

CONVERGENCE

E-Sports: A Perspective For and a Perspective Against
CDEC GAMING

Economy and E-Sports: The New Giant on the Market

"Blues Spirit: What does it mean to me?"
- Zhengbang Zhou

How to Paint UCC Green for the 21st Century

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True West Review

CONVERGENCE

OVER COMMITTED AND OVER COMPLICATED

JOHN MACE

A&E EDITOR

I am probably the only student who was already attending a day of school at the College who saved the handouts given to prospective parents at this October's Open House for myself. With graphics brandishing lines such as "+60 Clubs and Student Organizations", "Two Diplomas Awarded: IB and OSSD" and "18 Different Sports", the school clearly seems like it has a lot to offer. But as is usually the case, these lines don't even scratch the surface of the school's history of trying to balance academics with co-curriculars.

It's important to state that there's an immense number of aspects to the school. Clubs, community service, athletics, visual art, theater and film, boarding and band; this is just naming some of what goes on outside the classroom. But how are students supposed to balance these commitments with tests, homework, lessons and other pulls of life? This question has been addressed many times before, the earliest of my records being Matthew Ye's "Unscrupulous Hijack" published in The Blue Page on Friday, November 28th 2014. Again in March of 2016, Mr. Webb reflects on the spiral of overcommitment students have descended into to increase their

appeal. It doesn't end. The front page of Convergence: May 2016 asks if all these commitments are pulling students away from the arts, into more "useful" activities. In hindsight, if we were to look back to Convergence: December 2014, we could have predicted this decline of interest in the arts through Head Boy Gabriel Birman article "The Anomaly", an incredible investigation on the reasons why enrollment in IB1 music fell to zero.

This isn't an old issue, and it's certainly not one that's going away; so why haven't we solved it already? We can't tell students to simply "do less stuff" to "have more time", because it's the students who end up doing "more stuff" are inevitably treated as more "well-rounded" and "more appealing". I have often been told by those overburdened by their extracurriculars that they didn't realize they've taken on too much until it was too late. This problem isn't unique to the College, as I am sure you know. But as UCC students, we have the respon-

sibility and the right to influence the school for our collective good.

Time management is a word I have often heard thrown around, yet if someone asked me to define it or illustrate how it has helped me, I wouldn't be able to. Time moves and we are forced to move with it, no matter if we are willing or prepared.

**WE CAN'T
TELL STUDENTS TO
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"If you run after two hares, you will catch neither", a proverb attributed to Latin writer Publilius Syrus, not only summarizes the notion of overcommitment, but also offers a sensible solution to the issue. I can sign up for twenty clubs, but I can't *join* twenty clubs; the effort I put forward to what I chose to do should stand with meaning. The day we learn to value commitment and perseverance through a qualitative perspective as opposed to a quantitative perspective is the day we solve the issue surrounding the harmony between a student's academic and co-curricular profiles.

PERSPECTIVE FOR E-SPORTS

As e-sports rise in popularity, it faces immense backlash from the public. Folks such as John Skipper, ESPN president believe, "It's not a sport – it's a competition ... I'm interested in doing real sports". Many denounce e-sports as a cover to play more video games but that's just not true. There are many e-sports tournaments and many are just as popular as traditional sports tournaments. Over 36 million people tuned in to last year's League of Legends (LoL) world championship finals. Even colleges have begun to take note of the higher viewership professional e-sport leagues. Schools such as UC Berkeley and Stanford have started e-sports teams that take part in tournaments.

Even governments view the players who

compete in e-sports competitions as athletes. Players in the LoL's League Championship Series receive a salary and bonuses just like all other professional athletes. This income flow disallows high level foreign players from using regular visas. Instead, the United States government grants these players P-1 visas. A P-1 visa is reserved for athletes such as Olympians who compete at the international level. By granting these visas, the American government acknowledges the players as international level athletes.

The broader North American public has only now begun to realize its significance. Even athletes such as Rick Fox, Shaquille O'Neal, and Alex Rodriguez have made significant investments in the e-sports industry.

MATI WAN
STAFF REPORTER

try. Despite this venture capitalism, North American infrastructure and culture still lag far behind. Countries such as China and Korea have embraced e-sports like any other sport. Korea has broadcasted it for over a decade now, and some such as LoL have eclipsed the viewership of traditional sports.

In the end, e-sports are not meant to be equal to sports or better than sports. E-sports instead aims to be an alternative that can be appreciated by a some who don't enjoy other activities. The proponents of e-sports are not asking that the world starts to revolve around e-sports but that we as athletes, as gamers, as people are not persecuted for doing what we enjoy.

