

# →CONVERGENCE←

Feb 2014 - Volume XIV, Issue IV

WHAT DOES BEN MAHON HAVE  
PLANNED? CONVERGENCE  
INVESTIGATES.

PAGE 3 - MICHAEL PUSIC

WHO  
IS THIS  
MAN?

TORONTO ICE STORM P.4 || SOCHI P.6, P.9 || TORONTO FC P.8



School hopping: (from left to right) Trinity Grammar School; Upper Canada College

# A TRAVELING YOUTH FROM THE LAND DOWN UNDER

**NICK CAMPBELL - VISITING STUDENT  
FROM TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, AUSTRALIA**

To travel to a foreign land is to be confronted with the omnipresent issues of the differences between one state and another. It is such a confrontation that provides the experiences that one will never forget. One must ask, what such differences cause one's sense of confrontation and in the particular case of a travelling youth in Canada, how does one react?

As an Australian in the diverse nation that is Canada, I could instantaneously experience a difference whilst stepping out of the heated airport and hear the crunch of snow beneath their boot. One feature of being in a different hemisphere is the constant reminder from the atmosphere that one is indeed on the other side of the world, a mere twenty-four hour flight from home. As Mark Twain once proclaimed: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." He was not wrong. When one fully experiences and understands the cultural and interpersonal differences it is then, and only then, can one fully appreciate the beauty of another nation. This equanimity one feels enables one to ignore the stereotypes one has inevitably generated from a predisposed vision one has of the individuals from another state.

In the case of Australians, we view Canada positively. According to a 2013 BBC World Service poll, 79% of Australians view Canada positively with only 7% expressing a negative

view. As a candid Australian, yours truly must confess that his view of Canada prior to landing in the great white north consisted of Maple Syrup, Ice Hockey, a perpetual use of 'sorry' and the spoken injection 'eh'. As you can see, that was an extremely limited view. Stereotypes are a consequence of ignorance and limited understanding; however, one cannot help but break out in laughter when such stereotypes are witnessed. Whilst one may witness these stereotypes one can also expect a wave of stereotypes and questions in return, in this case: asking to hear my brogue, belligerent badgering in an attempt to see a picture of my pet kangaroo, questioning as to my experience with a salty black paste (Vegetemite), asking for the placement of another shrimp on the 'barbie' and a constant struggle when they come to the realisation that the Southern Hemisphere and therefore Australians have an opposite season cycle. The travel opportunity in Canada would have not have been possible if it wasn't due to an exchange relationship between Upper Canada College (UCC) and Trinity Grammar School in Melbourne. The experience began at UCC following the winter break and it started with a friendly and warm introduction by the Principal, Dr. Jim Power, and the seemingly endless welcoming introductions from the staff. From the first meeting with Mr Craig Parkinson, UCC was extremely accommodating in allowing participation in

multiple facets of school life including clubs (debating, Convergence), sports and tutoring mathematics through the incredible Horizons program. During the three -week period of attending UCC, the boys were extremely accepting of and intrigued by the introduction of an Australian exchange student. Even as the exchange at UCC is coming to an end, the friends that were made, memories and experiences that were had will be forever entrenched in my mind. I hope that the exchange relationship will continue to prosper between Trinity and UCC as both schools quite clearly understand and promote the incredible experience that boys have both travelling and learning in a new cultural and social environment. Both I and my school, Trinity, thank UCC for the incredible exchange.

Being given the opportunity to explore is a luxury that many are unable to afford. Those with this opportunity must pursue this and delve into the world's intricacies and prepare as the future leaders of the world. Whilst one may encounter even confront situations of social difference and culture, those same confrontations lead to experiences that, as youth, we will never forget. "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."



## INTERVIEW WITH BEN MAHON

MICHAEL PUSIC - SECRETARY

**MICHAEL:** "IN YOUR HEAD STEWARD SPEECH YOU SAID IDEAS FOR THE SCHOOL SHOULD COME FROM THE STUDENT BODY. HAVE YOU HEARD ANY IDEAS YOU'D LIKE TO IMPLEMENT YET? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OF YOUR OWN THAT YOU PLAN TO WORK WITH THE OTHER STEWARDS ON?"

