resources, not about any one person or their character. We’ve also emphasized that we’d like a resolution through mediation or arbitration. We want to resolve this with the least hardship and dis- stress for everyone involved in this situation, and that hasn’t changed.”

Hudson’s defence claims that these acts were undertaken “maliciously and in bad faith” in order to ensure publication and undermine the non-disparagement clauses of the termination agreement.

MOVING FORWARD

It remains unclear at this point whether or not the two parties will ultimately go to trial or resolve the issue privately. Neither Hudson, nor the UTSU’s lawyers, responded to immediate requests for comment.

This article originally appeared on The Varsity’s website on December 11, 2015.
Motion on CFS on agenda; BDS motion absent

TOM YUN ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Preparations are underway for the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) Special General Meeting (SGM) later this month, where several member-submitted motions will be discussed and voted upon.

The agenda for the SGM includes a motion regarding the UTSU's membership with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), a motion for "ethical divestment," a motion to allow clubs and service groups to have a say in the UTSU's budgeting process, a motion to create an accessible computer lab, and a motion to authorize computerized voting.

The SGM marks the UTSU's third general meeting this academic year. Motions that were not discussed at the UTSU's Annual General Meeting on October 7 will also be debated at the SGM.

Among those items are a motion to ensure paper ballots for UTSU elections, a non-binding motion on free tuition, a motion calling for accountability to UTSU members, a motion on accessibility for professional faculty students, a motion for an endorsement of the Black Lives Matter movement, a motion on prevention of sexual violence, and a motion to stand in solidarity with the Cape Breton University Students' Union (CBUSU).

The CBUSU lost a case against the CFS and was ordered to pay $295,000 in membership fees plus legal charges, resulting in the union filing for bankruptcy.

THE MOTION ON THE CFS

Stephanie Spaguolo, a first-year student at Victoria College is moving to strike a committee to investigate the UTSU's relationship with the CFS every year and to have the UTSU "contemplate leaving the CFS."

"We find this motion necessary because, as a university with upwards of 50,000 students within its union, proper representation for our students is very important, and the CFS does not adequately provide that," Spaguolo said. "The CFS appears to favour staff over elected officials when the officials are obviously the people chosen by the students to represent their wants and needs."

The preamble of the CFS motion describes the federation as "inefficient and borderline undemocratic, and restricts the democratic process" and claims that the CFS "does not adequately represent the students of the University of Toronto."

"The Union's relationship with the CFS should be thoroughly examined, particularly on the question of if this relationship should continue. This is achievable only through passing this motion," Spaguolo said.

Spaguolo described Bylaw I.3.a.iii of the CFS by-laws, which states that 20 per cent of a union's membership must sign a petition in order for there to be a referendum to leave the federation, as "an archaic barrier to democratic vote on decertification."

"Students disinterested and disenfranchised with the CFS, like myself, would have to collect ten thousand signatures on top of their stressful academics just to express what should be a basic democratic right," she said. Spaguolo said that she also sees a lack of transparency in the CFS' budget — which has not been made available online — and expressed concerns over the CFS' lawsuit with the CBUSU.

UTSU president Ben Coleman and UTM director Hashim Youssef both raised concerns with the wording of the motion, questioning its seriousness and suggesting that the motion was a joke.

Spaguolo defended her wording. "My motion was written and worded sincerely, seriously and intentionally," she said, adding "the CFS membership is a prominent part of the union's budget and therefore deserves to be looked into thoroughly. This motion is written with the intent to better the UTSU at its core, and passing this motion will see to those improvements."

Bilan Arte, the CFS' national chairperson, was travelling at the time The Varsity requested comment.

BDS MOTION NOT ON AGENDA

Back in June 2015, UTSU vice-president equity Sanya Khan outlined in her executive report that there would be an opportunity at an SGM to vote on whether the UTSU should endorse the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. The movement calls for the University of Toronto Asset Management Corporation (UTAM) to divest in companies that, according to pro-BDS advocates, contribute to human rights abuses in Palestine.

Members of various Jewish student groups expressed concerns with the motion, arguing that the goal of the BDS movement is to eliminate Israel as a Jewish state and that a UTSU endorsement of BDS would create a divisive atmosphere on campus, contributing to the marginalization of Jewish students. The UTSU's Board of Directors voted down a motion to strike an ad-hoc BDS committee in July. At the time, a BDS motion was still set to appear on the agenda for the SGM.

Aidan Swirsky, a second-year University College student who was vocally opposed to Khan's plans for a BDS motion, is moving a similar but broader motion for "ethical divestment."

Swirsky's motion calls for the UTSU to lobby UTAM to divest from "any company that is found to profit from human rights violations, labour violations, especially those involving children, sweatshops or undocumented workers, war and weapons manufacturing, and/or the creation of environmental disasters."

This call for divestment would not be limited to companies operating in any one country or location.

I think this motion is necessary because as students who are paying thousands of dollars in tuition to the University, it is our right to exercise some input over the investments being made with our money," said Swirsky. He cited companies that employ child slavery in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and unsafe working conditions in Bangladesh as examples of unethical divestment and noted the success of the fossil fuel divestment campaign.

However, Swirsky drew distinctions from his motion and BDS. "This motion is very different from BDS because it handles the concepts of ethical divestment and promotion of human rights far more accurately and responsibly than BDS is wrongly perceived to."

"BDS promotes the academic and cultural blanket boycott of a singular country, Israel, while simultaneously espousing a demand that would lead to the destruction of said country."

The SGM is scheduled for January 28 in Room 2118 of Sidney Smith Hall. UTSU members will be able to proxy their vote online between January 18 and January 25.

IMPEACHMENT FOLLOWS ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT, SEXUAL ASSAULT

According to Jasmine Denike, UTSU vice president external, the allegation was a “tip- ping point,” but not the sole reason behind the impeachment; rather, it was the result of several complaints regarding Bansal’s job performance. "We don’t wish him ill and we wish him all the best, but we wanted to make sure students feel safe on campus. That is our first priority,” Denike said.

Previous complaints received by the UTSU's Executive Review Committee (XRC) included claims that Bansal made sexist and sexual comments and was uninterested at work. The XRC investigated the grievances over the summer and recommended that Bansal be placed on probation, but did not recommend impeachment.

Immediately after the meeting at which he was impeached, Bansal told The Varsity that he was distraught.

A new vice president, campus life will be selected to fulfill the office for the remaining four months of the term. A hiring committee comprised of UTSU executives, with the possible addition of one or two UTSU board members, will be responsible for the appointment and will conduct interviews for the position after the January 15 application deadline.

This round of applications marks the third time that the hiring process for the position of vice president campus life has been opened this academic year. Denike noted that this time, the hiring process will be an improvement upon the previous two, where concerns were raised about the disproportionately low number of board members present.
Labour union files grievance against U of T after strike, arbitration

CONTINUED FROM COVER

“The U of T administration lied to us. They lied about our members’ funding levels, then allowed us to negotiate the end to a 4-week strike based on incorrect data they supplied. They bargained in bad faith at a tense time when honest mattered more than ever. This behaviour calls the entirety of collective bargaining, the end of the strike and the whole collective agreement into question,” said Ryan Culpepper, chair of the local and member of the bargaining team for CUPE 3902 in the statement.

U of T’s Angela Hildyard, professor and vice-president, human resources and equity, offered a different perspective on the issue. According to Hildyard, students have been contacting the university to ask about the $1.045 million in funding that was allocated under the Graduate Students’ Bursary Fund during the most recent round of labour negotiations that they have yet to receive.

“The University provided these funds to CUPE in late August 2015,” Hildyard was quoted saying in an email to The Varsity. “At the end of September, the University provided CUPE with the data required to allow them to distribute the funds to eligible students. CUPE has been provided with the funds and all of the information necessary to enable them to disburse the funds. Unfortunately, to date, CUPE has chosen to distribute none of these Graduate Student Bursary Fund monies.”

Labour union files grievance against U of T after strike, arbitration

Trinity receives $1.75 million for mental health initiatives

College to launch new mental wellness program

MADELIN BURT D’AGNILO
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

A recently announced improved health and wellness program for students and staff is coming to Trinity College. In early December, the college announced that it had received donations totalling $1.75 million from the Trinity Alumni community, Dr. Anne Steacy ’76, a Trinity College alumna, spearheaded the financial gift with a donation of $1.5 million to establish the Anne Steacy Counselling Initiative. Michael Royce ’68 and Sheila Northey Royce ’68 also contributed $250,000 to support the initiative. The donations are funding two health and wellness staff positions at Trinity.