THE PARASITE OF E-SPORTS AND GAMING

CHARLIE HUGHES

STAFF REPORTER

Zhengbang Zhou was elected athletics steward largely on a campaign of, humour aside, encouraging 1E-Sports; his platform was seen as a boon to gamers, and he was thus elected. How, one may ask, could pro-gaming influences have gotten so large? How could E-Sports and real sports be conflated like this? The first question is easier to answer: the popularity of gaming has increased rapidly because of computers and a lack of willpower. The gamers had become their own constituency, with serious effects on the steward-electoral process. The second question is more difficult. The gaming community, in general, is disenfranchised with sports – they favored their insular environment. This inward-looking group wanted to change the existing precedent of sports at UCC by including themselves and their own competitions (E-Sports); Zhengbang's platform was an outlet for this attitude. By bringing this issue to the mainstream, he revealed the blurred lines between athletic competition and gaming competition – both seemed to tentatively exist under the realm of 'sports'.

Now, most people see a great difference between real sports and E-Sports. One involves heavy active physical involvement,

whilst the other is largely passive entertainment. Reading this, I'm sure the hordes of gamers would be outraged ("E-Sports is very active, it requires extreme dexterity and coordination"). It's the quintessentially defensive gamer response – or more accurately, excuse. Their defensiveness is not unfounded – being in a state of denial can be difficult. Unfortunately for them, reality differs: gaming is simply an excuse for gamers not to do something better with their time, just as E-Sports is an excuse not to participate in real, athletic competitions. This wouldn't be a problem if this group was small and isolated, like it once was (let the dregs of society be content with their station, et cetera), but the gaming population has grown large and unchecked, like a promiscuous species. The rise in computers, especially at UCC where they are mandated, has only contributed to a massive increase in gaming. This upsurge has led to a decrease in athletics and academics, as students forsake sports teams and suffer a general loss in academic-productivity. Procrastination is facilitated with the mindlessly convenient excuse to game – or 'compete' in E-Sports (even worse: now gamers are amassing and institutionalizing their drivel).

Clearly, indolence and sloth are on the rise – is it any wonder why life expectan-

cy rates are unprecedentedly declining? Gaming has become a parasite that infiltrates the mind; the weak-willed succumb first, but everyone will eventually. It is an unprecedented experience: gamers can retreat into a totally imaginary world, safe from the cold, harsh reality of their pathetic lives. It's a vicious cycle: they retreat from the real-world; subsequently, their situation in the real-world worsens; then, they eventually ignore reality almost entirely, as it becomes a mere inconvenience to the fantastical illusions available in video games. E-Sports is the actualization of these fantastical worlds, and in a competitive environment. It only furthers this lazy spirit, offering an alternative to real competition and sports. It legitimizes the gaming movement and binds gamers together in one environment. UCC, as an institution, must recognize the parasite of gaming and E-Sports, and take steps, real steps, to eradicate this sordid and embarrassing phenomenon of modern society. Laziness should not be the defining feature of future generations. The best way to ensure this is to ban E-Sports at UCC, continuing the enduring spirit of, as JFK put it, doing things "not because they are easy, but because they are hard". We cannot allow this essential spirit of humanity to be eradicated under the vice of gaming, especially E-Sports.

SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS INVEST IN ESPORTS

JAMIE ONESCHUK

STAFF EDITOR

It's no secret that esports are incredibly popular. In 2014, the League of Legends World Championship sold out the 40,000 seat World Cup Stadium in Seoul, South Korea and boasted an online audience of more than 27 million, 11.5 million more viewers than the NBA final of the same year. Because esports is a relatively new industry, with the first video game tournament being held on October 19th, 1972, investors have been wary of investing in an undeveloping field. That is until now. Recently, the esports scene has seen an unprecedented surge in investors, who will hopefully help develop the scene into one that models traditional sports. The main reasons that investors have been so skeptical about investing in esports has to do with ownership of the league and how team owners make money.

In traditional sports leagues each team owns a share of the league and is able to send representatives to the board of governors, who im-

plement rules and regulations for the league. This system allows for the owners of each team to have control over the league they are playing in. In contrast, esports leagues are, for the most part, owned by the game developers. The teams do not have any share of the league itself. They merely own a spot in the league. As such, they have no say in the rules or receive any profit the league may gain. More importantly, the game developers have to balance the needs of competitive players with the needs of everyday casual players, meaning that decisions are often made in favour of casual play at the expense of competitive play.

Another main difference between esports and traditional sports is that in traditional sports the main source of revenue for teams is selling broadcasting rights. In the esports industry, however, the majority of viewers are watching games on various streaming sites such as Twitch or YouTube. This means that esports teams make the majority of their money off of sponsorships with companies like HTC, Geico, or Red Bull, as well as many

others. However, this model is not stable, as sponsors are attracted to teams that do well, so as soon as a top team starts to underperform, their main source of revenue is at risk of leaving them for another organization.

