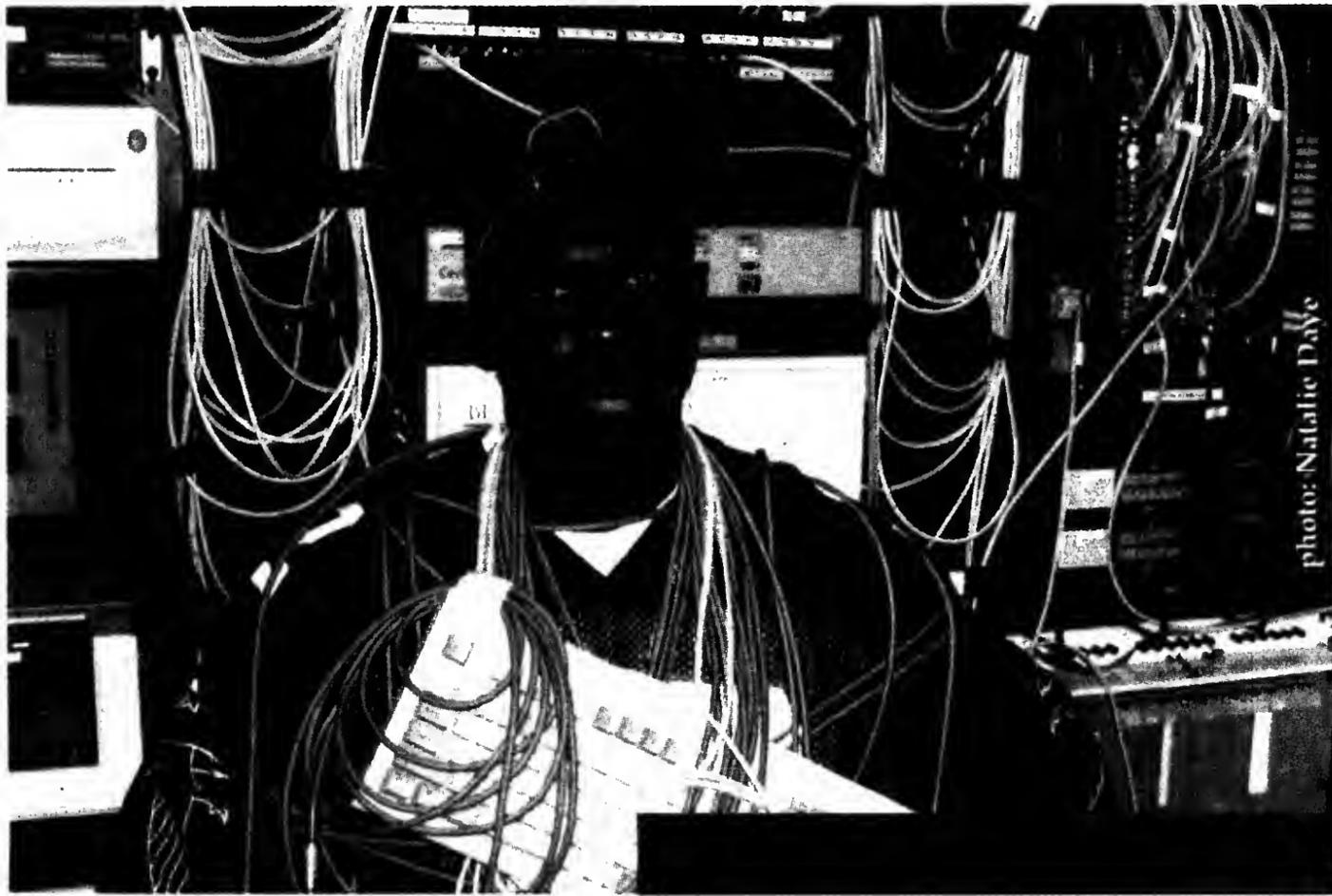




## Biz students protest computer glitches



by Derek Malcolm

The School of Business students are signing a petition to protest computer problems that have been ongoing since the beginning of this semester. The petition has generated about 200 signatures—roughly a quarter of business students. Humber's Network and Computing Services is searching for a solution to cope with students' complaints.

Business students have been falling further behind on their computer-based tests that make up 30 per cent of their marks.

The tests, which must be completed by accessing a database through computer labs in Humber's F-wing, have been difficult to complete due to a combination of network and software problems, said Humber's call lab co-ordinator, Valerie Sprenger.

Bryan Barcelona and Cheryl Baratto, first-year SAC reps for the School of Business, have heard students' complaints and have experienced the problems first-hand.

Baratto went to the lab to view the results of a test she completed, only to have the computer crash on her.

"As a student who went through that, I'm pissed off," said Baratto. "The computer crashed I don't know how many times. Others weren't able to get on to the network at all."

Toby Fletcher, chairperson of The School of Business, said that students have been able to make up overdue tests from the failed computer system.

"I want to ensure them a fair chance at passing the semester," Fletcher added.

The School of Business has allowed students

to take their tests during any F135 lab time. The presence of a faculty member is not required, as long as a lab monitor is in the room.

"I was able to write my first test just last week," said Barcelona, even though it was originally scheduled for the second week of school.

Earlier in the semester a shortage of access discs that students had to buy from the campus bookstore to log on to the network prevented Barcelona and other students from completing their tests.

