

→ CONVERGENCE ←

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DEAR CAS:

BRING BACK HOURS!

WHY HOURS IS THE BETTER SYSTEM, AND WHY ALL IT NEEDS IS A
LITTLE FIXING UP.

P 2 SACHIN PASRICHA



HOUR COUNTING: A NECESSARY PHENOMENON

SACHIN PASRICHA - STAFF REPORTER

The previous CAS system at UCC was by no means perfect. It was a quantitatively-based system with its roots in hour counting. The goal of the new system was to eliminate the hour counting method and focus on the underlying purpose of CAS, whatever that may be. However, what can now be understood is that the new program too has imperfections and they are more significant than that of the old system. While the old system had room for improvement, it was a necessary foundation to the CAS program, especially given the current UCC ideology.

At UCC, students can be under a lot of pressure - the tests and assignments of the rigorous IB program, in addition to the athletics, clubs, arts and social aspects of a balanced life. Therefore, it is clear why if a student were to be given a choice between doing something the hard way or taking a short cut, more often than not the shortcut would be taken. Now, this is not some character lesson; rather this is a suggestion which can reduce the number of shortcuts taken at UCC with specific regards to the CAS system.

Bring back the old CAS system - counting hours works.

The new CAS system, for those of who are unaware, is one which uses qualitative measures to track a student's creativity, action and service activities. Students have no hard goal of what must be completed with regards to these three areas of co-curricular life. Under the old model, students were mandated to perform 50 hours of community service, 50 hours of creativity (whether that be clubs,

band, etc.) and 50 hours of athletics (personal or team-based). Yet, under this new system, as explained in the last issue of Convergence, students only need to do one activity per term and account for each area of CAS at least once in their IB career.

As explained in the last issue, Mr. Parkinson, the new CAS director, explains that the goal of the new system is quality over quantity. In theory, this quality over quantity approach should work as students should focus on what they do with their co-curricular activities rather than the number of hours they spend. However, this quality over quantity approach simply opens up more opportunities for shortcuts to be taken.

Before this new system, when CAS hours were counted, there were already problems with the exaggeration of hours and students would often receive hours for activities where they participated minimally. Without pointing fingers, it should be acknowledged that a prime example of stretching the truth were the clubs when movies were watched at lunch and this was classified as "creativity." With this new system, students don't even need to attend the club or be on the team for a certain number of hours. They simply attend a few practices (especially relevant to teams with no cuts) or go to a few club meetings (especially relevant for lunch time clubs). Student then claim that they participated in the activity for the entire term or year. This claim that students will make is not necessarily their fault. As previously explained, in the busy lives of UCC students, it should be assumed that if a shortcut pres-

ents itself, as in this situation, it will be taken by the majority of students. This view is not being cynical, rather practical and realistic. The quality over quantity approach will only encourage more students to claim full participation in activities where they had limited to no participation.

Furthermore, hour counting is helpful because it links the UCC system with various awards that students find useful for resumés. A prime example of this is the Duke of Ed award. Duke of Ed requires a set amount of service and action hours to be completed over a given time period and this was particularly easy to be tracked with ManageBac being linked to the hour counting CAS system. However, with hour counting disappearing, it will presumably become harder for students to partake in the Duke of Ed program - a program that has been instrumental to recognizing the accomplishments of boys in the past.

Additionally, UCC community service pins (Gold for 250 hours and Silver for 100 hours) are given out at the end of every year to students who complete the required hours. Yet, without tracking hours quantitatively, how will these pins be awarded? In the past, this recognition has encouraged students to volunteer more and certainly, the elimination of such a distinction will discourage any community service beyond the required amount.

Thus, while the hour-counting system had flaws, it was necessary and functioned particularly well for the UCC community. It can be improved but must not be abolished.

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DEADLOCK TO DEBT CLOCK

LUCAS CUSIMANO - STAFF REPORTER

The United States government stopped paying 17% of its some 4.7 million worker from October 1st to October 16th. Sections of the federal government shut down and national monuments were closed. This event was deemed a government “shutdown”, and political chaos was the cause and the consequence. Democrats and Republicans were drawn into the “shutdown” through a partisan battle over the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, a sweeping bill to increase government involvement in healthcare and restrict the ability of private insurers to carry out their basic function. Republicans, attempting to halt its effectuation, refused to appropriate funds for the program. During the “shutdown”, partisan quarrels grew, especially under pressure of the impending debt default – a failure to pay the interest on government debt, in this case, due to a borrowing limit. Obama ironically stated, “the United States has always paid its bills and will do so again”. The United States is in debt because it is unable to pay its bills.

The deal ending the shutdown delays the chaos for a few months. It promises to have a long-term budget deal by 13 December – an improbable circumstance, as partisan divides will likely impede any progress, especially without serious deadlines. The deal also funds government until 15 January 2014, and raises the borrowing limit on the debt until 7 February 2014.

