

# → CONVERGENCE ←

Nov 2013 - Volume XIV, Issue III

**MODEL U.N.** THURSDAYS  
3-5 HOURS  
HONOURS

54.5% 43.5% 22% 13.5%

**DEBATE** THURSDAYS  
3-5 HOURS  
HONOURS

54.5% 22% 22.8%

**HOCKEY** THURSDAYS  
3-5 HOURS  
FORWARD

54.5% 22% 22.8%

## WHO CARES ABOUT ACADEMICS?

PAGE 2  
SACHIN  
PASRICHA

**ACADEMICS** ???????  
???  
???

???? ???? N/A





## ACADEMICS TAKE A BACK SEAT

SACHIN PASRICHA - NEWS EDITOR

*Mom: What did you do today?*

*Son: Well, I started the day in Wind Ensemble. I also wrote a Convergence article and went to Horizons. The day ended with football practice.*

*Mom: What about school? Did you learn anything?*

*Son: No, I don't have any tests or assignments coming up.*

The year 2014 will mark 185 years since UCC was founded in 1829. Since then, society has changed tremendously as has the school. The college has gone through various stages of history and moved in different directions over the years. The question which lies in front of us today is: What direction is UCC currently moving in?

The first aspect of the school that comes to mind when the direction of the school is considered is the Think Ahead Campaign. By definition, this campaign is looking at the future of the college. As announced at this year's Association Day, the biggest donor to the campaign was Stu Lang who donated \$11 million dollars. In relation to Stu Lang came the Lang Scholarship which is awarded to students who embody the characteristics that Stu Lang believed to be important for a UCC boy. The award puts particular emphasis on

school leadership and commitment to athletics, in addition to some focus on academics.

On a somewhat related note, this year on November 6, the Blue Army went to Aurora to support the Varsity Soccer and Football teams in their CISAA championships. So in addition to the sixty boys on the teams, fifty other (mainly IB) boys also missed a day (or half-day) of class in support of athletics.

Recently, we had our fall term athletics assembly which is the first of the three sports-dedicated assemblies of the year. Though the fall, winter and spring athletics assemblies are dedicated to athletics, other assemblies, particularly the Association Day, Winterfest, May Day and pre-CISAA championship assemblies also seem to have a particular focus on athletics.

Piecing all of this together would suggest that UCC is moving in the direction of being an athletically-driven school with a heavy focus of its resources being used on sports and recruitment. Yet, other fall events put together a different side of the story.

The arts at the school have also held a significant presence over the fall term. Iceland,

put on by old boy Ravi Jain, and Faith Healer, the fall play to be performed later this week, have dominated the theatre front. The bands showcased their talents at the Fall Music Night while Senior Jazz and Wind Ensemble have also performed in assemblies such as the Halloween Assembly or Prize Day. UCC's film department continues to have an ever so important role in the school with films being produced by students and shown in assembly nearly every two weeks. In addition, Patrick Lee's Existence gained much attraction near the end of the 2012-13 school year. With regards to the Visual Arts, there continue to be showcases of the work produced by students, most notably the IB showcase which annually occurs in March.

Yet, school success doesn't stop after the arts and athletics. UCC clubs are also an important part of school life which represent the school well to the rest of society. The Model United Nations team placed in the top 25 teams in the world last year after beating the top-ranked school in New York. This year, they started the year by hosting their own conference of over 400 students and coming 1st place at SSUNS in Montreal. The debate team too has had success with John Lutz, Christopher Taylor, and Elliot Kaufman com-

CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR - **EDITOR IN CHIEF**

SACHIN PASRICHA - **NEWS EDITOR**

ELLIOT KAUFMAN - **INTERNATIONAL EDITOR**

JARED FREEDMAN - **NATIONAL EDITOR**

JONATHAN GOLDBERG - **SPORTS EDITOR**

DAVID CASH - **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR**

DEREK LAM - **LAYOUT EDITOR**

CHRISTOPHER TULLY - **PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR**

MICHAEL PUSIC - **SECRETARY**

MR. MARSHALL WEBB - **FACULTY ADVISOR**

ing second, third and fourth respectively at October's McGill tournament. As announced in assembly, James Lutz ventured to Beijing for an international Chinese linguistics and literacy tournament where he and his Calgary partner placed first among 80 teams. Horizons continues to be an aspect of school life which an astounding number of students participate in and contribute too. The E-Club wing sales have also become a charitable tradition.