The University of Toronto has offered its students professional mental health services for decades. Trinity’s initiative intends to provide additional on-site counselling services, as well as proactive outreach programming for Trinity College students to minimize long evaluation processes and navigation of complex systems. Mayo Moran, Trinity College provost, has expressed her keen interest in supporting students’ well-being, drawing on the experience she gained as the dean of U of T Law. Taking cues from this role, studies conducted by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), U of T provost Cheryl Regan’s mental health committee, and initiatives happening at other universities, the provost and Trinity College administration assessed the need for increased student services.

The administration also sought input from students, who voted to levy approximately $9,000 annually for the college’s health and wellness program, in the form of a survey conducted last year, as well as informal feedback from students and leaders. “When I first started talking to students when I arrived at Trinity a lot of students identified dealing with anxiety and stress as one of their number one concerns,” said Moran.

This idea echoes research from the Anxiety and Depression Society of America, which estimates that 62 per cent of students report “marinating in perpetual, toxic anxiety.” Likewise, a Canadian study from 2013 shows that 90 per cent of Ontario students reported feeling overwhelmed within the past 12 months.

“The research shows, to the extent where you can put support that is immediate and apparent and easy to access there is so much you can do to respond before things become acute,” said Moran. Noting the goal of establishing the program this academic year, Moran said that arrangements are already underway, with the job description and advertisement for the new full-time position of associate director, community wellness posted in early December of 2015.

The role will include hosting regular drop-in hours for one-on-one consultation with students, training peer counsellors and peer mentors in detail, working with donors to give them a more sophisticated set of tools to use, and liaising with student clubs, organizations, and student leaders to support and oversee special student initiated activities relating to overall health and wellness.

The associate director will work closely with Trinity’s embedded clinical counsellor, Christine Cabrera, who has been working two days a week at Trinity College since September. She is a trained clinical psychologist, and maintains close contact with U of T’s Health & Wellness service.

Both positions are a direct result of the Anne Steacy Counselling Initiative.

“We are overjoyed that Trinity is committing itself to tackle the lack of mental health resources available to its students and we look forward to working closely with the Associate Director of Community and Wellness to make students more aware of mental health issues and to facilitate their access to support,” said Adriana Cefis, a spokesperson for the Trinity College Mental Health Initiative, a Trinity student group whose purpose is to promote mental health awareness within the trinity community.

Trinity’s leadership is hopeful too. “I’m excited we are leading on it, and I want it to be an opportunity for other people to learn from what we have done well and what we haven’t, frankly,” said Moran.
Robarts undergoes first expansion in 42 years

Construction on Robarts Common to begin in March 2016

The second phase of the Robarts renovations and expansion project is scheduled to begin this March. The project, which consists of the construction of an additional five storeys of study space, is expected to be completed by the spring of 2018.

The library currently attracts around 18,000 visitors a day, twice the number recorded in 1980, making a renovation long overdue. This is the 42-year-old library’s first extension.

The first phase of the construction took place from 2008 to 2012 and consisted of the renovation of the John P. Robarts Research Library.

New special collection areas were created, such as the Data, Map and GIS Centre and the Media Commons. The study space was refurbished and expanded, and the electronic infrastructure updated.

According to Althea Blackburn-Evans, director of news & media relations at U of T, the project will create an additional 1,222 study spaces.

The expansion includes the creation of an additional 1,222 study spaces. — ANISHA KOHLIA/THE VARSITY

Blackburn-Evans said that the renovation will create minimal disruption to students, with much of the construction-taking place on the side the building facing Huron Street; no study spaces will be closed during renovations, she said.

The Robarts Common will include an open square that will allow students to study outside in the warmer months. The square will feature seating amongst the cherry trees.

The common is designed with sustainability in mind, and will include a green roof, fullfall recycling systems, and low-emissions building materials. These aspects of the design will earn a silver rating according to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

A mix of quiet study areas and areas for group work will also be created. Thirty-two meeting rooms will be added, many complete with display screens and loudspeakers.

The addition is helmed by Diamond Schmitt Architects who intend to integrate the original Brutalist architectural style. Wood accents and wraparound glass will be included in an attempt to give the library more warmth and light. The glass walls will be equipped with light-sensing motorized blinds.

The expansion project is one of several initiatives central to the campaign goal of $65 million to refurbish the Gerstein Science Information Centre and the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

The walk through the middle of the St. George Campus will soon have a new look. Front campus, connecting the west and east campuses, will soon be being redesigned by KPMB Architects, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVVA), and Urban Strategies.

Shirley Blumberg, the design team leader, said that she is ecstatic to be working on the project. Their team consists of multiple U of T architecture graduates, including Blumberg.

The consortium of these firms was chosen after a lengthy selection process with over 600 proposals in consideration. The public was invited in September 2015 to review the proposals and select the winner.

In this new design, students can expect webs of pathways that connect both side of Front campus, a pedestrian bridge connecting Hart House to Queen’s Park, pavilions that house exits to the parking garage, coloured pavement and a new lighting scheme.

“The most exciting thing in the bold vision is finally removing the cars from the circle. There is no point in doing anything unless you do that.”

KPMB, MVVA and Urban Strategies will have until September 2016 to submit an outline including estimated cost and engineering needs.

First-year life science student Mahreen Khan said that she is excited about the design even if the construction disrupts students.

“There is the esthetic purpose, but also after it’s built completely I am sure that it will be worth it in the end.”

“As long as they manage it properly and like I said we are not trying to run through construction to get into class on time,” said Khan.

In the proposal, King’s College Circle will become car free, moving parking underground. Instead, a focus on pedestrian and cyclist needs will take precedent.

Julie Hudson, a fourth-year statistics student, is worried about those with mobility issues. She said that she is excited about the redesign but cyclist needs will take precedent.

Connecting pathways and student spaces to take over front campus project

Redesign team for front campus revitalization chosen

The walk through the middle of the St. George Campus will soon have a new look. Front campus, connecting the west and east campuses, will soon be being redesigned by KPMB Architects, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVVA), and Urban Strategies.

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Julie Hudson, a fourth-year statistics specialist, is also excited about the redesign but is worried about those with mobility issues.

“I broke my ankle and I am in a cast, and I am sure that there are lots of people with mobility issues who need to be dropped off in front of where we need to go and if they close off to cars that wouldn’t be possible, so that is one concern.”

Blumberg noted that the underground parking garage will be on a mixed-use space that could house bicycles and scooters. “We see it as an incredibly important space,” she said. “We are hoping to make the best garage you have ever seen.”

All three firms have worked on university redesign projects before, bringing green spaces and student-centred design to campuses across North America.

Blumberg noted that their’s was the only design that did not retain the campus’ circular shape. Joseph Bivona from MVVA agreed, “our design is inspired by the idea of thickening that edge to welcome linger- ing and invite occupation. That space after all, is actually larger than the central part of King’s College Circle itself, which I don’t think people realize.”

Until the final draft in September 2016, the plans are open to critique.

“In the end, university is about social and intellectual exchange and interaction and I think one of these spaces could have a tremendous impact. What we are trying to do here by removing the cars from the circle is that we are changing these spaces from being parking lots and sports fields into a public realm that is really for pedestrians and cyclists,” Blumberg said.

Bivona said that they treated the redesign as a park more than anything else. Both he and Blumberg alluded to the connection the space has to Toronto as a whole. “We spent a lot of time thinking about the interface between city and campus and about how to re- ally celebrate those moments of arrival and to welcome members of the greater public into the space,” Bivona said.

“Our proposal has also been based on the premise that the site actually works pretty well as it is, that the bones of it are actually very strong — and it’s just a matter of amplifying all of the site’s great qualities,” he added.
Trans communities condemn CAMH gender identity clinic

Continued from Cover

by the clinic caused her to break down crying during her interviews.

“The basic ideology practised was one completely lack-
ing in empathy. It was, at best, only interested in potential
research, and if you’re to ask me, it came from a thoroughly
bigoted view that posited that just by existing as who I am, I
was sick,” Hetherington said.

Zucker worked at the clinic for 30 years and is also a psychi-
atri professor at the University of Toronto. After the release of
the report, Zucker was released from his position at CAMH.

Hetherington, who interacted with Zucker during her time at
the clinic, said that sacking Zucker was the step towards
any possible reconciliation, if CAMH is to continue services.

When asked what Zucker’s termination at CAMH meant
for his position at U of T, Althea Blackburn-Evans, U of T’s
director of news and media relations, said that the university
does not comment on personnel matters.

“The diversity of our students, faculty and staff is a mark of
quality and a source of strength. The University respects and
supports all of its faculty, staff and students, including those
in the transgender community. Specifically, we offer a range
of services through the Sexual & Gender Diversity Office,”
said Blackburn-Evans.