Over the course of the sixteen-day shutdown, blaming and smearing were the tactics of choice, rather than debating, and deliberating. Furthermore, the financial sector remained markedly unperturbed, exposing a belief that the antics in Washington D.C. are meant for show, not progress.

The U.S. government regularly spends roughly \$3.7 billion daily, and it smashed its all-time daily spending record on 17 October 2013, with a whopping \$328 billion, ramming the national debt past the \$17 trillion mark. The shutdown gave the government a glimmer of opportunity to put the United States back on the path to fiscal sanity. It did not happen.



Cycle of life: Ai Weiwei's grandiose bicycle exhibit at Nuit Blanche.

Qing, a Chinese poet. This was a time of cultural revolution within China, and Qing was denounced for favouring capitalist ideals. Shortly after birth, his family was sent to a labour camp due to Qing's opposition to Mao Zedong's government. Subsequently, the family spent years in exile until Mao's death, only returning to Beijing in 1976. The persecution of his father would later inspire the rebellious nature of his artwork.

In his twenties, Ai Weiwei traveled to the United States. After a brief tenure at Parson's School of Design, he dropped out of school. Even without a formal degree, Ai Weiwei made a living doing odd jobs and creating makeshift pieces of art. This would expose him to many forms of art, helping to shape his future. However, the American dream would have to come to an end for Ai Weiwei. In 1993, his father fell ill, forcing him to return to China. Drawing on his experience in the United States, Ai Weiwei would critique Chinese policy through the many works of art he was soon to create.

This brings us to the present day. Ai Weiwei's artwork is showcased in both his native country, and in foreign exhibitions around the world – and the controversial nature of his artwork has not gone unnoticed. The Chinese government has on multiple occasions attempted to silence Ai Weiwei. Some of these instances include when Ai shed light upon government corruption during the Sichuan earthquakes that ravaged the Chinese city. The Chinese government ultimately decided to limit Ai Weiwei's influence by placing him under house arrest. Despite the government's attempts to intimidate him, Ai Weiwei's artwork, whether it be here in Toronto, or underground in China, continues to bring attention to China's unstable and unjust social and political situation.

AI WEIWEI: A NAME TO REMEMBER

LOGAN YE - STAFF REPORTER



On October 5th, downtown Toronto was transformed into an art exhibition for one entire night. Among the artists featured was Ai Weiwei, the prominent contemporary Chinese artist. However, while crowds of Torontonians were enjoying his artwork, Ai Weiwei was (and still is) under house arrest in China. To understand how Ai Weiwei has risen to such prominence, and consequently been imprisoned in China, we must look back upon his beginnings.

Ai Weiwei was born in 1957, to Ai

IS DEMOCRACY WORTH IT?

NIKHIL MENON - STAFF REPORTER

Democracy, the phenomenon that the media, governments and institutions, hold in upmost regard; but is it really worth fighting for? In order to answer this, first we need to understand what democracy is. Democracy stems from the idea of “people power”- *demos kratos*, however there are many forms of democracy. You have direct and representative democracy, both of which have numerous variants such as: totalitarian, sociocratic and polyarchal democracy. In fact, there are so many representations of this political idea that to group them into one core ideology is in essence making an incredibly large generalisation to the extent that democracy in itself becomes a stereotype. People perceive democracy to be a system based on the voting of individuals into politics, thereby enabling citizens to have control over their nation; at least that's the stereotype.

Usually, people are only aware of direct democracy, a system wherein the people vote in particular individuals into government. Direct democracy holds its roots in Athenian democracy, where its citizens would vote in their leaders and the populous had direct influence in politics. It lasted only 178 years since the lack of representatives resulting from the inefficient system of giving people power and, inability to decide on an effective way of recovering from the Peloponnesian War resulted in the easy takeover by Macedonians led by Alexander the Great. So if the roots of democracy were in itself a failure, then how can it be applied in a modern context where there are even more complicated socio-economic distributions? One may argue that the United States has been able to keep democracy going for over 200 years and that person is absolutely incorrect. The Founding Fathers wished for there to be a republic with elected leaders, now you may ask: what is the difference? In a democracy, the people have direct control over affairs- making it a highly inefficient system; whereas in a republic, certain parliamentary persons are voted in and these individuals then decide on the other leaders. These ‘other leaders’ are usually the president or emperor and his ministers. Now you may argue that there is voting, something that I said is inefficient and that is true, it is inefficient, but still significantly more efficient than direct democracy. Also, the Founding Fathers were keen to put emphasis on freedom for its citizens as opposed to a supremely efficient government. In fact, all of the

Founding Fathers objected to democracy; for example, Thomas Jefferson- a Founding Father and America's 3rd President said, “Democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where 51% of the people may take away the rights of the other 49%”. Interestingly, as America has become progressively more democratic, the average citizen's freedoms have reduced while the freedoms of the rich are on the rise.

