



Festive Marketplace

Every year close to the December break UCC hosts the “Festive Marketplace”. It is advertised as a place where you can buy gifts for the holidays and “delicious treats”. Sadly, every year it seems to get worse: Prices get higher (since when is there inflation in a school fundraiser???) and the choices are the exact same from year to year. We make a big deal of it every year but it is now just an excuse to buy overpriced food that doesn’t live to our expectations. Good thing they added Mr. McKinney walking around (imprisoned) in a blue santa suit handing out candy canes*. As less and less people came towards the end of the day, the organizers were forced to lower prices to get rid of everything.

HOW CAN THIS BE BETTER?

1. Drop the prices - Absolutely every item in the market is well over the price it should be . Who wants to spend \$15 on a couple of small tacos?
2. Diversify item selection - There are a lot of “repeated booths” where there are just about the same products as other booths.
3. Items more appealing to high school students - A lot of the things that are sold are not items any of us want to buy. What kid is buying Christmas ornaments at Festive Marketplace? I know parents come too but I’m not sure too many are buying anything like that either.
4. More interactive (i.e. games) - If you want people to stay inside the gym get some entertainment! Arcade games and other things alike are a great way to do this.

The IDIV Times is starting a FREE MCKINNEY campaign to get Principal McKinney out of the santa suit job. Contact gen.nishiwaki@ucc.on.ca if you would like to join the movement.



SPACE

Sloan Sobie

Space - the final frontier. It's an industry that has rapidly increased in popularity after private companies began selling tickets for passengers to go into near space, and even Mars. This attention from the media has been a much needed refresher after years of little technological development in this field. As much as we don't like to believe it, popularity is a big part of the success of a lot of government-funded organizations.

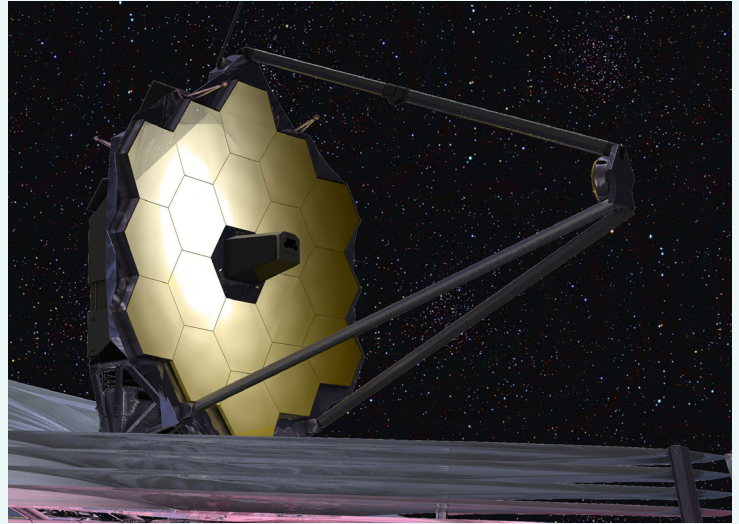


The chart above accurately depicts not only NASA's federal budget but it also symbolizes the popularity of NASA. In the mid-1960's it was the peak of the cold war, which directly corresponds with the peak in funding. This is because that was when it was the most important for America to beat Russia to the moon. After the race to the moon ended, many people weren't as interested in space. New projects were developing fast - but not fast enough to keep the public's attention. Since then there has been a steady decrease in funding for NASA. To this day the United States is the only country that has sent a manned mission to the Moon, and the last time they even went to the moon was 1974. Why might they have gone back, you might ask. It's because the government isn't willing to fund another mission to the moon. For example, people don't get as excited about going to Ottawa if it's the seventh time they have been there, they much rather go to Florida for the first time. That something that people can really get excited about. We face a similar situation with going to the moon again.



There is a clear lack of development and right now is a tipping point that could finally get space out of its technological slump. We have seen a rise in private companies such as SpaceX, Planetary Resources, Virgin Galactic, and many others. People had anticipated these companies would be competing against NASA and the Roscosmos (Russian Space Agency) but in fact, they are the exact opposite. NASA has been encouraging the growth of companies like SpaceX because they believe they are all working towards the same goal - to advance humanity's understanding of space and aeronautics. NASA has had multiple competitions in which they award private companies funding for projects such as colonizing Mars or mining asteroids.