Despite the volatility of the industry, within the past year many large investors have joined the scene. One such investor is former NBA player Rick Fox who in December of 2015 purchased a spot in the North American League Championship Series, a spot valued at over a million dollars. This is not the only example of people and organizations from the sports world entering the esports scene. Ted Leonsis and Peter Guber, who own the Washington Capitals and the Golden State Warriors, have recently partnered with well-known esports giant Team Liquid. FC Schalke 04, the organization well known for their Bundesliga soccer team, purchased a European League Championship Series spot in early 2016. With the recent influx of investment into the esports scene, it is clear that esports will continue to rise in both prestige and popularity for years to come.

BLUES SPIRIT AND E-SPORTS

To start off, I want to pose a question. What defines "Blues Spirit"?

Of course the answers vary, but to me, it has always been a matter of conforming to "the most powerful form of peer pressure."

To be labelled as an active and supportive member of the Blue Army, one must attend the games of our varsity and non-varsity sports teams. That, to me, does not sound like spirit, but an imposed label patched onto every UCC boy—willingly or unwillingly. The hypocrisy extends further with turnouts similar to our varsity volleyball final at St. Mike's. However, this can be perfectly explainable if you apply the theory of democracy – the majority always wins. But I digress; the thesis of this article is by no intention to slander our magnificent and talented sports teams. However, it is to reflect on the minorities in our UCC community. Blues Spirit, to me, should represent the diversity on our campus.

From our Rubik's Cube club to our Fenc-

ing Club, the diversity of passions at UCC seems to excel even under the stress of the IB. One can consider succeeding and thriving in said clubs the same as striving in a sport at the College, but that mindset falls short when the passion is too hard to nourish within the confinements of a club's expenditure. With a few exceptions like Model UN and our debate team, there is often not a sufficient budget to enable a club competing in a wider environment. For instance, our Robotics Club has shown great potential, achieving extraordinary levels of recognition with its current members, however, the club still lacks the funding to actually engage in co-curricular competition.

When I was asked about the weaknesses of UCC by Mr. McKinney, I instinctively wrote down "history." Yes, you heard me. UCC compensates for the burden of its long history by behaving rather conservatively—sometimes not catering to our rather liberal student body. To further establish our prominence as a leading institution in North America, this careful and "risk-free"

ZHENGBANG ZHOU

SPORTS EDITOR

mindset needs to change. This year marks the establishment of the E-Sports Club. As a co-head, I experience the weight of conservatism firsthand. The restrictions placed upon us are at times unbearable. For our first school-wide tournament, we could not endorse it using the name of our club. Of course, at an institution like UCC, it is difficult to moderate the strong reactions that clubs like the E-Sports Club can elicit, however, the point is that the funding of clubs and scholarship is coming from alumni who support the same conservative ideology carried by UCC decades ago, and as long as that is the case, there will never be room for improvement or even change.

The real takeaway is this: when you all graduate and become alumni, would you be supportive of the brave and courageous young boys sitting in front of you with some crazy ideas that would completely contradict your belief? Because, to me, this is the true form of Blues Spirit, and it's in desperate need of nurturing.

THE ATOMIC ANT

FUELING THE GROWTH OF SOCCER IN TORONTO



JOEY RICHMOND AND KARMAN CHEEMA

STAFF REPORTERS

This past Tuesday, Toronto FC beat the Montreal Impact by an aggregate score of 7-5. In doing so, they captured their first Eastern Conference Championship and became the first ever Canadian team to secure a spot in the MLS Cup Final.

Indeed, for a long time, Toronto had one of the worst soccer franchises in all of Major League Soccer. Fans, originally few in numbers, lived through futility and hopelessness season after season, with absolutely no results coming their way. The club let go of its best players each year, and could not compete for the better part of a decade.

Everything changed in January 2015. TFC offered the largest contract in MLS history to a 5'4" back-up striker from the Italian club Juventus: Sebastian Giovinco. The Atomic Ant, as he has come to be known, has changed the landscape of

soccer in Toronto considerably, insofar as he has fueled, for many, a newfound sense of appreciation for the Beautiful Game. Not only has he catalyzed the rise of a sinkhole organisation, but the level of excitement that he brings with his elite level of play makes heads turn—heads that were previously indifferent about the sport. Though he has only been here for two years, one can already make the case that he is the most impactful Toronto athlete to ever play, and a success final will undoubtedly help substantiate that.

Giovinco was instrumental in ensuring that the Impact did not run away with their goal differential early on in the second leg, particularly through his set piece deliveries that led to two goals. Though he did not have his typical man of the match-worthy showing, he was a stabilizing force in a match that may define soccer in North America (outside of Mexico) for years to come. Canadian, and even American, soccer fans have never seen such exhilarating domestic play in

their own country, and the back-to-forth thriller that was the Conference Championship captured the kind of potential that soccer could have in this market. Often stigmatized as "soft" and full of embellishments, the sport's sway has not fully been realized; it's hard to deny, however, that the sport is growing at an unprecedented rate. The College's soccer program exemplifies this, as it has continued to improve throughout the years in all levels of play.