Jades Swadron, an organizer with the Trans Inclusivity
Project at U of T, said that Zucker should have no place
teaching at a university. “How can an institution where

According to McKenzie, CAMH hopes to improve
and rejuvenate its approach. “Our overall interest and
motivation is to determine the best approach for kids
with gender identity issues, and it’s important that this
process continues to be open and collaborative. Our next
step is to consult with our community partners and have
their input on to see what role CAMH can play to best
serve these young people,” he concluded.

Hetherington said that she would like to see CAMH’s
services closed down entirely. “[Including] a gender identity
clinic at an organization for mental health is already making
some highly questionable connections, and the way it has been
cast as a central authority allows for abuse to occur with little
oversight,” she said, adding that a move to an informed consent
model with general practitioners rather than a centralised
gatekeeping authority would be the only method that would
provide appropriate services to clients.

“The difference between my experiences with CAMH and
the informed consent model, which ended up being my path
to actually getting a prescription for [hormone replacement
therapy], was impressive,” Hetherington said.

“I spent somewhere close to ten months or a year waiting
between my referral to CAMH and my first appointment,
whereas after searching out a general practitioner that prac-
tised informed consent, I managed to start HRT a month
after my first appointment, with only a two week waiting
time between looking for a doctor and that appointment.”

U of T begins race data collection

Move to advance goals of diversity, equity, inclusion

ZIJAHAM ISLAM

The University of Toronto has agreed to begin demograph-
ic data collection pertaining to race. The decision was
reached at a December 7, 2015 meeting between members
of the U of T administration and members of the Black
Liberation Collective at U of T. Althea Blackburn-Evans,
U of T’s director of news & media relations stated that the
university believes it would be beneficial to collect such
data. “These data will help to inform policies and practices
to further the university’s interest in embedding diversity,
equity and inclusion.”

Members of the Black Liberation Collective, U of T vice
president students Sandy Welsh, Angela Hildyard, U of T
vice president human resources and equity, and Sandra
Carnegie-Douglas, the anti-racism & cultural diversity
officer attended the meeting.

Several organizers with Black at UofT were approached
for comment and all declined on the basis that “[they] have
found [The Varsity] unwilling to acknowledge, rectify or com-
bat [it’s own] racism.”

Race-related census data collection can include data about
student admission and graduation, and staff and faculty hiring
and promotions. U of T is now exploring the details of how
this data will be collected.

“The university will now explore the best avenues for indi-
viduals to report such data should they choose to do so,” said
Blackburn-Evans.

More information is forthcoming.
Special General Meeting

Member-Submitted Motions

Thursday January 28, 2016 | St. George Campus
Sidney Smith Hall, Rm 2118 | 5:30pm-10pm
Registration starts at 4:30pm

AGENDA:

• Call to Order
• Welcoming Remarks
• Approval of Agenda
• Consideration of Member-Submitted Motions
  • Motion to Approve Computerized Voting (Petra)
  • Motion for Paper Ballots (Botero-Gutierrez/Yussuf)
  • Motion for Membership Accountability and Bylaw/Policy Changes (Celestial/Blay)
  • Motion for Accessibility for Professional Faculty Students on UTSU (Li)
  • Motion for Endorsement of Black Lives Matter – Toronto (Noor)
  • Motion on Prevention of Sexual Violence (Siddiqui/Yussuf)
  • Motion to Stand in Solidarity with CBUSU (Singh/Gomes)
  • Motion on UTSU Clubs and Service Groups (Siddiqui/Pournajar)
  • Motion on CFS Membership (Spagnuolo/Campbell)
  • Motion on An Accessible Computer Lab for the St. George Campus (Alaei/Pal)
  • Motion on Ethical Divestment (Swirsky/Sivapragasm)
  • Motion on Justin Bieber (Shihipar)
• Approval of Bylaw Changes
  • Amendment to Bylaw X-S: Removal of Executives (Policy and Procedures Committee)
  • Creation of Bylaw XVII: Equity, Civility, and Safety (Member motion: Omari)
• Non-Binding Motions
  • Motion to strike for Free Tuition (Rising)
• Adjournment

For the full text of all the resolutions to be considered at the meeting, please consult the University of Toronto Students’ Union Website at utsu.ca/sgm.

Every member at the University of Toronto Student’s Union can participate in this meeting.

Accessibility
Wheelchair accessible. If you have any accessibility requests, require ASL interpretation, childcare, or have other inquiries, please contact Ryan Gomes, Vice-President Internal and Services, by January 21 at vpinternal@utsu.ca or 416-978-4911 x240

Instructions for Voting by Proxy
If you are unable to attend this meeting, and wish to give another person the authority to vote for you, please complete an online proxy form at https://utsu.simplyvoting.com by Monday 25 January at 5pm. You can login to the online proxy system starting Monday 18 January at 9am.

The UTSU proxy system is online. Please note that due to the regulations applicable to the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, the member who is giving the authority to vote to another member must initiate the process.

Further instructions on voting by proxy will be available at utsu.ca/sgm

Save Time and Pre-Register
Want to avoid the line-up at registration and have your name printed on your voting card? Our pre-registration will be available for individual members between 18 January and 22 January, 2016. If you cannot pre-register, you can still register at the door.

1. Members of the UTSU include:
  • Full-time undergraduate students at the St. George and Mississauga campuses
  • Toronto School of Theology students
  • Transitional Year Program students
  • Students on a Professional Employment Year (PEY) program
Safe haven in the spotlight?

While considering Canada’s efforts to help refugees, beware of media bias

Jonathan Wilkinson
Is it really time to disarm the police?

Why Toronto cops should continue carrying firearms

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OPIRG-Toronto: Opt-Out Notice

University of Toronto full-time and part-time undergraduate students who have paid the OPIRG fees and who wish to opt-out of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group-Toronto are able to claim a fees refund with proof of enrollment for the Winter 2016.

Refunds during this period will be available only to students who have become full-time students or part-time students by reason of transferring status in the preceding Fall term.

Please contact the OPIRG-Toronto office at oiprg.toronto@utoronto.ca for further information.

If you are eligible to opt-out during the Winter 2016 term, the opt-out schedule is below:

Monday, Jan. 11th to Monday, Jan. 18th
563 Spadina Crescent, Room 101
Monday to Thursday*
11AM to 7PM.
(Note: The OPIRG office is closed Friday).

Emmett Choi

Last month, Toronto Star columnist Desmond Cole argued that the Toronto Police Service’s frontline officers should no longer carry guns, citing recent shootings of emotionally-disturbed persons. As students and youth, we may be sympathetic to this idea. While frustration in light of these deaths is absolutely understandable, depriving Toronto’s patrol officers of lethal force would be an overreaction with dangerous consequences for police and civilians alike.

In defence of his proposition, Cole recalled two recent incidents in Montreal where armed suspects were subdued using rubber ammunition. He omitted, however, that in Montreal, as in Toronto, patrol officers still carry and use lethal firearms, because only specialized units have access to rubber ammunition. In the two incidents he touted, the suspects were surrounded for an extended period of time, which allowed the tactical unit sufficient time to arrive and make use of their less deadly weapons.

Weapons such as rubber bullets and Tasers, are indeed valuable tools in policing, but they are merely a complement to, not a replacement for, lethal firearms. Rubber bullets are known to have a reduced expected accuracy (in comparison to regular ammunition), albeit they can be ready for anything.

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Let’s get angry

Think twice before dismissing emotional appeals made by activists

TEODORA PASCA
ASSOCIATE COMMENT EDITOR

At the Thanksgiving table this year, I did my best to explain to a more conservative relative why helping displaced Syrian refugees is Canada’s humanitarian responsibility. Yet the perspective I was attempting to defend — one certainly charged with ethical questions about whom we ought to help, and when — was quickly dismissed as emotional, and therefore illogical.

To this day, I am unable to bring up such issues within the same circle without instantly losing credibility due to my apparently overly emotional state. I am certainly not alone in this — activists are often condemned for sounding angry or emotional, instead of appearing cool and collected (that is, palatable to the outside observer).

Consider, for example, the condemnation of the Black Lives Matter movement by American Renaissance, who described the movement as mere “hysteria and lies.” Closer to home, some students on campus felt offended by the UTSU touting one of their equity events “Fuck your bigotry.” This is not to mention that common caricatures of upset or hostile activists — such as the “feminazi” and “angry black woman” — clearly exemplify how emotions are used as reason to discredit activists.

