

→ CONVERGENCE ←

NEWS SECTION:

ENTITLED “ELITISTS”

THOUGH THE 30TH OMP HELD EARLIER THIS APRIL HAS BEEN DECLARED THE LAST EVER, NDP MPP CHERI DiNOVO HAS HEAPED FRESH SALT ON THE WOUND. CONVERGENCE INVESTIGATES HOW UNSUBSTANTIATED BRANDING OF OMP HAS SNOWBALLED INTO A BATTLE FOR VINDICATION.

PAGE 7 - NIKHIL KASSUM

THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR FALLEN



Photo Credit: BETTMANN/CORBIS

PAUL WEISER
SPORTS EDITOR

As Ms. Marshall announced in assembly the first day of EE week – IB1s you missed it, so read carefully – UCC has a new and exciting opportunity for history enthusiasts: that is, a trip over to the most influential Canadian battlefields of World War I, including Ypres, Passchendaele, Vimy Ridge, Amiens, and Canal du Nord. These historic settings are where Canadians made their profoundest mark, and also where UCC boys just like us fought their last battles. Students will “adopt” a UCC old

boy who perished in the war, learning about his life at the college and his course of service. The boys will visit the site of their adopted soldier’s final battle and his gravesite as a culminating event of the experience. The trip also includes a

"THESE HISTORIC SETTINGS ARE WHERE CANADIANS MADE THEIR PROFOUNDEST MARK"

24-hour excursion to Norval during April of 2016, in which the students will partake in a program simulating the life of a soldier (i.e. trenches). The inaugural trip is taking place in June 2016, and applications are due May 4, 2015. Those from Y2 to FY are eligible (sorry IB1s, you can stop reading now), and any boys interested are required to submit a research driven essay, short film, or short story to Haiku. There are 10-12 spots available.

UCC has an extensive history when it comes to World War I. Nearly 1100 UCC boys, faculty, and staff served overseas, with 178 boys perishing, all of whom are commemorated on a plaque

in the front foyer. With such a large group going over to support the war effort, there is undoubtedly a lasting effect on the college we all know and love today.

This all-expenses paid trip is occurring due to the generosity of the Cleghorn family, who, after having visited the battlefields themselves, thought that UCC boys had to have the same opportunity. Indeed, the Cleghorns have offered to support 5 years of educational trips, so if you have a younger brother in grade 5, he’ll be eligible to go... someday.

An experience like this one doesn’t come up every now and then. Through seeing the hallowed grounds of some of the greatest battlefields in history, you are sure to forge a connection with the Great War that you thought was never possible. Even better, by the end of the trip, you will find yourself with a stronger sense of school pride, truly understanding a facet of our college’s history, which most current students and Old Boys can never appreciate. While you can read all the books you want or watch all the movies you can find, you will never be able to understand the “War to End All Wars” like you would through taking advantage of this exclusive journey.

ISRAELI ELECTIONS



[top to bottom] PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU; LOGO OF LIKUD PARTY

Photo Credit: KOBI GIDEON

KAMRAN RAMJI
STAFF REPORTER

On March 17th Israel held its elections for the twentieth Knesset, or Israeli parliament, bringing the incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Likud party back into power. Their main rival is now the center-left Zionist Union led by Isaac Herzog and Tzipi Livni, the former Justice Minister. These elections saw the rise of Kulanu, a breakaway group from Likud led by Moshe Kahlon, and

the formation of the Joint List, formed by the major Arab parties after the electoral threshold was raised from 2% to 3.25%. Other right-wing groups apart from Mr. Netanyahu's Likud underperformed, with Yisrael Beiteinu led by Avigdor Lieberman losing seven seats, the Shas led by Aryeh Deri losing four seats, the Jewish Home led by Naftali Bennett losing four seats and United Torah Judaism (UTJ) led by Yaakov Litzman (which represents ultra-Orthodox Haredi Jewish communities) losing one seat. Meretz, the most vocal and left wing in the Israeli

peace camp, also lost one seat.

Likud now has twelve more seats in the Knesset than before. No political party has ever won a majority in Israeli electoral history, however, and it is up to President Reuven Rivlin to appoint the party leader who will form the governing coalition. Netanyahu has received support from Kulanu, the Jewish Home, Yisrael Beiteinu, Shas and UTJ in the nomination process – as opposed to Hertzog who only received support from Meretz – but this is no sure indication of who will join the eventual governing coalition. While far-right religious and nationalist parties traditionally side with Netanyahu (Shas, UTJ, Jewish Home and Israeli Beitenu), the only way for Netanyahu to secure a majority is to ally himself with one of the two centrist parties, Kulanu and Yesh Atid. The former is a breakaway group from Likud, and unlikely to join Likud in the governing coalition, and thus the real kingmaker of this election is centrist party Yesh Atid, led by Yair Lapid, whose ten seats would clinch a majority for Netanyahu's coalition.

