

→ CONVERGENCE ←



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IS THIS THE YEAR?

A PREVIEW OF VARSITY FOOTBALL'S 2013 SEASON

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DAYLIGHT NIGHTMARES @UCC

GABRIEL BIRMAN & JARED FREEDMAN - STAFF REPORTER & NATIONAL EDITOR

Lunch is by far the busiest part of the school day. By the time the lunch bell has sounded, multitudes of kids are already swarming the college's two food colonies, honeybees eagerly seeking sweet sustenance necessary for taking on the remainder of the day. Although these hotspots are renowned for their hustle and bustle, neither has distinguished themselves as providers of fast service. Even so, The Upper Dining Hall line, which could only misleadingly be coined "steady", surpasses the Lower Dining Hall in every possible aspect. It's a wonder that the throbbing phalanx commonly referred to as the "LD line" continues to frequent UCC's netherworld cafeteria on a daily basis. After all, the LD's advantages are quite limited in any case, now that a system based on fast service and cheap food has lost the harmonious duality it once possessed. We've all suffered the inconveniences of the LD line, which often eats its way into our entire lunch break, but surprisingly enough, this isn't the worst of it.

In my opinion, the LD line also seems to have clouded our moral judgement. I've witnessed kids steal pizza at the very heart of the line, the fatigued workers oblivious to the reprehensible transgressions taking place before their very eyes. Even I admit to having had similarly contemptible thoughts after waiting in line for ten minutes during the interim between period 3 and 4, not having eaten lunch earlier on for various reasons. Although I never did act on those thoughts, the fact they they

flitted but briefly across my mind only goes to show that the LD brings out the worst in us.

Admittedly, things have gotten better since those infamous first days of chaos. Perhaps it has something to do with student card registration, or perhaps Aramark workers have familiarized themselves with the new system. It would be overly simplistic to accuse Aramark of not trying to solve the problem; surely, the new registers were a step in the right direction, regardless of how redundant they seem in contrast to the old ones. I could speculate that they've helped eliminate accidental errors in monetary transactions, or that it's much more convenient for the workers themselves to be able to scan the items, but what I am really getting at is that the problem with the LD line is more multifaceted than one would think. Let's just hope that the worst of it is behind us now, like one, big nightmare.

One nightmare that never ends, however, is the state of the school's bathrooms. The Green School initiative has led to many positive investments by the school in water-saving technologies, and the new arena is a symbol of our dedication to that program. At the same time, this policy has had some unintended consequences that are minor, but aggravating, and should be addressed. When walking into the second floor bathroom, or the bathroom in the football locker room, you may notice the school's water-free, oddly shaped urinals. You may also notice the nauseating smell of

urine, necessitating some nose plugging. The iDiv second floor bathroom is without a doubt one of the worst smelling rooms in the entire school, and the waterless urinals play a large role in that. The reason behind this foul smell may be the odd shape of the urinals - it seems that every one of them has urine somewhere on the floor around them.

I don't blame the students that caused this, it seems as though one has to stand at least one foot away from these urinals in order to prevent this, yet there are no barriers. In any case, a return to regular urinals, with proper barriers in between would be a great idea. If the school wants to make up for the loss of water, they can fix the toilet in the downstairs bathroom which flushes for over 30 seconds with a hyperactive sensor.

Finally, the last school "nightmare" these past few weeks has been the ridiculous pew banging that has gone on at assemblies. It may have been funny the first time we banged off beat, but the second and third times weren't amusing, they were downright embarrassing. I thought it was funny to behave like that in year one, but to see older guys doing it, influencing younger students, was pathetic, especially when one considers that we've had outside visitors watching. I don't want to be reduced to singing Kumbaya every week because it's the only song we can't screw up. Take a stand, don't bang the pews.

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CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

ELLIOT BIRMAN - STAFF REPORTER

Character. A word that is ubiquitous amongst the UCC community, recurrently heard in assemblies, or referred to with the IB learner Profile. But what exactly is character? A quick spotlight search would say that character is the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual. Mr. Steven Dubrick, a newly welcomed employee at Upper Canada College would preach the following: "Most people try to encapsulate character in a sentence, but lead thinkers in this world are defining character as a broad spectrum. When we talk about character, we talk about values, leadership skills, 21st century skills, social-emotional intelligence, the whole totality of who you are."

As many of you might have heard at the first assembly, Mr. Dubrick joined UCC this year in his recently created Character Development position. Mr. Dubrick has been hired to lead UCC's latest large-scale project: the Character Development Initiative. The project was amidst its nascence last year, when Mr. Cowie and Mr. Babits starting doing some research on the subject. The project, sponsored by a donor, is aiming to integrate character development into all aspects at UCC life: athletics, arts, and academics. "Right now we're working on a way to integrate character," says Mr. Dubrick, "the biggest thing this year is going to be getting to know people, and the school; then creating a plan."

Although he does intend to find a way to formally meet students, Mr. Dubrick will mainly be working behind the scenes, consulting and collaborating with faculty and other staff. For now, things are ambiguous as to how exactly development of character will occur, but what is certain is that the project will consist of a rounded approach: coaching, directing and teaching styles will be enhanced to implement more focus on character, and will then be integrated into the students' quotidian learning. Educators need to increasingly play a role in helping students develop their individuality and valuable personality strengths; this strategy is, in

Mr. Dubrick's opinion, the most efficient way to enhance character; "Does Athletics develop character itself? No, we offer athletics as a vehicle" he says. "The best way to develop character is to make it intentional; we [educators] have to be purposeful about making connections with boys and talking about values such as unselfishness, commitment, teaching our boys to think of a group, not just themselves, etc."

