



→ **CONVERGENCE** ←

TRANSPARENCY

MARCH EDITION

HAVE ANY FEEDBACK?
EMAIL:

SEYON.RAJADURAI@UCC.ON.CA

OR

CAMRAN.HANSEN@UCC.ON.CA

WHY CANADIAN SCIENCE AND IT INDUSTRIES CAN CELEBRATE THE MUSLIM BAN

Mr. Trump's recent ban on immigration from 7 Muslim majority countries has gained large amounts of publicity, primarily negative coverage regarding its discriminatory nature. Many Canadians are unsettled at seeing a group targeted in such a fashion, and the proliferation of this rhetoric is certainly not something Canada wishes to see globally. And while courts have to this point stalled the order, it seems only a matter of time before it is rewritten to skirt the constitutional objections. So, despite the obvious harms of such a ban, is there actually a silver lining?

First, to lay down the facts. As the ban stands now, foreign nationals originating from these countries – even with green cards – can be denied re-entry if they choose to leave the US. And considering the collaborative nature of the scientific profession – facilities in other countries, paleontological sites, conferences, and meetings with colleagues come to mind – there are many who could be stranded outside of the United States with nowhere to go, or alternatively who could be limited from engaging in their profession. This is not an invisible phenomenon either: 30% of Amer-

ican Nobel Laureates originate from other countries, and among the Iranian American scientists affected by this ban are a recipient of the Fields Medal (a mathematical equivalent to the Nobel Prize), a recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal (NASA's highest honour), and a scientist key in controlling the 2014 Ebola outbreak. With such incredible minds coming from these foreign countries, Mr. Trump risks alienating a key part of the American scientific establishment. Looking at the Canadian side of the equation, scientific researchers are always in high demand for projects and universities across the country. Another key area of need for Canada is IT professionals: Our deficit of skilled programmers and IT professionals is slated to reach 200,000 by 2020.

**DESPITE THE
OBVIOUS
HARMS OF
SUCH A BAN,
IS THERE
ACTUALLY A
SILVER
LINING?**

So, how does this all tie into a benefit for Canada? Mr. Trump's alienation – and frankly discrimination – against Muslim-Americans means that many will need a new place to research, and immigrants will begin looking elsewhere besides Silicon Valley. It is into this void that Canada can step, promoting tech hubs such as Waterloo and Toronto, and attempting to grow its technological and scientific industries through immigration. The benefits that Canadian science and technology could reap from an influx of technologically skilled immigrants is almost incalculable, and there seems to be a real opportunity with this ban for such a benefit to be derived. Mr. Trump's ban may be largely harmful, but it could also leave a positive impact on Canada that resonates for decades to come.

STAND UP, OR STAY SILENT?

DAVID NIDDAM-DENT
STAFF REPORTER



The election of Donald Trump shocked many in Canada and around the world. Much of his platform is nearly antithetical to what the majority of Canadians believe, and it is certainly antithetical to the rhetoric and actions of our Prime Minister. Through his first weeks in office, Mr. Trump has fulfilled much of the worst (or best, if you are one of the almost 50% of Americans who voted for him) expectations of what his Presidency would look like. No recap is needed here, but many have been shocked by his actions – as has, presumably, our Prime Minister. And yet we have heard very little from Ottawa about the new man in Washington, whether it be via statements or at the recent meeting between the two heads of state. Rejecting repeated opportunities to stand up to the rhetoric that is so foreign to the politics of Canada and the United States, Mr. Trudeau has been largely silent. Should Trudeau be speaking out, or is he acting out of diplomatic necessity?

On the side that argues for speaking out, there are a number of arguments. First and foremost is what was mentioned above. Trump's actions have been so contrary to Canada's – and the Prime Minister's – values of inclusiveness, liberalism, and diversity. Speaking out to defend those values seems only natural.

Is Canada so weak to let Mr. Trump slander everything we stand for? This could only embolden Canadian populists with similar rhetoric to double down on these ideas (Ms. Kellie Leitch, current Conservative leadership candidate, comes to mind). Then there is the message we are sending to the rest of the world. As right wing populism takes its hold across the globe, should Canada not present itself as a stronghold of the liberal democratic order? Surely this could only help relations with other democratic nations across the world. So, principally, and practically, there seems no choice for Mr. Trudeau. He must stand up to a man who speaks with no regard for the world structure built so carefully by those before us, and to a man who threatens to jeopardize much of the progress made under the Obama administration towards Trudeau's progressive goals. To quote Edmund Burke, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing".