When Giovinco steps on the field on December 10th against the Seattle Sounders—a team that they are fully capable of defeating—you will regret not witnessing what will go down as the biggest Canadian soccer game in history (though if it's for exams, you're excused). This game can do to soccer what the Cubs breaking their 108-year drought did for baseball: for those who aren't fans, it may just reverse your passion and give credence to the claim that it is the Beautiful Game.

AN INTERVIEW WITH WINTER TEAM SPORTS

SHELDON STERN
STAFF REPORTER

**Varsity Basketball Captain
Jontahan Clinton**

Q: What's going to be the biggest Challenge to overcome this Season?

A: Our biggest challenge is that we have a completely new team. With ten new players and only four returning, A lot of people think that we won't do too well as a team, but I think that'll help us out due to a newfound thirst to win.

Q: What's your guys make or break factor over the other teams?

A: Make or break is our conditioning and heart / will to win. Those other teams don't wanna win as badly as we do. We work day in day out to be in the best shape possible to be able to out run every team and never stop. If we can do that we have a chance to win every game that we play.

Q: Is there a person in particular we should watch out for as a big difference maker this season?

A: I think everyone brings something different to the table that will be able to help out the team but I'll single out 3 people. Bahador Pourvakil; dude does not stop working on the rebounds and has amazing heart. Jonathan Wedgbury; our big man in the middle who does the dirty work, gets banged and bruised down low but is the core of our defence. Lastly, James McCutcheon; had a up and down season last year but worked hard over the summer and will hopefully have a breakout season this year.

Q: Are there any specific team goals for the season?

A: The team goal is always to win the league as well as every game

that we play. I think we all believe that we can do it is just gonna take some extra effort against teams like St. Mike's who we've been close to for 3 years in a row now. We need to push that extra bit further to make up for the lack of talent when comparing us to St. Mike's and Ridley.

Q: What's the number 1 thing this team has going for them this year?

A: We have great coaching that push us everyday: Heff, Tugman, Harnack and Lajeunesse are hard on us but know that we can be one of the best teams in Ontario and compete with the top teams. As well, we have a lot of fresh faces and a new perspective on varsity basketball. It's a different game compared to JV or U16 and they're not cocky and play for the team. Our team chemistry is amazing and we play for each other: not as individuals.

**Varsity Basketball Captain
Adam Sellan**

Q: What's going to be the biggest Challenge to overcome this Season?

A: The biggest challenge we will have to overcome this season will be building team chemistry. With only three returning players from last year, getting used to playing with everybody will take some time but once we get going I think we can be really good.

Q: What's your guys make or break factor over the other teams?

A: Our defense is definitely something that teams will be scared to go up against. Over the last few years the UCC basketball program has been very consistent in its defense, on average holding teams to under 60 points per game. I think that's something coach Hefernan and Harnack will really stress early on this year and will definitely help us down the road.

Q: Is there a person in particular we should watch out for as a big difference maker this season?

A: Bahador Pourvakil is definitely someone who has shown he can be an effective forward in this league. An IB1 playing who played on the U16B team and then the JV team and now varsity is a big jump in competition. Being only 6'1", to be successful and this season he will need to be quick on his feet, aggressive and consistent on both defense and offense.

James Yeretsian is an IB1 guard who knows his stuff. He has an extremely high basketball IQ, can stay composed in times of pressure and shoots the ball from deep with ease. He's definitely going to be a big difference maker when coming into this season.

Of course players like Jonathan Clinton and his incredible shooting abilities as well as Jonathan Wedgbury and his big body but soft hands inside are always going to be a difference maker in the team.

Q: Are there any specific team goals for the season?

A: Our team goal is to win CISAA and make it to OFSAA for the 2nd time in school history. We will be focusing on beating powerhouse teams like St. Mike's and Ridley.

Q: What's the number 1 thing this team has going for them this year?

A: The number one thing going for us this year is our dedication and work ethic. We don't have the most athletic, talented or skilled group of players but what we do have is passion. Everybody on the team is 100% dedicated to getting better and improving as a team and that is something that some others teams just don't have.

AN INTERVIEW WITH WINTER TEAM SPORTS (CONT.)



Varsity Hockey Captain: Elliott McDermott

Q: What's going to be the biggest Challenge to overcome this Season?

A: The biggest challenge we will face this year is injury. We will all need to keep healthy in order to be successful; we do well when everyone is contributing. We have introduced an in-season SAS schedule in hopes of preventing injury this year as well as a cool down and stretch after games for the same purpose. We hope that these adjustments will keep us healthy and therefore increase our chances for success this year.