Furthermore, Mr. Dubrick points out that peer-to-peer connection is vital to building strong character amongst the UCC students; older boys have a larger influence on younger boys than teachers do. "If an older boy approaches a younger one and tells him something, it's very powerful." Albeit you may not notice, every day there is going to be progress made -- behind the scenes, by teachers, and even by yourselves. With each step forward, UCC will be there to guide you. "We're trying to help you with the pillars of life, so that later in life, you will succeed," says Mr. Dubrick. Of course, no student will graduate with a full character, but it's the small actions that matter. So next time you're thinking of cheating, ask yourself its really worth it; next time you see a kid stealing from the LD, tell him he's better than that. As UCC brethren, continue to look out for each other. "Before you come to a place there is always a reputation but in general I have been very impressed," observes Mr. Dubrick, "I see an inclusive community."

The Character Development Initiative is a long-term project, involving the whole school. The world is changing; there is so much intellectual competition out there that success is being determined by another factor. UCC, renowned for educating future leaders, is looking to continue their eminent enterprise. Led by Mr. Dubrick, the school is incorporating a new level of education, "one that focuses more on EQ, rather than IQ." As Mr. Dubrick remarks, "When you think about it, this, as well as Think Ahead, has potential to be the most transformative thing school has done."

NEW CAS?

MICHAEL PUSIC - SECRETARY

In 2010 the IB began changing its CAS program, and in 2013 we saw it change at UCC forever. This year the school has dismissed hours altogether to replace them with CAS projects and CAS activities. As is typical in the IB, this revision came with a load of new obscure vocab to describe the makeover. This article will try to describe the changes in more plain words.

The first is the CAS project. Whereas a student could previously 50 hours in service at the odd soup kitchen over their two years, they now have to have a focus. In my interview with Mr. Parkinson, he explained that you now have to tackle an issue of global importance (like poverty, inequality, climate change, etc...) in a collaborative group with "external stakeholders." This essentially means you have to get in a group with your friends, make a plan to tackle an issue (like we'll recycle batteries at the school), get some teachers (external stakeholders) involved, get attention for it (tweet it, give a presentation, etc...), and then write a really long reflection. You do this over your two years of the IB, and the best projects can earn students CAS awards.

Second is the change in CAS awards. Parkinson describe the shift as one from quantity to quality. Whereas the people with the most hours used to win the CAS awards (quantity), the awards will now be determined by the quality of one's CAS project. That said, this part of CAS is under review and is subject to change.

CAS activities have been arguably the most confusing part of this shift. Since hours are gone, you now have to be involved for every one of your 5 terms in the IB (IB2s graduate early, so 5 not 6). But, you have to have all three parts of CAS (Creativity, Action, and Service) accounted for in these 5 terms. So you could do 3 terms of action (i.e. football, hockey, cricket) in IB1, and then do one term of creativity (cooking club) and one term of service (horizons) in IB2.

This change is new and much of it is still being reviewed by Dr. Power along with other administrative figures in the school. The new program may still seem very foreign, but it's ahead of its time in measuring quality of service over quantity. That said, it won't be long before students are back to complaining about reflections and CAS activities.



INTERVIEW

GETTING TO KNOW MRS. AUDET

LOGAN YE - STAFF REPORTER

Mrs. Audet is joining the Upper Canada College university counselling faculty this year. Convergence sat down with her to get an idea of what students in Scadding's, Orr's and Mowbray's can look forward to. Convergence had a very good first impression within the short ten minutes we had with Mrs. Audet. Overall, she seems like the kind of counsellor who values individuality in students, and will give everyone the best shot at whatever their passion is - from medicine to literature.

LOGAN: "What's the most important part of your job?"

MRS. AUDET: "I think the most important part of the job I do here is to help guide students to find their passions and their interests for life after UCC. To make sure we are providing as many resources and helping them be in touch with as many resources as possible, so that they give good consideration to where they want to go next, and that it's a really good fit for them."

CONVERGENCE: "Do you think there is a difference in how you would handle students at BSS and UCC because of the gender difference?"

MRS. AUDET: "I think the general approach is still the same. I think we all want what's the best for our students.

And, so I think the guidelines and expectations are pretty similar regardless of the school you're at."

CONVERGENCE: "In your opinion, what's the hardest part about being a student? Things like mental health, academics, athletics, etc."

MRS. AUDET: "I would say in my years, it's probably finding the balance between their co-curricular activities and academics. At the same time, I think there is pressure that some students may feel that they need to know exactly what their next career goal is and recognizing that there is time. But I think that's probably the toughest thing."

CONVERGENCE: "Generally, students have two approaches to the problem you were talking about. They can either let go of some of their extracurriculars, or try to find ways of improving their time management skills. Which one do you think is more suitable?"

MRS. AUDET: "I think it really depends on the student. I'm not sure there's a one-size-fits-all [solution]. Each student's personal load is different as is their individual mechanisms are for being as successful as they can. So sometimes it may be letting go of some co-curricular activities, and sometimes it may be trying to

manage time a bit better."

CONVERGENCE: "Do you think following dreams or following reason is more important when considering the future?"

MRS. AUDET: "Again, I think what's important is that you pursue what is of interest to you, whatever that path looks like. I don't think there's one set paved path and that everyone needs to walk that one line. If people have goals or dreams, there may be different ways to get there, and what's important is to enjoy the journey along the way, and that there's a lot of learning along the way."

CONVERGENCE: "What are the biggest mistakes students make when planning for their future?"