**BEN:** "I've already been hearing a lot of positive ideas from the student body and am excited to work with everyone including the Board of Stewards to grow on these ideas. Some ideas include bringing back faculty games; this could include house advisors representing their houses against each other in activities. Another idea that has bounced around is bringing back activities like teacher sumo wrestling at the halftime of sports games or other spirit events. This would be in hope of increasing attendance and providing laughs. I too have several ideas of my own - one being a boarder and day boy exchange. It has been mentioned many times that the boarders and day boys could have closer relationships and be involved with one another more. I know that day boys are given the option of staying in boarding for a week or two, but what I was thinking is what if boarders are allowed to stay with a day boy and his family for a week? I think it would be a cool experience and change of pace for the boarders. They would hopefully experience the day boy routine, and get a nice home cooked meal!"

**CONVERGENCE:** "LAST YEAR THERE WAS TALK OF ADDING A NEW STEWARDSHIP SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ARTS. DO YOU THINK THIS DISCUSSION IS STILL RELEVANT OR DO YOU THINK THE CREATIVITY STEWARD WILL ADEQUATELY FILL THAT ROLE?"

**BEN:** "It's a new year, Michael! Of course this could be discussed, but, I do not see it as a top priority right now. The Creativity Steward does a great job of representing the arts. It is up to the community to help promote our friends and fellow students work and to support them, whether it be hanging up posters for events, attending performances or bringing friends and family. Any support we can get would be amazing!"

**CONVERGENCE:** "THE SCHOOL HASN'T SEEN A HEAD STEWARD FROM BOARDING IN A NUMBER OF YEARS AND OVERALL, BOARDERS ARE SEEN AS RELATIVELY ISOLATED FROM THE DAY BOY COMMUNITY. HOW DO YOU PLAN ON REPRESENTING THIS GROUP?"

**BEN:** "There is a possibility that there will be a boarder(s) on our Board of Stewards this coming year and he could represent the boarding community. Either way, there are a few different ways to tackle this ongoing issue. One way to solve this problem is by getting input from boarding students and having a boarder represent the two houses. This representative could meet with either me or other stewards to discuss issues and ideas the boarders have come across. This would be a different role than head of house and would not be a steward. They would solely focus on boarding life and day boy interaction."

**CONVERGENCE:** "WHAT DO YOU THINK THE BIGGEST ISSUE IV'S RIGHT NOW AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO TACKLE IT?"

**BEN:** "This is a tough question to answer. I

am going to say a big issue at our school, not necessarily the biggest, would have to be our ongoing lack of school spirit. This has been an issue at our school definitely for the four years I have been in the upper school. It is also a difficult issue to solve. A lot of portfolio steward candidates mentioned in their final three speeches that this was a primary goal for them. I think a big job for this year's upcoming board will be tackling this issue. I don't have all the solutions, but I have a few ideas as to how this could be dealt with. I look forward to building on them with the new board and creating more ideas in order to solve many other issues we face as a community."

**CONVERGENCE:** "A LOT OF STEWARDS ARE CRITICIZED FOR LACK OF ACTION, OR AT LEAST LACK OF COMMUNICATION REGARDING THEIR ACTION. WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE STEWARDS AND THE STUDENT BODY? WHAT ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES WILL YOU IMPLEMENT TO ENSURE TANGIBLE ACTION IS TAKEN BY YOUR BOARD?"

**BEN:** "The stewards are elected by our community. You have shown that you trust us to work hard, and represent the student body as best we can. The only way we can show the community that you have chosen the right people is with results and growth. When approached with an issue or idea the only way to show that we are adequately representing the students and trying our best is with a step forward. We will try our best to show the community the changes we have made, and hopefully allow them to experience them as well."



Going Cold: (from left to right) Torontonians clean up the mess; Toronto Mayor Rob Ford and Premier Kathleen Wynne