Q: What's your guys make or break factor over the other teams?

A: Speed is our team's greatest attribute. We do not match up physically against other teams in our league, with an average height and weight of only 5'10" and 165lbs. Our make it or break it factor will come down to our ability to create offense out of speed in the neutral zone and especially in transition from defence to offense.

Q: Is there a person in particular we should watch out for as a big difference maker this season?

A: You should keep an eye open for #29, our goalie, Colby Muise. With our team only averaging two goals per game, Colby will play an important role of shutting the

door against highly-skilled teams with lots of firepower. Colby is a quick and agile goaltender with great reflexes and he lives for the chance to bail the boys out. He is very technically sound and keeps his rebounds to a minimum, limiting chances for the opposition. He will definitely be a key player for us this season and will greatly contribute to our success as a team.

Q: Are there any specific team goals for the season?

A: Five games into the regular season, we have proven to be a very competitive team in CISAA this year; going into the Christmas break tied for first with three wins and two ties. With the way we are currently playing, there is no reason for us not to believe we can win the CISAA title this year. This achievement, after the first league weekend, has become an attainable goal for us.

Q: What's the number 1 thing this team has going for them this year?

A: Our strongest asset is our team chemistry and I feel that it will play a huge role in our success this season especially in playoffs towards the end of the season. In the first quarter of our season, each player has proven to play for the guy next to them and for the crest on the front of the jersey rather than for the name on the back. We are a team comprised of selfless players, and I believe that this character

This year's Varsity Hockey team is picture on the left. They've won their first tournament of the year, the Barrow Tournament, for the sixth straight time. They faced opponents from Quebec and Ontario, winning the finals against Ridley College 4-1.

will bring us a long way this season.

Varsity Swimming, Captains: Jonathan Chu, Anthony Hua, Nathaniel Lee and Matthew Hwang

Q: What's going to be the biggest Challenge to overcome this Season?

A: Biggest challenge for everyone in the swim team is doing swimming faster than last year and beating their PBs.

Q: What's your guys make or break factor over the other teams?

A: UCC has a very strong swim team. In fact, it's probably one of the best sports teams at UCC. We not only dominate in CISAA, but also at OFSAA. Our success can be attributed to our swimmers' work ethic but also that of our coach. Having eight practices a week is something not many other teams have the privilege of having.

Q: Is there a person in particular we should watch out for as a big difference maker this season?

A: Jon Chu... haha! All jokes aside, there are a lot of up-and-coming swimmers in the younger grades and we're excited to see how they develop. In the end, everyone on the swim team makes a huge difference for the team. When scores are tallied up at the end of the meet, it's not just about that one person who swam well, but the team as a whole. As long as team spirit is high, we're happy.

AN INTERVIEW WITH WINTER TEAM SPORTS (CONT.)

Q: Are there any specific team goals for the season?

A: Hopefully we can win all 6 titles in CISAA this year, get a title in OFSAA and have fun!

Q: What's the number 1 thing this team has going for them this year?

A: Determination. I've never seen the pool packed with so many people this early in the season. It seems like everyone wants to win and crush SAC this year like we have done so many times before.

Varsity Squash, Captain: James Flynn

Q: What's going to be the biggest Challenge to overcome this Season?

A: The biggest challenge for the varsity squash team this season will be to get everyone out to all of the matches. Last year we had some struggles with this which lead to us needing some stellar performances to overcome this.

Q: What's your guys make or break factor over the other teams?

A: Our make or break factor this year is if our depth really turns out and makes a strong contribution. We have a really strong middle and back end of the lineup and if they have a strong performance I think we're in a really good place to have a successful year.

Q: Is there a person in particular we should watch out for as a big difference maker this season?

A: Griffin Manley, he's in year one and could be a really strong addition to our depth this year in the middle of the lineup. He could provide a good replacement for the departed legend Will Francis.

Q: Are there any specific team goals for the season?

A: To win the CISAA championship, as we have the last two years.

Q: What's the number 1 thing this team has going for them this year?

5. Our depth is the number one thing going for us this year and also some of our strong players up top. Overall, we have a very strong lineup and I'm looking forward to how the season goes.

2. Speed is our team's greatest attribute. We do not match up physically against other teams in our league, with an average height and weight of only 5'10" and 165lbs. Our make it or break it factor will come down to our ability to create offense out of speed in the neutral zone and especially in transition from defence to offense.

3. You should keep an eye open for #29, our goalie, Colby Muise. With our team only averaging two goals per game, Colby will play an im-

portant role of shutting the door against highly-skilled teams with lots of firepower. Colby is a quick and agile goaltender with great reflexes and he lives for the chance to bail the boys out. He is very technically sound and keeps his rebounds to a minimum, limiting chances for the opposition. He will definitely be a key player for us this season and will greatly contribute to our success as a team.