There are many, however, who dispute the validity of Burke's quote, and its applicability to the current situation. The fact remains that Canada's relationship with the United States is by far its most important. The United States accounts for 75% of our exports to foreign countries, 66% of our imports, and is the single

guarantee of our national security from larger powers such as Russia. Important alliances such as NATO and organizations such as the United Nations are dependent on American funding, something that recent comments by Secretary of Defense James Mattis puts in jeopardy. And while Mr. Trudeau must feel the threads holding this partnership together fraying with every inflammatory remark from the White House, calling out Mr. Trump and potentially starting an international incident could only fray them more. The Canada-United States relationship is far more important to Mr. Trudeau than Mr. Trump, and any significant blow to it would therefore hurt Canada far more than the United States. For example, in 2010 the United States accounted for 99% of Canadian oil exports, but Canada accounted for only 22% of American oil imports. If Mr. Trump decided to take to Twitter denouncing the import of Canadian oil, resulting in a severe shock to the most important industry in the country, would the call-out of Mr. Trump's immigration policy really have been worth it? Then we must take into account the fact that right wing populist governments are on the rise globally, and thus calling out Mr. Trump's rhetoric may make far more enemies than friends. Canada should be projecting an image of collaboration, not one of hostility. Clearly, the costs far outweigh the benefits in this situation.

So, with a strong case on both sides, what are we left to think? It appears to this author that the best course to take is the one that Mr. Trudeau is currently taking. Silent, circular opposition, such as the PMO's tweet touting Canada's diversity after the Muslim ban was announced and his office's reminder to Fox News that the Quebec mosque attacker was not a Moroccan (he was in fact a French Canadian) are good ways stand up for our values without inciting the wrath of our Southern neighbors. The Prime Minister must fight for Canadian values when he can, but for the sake of the greater Canadian good, he cannot risk deepening the rift between himself and Mr. Trump. Canada's security, economic prosperity, and future well-being depend on it.

THE ARROGANCE AND IMPRACTICALITY OF A UCC-IB EDUCATION

KYUNGPHIL KO
STAFF REPORTER

During the recent speeches for academic steward, all candidates emphasised the greatness of the UCC-IB education. But is it actually great? What is so great about the IB? Why do we consider it better than AP?

I'm in a love-hate relationship with the IB, but leaning more towards the hate.

I love the IB because, personally, I think you really can't get much of a better curriculum in high school. Where else would you need to write 6 IA's, an EE and a TOK essay as a minimum for a diploma? Not to mention the internal written assignments, which are not necessarily even sent to the IB but still serve as valuable tools to develop the inevitable process of writing in all students.

However, my hate for the IB at UCC comes stems from its arrogance and impracticality, resulting in learning which is extrinsically motivated, non-interdisciplinary and non-cooperative.

The learning that happens within the classes of UCC often seems extrinsically motivated. The end goal of taking a particular course or learning its content isn't for the love of learning, but rather an aesthetically pleasing IB total to bolster one's chances at applying to competitive universities.. This is not an umbrella over all UCC students – but the prevalence is sizable enough to be concerning.

Why is this a problem? Because extrinsically motivated learning is passive learning. When we learn things just for the high IB total, we sit there receiving information passively. Questioning to further deepen the knowledge (i.e. asking "why?") is almost non-existent because, really, who cares? It isn't on the syllabus – how will that help ace the next test or the May exam? We're not

learning because we want to really learn it for ourselves; it's just for the marks to impress others, whether it be the examiner or universities.

As well, the nature of the program leads to students taking courses just because it is "easy" to get 7s. I once talked to a younger student deciding between taking HL and SL Math because he was worried that taking HL Math might not allow him to get a 7. When students are extrinsically motivated, we avert risks and take the easier route; the antithesis of what UCC advertises. Yet, we still pride ourselves on the IB and how we're automatically better than other schools' education. This hubris will certainly sting when we eventually realize not as much meaningful learning took place as we thought.

Intrinsically motivated learning is when we naturally start questioning everything. Why are two particles entangled? Why were the western liberal parliamentary governments of the early 20th century hostile to Communism but not Nazism? We learn to take real risks and not be afraid of doing so.

So, how do we impart intrinsically motivation? I do not know the answer yet, but I can tell you for sure that extrinsic students and intrinsic students don't mix well. They annoy each other, as one wants to constantly want to dig deeper, asking evermore questions, while the other just wants to get the test outline and move on.

The non-interdisciplinary reality of IB education, especially at UCC, is another fault. Interdisciplinary education is what the IB strives for but as exams themselves are discrete in nature, the material learnt in class is often discrete as well, bound by traditional disciplinary boundaries and impractical as the real world is indiscrete by nature. Surprisingly, mathematics is quite useful inside a courtroom while philosophy is hidden engine racing towards scientific discoveries. History can never be

truly understood, even less so without knowing the economics and philosophy at the time. Without meaningful

interdisciplinary study, one's understanding the world can be only stretched so far.