Despite these facts, let's presume that America truly is a democracy- the world's most powerful one at that. For scores of years, America has attempted to convert the political systems of every nondemocratic sovereign nation into that, which employs a ‘democratically elected’ government. The US does this because they have convinced themselves and their people into thinking that they are the true practitioners of democracy and that it is their duty to spread it to the world. Yet despite professing this, the American government continues to be hypocritical since in reality, the people have very little by way of control over issues such as foreign policy, ways to counter the mounting deficit, and where government spending should be directed. Previously, I said that that was the downfall of the Athenians, but if America truly practices democracy, then it should follow the same rules as opposed to falling in and out of being a republic and being a democracy. Moreover, the people have no opportunity to engage in representative democracy, which the Founding Fathers advocated (representative democracy holds most of its roots in the republic ideology), since there is little to separate the Democrats from the Republicans due to the heavy influence from lobbies and bureaucrats. This is evident in the US's increasingly large donations for Israel's defence as the \$2.775 billion in 2010 has increased to \$3.07 billion in 2012. Seeing as the Democrats are supposedly in support of reductions in military spending of any kind, how is it that it has managed to increase its aid? Also, why is it sending so much money to a cause that they should not be involved in, when there are more than 100,000 war veterans who are homeless? Here is a country that has failed to take care of itself and aims to take care of others; how could that possibly go wrong?

At last we can finally proceed to answering the question at hand. There is only one country where direct democracy has been successful and that is Switzerland. Switzerland owes its success to a brilliant foreign policy, a citizen

minded government and the fact that citizens collectively have a veto- thereby ensuring that the government always give the people priority above anything else. The only successful representative government is the Singaporean one as people choose a political ideology instead of a single person.

As I stated before, it is interesting to note that as America has become more democratic, the average freedoms have reduced. What happened to being able to do things on the Internet without worrying about whether or not that will get you arrested? The NSA and CIA say that they need to be able to access such information for intelligence purposes and national security. I'd just like to remind you that these are the same intelligence agencies that said Iraq has weapons of mass destruction. If you think that America has done any good there by forcing democracy, please explain to me why the economy there is significantly worse than when Saddam Hussein was in power (I'm not saying that murdering the Kurds was right or that his methods of approaching matters was correct either) and why there is so much civil unrest following the Iraq War- which was an unmitigated failure? What happened to *demos kratos*? People then argue that democracy needs to be spread because it ensures that human rights are upheld, America should not be allowed to make any statement on human rights until such time they close Guantanamo Bay. Intriguingly, even in Switzerland there are human rights violations with the Minaret Ban. Lastly, I'd just like to point out how hypocritical the general practice of democracy is. People think that it gives them power when in reality it's usually the wealthy that do, look at America's top 1%- most of whom are lawyers, bankers and most importantly, politicians. Voting has the fundamental problem of people not being educated enough to understand the value of their vote, if they did, George Bush would not have had two terms in office. According to Plato, there are five regimes: Aristocracy, Timocracy, Oligarchy, Democracy and Tyranny. Each successive regime is a degenerate of the previous regime. So if Plato was able to predict that democracy would fail in Ancient Greece- since it is the fourth degenerate of aristocracy, and seemingly, this prediction holds true today. So, is democracy worth spending billions of dollars, endangering the lives of thousands upon thousands, and committing war crimes all for people's false perceptions of it? No.

THE WORLD THIS MONTH

MICHAEL PUSIC - STAFF REPORTER

USA: US CAUGHT MONITORING CELL PHONES OF WORLD LEADERS

Documents released by **EDWARD SNOWDEN** show that the US had tapped the phones of 35 world leaders. While President Obama claims to have had no knowledge of this, the US has been humiliated, and is rapidly losing diplomatic credibility. America is now brokering deals with Germany, France, Brazil, and many other countries to smooth over relations.

USA: LEAD SINGER FOR THE VELVET UNDERGROUND DIES

Rock legend **LOU REED**, best known for Walk on the Wild Side, passed away last Sunday at age 71. A New York legend, he is considered to have transformed rock and



roll, influencing great artists like David Bowie and U2. While the specific cause of his death is unknown, he underwent a liver transplant in May and this is widely believed to have caused his passing.



USA: OBAMACARE SITE CRASHES

The unveiling of **HEALTHCARE.GOV**, the distribution method of President Obama's intensely controversial health care plan, has gone off with a shocking number of hitches. This has been blamed primarily on bad website coding (created by Toronto's CGI), but these issues were compounded by the unexpected amount of traffic on the website. The President has expressed frustration over the matter, and while many of the problems have been resolved, existing glitches leave thousands uninsured.



EGYPT: PRO-MORSI DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE

With Former Egyptian President **MOHAMED MORSI** to stand trial next month on charges of "inciting deadly violence," his supporters have taken to the streets. They recently marched outside Al-Azhar University in Cairo and blocked a main road. This provoked Egyptian security forces who fired birdshot and tear gas into the crowds. This has only added to the instability in an Egypt that is struggling to find its footing.

HE SAID WHAT?! MATCH THE QUOTES.