Emotion is certainly no substitute for logic or evidence, and just because someone is angry does not mean that they inherently deserve remedy. Yet, the desire for reasonable debate should not be used to invalidate people’s emotions, nor is it solid ground for immediately dismissing their cause. This becomes especially pertinent if they are speaking about their marginalization and social justice; emotions in such cases are useful in the march for social change, and often stem from legitimate concerns that need to be addressed.

Practically speaking, emotional reactions to injustice have been crucial motivators behind activist organization. This is because emotions can override the self-interested inclination to refrain from direct participation. Most notably, anger mobilizes fellow citizens to protest in pursuit of a common remedy. From women’s suffrage to anti-apartheid movements, expressions of anger have had revolutionary effects in opposition to oppressive forces.

Many activists are directly affected by the causes they fight for, and have had to explain their pain hundreds of times. It is not hard to imagine how these experiences can provoke emotional responses. Consequently, knee-jerk critiques of an emotional delivery often betray the privilege of being unaffected by, or ignorant to the issue at hand. How else could one remain apathetic in the face of, say, anti-black brutality in North America, considering the shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice — a case in which the officers responsible were not even indicted?

Perhaps more concerning is that native advertising also hinders a publication’s ability to be independent. Last April, BuzzFeed staffer writer Arabelle Sicardi wrote a post that critiqued a Dove ad campaign, which was later taken down by upper management because Dove is a brand publisher with the website. Journalism’s role as a social conscience is eroded by including their advertisers with their editorial content.

Corporate interests will always impact journalism, but native advertising goes a step further. It intentionally deceives the reader. Imagine a business publication that follows you around the web and then offers you articles that suit your interests.

Rather than just clicking on articles that interest you, you are dealt content that is carefully curated to be interesting to you. Companies can target you in a better way than ever before.

The problem, then, appears to be our limited ability to understand different perspectives and experiences; that is, we may perceive other people’s emotion as an overreaction merely because we are unable to empathize. Despite our individual hardships, it can be difficult to comprehend what it means to flee a war-torn country, lose a loved one to police brutality, or live under the constant fear of violence due to race, gender, or sexuality.

The ones, then, should not be on activists to simply communicate their claims in a more pleasant manner and avoid upsetting others; it is unreasonable to expect these individuals to always remain calm. Instead, those who remain unaffected by the issue should recognize the very real injustice these emotions stem from as a healthy desire to be more patient and understanding.

Emotion is not a replacement for logic or evidence; but it is a call for action. Once we hear these groups out, we can in turn evaluate their claims fairly and determine whether an injustice has occurred. Certainly, not every angry protestor deserves a remedy. But no matter if they raise their voices, we at least owe it to them to listen.

Teodora Pasca is a second-year student at Innis College studying criminology and ethics, society & law. She is The Varsity’s Associate Comment Editor. Her column appears every three weeks.

Masquerade marketing

How sponsored content is compromising journalistic integrity

JAREN KERR
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Love it or hate it, everyone under the age of 25 seems to have an opinion on BuzzFeed. It’s the clickbait capital of the Internet, with astronomical levels of web traffic and a jarring valuation in pursuit of a common remedy (which is ultimately achieved within the same circle without instantly losing credibility due to my apparently overly emotional state. I am certainly not alone in this — activists are often condemned for sounding angry or emotional, instead of appearing cool and collected (that is, palatable to the outside observer).)

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The first time I ever saw Africa was the day I arrived here. From August 1971, until 2016, I was my home city of Bruges, England. I come to U of T because of the international reputation, but also to learn from the world’s brightest minds. I’m clearly not alone; I have met people from all over the world who have come here for the same reason.

I had no idea what to expect from a place so far away. I knew very little about Canada and even less about Toronto. One thing I was confident of, however, was that racism didn’t exist in Canada because it was a ‘cul

The manifestation of racism on campus

RACISM ON CAMPUS

When asked what racism on campus looks like, the students’ responses were unanimous in their emphasis on everyday experiences: ‘It looks like being called a “n**ger” by a stranger,’ said Stewart, ‘a black psychiatrist who is known for, so racism doesn’t ex

The way I’ve dealt with racism is through microaggressions – the latter does occur. “I did have an experience last year in which I was addressing a professor about my experience studying in the on-campus residence. The professor was completely dismissive and said, “I don’t see it when I meet you from where you are from?” because I was at least armed with a response to the question. I am an English Literature specialist and my program

Students who feel that the campus is discriminatory should not be afraid of being mistaken for one of them, and fear that stems from a dominant body, they have the privilege of representing the latter does occur. “I did have an experience last year in which I was addressing a professor about my experience studying in the on-campus residence. The professor was completely dismissive and said, “I don’t see it when I meet you from where you are from?” because I was at least armed with a response to the question. I am an English Literature specialist and my program

Stewart, John, and fellow Woodsworth student Sydney

The value of shared experiences and fostering a sense of community:

The manifestation of racism on campus

The manifestation of racism on campus

We’ve been taught this one guy in particular saying Michael Brown, he deserved to die.  "What has that got to do with me?" said Moragia of her science essay. She was excited to explore a topic that was directly related to her field of study, but that, as the only African student in her class, she felt was not a topic that was being explored or discussed in her class.

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Adil also chairs the Trinity College Meeting (TCM), Trinity

Stewart and John, however, noticed that it was often second-generation

The manifestation of racism on campus

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The manifestation of racism on campus
The value of vinyl

Students and experts weigh in on the appeal of the vinyl record

Vinyl has been on a steady rise over the past few years. AMY WANG/THE VARSITY

Vinyl sales have been on a steady rise because they just don’t break. AMY WANG/THE VARSITY

The invention of digital recording left in its wake a tremendous and lasting after-shock. On October 1, 1982, Billy Joel’s sixth studio album, 52nd Street, became the first album to be released commercially on a compact disc. 52nd Street was not a new album; its public debut occurred in 1978 as a vinyl press, which was the standard format in mass consumption at the time. By statistical comparison, digital audio was expected to be superior to analog; compact discs were meant to strike the consumer as the more viable investment, considering that discs were resilient to the degradation that plagued the overplayed record. This change intended to render the costly inconvenience of vinyl pressing obsolete, lower the price of purchasing music, and allow the industry to flourish.

Ever since the compact disc’s introduction in the ’80s, the music industry has taken a turn towards the portability and accessibility of digital audio formats. This notion flourished across various platforms; it affected the performance, production, and collection of music as each gradually evolved to incorporate the more affordable industry standard. Analog tools, such as synthesizers, compressors, and vinyl, had proven to be heavy, expensive, and inconvenient, especially for the amateur studio dweller. It was this mentality that caused vinyl to recede to cult value, even in a nightshul setting.

That being said, it’s natural for all artistic markets to undergo changes within a few years, especially if the market is over-saturated with a specific trend. Circuits that were once dominated by commercially viable genres are maturing alongside the audience’s slowly sophisticating tastes. Producers like Four Tet, Floating Points, and Bonobo — all of whom recently performed in Toronto — are compiling their set lists exclusively with vinyl. The tremendous critical acclaim of the old-fashioned tradition is leading many to reconsider a return to vinyl, whether as a listener or performer.

David Tanton is a former U of T student and electronic music producer who publishes his content under the moniker, “Rhoda”. He feels that when streaming platforms like “Spotify and Pandora reign supreme,” listeners “get caught in genres” and multi-track recordings, and software tools used to process analog and digital sounds. While a good listening experience is often subjective, Hutten-Czapski notes that “humans are more sensitive to sound” than digital technology. The sampling rate is infinite — in other words, the relatively lossless audio that analog is revered for — but they end up seeming “more subtle than with digital technology.” The sampling rate is infinite — in other words, the relatively lossless audio that analog is revered for — but they end up seeming “more subtle than with digital technology.”

The quality and novelty of one’s listening experience remains a core focus of the music industry. This coaxes listeners into overlooking the fact that “full catalogues are seldom available, and favourite albums never repressed,” as limited pressing plants produce dwindling catalogues. In 2014, more than 13 million LPs were sold in the United States. Canadian vinyl sales that year increased by 71 per cent, and the total number sold in Canada surpassed 400,000 records.

This unexpected renaissance of vinyl, which faded with the arrival of compact discs in the 1980s, is proving that, while vinyl may lack the immediacy of digital media, ownership and experience rest as the redeeming qualities of the record. As the vinyl gold rush continues, it appears as though this cast of mind will continue to sustain collector culture over the years.
You’re hot then you’re cold
Here’s how to dress during Toronto’s sporadic weather patterns

HANNAH LANK
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

There are some predictable phenomena in life: what day it will be tomorrow, which will get eliminated on ‘The Bachelor,’ and exam season. Then there are other, less-predictable events: how much sleep you’ll get during exam season, the entire plot of Inception, and Toronto’s weather patterns.