MRS. AUDET: "Perhaps not following their heart. I'm not sure it's a mistake, as much as, sometimes we get caught up in what everyone else is doing, and we lose sight of what we were thinking personally before we got into general discussion with the whole lot of other people. We sometimes may think that the path we're on may raise more questions, doubts or concerns from others because it may not be something that everyone else fully understands at the time. We may not follow our heart."

BREAKING NEWS: POPE IS CHRISTIAN

JOSH CAMINITI

STAFF REPORTER

Our new Bishop of Rome has claimed many firsts: the first pope from the Americas, the first from the Jesuits, and the first to bear the name Francis—but most importantly, he is the 266th of an ancient succession of popes. Since his papal inauguration this March, his re-affirmation of traditional Catholic teaching has prompted a tirade of sensational headlines—“Pope: Atheists can be saved”; “Francis says not to judge gay people”; “Bergoglio opens discussion for increased role of women in the Church”—all hailing him as a visionary reformer. Given the enthusiasm with which previous opponents of the Church receive Francis, one would think he had featured atop a float on a pride parade with female priests shooting contraceptives out of t-shirt canons into adoring crowds.

Admittedly, Francis is certainly a Pope who radiates warmth and humility, but the way the secular media obsequiously drools over his old-school Catholicism belies their glaring ignorance of fundamental Catholic teaching. The Pope has said nothing new from his predecessor, or the pope before him, or the pope before ad fundum. Another interesting manifestation of this ignorance is in those using the Pope’s personal statements that allegedly contradict Catholic tradition to disprove Papal infallibility! Little known to them, Papal infallibility does not mean the Pope is free from error, but rather, that the Pope has the ability to solemnly promulgate dogma ex cathedra, or from the chair, to be infallible.

I would also like to clarify the congruence between Francis’ alleged “new” and “radical” “reforms” with traditional Catholic teaching. Francis was quoted several months back as saying “atheists can be saved... if they follow their conscience.” Rather than obtusely misinterpret what the Pope is saying and presume an end to Catholic claims of exclusivity and a new era of multi-faith (and therefore faithless) ecumenism, what the Pope is really doing is re-affirming Catholic teaching



on unlimited atonement (i.e. that Christ’s death is efficacious to all). Similarly, his exhortation for non-believers to follow their “conscience” has a different meaning within Catholic theology, “conscience” being the inherent knowledge of God’s law in the hearts of all.

Francis must be lauded for his staunch disapproval of homophobic bigotry that so often lurks within Christian circles, but he has never (and is unable to) challenge the Church’s teaching on the

sinfulness of homosexual acts. That being said, Francis has expressed worry over the “obsession” with condemning homosexuality within the Church, and demands that Catholics abstain from being judgemental. We should then recognize the important work that Francis has done in emphasizing existing elements of moderation and modernity in Catholic teaching, but we should by no means consider him revolutionary. To the dismay of our secular friends – the Pope is still a Christian.

THE WORLD THIS MONTH

MICHAEL PUSIC - STAFF REPORTER

IRAN: NEW PRESIDENT RECOGNIZES HOLOCAUST... OR DOES HE?

During a Christiane Amanpour interview on CNN, President Hassan Rouhani was originally reported to have denounced the Holocaust as bad - a basic fact of history - but nonetheless a big step forward for Iran. Ironically, the FARS Iranian government news agency immediately insisted that CNN had mistranslated his statements. Farsi translators are divided, but it seems as though



President Rouhani did criticize unspecified "crimes" without saying "Holocaust" and called for more historical research to clarify what occurred. This would seem to make him a moderate Holocaust denier.

SYRIA: REBELS REJECT INTERIM GOVERNMENT

Some of Syria's most powerful rebel bri-

gades rejected the Syrian Coalition's interim government last Tuesday in order to call for an Islamic leadership based on Sharia law. This marks a further radicalization and fragmentation of the Syrian rebels as well as an increase in Al-Qaeda's influence in the region. The interim government was supported by many Western institutions



as well as the Arab League. As moderate groups lose power and more radical groups gain traction, democracy seems to become a less and less likely outcome for Syrians.

CANADA: BLACKBERRY SOLD FOR \$4.7 BILLION

The company that once dominated the smartphone market has agreed to be taken over by Fairfax Financial, one of its larg-

est shareholders, for a price of \$4.7 billion. This follows BlackBerry's announcement that 40% of their workforce will be cut and a writedown of a record \$1 billion. This also means that BBM will be coming to iOS and Android sometime this week, as it was delayed last week due to a leak.



USA: NEW YORK MAYORAL ELECTIONS

On September 10th, New Yorkers nominated Bill de Blasio in the Democratic primary and Joe Lhota in the Republican primary. This election marks the end of the Bloomberg era and a promised increase in social programs and affordable housing from both candidates. New York has a GDP just under twice that of Saudi Arabia and a population of eight million, but the next elections will set a tone that affects far more than just his constituents.

HE SAID WHAT?! MATCH THE QUOTES.

"I WOULDN'T WALK ACROSS THE STREET TO PISS DOWN DON SHULA'S THROAT IF HE WAS ON FIRE."



"WHY DOES MY MALARIA ONLY FLAIR UP WHEN OBAMA IS PRESIDENT?"



"HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH"



ELLIOT KAUFMAN
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

JAVAD ZARIF
Iranian Foreign Minister (JZarif)

ERIC HENTSCHEL
(EricHent24)

JOHNNY UNITAS
HALL OF FAME QB



NSA: BEHIND THE CONTROVERSIES

JEAN DOUBOVSKY - STAFF REPORTER

June 6th, 2013 was an important date for the National Security Agency. It was on that day that The Guardian and The Washington Post simultaneously published articles that would reignite the debate on digital privacy. Both newspapers, with ex-NSA contractor Edward Snowden as their source, revealed that the NSA had a vast mass surveillance program in place, spying on over a billion people across the world. Since the initial release, new revelations surfaced, including that Britain's NSA equivalent has been tapping into fibre-optics cables, and that America has been spying on the EU, UN, Brazil, and Mexico, and others. Snowden himself fled to Russia, seeking refuge from the US judicial system and eventually gaining asylum there.

The issue of mass surveillance and digital privacy is a young one, originating in the fallout from 9/11, when laws like the Patriot Act were passed. Now, 12 years after that fateful day, many have questioned whether the US swung too far in the direction of security, sacrificing liberty. Indeed, the debate has not even split along party

lines, with some Republicans and Democrats supporting surveillance and others opposing it as a violation of constitutional rights.

The question of whether such spying is justified is not black or white. The goal of programs like these is noble - to prevent terrorist attacks in the future. However, it comes at the cost of eroding civil liberties. In regards to the merits of the program itself, it is obvious that at least parts of it are both needed and helpful. According to General Keith Alexander, the Director of the NSA, over 50 terrorist attacks have been thwarted due to the program. Of course, his statements have to be taken with a grain of salt - but even if the actual figure is closer to a tenth of that, the program is still worth keeping.

There is, however, another dimension to this issue -the government's handling of the revelations. The reactions from Western governments have mostly been chilling. Instead of admitting the existence of these programs, and explaining the reasoning behind them, they have launched a campaign of intimidation against re-

porters. Amongst those targets was The Guardian, which was ordered to destroy all the information it had on the program, and whose files were seized when David Miranda, partner of the reporter who broke the stories, was stopped at Heathrow Airport. Such repressive attacks on the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press are completely out of line with Western values, and should not be carried out by democratic governments.

Western governments should realize that the best way to avoid scandals like this is to simply be open with their people. They should realize that the best way to solve the problem of terrorism is to continue spying on potential extremists, but to also be accountable to their people through revealing the existence of these programs. They should realize that the current culture of secrecy surrounding intelligence, which permits intelligence chiefs to lie under oath, is inconsistent with the democratic ideals of transparency and accountability. Once they do, their peoples might finally be able to trust their democracy again.



SYRIA: THE BEST OF MANY BAD OPTIONS

CHRIS TAYLOR
EDITOR IN CHIEF

What has gone on in Syria over the past three years has been nothing short of a murderous assault on humanity by the regime of Bashar al-Assad. After the outbreak of peaceful protests in early 2011, Syrian government forces used deliberate, indiscriminate force against their own countrymen, plunging the nation into a brutal civil war. Since then, over 100,000 Syrians have been killed, including 40,000 civilians.

This horrific carnage has been met with calls for foreign intervention in Syria. With undoubtedly the best intentions, pundits and politicians alike have told us that such mass killings cannot be accepted, and that the use of chemical weapons anywhere at any time cannot be tolerated. However, the reality of the situation is not that simple. The sides aren't evenly drawn between "good" and "evil" as we've been told. The most heavily armed and effective of the "heroic" rebels is the al-Nusra Front, a group openly allied with al-Qaeda. The Iraqi government, installed and supported by the US military after the fall of Saddam Hussein, has been reluctant to disengage with Assad and has at times even supported his regime because it is deathly afraid of groups like the Islamic State of Iraq, which is allied with parts of the Syrian opposition. Not to mention the 3 million Alawites living in Syria, who have formed a crucial part of Assad's support base. The Rwandan Genocide was born out of a majority ethnic group's hatred of a once-oppressive minority, and the same could occur in Syria. A foreign intervention into Syria would likely do little to stop the carnage, but could throw Syria, and the broader Arab world, into sectarian and religious conflict. While the

intentions were good, the United States was right to not intervene in Syria, and instead to pursue a diplomatic solution with Russia.

If the West, led by the United States, were to have intervened in Syria, the intervention would have likely had one of three objectives: regime change, no-fly zone, or destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles. Each of the four would have had negative outcomes for the people of Syria and the broader region, and the Russian-US diplomatic agreement is preferable to each.

A regime change operation in Syria would have been the most devastating to the country, and as a result was never really on the table even for the most hawkish leaders. Such an operation would have required the destruction of the Syrian regime, which would have blown the ethnic conflict in Syria wide open and been a tremendous boon to Islamist extremists in the country. Seeing Syria descend into chaos along sectarian lines, with a body count far greater than what we've seen today, would have forced the West to take more action, probably in the form of boots on the ground in a similar situation to the War in Iraq. Perhaps most terrifying, the fall of Assad's regime would have probably led to the "misplacing" of much of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile (if the dissolution of the Soviet Union and its nuclear weapons is any precedent). The result of a regime change operation? Sectarian and religious chaos at the heart of the Arab world in the midst of abundant chemical weapons.

The second, and also unlikely, option for foreign intervention would have been a no-fly zone over Syria, similar to the one that led to the toppling of Muammar Gaddafi. The main issue with this option would have been that, similar to what happened in Libya, an effective no-fly zone would have decisively turned the tide of war towards the rebels, leading to the inevitable collapse of the Assad regime. The results of this collapse would be similar to when it would have happened under the regime change option, al-

though this time Western troops wouldn't be on the ground to try to restore order and locate chemical weapons. The result of a no-fly zone? Sectarian and religious chaos at the heart of the Arab world in the midst of abundant chemical weapons (getting the trend?), albeit happening a bit slower than in the option above.