Putting all this together, can it be concluded that UCC students are simply succeeding across the board? How does this information help us answer the question of what direction the school is moving in? Do successful athletics, arts and clubs (including service-based clubs) cover all aspects of school life?

The one area of school life which is not mentioned above is the school itself, the academics. The administration, students and faculty, over the last decade, has taken the focus of the UCC experience away from the original purpose of school - the academics.

It seems that in our focus to achieve greatness in co-curricula, whether that be through sports, the arts or clubs, the importance of academics has been minimized. This is not to say that students are not doing well academically. However, with regards to academics, we tend to focus on the summative (i.e. marked) aspects of courses rather than having a joy or love for learning. On the other hand, with regards to co-curricular activities, it seems students genuinely love this aspect of their life.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the college is moving in the direction of being a school focused on co-curricular life that emphasizes academics only with regards to marks. Though this may not have been the intention of students, faculty or the administration, it is a reality of circumstance.

While this is occurring at UCC, it is also important to recognize that UCC is not alone in this focus on co-curricular activities. Like we often miss school for soccer games or DECA, other schools do this to some extent too (perhaps a slightly lesser extent). Therefore, it must be acknowledged that our situation is simply a slight exaggeration of the current direction of Ontario secondary school education in general.

Well, what are the implications of this shift towards co-curricular based education?

Upon initial thought, it should be recognized that with a heavy focus of the school going to co-curricular activities, students miss a significant number of classes and more importantly, they have a relaxed attitude about missing a class. This puts the teachers in a difficult situation because with different students gone each class, covering all the necessary material becomes difficult. In addition, the increase in missed class time puts stress on teachers with regards to when tests can occur. After all, assigning a test on a day with half the class absent is pointless.

Furthermore, when high school students enter university, there tends to be a clear shift in the focus of their life. Because of the workload, students become more focused on academics thus tone down on the co-curricula. In addition, because students get a wide variety of programs to choose from, they usually enjoy what they are studying more in post-secondary education than with secondary education. This explanation would suggest that this focus on co-curricular activities at UCC has a negative impact on the post-secondary success of our boys.

Alternatively, it can be argued that career success is not determined by the success in a classroom thus this movement away from the academics is valuable. This viewpoint would suggest that the skills and characteristics developed through co-curricular activities are far superior in the real world than the knowledge gained through academia.

In addition, it should be recognized that while academics are important, it is the co-curricular successes of the boys at the college that bring recognition to UCC on provincial, national and sometimes even international levels. Therefore, such activities, rather than a focus on academia, are essential for sustaining and building upon the renowned reputation of the college.

In conclusion, it cannot be determined whether such a shift is positive or negative as there are numerous stakeholders in the situation. However, the past few years and in particular the past few months have shown a shift in the mentality of the students, faculty and administration of UCC: Academics is no longer the primary focus of our education. The primary focus is the co-curricular program and the character development that occurs as a result of it.



## THE BLACKOUT WEEK: IS IT A GOOD IDEA?

ELLIOT BIRMAN - STAFF REPORTER

For decades, wintertime in Canada has been associated with Christmas (and other religiously affiliated holidays!). At UCC, wintertime means one thing, and one thing only. Exams.

Exams are meant for students to showcase their knowledge. Somehow, the notions of anxiety, stress, and fatigue were eluded when exams were created. Students, already inundated by copious amounts of summative assessments, are burdened with finals. Luckily, they attend UCC. The school provides much support to students who fear--or choose not to succumb to fear--with imminent exams. One of the school's new initiatives is the "blackout week": a week prior to review week when all assessments are forbidden. This 'extra week' endeavours to provide students a period of comfort, an additional week to mentally and physically prepare for the upcoming exams. It also creates hell. As a result of the additional 'review' week, there is a smaller window for teachers to assess students. What ensues is a final week of 'actual school', in which the extent of tests teases one's sanity. A hyperbole, sure, but it doesn't seem like it when morning is the only thing that keeps students awake.