ELLIOT KAUFMAN
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

BUT THE REAL TRAGEDY WAS THAT 15 HADN'T BEEN **COLORED** YET.



KELLEN WINSLOW

NFL tight end

RAY LEWIS IS THE TYPE OF GUY, THAT IF HE WERE IN A FIGHT WITH A BEAR I WOULDN'T HELP HIM, I'D POUR HONEY ON HIM BECAUSE HE LIKES TO FIGHT. THAT'S THE TYPE OF GUY **RAY LEWIS IS.**



STEVE SPURRIER

former Florida Gators Coach, about a library fire at Auburn University that burned 20 books

IT'S WAR. THEY'RE OUT THERE TO KILL YOU. SO 'I'MA KILL THEM. I 'M A !@#\$% SOLDIER! -



SHANNON SHARPE

NFL tight end, broadcaster



Going Cold: BlackBerry HQ in Kitchener on a snowy day.

BLACKBERRY AND THE DEATH OF CANADIAN TECH

WILDER WALKER-STEWART - STAFF REPORTER

“Blackberry is dead.” This phrase has been repeated countless times over the past few years, used by everyone from technology bloggers to prestigious financial analysts every time news breaks about the Canadian technology company. Once the darling of the smartphone industry, controlling over 40% of the market in 2006, BlackBerry has withered away, plagued by poor management and fierce competition from some of the largest companies of the world. Now, these harsh words have finally caught up to the beleaguered firm. BlackBerry, formerly known as Research in Motion, lost \$965 million in the last quarter alone, shipped a mere 3.6 million phones, and took a billion dollar write-down on unsold inventory as well as announcing layoffs affecting half of its workforce. Its applications store has a mere tenth of those available on Android and iOS and lacks must-haves such as Instagram, Snapchat and Vine.

Given the information shown above, it would seem that Canada’s most well-known technology company is destined to join its siblings in the ever-growing graveyard of former Canadian companies. Not so fast. BlackBerry still has a cash hoard of \$2.6 billion in the bank. It remains strong in the enterprise markets where its security, the last not to have been hacked by the NSA, is prized above all things. Newly released BBM applications for iPhone and Android are extremely popular, holding the number one spot in many countries for more than a week. And despite the recent bleak news about the company’s future, Fairfax Financial Holdings, under the leadership of Prem Watsa, known as Canada’s Warren Buffet, has made an offer worth \$4.7 billion, or \$9 a share. Watsa is known for taking failing companies and turning them around, much like Warren Buffet does. He also is a personal friend of Mike Lazaridis, one of the founders of BlackBerry, which might

partly explain the deal.

But how did BlackBerry get here in the first place? The company first rose to fame in 2000 when it introduced the world’s first smartphone with push email – a revolutionary feature at the time – which was at the time geared for business use. It then pushed into the consumer market, reaching a peak in 2006 where so-called ‘Crackberry’ smartphones dominated the industry and BlackBerry Messenger (BBM) – BlackBerry’s proprietary instant messaging service – was a standard form of communication. The introduction of the iPhone in 2007 however marked a quantum leap in the smartphone market, as an application ecosystem, a well-designed user interface and a touchscreen suddenly became must-have features, something BlackBerry failed to respond to adequately. Its first touchscreen phone, known as the BlackBerry Storm, was a complete disaster and in fact marked the beginning of the decline of BlackBerry’s brand at least in the Western world. In other countries however such as India, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, BlackBerry still dominated. But at least in the West, particularly in the ruthless American market, BlackBerry was on the decline. A failed foray into the tablet market with the BlackBerry Playbook, along with a week-long 2009 outage at its servers, causing email and BBM service to stop reinforced these ideas. The once ubiquitous Crackberrys that populated the streets of America were now slowly being replaced by iPhones and Androids that promised better screens, faster processors and most importantly, the newest and greatest apps.

IT WOULD SEEM DESTINED TO JOIN THE GRAVEYARD OF CANADIAN COMPANIES. NOT SO FAST.

Faced with the dwindling prospects of its current phone lineup, the BlackBerry founding co-CEOs Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsille resigned in January 2012. Thorsten Heins, the COO at the time, was appointed CEO, and promised to turn the company around. A new touch-based operating system, BlackBerry 10, was delayed several times before finally being announced in January of this year. Despite fairly positive reviews across the board, it failed to gain traction in the smartphone market due to a lack of awareness and too few apps, leading to the inventory writedown announced last Friday and the massive loss of this quarter.

Canada has become used to seeing this pattern, especially in the technology sector. Giants like Nortel in 2009 and now BlackBerry remind Canadians of the fragility of their knowledge-based economy. BlackBerry may not be dead, but with its recent announcement to shift away from the consumer market to return to its enterprise roots, it has definitely ceased to be the flag-bearer of a booming Canadian technology-based industry. Companies such as OpenText of Waterloo, CGI of Montreal and Hootsuite of Vancouver still show innovation and growth, but none have the size or scope to fill the massive gap that BlackBerry will leave in the Canadian economy once it is no longer. Canada continues to be a nation of cautious resource extractors, not of one of innovative entrepreneurs that have the capacity to create the next big thing. The story of BlackBerry serves as proof.