The expense of Likud's victory, however, was a significant increase in the strain on Israeli relations with the United States and its Western European allies. In a newsletter distributed in synagogues on March 7th, a Likud leader said that Mr. Netanyahu had declared the Bar-Ilan speech (an address by the Israeli leader six years ago in which he stated his support for a demilitarized Palestinian state with full Israeli control of Jerusalem) null and void. The next day, when the Israeli press inquired as to whether or not Netanyahu was reversing his stance on the Palestinian question, Likud said that: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that in the situation that has been created in the Middle East, any area that will be cleared will be grabbed by radical Islam and the terror organizations supported by Iran. Therefore, there will be no withdrawals and no concessions. This thing is simply not relevant." Two days before the elections, when asked by the New York Times if a Palestinian state would not be established if he was elected Prime Minister, Mr. Netanyahu replied, 'Indeed'. Finally, there remains the question of the bill that triggered the dissolution of the Knesset, which would affirm that Israel the nation-state of the Jewish people, as opposed to the nation-state of its citizens, one-fifth of whom are not Jewish. The bill criticized for ignoring the communal rights of non-Jewish minority, and designating Hebrew as the sole official language – with Arabic receiving 'special status'. Supporters say that the inviolable nature of Israel as the Jewish state should be made a Basic Law (as this bill proposes), solidifying its Jewish character.

U.S. STRIKES NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN



[left to right] JOHN KERRY [U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE] SPEAKS WITH; MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF [IRANIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

Photo Credit: BRIAN SNYDER, AP

MATTHEW WANG

STAFF REPORTER

When Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu likened the Iranian regime to Nazi Germany, he did so with the utmost expectation that no middle ground was to be made with Iran and its nuclear programme. Fortunately, he was proved wrong in Lausanne, Switzerland. After eight straight days of nail-biting negotiations, the United States finally closed a nuclear deal with Iran. In exchange for relaxing international sanctions against Iran, Supreme Leader Khamenei has

agreed to redesign its nuclear focus away from producing weapons. Notable changes include the reduction of its 10 000 kilogram-large stockpile to 300 kilograms, as well as the storage of thousands of nuclear centrifuges, used to enrich uranium. Combined with strict inspections and production limits, the Iranian nuclear programme has been de-

militarised, for at least the next 15 years.

President Barack Obama has labelled the deal as a success. According to American sources, the stockpile has been neutralized to the point that creating a nuclear weapon would be "impossible". Furthermore, the Obama administration has stressed

that extremely intrusive and effective inspections will give the international community more information about any upcoming threats from Iran. Obama's headline response was, "if Iran cheats, the world will know it". Of course, the world power is hoping to negotiate further.

With 35 years of non-communication broken, the United States has large ambitions for creating a peaceful Middle East. While he will have a tough time with both Congress and the Republicans, he has

Tehran has responded with similar posi-

tivity; Iranian president Hassan Rouhani promised to mend relations with the United States, and he has delivered. The majority Iranian civilians have expressed their joy with the agreement, as simple consumer products become cheaper and more accessible with the new relaxed sanctions. Many hope for future talks between the two countries, and the benefits that stem from good relations.

Iran's Middle Eastern neighbours show mixed emotions. Many are happy that Iran's nuclear arsenal has been partly demilitarised, reducing the nuclear threat in the region. Yet, Israel is still concerned. Netanyahu has boldly stated that the final nuclear deal must include an "unambiguous Iranian recognition of Israel's right to exist". Iran still has a nuclear programme, which combined with its aspirations to "annihilate Israel", pose a major threat to Middle Eastern stability. The rest of the area is still on its toes, and only time can tell if this agreement will last.

"THE REST OF [THE MIDDLE EAST] IS STILL ON ITS TOES..."



Photo Credit: RAJBIR AHLUWALIA

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

ROWING

KAMRAN RAMJI
STAFF REPORTER

The UCC rowing team is looking forward to another great season, after having learned the importance of hard work (and its reward) last spring. Team captain John Marshall (IB2) says that Coach Boyd's teaching and training program is going to give the team an edge over British Columbia teams that have been able to row on the water all winter. While the crew never has any home regattas, they are looking forward to representing UCC, and displaying our school's tremendous commitment to the values of perseverance and dedication. The team's first regatta will be the Wesley Davids Memorial Championship Regatta in Columbus, Ohio later this April.