What is better: tests spread out over two weeks or a "blackout week"? Both options have their pros, and, naturally, their cons. Nothing's perfect. Yet there are things that are better than others, as is the case in this scenario.

On one hand, there is the option of having assessments dispersed over a two-week period. There is still a fair amount of work, but not unreasonable, at least for IB patriots. And while having assessments spread out across two weeks reduces stress levels, there is little time to recu-

perate. Exams appear like wasps at the scent of glucose. Students fraught with joy are met with a hard reality: exams are in less than a week.

**A HYPERBOLE, SURE,  
BUT ID DOESN'T SEEM LIKE  
IT WHEN MORNING IS THE  
ONLY THING THAT KEEPS  
STUDENTS AWAKE.**

On the other hand, there is the option of having a tormenting week of injustice, succeeded by a week of unperturbed bliss (relative to the preceding week). After the hell-week, apprehension towards the lurking exams is still present, but, hopefully, it is alleviated.

Although neither is the optimal scenario, students have to make lemonade. One option will naturally appeal more to certain students, and the other to others. Which do you prefer? Let your teachers know, let the administration know and let Convergence know.



## THE NEW CAS SYSTEM - A RESPONSE

CRAIG PARKINSON  
FREELANCE WRITER

Last month, Convergence published a cover story about CAS and its new direction. I am happy students are taking an interest in the CAS program and fully support critical analysis - when it is well-informed criticism.

UCC's decision to move away from "hour counting" is not arbitrary. It is a necessary step to align UCC with IB guidelines, standards and best practice. According to the IB Creativity, Action, Service Guide (2008: 6), "Hour counting...is not encouraged". A more recent IB document entitled Creativity, Action, Service Curriculum Review Report (2013: 12) goes even further to state, "counting the number of CAS hours defeats the purpose of CAS, which is to enhance students' personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning". As such, 'hour counting' is actually in contravention of IB Diploma Program policy.

The IB Creativity, Action, Service Guide (2008: 6) points to CAS learning outcomes, not the accumulation of hours, as being of primary importance and declares that "this focus on learning outcomes emphasizes that it is the quality of a CAS activity (its contribution to the student's development) that is of most importance". To me, the very concept of hour counting goes against the overall purpose and intent of CAS. I want to see all UCC boys grow into men with strong character who value helping others as well as their own personal growth and learning - not individuals who count down the minutes until they no longer have to help out those in need or who think they have already reached their full potential.