Given that most university students have enough to worry about as they manage school, a social life, and a career, it’s no surprise that many forget to check the weather every morning. We are taken by surprise when we find ourselves in 10-degree weather when it was -20 the day before. Luckily there are ways you can dress comfortably and stylishly, while combatting Toronto’s sporadic weather.

1. Light scarves: If you’ve spent a few hours following the latest fashion bloggers on Pinterest and Instagram, you’ll probably have noticed how many of them wear scarves. Not only can a great scarf enhance your outfit quickly and easily, you can also take it off and cram it in your bag if you’re too warm. A light scarf protects your neck from the wind, but it’s not too dense, meaning that if the temperature starts to increase, you won’t start sweating buckets.

2. Pea coats: Investing in a high quality, stylish coat is something most Canadians are familiar with. Brands like Canada Goose and No- bus can get pretty pricey. Instead, opt for a pea coat — it’s not as massive as a Canada Goose coat, but just as effective.

3. Layer, layer, layer: Layers are a fashionista’s best friend. Turns out, they’re also great for weird weather patterns. Wear your outerwear, sweater, and undershirt in a way that is easy to remove if no longer needed. Leg warmers are also a great layer for tights, and if you’re set on wearing denim jeans on a frigid morning, you can also wear some form of tights underneath for a warm and stylish take (fishnets or other patterns work well).

4. Gloves with removable fingertips: Chances are you wouldn’t be caught dead wearing these. But trust me. Acting as the palm-equivalent of the ever-regrettable zip-off pants, this article of clothing has you covered in the coldest and warmest of times. Even better, the removable fingertips allow you to use your iPhone whilst keeping your gloves on — a perk that is nothing if not handy.

5. Boots: No matter what the salesperson at Footlocker told you, Adidas Superstars are not a legitimate winter shoe. Plus, with all the salt on the ground to melt the snow, it’s best to avoid wearing sports shoes to keep from wrecking them. Donning a warm pair of winter boots – like Sorel’s or Timberlands – will save you from sitting with soggy feet for the duration of your 3-hour psych lecture in Con Hall.

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Anticipated albums of 2016

What’s in store for Toronto’s local acts in the new year

BRYAN HONG
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

We’ve all seen the best-of lists for music in 2015. Now, it’s time to look forward to the most exciting upcoming albums for the new year. For Toronto-based musicians, 2016 is slated to be a great year, because of up-and-coming and well-established favourites. While some of these artists have not officially confirmed an album release in 2016, the guessing game is all part of the fun.

1) JAZZ CARTIER
Since his show at The Cat’s Eye, Toronto-based rapper Jazz Cartier has been touring his wildly successful mixtape Marauding in Paradise. The album blends Atlanta trap music with the character of a grimy, downtown Toronto house party. Cartier recently released a track downtown Toronto house party.

2) BASIA BULAT
This singer-songwriter is known for her graceful yet powerful voice and her unique use of the autoharp. All three of her albums have been nominated for a Polaris Music Prize, and her most recent album, Tall Shadow, was nominated for a Juno Award in 2014. It’s been quite a while since we heard from Bulat, but her upcoming album Good Advice is scheduled to be released on February 12.

3) CRYSTAL CASTLES/ALICE GLASS
Diehard Crystal Castle’s fans will know that Glass’ departure from the electro-punk band was a heartbreaker. However, both Alice Glass and Crystal Castles (with new member Edith Frances) have dropped their own individual tracks, and both provide their own spin on the trademark witchy-electronic sound that they’re known for. Both projects are rumored to have releases this year, but maybe if we wish really hard, Glass will return to give us some classic Crystal Castles goodness.

4) TORY LANEZ
Tory Lanez is a volcano that is about to erupt. Slowly but surely, the 23-year old Toronto rapper has been getting his name out there; he’s released some absolute bangers like “Say It” and “B.L.O.W.,” and has also been featured on the new Freddie Gibbs and YG albums. His debut album is set to be released sometime this year.

5) LYON
If you enjoy polished, saccharine, and memorable synth-pop, then Lyon is worth checking out. Although she’s released some tracks here and there, Lyon has not released much since her debut EP, Indian Summer, leaving fans salivating for more. Currently, Lyon is supposedly in the studio working on a full-length album.

6) PUP
A personal favourite, PUP has been dominating the Toronto punk scene through sheer energy and dedication. Their style is an explosive combination of infectiously catchy melodies, primal screaming, and heavy guitar riffs. Judging from their new song, “DVP” (named after the Don Valley Parkway), PUP shows no sign of relenting on their new album.

7) ALV VAYS
Alvays (pronounced Always) increased in popularity over the past couple of years due to their summery melodies and melancholic lyrics. Accordingly, their self-titled debut, chocked full of catchy songs like “Archie, Marry Me” and “Party Police,” made many critics’ best-of lists in 2014. Mad many critics’ best-of lists in 2014. The groups new album is expected to deliver faster, more aggressive jangle pop.

8) DRAKE
You simply cannot write a list of most anticipated Toronto albums without mentioning the 6ix God himself. The past year has witnessed Drake take over the rap game completely, thanks to If You’re Reading This It’s Too Late, Views From the 6, and the wildfire status of “Hotline Bling.” His new album, Views From the 6, is reported to have features from Beyoncé, Justin Bieber, and Kanye West. Sufficed to say, I’ll be disappointed if this album is anything but hot fire.
Art review: four design proposals for front campus

Like any good piece of art, these pictures deserve a thorough critique

LISA POWER
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Last fall, four different design teams submitted proposals for the revitalization of U of T’s front campus. These beautifully rendered images paint a portrait of everyday student life with accuracy reminiscent of Enlightenment-era art. Indeed, many subtle themes — like weather and depth of field — are captured so elegantly that they deserve a thorough, unforgiving critique, just as any artwork would.

PUBLIC WORK: A bright and cheerful reimagining of the front campus is the concept behind this picture. It is a place for escape and contemplation. The figures traffic leisurely, seemingly unaware that they have three assignments and two exams the following week. The sun — a symbol of life — shines brightly on the universities’ patrons. They do not face the viewer; rather, they move in a directionless fashion, blissfully ignorant to the crippling anxieties of student life.

KPMB Architects + Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates + Urban Strategies: Here, the field is completely transformed by the artists, harmoniously combining the man-made with nature. The earth has been raised into a grove and fitted with an escalator. Clearly this is a metaphor for higher education and the unlimited possibilities it offers. The concept is depicted brilliantly, while also offering functionality, as the design centers on the best way to park more cars underground.

DTAH + Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates

Taking the award for planning negligence is a random and, yes, sloppily placed ice rink that appears to simultaneously block the flow of pedestrian traffic and completely isolate the J. Robert S. Prichard Alumni House? The fictitious skaters spin round the house, presumably deaf to the pleas of the trapped alumni, cold and hungry in their poorly designed captivity.

Janet Rosenberg & Studio + architectsAlliance + ERA Architects

This image depicts the front campus as an inclusive, picturesque, and communal space where everyone can enjoy a traditional Canadian winter activity: ice-skating. Students will appreciate this perfect excuse to procrastinate on their studies. Later, in summer, the space may be used for a running track. Both options allow local residents to overcrowd campus space while everyone else circles ‘round and ‘round, as though they are on a never ending merry go round.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LANDMARK COMMITTEE
“This isn’t even television”
How streaming is transforming the small screen

Reut Cohen
MIRKA LOISELLE/THE VARSITY

We all know the story: it’s late, you’re tired, you’re telling yourself that you’re only going to watch one episode, but before you know it, you’ve watched six and need to be awake in two hours — binge-watching strikes again.

Binge-watching is considered a common activity for many students that can serve as a reward, a way to unwind, or simply a convenient way to catch up on your favourite TV shows, and that is the way Netflix wants it.

According to Benjamin Wright, a professor at the Cinema Studies Institute of U of T, “it’s the wild west right now in terms of streaming original content.” Streaming services such as Netflix, Amazon Video, and Hulu aren’t just changing how television is consumed, but also how it’s being made in the first place.

Netflix has its own unique way of releasing original content. Entire seasons are released all at once, a format tailored for bingeing. Yet there are potential drawbacks to this strategy: “fewer chances might be taken on something that could be seen as too edgy, because they need to invest so much up front, and it won’t be released for another year,” says Wright. For example, Netflix has aligned itself with industry heavyweights like Marvel to produce shows such as Marvel’s Jessica Jones and Daredevil, that come with an established fanbase. Streaming services have also cultivated reputations for themselves as saviors of under-appreciated shows, like the cult hit Community, which was cancelled by NBC but quickly picked up by Yahoo! Screen for a sixth season.