An interdisciplinary approach to learning is extremely important in schools as it also grabs and keeps students interest. If a student showed interest in the abstract idea of "war," they would be well-served to view it from all sides, such as the history of war, the science of warfare as well as war ethics. If there was a course about wars, he could be engaged in learning about World War II, for example, and the scientific and mathematical advancements like matrices. He would also be learning philosophy; specifically ethics, vis-à-vis deontology and utilitarianism. Fundamentals of traditional disciplines would be incorporated in his learning, while complimenting his passion for the subject.

While UCC proudly claims that interdisciplinary learning happens constantly in the IB and lower grades, an honest conversation with any student from Y2 upwards will tell you it's just not there.

Though most importantly, learning at UCC, especially in the IB, is non-cooperative. Almost all assessments and lessons are done individually. I find this even more impractical than the non-interdisciplinary aspect, because whether we like it or not, we are always in a group. Yet in the IB, the nature of the program pits us against each other, a competitive environment that serves no great benefit or purpose to students.

While cooperative learning occasionally happens studying with peers the subjects themselves make no room for cooperation under pressure. If team sports, music ensembles and other extracurriculars are known for teaching the value of teamwork why can't we bring this inside classrooms?

While competition is important, in the real world we are almost never competing against each other as individuals. There should be greater emphasis on group work and assessments, where groups are competing with each as opposed to the individuals within them. Through the group work we also learn from each other – facilitating further learning. Within groups, everyone contributes their own perspective; when everybody is intrinsically motivated, deeper understanding would appear naturally. There's a reason why the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology explicitly says their problem sets are too difficult to solve on their own: get students working, talking and acting collaboratively.

Just because we have team sports and drama productions, while we silently compete against each other within the classroom does not mean UCC is a fully cooperative environment.

UCC is a truly amazing school. Though we possess amazing facilities, incredibly intelligent teachers and stu-

dents, we are still by no means a perfect school. There are many aspects of the UCC-IB relationship that can still be improved. Maybe even taking a second look at the IB altogether might be for the better. UCC could develop its own curriculum, a UCC diploma, instead of relying on a broken system to tell us what we mean when we say words like "open-minded" and "interdisciplinary".

BOARD OF STEWARDS

MATTHEW JAGDEO
STAFF REPORTER

With the latest round of Steward elections over, there's an aura of excitement and anticipation around the school. Seventeen fresh, promise wielding IB1s will soon be draped in white for the next year, slowly taking over responsibilities from the outgoing Board of Stewards. The role of "Steward" is an important one, and should be taken with the utmost responsibility and seriousness. Not only are they the voice of the student body, they are the workhorses behind many of the areas that make the College truly a special place.

This year's Board of Stewards has been subject to criticism of all kinds. As a result of increased curiosity due to the atmosphere of election season, every detail of the Board's progress thus far has been scrutinized. "They aren't transparent enough." "Why haven't they accomplished anything this year?" "The Board of Stewards is useless." "These are some of the questions and statements I have heard from dozens of students, and inquiries addressed to me on a weekly basis. I will attempt to address a number of the more popular issues students seem to have about the Board of Stewards.

Transparency

Transparency has been a hot topic of discussion. The student body is seemingly searching for evidence that the Stewards do in fact accomplish things at their meetings and in their individual endeavours. One of Sevion's campaign promises, prior to being elected,

was holding a series of Student-Steward Drop-In Sessions. A number of these have been held throughout the course of the year, however, due to low attendance, the Board knows that not all concerns have been heard nor questions answered. We have tried several ways to make these sessions more inviting, accessible, and personal, and despite a slight upswing in interest, we still recognize that not every voice has been heard. To further this point, the Board has planned to hold a "Town Hall", where a couple of Stewards will field as many questions as they can, from anyone. I encourage anyone with questions, concerns, or opinions to approach anyone of us at any time of the day, over any form of communication.

What have the Stewards Done this Year?

It is important to consider that each Steward has a responsibility outside of the Board of Stewards to fulfill. Heads of Houses organize and facilitate smoothly run Housemeetings, and Portfolio Stewards are constantly in meetings and accomplishing tasks pertaining to their portfolio. This is not to say that the Board of Stewards as a group accomplishes nothing, in fact it is a body which has come together to achieve a lot. Besides aiding in the organization of A-Day, Winterfest, and the Steward's Dance, we have taken on initiatives such as Ibrahim's Surgery and making gradual changes to the nutrition at the school, to name a few. However, we are

not done there, and have plans to organize the biggest and most exciting Spirit Week yet.

How Effective are Steward Meetings?

In our own sign of self-reflection, the Board adopted a more structured meeting format in attempts to increase productivity in meetings. While productivity was never a real issue, given the time constraints of one lunch-time meeting per week, we devised strategies to address as many topics as possible. Since the enactment of this new system, there has been an increase in definitive decisions being made in Steward meetings, which have come with a number of short-term changes that can be noticed around the school. Even from the beginning of this year, ideas such as open discussions and feedback surveys have helped make meetings as productive as possible.