# TYPHOON HAIYAN: THE PERFECT STORM

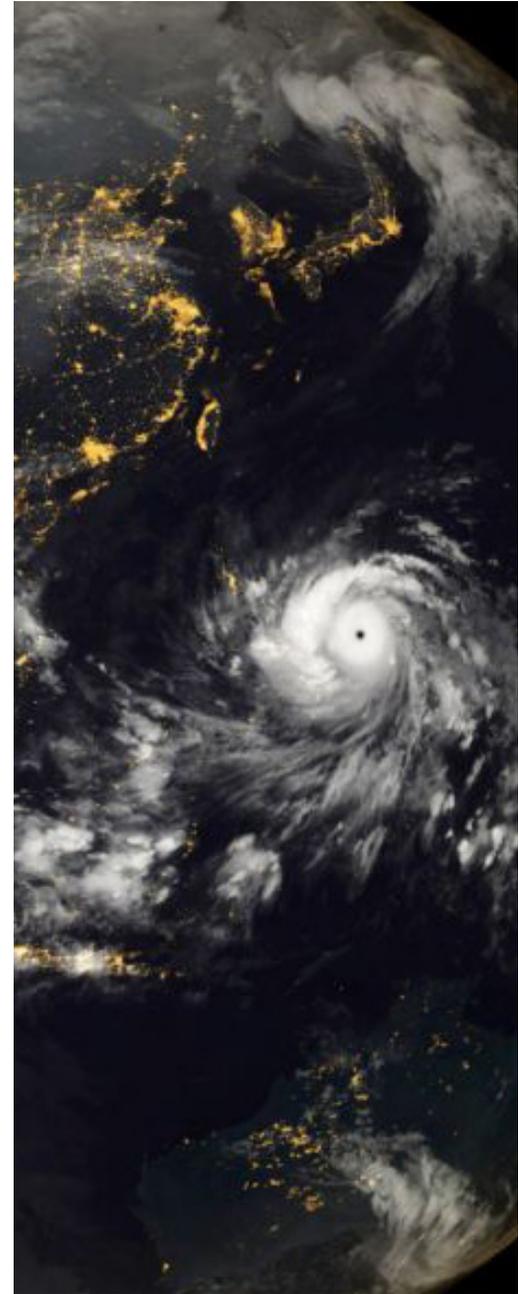
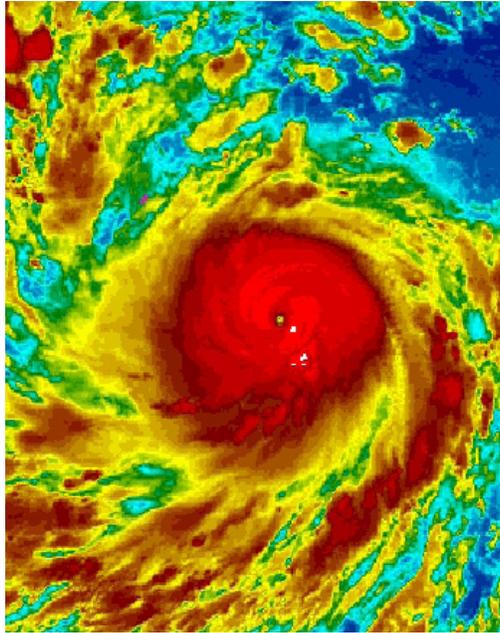
LOGAN YE - STAFF REPORTER

On November 7th, 2013, one of the strongest typhoons in the satellite age struck the Philippines. In the following hours, typhoon Haiyan would plow through the country, causing damage to infrastructure and life alike. To understand how such a powerful storm could form, we must first take a look at the origins of the storm.

Typhoon Haiyan first originated on in a low-pressure zone above the Pacific Ocean. Although it built slowly at first, the storm had officially surpassed the threshold of typhoon by November 5th. Continuing to intensify, the eye of the storm would strike the Philippines with record-breaking strength and wind speeds. Although still speculative, a growing body of evidence suggests that the unprecedented power of the storm is related to the warming of the oceans - the temporal difference between the warm oceans and the cool atmosphere is a key factor in typhoon formation.

Flash forward to after the devastating storm, and the impact is nothing short of horrific. Damage reports are still flooding in, but it is believed that approximately 1.9 million people have been displaced by the storm, and approximately 4,000 people have died. Although many nations and NGOs have pledged funds and donations to relief, China has notably only donated \$100,000 to the relief effort.

The greatest impediment to the ongoing relief operations is the insufficient Filipino infrastructure. The strong winds and rain left most of the already lacking roads in completely unusable condition. This has prevented the influx of food and other vital resources from reaching the areas where they are needed most. Even the helicopters that can reach deep into the mainland are faced with challenges. The starving and frustrated inhabitants of these areas regularly mob the relief choppers, or attack each other for the scarce resources. Although tragic, this is understandable, as the densely populated areas have gone without food or water for many days. Along with these



Clockwise from top left:  
Typhoon Haiyan as seen by false coloring satellite,  
Typhoon Haiyan actual satellite imagery, Extent of damage

issues, humanitarian officials have not yet found an effective way to deliver basic medical aid to the inner parts of the country. However, roads are becoming more usable and some communities are showing promising signs of recovery.

In the following months, and perhaps years, aid will continue pouring into the affected areas, and we can only hope that the Filipinos can overcome this tragedy.