The final option, and the one with the greatest support, is intervention solely to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons. This option is very hard to judge, since the majority of Assad's chemical stockpile is highly mobile and the US doesn't know how many chemical weapons Syria has, not to mention the location of each stockpile. The result of such an intervention would therefore probably be nothing, with Assad's chemical weapons stockpile probably remaining intact. Furthermore, even if every chemical weapon was destroyed, there is no reason to suggest that Assad would stop killing his countrymen. Before his chemical weapons killed 1,000 earlier this month, Assad had killed 100,000 using conventional weapons. Does the international community really want to stand on the principle that it doesn't matter if you kill your own people, but only by which weapon they meet their end. I hope not. The result of a strike to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons? Most likely the continuation of Syria's chemical weapons program, and almost certainly the continuation of Assad's slaughter of civilians.

The world has been offered an opportunity to rid a Syrian dictator of at least one of his tools, with no possibility of inflamed sectarian conflict or need for violent intervention. Already Syria has acknowledged its chemical weapons stockpile and agreed to join the Chemical Weapons Stockpile. With the risks of intervention so fraught, and the benefits so uncertain, at least pursuing the diplomatic approach is the right way forward. The international community has so far chosen the best of many bad options by not intervening in Syria, and I hope it continues to stand by that approach.



THE QUEBEC CHARTER OF VALUES

FRÉDÉRIC PAQUET - STAFF REPORTER

For a few weeks now, the Parti Québécois has challenged the issue of Quebec's values and neutrality toward religion. The government wants to add to the Charter of Quebec Human Rights and Freedom a section about the fundamental values of the Quebecer. The main purpose of this new Charter is to affirm the state's neutrality towards religion and the secular nature of its institutions. The five main points of this charter are: amend the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms; establish a duty of neutrality for all state personnel; limit the wearing of conspicuous religious symbols; make it mandatory to have one's face uncovered when providing or receiving a state service; and establish an implementation policy for state organization.

The most controversial part is the one about the limitation of wearing symbolic symbols for public workers. Those conspicuous symbols include: a large religious symbol around the neck (a large cross is a good example), wearing the Hijab (Islamic headscarf), Niqab or Burka, wearing a Sikh turban or Jewish kippah. Little symbols such as earrings, rings

or small necklaces are accepted.

As a Quebecer and French-Canadian, I think this question of religious beliefs and freedoms is reasonable. Québec needs to protect its cultural background, which is different from other Canadians'. The controversial aspect of this new charter needs to be answered, because there are a lot of ambiguities found in the reasonable accommodations made by the government to religions over the past few years.

However, the PQ government does not seem to do it the right way. The real problem is not in the image projected by the public state's personnel, but in the respect of our culture, which is mostly secular. The fact that the government will forbid public workers from wearing conspicuous religious symbols only shows how the government is not able to understand the real needs of the Quebecer. Everyone should be able to show his or her belief and religion, and these people will still be able to work properly.

The real problems are inside the institutions and are created by different values from other cultures and religion. As a secular society, we should not promote one religion over another one. In that way, a religion should not ask for favourable treatments. They should understand the cultural background of our society. The process of separation between the state and the religion began with the Quiet Revolution in 1960s. But over the past 10 years, a lot of different religions have asked the government special treatment to respect their religion, but as a result, those treatments decreased the liberty of the Quebecer and attacked our cultural background. For example, in 2008, the Christmas tree (sapin de Noël) in front of the parliament in Quebec had to change its name to holiday tree (sapin des fêtes), because it was less symbolic toward the Catholic religion. In any case, the fact that the government put a Christmas tree in front of the parliament, which was a long tradition, does not promote one religion over another. I believe that our society is able to live in harmony with different cultures and religions without trying to change everything.

WHAT DAVID GILMOUR COULD LEARN FROM SYLVIA PLATH

MS. METALIN - FREELANCE WRITER

Author and professor David Gilmour's comments, which appeared yesterday on Random House's Hazlitt website, were bound to generate a lot of heat. His claim of not being "interested in teaching books by women" (not to mention Chinese authors) is quite controversial; at best dismissive, at worst, flat-out sexist.

I like Mr. Gilmour. I've had the opportunity to meet him on two occasions, including a few years back when he was generous enough to speak with my Gr.10 English class after we studied his novel *Lost Between Houses*, a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age story which poignantly captures an emotionally turbulent time in a teenage boy's life. I found Mr. Gilmour witty, charming and very literary.

What surprised me in reading his interview, however, wasn't his taste in literature (Gilmour cites Chekhov, Tolstoy and Proust among his favourites), but his narrow approach to teaching it. That is, Gilmour states he teaches only "the best" and "people that [he] truly, truly love[s]," which for him, seems to suggest only writers to which he can personally relate (read: white men).

When Sylvia Plath was asked in 1962 about her inspiration for writing poetry, she responded: "I think that personal experience is very important, but certainly it shouldn't be a kind of shut-box and mirror looking, narcissistic experience. I believe it should be relevant, and relevant to the larger things, the bigger things..." The irony of quoting a significant feminist thinker won't be lost on those who read the interview with Gilmour. But I do so because it's important to understand that Plath's approach to writing poetry also applies to reading and teaching literature. Literature affords us the opportunity to move outside our own experience and embrace another; not solely to gravitate to what we know, but to search for meaning and understanding in the unfamiliar. To make threads and connections

about what it is to be human.