## AFTERMATH OF TORONTO'S ICE STORM

DAVID CHIODO - STAFF REPORTER

The government response to December's ice storm that unleashed havoc on Toronto and a number of municipalities across Ontario should have Canadians pondering to what extent this country is prepared for future extreme weather events. The fact that a two-day ice storm that began on December 21 and involved 30 mm of freezing rainfall could leave 300,000 Ontarians without power over a protracted period in frigid temperatures is perturbing. Adding to the calamity were dangers presented by hospitals and hydro-pumping stations losing power, downed wires, fallen tree limbs blocking roads, non-functioning traffic signals, salt shortages and falling ice. Despite the many hallmarks of a crisis, including at least 24 related deaths, Toronto Mayor, Rob Ford, and Liberal Premier, Kathleen Wynne, both failed to call a state of emergency. Their decisions were allegedly based on Ford's view that it would "undermine efforts of city staff" and on advice from City Manager, Joe Pennachetti, and President of Toronto Hydro, Anthony Haines, "that every available resource was called for and made available by other municipalities and the province. "Indeed, Hydro One had 600 employees working around the clock together with other workers

for 13 days straight racking up over 12.9 million dollars of expenses. Despite municipal efforts, results were lackluster, leaving many Ontarians desperate and in the dark about when power would resume. Even after power returned, the storm's debris and falling ice transformed city landscapes into dangerous eye sores. Municipalities again appeared to be running full-throttle with over 131 crews clearing debris including 16 from the city's forestry staff, 13 from other municipalities, and 59 private contractors. One month later, the hazards from fallen tree limbs and other scattered wreckage continue to plague city streets.

Ford's reluctance to utilize available federal and provincial resources, coupled with provincial and federal failure to step in left many wondering if more should have been done. Kathleen Wynne and the Liberal party decided to limit their contribution to piecemeal efforts in the form of a grocery gift card program. Sustained by corporate donations, the program was quickly mired with controversy over "postal code politics", long line ups, inactivated cards, and severe shortages (with only 8500 people aided in the first 3 days). The federal government,

on the other hand, seemed equally apathetic, preferring to be conspicuously silent in the face of no specific request for aid.

Perhaps most disturbing was the amount of mind-numbing wrangling between politicians and academics over how to proceed. Not only were Mayor Rob Ford and Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly at odds over whether to call a state of emergency, council members disputed how to deal with the \$106 million dollars spent on the ice storm and the efficacy of declaring Toronto "a disaster area" in order to secure provincial aid. Under an outdated ODRAP (Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program), funds are potentially available for public infrastructure, buildings, and to assist private citizens with incidental expenses. Unfortunately, this relief was set up in the 1950s and is not easily accessed since it was designed to aid smaller municipalities. Nonetheless, yesterday GTA mayors met in the first display of unity, asking the federal and provincial government to pay 1/3 each of the staggering 275 million dollar ice storm bill. Whether the municipalities should be left to foot the bill only adds to the unsettling questions. If one lesson comes from all of this, perhaps it is the need for an emergency preparedness protocol that takes uncertainty and partisan politics out of the equation. A multi-faceted approach that involves all three levels of government working in tandem would optimize a timely and effective result.

### THE STORM'S DEBRIS AND FALLING ICE TURNED CITY LANDSCAPES INTO DANGER-

**OUS EYE SORES**



## YORK UNIVERSITY CONTROVERSY

GABRIEL BIRMAN - STAFF REPORTER

Professor of Sociology J. Paul Grayson was still in the early stages of teaching his online course at York University when he received a bizarre request from one of his students. The student in question, whose name cannot be disclosed for privacy reasons, insisted that he be exempt from public meetings because his religion did not condone “the intermingling between men and women”. Unsettled by the student’s misogynistic ideation, Mr. Grayson consulted both Jewish and Islamic scholars (the student had not mentioned his religion, which led to the assumption that it could be either of the aforementioned) to determine whether this request was justified on religious grounds. The verdict was unanimous: “unless he is asked to be physical with a female student, [...] there is absolutely no justification for not interacting with females in public space.” Professor Grayson acknowledged that he would not be able to meet the needs of the student, who then accepted the resolution without protest and even attended the group meetings he had so vehemently opposed.

It seemed as if the matter had been settled, but on the 18th of October, the Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts intervened on the student’s behalf, insisting that Mr. Grayson accommodate the student’s needs. The administration maintained that this post hoc decision had its basis in the Human Rights Code of Ontario, which postulates that every person has the right to equal treatment without discrimination. In fact, the “former Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission told The Globe and Mail that he thought York had done the right thing in insisting on the accommodation”. And yet, there is no doubt that the same right to equal treatment was not being imparted to the school’s female population. Rather

than be transparent about their decision, the members of the board concluded that female students would not be made aware of the accommodation to ensure that their “course experience” remained positive. Essentially, the university expected its back-door operations to run smoothly so long as the professor kept quiet, and by doing so, exchanged the dignity of its entire female population for one student’s religious beliefs.