## THE WORLD THIS MONTH

MICHAEL PUSIC - STAFF REPORTER



### USA: MICHELLE BACHELET POISED TO WIN CHILEAN PRESIDENCY

Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet won 47 percent of the vote in the first round of the country's presidential race, putting her well in the lead but falling short of the 50 percent needed to win outright. Bachelet seeks to enact sweeping left-wing reforms in the country's political and economic system. Last year Chile switched from a compulsory voting system to a voluntary one, so while Bachelet carries a significant lead in the polls, voter turnout is expected to be significantly lower than in previous elections.



### USA: TORNADOES DEVASTATE MIDWESTERN STATES

As many as 77 Tornadoes levelled homes and shredded trees as they passed through densely populated areas in Illinois. At least six people have been killed this week, dozens have been injured, and just under a hundred thousand are still without power. Members of The National Guard and The Red Cross have been dispatched to help those in need, but this appears to be just the beginning of the tornado season.

### USA: DORIS LESSING PASSES AWAY @ 94

On November 17th, Nobel Prize winning author Doris Lessing passed away in London, England. Ms. Lessing's books tackled everything from gender politics to the workings

of the psyche as she wrote on the dispossession of Africans in the 50s and 60s. It was her novel "The Golden Notebook" that brought her international recognition and eventually won her the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2007.



### EGYPT: 30 DEAD IN RAILWAY ACCIDENT

According to the Egyptian Health Ministry, at least 30 people were killed and 28 were wounded on Monday when a train collided with a mini-bus just south of Cairo. This event follows the death of 17 people in the derailment of another train in January, and the death of 47 children when a train crashed into a school bus in November of last year. Egypt's lack of regulation surrounding their railroads has sparked

## HE SAID WHAT?! MATCH THE QUOTES.

ELLIOT KAUFMAN  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

YEAH, I REGRET WE WEREN'T ON A HIGHER **FLOOR.**

**MIKE TYSON**

WHEN YOU'RE RICH, YOU DON'T WRITE CHECKS. ... STRAIGHT CASH, **HONEY.**

**RANDY MOSS**  
NFL Free Agent

HE CALLED ME A 'RAPIST' AND A 'RECLUSE.' I'M NOT A **RECLUSE.**

**CHUCK BARKLEY**  
On tossing a guy out of a first floor window



Agreement at last? U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry shakes hands with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif

## IRAN: THE END OF AN ERA

WILDER WALKER-STEWART - STAFF REPORTER

Has it happened? Has the threat of a nuclear-free Iran finally subsided? According to the leaders of the worlds, the answer is finally yes. After several months of secret negotiations, a group of diplomats from the nations known as the P5+1 (the United States, the UK, Russia, China, France and Germany) unveiled an agreement that would curb Iran's nuclear program for 6 months, after which a new more comprehensive plan will be agreed upon.

At face value, this appears to be a positive deal for both sides. The West obtains Iran's commitment to stop enriching its uranium to medium-grade (20%) purity, at which point can easily be enriched into material of nuclear weapons-grade. Iran also promises to neutralise all uranium enriched beyond 5%. Additionally, nuclear inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency are now promised full access to the Natanz and Fordo sites. Iran gains sanction relief of over 7 billion dollars as well as increased legitimacy in Western diplomatic circles. Seen from this light, both parties appear to win enormous victories on

issues important to them.

### ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU CALLED THE DEAL A "HISTORIC MISTAKE"

But is this deal substantial enough to "stop Iranian nuclear ambitions", as President Obama declared? On his part, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the deal a "historic mistake", saying that this deal merely strengthens Iranian influence in the region. The agreement is, after all, temporary, and is merely designed for as a stopgap measure for a more comprehensive agreement that, in theory, should be finalized within the six month period. A worrying detail about this deal is that Iranian president Hassan Rouhani, claims that Iran can still continue its enrichment program, whereas Western leaders have firmly rebutted this idea, claiming that no such enrichment will take place. So far, both parties have agreed to disagree.