For the past eight years, I've taught English at an all-boys independent school, and although a significant part of teaching literature is examining and fostering an understanding of language and form, it's also about making human connections. The most powerful moments in my classroom are about connections that go beyond my teenage students' realm of experience. When I see a 17-year-old boy empathize with Shakespeare's Lear or grieve with Toni Morrison's Sethe -- characters who, because of age and gender, are beyond their scope of personal understanding -- it's confirmation that something is going right.

I don't mean to suggest that some of my favourite works don't make it onto my syllabus, but teaching literature to young people should be less about what we as educators love, and more about affording students the opportunity to discover what they love. Exposing burgeoning minds to a wide breadth of material from a variety of periods, cultures and genders is our responsibility as educators. While Gilmour's approach might work in a graduate seminar, omitting certain cultures and an entire gender from his teaching repertoire is restrictive in nature and does a disservice to his first-year undergraduate students.

Yet Gilmour claims he is "a natural teacher," crediting his pedagogic ability to his experience in television: "I know how to talk to a camera, and therefore I know how to talk to a room of students. It's the same thing." In my opinion, he is falling prey to the "shut-box and mirror looking narcissistic experience" that Plath cautions against.

But Mr. Gilmour doesn't seem to care much for Plath.



**SHOULD TAKE A LESSON
FROM**





ANOTHER LONG DAY, ANOTHER LONG DUMB DELAY, TTC, GO AWAY

KINTON CHEUNG - STAFF REPORTER

It's the sound bite any TTC commuter would pay to not hear: "Attention all customers on the Yonge line, we are experiencing a delay southbound at..." And since the start of September, these delay announcements have been broadcast with depressing regularity, actually becoming as commonplace as the station stop announcements themselves.

Take last week (Sep 23-25), for example. In three days, I encountered not one, but three major delays on my daily trek from Finch down to Eglinton, complete with frequent grinding stops in the tunnel, three- minute long dwell times at stations, and a doubling of my travel time. The old adage "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" has apparently become "a major delay a day keeps your destination away."

And yet, the TTC is bold enough to continue deluding itself and the public by advertising itself as "the Better Way to get around Toronto". But thankfully, the public knows better. With a signal system built before Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, buses that magically clump together into twos and threes (and on one occasion, sevens), and station collectors that hate their job, the TTC now represents the acronym "Take The Car". Weekly weekend shutdowns of key segments of the system for "signal work" that are at least a decade overdue do not help improve satisfaction either.

Public anger and resentment at the TTC and at the dysfunctional state of the GTA's public transport system is at an all-time high.

I witnessed this at Dundas station last week during the PM rush, when hordes of weary-eyed office workers clumped together like sardines yelled in frustration, "let people off the train first, you idiots, don't you see how crowded the train already is?" and other terms and insults directed at the cronies running this system.

Toronto's city council represents democracy at its worst, a dysfunctional heap. On the day Rob Ford took office, he wisely axed Transit City, an expensive 7-line LRT plan that only offered marginal benefits over BRTs, which has been successfully implemented in York Region (Viva), Peel Region (Zum), and Vancouver (C-Train) at double the price and set out in building subways throughout the city. Left-wing councilors seeking to vilify Rob Ford for electoral gain attack and attempt to dismantle his subway plans, creating an inseparable dichotomy and contributing to the toxic political atmosphere. The result? Expensive white elephants like the Spadina subway that runs underneath a ravine and along a highway that, 20 years after opening, has a fraction of the ridership of the Yonge line.

Last month, Ontario transportation minister Glen Murray announced \$1.48 billion in funding to build the Scarborough subway. Read the fine print of this deal, however, and you will notice that this funding is contingent upon building a 2-stop extension that only stretches to Scarborough Town Center and not

the 3-stop solution to Sheppard as envisioned by city council, leaving the rapidly booming community of Agincourt and Milliken - the area surrounding Pacific Mall and Market Village - and hundreds of thousands of residents in the dark. Why is the provincial government trying to play Big Brother, intervening into what clearly is a municipal affair and pretend that they know better of the demographics and geography of Toronto than local government?

Quality transit will never come as long as the three levels of government continue to "plan" transit. What Toronto (and the GTHA, by extension) needs is the consolidation of every regional transit system (YRT, TTC, Peel, Durham, etc) into a single non-governmental run agency that builds with a regional scope so as to ease intra-regional traveling and minimize inefficiencies. This agency would still be funded by taxpayers to ensure that service levels would not be cut. Transit experts and professional consultants who are wholly uninvolved in politics would form management and make key transit decisions to avoid digging ourselves deeper into the hole. ATU Local 113 and other unions would be disbanded; instead, private contractors would bid to handle day-to-day transit operations to "cut the gravy". Furthermore, the transit sector must be deregulated to allow private companies to compete on key routes and serve niche point-to-point segments.

IS THIS TOO MUCH TO ASK?

VARSITY FOOTBALL PREVIEW

PAUL WEISER

STAFF REPORTER

Over the past few years, UCC's football program has blossomed like no other. The Blues have reached the CISAA finals in each of the last three years, including winning the CISAA title and advancing to the in the Metro Bowl (OFSAA Championship) semi-finals in 2010. Led by quarterback Liam Power and running back Chris Amoah on offense, and linebackers Philippe Martin and Phillippe Archambault on defense, the team appears to be poised for another successful season. The Blues are off to a 2-0 start, scoring an impressive 92 points over the two games. On top of that, the defense has excelled, holding opposing offences to a mere 12 points. While they have looked excellent so far, some mental mistakes have resulted in costly penalties for the Blues. The team's league has improved dramatically this year, so every game will propose new challenges for the Blues, especially those against rivals St. Michaels and St. Andrews College. SAC in particular has been very strong in recent years, defeating the Blues in the CISAA finals in both 2011 and 2012. They will



be traveling from Aurora to UCC to take on the Blues under the bright lights next week in the annual "Friday Night Lights" matchup. Two weeks later, the team will travel to St. Michaels to take on the Kerry Blues, who will also provide a significant challenge due to their physical style of play. A week after that the Blues will compete with Ashbury, the league's lone team from Ottawa on the Oval after school. According to Coach Cavalluzzo, the team's offensive coordinator, the group has

gelled to form a highly cohesive unit. The team has been practicing daily, either in the S.A.S. fitness centre or on the oval since the beginning of September. UCC has graduated 10 players to NCAA and CIS football, more than any other sports program at the school, and the players and coaches hope to build on these successes over the upcoming season and later on in the future. Expectations run high for the Blues once again, but the fans will have to wait and see how the year plays out.