First-year Business Administration student, Lee Cusimano, finished the test program to check his mark, "and then it crashed," he said. "I had to do it again the next week."

*"I was able to write my first test just last week."*

- Bryan Barcelona

Baratto said it was during the third week of school that students grew frustrated and began to complain, asking where their money was going and what it was being spent on.

"I saw a petition go around. I didn't know if I wanted to sign it or not," she added.

The petition, on behalf of marketing students, expresses their frustration with the system, and demands that steps be taken to remedy the situation.

"They have to put a stop to it now," said Baratto. "It's not fair to have to go through that all term."

Pinpointing the exact cause of the comput-

er dilemma isn't easy, and it takes time. Sprenger compared finding a specific problem in the network infrastructure to finding a blown bulb in a string of old Christmas lights.

"How do you find the problem when ten might be the problem?" said Sprenger. "You have to try every link on the chain," she said.

Humber's Networking and Computing Services began troubleshooting the entire infrastructure, and brought IBM in to help find the weak link in the network, which turned out to be a faulty piece of hardware.

The part was replaced along with several other network components during the third week of school, showing a "significant improvement," in the network's stability said Sprenger.

But even with a smoothly-running network, there are other links that affect how the system works. The software, which Sprenger describes as "problematic," is stored on the network server. Instead of each workstation accessing the software from its own hard drive, "you have to communicate over our Intranet back and forth from your workstation to the software," Sprenger said. "Is it the software? Is it the Intranet? We don't know."

Although the School of Business may still have some problems to work out, Network Services is focusing many of its resources towards solving them said Sprenger, who used to spend nearly half of each day in the business labs troubleshooting. Over the past two weeks, she's spent barely two hours a day in the F-wing, and said that she hasn't been hearing too many reports.

"I wouldn't go as far as to say that it's fixed," said Sprenger, "but it's definitely better."



















**A TRADITION  
OF EXCELLENCE**



# PLAYER'S RACING

FOLLOW THE TEAM: [WWW.PLAYERS-RACING.COM](http://WWW.PLAYERS-RACING.COM)









This student is trying to win a car.

And if he doesn't win, at least he's just earned \$1,000 to help him pay for one. Not every decision will be as easy to make as getting The GM Card. Especially when you can apply from your dorm! Upon approval, you'll get a free Frosh Two CD\*\* and receive a \$1,000 bonus in GM Card Earnings† towards the purchase or lease of a new GM vehicle. There's also no annual fee. Then anytime you swipe your card, like to buy stereo equipment for instance, you'll have a chance to win†† a Chevy Tracker, Pontiac Sunfire Coupe, Chevrolet Cavalier Coupe or 1 of 300 CD libraries as well as getting 5% in GM Card Earnings†. Visit us at [www.nobrainier.gmcanada.com](http://www.nobrainier.gmcanada.com) for more information or to apply on-line.



What's  
your card  
doing for  
you  
lately?

©Registered Trade Mark of General Motors Corporation, TD Bank licensed user. \*TD Bank and GM are licensed users of Marks. \*\*Trade Mark of TD Bank. \*\*All applicants applying in person for The GM Card at on-campus booths will receive a copy of the Frosh Two CD at no charge. Applicants applying via the Internet will receive a copy of the Frosh Two CD upon approval, at no charge. Limit one copy per applicant. †Applies to full-time students only. \*\*\*No purchase necessary. Contest closes December 31, 1999. Open to Canadian residents (excluding Quebec) who have reached the age of majority. Visit [www.nobrainier.gmcanada.com](http://www.nobrainier.gmcanada.com) for full contest Rules & Regulations or to apply on-line. ††Subject to The GM Card Program Rules









# The Results are in!

## Representing the Schools of Humber College North Campus will be:

School	Name	Seats Available:
<b>Media Studies</b>	Teresa D'Elia Samuel Hare Laurie Little Chantal van Wijk	0
<b>Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences</b>	N/A	1
<b>Manufacturing &amp; Design Technology</b>	Gurpreet Singh Bhamra Steve Watts	0
<b>Business</b>	Bryan Barcelona Cheryl Baratto Nighat Begum Michelle Derose	0
<b>Business &amp; Industry Service</b>	N/A	1
<b>Built Environment</b>	Kevin Gomes	1
<b>Health Sciences</b>	Camesha Powell	2
<b>Information Technology &amp; Accounting</b>	Syed Ali Stephen Anastasi Angela Budway	0
<b>HRT Alliance</b>	N/A	2
		<b>7: Total</b>

Mohammed Virk	President	Information Technology & Design
Lisa Dawson	Executive Director of External Affairs	Manufacturing Technology & Design
Chuck Decker	Vice President	Built Environment

## Representing the Schools of Humber College Lakeshore Campus will be:

School	Name	Seats Available:
<b>Social and Community Services</b>	Ross Fernandes Jennifer Haire Martin Jozwa	1
<b>Business</b>	Richard Beck David Golubev	3
<b>Access for Success</b>	Brian DaWood	0
<b>Liberal Arts &amp; Science</b>	N/A	1
<b>Performing Arts</b>	Tina Harding Chris Picco	1
		<b>6: Total</b>

Toby Warnell	President	School of Business
Ana Monteiro	Executive Director of Finance	School of Business
Margaret Ozel	Vice President	School of Business

Co-option packages available in your SAC office should you want to join and there is a vacant position.