This being said, the possibility that a show may be ‘binged’ in a matter of days rather than viewed on a weekly basis has already begun to affect the ways shows are produced. “[This] changes the way content producers deal with that,” Wright says. “Knowing that their show might be seen as one part... some of these shows are so cinematic that they benefit from a longer viewing.” It’s true: there are already programs deviating from the conventional aesthetics of television. Master of None, a recent Netflix success starring Aziz Ansari, makes use of a narrower aspect ratio — more widescreen than full — to take advantage of the unique viewing experience of binge-watching. Co-creator Alan Yang has said, “we wanted it to feel less like most of the single camera comedies that are out there.”

In a recent article in Vox, film analyst Todd VanDreWerff argues that streaming services represent a shift away from the episodic nature of network TV, and a pivot towards an entirely new art form. Wright shares this view, noting how “this isn’t even television. People talk about Netflix shows as TV shows, but they don’t air on television.” Jill Soloway, the creator of Transparent, which streams on Amazon Video, has said that her team has begun to think of each season as a five-hour movie rather than ten individual episodes.

Jaime Reynoso, the cinematographer of Bloodline — a Netflix original that could be described as film noir — noted that he “never saw [it] as a TV show.” Instead, Reynoso chose to approach the filming of Bloodline as an extended documentary shoot to capture the realism required, an example of how content creators are able to alter production styles to suit the new medium.

By contrast, shows that were produced before the streaming model became so popular might not be as enjoyable when binge-watched. “Older shows, like Friends, which is now on Netflix, are almost a little numbing when you start to see the patterns. When you watched it only once a week, you didn’t pick up on those things,” Wright says. In other words, it may become easier for viewers to identify cliché elements when they’re watching multiple episodes in succession.

Binge-watching is a definite productivity-killer, but perhaps also a marker of a new era in media. Only time will tell how demand for this new method of consumption will affect traditional media production. According to Wright, “there will be repercussions down the road, but we don’t know yet how this is going to affect audiences.” Now, the only thing to do is Netflix and wait.

Quotes have been condensed and edited for clarity.

In conversation with: The Big Sound

A staple within the local music scene, motown cover-band The Big Sound tells their story

Andrew Friesen
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

If you’re a fan of soul music, yet have difficulty finding a modern band that adequately encapsulates the Motown sound of the ’60s look no further. The Big Sound is a 30-piece Motown cover-band from Toronto that recreate the intricacies of soul music with a fine-tuned attention to detail, and a devout passion to the powerful musicality of Motown’s celebrated compositions.

The band holds regular performances at the Mod Club in Toronto, and is known for starting their shows around 11:00 pm, and finishing their set around three in the morning. After their new year’s eve performance, I spoke with Chris Sandes, the ringleader, or ‘curator’ of The Big Sound, about the band’s history.

The Varsity: When did The Big Sound come into existence?
Chris Sandes: About five years ago.

TV: Was it just something you had been thinking about for a while?
CS: I’d been playing music off-and-on in town forever, and I did know a lot of people... I had a moment when I saw a really cheesy, wedding style band playing a song I liked horribly, and it occurred to me that nobody ever got to hear Motown music performed the way it was recorded — that is to say, with a full horn section, full string section, full backup singer section, and a full rhythm section. The idea was very detailed oriented. Toronto has such a wonderfully vast music scene. Through word of mouth and the word going to gigs and keeping my ears open, I was lucky enough to wind up with some of Toronto’s best talent, and have been lucky to keep it going as long as I have. However, being as big of a band as we are, we can’t play everywhere, and there are very few venues that can hold us.

As we are, we can’t play everywhere, and there are very few venues that can hold us.

TV: And you guys have no plans to stop either? It’s just a passion project that’s going to keep on going?
CS: The idea or concept is providing Toronto with a renaissance of Motown music, and that can continue under the same name. We’re constantly getting new singers as other people go on tour, and it’s great. It’s great that there are people in their early 20’s... and then there are people in their 30’s; it keeps it interesting.

We do have a website coming up but... I have no idea when it will actually exist. But it will be on the Facebook when it does.

The Big Sound can be found online at https://www.facebook.com/TheBigSoundOfMotown

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Masters of our own design
A student’s perspective on the opportunities and risks of gene-editing

In 2012, the naturally occurring Cas9 enzyme was shown to be able to edit DNA sequences from a number of organisms by researchers at the Zhang Lab at MIT. While this new powerful genetic editing tool holds great promise for treating an array of genetic disorders, such as HIV, cancers, and lesser known disorders like Duchenne muscular dystrophy; it also raises a number of ethical questions. When do we allow DNA editing in humans? To what extent will we allow for DNA editing to modify our genome? Are we treading in the way of evolution, and what dangers could modifying our DNA bring about? Most importantly, how will these changes to our genome get passed down to our offspring?

Due to these important and deeply controversial questions, scientists worldwide agreed to a moratorium on CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing research in humans. For now, scientists have agreed to allow for clinical gene-editing research in all human cells but have banned research that edits the germline—a scientific term for the DNA that is passed on from parent to offspring. There is merit to this stance. The state of CRISPR-Cas9 research is still in its infancy, and needs to be perfected before it can be used in human therapeutics, and must pass a number of tests before it can be used to edit the human germline. CRISPR-Cas9 is not the first technology capable of editing DNA—in its predecessors were zinc-finger nucleases and TALENs, among other technologies—but so far it is the most promising. That said, biological techniques are not foolproof, and the CRISPR-Cas9 is not immune to off-target effects in the genome.

To put this in perspective, imagine that someone designs a computer program to edit the germline. The program used is usually effective and edits the code it intends to. Although every once in a while, it modifies the code of something you need to function (for instance, Microsoft Word). But unlike a computer program or operating system, we cannot simply uninstall and then reinstall the program with the defective code. Instead, we are then left with a computer code that cannot do basic word processing and, scarcest of all, cannot be fixed. To make matters worse, off-target effects in germline editing will likely be permanent not only in a single generation, but for generations to come.

The difficulty with CRISPR-Cas9 is that it holds so much promise, that researchers around the world are all racing to incorporate the technology into their work. As this race gets more competitive, the likelihood that someone will attempt something dangerous in the process of conducting ground breaking research increases. Thus the ban on germline editing. Although CRISPR-Cas9 is potentially very dangerous, research cannot and should not be stopped. If we’re able to solve some of humanity’s most pressing concerns, such as HIV/AIDS, then we have a moral obligation to try. For that reason, the CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing system might be the latest biomedical advancement to offer serious hope to millions. As long as scientists worldwide ensure that they conduct their research with caution and within certain limits, gene-editing research will be able to make significant advancements safely.

Recently, The Varsity had a chance to attend a discussion with Dr. Feng Zhang of the Zhang Lab, hosted by the Neuroscience Association for Undergraduate Students. At the event, one student asked the researcher his opinion on using the CRISPR-Cas9 system to edit the germline. Dr. Zhang replied, that the importance of germline editing varies between groups of people, such as potential parents and policy-makers. As a researcher, he suggested that “we are not ready to use this [CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing] for medical treatment, because there are issues with specificity and efficiency,” citing the possibility of off-target effects. He highlighted the possibility of off-target effects causing other disorders, like cancer.

While the CRISPR-Cas9 system is undoubtedly one of the greatest biomedical breakthroughs of the past fifty years, if not the past century, it is not ready for public consumption. While nearly everyone wants this technology to be perfected, it cannot and should not be used until it is. When that day comes, the possibilities for treating disease and improving lives will be endless. Is it for that reason, that CRISPR-Cas9 and gene-editing research needs to keep moving at its current pace, while being constrained by a few necessary rules.
Now that the seventh row of the periodic table is complete, what’s next?

Although it may be a foreign concept to university students, a regular sleep schedule is critical to a healthy life. In most organisms, this is accomplished through what is known as the circadian rhythm. This 24-hour rhythm is our internal genetic clock, and it consists of a regulated expression of genes and molecules that control alertness, executive function, and even metabolism. As we age, this cycle begins to change and has been implicated in effects such as decreased immunity or 'sundowning' in the elderly, where agitation increases later in the day.

In order to elucidate the complex regulation of this clock, researchers at U of T and the University of Pittsburgh conducted a study in 146 post-mortem brains to identify temporal changes in gene expression. The researchers chose to focus on the prefrontal cortex, a region involved in moderating social behavior and decision-making. By choosing samples with various times of death, they were able to create a 24-hour timeline of gene expression. From this, a set of 235 core genes were identified that regulate our internal clock, some of which were found to decrease in expression with age.