BADMINTON

TODD JOY
STAFF REPORTER

Through what I have seen at the varsity badminton tryouts and practice, I can already say that we have a very well-rounded team. There are a lot of talented athletes on the squad and everyone seems dedicated to the sport. My fellow teammates show great sportsmanship and camaraderie a sign that we're going to have a well-structured team. This paired with the unparalleled and devoted coaching of Mr. Mckell will not only allow the team to grow but also succeed together. All in all, I know we are going to have a fantastic season with many accomplishments to come.

TENNIS

KOMAHAN PARAMAANANTHAM
STAFF REPORTER

There are high hopes for UCC's varsity tennis team heading into the new season with the boys having won nine consecutive CISAA championships. The pressure is on coaches Poon, MacDougall, and Dawood (Class of '89) and the leadership of veterans Hayden Walker (IB2) and Connor Smith (IB2) to capture the double-digit winning streak. The team is especially looking forward to the big trip to Princeton, New Jersey (April 16-19), where they will be playing against the Lawrenceville School and Peddie School. Come out and support the boys at their first match first league match versus RSGC on Monday, April 27 at UCC.

RUGBY

ZACHARIE QUIVIGER
STAFF REPORTER

The varsity rugby team has the intention to make a lot of noise this year. After losing in the semi-final last year, it is hungrier than ever! Some returning players, such as Jack Stevens (IB2), Darren Elias (IB1) and Sam Caylor (IB1), will have a huge impact on the team. Another player to watch will be new boy Matthew Lapointe (IB1) who had a strong performance in the preseason scrimmage. The Blues are scheduled to play home regular season games on May 6th against Appleby and on May 9th against St-Andrew's College. Be there!

LACROSSE

JUSTIN LU
STAFF REPORTER

With spring finally upon us, it means that most athletes will finally be back on the turf practicing. Our very own UCC varsity lacrosse team has had a history of high-performance, especially within the very competitive independent school circuit. They have been working hard since early March in the bubble and have already competed in one tournament this year, the Jammer Classic, where they finished 2-1. SMC and SAC are two of the more prominent schools in CISAA, and UCC hopes to take them by storm this year. The Blues are looking to build off their 4th place finish at last year's OFSAA tournament behind top players Jon Tokiwa (IB2) and Jackson Suboch (IB2).

BASEBALL

ARJUN PASRICHA
STAFF REPORTER

When the varsity baseball season opens on April 25 with a doubleheader against Nichols School, the Blues will look to defend last year's CISAA title. Greg Marks (IB2), who is on the team for the fourth straight year, is just one of the eleven returning players who have the experience from last season's championship. The roster also includes exciting up and coming younger players, such as Josh Golden (Y2) and JC Chung (Y2). Coaches Badali and MacKay, who have both coached the team since the beginning, have high hopes for the season, and are looking forward to getting started soon.

CRICKET

AT UCC

BY: Josh Van Marken, Freelance Writer

Most Canadians grow up with sports like ice hockey, basketball and football. They play it as kids, watch it on TV and play it in school. But in other countries like England, Australia, India or South Africa, where I am from, we grow up with a sport that is lot different. We grow up with cricket.



Photo Credit: RAJBIR AHLUWALIA

Cricket could be compared to baseball, but is actually very different. Unlike sports like hockey and football, cricket is not based upon physical supremacy, but rather on technical skill, finesse and strategy. If you are a 300 pound guy who goes to the gym every day, you won't necessarily be better than some guy who weighs half as much. It may help you hit the ball harder, but that isn't what cricket is all about.

Cricket at UCC has a long history. Many people don't actually know that cricket was the first sport introduced at the school in 1829 and that the UCC 1st XI is the oldest official team in North America; even older than any professional team that plays in any major league on the continent. Also, the annual game between UCC 1st XI and the Toronto Cricket Club is the oldest annual fixture played in North America and is even older than the most prestigious and famous professional cricket series played between England and Australia known as

the Ashes.

Even with the sport's history at UCC, the nuances of the game are rather misunderstood. Cricket is a rather complicated sport. There is a lot of strategy involved and the captain of a team has a lot to think about in terms of different bowlers to select, fielding positions and the batting order. What is also interesting about the game is that it

"THE GAME IS AS MUCH A MENTAL BATTLE AS IT IS PHYSICAL."

can change at any time due to the extraordinary performance of a bowler, fielder or batsman and you may only know who is going to win in the very last moments.