Of course, one might be tempted to take to the side of York’s detractors. There certainly is an overwhelming desire to criticize an institution that has unceremoniously infringed upon its female students’ right to equal treatment. However, one must not forget that the male student in question did participate in an online course. The controversy, as plain as it might have seemed before, is thus complicated by the fact that “alternative arrangements were put in place to accommodate students who were unavailable to attend classes on campus” due to the inherently asocial nature of the course he was taking. The student had a right to request religious accommodation, no matter how archaic his request might appear to the outside world. Notwithstanding the fact that York’s intentions for religious accommodation may have been good at heart, there are certain oddities about the student’s behaviour that demanded further explanation – something the university failed to look into. Firstly, one might raise the question: if the student was an ultra-orthodox religious man, why did he decide to attend a secular university? Although it is true that he did sign up for an online course, surely he must have known of the concomitant requirements, such as public meetings. Secondly, the student made no mention of his religion during his communications with the pro-

fessor, which greatly complicated what should have been a simple yes or no answer. Whether this omission was deliberate or unintentional does not take away from the fact that the two religions that the professor had in mind did not corroborate the validity of his request. If this radical type of religious precept does not fall into ultra-orthodox Judaism/Islam, then what exactly does it fall into? Finally, and most bemusing of all, is the fact that a supposedly religious adherent (radical enough to demand gender segregation at a secular university) cheerfully backed off his request as soon as the professor communicated his refusal to comply. Maybe the student experienced a Damascene conversion along the way, but in any case, his story just doesn’t hold up.

So if you do choose to fulminate against York University for its recent blunder, don’t criticize the institution for deliberate sexism. It prioritized religion over gender in this instance, but in our exceedingly politically correct nation, you can’t possibly expect to please everyone. Perhaps the York administrators thought they were doing the right thing, and maintaining the university’s status as a religiously tolerant school was probably at the top of their agenda. Nevertheless, you should criticize York University for its deceitful approach to the situation. The administration abruptly overruled the professor’s decision and sided with a backwards – and highly dubious – request for gender segregation in the name of religious freedom. Then, York University decided to make this a “private matter” so that no one would be upset. On the contrary, the institution’s lack of transparency managed to upset a great number of people who now have no intention of further affiliating themselves with the university in any way, shape, or form.



## SOCHI 2014: BOMBS, DISCRIMINATION, AND BOYCOTTS

LOGAN YE - STAFF REPORTER

Amidst great controversy, the Sochi Winter Olympic Games will begin on February 6th. Instead of the patriotic and hopeful atmosphere of the Winter Games four years ago, this year's games have been plagued by terrorist threats, political turmoil and unending costs. These games will be remembered not for their record-breaking finishes or jumps, but for their inability to run smoothly.

The first issue surrounding the Olympics began with anti-gay legislation passed by the Russian government. The predominant issue with the legislation was the clause that prevented pro-gay groups from spreading "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations." These laws prohibited any actions that implied the validity of identifying within the LGBTQ spectrum to minors. Shortly after the news broke, a mass riot took place near the Red Square in Moscow. More recently, Putin has spoken in interviews, saying that "homosexual people can't feel inferior here [in Russia] because there is no professional, career or social discrimination against them." Gay visitors and Olympians have been assured safety, yet the anti-gay laws remain in effect. Government officials including Prime Minis-

ter Stephen Harper have decided to not attend the Olympics, citing Russia's homophobic policies.



The state of security in Russia is one of obscurity and danger. The first warning sign was a suicide bombing that took the lives of 34 people in December. An extremist Islamic militant group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Furthermore, the Italian and Hungarian Olympic delegations have received threats of attacks when they land in Sochi. The Russian response to these two major events has been inconsistent. Following the suicide bombing, Russian police banned the use

of cars that were registered outside of the area, and periodically searched homes within the vicinity of the Olympic venues. However, they have dismissed the threats against the foreign delegations as incredible and fake. Whether the games are truly safe from terrorist attacks or not, there will be the smallest drop of fear under every competing athlete's breath.