4. Five games into the regular season, we have proven to be a very competitive team in CISAA this year; going into the Christmas break tied for first with three wins and two ties. With the way we are currently playing, there is no reason for us not to believe we can win the CISAA title this year. This achievement, after the first league weekend, has become an attainable goal for us.

5. Our strongest asset is our team chemistry and I feel that it will play a huge role in our success this season especially in playoffs towards the end of the season. In the first quarter of our season, each player has proven to play for the guy next to them and for the crest on the front of the jersey rather than for the name on the back. We are a team comprised of selfless players, and I believe that this character will bring us a long way this season.

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GREEN SCHOOL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

KOHILAN PARAMAANANTHAM

STAFF REPORTER

In 2001, the College launched the "Green School for the 21st Century Campaign". The initiative included a multidisciplinary assessment that would evaluate "how the campus intersects with environmental systems and resources using the ecological footprint concept". This was followed by the assembly of a Centre for Environment and Sustainability which was comprised of four individuals of various titles with a common objective; to make UCC an environmentally conscious institution. Stephanie Foster, the previous Executive Director of the Centre for Environment and Sustainability, and her firm, "Fostering Sustainability", prided themselves in their ability to craft agents of change and imbed a culture of environmental empathy.

The firm has worked with the likes of Ridley College, Branksome Hall, and Holy Trinity School, where they have conducted similar programs and successfully implemented a number of initiatives. At UCC, since the inception of the Green School movement the school's campus has established a framework that displays a deep investment into an ecologically suitable model. However, a key component in the mission to design an ecocentric community remains absent within College. A culture of environmental stewardship. There is no department, environmental firm, or quantitative sum of money that can solve this issue; for the answer lies within the mindset of students and faculty of the College.

I look no further than the school's arena, displaying strong infrastructure and weak culture. The William Wilder Arena relies on a full range of energy reduction technologies such as the geothermal heating systems which lie beneath the Oval that provides 35-40% of the annual energy consumption. It is also equipped with Domestic Hot Water Conversion, Variable Frequency Drives, Occupancy Sensors, Energy Efficient Roof Replacements and Lighting Retrofits. The project has led to annual electricity savings of 1,322,999 Kilowatt Hours (kWh) and a CO₂ reduction of 1,273 tonnes. These renovations allowed the school to appeal for

assessment from the "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design". After dishing out a quarter of a million dollars to conduct the assessment, we were awarded with the highly prestigious gold-level LEED certification. Yet, just outside of this display of environmental gravitas lies the wasteland of student produced litter after the CISAA finals. The sight served as the perfect representation of the student's blatant disregard for environmentalism. Granted, the effort by many students in the early hours of the morning conducting a cleanup, provided me with a sense of hope in terms of what we are truly able to accomplish. So how do we give environmentalism at the College a fresh coat of green?

For an answer, I looked to the school's very own Green School club that draws an audience of around 8-10 students per meeting and the persistent sit-ins of a few concerned faculty members. The students address environmental concerns they see around the campus by systematically determining the most effective way to solve the problem. Everything from the infamous Boxed Water to our excessive use of disposable plates, utensils, and containers is considered. Though discontent is present, the lack of solutions simply causes this to brew over into frustration. Whether it be due to the capital interest of a certain foodservice conglomerate or some other governing power, the words of these students do not manage to escape the walls of their meeting room. Subsequently, I decided to sit down with Mr. Thuringer, the Director of Facilities at the College, to understand an administrative perspective. To my delight, his input displayed a sense of uniformity rather than polarity with the values expressed by the students. When pointing out the concerns the environmental committee was currently struggling with, we developed the thesis that dictates this article. Our environmental committee struggles to achieve double digit figures, and so long as it remains that way

there will be no desire from an administrative perspective to reconsider their agenda. We need to induce a whole generation of environmental advocates rather than a handful of them, and this begins through educating the youngest of minds.

Without this established mindset we will not be able to carry forth the necessary initiatives at the Upper School level. For example, "The Golden Broom" was a house competition that was run as part of the House Cup activates, in which the house that kept their locker room the tidyest and sorted their waste most effectively was rewarded with points. Though the school continues to falsely advertise this on our website, the competition was cancelled as a result of houses contaminating the garbage bins of their opponents and creating a mess each other's locker rooms. Though some may argue that this is simply "boys being boys" the premise dictates that these students have such little disregard for the impact our excessive waste production has on the planet that they would contaminant an entire garbage bin for the sake of a few house points. Here is where the importance of education interjects itself in the conversation. What if you were told that recycling one aluminum can saves the amount of energy that is equivalent to half that can filled with gasoline? Would that not change your outlook on the importance of recycling?