I wish the best of luck to the Adam Rothman and the incoming Board of Stewards. The current Board is looking forward to working with the incumbents in the near future, to ensure a smooth transition. We encourage the student body to continue their interest in Steward operations and encourage you to make your voice heard in whatever method is most comfortable for you.

WHAT HAS CHANGED IN STEWARD DECLARATIONS OVER THE YEARS?

JAMIE ONESCHUCK
STAFF REPORTER

Every year, UCC holds elections for a new Board of Stewards. When boys with promising campaigns and trustworthy personalities are elected, we begin to shape the way the school will be for the following year. When voting for a steward, especially when the candidate is unfamiliar to the voter, one of the best ways to determine who to vote for is through each of the candidate's declarations.

It is hard to portray ones views on the school in 250 words or less, especially when the issues addressed have to be catered to the candidates respective portfolio. In comparing the declarations for the portfolio steward positions and comparing them with ones from UCC's past, I have found some large differences. One of the main features that set the newer declarations apart from the older ones is the use of empathy to try to connect with the voter. For example, all three of the academic candidates opened their starting paragraph talking about how hard the IB is, and stating that they will try to help alleviate stress from our work lives. In contrast, one of the academic steward candidates from a couple years ago instead talks about being the students voice to our administration. Although these two ideas are not necessarily mutually exclusive to one another, it does show what the candidates felt was most valuable to fit into their short pieces. The IB has always been a very challenging program academically speaking, and therefore makes it easy for the candidates to try use it to gain the support of the populus.

Another aspect of the newer declarations that were very different were the specificity of the entire declaration. In the old declarations, people mostly explained why they think that they would be a good candidate for their respective position. Howev-

er in the newer declarations, many of the candidates address specific issues that are important to them, and some even give solutions about how to fix them. This is portrayed by the portfolio declarations from this year, in which every single candidate mentioned the lower dining hall as an issue that they wanted to try to change. This is significant as it shows that the newer stewards have a specific set of goals that they hope to achieve during their time in their respective roles, rather than trying to convince people to vote for them through explaining why they think that they deserve to be a steward. Stating a specific goal for their time as steward can be risky, as if they do not fulfill on their promises than the students will not be happy, however it can allow candidates to gain support from people who agree with their views or think they have effective solutions to issues.

However, for all their differences one thing stands out above all. Almost all of the declarations that I have read attempt to use some element of humor. This is because humor is one of the easiest ways to make a declaration memorable. It seems as though most steward candidates try to cater to students in the senior division, by talking about reducing so called "hell weeks" and talking about the struggles of the IB. They then attempt to

use humor to gain the votes of the younger grades, who most of the candidates have had little to no contact with. Humor also grabs the attention of everyone, and makes a declaration more memorable. This is because a lot

"IT IS HARD TO PORTRAY ONES VIEWS ON THE SCHOOL IN 250 WORDS OR LESS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE ISSUES ADDRESSED HAVE TO BE CATERED TO THE CANDIDATES RESPECTIVE PORTFOLIO."

of the declarations will end up addressing the same issues, and by using humor in different ways, the candidates allow themselves to stand out from everyone else. Especially in the creativity declarations, humor is used as that is a main part of their job, to run Friday morning assemblies and attempt to make us laugh. Although this is not always the case, it seems as though this is a common theme in many of the declarations from both recent and less recent times.

The steward declarations are very different now than they were before, as both the issues addressed and way that they are addressed have drastically changed. Through the goals of the stewards from before and the more recent ones, we can see how the priorities of the student body has changed throughout UCC's long history. It can be fascinating to see how different the declarations are now than they were in the past.

SERVICE TRIPS AT UCC



me to we

we live the change

Service trips have been at UCC for a long time. As a school we have been quite privileged to have service trips to all over the world. The purpose of a service trip is to engage us with the rest of the world: to bring us out of our comfort zone, to experience an unfiltered world, and to realize our potential and our duty to "serve". The ideal which is emphasized in our service trips is the notion of service to the community and the world. However, nowadays trips seem to be quite pricey, and often make students reconsider the "cost of service". Or even make students wonder if service trips are just UCC vacations? Amidst all this, is the value of a service trip still worth it? What exactly happens on the average service trip? Are service trips heading the wrong way? Read on and learn more.

Service trips obviously offer some sort of value (or they wouldn't be here). We will be looking at three itineraries of service trips that UCC is offering this year and the next (thanks to Mrs. Timusk for providing them) to determine if service trips still uphold a certain level of value. If you look at the Uganda service trip next year, it is primarily centered around helping schools and their students. However, if you really look closely at the itinerary, a lot of the activities are about learning and cultural exposure. For example, the service trip itinerary includes getting a tour of the school's income-generating activities such as their piggeries, chicken coops, carpentry products, etc.