The games have also cost the Russian government an absurd amount of money, more than 20 times the average cost of hosting a Winter games. Most of the cost can be attributed to the decision by the planning committee to hold a majority of the events in areas far away from pre-existing infrastructure. One 18 mile road between Sochi and other venues has reportedly cost upwards of 8 billion dollars to construct. Moreover, many fear that the organization committee has become a system of kickbacks and embezzlement. Wherever the money is going, Russia will have to be ready to greet the thousands of athletes due to compete.

The 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games will go down in history as one of the most memorable games - if not for its athletes - at least for its controversy.

# THE WORLD THIS MONTH

MICHAEL PUSIC - STAFF REPORTER

## USA: OBAMA SEEKS NSA REFORM

On January 17th, Barack Obama outlined his proposals for new laws to regulate the National Security Agency. He vowed to end the controversial PRISM program "as it currently exists," to ensure that citizens know when they are being spied upon, and to terminate all unwarranted spying on allies. While the President has high hopes for reform, he will have to confront staunch advocates of the NSA in Congress.

## UKRAINE: RIOTS ESCALATE

Riots in Ukraine have left at least two dead and hundreds injured. New laws that made protesting effectively illegal and tightened restrictions on the media sparked another wave of demonstrations from far-right nationalist groups. While the protesters appear disorganized and have yet to pres-



ent clear demands, they have received widespread support from the middle class. Moreover, Western governments have condemned the harsh Ukrainian response to the riots. It is becoming increasingly clear that the government has little or no control over the situation, and without any negotiations in sight, this conflict will likely only escalate. Civil war threatens as the President Yanukovich takes a leave of absence for health reasons.

## USA: THREE DEAD IN MARYLAND SHOOTING

Gunshots rang out in a mall just outside Columbus, Maryland at eleven o'clock on Saturday, January 26th. Initial investigations show that the shooter (likely Darion Aguilar) killed two civilians in a skate shop before committing suicide. This shooting follows only a month after the anniversary of the Sandy Hook massacre, and to this day no significant legislation has been enacted in response to the recent spree of mass killings.



## INTERNATIONAL: SYRIA TALKS BEGIN WITHOUT IRAN

Negotiations between the Assad regime and the rebels were salvaged on Monday after the possibility of Iran joining the talks nearly led the opposition to walk out. And while those involved are grateful the talks will even occur, expectations are low. Thus far, the represented parties have not even come to an agreement on humanitarian aid, and Secretary of State John Kerry reminded the press last Monday that the Vietnam peace talks took years. But with new evidence pointing to systematic torture and execution of tens of thousands of rebels, the stakes are higher than ever. Both parties have claimed to be in favour of implementing some sort of ceasefire.

# HE SAID WHAT?! MATCH THE QUOTES.

ELLIOT KAUFMAN  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

IF I GET 100 RTs I'LL LIVE TWEET THIS LOCKDOWN



KANYE WEST

I'VE NEVER WON A GRAMMY AGAINST A WHITE ARTIST



IB2 ERIC HENTSCHEL  
(EricHent24)



18 →

JERMAINE DEFEOE

&amp;

4

MICHAEL BRADLEY

(FAR RIGHT)



## IT'S A BLOODY BIG DEAL

**PEDRAM MALAKIAN - STAFF REPORTER**

Unless you have been living under a rock for the past month, you would have known that the past few weeks have been big for Toronto FC. They have gone out and bought the two biggest signings in the franchise's history. They have secured the services of England and Tottenham forward, Jermaine Defoe as well as USMNT midfielder Michael Bradley. These transfers represent a drastic

shift in the MLS landscape. Over their seven-year tenure in the league, Toronto FC has not yet competed in the playoffs. However with the signing of Defoe, Bradley and

Brazilian star Gilberto, they could immediately transform into one of the League's elite teams. Nicknamed the "general," Bradley will become the leader in the midfield, hanging back just in front of the defence and breaking up possession. Although he is only 26 years old, he brings a sense of leadership into the Toronto midfield, something that they have lacked in previous seasons.

The signing of Defoe finally gives TFC a reliable and prolific goal scorer. Defoe ended the 2012-2013 season with 17 goals in 38

games. In the Premier League, England's top football league, he scored 11 goals in 25 appearances, of which only 11 were starts. His speed coupled with his experience should make him one of the top strikers in the MLS. Although TFC paid a hefty fee of \$8.3 million for a 6-month contract with Defoe, it is the relationships that they have created which justifies the value. TFC now has connection with both Tottenham Hotspurs and Roma, which allow players to come and go on loan. This is a win-win for both clubs. Tottenham and Roma's prospects have the ability to develop here in Canada, while at the same time we gain the services of young, skilful players. This is all part of a multi-faceted investment in the soccer club, which could hopefully propel TFC to become one of the best teams in the MLS.