Although it is a team game, one player can have huge impact. One good batsman can score as many runs as the other team's entire score and one bowler can get most of the other team out. These things can happen, but it is usually a collective effort of each player's individual performance playing in accordance with the Captain's strategy. Batsmen only work as pairs and can strategize on how aggressive or defensive they are going to be. They can discuss the opposition bowlers and assess their strengths and weaknesses and play accordingly, but when they are actually facing an incoming ball they must do everything on their own; they can't have another batsmen help them play a shot. The same goes for bowling, but they work very closely with the fielders. A fielder's positioning can have a huge impact on how many runs a batsman will score or if they will go out. If a fielder is 2 meters too much to the right he

could miss a catch that could cost them the game or the batsmen could play a shot to the boundary and score extra runs that could make a huge difference at the end of the match.



Photo Credit: RAJBIR AHLUWALIA

The game is as much a mental battle as it is physical. When batting it is all about quick reactions, keeping your mind clear of distractions and focusing on the incoming ball. Normally the opposition will attempt to break your concentration to get you out or try to get you frustrated by preventing you from scoring runs. In these situations, it's all about mental strength and trying to keep your composure. The same applies for bowling, if a batsmen is scoring too many runs off of you or if you can't get him out, you will get frustrated which will lead to sloppy bowling.

Hopefully, through reading this article you have discovered that there is more to cricket than meets the eye and the next time the UCC team is playing and you happen to be watching, you can enjoy the game even more.



Photo Credit: RAJBIR AHLUWALIA

FIGHTING POLITICS IN THE NAME OF POLITICS

NIKHIL KASSUM
FREELANCE WRITER

Ontario Model Parliament is one of the many conferences run by students at Upper Canada College and is held at the Queen's Park legislative building. OMP gives students across Ontario an opportunity to engage in provincial politics by running a simulation of parliament where students debate important issues in Ontario. This year, delegates participated in debate on the Age of Majority, Freedom of Information, Privatization of Public Assets and Educational Reform. As well, OMP has welcomed many important provincial figures, including Premier Wynne and the Hon. Lieutenant-Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell. OMP is a non-profit organization that is accessible to all students across Ontario including students at UCC.

On Tuesday April 21, 2015, MPP Cheri DiNovo spoke to the media about what she called an "elitist" tradition. She said she was "shocked" to learn that UCC had hosted a Model Parliament event at

Queens Park for 30 years. The representative of Parkdale-High Park continued to say that it was not right for "one of the most elite and expensive private schools" to be organizing OMP. Additionally, DiNovo claimed that Upper Canada College vetted every school which wished to attend and choose accordingly.

The story and comments from MPP DiNovo originally aired on the Canadian Press, and were subsequently picked up by other news outlets. The Toronto Star, CBC, and CTV all covered DiNovo's accusation, but the CBC was the only one to post an update on the story where they aired UCC's side of the story. This was followed by coverage from the National Post and then a press release from UCC's media team, containing comments from both students and teachers. The exchanges culminated in a non-biased article by the Globe and Mail which aired both sides of the story and the two opinions at play. Both the UCC Press Release and Globe and Mail article are reliable sources containing both sides of the story which students can check to find more information on this exchange.

Fortunately, MPP Dinovo's accusations

were misinformed as OMP is open to students from both private and public schools. In reality, more students enrolled in public schools attend OMP than students from private schools. As well, OMP waived the 70\$ fee for students who did not have the means to attend (all money went towards securing facilities integral towards the OMP experience, such as Hart House).

It is shocking to see a member of public office make such erroneous and misinformed comments. OMP is in no way "elitist" and provides kids with a unique opportunity to become informed about our province in an engaging environment. MPP DiNovo has claimed that OMP "vets schools" and decides on who can come and who cannot, which is not only very inaccurate, but slanders the hard work of UCC students who organize the conference. The students from multiple grades who organize the conference are trying to make a difference by helping create informed citizens within our province and they put countless hours into making that happen. It is, quite frankly, sad for an MPP to defame the hard work of these students in attempt to start a pseudo class war and gain cheap political support.

YEAR IN REVIEW



[Counterclockwise from top right] SENIOR JAZZ ENSEMBLE ON JAZZ NIGHT; MOTHER-SON PLAY; STREET CORNER IN MANHATTAN

Photo Credit: RAJBIR AHLUWALIA

GABRIEL BIRMAN
A&E EDITOR

MARCH 25TH

MOTHER-SON PLAY

With all the talk of the father-daughter dance and other social functions that cater to that specific demographic, it's not often you would hear the term mother-son tossed around in reference to a UCC event. Well the ABC (Arts Booster Club) decided to change that by hosting its own mother-son play in the David Chu. The night began with an Indian cuisine buffet catered by Banjara, which required a rather lavish set-up in itself. Then, everyone was ushered in to watch a special showing of Ravi Jain's ('99) *A Brimful of Asha*, which rather fittingly featured Ravi and his mother Asha. The play centred around the story of Ravi's visit to India and his parents' attempt at arranging a marriage for him. The eccentric storyline and Asha's astute interjections made for a hilarious showing of the play, which has been put on all over the country. The evening was concluded with Indian desserts and a candy bar. All in all, a great start for mother-son events at UCC!