You also get the opportunity to work alongside carpenters and bricklayers as well as learn new skills such as soap making and carpentry. Although technically these activities count as service as they are helping someone else, they seem to lack the international aspect of helping that one would expect in a service trip. It seems to end up as more of a cultural immersion than a service trip. Which definitely holds a lot of value for the participants, however it is important for a service trip to hold true to its name and make sure that the recipients gain as much as the participants. Service trips should hold service as their key element making sure that when the trip is done there is a permanent, lasting change on both parties.

Even if service trips can change to put a greater emphasis on the actual service, there are many at UCC for whom it is not financially feasible. The costs for service trips to Kenya and Ecuador are \$4,900 and \$4,300, respectively. So, while there would appear to be a keen interest from the student

CONRAD MAHONY, VAASU LAMBOTHARAN
STAFF REPORTERS

body in making a difference abroad, the financial burden of these trips is a serious deterrent. An extra four to five thousand dollars in addition to the yearly tuition, cost of books, equipment for sports teams and other trips that may result from athletic or club activity is simply unrealistic for many students. The inherent problem therein is that these opportunities are only available to students who can afford them. Thus, while the availability of these opportunities is well-intended, it inadvertently creates a system that can be described as elitist. At this point, you may be asking yourself why we, as students, should care; the issue of fostering an elitist system within UCC is especially problematic given the intense scrutiny the school consistently comes under for that exact reason.

In the past 10-15 years, UCC has strived to reduce the elitist view that people hold against the school through the implementation of financial aid. It is important now more than ever that we ensure that within the school, there is a system that treats students equitably.

**"SERVICE TRIPS
SHOULD HOLD SERVICE AS THEIR KEY
ELEMENT... ENSURING A PERMANENT,
LASTING CHANGE ON
BOTH PARTIES"**

bly. In order to create an environment where every student is given a fair chance, more financial assistance must be given to those who want to attend trip. Whether that be for service, sport or club.

Service trips at UCC are a valuable experience and if executed properly can have a lasting impact on communities in need and students alike. However, under the current model, trips are expensive and sometimes walk the line between service and vacation. If we as a school want to continue to help foster positive change, it is important that we first ask ourselves how we can change.

RESURGENCE OF THE BIG MAN

KARMAN CHEEMA, JOEY RICHMOND,
MILES HOAKEN - STAFF REPORTERS

On Sunday, February 19th, the Sacramento Kings and New Orleans Pelicans completed a trade which shook the basketball world: DeMarcus "Boogie" Cousins (along with Omri Casspi) was sent to the Pelicans in exchange for Buddy Hield, draft picks, and a bag of Doritos (close enough). Many believe that the Kings got flat out swindled for arguably the best big man in the league (barring his emotional troubles). There is still a chance that Cousins may not stay long-term, as he will hit the free agent market come the 2018 offseason. If he does, however, this will change the landscape of the game. It is something that this league is in desperate need of now more than ever—the resurgence of the big man.

For the past six years, this league has been dominated by a few teams—LeBron's Heat and Cavaliers, the Warriors and the Spurs. The Thunder were on the come-up again, as they looked better than the Warriors several times throughout the Western Conference Finals; however, Kevin Durant's departure has now only served to exacer-

bate the league's disparities.

With Cousins joining Davis to form this era's Twin Towers, there is an opportunity to create balance. You would be hard-pressed to find a better frontcourt duo, potential-wise, in the history of the game. When Tim Duncan was drafted to join "The Admiral" David Robinson on the Spurs, Robinson was at the tail end of his prime; both players in the newly-formed duo are in their prime and Anthony Davis might not have even entered his yet. The player efficiency rating (PER)—an all-in-one metric—has its shortcomings, but it's almost surreal to think of the duo's potential, as they have combined for a 57.4 PER at their bests (career highs) compared to Duncan and Robinson's 57.8 (Robinson posted his career high PER while Duncan was still playing college ball at Wake Forest).

It's only fitting that the possible restoration to the balance of the game coincides with a big man revolution. The league nowadays revolves around backcourt play and three-point shooting, but we have seen the

likes of Cousins, Davis, Towns and Embiid emerge as frontcourt gamechangers. Now that Cousins and Davis are teaming up, they can take this league by force, provided they have an adequate backcourt—which point guard wouldn't want to feed the ball to these two?

This duo can cause the Warriors some serious problems, given their lack of size and deference to small ball. Most basketball fans are salivating at the prospect of the Pelicans finishing 8th (only 2.5 games back as of the 23rd), which would see them face the Warriors in the first round. The Warriors are still favourites to go all the way this year, but it will be interesting to see how the immovable Twin Towers would match up with the unstoppable Splash Brothers trio.

Ultimately, if the stars do align, we will enter a new era of basketball. The big man dominance of the 90s will return, and the league will undoubtedly become more competitive. It's time to mystify the all too predictable NBA, and "The Brow" and "Boogie" can make this happen.