Cooperation: (left) members of the European Council meeting in March 2013, (right) our prime minister, Mr. Stephen Harper

CETA AND CANADIAN FREE TRADE

LUCAS CUSIMANO - STAFF REPORTER

The North American Free Trade Agreement was an issue of great contention in 1994, and some still question its effectiveness and whether it is free trade in name only. Nearly ten years later, Canada enters into another free trade agreement, this time with Europe – The Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement. CETA has given our Conservative government an achievement worth heralding. Upon announcing the agreement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper claimed it was “a historic win for Canada”. CETA seeks to cut red tape for businesses abroad and eliminate 98% of all trade tariffs between Canada and the European Union.

These measures are meant to promote trade and cross-border investments. Some claim Canada has come out on top, with Canadian businesses gaining easier access to over five hundred million customers in the twenty-eight EU nations. However, CETA still needs to be ratified by the Canadian provinces, and all member states of the EU. Mr. Harper hopes the agreement to be effective by 2015, saying, “I expect the Euro-

pean Union member states to agree on this agreement” and “I am certainly confident of its adoption in Canada.”

Shockingly, there are some who argue that we need to keep up our protectionist barriers, even though many economists have demonstrated that allowing free trade, even

unilaterally, still results in a net benefit to society. Free trade is good for Canadians. Specifically, CETA vastly benefits various Canadian industries from the reduction in trade duties, including the cheese, beef, pork, fish, forestry, agriculture, and manufacturing industries. The agreement will improve access to

our second largest trading partner’s \$17-trillion economy and is expected to generate an estimated 80,000 jobs. Generally, free trade promotes competition and prevents monopolies from forming within a nation. Lower prices are the result, especially benefiting those with low incomes. The lower prices will leave more in the pocket of everyday Canadians, allowing them to purchase or save more, and increase their standard of

living and the economy at home.

However, CETA does fall short in one aspect. It does not go far enough. Just like NAFTA, some tariffs and quotas will still exist, hindering true free trade. There are caps on the amount of goods that can be imported tariff free. Furthermore, the Canadian government plans to provide compensation for the industries supposedly harmed by increased competition. An example of this would be Canada extending drug patents to delay the introduction of cheaper, generic European versions. The cost to the healthcare system of extending these patents in the name of compensation is estimated at \$1-\$3 billion per year. This cost from this policy alone would take a substantial chunk from the annual expected increase in Canadian gross domestic product of \$12 billion.

Overall, free trade will benefit Canada. Our businesses will be able to access hundreds of millions of customers and compete without tariffs. Canadians at home will face lower prices on many European-made goods, such as clothes, household products, and cars. Lower prices and increased economic growth are anticipated for Canada.

**HOWEVER, CETA
DOES FAIL IN ONE
ASPECT. IT DOESN'T
GO FAR ENOUGH.**



CHEERING, NOT JEERING

PAUL WEISER - STAFF REPORTER

Before every major UCC athletics event (A-day, Friday Night Lights, etc.), we are reminded by the administration to cheer, not jeer. For the most part, the UCC spectators, led by the Blue Army obeys this request, and are respectful towards opponents. However, there have been past occasions when fans have acted disrespectful towards the opposing team, and broken the “cheering, not jeering” rule. In my opinion, taunting is immoral and conveys a lack of confidence. Fans should remember that the main for attending these events is to support UCC teams, not to tease their opponents.

Jeering does not support UCC sports teams in any way whatsoever. To understand this, one must look at the situation from an athlete’s perspective. If you were on the football field, would you prefer to hear something negative about the opposition, or something positive about your team? One would definitely want to hear his/her name or a teammate’s name being cheered, rather than a chant about some obscure mistake by an adversary. Furthermore, cheering on your team gives them confidence; it has been proven that in professional sports that the home team has an immense advantage over the visiting team, because fans push their teams,

and help propel them to victory. Therefore it can be argued that jeering is detrimental to UCC teams, because one could be cheering the on Blues and helping them win instead.

A common saying in sports is, “Don’t wake the sleeping giant.” The figurative meaning of this expression is that if a team or player is ineffective, don’t provoke

them; just let them be. Taunting easily “wakes up the sleeping giant,” and can inspire a team or player. In addition, jeering can also cause one or more of the opposition’s players to become angry or annoyed, creating the possibility that he will intentionally injure one of UCCs players, either by carrying out a “cheap-shot,” or starting a fight. This may result in a star player having to leave the game because of a ridiculous and cruel act, that was provoked by jeering from the crowd.