INTERVIEW WITH LIAM POWER

JOHNATHAN GOLDBERG – SPORTS EDITOR

Jonathan Goldberg: JG

Liam Power: LP

JG: Can you first talk about the setup of the league, how the playoffs work, and what the team is competing for?

LP: Sure, our league is made up of six teams: UCC, SAC, Trinity, Ashbury, Villanova, St. Mike's. Four of these teams will make the playoffs with the #1 seed playing the #4 seed and the #2 seed playing the #3 seed. The winner of these games walks away with the CISAA championships and a chance to play in the metro bowl.

JG: What would you say UCC's toughest competition is within the league?

LP: Definitely SAC; they have a very good quarterback, a big offensive line and a talented group of receivers. St. Mike's is probably going to be pretty competitive as well, but I think they're a little young this year. I'd like to think that UCC and SAC are the top two teams heading into the season.

JG: What's the practice schedule like for varsity football and what does a typical practice look like?

LP: We practice Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and on top of that we have workouts Monday after school and Wednesday morning. A typical practice generally starts with "install" where we review which plays we want to learn this practice. We then break off into position specific drills to focus on certain things. After that, we usually do pass and run skeleton before concluding by bringing everyone together to do some team drills.

JG: What would you say the team's expectations are for the season?

LP: We're expecting at least a CISAA final appearance. Obviously we hope that we are victorious and then will have the opportunity to move onto the metro bowl.



JG: What are your personal goals for the season?

LP: I want to avoid as many interceptions as possible and keep the touchdown to interception ratio at a respectable rate.

JG: How has the season been going so far?

LP: The Blues have played two official games thus far and have won both of them. We haven't played anyone too challenging yet, so it's hard to gauge our skill level and potential for the upcoming season.

JG: Finally, What's your prediction for how the season will play out?

LP: Win it all!



EXPLAINING THE NEW TREND: MOVIE MUSICALS

DAVID CASH - ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Recently, there has been a new craze in the movie industry: movie musicals. There have been movies involving singing and dancing since the beginning of movies with sound. But these aren't the types of movie musicals that I am talking about. I mean the adaptations of stage musicals on the big screen. These have been relatively successful in the past including: Hairspray, Chicago, Rent, Mama Mia etc. But recently, the genre became extremely popular in the release of the Blockbuster Les Misérables. This film opened the genre up to millions of people, and ended up being nominated for 8 academy award, winning two and grossed a quaint \$441,809,770 worldwide.

The crowds of new and old movie musical fans were further fuelled by the 2013 oscar performance that paid tribute to movie musicals. The performance recognized a wide range of movie musicals from the old Fred Astaire tap dancing black-and-white pictures of old to Grease. It also fea-

tured big names such as Beyoncé, Hugh Jackman, Catherine Zeta Jones, Adele and Anne Hathaway.

After the Les Misérables movie, and this spectacle happened, it seemed as if every producer had jumped on the movie musical bandwagon. This is evident in the number of movie musicals currently in production or pre-production. This list includes: In the Heights, The Last Five Years, Drowsy Chaperone, Into the Woods, Jersey Boys, Present Day as well as the possibility of a Jesus Christ Superstar remake.

Now, I would not like to be misunderstood, I think that these are each going to be great, I happen to be really into theatre so I enjoy the occasional movie adaptation. I have looked at some of the casts of these movies and they do look great. But, all of that aside, this seems like a massive overkill. Even with the new audience that was acquired through Les misérables and the oscar performance, I doubt that all of

these movies will be able to do well. After the first few hit theatres, people may get bored of singing on the big screen. This is less of an issue for the movies with large names in them such as Into the Woods which features Meryl Streep. This is an issue for any of the movies that decide to work with actors from broadway or the west end. Though these performers do have a fan base, it is composed of a few thousand people opposed to the hollywood stars who can have followings in the tens of millions.

I personally hope that this surge in movie musicals will be positive, though I cannot say that I think that all of them will succeed. This is much more of a cult genre than action or horror movies and it generally requires a certain type of crowd. If even a few of these movies can build up as much of a hype around them as Les Misérables, than they will do well. But if they can't, then it may be a while until there is a surge in movies of this kind again.

QUIDDITY QORNER - WHY NOT TO RETIRE

JOHN LUTZ - STAFF REPORTER

Was Ahab supposed to sit there and get old
in an armchair by the closet, with a gold
doubloon fidgeting in his fingers
while the rest of the world kept swirling, uncontrolled?

Should he have gone to his deathbed on a cane
and lain by the open eastern window, feigned
peace as he saw the open sea,
himself imprisoned? Could he not complain

as his mind eroded, his senses started to fail,
that the old ship sat with wind still in her sail,
and the question festered in his gut:
could another day of work have won the whale?