THEORY OF RELATIVITY REVIEW

SHAFIQ QAADRI AND OSCAR WANG
STAFF REPORTERS

"Person A. Person B. A is walking towards B at a rate of 3 miles per hour and B is walking towards A at a rate of 2 miles per hour. How fast does B perceive A to be walking?"

This "relatively" simple physics question—provided you remember your kinematics equations—prompts a group of young students to ponder the personal dilemmas and hardships of connection. All this culminates in the memorable musical, the *Theory of Relativity*.

A unique musical drama, the *Theory of Relativity* examines the interconnectedness of people through an array of diverse life experiences. This new musical, by Neil Bartram and Brian Hill, is a joyous look at our complex, intertwined lives. Through a seemingly unrelated collection of songs, scenes and monologues, the musical introduces a compelling cast of characters experiencing laughs and heartbreaks, liaisons and losses, and the wonder of human relationships.

Theory has no lead characters and no one plotline; instead, as BSS music director David Atkinson says, "There is a theme to the show, you have these individual scenes

and song and vignettes that explore this theme and over the course of the show, you realize there's a connection." The play begins with the actors sitting on benches, with each actor sharing stories. The narratives of a girl upset by a cake, a man pondering the infinite uncertainty of love and the finite certainty of mathematics, two girls growing apart, a responsible college student who has lost his "Footprint" and sense of home—amongst many other stories—create the unique theme of this play.

Delivered by a girl getting her nails done, one of the final monologues reveals the true spirit of the musical. She ponders her life as she prepares for a date with a physics major, the same man who is questioning math and love. She wonders how the individuals she has met in her life, people who have endured so much, can still remain calm and happy in this stressful world. She marvels at a classmate whose immense workload does not preclude him from feeling "zen"; at another friend whose childhood traumas did not rule her future.

I was struck by the similarity of the characters' experiences with those shared by many UCC and BSS students. Play Di-

rector David Atkinson says, "There are parallels to the experiences the actors have to what students experience." Like the actors, we too endure many pressures: from teachers, peers, parents, enemies, and even self-expectation. As an example, the student, played by Sean Manucha FY, leaves for college while his idealized homelife disintegrates—parents divorcing, sister eloping, "your bedroom turns into a gym," even the dog dies ("Son, we had to put him down last week").

Summing up the journey of life with a sea metaphor, the entire cast parts with the song, "Nothing without you":

I launched my boat on the water. I paddled, I sailed.

I mapped out my course, with hubris, with force. But the current prevailed.

So I struggled alone, getting battered and blown.

I am nothing without you and I hope it's true you are nothing too without me.

Without your ballast and lift, I am lost and adrift on the sea.

It's the human connections that save us all.

THE WORLD AFFAIRS CONFERENCE



KARMAN CHEEMA AND SHAAN HOOEY
STAFF REPORTERS

Karman: This year's World Affairs Conference revolved around the theme of "The Innovation Game," which had to do with the crossover between global economics, ethics and policy and technological innovation. As the first WAC grounded mainly in STEM in a long time, I knew it was a risk; however, I was pleased with all of the plenaries. Many thanks to all of the executive members, plenary heads, registration and media team, and Mr. McDonald for their work in organizing and running the Conference year. Here are some comments from a delegate this year, Shaan Hooey, and myself, as the Conference Chair.

A Prognosis for a Post-Aging Planet

Shaan: The keynote address given the night before the WAC, by Dr. Aubrey de Grey - a man with a one-of-a-kind beard - was a controversial one to say the least. His outlook on radical life extension, paired with his extensive research to support his arguments were incredibly persuasive and eye-opening. For the most part, he discussed the best point in one's life for aging treatments to work best, as well as the science behind the treatment. While he did not address the ethics and possible negative side-effects with as much detail as would have

seemed necessary, he did provide some incredibly valuable insight into a topic that has been going unnoticed for many years.

Karman: My intention for this year's keynote was to catalyze discussion on an idea that is rather controversial and abstract, though it is likely within our grasp in the future. Most biology/STEM and even philosophy-inclined guys tended to enjoy it, though I do agree with Shaan that Dr. de Grey did get too technical at times with the science, and did not fully address the ethical considerations and economic impacts in the presentation. He did, however, discuss these in more detail in the question / answer period.