On top of the fact that jeering is ineffective, it is simply rude. It gives the team, the fans and the entire school community a poor image. It is exceedingly impolite and, frankly, it portrays UCC students as rude and unintelligent. Taunting is unoriginal; although one may believe “chirps” can be witty, or smart, they often demonstrate a lack of creativity. A former tennis coach

of mine once said, “If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything.” An individual’s ability to be self-disciplined enough to rise above that level of having to insult another person shows integrity and strength. Not the type of strength that the gym can give you, but rather moral strength. Essentially, taunting manifests a lack of confidence because the person has to put himself above someone else, as if he is lacking self-respect. Consequently, the student has to transfer his feelings to another student, compensating for his lack of confidence by causing himself feel superior. Taunting also implies that one is unconfident in their team’s ability to win. For example, if UCC was losing to SAC in a soccer match, you, a spectator, would have two choices: to cheer on UCC, trying to will the squad to a victory, or to taunt and jeer at SAC, detracting from the efforts of the home team. If you chose the latter option, it can be argued that you were upset because you didn’t believe UCC could come back and win. In summary, taunting and jeering displays stupidity, little mental toughness and no resilience.

So fellow students, when you have the impulse to cry out some insulting phrase at an opposing team, think twice.

“BE KIND WHENEVER POSSIBLE. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE.” —THE DALAI LAMA



THE PLIGHT OF THE JAYS

DAVID CHIDO - STAFF REPORTER

If one word could sum up the 2013 Toronto Blue Jays Season that word would be “underachievement.” With a new Manager and an enhanced team, the Blue Jays were touted to become 2013 World Series contenders by most sports experts. Yet, the team faltered from the get-go, and with the exception of an 11- game June winning streak, the team never really delivered throughout the 162 game season. Their last place finish in the American League East certainly makes one ponder what is it that makes a team of winners, lose big-time?

The General Manager, Alex Anthopoulos, certainly seemed focused on overhauling a team that has not made the playoffs in two decades. He strategically bolstered the team by adding 44 million dollars to the payroll through the Miami Marlins Blockbuster Trade which brought in starters Josh Johnson and Mark Buehrle; shortstop, Jose Reyes; outfielder Emilio Bonafacio; and catcher John Buck and through the acquisitions of the 2012 Cy Young Winner, R.A. Dickey from the New York Mets and Melky Cabrera via free agency. If this infusion of new players was not enough change, however, Blue Jays Manager, John Farrell’s decision to move to the Boston Red Sox led to the return of John Gibbons as Manager, and an odd choice since during his former term (2004-2008) he didn’t once take the Blue Jays to the playoffs. If this was an opportunity to show the extent that team talent makes a manager and not vice versa, John Gibbons missed the mark. The bolstered team performed worse than last year with just as many injuries. Hence the mind-boggling question, is it fair to put the blame squarely on the shoulders of the Manager? Although there is no scientific formula for creating a World Series team, the need to cultivate chemistry with a newly assembled team seems obvious. Yet using

spring training to rigorously work on fundamentals and build chemistry seemed to elude Gibbons, choosing to run spring training like a five-star all-inclusive resort in Florida. Not only did the team practice only half days, but several veterans have expressed regret over not spending enough time on fundamentals. Moreover, Mark DeRosa, in reflection, felt that younger players should have been “held more accountable for mistakes...if you don’t play well – you run...”. Finally, the fact that eight players missed a sizeable portion of spring training due to their involvement in the World Baseball Classic could not have helped. The combination of a failure to set the proper tone at the outset and an extended absence of players culminated in the Blue Jays entering the season as a disjointed team with a “me” mentality and no sense of cohesive team spirit. This permeated the entire season as they finished the first month with a disappointing 10 wins and 17 losses and never recovered. Given their glaring under-performance marked by overall stupid and lackadaisical baseball including poor fielding (5th in errors and 26th in fielding percentage); high strike-out rates from a few key players such as J.P. Arencibia; a high number of pass balls, and poor base running, one cannot help but conclude this team would have benefited from harder training. As one great athlete once said, “the will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital.”

Apart from a failure in preparation, the high number of injuries proved that the 2012 season was not simply an anomaly. A whopping 20 players with major league experience were put on the DL at some point

in the 2013 season. On the list were notable batters such as Jose Reyes and Brett Lawrie who never managed to get into a rhythm as well as key batters such as Edwin Encarnacion and Melky Cabrera who missed half the season due to a spine tumour. In addition, the crucial starting rotation was marred with injured players such as Brandon Morrow, Josh Johnson and J.A. Happ. Furthermore, up-and-coming pitchers such as Drew Hutchison and Kyle Drabek became non-factors due to elbow surgery. Overall, this illustrates a lack of learning curve. After last year’s injury-plagued rotation, you would expect Anthopoulos to have built up depth at the starting position and taken a scientific approach to analyze pitching mechanics to employ best practices for minimizing elbow and shoulder injuries.

it will take a miracle for this same team to win next year without at least better starting pitching (acquired either by trades or free agency) and a new approach by the Manager, John Gibbons (who Anthopoulos has confirmed is getting a second

chance). Perhaps Gibbons needs to learn a few things from a manager like Rod Gardenhire whose managing style embodies hard work, determination and accountability. In any case, the upcoming MLB season will be crucial in determining the future of the Toronto Blue Jays since Gibbons has to be on a tight leash (three strikes and you are out!) and an overpaid core including aging veterans, R.E. Dickey (39), Jose Bautista (33) and Mark Buehrle (34) likely on the chopping block should history repeat itself.