BLAZER

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

What Each Steward Position Actually Does (Part I)

With the new year of school already on its way (yay!), the job of our school's student government, the Board of Stewards, truly starts, but what do they actually do? We made up a fake statistic that 69% of the student body doesn't know what the Head Steward does, and the people who thought they knew gave us some pretty R-rated answers. Anyway, we aim to educate here at Blazer, so instead of doing something funny, we're going to give you informative and clearly true facts about what each Stewardship position really is, and since there are so many jobs to cover, we're going to make this one a two parter, so get ready for more of this in the next issue! Without further ado, let's get on with it!

Head Steward

Honestly, the Head Steward pretty much goes to meetings all the time. ABC, BBC, DEF, GHIJKLMNOP, it doesn't really matter who it's with, his job is to be there and nod in approval over things that he doesn't understand. Also, and perhaps most importantly, the Head Steward has to deal with teachers telling him that he is infact the Head Steward, and for that reason he needs to tuck in his shirt/take off the sweater/put on some clothes/give the elephant back its baby. All of this is relevant of course, in making the school run as smoothy as possible.

Athletic Steward

With the addition of the Blue Army Generals, or as we like to call them the Blarmenerals, the Athletic Steward is responsible for different things than he used to be. Now, he is responsible for representing the athletes of the school, which includes telling teachers that they'll be missing P4 for a football game, or being required to sub into any game if the team is low on players (two years ago the Steward subbed into Grade 7 field hockey. It was legendary). As well, if some students cannot come to their workouts in the SAS, the Athletic Steward will do the workout for them. How kind!

Academic Steward

Typically the head of at least 6 clubs (including Ontario Model Parliament), taker of 3 summer school science courses, runner in the Terry Fox Run, Harvard early action candidate, favourite student of Ms. Aust, reader of syllabuses (syllabi?), and watcher of the Big Bang Theory – The Academic Steward is basically a huge loser. His job is to literally do as much work as possible and get no sleep, as well as help kids with their homework. Oftentimes, Academic Stewards have remarkable flow; a result of not having enough time to get a haircut.

Creativity Steward

This Steward has the toughest job. He needs to go up on stage, and have students laugh at him. Usually, the emotional damage from all the laughing directed at the Creativity Steward hits him in his mid-30s, as he finally succumbs to his crippling insecurity and has to be institutionalized, spending the rest of his days having to email Mr. Williams asking permission to do anything. Also, the Creativity Steward is responsible for having to listen to people giving him bad assembly ideas.



Head of House

Literally all they do is organize House Dodgeball. Every week houses do it and the only reason why they don't do it more is because they run out of dodgeballs. Other than that, they eat house breakfasts and force students to come out to house sports only to default. Still, some parts of the job are hard, like trying to explain it to people who don't go to the school. They have to talk about houses in Harry Potter and if the person hasn't read Harry Potter then they're screwed.

SPOILER: We all have uTorrent, IT. There's nothing you can do.

If we've offended you with this issue of blazer, we're sorry. Please send all hatemail to blazer@ucc.on.ca if you want to join our team, email us too. -xoxo, BS

Lunchlines

The LDH lunch line is long. We get it. And we agree, so that's why we decided that the best way to combat it is to passive-aggressively make jabs at Aramark like some oversensitive preschoolers. So that's where our list of one-liners came from; pettiness. Some of our best and most ridiculously good looking writers came together and wrote down what we thought were one liners that might make you giggle a little bit, since that is our job.

The 'Zingers'

- I've been stuck in the line longer than Chris Taylor was stuck on a 6+.
- This line is bigger than Julian Boyman's DCI list
- Mme. Lowndes is off the hook for detention, this year they can just have people stand in the LDH line
- The math department will now be using the line to demonstrate the concept of infinity
- There are more people in the LDH line than Michael Pusic has scarves
- By the time you get out of the LDH, UCC will have a new pool.
- The line moves so slowly that you actually lose action hours for standing in it.
- The line is so long that people are trying to find the Sparknotes for it.
- The line is so long that the school gives a 5 minute break in the middle of it.
- The line is so long that by the time you reach the end, mullets will be back in fashion.
- By the time the line ends, Kimathi will be 6'5
- The IB core requirements include TOK, CAS, the extended essay, and standing in the line.
- Students everywhere confuse the LDH line with the line for the new iPhone.

So there you go. Take that Aramark! Hopefully our comedy publication will sway your stone-clad heart to goodness, but probably not, since kids will always want to eat your 50% pizza, and 50% grease 'food', and so will we. Dang, that stuff is tasty.

WHAT MOST STUDENTS THINK THE UCC MOTTO MEANS:



Headlines

- IT to Laidlaw Hall: have you tried turning it on and off?
- Class of 2014 to paint over Crib graffiti as grad gift
- Cookie Clicker addicted student: "I can stop anytime I want to, I just don't want to."
- Joshua Caminiti grows more and more excited over the upcoming Fall 'Cardigan Weather'.
- UCC kids skip Terry Fox run to start their own 'Cancer Awareness' event on Frybrook.
- Mr. Suteir leaves Reach for the Top team in shame after having asked student to reach projector for him.
- Phil Kessel calls Air Canada Center to report a missing purse, claims to have mistakenly dropped it after being asked to fight.
- Debate Club spends hours arguing over which Grand Theft Auto game is better: GTAV, or GTA5
- Free the Children foundation brings the IB to attention
- Taylor Wasser's girlfriend leaves him for Jeff Carroll after A-Day.
- Puppy pen at Celebration Saturday becomes breeding ground for diseases such as the Plague

Y1 Hunger Games to take place next Friday.