APRIL 9TH
NUIT BLEUE

Arguably UCC's biggest Arts event, Nuit Bleue hosted a variety of events this year, ranging from a French language café, to an art display, to a mock debate, to movie screenings in the film room – all topped off with delicious snacks and refreshments as well as ice cream provided by Greg's. This was a showcase of all the artistic talent the school has to offer, and is a must see, if only to support your fellow peers with their endeavours. So if you didn't get a chance to come out this year, do so for the next!

APRIL 12TH
REACH FOR THE TOP
+
CHESS TOURNAMENT @ UTS

In what Andrew Irwin has labelled "the most UTS thing ever", a reach for the top and chess tournament were both held on the same day at UTS. For those of you who don't know what Reach for the Top is, it's essentially a form of trivia that is played in Canada. UCC's core team members who participated in the tournament comprised Jack van Nostrand, Elliott Birman, Andrew Irwin, and Gabriel Birman, with substitutes Matthew Wang and Zach Nathan helping out along the way. Unfortunately, the UCC team lost in a close game to Woburn C.I in the semifinals, going on to take 3rd place after proving victorious against White Oaks SS from Oakville for the second time in the tournament. This tournament served as a good preparation for provincials, which UCC qualified for about a month ago alongside UTS. It will be held May 10th at University of Toronto Scarborough. The Chess team also performed very well, with several members going on to provincials as well.

APRIL 16TH-19TH
MUSIC TRIP TO NYC

The members of the Senior Jazz and Wind Ensemble got the opportunity to play in New York City at a music festival and to experience a variety of music-related events in the city (apart from a Mets game). Such events included a musical tour of the city, a tribute to Joe Temperley at the Lincoln Center featuring Wynton Marsalis, and a viewing of *An American in Paris* on Broadway. As for the Music Festival, both ensembles received a Gold award, and UCC took home a sweepstakes trophy, meaning that our school had received the highest point total of any participating school. The trip was quite an experience – and was definitely

worth the 20 hours worth of travel time on the bus.

APRIL 23RD-25TH
ANTIGONE

The UCC student-directed production this year was a version of Sophocles' *Antigone*, translated by Seamus Heaney. Performed beautifully by actors from both UCC and BSS, it truly was a gripping re-enactment.

At the play's start, a fight between Eteocles (Connor Wilkinson) and Polyneices (Andrew Barron) over control of the city, choreographed by Simon Fon, instantly captivated the audience and paved the way for the rest of the story to unfold. Upon ascending to the throne, Creon (David Cash) issues an edict forbidding the burial of Polyneices. However, Creon shortly finds out things will not go his way when Polyneices' sister, his niece Antigone (Sian Lathrop), defies this edict. (For those of you wondering how his niece is also his sister, know that Antigone is the daughter of Oedipus – notorious for his incestuous fate). Antigone is punished with death despite her engagement to Creon's son, Haemon (Jeff Collins). She is sealed in a cave and left to die – upon Creon's repentance, it's already too late: Antigone's death is followed swiftly by Haemon and Creon's wife, Eurydice (Melissa Taylor). The play ends with Creon's isolation and realization that he is broken and alone.

A special note has to be made for one of the show's makeup artists, Kate Urquhart, who stood in as a replacement for one of the Chorus members in Saturday's matinée performance. Only having less than two days to learn all her lines and blocking, Kate really rises to the occasion and delivers a powerful performance.

In addition, the technical prowess of the show's tech directors: Imran Jessa, Ernest Leung, and Jordan Young only serve to enhance the show. The lighting and sound was impressive and really focuses on the little specific details as well as the bigger picture. As a modern-dress production, the costumes were well put together and gives the audience all the more reason to buy into the show. The set, beautifully designed by Mark Bastow, Chris Tully, and Tyler van der Velden, was very impressive. From lowering the front portion of the stage, to building a set of giant steel doors, the set allows you to travel back through time to the city of Thebes.

Director Chris Tully has put together an amazing production with a clear vision, smooth transitions, and effective cast and crew cohesion. Produced by Dr. Churchward, this show went all out and sets a new standard for future student directors of UCC to match.