The New Age of Medicine: Bioinformatics

Shaan: Bioinformatics is the process of collecting enormous amounts of data and analysing them to further genetic research. Mr. Thorogood and Dr. Zheng both discussed the sheer amount of computing power required for these incredibly large amounts of data to be seen; however, what the majority of their speeches focused on were the ethics behind genomic research. While at first glance many may think that there

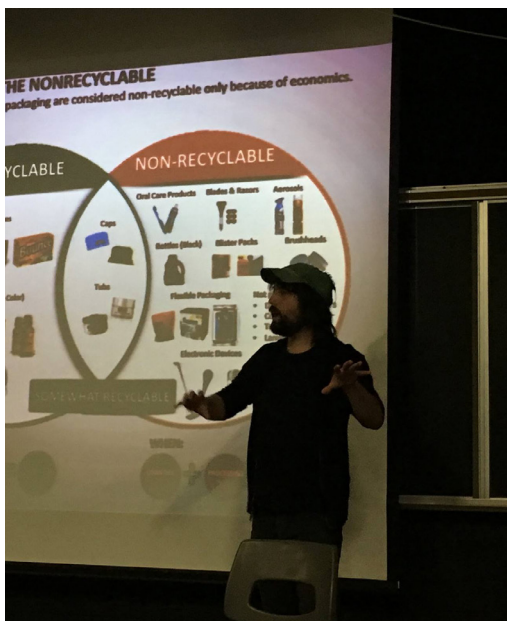
is no harm in having their genomic information in the cloud, the increasingly common threat of hacking makes it possible for your genetic data to be released. Insurance companies and business owners, and even friends and relatives might try to access your genetic information. However, discrimination against someone because of their genetics is futile because, like race, genes cannot be changed. As well, once someone's genetic information is released, there is no changing it. Even future generations could be treated unfairly because of information regarding their parents' genomic data. When the question "Should I give doctors my genomic data?" is asked, there is no clear answer as of yet, but the speeches from both specialists in bioinformatics emphasized that it is a matter of weighing the possible repercussions and the possible benefits of such controversial topic.

Future of Warfare

Shaan: Warfare, unlike ever before, can now be fought from the comfort of our homes. No, I am not talking about Clash of Clans. The incorporation of technology into weapons for military combat has risen dramatically because of the trust we place in our devices to store important information. Mr. Gregory and Mr. Walma both focused on the main implications of shifting so quickly to this new platform for warfare. Due to the recent introduction of cyber warfare, which was only recognized as a platform for war by NATO in mid-2016, there are no laws in place to determine what is acceptable and what is not.

THIS ARTICLE IS CONTINUED IN THE SUBSEQUENT PAGE →

Roadmap to a Sustainable Future



Karman: This was one of the few plenaries that I got to see, and I found Tom Szaky's presentation to be very insightful and captivating. Szaky, an Old Boy and the CEO of waste management company TerraCycle, talked about how much of our consumer waste can be upcycled and recycled. However, for this to have a real impact, we need active governmental policy. Mr. Szaky touched on a recycling program he had implemented in downtown Vancouver that has substantially reduced the city's cigarette waste, as well as other innovative ways of upcycling (the most memorable of which was creating backpacks out of juice pouches). I missed most of UN Women advisor Ravi Karkara's presentation, which received approval; however, I noted that some delegates may have found his discussion to be somewhat out of place. This being said, the discussion about women empowerment with regards to sustainability is important and one that needs to be had.

The Media of Tomorrow



Shaan: Mr. Phelan, who has been a dedicated representative of VICE media for the past decade, spoke to us about virtually everything regarding media. Nowadays, there are many more platforms on which one can access their news. Mr. Phelan emphasized the importance of being EVERYWHERE in the media to merit the most customers. He also touched upon the issue of media trustworthiness. He believed, and still does today, that it is better to get correct news last than to get false news first. He, along with VICE news, strive to ensure that each and every story comes from a position of knowledge and honesty. It is when you are brutally honest that people get informed, not when you try to sugarcoat news stories and hold bias against certain ethnic groups, cultures, sexual

orientations or political parties. Finally, he spoke about how news is not just flashes of breaking news, and should cater to the needs of those that enjoy cooking, sports, art and so much more. As a result, VICE has launched many different channels to engage as many users as possible, and ultimately, to develop their reputation as the premier source of news across the globe.

Karman: It's an understatement to say that this speaker knew how to capture the audience's attention! All of his comments helped illustrate the pressing phenomenon of fake news, and how we have a responsibility to ensure that only accurate news is propagated—needless to say, his anecdotes, occasional references to Lil Yachty, and overall delivery made everyone in Laidlaw Hall laugh at some point.



Blazefeed

UCC'S LISTICLE PUBLICATION WRITTEN
BY PEOPLE WHO NEED TO STOP SAYING
"LIT"

Against all odds, we've made it to week 3 of our Blazer staff no-fap competition, and we really feel that we blew our whole load into this issue. Based on the number of pictures in this Blazer, and the amount of recycled content, it should be obvious that our motivation is dwindling by the minute. As a result, we will soon be sending out an email regarding the appointment of next year's Head Editor, so keep an eye out for that if you're interested.