A big reason why these conflicting messages are allowed to simultaneously exist is that the accord is specific, and thus will be of little consequence to both sides

– potentially negating the effectiveness of the deal. The West is only lifting sanctions worth \$7 billion, which is nothing compared to their total worth of over \$100 billion. Iran is only allowing daily inspections in 2 of its 4 nuclear sites – a rather large loophole – and still is allowed to enrich uranium, just not to nuclear warhead levels. The limitations of both concessions should be kept in mind when examining this agreement.

However, small the concessions may be, the critical point to make about this deal is that it occurred in the first place. These negotiations have come after years of open antagonism between Iran and the West, particularly with the United States, which under President George W. Bush dubbed the nation a member of so-called 'Axis of Evil'. Under the Obama administration, which has vowed to press the 'reset' button with relations with Iran, a concerted effort has been used to gather diplomatic support for a peaceful solution, with a success particularly evident in the support of traditionally non-interventionist nations China and Russia. The leaders of the world deserve credit for starting the process of defusing the nuclear ambitions of Iran. This agreement is hardly a workable solution, but definitely seems like the beginning to



Struggling for validation on the national stage: Trudeau poses in front of Parliament for a photo.

## FAMILIAR NAME WITH A NEW FACE

LUCAS CUSIMANO - STAFF REPORTER

A familiar name in Canadian politics is re-emerging: Trudeau. After his success in the Liberal Party leadership convention, Canadian citizens must question whether Justin Trudeau can live up to his father's legacy. Does he have any substance? He won the Liberal leadership race in 2013 with a staggering 80% of the vote. A flopping ad campaign and some exposing political gaffes have left people reconsidering their wholehearted acceptance of the Liberal leader.

Like most political advertisements, Mr. Trudeau's ad is void of substance and replete with rhetoric. "Canadians deserves better," he says, "we can pull together". It is a product of the typical boring political drone. The Conservatives have launched their own ads against him, with at least an inkling of backing. They claim he is a Member of Parliament with "one of the worst attendance records", which is true. Justin Trudeau has the fourth lowest voting record, missing 56% of votes. However, the Conservatives quietly dismiss Stephen Harper's own abysmal record of missing 54% of votes, the sixth lowest. The Conservative ad also assures us that Mr. Trudeau is "in way over his head" because he does not know "how to run Canada's economy". They are also right about that. Justin Trudeau

does not know how to run the economy, and neither do the Conservatives. The economy should not be 'run' by government bureaucrats or politicians but by the free market.

"Justin Unplugged" was a recent fundraiser held exclusively for women, which showed that Mr. Trudeau may be pushing his image as a heartthrob over that of a principled political leader in order to become Prime Minister. This event was overshadowed by a more shocking gaffe. Mr. Trudeau was asked which nation's administration he most admired. His answer was odious - "China". He went on to say,

[T]heir basic dictatorship is allowing them to actually turn their economy around on a dime and say 'we need to go green fastest ... we need to start investing in solar.' I mean there is a flexibility that I know Stephen Harper must dream about of having a dictatorship that he can do everything he wanted. That, I find quite interesting.

He admires China for their dictatorship, a

dictatorship that cracks down on any political dissenters and commits various other human rights abuses, and uses force to impose its will upon the people. He even

assumes that others share the same deranged desires as him, that a dictatorship is enviable. He tries to justify it with concern for the environment, a common red herring, but China's environmental record is one of the worst on the planet, despite their 'flexible dictatorship'. The fundamental issues of environmental pollution and resource depletion are often

exacerbated under a dictatorship, where the government can lay claim to private property at a will. If the alarm bells about Justin Trudeau were not loud enough before, they should be ear splitting by now.

Mr. Trudeau may have the name, but he lacks principle and vision, qualities long overdue in the Canadian government, and his allegiances lie in a far more foreboding region of history and the political spectrum.

**MR. TRUDEAU MAY BE PUSHING HIS IMAGE AS A HEARTTHROB OVER THAT OF A PRINCIPLED POLITICAL LEADER.**



A little anxious? Rob Ford pauses nervously in front of microphones during a press conference.