An even more interesting finding was that a certain set of genes also increase in rhythmicity with age. These genes could potentially explain the effects of sundowning and sleep problems seen in the elderly, eventually leading to therapeutic interventions.

— Stefan Jevtic

Need motivation to lose weight? A new study has found that weight loss increases facial attractiveness. In people. The study was conducted by researchers Daniel Re and Nicholas Rule from the U of T psychology department, who found that for people of average height, women would have to lose 14 pounds and 18 pounds for men in order to be seen as more attractive. To come to this conclusion, the researchers conducted two studies. The first study determined what amount of weight-loss would cause a noticeable difference in the facial appearance of participants. The results of this study indicated that for weight loss to be noticeable, a man would have to lose around 9.3 pounds and a woman would have to lose 7.8 pounds.

The second study determined the threshold at which there is a perceived change in visible attractiveness, which was the aforementioned 14 pounds for women and 18 pounds for men.

— Mishka Danchuk-Lauzon

We all remember the ebola outbreak in 2014, and most of us are probably going into 2016 thinking that with the release of the vaccine, ebola's reign of terror is over. This is not the case though; the reported number of West Africans who have contracted ebola has been found to be much lower than the actual number.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the outbreak has killed approximately 11,300 of the 28,600 infected persons in West Africa. We are just discovering now that ebola has a number of long term effects. The higher the patient's viral load — or the amount of virus in their blood — the worse complications will be after contraction. Survivors can potentially expect to face blindness, decreased immuno and many other severe complications. The higher the patient's viral load — or the amount of virus in their blood — the worse complications will be after contraction. Survivors can potentially expect to face blindness, decreased immuno and many other severe complications.

— Kasi Sewraj

Kangaroos, koalas, and opossums are marsupial mammals that care for their young in pouches until they have reached maturity. Known as brood care, this is an attempt to enhance the offspring’s chance of survival. A recent study conducted by researchers at U of T and the Royal Ontario Museum has found that the practice of brood care dates back 508 million years.

Wapinia fieldensis were tiny arthropods that lived during the Cambrian period. Researchers determined that these shrimp-like creatures carried eggs, due to the preserved embryos found in their bodies. The insect had a meagre space, a duplex structure covering the front of its body. Beneath the carapace were egg-shaped clusters that helped the insect hold its eggs and later care for its young. A similar discovery was made in China a few years ago, when Kuningella douvillei, another ancient arthropod, was found with eggs inside its body. The eggs, however, did not contain embryos and were located lower on the body. This suggests that Cambrian animals had many different methods of brood care.

The recent discovery of brood care in W. fieldensis, as well as the former discovery in K. douvillei, increases our understanding of brood care during the Cambrian explosion, a time during which animals rapidly evolved to be closer to their present-day descendants.

— Narthaan Senirugathasan
Student programmers announced as semi-finalists in coding competition

Two U of T undergrads selected as lone representatives from Canada in the 2015 Pearson Coding Competition

Everyone learns differently; while some benefit primarily from a visual education, others get more out of listening to information. Increasingly, learning methods are expanding with online videos, books, and applications that make education more accessible. In order to foster the creation of more online learning tools, UK-based education company Pearson launched their third annual Pearson Student Coding Contest last September. The contest is designed for undergraduate students in the United States and Canada to create applications that help students learn.

This year, two undergraduate students from the University of Toronto, Christopher Goldsworthy and Farhan Samir are the only competitors from Canada to make it into the semi-final round of the competition, along with 19 others from the US. Contestants first pitched their proposal that was judged by a team of industry experts before developing their applications. Winners of the contest will be awarded in February with cash prizes and a chance to intern at Pearson Education. The goal is to integrate the Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), tools that can be used for building software, to construct educational apps that are functional and novel.

In some cases, the damage caused by fabricated data can lead to less efficient public health. For example, the fear of vaccines spread quickly following a published study that established an association between autism and the vaccines for measles, mumps, and rubella. The findings by British doctor Andrew Wakefield were intentionally misleading to learn and a simple online platform for interaction. Points are also awarded based on the quality of the students’ notes.

TheVarsity reached out to the semi-finalists in the competition, Christopher Goldsworthy, for an interview. Goldsworthy, a second-year computer science student, created the application HandUp. Goldsworthy was inspired by an application called Memrise, where users can engage in vocabulary issues in a fun way to build skills. Participants are awarded points for their performance. HandUp has two main functions: first, to take and share lecture notes, and second, to get more students to study in groups. Students are awarded points for studying together, creating a fun way to engage in memorization exercises and a simple online platform for interaction. Points are also awarded based on the quality of the students’ notes.

These notes will be compared to other users’ notes, using a program that compares key words. An average selection of key words will be found and as long as the students’ notes are similar to the average, they will be awarded points in the application. Using Bluetooth, the app can also connect different users and their friends in the same class.

With regards to the coding competition, Goldsworthy says his goal is to “develop more of a vocational culture for software development. As long as I make something of professional quality which is usable, I will be satisfied.”

Goldsworthy says it was stressful to balance working on the application with exams, but he plans to complete and perfect the app by the end of January. For now, he is content with the experience he has had with the competition.

When asked for advice to give individuals interested in developing software or going into computer science, he says, “first they should learn a programming language, preferably Java or Python. I recommend Java because of Android. It’s a very simple platform to develop for. Really you just need to have motivation and drive to develop something.

For the future, Goldsworthy is interested in moving forward to explore projects involving machine learning and visual computing.

SANDY WANG

The scientific research community is dependent on academic integrity for its credibility. Intentional manipulation of results is considered a cardinal sin. The consequences of research misconduct extend beyond just the scientists’ personal reputations and careers; it can also compromise the validity of other scientific discoveries and diminish the trust the public places in science.

It was a great surprise then, when in the fall of 2015, an internal investigation revealed that ifophie Jamal, a researcher and senior physician at the Women’s College Hospital in Toronto, fabricated the results of a study on breast cancer. Jamal has co-authored over 50 publications. She was the research lead for a study that was first questioned in September 2011, approximately four years after the study was first published in 2011.

Jamal has co-authored over 50 publications. She was the research director of the Centre for Osteoporosis & Bone Health and an associate professor of medicine at the University of Toronto, but she has since resigned from both positions. Additionally, participants of the two-year-long study have been informed about the misrepresentation of results.

In an interview with the Toronto Star, Marilyn Emery, the president of the Women’s College Hospital acknowledged the pressure on researchers to publish meaningful results, though she acknowledged that it should not justify compromising the integrity of research.

In September, two researchers at the University of Toronto, Dr. Shereen Ezzat and Dr. Sylvia Asi, allegedly falsified data in two studies published in the American Journal of Pathology. The papers examined the genetics of breast cancer and were published in May and December of 2010 respectively. The validity of their work was first questioned in September 2012; both papers have since been retracted. Concerns were also raised over a third paper containing an image that was previously published in another journal.

Asa, a pathologist, and Ezzat, an endocrinologist, are both employed by the University Health Network (UHN). Together, the pair has co-authored over 90 publications and received government-funded grants totalling over $3.2 million.

Despite agreeing with the retraction, the pair of researchers maintained that their findings were credible and could be replicated. The investigating committee, along with the hospital’s vice president of research and vice president of medical affairs and quality, reported that the study contained fabricated data. False data damages the public’s trust in scientific discoveries and the process of reversing this damage is slow.

In some cases, the damage caused by fabricated data can lead to less efficient public health. For example, the fear of vaccines spread quickly following a published study that established an association between autism and the vaccines for measles, mumps, and rubella. The findings by British doctor Andrew Wakefield were intentionally misleading to learn and a simple online platform for interaction. Points are also awarded based on the quality of the students’ notes.

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WAN XIANKOH

To fib or not to fib?

In 2015, multiple Toronto-based researchers retracted studies because of falsified data.
Blues review and preview
Reflecting on fall finishes and a glimpse into the winter season

EMMA KIKULIS
SPORTS EDITOR

FALL RECAP

FOOTBALL
The consistently under performing Blues' football team was put out of their misery in October, losing their last game of the season 45-9 against the Ottawa Gee-Gees. With a slightly better 3-5 season record this year — as opposed to last season's 2-6 — the Blues do seem to be improving slowly. Despite an eighth place OUA finish for the team, the Blues saw strong individual performances by the likes of punter TJ Morton, who completed the farthest punt this season in the OUA at 68 yards, and rookie linebacker Matthew Renaud who was chosen for the 2015 OUA all-rookie team.