**THE SIGNING OF DEFOE  
FINALLY GIVES TFC A RELIABLE AND PROLIFIC GOAL SCORER.**



## WINTER OLYMPICS: 4 THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

JONATHAN GOLDBERG - SPORTS EDITOR

On February 7th, the world turned their attention to Russia, as the 2014 Winter Olympics opened in Sochi. The Games have been marred by controversy in the leadup to the opening, including fear of terrorist attacks occurring during the competition. This article will look at four interesting storylines at the Sochi Olympics.



### 1. COOL RUNNINGS THE SECOND GENERATION

On January 18th, Jamaica's two-man bobsled team officially qualified for the Winter Olympics. Absent from the games since 2002, the team is best remembered for first qualifying for the Calgary Olympics in 1988. Shortly thereafter their story was created into the famous Disney movie Cool Runnings. The film chronicles the team defying the odds and qualifying for the winter Olympics. Now that the Jamaicans have qualified for the Games, the team has turned their attention to figuring out how they will get there. With no sponsors, the group is strapped for cash. In fact, captain Winston Watts has used his own money to fund their training for the past two years. Last week, the team started accepting PayPal donations, in hope of raising the 80 thousand dollars needed to travel to Sochi. They have raised over

\$180,000 in just over a week on online donations. The team is further hyping up their spot at the Olympics by calling themselves, "Cool Runnings, the Second Generation." Even though the team will be in tough against the traditional strong bobsled countries, the Jamaican team epitome of an underdog story that all fans enjoy following.



### 2. CAN CANADA OWN THE PODIUM AGAIN?

In 2010, Canada had one of its best performances in winter olympics history, winning 14 gold medals - the most of any competing nation - and took 26 medals in total, putting them in third place in the medal count overall. The olympic squad is looking to build upon this success in 2014 through the funding of legacy programs such as Own the Podium that give high-potential athletes over \$80 million in funding. The Canadian Olympics Committee is focused on building on their success achieved in Vancouver, with the hope of exceeding their 2010 medal count. According to Infostrada, a company that synthesizes international sports data, Canada is on the right track. They predict that Canada will win 31 medals in total, placing third in the overall count.



### 3. THE EIGHT NEW EVENTS

This Olympics will feature eight new events, including adding a team aspect to two historically individual sports: Figure skating, and luge. Similar to gymnastics in the summer games, figure skating will have a team competition, where score is based on all categories. Similarly, the luge relay is debuting, where a woman's single slider, man's single slides, and doubles team go consecutively down the course, with their time being accumulated throughout the race. In addition, there are five new alpine events including ski slopestyle.



### 4. THE VENUES

Russia has gone all out on the venues, building eleven new facilities that will be located in two clusters. The largest of these structures is the Fisht Olympic Stadium, which holds 40,000 people and will be the site for the opening and closing ceremonies. In addition, Russia is building two ice hockey arenas equipped with state of the art heating and cooling technology. Finally, they have investing heavily in the ski and snowboard parks having imported tons of snow to the usually tropical region.

# BLAZER

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

## UCC's Spirit Animals

Even though the Head Steward candidates avoided as many questions as possible, it was impossible to avoid the question on everyone's mind: What is your spirit animal? Flamingos and all are pretty good, but there are plenty of other spirit animals to be had, so we went around the school and upon close consideration of many people, we got it down to a science. Some people tell us "You really think this is worth your time?" or "I'm your father and I'm disappointed in you", but that won't stop us from discovering the truth about something entirely objective and pointless. Right? Because that's what life's about: avoiding the things that matter for trivial affairs.

### Mr. Byung Chun

As you can see, we were unable to find a photo of Mr. Chun for this exposé. It seemed as though all



IMAGE  
NOT  
FOUND

records of him on the internet were entirely erased. However, in our hearts we know of Mr. Chun, and we know how clear it is that his spirit animal is that of the tiger. His raw emotions, spontaneity, and above all, sheer physical strength, make it clear that he could be nothing else. When you look at the way the tiger approaches its prey, you can see the same look in its eye as when Mr. Chun attacks a math question, fiercely devouring it until you can't even recognize what it used to be. He's got the eye of the tiger, a fighter, dancing through the fire 'cause he is a champion and we're gonna hear him roar. Keep on roaring Mr. Chun.