This transition and development of an expansive, ecocentric outlook will not happen overnight, but through deeply embedding the educational components of environmentalism into the curriculum of the highly receptive boys down in the prep, we will hopefully be able to hold a generation of students who truly do care, and will accordingly guide the Blues to new shades of green.

TRUE WEST

A SHORT LOOK AT UCC'S RECENT PRODUCTION

JOSH NEUFELDT

STAFF REPORTER

"So they take off after each other straight into an endless black prairie. The sun is just comin' down and they can feel the night on their backs. What they don't know is that each of 'em is afraid, see. Each one of separately thinks that he's the only one that's afraid. And they keep ridin' like that straight into the night. Not knowing. And the one who's chasin' doesn't know where the other one is taking him. And the one who's being chased doesn't know where he's going."

The quote which you just read comes from Sam Shepard's play True West. Recently, I was given the pleasure of watching the cast of UCC boys perform this play in the beautifully set Lecture Theatre. No doubt those of you who saw it were also quite impressed by the production, whether it was the talented acting of the four man cast, the obvious effort put into the set or even the lighting and sound design. Regardless of what stood out to you, True West was clearly one of the best UCC productions within the past few years.

What happens when the meek and mild man meets the brash and bold one? It almost seems like this overused theme found within modern satirical movies; where the two completely dissimilar men find themselves competing to earn the interest of a lady or impress the child often fails to convey the darker reality of such a situation. Sam Shepard, however, brings both realism, charm and tangible sadness to this age old concept. This is further aided by directors Ms. Levene and Ms. Crawford who have created an authentic experience for any viewer to connect with on an emotional level. See, the character of Austin (played by IB2 Theo Iordache) is just simple man. He has a wife, kids, walks the straight and narrow and lives the good life or even what some might call the American Dream. He's educated; a man of principle, belief and hope. He believes that the script he is writing is his Magnum Opus, his chance to be

in the sun. Success is well within reach. Yet, this is not to be as the return of his older and abusive (in every sense of the word) brother Lee (played by IB1 Devin Lee) shoves his dreams into the gutter, rends apart his life, and sends him into a downward spiral of insanity (and the formation of the world's largest toaster collection).

The opening act is a simple affair, yet it is undeniably effective. Character meets character, exposition is provided, some issue or tension arises and it ends on a tense note. Within the play, it's just a day, however, it feels like an eternity as Shepard builds the foundation, piece by piece, to create the perfect slippery slope for Austin. Lee is obviously to Austin's distaste (and his redneck lifestyle doesn't do much to redeem him). Whether he's drinking beer and throwing the can across the house, or smoking cigarettes indoors, Lee always finds a way to show his lack of civil culture. The main points of exposition are provided through both characters alternating views on what to do with their deadbeat dad. However, what stands out in the midst of this awkward and tense reunion is the comic relief; brilliantly presented by Charlie Hughes (IB1) Saul Kimmer. The hair, the fancy glasses, the corny baby-blue tux tells an entire backstory from the appearance alone. It's so believable that he would be the one to lead both brothers to ruin. He toys with their affections, praises the both of them and preys upon their naivety. He is the straw that breaks the camel's back, the little pebble that starts the boulder rolling toward the slope of doom.

Of course, we aren't done yet. The second act feature disaster as Austin spirals into mania. He, in a way becomes his brother, the one whom he despised at the beginning of the play. The quote from earlier? It's perfect. At this point, the brothers are the two fools in the dark with no clue where they are going. The first act he commits of motivated villainy is stealing toasters from just about every house in the neighbourhood. If you didn't go see it, you really should have gone to the effort just for

this little scene alone. It was quite the sight. With Austin getting drunk, making tens of pieces of toast and begging to go with Lee to the desert, all of what we see is his life in ruin. It would almost be comical if one didn't feel for the tragedy of this man's fate. But behold, a ray of hope comes through the nearly closed window with the return of the men's mother. You'd think that her appearance would dissuade them from their course of failure, and for a second, it almost seems that it will. But naturally, queue dramatic irony. With her precious house in shambles, the mother goes into a shock induced hallucination to such an extent that she believes that the painter Picasso is still alive. Saul is nowhere to be seen, Lee is drinking dozens of beers and Austin is, well being Austin, if only without quite the heart and soul he had at the beginning. It's a mess, but a brilliantly constructed one. Burned toast and broken plates lie upon the ground like the fragments of what was once their life. In the end, tensions run so high that Austin decides that strangling his brother with a telephone cable to be the final great solution to his problems; his demonstration of dominance. Although Lee doesn't die, all ties between the two brothers are severed. It's over and the play knows it. Curtains are dropped on the two stormy faced brothers, both of whom are ready to burn bridges and wield iron over the simplicity of a movie script.