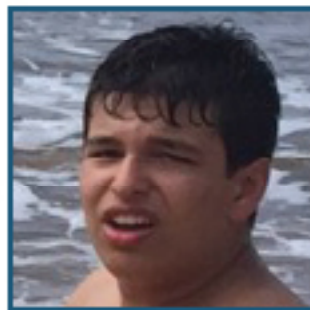
We Reviewed 5 UCC Students' Profile Pictures

We at the Blazer love lists. In recent times however, a certain online "news" source (which will remain unnamed) has given the listicle a bad name. Thus, we've made it our mission to bring the listicle back in style. Please enjoy this listicle-only issue of the Blazer, beginning with a list containing 5 of the hottest profile pictures in IB2.

Mantis Toboggan



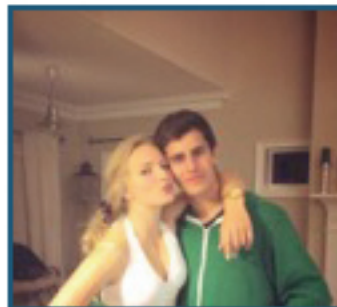
Take notes people: this is what a real man looks like. It's a look that transcends words. If there were a face associated with guttural noises, this would be it.



Brad BeRadical



Damn, this dude is FLY! How'd he get his picture taken with a real girl? It's gotta be that sexy smile.

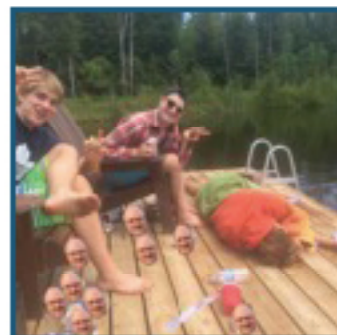


Hey, wait a minute, this picture is from... 2014??? Fraudulence! Coolness revoked, Brad.

Burt Macklin



If you look closely at this picture, you'll see Mr. Williams telling you that the drug and alcohol policy is in effect. Shame Lucas had the flu that day; the poor guy passed out right there on the dock!



Chiller Checmstar



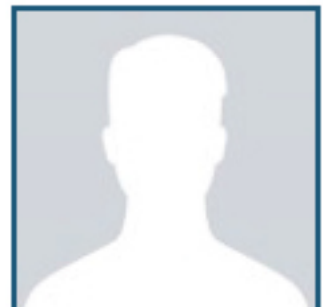
We knew Karman was tall, but that tall!? Something fishy is definitely going on in this picture. Jokes aside, no matter how many Blazers we write, nothing will ever be funnier than someone pretending to lean on a tall building.



Hannibal DePencier



Clearly an artistic statement, Hannibal's non-profile picture is his way of defying the norms of social media. Plus, the guy does a great job of being mysterious, and the absence of a profile picture really seals the deal.



EDMUND UN RIDES HORSE AT RECORD ALTITUDE

TO SUPPORT THE BLAZER STAFF'S QUEST TO SPLASH IN THE COOL WATERS OF THE GREAT WOLF LODGE, VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.YOUCARING.COM/BLAZERSTAFF-734891](https://www.youcaring.com/blazerstaff-734891)

We Made a List of the Top 4 Farm Animals that are Most Likely to be Mr. Denstedt

4. Zebu

A zebu is essentially a saggy old cow. Is there a better way to describe Mr. Denstedt?



3. Goat

No, we are not implying that Denstedt is the greatest of all time at teaching Geography, or at any facet of life for that matter. In fact, he is a man who thrives on mediocrity. That being said, we likened him to a goat for his greasy hair and gruff complexion.

2. Polar Bear

What's more out of its element than a polar bear on a list of farm animals? Mr. Denstedt teaching at an IB school. Yikes, we're definitely getting round-house kicked for that one.

1. Pig

It's simple really. The guy *always* smells like pork! If you too would like to achieve that classic, crisp, roasted hog smell made popular by Mr. Denstedt himself, call now for a free consultation.



TOP 10 CRAZY HEADLINES

1. Grad Prank Gone Wrong: Students release three Mr. Denstedts into the school, labeled 1, 2, and 4.
2. Wedgbury reportedly eating lunch tomorrow, expecting a large turnout from the boys.
3. Science proves that Year 1's are in fact getting smaller and less competent every year.
4. Arts department to increase complaining by 200%.
5. Disgruntled student with bottle of lotion misinterprets the term "stress-busting sessions".
6. Progress: Out of order basement water fountain gets new out of order sign.
7. Thomas Peck admitted to Ivey League School... Sorry, Western Ivey. No, wait, Western General Arts.
8. Sources say Dion has fled the country after ill-advised post in Blue Army group.
9. Statistics show that while Judd Blackwater may not have any points in the OJHL, he also has a terribly un-redeeming personality.
10. Blake Thorburn reportedly still hung ched.

JAMES "JIMMY" MCGILL IS SAUL GOODMAN