### Savinay Chopra

Just like the Black Mamba, Cheef Chopra's lust to consume human flesh cannot



be stopped. His cool and collected persona is actually a giant façade to cover up his blood-thirsty nature. He knows no bounds. He'll lurk through the halls, making his nest of doom within a dark corner of DA CRIB. There, he waits for his prey, a small Y1. Once he enters, Savinay knows his prey is his. He lunges forward, dislocating his jaw to allow him to swallow the poor student whole. His outstretched legs and heavy computer on his lap make him a slow and large target. Having taken his prey, Savinay then begins feasting on him, but upon realizing that the Y1 has eaten so many LDH pizzas that he pretty well tastes like one, Savinay leaves.

### Mr. Reed Jeffrey

MR. JEFFREY DOES NOT CARE. It's a simple fact. If you see him in the hallways, he won't



say hello... Odds are that he'll probably shove you down or something. If Mr. Jeffrey saw a kid crying in the hallways, he would laugh. That's the kind of guy he is. This is why his spirit animal is the honey badger. His solitary nature and short tail give him the ability to adapt to any circumstance, and that he does. From being a Senior House Advisor to being a chemistry teacher to making me have to get up early to help with house pancake breakfast thus making me resentful enough to make a passive-aggressive blurb about him in Blazer, he does it all, so watch out.

### Mr. Terry Denstedt

Mr. Denstedt's spirit animal is clearly Mr. Denstedt. Even my father, who still thinks his name



is pronounced "Dunstert" agrees without a doubt. His small feminine frame and girly voice make it obvious that Denstedt is a Denstedt. When prowling the halls, The D makes sure he is noticed. T-Dizzle's large plumage and strutting nature are obvious when you look at him. His rare and luscious locks make him a large candidate for poaching, which makes it very little of a surprise that there are rumoured to only be a few left in the world. This also contributes to his savage nature (RIP Ilya Ulanov) and his seclusion in the SAS. Still, Denstedt has many redeeming qualities, like being an avid house music fan, and being a member of the Good Music Facebook Group.

**Anton Buksa: So chill. Russia: Sochi. Coincidence? Blazer thinks not.**

If we've offended you with this issue, we're sorry.  
 Please send all hatemail to [advancement@ucc.on.ca](mailto:advancement@ucc.on.ca)  
 if you want to join our team, email us too. -xoxo, BS

### A Revised UCC Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of IB;  
 To its feet thy mark bands bring.  
 IAs, TOK, and EE,  
 Evermore our praises sing:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Praise the everlasting thing.

Praise it for its absurd labour,  
 To our students in distress.  
 Praise it still the same as ever,  
 Swift to chide, and slow to bless.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Glorious in UCC's baitness.

Motherlike Beecroft spares us;  
 Well our schedule she knows.  
 In her hands she gently shows us,  
 When we go for period 4.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Widely yet her email flows.

Frail as Year 1s we flourish,  
 However our rest is slow;  
 But while many students perish  
 IB never lets us go,  
 Praise it, Praise it, Hallelujah  
 Praise the High Eternal One!

Angels, help us to abhor it;  
 We behold it face to face;  
 Sun and moon, bow down before it,  
 Dwellers all in time and space.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 All late homework are erased.

- To be adopted in the upcoming school year

Lost Email				
B	I	N	G	O
P	O	O	O	N
ALL CAPS	Elaborate story as to how it was lost	"Sorry for the mass email"	"Need it back for exams"	Transfers blame onto someone else
Greater than 10 spelling/grammar errors	"See photo attached"	Comic Sans	"Not sure where I left it"	"Left it on the oval"
Return to advisor (doesn't state advisor's name)	States \$ value of item	F R E E S P O T 	"Don't know where I lost it"	Sent over two months after item was initially lost
Less than 20 words	Update, item found.	Laptop	"Stolen"	"Sent from my iPhone. I'm blaming all type-os on Auto-correct :)"
URGENT	Overly descriptive	Overly vague	Awkward email thread beforehand	Sentimental Value