All in all, True West was an extremely satisfying show to watch, and I'm very thankful to the theatre department for inviting me to come and do so. Although one might see glimpses of the magic that goes on in the occasional assembly presentation, it's a completely different thing to actually see the show with the lights off, the shiny (or not so shiny) costumes and the occasional squeak of sound from a moving chair. Therefore, I highly recommend attending at least one other theatre performance this year. It might just surprise you how really good a show like this can be.

BLAZER

WRITTEN BY PEOPLE WHO ARE
OVERWORKED, UNDER-SLEPT, AND
GENERALLY DEPRESSED
(THIS IS A CRY FOR HELP)

We told you that the Blazer would go downhill after the first issue, but in the end, after all was said and done, it actually turned out pretty bad, and thus we were correct in our prediction.

How to complete a Careers Assignment:

Aside from Theory of Knowledge and BTA, Careers is the most important course that you'll take during your time at UCC. Here at Blazer, we are exceptional at writing Careers assignments, so we figured we would spread some of our invaluable knowledge to all of our fans. If you're reading this, congratulations, you are one of our fans. You should not be proud.

Choosing a career path

Naviance is full of exciting things, including a database of depressing occupations that are perfect for you.

Whether it's beekeeper, plumber, or garbageman, you're sure to be overqualified for any job that's suggested. For the folks here at Blazer, we keep getting "Cyberbully" as our career path, but we can't figure out why... By the way, peep our headlines on page 2.

Now you are ready to start your first assignment!

Step 1: Your name

These days, only nerds put their real name at the top of their assignments. Feel free to swap that out for something nonsensical like your University Counsellor's name, the entire Bee Movie script, or "lick a bag". Putting your real name is more of a suggestion.

Step 2: Deleting difficult questions

Nobody knows why Careers assignments are 9000 pages long. After crying in your room for a while, go ahead and delete about half the pages on that bad boy. When confronted by your UC about it, plead ignorance and cite technological illiteracy. Be sure to pour juice on your laptop and throw it against a wall to cap off your ruse. This one works every time!

Step 3: Hire a Grade 5 to complete the assignment for you.

The best part about UCC is that there are plenty of fifth-graders. And yeah, we lied earlier: We don't know how to do Careers assignments, but we are really good at paying prep kids in tween-sized Heelys to do the work for us. These little guys are wizards; they get us at least 3/15 every time, which I think with the boost is somewhere around a 7-.



Final Step: Edit your work

After your Grade 5 completes your work, look over the thing in sheer disappointment. Don't worry about fixing those spelling and grammatical errors; they add character to the assignment!

**ROTI ROTI, NEVER MUCH LOVE WHEN WE
GO ROTI, I PRAY TO GET AN ISLAND
SODEY, I PRAY, I PRAY. ♫**

**IF YOU'VE BEEN TRIGGERED BY THIS ISSUE OF THE
BLAZER, WE'RE "SORRY". SEND ANY HATE-MAIL TO
TDENSTEDT@UCC.ON.CA **

ROTIS ARE BACK!!!!!

ROTIS are BACK baby and they're BETTER than ever! In CASE you missed the THOUSAND emails from Ms. Fulford, you can PREORDER ROTIS and Island Soda from the BLACK History Club NOW. ROTIIIIIIIS!

MESSAGE FROM THE UCO

Greetings students. Do you want to apply to Harvard? Well too bad! All Harvard applications will henceforth be forwarded to George Brown College because we know what's best for you.

In other news, we have embarked on a decade-long search to find the world's worst university.

GET WELL SOON, LUCA

Today, Luca Imbrogno grew a third hand while gesturing at a bowl of Aramark spaghetti. Just moments before the incident, eyewitnesses report that the young man experienced heart palpitations at the sight of processed parmigiano cheese. Luca is currently recovering in a large vat of bufala mozzarella at Il Fornello.



Blazer Staff starter pack



HEADLINES

- Mr Breton becomes TOK teacher: "How do we NO NO NO what we NO NO NO NO NO!"
- Olivier Mugabo's forehead to begin internship as solar panel.
- Thomas Hickman misinterprets the term "blackout period".
- Madame Gauthier smiles aggressively at potted plant.
- Students urged not to accept Facebook requests from suspicious man named David Hurwitz.
- Model UN vertical assembly video so cringeworthy that AV booth refuses to play it at first.
- Physics students discover new fundamental force that causes Elliot Fish's moustache to repel girls.
- School bans water bottle flipping after student tries to flip bottle onto Cynthia in the LD.
- Strategic planning meeting provides pizza and wings to make up for the fact that your opinions don't matter.
- Theo Iordache hits broadway! (peddling for rent money)
- Jacob Gotlieb forfeits semifinal round of spelling bee; word was ICUP.

NEGAN KILLS GLENN AND ABRAHAM