

The U of T English Department Staff-Student Relations Committee **IMPLORES** you to

DEFEND THE TRIVIUM!

DID YOU KNOW?

Every time the word "TRIVIAL" is uttered in the derogatory sense "Of small account, little esteemed, paltry, poor; trifling, inconsiderable, unimportant, slight" **YOU ARE BEING DIRECTLY INSULTED.**

THIS IS BECAUSE

"trivia" and "trivial" derive etymologically from the division of the medieval university into SEVEN LIBERAL ARTS comprising the "upper" QUADRIVIUM (arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, music) and the "lower" TRIVIUM (grammar, rhetoric, logic). **THE TRIVIUM IS US** — humanists, those concerned with language and argument.

Since the time of **OUR VERY OWN SHAKESPEARE**, "trivial" has functioned as an insult. When, in HENRY VI pt. 2, the rogue Suffolk says "We haue but triuiall argument, / More then mistrust, that shewes him worthy death," he instantiates in language the pernicious notion that **MATH IS SERIOUS, the HUMANITIES WORTHLESS.**

AFTER 400 YEARS, THIS MADNESS MUST END!

And the end, mercifully, is upon us. In recent years, a new inflection of "trivia" has emerged. In dimly-lit basements and smoky barrooms throughout the land, a form of intellectual competition has emerged under the name of "TRIVIA NIGHTS." In these contests, "TRIVIA" is revalued. "TRIVIA" is deadly serious. "TRVIA" is knowledge. In these basements and bars, my friends, **"QUADRIVIAL" is the insult!**

We can **DEFEND THE TRIVIUM** through these

TRIVIA NIGHTS.

And who better to defend it than we humanists, we

TRIVIA KNIGHTS?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join us for **TRIVIA NIGHT** on **SUNDAY** the 18th of **MARCH**. The evening begins at **JHB100** at **6PM** with a **POTLUCK**. Here we will display our mastery of the **TRIVIAL ARTS** by coming up with punning names for our dishes. From there, we will proceed together to the **TRIVIA EVENT PROPER** at the **Duke of York pub**.

COME TO TRIVIA NIGHT!

**MARCH 18 / 6PM POTLUCK JHB100 / THEN TRIVIA DUKE OF YORK
GRAD STUDENTS FREE / SUGGESTED FACULTY DONATION \$20
PROCEEDS TO KARMA TRAVEL GRANT**