## ROB. FORD.

ALEKSEI WAN - STAFF REPORTER

While I don't hate Rob Ford or disagree with his policies, due to his actions I have been forced to reconsider my opinion of him. Be it his, in the words of Jon Stewart, "crack smoking he believes is excused somehow by his rampant alcoholism" or his latest comments, which, aside from being wildly inappropriate, have drawn cries of misogyny, Rob Ford, "the crack-smoking mayor of Toronto" is now an embarrassment to this city.

I have talked with "fervent supporter(s)" of Rob Ford who contend that because his policies are effective, it doesn't matter what else he does on the side. His supporters claim that he's so good that even on crack he's better than any other candidate for the job. I would contend otherwise.

Firstly, the embarrassment he causes to this city impairs the City of Toronto's ability to function. It was debated whether he should still be invited to city events or show up at public

attractions for fear of the image we portray of our city. As well, what self-respecting businessman or bureaucrat from another level of government wants to be associated with a known crack-smoker? Furthermore, this situation has resulted in a contradiction, an idea brought up by city council member Denzil Minnan-Wong when he criticized the mayor having a policy of zero tolerance for drugs, guns, and gangs when he himself has admitted to using illegal drugs, and begged to be forgiven.

In addition, Mr. Ford has become such an embarrassment to the city it has impaired his ability to govern. The daily motions to strip his powers are now passing with the unanimous support of city council. It is impossible to govern (and implement the policies that those self-professed supporters believed were so amazing) when you have absolutely no authority and are not even recognized by city council, many members of which turn their backs in disgust whenever Mr. Ford tries to give a

speech.

Furthermore, his policies are irrelevant to this discussion. Contrary to popular belief, there are right-leaning alternatives to this professed crack-smoker. For example, it has been stated that John Tory, former leader of the provincial Progressive Conservatives may run for mayor. Rob Ford and his personal baggage isn't the only choice for those who support right-wing municipal policy.

It is my opinion that Rob Ford challenges the Michael O'Leary idea that there is no such thing as bad publicity. Additionally, I would like to offer Mr. Ford the same advice offered by Jon Stewart: "Lay low (and) get some professional help." Finally, I would also encourage Mr. Ford (although his Prime Ministerial aspirations might be harmed) to step down, or, failing that, take a leave of absence as the mayor of this city before that power is stripped from him as well.



## THE SPOILS OF SWIMMING

MICHAEL PUSIC - SECRETARY

**THIS YEAR, THEY DON'T  
PLAN ON LEAVING ANY  
AWARDS BEHIND.**

Last year UCC's swim team held its own at OFSAA and CISAA. This year they don't plan on leaving any awards behind. In the 2012-2013 season, they brought home the CIS-AA Junior Trophy, the Open Boys trophy (for the 8th year in a row), the Overall Boys trophy, and were a mere 12 points short of winning the Senior Boys trophy. They also won the OFSAA open banner. While the swim season last year was undoubtedly a success, they face many significant challenges moving forward.

The team faces an uphill battle this year with more than 10 of their Varsity swim-

mers gone, and while the team itself is large, the real issue lies in replacing the athletes that consistently placed at events.

In an interview Xu Zhang explained that, "We've lost a lot of club swimmers this year. They really pulled the team forward and are gonna be hard to replace." Athletes like Max Celej, Adam Sgro, and Darian Fard have left big shoes to fill this year,

but Coach Vlad Roytberg is confident this year's team will be able to more than make up for the loss.

When asked I asked swimmers who their greatest rival was, their response was

fierce and uniform: SAC. The team will face our school's nemesis at a number of events this year, and after having lost narrowly to them at several meets last season, the team isn't ready to surrender any awards this year.

Varsity swimmers like Seth Zucker, Yuan Kong, and Tor Kitching plan to lead the team of nearly 80 to victory this year as they battle for the Overall Co-ed Trophy at CISAA. It's been two years since UCC captured the coveted Overall Co-ed Trophy at CISAA, and their goal is to bring it back home this year. With a rival to defeat and less than two weeks before meets begin, the swimmers have their work cut out for them; but it would seem that they are more than ready for the challenges that face them in the upcoming season.