On the other hand, NASA still has various projects of their own. They have 16 projects currently in the works and only 6 of them have to do with space exploration. The rest being mainly satellites which will record data of the earth. One highly anticipated project is the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) that is planned to launch sometime in 2018 and will be the successor to the Hubble Telescope. Another project is to launch a satellite which will monitor Europa, one of Jupiter's moons which may have vast quantities of liquid water under their icy surfaces. NASA does not currently have an official mission to send people to Mars but plans to have humans orbit Mars sometime in the early 2030's.



Elon Musk, CEO of both Tesla and SpaceX, saw there was a lack of efficiency in this field due to the long timelines and little funding so he created SpaceX which set out to do everything NASA wanted to do but faster and cheaper. There were two reasons why this was achievable. There was no politics involved in the amount of funding they will get, and they could decide what projects they could work on based on what they felt would be most successful. NASA, on the other hand, often has to accommodate the wishes of politicians. NASA wants to simply have humans orbit Mars by early 2030's, but Elon wants humans on Mars between 2024-2025. This is no small task - there are still incredibly large amounts of money required. SpaceX has been funding the mission to Mars itself but he does have a long-term solution. In the near future, SpaceX will be selling tickets to go to the ISS (International Space Station) for a whopping \$58 million. However, once more infrastructure is built and space travel becomes more commercialized the price will rapidly decrease. We have already seen plans to do this using their reusable rockets which eliminates a huge cost of making an entire rocket from scratch.



We are rapidly approaching a new dawn of space exploration with the rise of private corporations like SpaceX and Virgin Galactic which plan to commercialize space running fairs to and from the ISS. Does this mean the eventual end of NASA and other government organizations? Or will they hop on the trend of commercializing space by selling their own tickets? The industry surround space is constantly evolving and we are approaching a crossroads where we can continue to ensure the advancement of space in our governments or look private companies like SpaceX, in order to avoid all the bureaucracy that comes with government-funded organizations. There truly never has been a more exciting time for this industry and I'm excited to see where it leads.

The UD Price Problem

By: Aaren Fung, Alfred Shi and Graydon Power

In light of recent news, the IDiv times's best and most experienced journalists have done extensive research and used many tools and resources to discover a very disturbing fact. It started when it was found that the Upper Dining Halls prices had been increased, at the beginning of the 2017 school year, Lunch UD prices saw a 6% increase from \$8.50 to \$9.00.

UD breakfast prices saw it even worse, just as of november, UD breakfast prices went up by a whopping 15% from \$6 to \$7. For many who eat at the UD everyday, this can have a large effect. Having UD breakfast and lunch every school day for 5 years at the upper school, means that students could be paying an extra \$1350 just from the price increases this year.

With little to no visible increase in the UD's incredible food quality and taste, the question is: why is there such a sudden increase? Inflation could be a possible answer; It is unknown what the history of UD prices are. However, if the 2016 price of \$8.50 for lunch was set in 2013, then the price increase might make sense when adjusting for inflation. For breakfast the price increase would only make sense if the price was set in 2007, an entire decade ago. But as said, such information is unknown.



TORONTO.—UPPER CANADA COLLEGE, KING STREET.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN & FRASER.

Most people would think that this isn't a problem as the UD would have to keep up competitive prices, otherwise people would go to the LD or the Student Center. Then, the UD would lose business. But what if we told you that not only the UD but also the LD and the Student Center are all owned by the mega corporation called Upper Canada College that's working with Aramark. This means that Upper Canada College has bought out all of the competition and has a monopoly on all of the food services at UCC. This means Upper Canada College is free to increase the prices all they want and that the students of UCC just have to sit and face the consequences. Upper Canada College has a history of sabotaging competition, having Mr. Verboom (A man who works for Upper Canada College) do a large presentation on why sugar is terrible for you on the day of the Entrepreneurship Club's huge Krispy Kreme doughnut sale, to heavily decrease their business is very representative of Upper Canada College's business practices and how Upper Canada College will do anything to keep their monopoly secure. Now there is some competition of off campus lunch but it was stated during Mr. Verboom's speech that one of the "Nutrition Committee's" goals are to keep students on campus for lunch, just another example of Upper Canada College attempting to secure their monopoly.

Upper Canada College seems to have been hiding the fact that they have made the price increases with many students unaware of them. It is clearly evident that even with the millions of dollars in donations, Upper Canada Collegiate Institution of Learning has yet to quench their need for more profit in money, specifically from the one aspect of schools that students don't just want, but need to live: Food. Unfortunately this vicious cycle of exploitation may continue, as we are likely to see even more price increases in the future.