YOUNGER PLAYERS SHOULD
HAVE BEEN HELD
“MORE ACCOUNTABLE FOR
MISTAKES”



WHY I WILL NOT BE VOTING: A POLEMIC

JOSHUA CAMINITI - STAFF REPORTER

It used to be that, upon turning 18, one received full entitlement to several new rights that come with the recognition of adulthood (the most important doubtlessly being the freedom to purchase alcohol), but now we are conferred only one: the right to vote. Like many in my grade, this new ability to exercise political self-determination, this democratic fruit of centuries of ideological warfare, is a milestone—the milestone—in our maturation as citizens—one I will happily ignore, for I will not vote.

We are faced with a dichotomy, that miraculous “either/or”: either voting is a significant expression of political autonomy or it is not. If it is not, if one vote is essentially incommensurable within a sea of millions, a vote is a grain of sand that pretends it can shape the dune it belongs to. If that is the case (which I allege it is), then whether or not one votes or doesn’t vote is insignificant, for the choice is meaningless and has the identical consequence of nothing. Why is it, though, that I consider an individual vote to have the comparable efficacy of one freshwater droplet in an ocean? Precisely because that is exactly the case, that, within my own disproportionately populated riding

(where my vote can, at best, decide the outcome of 1 seat!) my own choice is rendered totally impotent unless it happens (quite arbitrarily) to belong to the greater part. And which party should be the lucky beneficiary of my ballot?

Suppose, then, that a vote really does mean something, that a vote carries real power in shaping our collective self-rul-

ing—then who am I to use such power? If my one little ballot really does mean something, I could not exhibit greater carefulness in how I use it—an adolescent imputing his choices on the rest of society! Who on earth lacked the oversight, lacked the sanity, to bar such a radical engenderment of power on my

little X? In fact, any way that I might use my ballot imposes my own imperfect will on the rest of society, carries with it an implicit imperative that all must be shackled with what I consider to be right (as an aside, I believe the name of that particular behavioural deviance is called megalomania).

Authority does not exist save as a contract wherein the subjugated party recognizes his or her respective autocrat. What

I mean by this is that, properly understood, no one has authority over another’s agency, unless that agency is (partially or fully) transferred to the other. When, for instance, I enrolled in UCC, I signed an explicit contract surrendering certain freedoms of mine to the school, thus granting the school some degree of authority over whether or not I ought to attend class, for instance. Similarly, when I vote (i.e. participating within the election of who will have authority over me) I legitimize the government’s power over me, I have given them a resounding affirmation of the laws and forces exerted on me. Not being entirely comfortable with consenting to and introducing this new god in my life, one that runs oftentimes against my own conscience and will, I see no choice left but to abstain entirely.

Now the perennial rejoinders to those who practice abstention are two: “How can you comment on politics if you do not participate in them?” and “How can you affect change in the government without voting?” The answer to the first is simple enough: for we do not reprove those who are alternatively under-18 or non-citizens when they express political opinions. The second question is more difficult to answer, but it does not demand an answer, for it presumes that I actually cared about changing the government, but, most crucially, that I wish to change the government from its own political organs.

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BLAZER

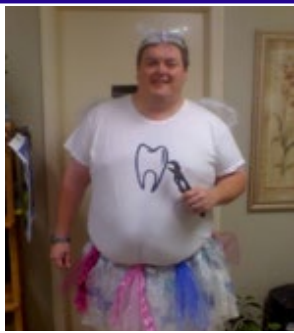
UCC's Humor Publication
written by people who
think they're way funnier
and spookier than they
actually are.

Costume Time!

Since this is the Hallowe'en issue (you didn't notice the orange font up there?), we wanted to talk about something relevant - Hallowe'en costumes. Every year, people come to school as horrible beasts or people in costume. Some dress as historical figures, and some come as vaguely familiar TV characters that you pretend you recognize because otherwise they'll get angry at you. So, to get ahead of things, we'd like to help you out, and tell you some of the costumes that we know people are going to be next year. To be clear, this isn't a mock article, these are cold, hard facts. We've talked to each of these people and they've told us this. Have we ever told a lie before? lol.