## IB ART TRIP

GABRIEL BIRMAN - STAFF REPORTER

The IB art trip, under the supervision of Ms. Kaye and Mr. Turner, took place this November from the 7th to the 10th. A select group of IB1 students had the wonderful opportunity to travel to New York City and got to wholly immerse themselves in an artistic experience, “gaining [them] exposure to world-class art institutions as well as a large collection of contemporary works.” The students managed to see a number of art galleries, a prodigious list that includes the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, The Tenement Museum, The Brooklyn Museum, The New Museum and the Chelsea gallery district. IB1 Osman Bari remarks, “The Met & The MoMA [were the highlights of the trip]. Both were really interesting because one was a collection of artwork through history and different time periods, and the other was really contemporary and modern.” And yet, artistic ventures were not the sole cynosure of the trip. The party enriched its experience by “exploring a variety of neighbourhoods, getting a night view from the Empire State building, and attending two shows.” The most memorable moment of the sightseeing portion appears to have been a particular show called Fuerza Bruta- “I really enjoyed Fuerza Bruta, easily the highlight of the whole trip for me. Most entertaining live show I’ve seen,” recalls Scott Harvey. But let’s remember that this trip was more than just an entertaining expedition. In fact, the IB Art Trip jump started the development of the Investigation Workbook, which happens to comprise 40% of the course. Let’s wish the IB students good luck with their current--and future--artistic careers; hopefully their own works will eventually find their way into the monumental galleries they have just visited.



[from left to right] **Netflix Invasion:** Netflix HQ @ Cali., "Orange is the new Black": a show whose beginnings ties exclusively to Netflix

## NETFLIX

DAVID CASH- ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Television and movies have been a large part of our lives for decades. They influence what we wear, what we eat and what we talk about socially. In more recent years, many people have opted out of sitting on their living room couch to enjoy their favorite shows in favour of sitting in their bedrooms or watching movies and television shows on the bus, in an airplane or just about anywhere they want to. The word television is becoming an anachronism as video content can now stream to a myriad of devices just about anywhere, anytime.

In this day and age, we have the power to look up any movie or show that we want to watch and have it either downloaded or streamed over the internet in a matter of minutes. This change from DVD to digital format has put massive companies out of the picture (Namely Blockbuster). Now arguably the biggest name in 'online movies' is Netflix. Ever since Netflix changed its platform from a rental service to a streaming website with monthly charges, it has grown in populari-

ty immensely. In fact, it is so popular that it was recently announced that Netflix had more subscribers per quarter than HBO with the total number now surpassing 40 million.

In the last year or so, Netflix is changing again. Instead of simply posting other producer's content that it has gained rights to in the same process as Hulu, Crackle and others, Netflix is now producing or contracting for its ownv exclusive content in an effort to go head to head with traditional media content providers. In the past year, Netflix became the first broadband based entertainment provider to earn Emmy Award nominations for its House of Cards series starring and partnered with Actor / Producer Kevin Spacey, Hemlock Grove and Arrested Development. Netflix has since produced a the innovative series Orange is the New Black. Netflix has also struct a recent production deal with Marvel Studios to provide exclusive on demand streaming of just after theatre movie releases starting in 2016. Netflix and Marvel are also producing 4

exclusive Marvel super hero series with 13 episodes each with release beginning in 2015. All of this designed exclusively for on line consumption.

Netflix is not just changing how we enjoy our content, where we enjoy it and when we enjoy it, but they are rapidly changing the very content we enjoy!

Netflix was founded in 1997 in Los Gatos California. It began as a DVD distribution business competing with Blockbuster and others. By 2013 Netflix became a streaming tv network service with more than 40 million subscribers and accounts for the biggest source of Internet traffic in North America in the evenings. Netflix was first available only in the United States but by 2010 expanded into Canada followed in 2011 by Mexico, Latin America, the Caribbean and Central and South America. 2012 saw its entrance into Europe where it can now be enjoyed in the UK, Ireland, Norway, Denmark and Finland. This innovative company has certainly proved itself to be a rising star to watch.