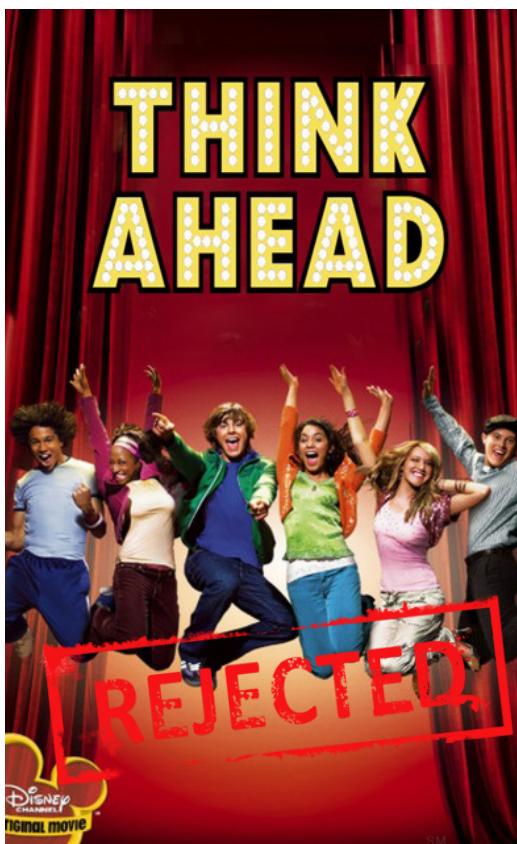
### Headlines

- UCC students begin getting into various Ivy League universities.... but did they get into Dal?
- Mr. Hutton kicked out of casino for playing the sorry card
- Blazer has 2009 Facebook status commented on; super embarrassing
- Josh Appel voted biggest beauty at UCC by Josh Appel
- Portfolio Steward candidates excited at the prospect of getting a head start at doing absolutely nothing
- Chris Taylor publishes Blazer and Convergence 2 weeks late, Blazer calls him out for it in a Headline
- List of things Jared Freedman cannot eat to be submitted as final EE
- Board of Stewards accomplishes something... just kidding
- College Times deadline turns out to be real; Leaving Class section of Yearbook empty
- UCC becomes famous in Australilia for "mad bangers", thousands of people apply for exchange program
- Did we write a mean Headline about Chris Taylor yet?

Blazer would like to #neknominate its Y1 mentee and Convergence. You have 24 hours. Good luck.

Since the guys in IB2 are sad that there's only a few more Blazer issues left, we're going to be adding an extra page for them. It'll take a bit more work, but what's the big deal? I'm not going into math anyway.

### Rejected Think Ahead Campaign Posters #richardmarazzi

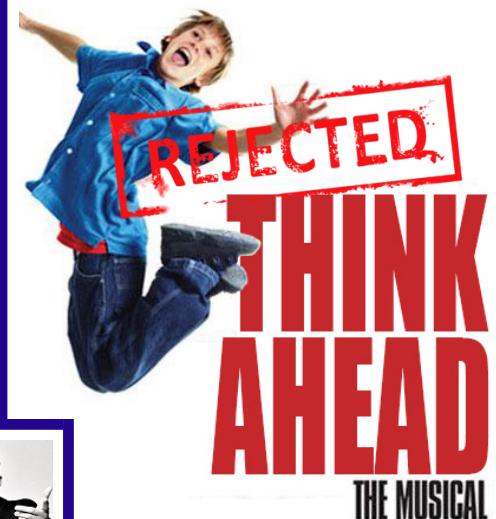


REASON: "Too racially diverse"

The Think Ahead campaign has been going on for a few years now, and Advancement is still using those floating-children posters to illustrate why UCC deserves more money to buy gravity machines. Before they settled on designs, many others were proposed. We've broken into the Advancement Office (they were on coffee break) and taken those that were rejected. Here they are:



REASON: "Not racially diverse enough."



REASON: "Sorry Billy Elliot, but IB Dance is not offered at UCC, so the ballet thing isn't gonna work out unless you want to start it as a club. Unfortunately, the two ideal faculty advisors, Mme. Lowndes and Mr. Verboom, are just too busy to do it."



REASON: "Anchorman only made 90 million dollars at the box office. We need 100 million dollars."



REASON: "All You Need is Love? Nah, all we need is donations to the Think Ahead campaign."