SOCCER
Despite a promising regular season performance, the Blues' women's soccer team was eliminated from quarter-final OUA action at the end of October by the visiting Queen's Gaels. The Blues, who finished the year 9-6-1 dropped to fourth place overall in the OUA east division — one place lower than last season. Rookie Natasha Klaisio had a standout season, leading the Blues in goals scored and was also named OUA east division rookie of the year. On the men's side, the Blues enjoyed a taste of success by beating out hometown rivals Ryerson 3-0 to take the OUA bronze medal for the second year in a row. At the CIS championship, hosted by eventual tournament winners the York Lions, the Blues didn't fare as well. The team lost both of their games, ending their tournament and season. Despite losing both games, the men finished in the fifth spot, and co-captain Lukas MacNaughton was named a CIS second team all-Canadian.

GOLF
The chronically underrated and unrecognized Varsity Blues women's golf team took home their fifth OUA banner since 2005, marking the team's fourth banner in a row. The women have now Western University for the most consecutive OUA wins. The women won the competition with a final score of 471, making the difference between the Blues and second place finishers Waterloo a mere 26 strokes. U of T PhD student Laura Upenieks won the Judy McCrae Trophy by one stroke at 154. On the men's side, the Blues came away with a silver medal with a score of 608, and were lead by individual bronze medal winner Ryan Tsang who shot 148.

WINTER PREVIEW

SWIMMING
U of T's men's and women's swim teams are poised to defend their OUA banners this year, with huge wins against the Western Mustangs on Saturday. Winning 22 of the 26 races, the Blues are definitely the team to beat this season — just as they have been for the past two seasons — with consistent and impeccable coaching by Byron MacDonald who is in his thirty seventh season with the Blues. In individual feats, second-year phenom Kylie Masse not only broke the Canadian 50m backstroke record by 0.16 hundredths of a second, but also nearly nudged out Olympic gold medallist Missy Franklin in a race in Minnesota in November, missing the gold by two tenths of a second. Both the men's and women's teams are establishing themselves as a force to be reckoned with, and if they keep up the gold medal, record-breaking performances, the squads won't have a problem becoming third time OUA champions.

TRACK AND FIELD
Coming off OUA and CIS banner winning seasons, the Varsity Blues women's track and field team will have to work harder than ever to defend their title without the help of Pan Am 1,500m bronze medallist Sasha Gollish. Despite Gollish's absence, the women were aided by fifth-year veteran Rachel Hewett, who won first place in the 600m last weekend at the Can Am Classic in Windsor, contributing a leg and to the 4x800m relay, which also placed first in a time of 8:58.84. At the same meet, co-captain Julia Stille represented the field competitors by bringing home a gold in the triple jump competition with a distance of 12.30m. While defending their CIS banner may be difficult, the women are set to dominate on home turf this Friday when U of T hosts the Fred Foot Pentathlon in the Athletic Centre Field House.

VOLLEYBALL
Currently sitting in fourth position in the OUA standings — right behind GTA rivals Ryerson — the Varsity Blues men's volleyball team has something to prove. The team is trying to overcome their tenth place finish and dismal 4-16 record in the OUA last season. At 6-4 by mid-season, the men have already improved last years record, thanks in part to precise hitting by third year William Colucci and Stefan Ristic that latter of whom leads the Blues in serves and attacks this season. The Blues have won their past two games against the Lancers and Mustangs, and are looking strong as they go into their next game against Nipissing on the sixteenth.
**How sport came to define the holidays**

For many Canadians, the holidays are spent watching favourite family sports teams.

For me, there are a few things which define the holiday season: turkey, reuniting with family members, and, perhaps most importantly, the IIHF U-20 World Junior Hockey Championship. From Boxing Day to early January, the most talented young hockey players in the world compete with the hopes of bringing home gold for their country. Given that this tournament happens annually, and has players with little name recognition, it doesn’t seem like it should be a calendar event for anyone except the most diehard of junior hockey fans.

For the many countries the World Juniors remain unrecognized. Yet for many Canadians, the event elicits an almost religious devotion. According to TSN, the Canadian broadcast of the 2015 medal game featuring Canada and Russia averaged 7.1 million viewers, with 13.4 million tuning in at some point. That’s just under 36 per cent of the entire population of Canada tuning into a single game. Nearly 11 million people watched the Golden State Warriors play the Cleveland Cavaliers across the U.S. just as they have since the NBA began the tradition in 1947. The NHL began holding its annual holiday outdoor Winter Classic in 2013. The 2014 Winter Classic was viewed by eight million people on television, and another 105,491 people live, setting an NHL attendance record.

For an opportunity of year that is so often sold as a time to reconnect with family, we do watch an awful lot of sports around the holidays. It actually makes some sense — if I’m a sports fan and all the people I love are in the game together and we need something to do after we open presents, why not throw on a basketball game? In the aftermath of New Years’ when everyone’s languishing, hungover on the couch, why not watch the Rose Bowl? Just like the holidays themselves, the emphasis is not on what we are doing, but who we are with. That’s why I watch the World Juniors, and why I love the holidays. The gold medal will last me until next year, the time I spend with family and friends yelling, cheering, and crying will remain for a lifetime.

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**Further information:**

Please consult the elections website for more information and review the 2016 Election Guidelines at:

[www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Governing_Council/elections.htm](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Governing_Council/elections.htm)
Is this real life, fantasy, or gambling?
Is it too late, and do we want to stop the machine that is daily fantasy sports?

SAM CALDARONE

With Super Bowl 50, March Madness, and the NHL post-season all coming up in quick succession, sports fans everywhere will be preparing for fantasy draft picks on various online platforms. The estimated amount of fantasy players worldwide — according to the Fantasy Sports Trade Association website — reached an all-time high of $6.8 million in 2015. This popularity can be attributed to the success of Daily Fantasy Sport (DFS), wherein participants enter their roster into a competition hosted by specific websites like DraftKings and FanDuel.

Some of the most popular daily fantasy websites, including DraftKings and FanDuel, are both valued well over $1 billion. These sites can see participants win millions off of their sports knowledge. Both sites profit substantially through heavy marketing campaigns over football’s off-season, which emphasizes the possibility of making massive amounts of money over a single night. Advertisements with slogans like “Win $100,000 Free” imply that a single night of fortuitous play can result in a tremendous amount of money.

Despite their annual rise in popularity the fantasy sports industry hit a major roadblock last year. DFS has recently been accused of being a gambling network. The argument posits that since daily fantasy sites like FanDuel and DraftKings depend on a single night of player performance, participants are wagering on the results of a game. Defenders of DFS argue that it is skill-based, and successful DFS players require discipline and money management ability.

Warren Kosoy, a writer for RotoGrinders and co-founder of dailypucktalk.com, believes that daily fantasy sport is a skill, rather than a luck-based game. “I do it because it is fun, skill-based and a great way to make money and make my sports knowledge valuable to my life,” Kosoy says. “The skill is in the money management and knowing which games to join.”

Following the November 10 ban of DFS in New York State last year, the Canadian Gaming Association (CGA) announced that it had decided that DFS is illegal under the Criminal Code of Canada. The CGA commissioned attorney Don Bourgeois to investigate the legality of DFS under the Code, who interpreted it to mean that in games of mixed skill and chance, the latter trumps the former and falls under the umbrella of chance games. As a result, it is considered gambling.

Bourgeois’ interpretation may have come too late. In Canada, many major investors have sunk millions into DraftKings and FanDuel. Counted among DraftKings’ investors are the NHL, MLS, and Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Ltd. — Canada’s largest private sports company and owners of the Toronto Raptors and the Maple Leafs. In July, DraftKings announced a new round of funding worth $300 million.

This begs the question: have DFS become too big to fail? Without rapid intervention the multitude of seven figure investments might allow DFS sites to survive. With DFS sites having their books so deep into major Canadian industries, it would be tough to pass and enforce legislation prohibiting DFS. This seems to leave only one question: does one go with Wilson or Brady?
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ACROSS
1. Funeral garlands
4. Former lover, old...
7. Reykjavik is there
8. Scratch out
9. Stacked
12. Intermittently (2,3,3)
15. Show up again
17. Inclined letter style
18. Loose pants, ... shorts
21. Notorious affair
22. Dissect (3,2)
23. Rags

DOWN
1. More deserving
2. Take as being true
3. Scorch
4. Melt into the background
5. Airman
6. Outside limit
10. Wooden joining peg
11. Native New Zealander
13. Burns unsteadily
14. Communist
16. Unoccupied
18. Political power group
19. Invitation reply (1,1,1,1)
20. Angler’s throw

The Varsity will post the answers to this puzzle in the next week’s issue.

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