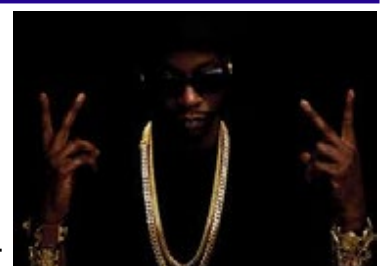
Mr. Denstedt - The Tooth Fairy

Mr. Denstedt has been getting this costume ready for years. Starting from 5 years ago, he's been collecting human teeth in an attempt to create a tooth fairy costume for the ages. "Picture this: a tutu made entirely of human teeth. That's what I want to look like for Hallowe'en," says Denstedt. Even though we believed him, he still opted to show us the bag he keeps tied to his belt containing hundreds of teeth. We didn't ask him where he got them from though. Honestly, we really didn't want to know the answer... Whether or not he stole them from homeless people, we're still looking forward to what Mr. Denstedt will bring next year. "Get ready for a whole lot of pink," said Denstedt, and we're sure getting prepared.



Dr. Hamr - 2CHAINZZZZZ

"I'm in the kitchen, yams everywhere." - 2Chainz/Dr. Hamr. Both share the inspirational quote about yams (I'm pretty sure), and both get mad dolla dolla bills. Dr. Hamr looks forward to stuntin' like a balla and "making it rain on the daily". When asked, Hamr stated that 2Chainz "finds a sort of poetry in the ordinary man. I love the fastidious realism of everything he does." Indeed, we have to agree. Dr. Hamr plans to hit up a dollar store and purchase "more gold chains than a crawfish has pereopods". Throw in some grills, a couple dozen rolex watches, and a single with Kanye West, and we think Dr. Hamr will be able to pull off the role with great vigor and energy. We're sure that he'll "be different" (it's funny cuz that's a lyric by 2Chainz).



Andrew Callahan - Bruce Chi

Even though we've continuously been telling him that it's a bad idea, Andy C. refuses to listen. "It'll be jokes," and "Why not?" are his mottos when it comes to stretching the boundaries of what is a funny costume and what could be considered extremely racist and a badge of shame to his family. "It came to me in a dream," says Callahan. "I thought people might think it's funny if I came as last year's Head Steward, it has nothing to do with the fact that I plan to kill him and wear his face as a mask... Okay, well maybe a little bit". We think Andrew might be better off falling asleep in class than committing cannibalistic murder.



Literally Everyone Else - Heisenberg

Let's be honest, you thought about it. Just throw on a fedora, shave your head, cook a couple hundred pounds of meth and BAM you've got yourself a costume. Well, so did everyone else, so I am really sorry to break it to you, but unless you want to have a costume less original than IT jokes, you should honestly think of something else, like maybe dressing up as something a little bit more creative? Oh, who are we kidding, you're not original at all, and don't have the body for a naughty nurse costume.



SPOILER: Leave Milk Out in the Heat for a Few Hours

If we've offended you with this sorry. Please send all hate mail to blazer@acc.on.ca if you want to join our team, email us too. -xoxo, BS



Rejected Steward's Dance Themes

Steward's Dance was last week (as I'm sure you all know), and with a theme like Neon, people were blinded by both the bright colours and tight leggings that guys wore. That being said, Blazer, the spiteful people that we are, are still resentful about some of our theme ideas not making the cut into the ballot sent out to IB2s. In this article, we're going to let you guys know about what we thought would be good themes, so let us know what you think.... Or not... Like we care...

1) Amish Community

Let's be honest here, who hasn't dreamed of visiting an Amish community in their life? Well if this were the Steward's Dance theme you could! An easy costume to make, all it involves is stopping your shaving routine, throw on some black, grab your oxen and farming plow, and you're good to go! Plus can you imagine what your dates would look like? You might even get to see some ankle.... Aw yeah.

2) Robots and Sluts

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101011101010000111101010100 ... If you know what I mean ;)

3) Disappointed Parents

Okay, hear us out. Half of the couples go as themselves and the rest dress as their parents. Through the entire dance the 'parents' stand at the side of the Student Centre and look at them disappointedly, sometimes going up to them and muttering things like "I expected more from you", and "Your brother wouldn't be acting like this", the whole while making sure that no one got 'too close' with each other. Imagine the laughs and good times that everyone would have!

So there you have it; our rejected Steward's Dance ideas. What do you think? Would any of these be better than Neon? The answer is yes. Yes they are.

Blazer Approved Pumpkins



Headlines

- Apple reveals the new iPad Air, with a revolutionary new processing chip or camera or something
- Last Friday's annual Stuart's Dance, held in honour of Stuart Richardson's impeccable ability to guess foods
- Director of blockbuster hit: 'Gravity' sued for false advertising in a film with a serious lack of gravity
- Liam Power required to learn French for new more efficient play calling on football team
- Eamonn O'Keeffe goes blackout to Steward's Dance; forgets the night and history prior to 1845
- THIS JUST IN: Students cause Melee in the Stewards room, Smash multiple objects
- Blue Notes to be renamed "always flat-Notes"
- Mr. Matthew Verboom beats Mr. Poon for school's most useless emails award with SAS Schedule
- Josh Freeman to return to position as Hander-Offer to Adrian Peterson for this week's game

Hallowe'en is no fun for nudists.

